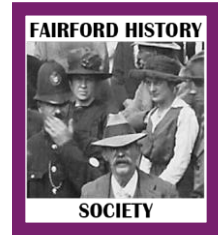


Fairford Flyer

No 77 September 2025



Membership

Membership fees are due in September and remain at £5. A membership renewal form is a separate attachment. You can pay at a **meeting or by bank transfer, Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-92-06 A/C Fairford History Society No 02170130. Important - we are very sorry but this year we cannot accept cheques as the bank now charges for each cheque paid in.** 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. I am at the Community Centre Archive Room 1.30-3.30 pm on Mondays and can receive subscriptions then.

FHS Meetings 2025-26

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 which are at 2.30pm)

2025-26 Programme

2025

- 18 September Fairford Folk: from 3000 BCE to the 20th century and beyond by Chris Hobson
- 16 October The Lockheed U-2 Dragon Lady if RAF Fairford operational requirements permit otherwise Fairford Memories and Films
- 20 November Titanic Effort! – *R.M.S. Carpathia's* dash to save a stricken liner. Set amongst the frozen ice flows of the North Atlantic by Paul Barnett

2026

- 15 January at 2.30 pm Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter, KCVO, OBE, DL Gloucestershire men at the Battle of Waterloo etc.
- 19 February 2.30 pm Edwin Cuss
- 19 March 'On two wheels – the fascinating story of the bicycle by Bill King
- 16 April Brief History of Tetbury by Jane Haines
- 21 May Misericords by Miles Dodd
- 18 June Gloucestershire Follies by Jonathan Holt

Other events

Heritage Open Days 12-21 September <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>
Cirencester History Festival 24 October – 2 November 2025

FHS News

In July we had a successful visit from Cirencester Civic Society with a guided walk by Syd Flatman followed by tea after which Margaret Bishop gave a tour of the St Mary's Church windows to those who those who stayed.

We have not been idle during the summer. The Archive Room has been slightly reorganised to create more space. We are in the process of updating the graves list for St Mary's Churchyard and St Thomas's. We are also transferring some of our paper archives into digital form which makes answering enquiries a whole lot easier. During the summer we have received a few local history enquiries, two of which involved Park Farm. The first was about a land girl, Eileen Entwisle, who is believed to have worked there during the Second World War;

unfortunately we could not find any information. The second was about a knitting pattern book dated 1846 written by Catherine E Slatter of Park Farm. Sarah from London was asking if we knew anything her about her. We found out the following information:-

Catherine Eliza Slatter 1826-1906 was baptised in the church of St Mary de Lode in Gloucester on 11 August 1826. She was the daughter of Thomas and Ann Slatter of the Kingsholm district of the city of Gloucester. By 1843 the Slatters were living in Park Farm in Fairford when Thomas was elected a member of the Royal Agricultural Society and, although originally a tanner, he was later recorded as a woolstapler who bought and processed wool for the clothing industry. Thomas sold Park Farm in 1849 and moved to Cirencester where he became a corn merchant and miller and died in 1879.

On 10 October 1850 Catherine married William Bertram in St Mary's church, Fairford. William was the headmaster of Cirencester Grammar School. The 1851 census shows William and Catherine living in the Gosditch Ward of Cirencester with 12 young boys who they had boarding with them. William was ordained in 1852 and became a curate, first at Cirencester and then at the small church at Shorncliffe and was later appointed the chaplain of Cirencester Workhouse. In addition to his work as a clergyman William retained his position as headmaster of the Grammar School until his death.

By 1863 Catherine had given birth to five sons: William, Alan, Percival, Algernon and Reginald. William Bartram died suddenly while conducting a service at South Cerney on 7 November 1880 and the following year Catherine moved to the Park Town district of Oxford along with her three youngest sons who were then medical students although Algernon and Reginald became clergymen. By 1891 her sons had left home and Catherine had moved to Southmoor Road in Oxford where she died on 20 March 1906 at the age of 79. Catherine was buried on 23 March, probably in the St Giles section of St Sepulchre's Cemetery, Oxford.

