

# Fairford Flyer

## No 53

June 2023

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

### FHS Meetings 2023

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre on the third Thursday of the month, (except for February)

#### June 15 - AGM and Items from the FHS Archive - Committee members' choice

The AGM will be very short, about 15 minutes maximum. We need a quorum of 39 for it to be valid. We are sorry to say Ian Westlake has resigned from the Committee. He has been a loyal member right from the beginning and we would like to thank him for his contribution. So, if anyone would like to be on the Committee please contact the Chairman or Secretary. The AGM will be followed by Committee members presenting interesting items from the FHS Archive, rather like a 'Show and Tell' that we have held previously. Next year's programme will be in the next issue of Fairford Flyer.

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#### Fairford Festival

As usual Edwin Cuss will be presenting his photographic display on June 10 and 11 in the Heritage Room, from 10am-4pm. There will also be various FHS publications for sale, including a new publication 'Who Was Who in Fairford': short paragraphs on 100 people who have been part of Fairford's history. Price £2.

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#### Tomb Trail 2

Owing to the success of the tomb trails in St Mary's churchyard last year, our Chairman Chris has devised a route for a brand new selection of interesting former Fairford residents buried in the section north of the Church, this Trail to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> June at 2 pm. Price £3. If you are interested please let us know at [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk)

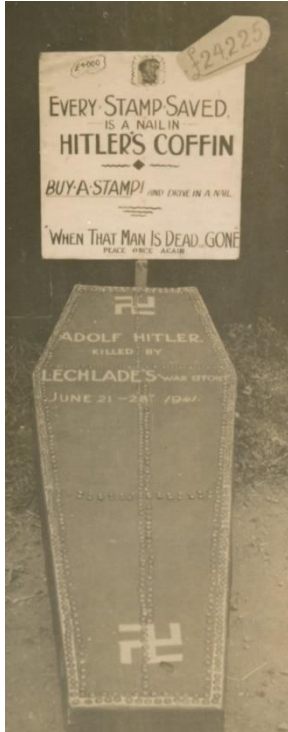
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#### The Home Front in World War II - May meeting

Bill King gave members an excellent and enthusiastic presentation of 'The Home Front in World War 2'. He started by giving us a background to the build up to the war from 1933 when Adolf Hitler became Reichs Chancellor and was determined to get back lands ceded after World War 1. From that date it seemed that war was inevitable and Britain started to re-arm. Bill then took us chronologically through the various information publications issued by the Government and the advertising up until 1945, the end of the war. Because of the use of poison gas in the First World War, gas masks were issued in four or five different types for babies, toddlers, older children, adults and service workers. Civil defence leaflets were issued to every home on various subjects including gas masks, and blackout. It was found that there were so many accidents due to the blackout that white lines had to be painted on kerbs and street signs, these are still prevalent today. Instructions for Anderson and Morrison shelters, named after the ministers who devised them, were also issued. In each house a bucket of sand and a bucket of water, a stirrup pump and an incendiary scoop had to be kept available at all times

Evacuation of the children from the cities to the country took place, thus freeing up mothers and non-combatant males for war work. In July 1940 the air raids began and the services of Air Raid Wardens, Fire Rescue, and Heavy Vehicle Rescue etc came into their own; not forgetting the services of the Home Guard, ATA, Land Army, the knitters and collectors and savers. Everyone in the country was expected to play a part, in their own way and the vast majority did so.

As usual Bill King did not disappoint and it was a very informative and entertaining talk, we look forward to having him again sometime in the future.



Left - Lechlade's imaginative way to encourage collecting for War Stamps.  
Below - Fairford's HMS Pride of Fairford used to raise money for a warship



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### FAIRFORD GREETS FAIRFORD 8 May 2023

Chief Cindy Woodhouse, Regional Chief for Manitoba representing the Assembly of the First Nations in Canada with her mother, Lorette and son Kyler visited Fairford after attending the King's Coronation on the Saturday 8 May. They were greeted by the Town Crier, the mayor, Steve Boulton and his successor Vicky Lipscombe-Kettel as well as other members of FTC, the Church and Fairford History Society including Chris Barrett who is a descendent of Jacob Cowley one of Abraham Cowley's brothers and Michael Cooper of Edmonton, Alberta who also has Cowley connections. They had a tour of the Church and refreshment at the Community Centre where they had the opportunity to look at information that June Lewis had collected from her visits to Fairford, Manitoba in 1974 and 1994.



They presented Steve Boulton with a plaque and pictures of Chief Garnett Anderson who visited Fairford in 2019 and herself, Chief Cindy Woodhouse. These are in the display case in the Heritage Room.

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### FAIRFORD GREETS FAIRFORD 29 May 2023

Another group of First Nation people visited Fairford over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. They attended the service in St Mary's Church on Sunday and also took part in the Pentecostal walk along the river up to Quenington followed by a service in Quenington Church. The purpose of their visit was to research any information relating to their history towards publishing a comprehensive history book for use for the community. This was a joint research project between the Anglican Church and Pinaymootang School. They were led by Rev R McCullough who also visited Fairford in 1997 for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church. They were very interested in the information which had been collected prior and during June Lewis's visits to Fairford, Manitoba in 1974 and 1993 and in the photographic records of her visit. They enjoyed browsing the albums and seeing pictures of their relatives. A lot of their own records had been lost in floods during 2011.

