

Fairford Flyer

Extra No 44

September 2022

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

The next FHS meeting is on **September 15** when Edwin Cuss will introduce us to the postcards of T. Musto of Bibury. This will include old views of local villages and charming photographs of people.

Membership fees are due in September and remains at £5. Visitors are always welcome at £3. Membership renewal is due in September: a membership renewal form is a separate attachment (or you can pay at the meeting or by bank transfer (Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-92-06 A/C Fairford History Society No 02170130). Thank you to all who have paid by standing order.

The next Tomb Trail (takes about an hour) will be Saturday 3rd September at 2pm. Price £3. Meet by Saint Mary's porch. Booking and enquiries to enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk. There are still spaces available.

FHS Meetings 2022-23

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre except for the February meeting which is at 10 am during half term

September 15: The postcards of T Musto of Bibury by Edwin Cuss

October 20: Grand Designs: Church Monuments of Gloucestershire through the ages by Chris Hobson

November 17: Cotswold sheep and their history by Steve Parkes of the Cotswold Sheep Society

January 19: The renovation of Big Ben by Keith Scobie-Youngs

February 23: a 4th Thursday daytime meeting on Sport by Edwin Cuss

March 16: Kelmscott Manor by Kathy Haslam

April 20: Royal Progression 1535 by Alan Pilbeam

May 18: Bill King on a topic to be decided

June 15: AGM and talk to be arranged

ROCOCO GARDEN TRUST

Rococo Garden Trust in urgent appeal. Can you help Painswick's Rococo Garden to raise a desperately needed £60,000 to relocate its visitor facilities, without which its future is in real doubt? The lease for the building that the charity currently operates from is coming to an end, leaving the organisation with the enormous challenge of relocating to a brand new area on-site.

You can get involved and donate by visiting the Crowdfunder website www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/supportrococo or check the garden's own website for links. There are a range of exciting and exclusive 'money-can't

buy' rewards for donations at various levels so please take a look and contribute if you possibly can. The garden is Britain's only complete surviving garden of the period that you can still visit, and we are fortunate to have it on our doorstep. If donating online is a problem, you can also send a cheque to Painswick Rococo Garden Trust, Gloucester Road, Painswick, GL6 6TH or phone the office on 01452 813204 for more information.



RECENT DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVE

Custom of the Country

Earlier this year FHS had a visit from Ian Slatter, from Farmington. Ian wanted to find a good home for the original script of 'A Custom of the Country', by W F Hewer who had lived at Dudgrove Farm. Mr Hewer was a playwright and had several performances staged with adverts and reviews being in 'The Stage'. Ian wanted to know if the play had ever been performed in Fairford. In fact it had been performed in Cirencester on the evening of April 12 and 13, 1901 in the Corn Hall. As well as professional actors some local performers had appeared as well.

From Gloucestershire Echo 13 April 1901

At the Corn Hall on Friday evening was produced for the first time on any stage a new comedy-drama in three acts, entitled 'The Custom of the Country' from the pen of Mr W F Hewer, a gentleman of the neighbourhood, whose previous compositions have met with much success on local stages. The performance was an admirable one, and was much appreciated by a crowded house. The piece was produced by Mr Harry Dornton, a member of the theatrical profession, and most principal parts were allotted to professional ladies and gentlemen, who were assisted by local amateurs in Miss Winifred Ball, Miss Sybil Hand and Messrs W J H Wright, C O H Sewell, Sydney Boulton [as Colonel Bolar], Douglas Arkell [as Joseph], Harold Bloxsome [as Manuel], Theo Fowler, R W Ellett and H Rawlins. Miss Ball's representation of the heroine was particularly successful. Miss Alice Carbonell (the Vicar's daughter) played the overture and incidental music. The proceeds are to be devoted to a proposed operating room at the Cottage Hospital.

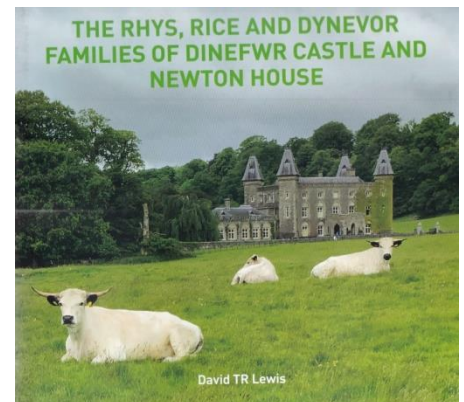
Will F Hewer (1869-1947), who lived most of his life as a farmer, also wrote other novels and plays including 'The Progress of Prudence' and a comic opera 'The Idol of Kano'; interestingly he collaborated with T Pope Arkell on the music for this. The Arkells were near neighbours of his.

