

Fairford Flyer

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FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

We hope you are enjoying these online newsletters. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute or have any local history questions please email enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk

Meetings restart on September 16th with a short AGM (Agenda and Accounts in a separate attachment); FHS is in need of new active Committee members. The talk by Syd Flatman is on 'The remaining treasures of Fairford Park'. Membership renewal is due in September: a membership renewal form is a separate attachment (and includes a meetings list) or you can pay at the meeting, Thank you to all who have paid by standing order.

Sport in Fairford

Inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer, this issue of the Flyer is devoted to sport in Fairford. The sports are listed alphabetically to show no favour!

The following advertisement from the Witney Express and Oxfordshire and Midland Counties Herald - Thursday 13 May 1880 promotes what must have been a crowd-pulling event with something for everyone, the sports may not have been to Olympic standard but competition was probably as fierce. Hopefully the weather was kind on that day.

FAIRFORD AMATEUR ATHLETIC SPORTS
WILL TAKE PLACE ON
Whit-Monday, May 17th, 1880, in Fairford Park,
By kind permission of J. R. B. Barker, Esq., and Mr. Alexander Iles, under the
Patronage of most of the Gentry in the Town and Neighbourhood.
BY KIND PERMISSION OF CAPTAIN AND ADJUTANT BRIGG-WITHER,
THE BAND OF THE R.N.G. MILITIA WILL PERFORM.
SPORTS TO COMMENCE AT HALF-PAST ONE O'CLOCK.
Over £30 in PRIZES to be given away.
Admission to the Park:—Adults, 3d.; Children under 14 years, 1d.; two-wheel
Conveyances, 1s.; four-wheel ditto, 2s.; each occupant, 3d. Tickets to be obtained from
each of the stewards, one week previous to the sports.
Railway Arrangements.—The G.W. Company agree to issue Return Tickets,
1st, 2nd, and 3rd class, at single fare and a quarter, from Oxford, Yarnton, Eynsham,
Southleigh, and Witney, by trains leaving Oxford at 8.50 a.m. and 12.5. p.m. All
passengers to return from Fairford by 6.35 ordinary train, or by special train at 7.30 p.m.

Bowls

Fairford Bowling Club was founded in June 1914 on part of Fairford Cricket pitch. Colonel A J Palmer was its first president and officially opened the club by bowling the first bowl. The Club moved to its East End site in the 1920s. The first building was known as the 'bus shelter', a place for players to change their shoes and shelter from the weather. The Ladies section was formed in 1969 and affiliated to the County Association in 1974; however they did not obtain voting rights until the AGM of 1986.

The Bowling Club produced a very informative booklet in their Centenary Year of 2014, where the development of its site at East End site can be followed up to its present splendid facilities. It also contains photographs and lists of former winners.



Bowls at a Jubilee event (JLJ Archive)

Cricket

In 1989 Fairford Cricket Club also produced a centenary booklet. The Club can actually trace its history back to 1843 but 1889 was a significant year when Mr Alexander Iles made available a piece of land for the Cricket Club in Park Street and their first match was held there against Kempsford on 2 May 1889. Hence the centenary is from this date. The booklet contains interesting accounts of matches, many photographs and some very interesting 1980s local advertisements. Many famous people were contacted and have their congratulatory comments quoted, including Judith Hann, Tom Graveney, Anne Robinson, Jack Russell and Pam Ayres even wrote a not very complimentary poem on cricket.

Fairford Cricket Club 1989 100th Anniversary (JLJ Archive)



The evidence that there was a cricket club in Fairford long before 1889 can be found in the following piece from the Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette 7 September 1844.

'Last week a cricket match was played between the 'married' and the 'single' players at Fairford. The betting at the commencement of the day was nearly even, though of course the ladies backed their husbands and frowned upon the disciples of single blessedness. Fate and the ladies did not agree. Whether the remembrance of the past conquests had any effect in slackening their energies we cannot say; but, awful to relate, the Benedicts got well beaten, and the only consolation they received from their conquerors was, that they had their wives to comfort them when they got home.'

Fishing

'The Coln, Fairford - The fish appear to be more abundant than they have been for some seasons past, and this is explained by the circumstance that a large paper mill, in which an extensive business was on in the manufacture of a coarse paper, has been set aside, at the request and the expense of a wealthy resident in the neighbourhood; and the river is no longer polluted by the poisonous chlorines and other compounds which were formerly poured into it by the paper manufacturers. This stream is now clear as crystal in its shallower parts, flows rapidly, in everywhere pure, and its deeper recesses near banks and curves form a home and a 'castle' to the larger and wary fish who tax the skill and patience of the tyros, but form a rich trophy and prize to the masters in the art of angling. There is every prospect that this beautiful stretch will become one of the most popular resorts of the fishermen, now that the above great hindrance to the increase and growth of the fish has been permanently removed from the neighbourhood, H' **Fishing Gazette - 8 June 1877**

Farmor's Football Team 1934/1935



Farmor's School football team: L to R Leslie Grant, Percy Wall, Ellis Gassor; Middle Row L to R Len Gadding, Cyril Barnfield, Ken Geiger, Front Row: George Marks, Charlie Indre, Jimmy Sifford, Eric Jefferies, Sidney Radway. This picture was donated to the FHS Archive by Edwin Cuss

Shooting

Presumably the following was a forerunner of clay pigeon shooting? First catch your pigeon!

