

Fairford Flyer

No 66

September 2024

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

TOMB TRAILS – 7 September

The next Tomb Trails in St Mary's Churchyard will take place on Saturday 7 September. The first will start at 10.30 am and will look at some of the more interesting graves on the south side of the church and the second will start at 3 pm (due to a wedding taking place earlier) and look at some graves on the north side of the church (similar to the All-new Tomb Trail that took place in July). Each Trail will take about 1 hour. The £3 contribution will be shared by St Mary's and FHS. Please contact the Secretary at enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk if you wish to attend.

FHS Meetings 2024-25

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre on the third Thursday of the month, (except for January and February 2025)

Membership fees are due in September and remain at £5. Visitors are always welcome at £3. 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). You can also leave the subscription at the Community Centre in the FHS post slot by the FTC office door. Thank you to all who have paid by standing orders.

2024/2025 Programme

19 September The Roman Army at Cirencester by John Burdon of the Ermine Street Guard. He is going to dress up as a Roman soldier and Roman artefacts will be on display.

17 October Industrial Archaeology in your Garage, Shed and Attic by Bill King

21 November Lost Railways in and around Gloucestershire by Colin Moulden

2025

16 January History of Christmas and wassailing by Robin Burton (afternoon meeting at 2.30pm)

21 February Edwin Cuss (afternoon meeting at 2.30pm)

20 March John Putley on a topic to be decided.

24 April (4th Thursday) Maps and LiDAR imagery for historic studies in and around the Fairford and Cirencester areas by Peter Vujakovic of *GlosGeog* (Gloucestershire Branch of the Geographical Association)

15 May Fairford's part in the Second World War by Chris Hobson

19 June AGM Show and Tell

Dates for your Diary

October 12-13 Tercentenary of the Baptist Chapel

October 26 -November 3 Cirencester History Festival

Coln House School

Having been vacant since its closure on 31 March 2017 the Coln House School site was eventually sold to the Acorn Property Group with permission to convert existing buildings and erect new houses to provide 34 homes consisting of between one and five bedrooms. Only the post-1945 buildings are being demolished. The 19th century blocks, one either side of Horcott Road, will be converted into flats.

Permission was granted by the Acorn Property Group to photograph the buildings before rebuilding work commenced. Two lengthy photo sessions took place in June and August resulting in over 400 images of the interior and exterior of the buildings. Although most of the rooms had been completely emptied and work

done to ensure health and safety regulations are complied with, the buildings still reflect their use as an asylum as well as the final days of Coln House school so the visits were well worth the effort as these images will probably be the last taken before the interiors are completed rebuilt to modern standard.

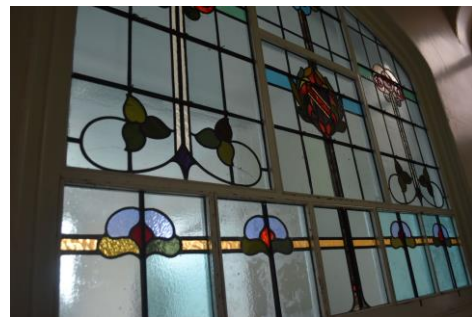


The first impression of the site is how much space there is behind the buildings not visible from the street front. On the east side of Horcott Road the original farmhouse of Alexander Iles on the corner with Milton Street had been extended by three later buildings, the final extension being erected in the 20th century. However, each new building was constructed at a slightly different level resulting in small flights of stairs when moving from one part of the building to another. This can be seen in the image on the left with the original building on the left and the 20th century building on the right.

The entrance hall to the original building had a later tiled floor and the (probably) original staircase up to the first floor. Some of the rooms had fireplaces ranging from plain to decorated but one room had a very nice marble fireplace.



There was not a lot of decoration in the building, after all it was an asylum and then a County-owned school. However, one of the rooms had a nice ceiling rose (possibly original) and another had a painted glass window.



The buildings on the west side of Horcott Road were the female wing and domestic buildings of the asylum. The only obvious addition to the original building here was a bow-fronted extension built in 1936 which can be seen on the left of the image below.



As in the eastern building, there was not much evidence of decoration apart from a tiled windowsill, a small area of floor tiles and some 'interesting' wallpaper!



It is unfortunate that the buildings were allowed to remain empty for such a long time, but it is encouraging that the site will now be put back into use because it will preserve the 19th century buildings as a reminder of their use as The Retreat and Coln House School. FHS is grateful to the Acorn Property Group for giving us the opportunity to take these photographs as a record of the buildings and for posterity.

Newspaper Cuttings

The first half of 1888 was a sad time for Fairford Residents. On Easter Monday the Rev A S Loxley died age 42 leaving a widow and five children and on 21 May, the Lord of the Manor John Raymond Raymond Barker of Fairford Park died age 87.

7 April 1888 Bucks Herald

DEATH OF THE REV A S LOXLEY - The death is announced of the Rev Arthur Smart Loxley, M A, vicar of Fairford which occurred on Monday in his 42nd year. The deceased clergyman was a former curate of Northchurch, hon. chaplain of the Berkhamstead Volunteer Corps from its formation, and the most genial and lovable of gentlemen, whose ancestors have resided at Norcott Court for hundreds of years. He leaves a widow and five children.