Catherine's knitting Book No 1 contains mainly lace edging patterns, though there is also a baby's hood and baby's shoes - Sarah wonders perhaps somewhere there is a No. 2 book with children's socks and mufflers? Sarah will be having a go at some of the other patterns, but just at the moment she is concentrating on old patterns with botanical type names like the thorn pattern. She is working towards this event: <https://members.linnean.org/events/68835bdf5e1810008552e46/description>

Workshop - Knit like a Victorian

Tuesday, 11 November 2025 14:00 -Tuesday, 11 November 2025 17:00

Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF, UK



FAIRFORD'S 'FORGOTTEN' KEBLE

A huge amount has been written about the Reverend John Keble, Tractarian, poet, one of the founders of the Oxford Movement and Fairford's most famous son. Several sources, including Hugh Greenhalf's 2005 lecture titled 'A glimpse of heaven' and Allan Ledger's book 'A moment in time' which was published in 2017, provide some information on John Keble's father and grandfather, both called John and both of whom lived in Fairford. The poet's grandfather (who I will call John 1 to avoid confusion) was a maltster who built Court Close (now called Keble House) in about 1772 and died in 1780. His son (John 2) was born in 1745 and became the vicar of Coln St Aldwyn until his death in 1835. His son (John 3), the famous John Keble, was born in 1792 and became curate of Coln St Aldwyn and Eastleach Martin and vicar of Hursley in Hampshire.

But a Keble who is not mentioned in the texts is a Reverend Richard Keble who is recorded in the Fairford parish register as having been buried at Fairford on 17 April 1775. The register states that he was the rector of Newton Tony in Wiltshire. An announcement in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal of 24 April 1775 confirms that he was the rector of Newton Tony and that he died at his brother's house in Fairford on the 10th of April. The death notice also states that he was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge which was unusual for a member of the Gloucestershire Kebles who were mostly educated at Oxford. In fact there is an entry in the Oxford Alumni record of Richard Keble being entered in Magdalen College, Oxford on 10 January 1728 with no other information except that he was the son of Francis Keble of Lechlade although this cannot be confirmed by the Lechlade parish register. The Cambridge Alumni register does confirm that he was admitted to Queen's College on 20 November 1730. It is not known why Richard should have moved to Cambridge.

Little is known about Richard's life except that according to the Clergy of the Church of England Database he was ordained as a priest in December 1735 and became curate of St Edmund's church in Salisbury in 1738, then curate at nearby Stratford-sub-Castle in 1761 before being appointed as rector of St Andrew's church at Newton Tony in 1762. He was still the rector of St Andrew's at his death and may have been visiting family when he died or he may have become ill and was being looked after by his brother John (1) and sisters Hester and Margaret.

Fortunately Richard's will survives which helps to add some detail about the Fairford Kebles of the late 18th century. Richard wrote his will on 8 December 1770 and mentions that he had a quarter share of property in Siddington "lately devised to me by the will of Mrs Mary Deacon late of Elmtree near Tetbury". Mary Deacon's very lengthy will of 1765 includes the bequest of her property in Siddington in equal shares to the Reverend Richard, John (1), Hester and Margaret "all children of my late cousin Francis Keble" which confirms that Francis was indeed the father of John (1) and his siblings. In Richard's will he leaves his property to his brother John (1) and when he dies it then passes to his son John (2) and when he dies to his first-born son which would be the then unborn John (3). Richard also left £300 each his nieces Mary and Anne, sisters of John (2). Also mentioned in Richard's will is another nephew, yet again called John Keble, who was the son of Richard's late brother "long since deceased" and possibly the Thomas Keble who was buried at Fairford on 3 October 1755. This John Keble had apparently moved to America and was living in Philadelphia as a scrivener by 1773. His uncle Richard left him £20 but it is not known if the money ever reached him during the prolonged American Revolution.

It is not known where the Reverend Richard Keble is buried. There is a small plot in the churchyard where several of the Kebles have very small memorial stones and there is a memorial tablet in the church which states that some of the family are buried in the chancel as well as in the churchyard.