The First Nation group were interested in their Treaty history as they are in the process of writing a new Treaty. Between 1871 and 1910 Canada entered into various treaties with Indian Bands in Manitoba (**Treaties 1-6, Treaty 5 Adhesion and Treaty 10**). The treaties stipulated that the Canadian Government would set aside a calculated amount of land as reserve land, based on populations at the time of the original reserve surveys.

The Group returned to London later that day and were planning to visit the London Metropolitan Archives where they hope to find some information on their Treaty medal.



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### **Abraham Cowley - the link with Pinaymootang (Fairford), Manitoba**

Abraham Cowley was born in Fairford, Gloucestershire on 8 April 1816, the son of Richard Cowley (1749-1828) mason and Mary Sandling, the 7<sup>th</sup> of their 10 children. Abraham was educated at Fairford Free School 1821-1828. He was influenced by the Vicar of Fairford, Rev Francis William Rice (later 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Dynevor), and attended Church Missionary School in London. He married Arabella Sainsbury (1822-1893) on 26 December 1840 in St Peter's Church, Marlborough and in January 1841, very soon after their marriage, they set sail for Boston, Massachusetts and arrived in Montreal later the same month. In Montreal Abraham found he could not become ordained as his ordination in Montreal would have no validity in Rupert's Land and he was unable to get to his destination Red River until the rivers thawed and opened up in May. The couple returned to England and almost immediately set sail on a Hudson's Bay Company ship to York River where they arrived in August, 1841. From there they went on to Netley Creek on the Red River by canoe arriving in September 1841. They were greeted by the Rev Cochran who Abraham was to help before he left the Mission on his expedition. In 1842 Abraham received permission to set up his own mission station on Lake Manitoba and arrived there with his family on 17 August 1842. After a few months he became discouraged with the site and moved on and found a place called Partridge Crop which showed potential for a mission.

Abraham built a church and school and helped to improve farming practices. After a huge amount of hard work and perseverance the mission flourished and in 1851 it was visited by Bishop David Anderson who renamed the settlement Fairford after Cowley's birthplace. Abraham and Arabella had 12 children, the first being born in 1843.

From Abraham's letter to the Reverend Rice

'I know not my very dear Sir how better to express my gratitude to Almighty God and my great affection and gratitude to you for many labours and kindnesses you have conferred upon me than by building up your name on the earth. I have therefore taken the liberty to call my little son after your name....The little stranger we are satisfied as perfect. Both in body and mind healthy and strong, he grows daily and becomes more interesting. ...Mrs Cowley passed through the trial with so much ease and we consider her highly favoured and our prayers graciously answered'.



Abraham returned to Fairford, England in 1855-56 and his son Arthur Tebbs Cowley was baptised in St Mary's, Fairford on 17 January 1876. Abraham visited again in 1858 when his father was ailing.

The Cowleys left Fairford in 1853 and moved on to the growing Red River Settlement (St Peter's Parish) which in 1876 was named Dynevor in honour of the Vicar of Fairford, Francis Rice, 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Dynevor who had contributed generous gifts to Cowley's work.

Abraham was created archdeacon of Cumberland, Rupert's Land in 1867. His second son Robert George was a clerk at the Hudson Bay Co. at Fort Yukon but was sadly drowned in the River Yukon in 1867. Abraham himself died on 11 September 1887 and was buried in the churchyard at St. Peter's, Dynevor.

## Newspaper Cuttings

### Stroud Journal November 3 1866

From the annual meeting of the Stroud Branch of the Church Missionary Society, October 1866. Bishop David Anderson of Rupert's Land in North West America addressed the meeting and gave a picture of what conditions were like and the hardships missionaries had to endure

He started off by saying that

" .. Gloucestershire had done very much for this distant diocese; it had contributed three, at least, of his own clergy - the Revs Messrs Hunt, Cowley and Gardner. Therefore, this county might feel that it had done something for that far-off and distant land.

...Rupert's Land was one of the coldest parts of the world. Perhaps about next week the Red River on which he used to live would be frozen and would continue up to the end of April or beginning of May. They were consequently prevented from going great distances in the depth of winter. It is considered very cold in this country if we had thirty degrees of frost or if the glass went down to zero; but there they experienced fifty degrees below zero or eighty degrees of frost... In winter they travelled upon the rivers and not upon the ground. They had to make a very deep descent into the river, and they travelled on the ice in carriages (sledges). It was something like a railway, because a sort of track was made. ... Sometimes the cariole was drawn by dogs, and that was the method by which he travelled to Fairford where the Rev Mr Cowley was stationed, and which was so named from his native place in Gloucestershire. A team of dogs would travel 50 miles a day, and he was four days going from his residence to Fairford a distance of 200 miles. ... In the summer months travelling was still by means of the rivers, which were their great highways. The country was full of great rivers and gigantic lakes, one of which Lake Winnipeg was the size of the whole of England. . He had travelled 1,500 miles to visit the tribe inhabiting the Moose country. He travelled by canoe with a crew of 6 men, with one man at the bow and his personal servant. The reason for having so large a crew was that the country being a wilderness it was necessary to take a large canoe to hold provisions. Of course there were dangers encountered but he did not find during 15 years that he had more danger or ran more risk than at home. The two great risks of the country were water and fire - the dangers by canoe and the risk from firearms as all were compelled to carry guns for the sake of providing food."



These pictures were drawn by Louis Woodhouse an Ojibway who gave a whole set showing various aspects of indigenous life to June Lewis when she visited Manitoba in 1974. One of his descendants was part of the recent delegation that visited and was really touched to see the set of drawings done by him.