7 April 1888 Wilts and Glos Standard

A TOWN IN MOURNING

Fairford, the birthplace and for long years the home of the saintly Keble, is, at this moment, smitten with deep sorrow. It has been bereaved, all too suddenly, of its pastor, who for the past nine years endeared himself to all hearts by his genial presence. By his ardent sympathy in the pursuit and purposes of his parishioners, by his great and musical talents, by his labours in improving the services of the Church, by his pious love for the beautiful structure in which he ministered, and, above all by his pulpit services, which were ever characterised by earnest zeal, by refined scholarship, by large-hearted charity, and by the chaste and poetic language with which he clothed his scriptural teachings and exhortations

26 May Wilts and Glos Standard

Death of J R Raymond Barker Esq

We announce this week with deep regret the death of John Raymond Raymond Barker Esq, which took place at his seat, Fairford Park, early on Monday morning last in his 88th year. It is a strange and sad coincidence that the two succeeding Church festival and popular holiday seasons [Easter Monday and Whit Monday] should have been marked by the removal by the hand of death of the two leading members of the Fairford community...

18 August 1888 Morning Post

RECENT WILLS - Probate of the will of the late Mr John Raymond Raymond-Barker, of Fairford Park, Gloucester, who died on the 21st of May, aged 87, has been granted to the executors, his son-in-law, Colonel Sir Lumley Graham, of Willington, Berks, and Sir John Edmund Commerell, of 45 Rutland Gate, to each of whom

he bequeaths, as executors £100. The testator bequeaths to his wife, Lady Katharine Raymond-Barker, £1,000, a leasehold estate in Gloucestershire, bought by him from Mr Daubeny, and the residue of his personal estate. He bequeaths to her the income for her life of his investments in Government and railway securities, and the proceeds of his policies of life insurance, with remainder to his son and grandson, and he devises and bequeaths all his freehold and leasehold estates in trust to pay the income thereof to his daughters Lady Graham and Miss Leonora Raymond-Barker and the survivor in trust for the son of the Testator's son, Mr Percy Fitzhardinge Raymond-Barker, who may be presumptively entitled to the settled estates. The value of the personal estate is declared at £51, 449. [This is worth over £4 million in today's money].

Saturday 25 August 1888 The Field

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - To be LET on a term from November, FAIRFORD PARK, Furnished, situate in a finely timbered park, and within a mile of the town and railway station. The house contains: Ground floor, drawing room, library, dining room, study, billiard room; first floor, six best bedrooms, four dressing rooms, and bathroom, and eight servants' bedrooms; second floor, six best bedrooms, and three dressing rooms. The offices comprise housekeeper's room, butler's pantry, servants' hall, kitchen, scullery, laundry, brew house, still room, storeroom, dairy, larder, and bakehouse, and underground cellars, stabling for twelve horses and coach houses, coachman's house. The house is heated with hot water; gas is laid on throughout, and the water is pumped by waterpower. The pleasure grounds are extensive and beautifully timbered, sloping down to the river, which is nearly two hundred foot wide. The kitchen garden is very extensive, and comprises five vineries, pine house, forcing pits, hothouses for flowers, and gardener's house. The shooting comprises between 3000 and 4000 acres of excellent partridge ground, about 150 acres of woods, and keeper's house. The trout fishing, which is unsurpassed, is about two miles in extent. The deer park and land in hand is about 160 acres, the whole or part of which can be rented if desired. Fairford is within one hour of Oxford and three hours of London, is in the centre of the VWH hunt, and in easy distance of the Old Berkshire, the Heythrop, the Cotswold, and the Duke of Beaufort's. - For further particulars apply to Messrs WADE and LYALL, 4 St Helen's Place, London; Messrs HORNE and FRANCIS, 2 Berkeley Street, Piccadilly, London; or to EDWARD TRINDER, Land Agent, Cirencester.

After her husband's death Lady Katherine Raymond Barker went to live in Kensington, London and died in 1892. The heir, Percy Fitzhardinge Raymond Barker, left Fairford to live in Tetbury.

Fairford Park was first let to Colonel George Porter, a wealthy London brewer who moved to Cornwell Manor in 1901 when the lease was taken over by Colonel and Mrs Palmer until the Second World War.

The Reverend Loxley was succeeded by the Reverend Francis Rohde Carbonell, formerly the vicar of Kingston, Somerset. He was responsible for the restoration of the Church Windows and remained Vicar until 1918, he died in 1919.

20 July 1888 North Wilts Herald

INDUCTION OF THE NEW VICAR OF FAIRFORD

A ceremony and service at once novel, interesting, serious, and solemn, took place at the Parish Church, Fairford on Friday evening, viz. the induction to the Rev Francis Rohde Carbonell to the living of the parish, vacant by the death of the late Rev Canon Arthur Smart Loxley. The service was appointed to begin at seven pm and that hour found a numerous and deeply reverent congregation assembled among not a few of whom mixed feelings of sorrow and joy were apparent. The prayers were intoned by the Rev F Thomas curate.... [followed by a long description of the details of the service]

The new vicar, kneeling at the altar steps, offered prayer and pronounced the benediction, and ceremony and service of induction ended.

Mr O G Jones presided at the organ. The congregation had scarcely quitted the sacred edifice ere the bells were ringing a joyous peal.