<i>Buried in the Year 1775.</i>	
<i>Calverie, wife of John Simpson</i>	<i>January 25th</i>
<i>Elizabeth, Daughter of Christopher Brown</i>	<i>February 15th</i>
<i>William Allaway</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Edward All</i>	<i>March - 26th</i>
<i>Joseph Panting, an Infant</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Maria Livers, an Infant</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>The Rev^d Richard Keble, Rector of Newton-Tony, Wilt.</i>	<i>April - 17th</i>

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Lady's Pictorial 27 July 1889

FLUX-MANN

On 16th inst., at the church of St James, West Hampstead by the Right Rev, the bishop of Colchester assisted by the Rev. Alfred Flux (brother of the bridegroom), Dr J Belben Flux, so of Mr William Flux, of Warrington-crescent and Fairford, Gloucester, to Miss Florence Mann, daughter of the late George Mann of Hamilton-terrace. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr George Reed Mann, was attired in white silk, with petticoat of crepe de chine, and carried a posy of orange blossoms and lilies, and wore diamond ornaments, including a crescent, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were the Misses Mabel and Olive Mann (sisters of the bride), Miss Flux (niece of the bridegroom). Their costumes consisted of grey and white figured alpaca with white silk waistcoats, and white sweet pea hats. They carried white sweet posies and wore diamond pin brooches, gifts of the bridegroom. The best man was Mr Charles Langley Flux, the bridegroom's brother. A reception was held at Sherriff-road, West Hampstead, and later the happy couple left for the English Lakes where the honeymoon will be spent. The bride's travelling costume consisted of blue figured foulard with bonnet to match. Among the guests were... [A society wedding with lovely outfit descriptions.]

North Wilts Herald 13 September 1889

FIRE: Early on Monday afternoon part of a rick of straw, the property of Mr W C Arkell, situate in a field known as the milking-path, was found to be on fire. Probably through carelessness of lucifer matches by lads who had surreptitiously obtained some of those dangerous articles, and were seen shortly before to leave the spot. The loss of the straw rick would have been of comparatively small moment, but, unfortunately, in close proximity, was a large and valuable rick of hay, belonging to Mr Sampson Smith, the present occupier of the field and buildings. The rick, which contained from 25 to 30 tons of excellent new hay, was in an adjoining yard, separated from the burning straw by only a low wall. A large barn filled with barley, and a cart shed, together with another smaller rick of hay and a stump of straw, also stood in the yard and in dangerous proximity to the fire, a large rick of barley straw was standing the field, but this was not in such imminent danger. As soon as the fire was discovered an alarm was given, and those who were first at the scene, among whom were Sergeant Hill and PC Wade, say that it appeared as though half a dozen buckets of water would have extinguished it. Unfortunately, those were not to hand, and as the result of a gentle breeze, which blew in that direction, the large hay rick, in spite of the endeavours of the many who had now assembled was speedily enveloped in flames. In the meanwhile, the fire engine, which had been sent for, arrived, together with the Fire Brigade under Captain Loughton. The chief difficulty lay in the short supply of water, especially at the outset, when all that was available was the supply obtained from local wells passed by hand to the engine. Owing to this fact the fire was enabled to get a firm hold of the rick as it was necessary to use the small quantity of water obtainable to cool the buildings and the other ricks. Water barrels were soon forthcoming, however, and a fair supply was by this means obtained from the river. Nevertheless, the rick was doomed, and through the unceasing exertions of the brigade, ably seconded by many others, prevented the fire spreading, it was not until about five a.m. on Tuesday that it could be said to have been got under, while it could not be safely left until noon of the same day. Fortunately, Mr Smith was insured. Mr Arkell's loss was small

Oxford Journal 8 September 1849 (following up from page 2)

THE PARK FARM, FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
800 SHEEP, principally Long-woolled; **40 Head** of yearling **CATTLE**, two Teams of **OXEN**, 3 Teams of useful **CART HORSES**, capital three-year-old **CART COLT**, a variety of **IMPLEMENTS**, and 100 Tods of **WOOL**.
C. F. MOORE respectfully intimates that Mr. Slatter, who is leaving the farm, has directed him to **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Friday the 21st day of September, 1849,—The whole of his **LIVE** and **DEAD STOCK**; particulars of which will be given in future advertisements and catalogues.