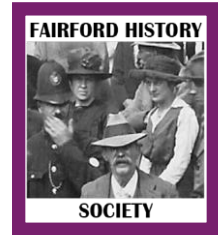


Fairford Flyer

No 73 April 2025



FHS Meetings 2025

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

2025 Programme

- 24 April (4th Thursday)** 'The map as biography: tracing Fairford and its surrounds by Peter Vujakovic of *GlosGeog* (Gloucestershire Branch of the Geographical Association) (change of title but the same topic)
- 10 May evening** VE Day celebrations in the Cricket Field organised by the Royal British Legion, barbecue and film
- 11 May** VE Day celebrations in the Cricket Field organised by the Royal British Legion (FHS display)
- 15 May** Along the River Coln in Fairford – Edwin Cuss (postponed from February)
- 22 May 2pm** Cirencester Civic Society (CCS) is giving FHS a guided walk in Cirencester: if you would like to go on this walk please let us know either by email or at the next meetings. The walk will take 75-90 minutes. It is free (apart from parking) as we are giving the CCS a walk round Fairford in July.
- 7-8 June** Fairford Festival
- 19 June** AGM Show and Tell – members bring their own objects to talk about, the objects do not necessarily have to relate to Fairford.

Trevor Hing 1950-2025 - Mayor 1991-93 and 1999-2001

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Trevor Hing. He had been involved with so many of Fairford's activities and particularly relevant to FHS as the Chairman of the Fairford Community Centre Project Team and the setting up of FHS with the provision of an Archive Room at FCC. This quote from him is on our website:

"Over 50 members were signed up at their first meeting held in Fairford Community Centre in June. Cllr Trevor Hing said at the meeting that the people of Fairford should note the day **18th June 2004 – as it was an important day in Fairford's history** and, in 25 years' time, people will look back and be thankful that the History Society had been formed and important historical artefacts and first-hand knowledge of events had been recorded for all time."

Thank you, Trevor, for all you did for Fairford.

April Meeting – Remember, Remember by John Putley from Gloucestershire Archives

John gave us a whistlestop tour of the rebellions, conspiracies and plots involving Gloucestershire from the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace to the Boer Wars from 1899-1902, illustrating the talk with examples of papers from the Gloucestershire Archives. The talk started with Pilgrimage of Grace 1536, the Rising of the North 1569 and the Irish Rebellion 1598-1603. In all these events Gloucestershire sent men to serve in the Royal Armies. Gloucestershire played an important part in the English Civil War including the siege of Gloucester 1643 and the Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold, 1646 which ended the War. The Barwick brothers were Royalist spies, and one of their daughters married Lord Ralph Dutton of Sherborne and in Gloucestershire Archives the Barwick papers contain letters in which there are examples of codes and cyphers that the Royalists used substituting numbers for words in some cases.

In the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, the Gloucestershire Militia helped to defeat Monmouth at the Battle of Sedgemoor the last pitched battle fought on English soil. Next came the Glorious Revolution of 1689 when

James II was deposed, and Mary I and William of Orange became Queen and King. After the Jacobite Rebellion things settled down a little in this country, but we moved on to the not so glorious defeat during the War of American Independence.

The Chartists were a political movement that wanted to gain rights for the working classes. Large meetings were held and in Gloucestershire the Chartist stronghold was Stroud where special mounted constables were sworn in, however the meetings there passed off peaceably. The Movement petered out but some of the changes they wanted were later enacted into legislation. Part of the Chartist Movement was the National Land Company founded by Fergus O'Connor, the idea was for working people to buy shares and with the money build cottages with allotments which were allocated by ballot. This was to help working class people obtain the land ownership requirement needed to be eligible to vote. Five villages were set up, but the scheme was not a success as one of the flaws was that working class people were mostly from the towns and had no idea how to grow vegetables! Eventually the company dissolved, and the estates were sold off. Chartist houses can still be seen at Snig's End near Course in Gloucestershire.

Finally, someone of whom Gloucestershire can boast, Colonel Sir Percival Scrope Marling VC, CB, DL (of the Marling family which founded the school in Stroud) served in the first and second Boer Wars, the Anglo Egyptian War and the Mahdist War, in which he was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery, and the First World War. He became Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire in 1903 and High Sheriff in 1923.

