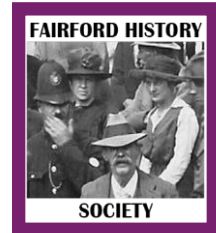


# *Fairford Flyer*

## *No 75 June 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**

**19 June** 7.30 pm AGM and Show and Tell – members are asked to bring their own objects to talk about for five timed minutes; the objects do not necessarily have to relate to Fairford. This has been a most successful meeting in the past.

The programme for the 2025-26 season will be published in September.

### **Other Events**

**7-8 June Fairford Festival – Edwin Cuss and FHS Display in the Heritage Room, Community Centre 10-4**

**8-10 August FairFest in the Walnut Tree Field**

**16-17 August Fairford Steam Rally, Rhymes Lane, Fairford**

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### **VE Day celebrations in Fairford**



On 7 May Chris and I attended the CDC 80<sup>th</sup> VE Day flag raising ceremony at the District Council Offices. Chris had been asked to give a 10-minute talk on Fairford during World War 2. This was based on the talk he gave to FHS in February. Also in attendance were the Royal British Legion from Kemble and 102-year-old Alan McQuillan, a D-Day veteran, plus members of Cotswold District Council, our MP, the RAF Base Commander, and other dignitaries.

On 8 May the Bull Hotel were having their VE Day event: - FHS and the Royal British Legion had displays in the Bull Room. There was background wartime music and in the afternoon a singer sang wartime songs outside the Bull



Hotel where a wartime vehicle was also parked. The staff were dressed beautifully in the 1940s style. At noon there was a short service at the War Memorial and the Town Crier read the VE Day proclamation.

Saturday the 10th was the Church Open Day where FHS displayed 'St Mary's Church in World War'. This display was also for the special service in the Church on the Sunday. Visitors also enjoyed 'people spotting' in the large jigsaw of a photo taken outside the church in the year 2000.

On Sunday afternoon we exhibited a display in a marquee in the Cricket Field. Arranged by the Royal British Legion with Fairford Town Council this was a wonderful event which was very well attended on a lovely afternoon and many things to see and do. Syd and Jennie did a wonderful job of selling publications and we raised almost £80. Thanks to all are members who contributed items for the display.



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### **May meeting Along the Coln by Edwin Cuss**

Edwin took us down the Coln from Moss Bridge to the Broad Boards. The greatest obvious difference between then and now was the number of the trees, not so many trees by the river then, this was because there were many more fly fisherman and trees were kept from the banks. It was amazing the number and size of coarse fish caught. Some of the pike weigh 21lbs. Of course, some of the photos were very similar to today. In fact, this week we took a photo of cattle on the Green which could have been identical except it was in colour! This talk was originally given in 2007 and had been postponed twice, and we always enjoy seeing old photos of Fairford. Don't forget to come along to the Heritage Room on Fairford Festival weekend where more photos will be on display.



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### Cirencester Town Walk - 22 May

Cirencester Civic Society (CCS) offered to give FHS a guided tour of Cirencester in return for a Fairford guided walk for the CCS that will be held in July led by Syd Flatman. Ann and Colin gave the FHS members, divided into two groups, an excellent tour of the town centre. Although obviously aimed at tourists to the town, we saw things we had not noticed or did not know about before. There are some lovely Georgian houses with beautiful gardens within a short distance of the town centre and Colin explained that visitors to the town really enjoy browsing through the independent shops and alleyways which were looking most attractive in the bright sunshine.

The porch of Cirencester Church was built by the abbot of Cirencester. There was a power struggle between the Abbot and the citizens of the town, so the town did not like it when the porch was built higher than the Church. It was implied ...that the money they used to build the church tower higher than the porch was the ill-gotten gains belonging to Henry Bolingbroke who seized Richard II's crown in 1400. Some of Richard's supporters fled to Cirencester and stayed at the Ram Inn but the Earls of Kent and Salisbury were captured and executed. Henry awarded the town with a part of the Earl's treasure but most it was never found and is believed to have helped build the church tower! The ugly but vital buttresses were built shortly after the tower was completed in 1415 when it was found to need support.

Blackjack St was named as the original statue of St John on the Church became very black and nickname for John is Jack, hence Blackjack Street. The St John and Virgin Mary figures which became unsafe have recently been replaced by lovely bronze statues.

We then proceeded westwards to Cirencester Park and admired the wonderful yew hedge, which is trimmed once or twice a year for free; the cuttings are used to produce a life-saving cancer drug called Taxol. Next to the lovely Cecily Hill named after St Cecilia's chapel, no longer in existence. This used to be the main road to Stroud, but an early Lord Bathurst changed the route as he did not like it so near his mansion. (That is also said to have happened in Fairford, hence the bend at the town bridge). We admired the 1802 Tontine buildings and what was once was a pub in Cecily Hill called the Dolphin. You can still see the fitment for the swing sign and the house has a dolphin shaped door knocker.

Back towards the town centre along Coxwell Street admiring the buildings and into the Abbey grounds, we visited the last remaining gate to the Abbey now in scaffolding and then back to the site of the Abbey, a huge building demolished in 1539, Henry VIII has a lot to answer for - but the misericords in Fairford Church may have come from the Abbey as Sir Edmund Tame was Steward of the Abbey before the Dissolution and the last abbot John Blake was granted a house in Fairford along with a £200 pension.

Thanks to Cirencester Civic Society for giving us the opportunity to see parts of Cirencester that we had never noticed or known much about and we hope that they enjoy their return visit in July.



hence Dollar Street



## NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

### Cheltenham Chronicle 4 May 1889

**TROUT FISHING** - Anglers have been busy during the past month with the fly, and some fair sport has been had in Gloucestershire streams where trout abound. Last week we paid a visit to the famed trout stream at Fairford, but found the comfortable hostelry 'The Bull', so full of anglers that they could scarcely find room for us; in fact, several had, like flowers, to be bedded out. There was something like a score of rods on the stream on Easter Monday but not much was done. The previous week Prince A. Soltykoff, who had been staying here for a short time, took his 15 or 16 braces of nice fish. Mr Keller, Mr Hitchman Iles, Mr Phillips Wolley and Mr Thomas Powell have amongst others, been busy on this stream. The fish do not yet rise freely at the fly, in consequence we think, of their being at present feeding on the caddis, which is now very abundant and not much sport will probably be had until the May-fly comes on, which on the Fairford stream is about the first or second week of June.....

Note - Prince A Soltykoff: this was more likely to be Prince D Soltykoff who was the owner of the Kremlin stud in Newmarket and died in 1903. Prince A Soltykoff was a Russian artist and traveller who died in 1859.



Mr Thomas Powell fishing in the River Coln

### Stroud News and Gloucestershire Advertiser 10 May 1889

The fine weather, as well as hastening the growth of vegetation and refreshing the landscape with welcome verdure, has been instrumental in increasing the number of members who turned out for the weekly run of the Cyclists' Touring Club. About a score enjoyed a pleasant evening's ride to Fairford on Tuesday last. This is as good a number as the club has yet mustered and it is pleasant to note that something in Cirencester receives a satisfactory amount of patronage.

### Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard 11 May 1889

#### FAIRFORD COTTAGE HOSPITAL

The Committee desire gratefully to acknowledge the following presents - Eggs, Miss Miller, Mrs Tarling, Dr Hitchman and Mr Alexander Iles; books, Mrs Stephens, Mr Simpson and Mr Johns; beef tea, Mrs Smith; curtains, Mrs Archer; six couple of rabbits, Lord De Mauley; old linen, Mrs W Arkell; Pictures Mrs Stevens.

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