Brass Rubbings

One of our newest members donated three replica mounted brasses originally from Cirencester Brass Rubbing Centre. Anybody interested in rubbing a brass?

'The Rhys, Rice and Dynevor families of Dinefwr Castle and Newton House'

In January this year Sir David Lewis, former Lord Mayor of London and author visited the St Mary's Church whilst travelling from Wales to Oxford. He was researching Fairford's longest-serving vicar Francis William Rice, 5th Baron Dynevor 1828-1878. FHS was able to supply him with pictures and some information. His book 'The Rhys, Rice and Dynevor families of Dinefwr Castle and Newton House' has now been published by the author and he has sent FHS a copy. It is a beautifully produced book detailing family pedigrees going back 900 years with 547 pages and many excellent illustrations.



Here is an extract from the book about Francis William Rice, 5th Baron Dynevor [p253]

'During his 50 years' service at Fairford, Francis became known as a liberal clergyman opposing the High Church and the Oxford Movement (despite John Keble (1792-1866) who was born in Fairford being one of its leaders). He supported the building of the infants school (now the town library) in 1873 and taught on occasions at the Free School (now the community centre). In 1854 Francis helped raise the necessary funds and oversaw a major restoration of his Church involving the controversial removal of 'family owned pews'. He was kind to the sick and poor and is known in particular for his kindness having helped Kate Thomas, the daughter of a local Baptist Minister. He supported a friend's mission in Fairford, Manitoba, Canada and in 1876 his friend Archdeacon Abraham Cowley renamed his mission Dynevor (formerly St Peter's or the Indian Settlement). Dynevor house and Dynevor Place in Coronation Street in Fairford are named after Francis.'

Pictures

Edwin Cuss has been clearing out his loft! He has donated a framed certificate of longstanding service to Annie Winter, a member of the Girl's Friendly Society, Fairford Branch, also two very nice photographs of Farmor's School football teams, 1928-1930. All the players are named and it includes Mr C E Price and Mr Herbert Hedges, the head master of the time.

Newspaper Cuttings

THE PARISH CHURCH

'As very many of the gentry and nobility of this country are in the habit of paying visits to our beautiful church, we have much pleasure in stating that Mr Toveni, an artist that is staying in the Market Place, has now some very correct pictures on sale of the sacred edifice, which we can strongly recommend as being truthful and cheap.'

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard 18 August 1866

How to mislead your descendants

The above newspaper cutting reminded me of an FHS family history enquiry we received in 2011. Rosina Toveni was born in Fairford in 1866 and she later married John Thomas Powell from Stroud. Her parents were Walter or Matthew William Tovey and Susan Hartley. They don't seem to have been related to the Toveys or Powells of Fairford. Mr Tovey was an artistic photographer based mainly in the south and west of England hence the newspaper cutting. He had supposedly adopted the name Toveni to drum up business for himself. In the 1871 census the family are listed as Toveni and in fact later descendants all thought they were of Italian origin (information from the family). On Walter's death certificate in 1893 at Cricklade it says Matthew William Tovey 'Toveni' which caused the family to be curious; however it was definitely the same person. The name was not adopted formally, presumably and the secret may never have been told!

FAIRFORD - ELOPEMENT EXTRAORDINARY

'A labourer of this town went about a fortnight back to Tetbury for employment and found on his return on Saturday week that a local preacher of the primitive order of Methodists had eloped with his wife, taking with him the husband's Sunday apparel. However the matter is in the hands of our worthy Sergeant of Police, who no doubt will teach the Primitive gentleman, with the aid of the law, that the labourer's clothes are not exactly suited to his clerical dignity.'