If you want to find out more about this talk as it was a lot to take in at the time it is online at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/learning-for-all/online-exhibitions/remember-remember/>

From Fairford Parish Council Minutes 1939-41 items relating to the Second World War

September 18 1939

A letter was read from the Swindon United Gas Company re the Street Lamps. The motion was proposed and carried that 10s per lamp be granted to cover the whole period of the War for taking down, storing, and refixing, not per annum.

Tuesday May 21 1940

A letter was read from the Glos Home Food Production Society and one from the Secretary of the Fairford Pig Club asking for a Public Meeting be called to stir up interest in forming Food Production Clubs, the above Society offering to send a speaker. The motion was proposed and carried that the Club be instructed to call a meeting at a suitable time for the Speaker.

June 8 1940

Letters were read asking the Council if it was willing to help to collect scrap iron - tins, pans, etc and arrange for dumps to be placed in convenient places, and after a long discussion the motion was proposed and carried that this Council agreed to do their utmost to collect as much as possible. Two dumps were to be provided one at each end of Fairford one in London Road opposite Miss Keble's on the verge under Lady Hirtzel's wall and the other in Coronation Street.

Monday 24 June 1940

The motion was proposed and carried that the German gun in London Road be turned over to the people responsible for taking away the scrap iron, that two more dumps be made in Fairford one in Park Street and the other at Horcott, and that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Fairford Market Committee suggesting the railings in High Street be taken down and the iron put on the dump.

The motion was proposed and carried that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Cirencester Rural District Council stating that both Schools in Fairford were now full, if more children were to be evacuated to Fairford other arrangements should be made.

July 2 1940

The Parish Council feel extremely annoyed at the repeated promises given by the Captain of the Fire Brigade at Cirencester of the advent of an engine, and the repeated excuses, etc. to account for its non-arrival. The personnel of the Brigade are getting not only discouraged but sick of the whole business, some people are refusing to pay their rates in future until they get value.

The Council feels very strongly that it is necessary to have a trailer fire engine housed in Fairford for use in the District in time of peace. They feel that in time of war with the great likelihood of air raids and consequent danger to housing, crops and communications the matter is one of the utmost urgency.

They feel that the sale of their old and manual engine (bought by public subscriptions) and its replacement by a two man manual pump of far less efficiency and mobility does not comply with what they understand were the provisions of the Act by which the Rural District Council assumed responsibility for the firefighting services. They have personnel already trained in the use of a trailer pump and more recruits can be easily obtained. They therefore will be glad to hear that the Rural District Council will comply with all the Act's provisions of the firefighting requirements of the Fairford District, forthwith.

September 30 1940

The Chairman read a letter from the authorities which stated that although the articles on the dump had not been collected this did not mean that the articles disposed were not now required, more was required and it was hoped the public would respond to the appeal to increase the dump as much as possible.

March 24 1941

A request was made by Lady Hirtzel for the dump to be moved down to where the German Gun used to stand, after a discussion the clerk was instructed to write to Lady Hirtzel that it was a more suitable place where it was.

June 30 1941

A letter was read from the Ministry of Supply advising the Council that it was decided to discontinue the Village Dumps Scheme as a separate organisation and to merge it into your Rural District Council's salvage arrangements under the supervision of the Salvage Department, Ministry of Supply. The transfer is to take place as from June 30 1941.

Tuesday November 25 1941

Proposed by Mr H R Bridges and seconded by Mr H Busby and carried that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Sanitary Inspector stating that in normal times there has been a necessity for lavatories but now troops are in Fairford the situation is untenable, the Council has no idea who is responsible, but we should be glad of your advice.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

North Wilts Herald 2 February 1940

BRITISH LEGION

The annual supper and entertainment in connection with the Fairford branch of the British Legion took place at the White Hart Hotel. The Vice-Chairman (Captain W B Forrester) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. After the formal business an excellent programme was provided by the Swindon Variety Entertainers. The arrangements were made by the entertainment committee of the Branch.