'This is to give Notice to all Gentleman Gunners, That there is to be Shot for, at the White Hart Inn, in Fairford - A SILVER TANKARD, Value Ten Pounds, by the Gentleman of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire. They are to shoot at Pigeons out of a Box, to stand twenty yards from the Box, and the Pigeons to drop within one hundred Yards of the Box or be deemed no Shot. Each man to shoot at three Pigeons, and he that kills most to be entitled to the Tankard. They are not to shoulder the Gun till the pigeons are on the Wing, otherwise will be deemed no Shot. Each Man that shoots is expected to be at Dinner which will be on the Table at Half after Twelve, as the Days are short and to begin shooting exactly at two, otherwise it cannot be determined before dark. It will be left to the Company whether to shoot single, or make sides, as they can agree. If the Person who wins should not like the Tankard, he shall have the money without any Deduction. Great Sport is expected between the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Gunners, they having shot together before, and the Wiltshire were beat. The Shooting to be on Thursday next, the Third of December 1778. There will be plenty of Pigeons as great Sport is expected.' **Oxford Journal 28 November 1778**

Tennis



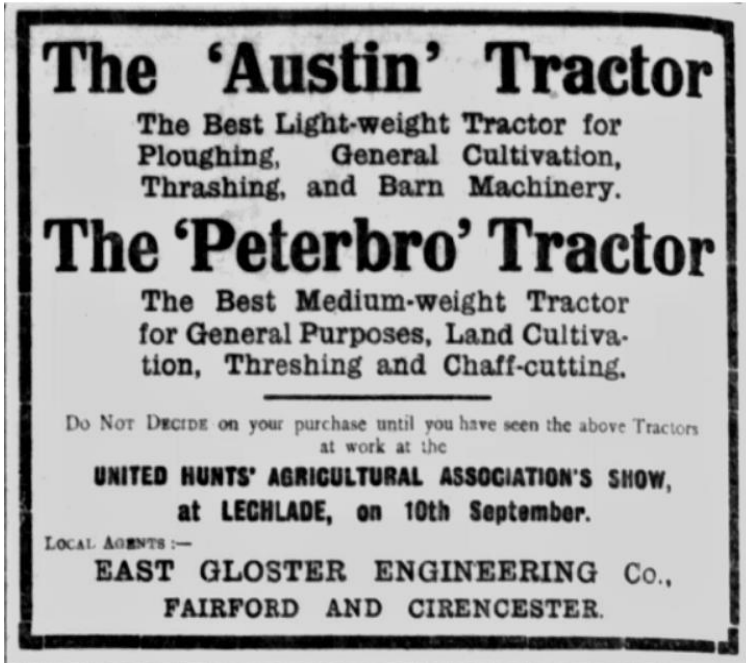
Gordon Sadler and friends at the tennis courts on Hatherop Road, 20 July 1929

Fairford History – Month by Month

From the Newspapers & other Records

100 Years ago this month

From the North Wilts Herald of 2 September 1921:



The 'Austin' Tractor
The Best Light-weight Tractor for
Ploughing, General Cultivation,
Thrashing, and Barn Machinery.

The 'Peterbro' Tractor
The Best Medium-weight Tractor
for General Purposes, Land Cultiva-
tion, Threshing and Chaff-cutting.

DO NOT DECIDE on your purchase until you have seen the above Tractors
at work at the
UNITED HUNTS' AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S SHOW,
at **LECHLADE,** on 10th September.

LOCAL AGENTS :-
EAST GLOSTER ENGINEERING Co.,
FAIRFORD AND CIRENCESTER.



The Austin and Peterbro' tractors were two British-designed farm tractors of the early-1920s and were stocked by the East Gloster Engineering Company of Fairford. Some may have ploughed the fields around Fairford.

200 Years ago this month

A small advertisement was printed in the Oxford Journal of the 15th September 1821 which ran:

"A brace of Pointers for sale, well broke in, 3 years old, and warranted thorough bred. - Price 12 Guineas.
Apply (post paid) to F. J. F. George Inn, Fairford"

'F. J. F.' was possibly one of the Foreshew family who ran the George Inn in the early-mid-19th Century. Twelve Guineas in 1821 would be about £720 today, so definitely pedigree dogs.

300 Years ago this month

Just three services are recorded in the Fairford parish register for September 1721. The first was the christening of Jane, daughter of William and Elizabeth Goodall who had been married at Fairford on 29 September 1719. The next service was on 18 September 1721 with the burial of Thomas, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Brown; he was probably an infant. The last service in September was the marriage of Thomas Hatherill and Mary Spackman on the 25th. Both bride and groom were residents of Lechlade at the time of their marriage. It is not known why they chose to be married at Fairford.

400 Years ago this month

The Reverend Christopher Nicholson had a very quiet September in 1621. The only service he had to perform, outside of the usual Sunday services, was the burial of Ann Mourton, a widow. The Mourton family appear in the parish registers from the 1620s to the 1680s so probably moved away after the last record, a burial in 1686.