Cirencester Times and Cotswold Advertiser Monday 27 July 1863

FIRST LOVE IS BEST

'On Monday, Thomas Chamberlayne, of Eastleach, was brought before J R Raymond Barker, Esq., for non-payment of bastardy money to Keziah Beesley of the same place. In July of last year, Chamberlayne had the child of Beesley affiliated to him, and an order was made of 1s 6d per week, with the usual costs. He positively declared on leaving the magistrates' court, that he would not pay one farthing. True to his word he kept, and absconded in a short time afterwards. A second female residing at Quenington, whom he had courted, was subsequently confined of a daughter, and this woman, who is the elder of the two, seems to have made a deeper inroad into his affections than the first. Accordingly on Sunday night he came to Quenington, to pay a visit, and to use his own words, "see his darling little daughter," fully under the impression that the arrears of payment to Beesley's child was a debt, and he could not be taken into custody for it on Sunday. This idea was only of short duration, for hardly had he retired to bed under the same roof as his dear "Mary," than an inexorable member of the police force presented himself into the apartment, and despite the protestations of Thomas and the crying entreaties of Mary, conveyed him to his durance vile. Next morning, Mary appeared, bringing with her the offspring of her affection, and money enough to pay her Thomas's debt, and to obtain his release, which was effected at mid-day, but the joy anticipated by the lady was not to be consummated in the manner she had expected, for no sooner did Thomas breathe the sweet pure air of liberty, than he repaired to Eastleach, which contained his first love, saying it was Keziah's fault he had not married her, for he certainly did love her best. The feelings of Mary and her mother, who accompanied her, may certainly be better imagined than described.'

Cirencester Times and Cotswold Advertiser Monday 2 April 1866

...and connected with the article a week or so later, a letter to the editor

A DISCLAIMER FROM EASTLEACH 4 April 1866

'To the Editor

Mr Editor - In your last week's publication, you reported, under Fairford, a case at the Police Court, in which the names of Thomas Chamberlain and a Miss Keziah Beesly figured very prominently as of Eastleach; and also in November last, the case of Mrs Caroline Beesley for being drunk, etc. at Fairford, was reported as from Eastleach. For the better information of your Fairford correspondent, he is respectfully informed, that neither of the respectable [sic] parties named neither live nor have ever lived in Eastleach, I hope for the future he will take the trouble to obtain correct information, as Eastleach does not boast of such respectables [sic]. By inserting the above you will oblige.'

AN OLD INHABITANT

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard 14 April 1866

Unsurprisingly 'First Love wasn't best' as it doesn't appear that they got married; in the 1871 census Keziah Beesley is living as a general servant with a family in Eastleach Turville and there is no sign of Thomas Chamberlayne.

From the Stamford Mercury 12 April 1733

Cure for the D E A F,
BY Mr. Duckett of Fairford in Gloucestershire, an approv'd Operator for the Hearing, and a licenc'd Surgeon for 36 Years; who (by the Blessing of God) hath found out Medicines that cure all Sorts of Deafness or Noise in the Head or Ears, if curable, tho' of 20 or 30 Years Continuance, as will be testify'd by Hundreds of People who have been cured thereby, several of whom have been deaf from their Cradles. He cures Persons of all Ages, and performs the same at the House or Lodgings of such Persons as desire it, without Pain or Confinement, or Hindrance of Business; and hath liv'd at Fairford upwards of 36 Years: He will tell you at first Sight whether curable or not; and answers all Letters (if Post paid) as soon as they come to hand; he answers no other Letters.

N. B. These are the most famous Medicines for the Hearing that were ever yet found out.
Note also, The Names of Persons of Quality cured by Mr. Duckett of Deafness are always concealed. He hath had the Honour to be sent for to several Persons of Distinction in most Parts of the Kingdom. He goes to none except sent for.
☞ The said Mr. Duckett is now at the Angel Inn in Peterborough, and will be there till Monday next; from whence he goes to the King's-Head in Elton, and stays there the 16th and 17th; and on Wednesday in the Evening he will be at the Queen's-Head in Thorpston, and stays there till Friday Morning Eight of the Clock; from whence he goes to Wellingborough to the Swan Inn; and from thence to the Hind in Northampton, at all which Places he may be advis'd withal.

Several versions of this advertisement appeared in a large number of English newspapers between 1717 and 1740. Richard Duckett of Fairford was born in 1671 and he travelled the country treating the well-to-do of deafness. His "medicines that cure all sorts of deafness" and other claims seem preposterous but he was apparently quite successful as he was in business for over 40 years. He died in 1742 and was buried in St Mary's churchyard.

Richard Duckett is one of the 100 important, noteworthy, notorious or just plain interesting men and women who have played a part in Fairford's history from the 11th to the mid-20th Century who appear in the forthcoming FHS publication 'Fairford Folk'. Each entry gives a short biographical account of their lives and achievements. It is planned that this 'who was who' of Fairford will be available for sale in September.