Birmingham Mail 19 February 1940

FAIRFORD STAINED GLASS

The famous stained-glass windows at Fairford in the Cotswolds have been a source of delight to the children evacuated there from London. During a recent visit to this old town, I was (writes a correspondent) much struck by the powers of observation of some of the London children. One little evacuee girl was able to tell me, not only the incidents depicted in the windows but even such details as the colour of the Virgin Mary's dress and the shape of the particular instrument with which the devils are prodding the damned souls among the flames of Hell.

The Fairford windows may claim to be among the greatest treasures possessed by English country churches. There has been some discussion in Fairford whether the glass should be taken out and removed to a place of safety until the war is over, but it has been decided that they are safe where they are.

Note: the windows were taken out in July 1940 and stored in the cellars of Fairford Park House.

North Wilts Herald 14 June 1940

FAIRFORD SALVAGE SCHEME

A special meeting of the Parish Council was held on Saturday, the Rev F A W Gibbs presiding. The business before the meeting was to consider a request made to the Council to organise dumps for the collection of scrap iron, tins, pots and pans, It was resolved to have two dumps in Fairford – one at each end of the town – where householders and others may deposit these articles. Notice boards will be placed at these spots.

Gloucestershire Echo 2 February 1941

SOBER FAIRFORD – Excellent Licensing Report

There was no conviction for drunkenness in the Fairford Petty Regional Division during last year and no person was convicted for being under the influence of drink when in charge of a motor vehicle.

These facts were revealed in the annual licensing report presented to the Fairford magistrates on Tuesday by Superintendent J H Jotcham. There had been only four convictions for drunkenness in the Fairford district in five years and three of these were non-residents. Superintendent Jotcham stated that according to the 1931 census there was one licensed house to every 174 inhabitants.

Note: Unfortunately, the 1931 census was destroyed in a fire in 1942.

North Wilts Herald 31 May 1941

FAIRFORD –

Miss Keble presided at a meeting of the WVS Settlement. There was a good attendance and members were soon busy knitting and sewing for people in bombed areas.

A good many garments have already been made. Mr J E Harris sent Miss Keble a cheque for £3 towards the funds from the Royal Engineers canteen with a letter of thanks for the use of the Institute crockery. It was decided to spend 30s of the amount on wool and material. Mrs G Stevens won first prize for baked custard pudding and Mrs Hoddinott was second. The prizes were given by Mrs Littledale and Mrs Hedges. Mrs Hughes and Mrs Hedges acted as hostesses, and a very enjoyable entertainment followed tea. Mrs Hughes gave two amusing recitations, Miss Baldwin played her accordion, and Mr Gilman sang several songs, accompanied by Mrs Gilman.

Cheltenham Chronicle 28 February 1942

PLANE KILLS 2 IN CAR

Two persons were killed and another seriously injured when the car in which they were travelling was struck and overturned by a 'plane, which running out of fuel, had to make a forced landing on a road at Tiltup near Eastleach, on the Cotswolds

The dead are Mr Leonard E G Smith, aged 25 of Rose Villas, Fairford and Miss Nancy Vera Peachey of Eastleach aged 21. Miss Jefferies of Southrop, Mr Smith's fiancée who was also in the car is in Fairford Cottage Hospital with severe injuries. Mr Smith, leader of an amateur dance band was taking Miss Peachey his pianist home after a dance, and it was his intention to drive Miss Jefferies home to Southrop before returning home. At the inquest it was revealed that the plane had run out of fuel and was making a forced landing. The pilot was unaware that he had struck anything and no one on the plane was injured.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Note: The accident happened on 22 February and the aircraft was an Avro Anson AW970 from 12 Operational Training Unit based at Chipping Warden, Northants and was written off in the accident.

Western Daily Press 23 June 1942

BMS MEETING CELEBRATION AT FAIRFORD.

The Cotswold town of Fairford, being the birthplace of Dr John Thomas, the first 'agent' of the Baptist Missionary Society, was where celebrations of the BMS's jubilee were held at the Union Chapel, Fairford. Dr C C Chesterman medical secretary of the BMS was the chief speaker. The evening meeting included the singing of a hymn composed by the Rev John Keble who was also born at Fairford.