



Fairford Flyer No 82 February 2026

It is with great sadness we have learned that we have lost another of our founder members, Liz Hope, who will be sadly missed in so many aspects of life in Fairford. Our condolences to Phil, Richard and all the family. Funeral 1pm 19th February 2026 at St Mary's Church. And also, Ellen Kermode, who has been in ill health for a long time. Chris and Ellen were not often able to attend meetings, but they did come to the Titanic talk in November. Our condolences to Chris and all his family.

Membership

Membership fees were due in September and remain at £5. 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 already, we have 148 memberships as of 1 February.

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)

2026 Programme

2026

Change of date **Friday 20 February 2.30 pm** Fairford in Close up by Edwin Cuss. Refreshments will be served from 2pm and after the meeting. There will also be a used book sale before and after the meeting. Proceeds will go towards new FHS display boards.

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

St Mary's Church stewards wanted for 1 or 2 hours weekly or monthly. You do not have to be a regular church member, anyone with an interest in the history and heritage of our glorious church. Please contact the Parish Office 01285 712611 or <https://stmaryschurchfairford.org.uk/contact-parish-office-2/> if you are interested.

Battle of Waterloo - January meeting

Major-General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter gave a very interesting talk on the Battle of Waterloo starting with an outline of the great power conflict in Europe which eventually resulted in the battle. The French desire to dominate Europe and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte led to war in Spain and Portugal, Italy, Egypt, Russia, Belgium and at sea. The Battle of Waterloo was fought on 18 June 1815 and was the culminating battle of the Napoleonic Wars resulting in the final defeat of Napoleon. Sir Evelyn gave a detailed account of the battle commencing with the initial defence at Hougemon Farm leading up to the main battle lines just south of Waterloo village. Detailed maps helped to illustrate the scale and complexity of the battle. The contrasting styles of leadership and command by Wellington and Napoleon were highlighted. Taking part in the battle

was the 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot which would have recruited many of their soldiers from the county. One of the men who survived the Battle of Waterloo was Sir Frederick Cavendish Ponsonby who was Colonel of the 12th Light Dragoons and was badly wounded during the battle and died in 1837 and is buried in the crypt of Hatherop church. Sir Evelyn brought several items of interest to display including musket balls from the battlefield, a cavalry sword, a replica of the French eagle standard mount and a Waterloo Medal, the first campaign medal ever issued in the UK. The talk generated a lot of interest from the audience and was concluded by a large number of questions from the floor.



1. Wellington



2. Replica of a captured French Eagle



3. Soldiers from the North Glos Regiment

TO THE BENEVOLENT.
THE CASE OF SAMUEL COLLETT, A PENSIONER,
On Ninepence per diem, and late of the Second Battalion, 44th Regiment.

THIS poor man and Veteran Soldier is now 80 years of age, a native of Tewkesbury. He has a Peninsula Medal, with the following clasps or bars recording the general actions he bore a part in, viz :—Bussaco, Badajos, Salamanca, and St. Sebastian. He has also a Waterloo Medal, and his certificate of discharge states he was twice wounded in that glorious victory. He was also at the storming of Bergen-op-Zoone, where his gallant Colonel, the Hon. George Carlton, fell, being the first man at the ramparts, and 23 other officers of the 2nd Battalion 44th Regiment killed and wounded.

When his humble pension has paid his lodging and washing, he has only 4d. per diem left for subsistence, and has suffered great privations this severe winter for want of clothing, fuel, and the necessaries of life. His case is brought to the notice of the public by the Minister of the District in which he lives, the Rev. W. G. Chamberlain, of St. James'.

The whole of this statement can be vouched for by an officer who served in the same regiment with the Veteran Collett, and if desired can be referred to.

Any Subscriptions or Donations will be thankfully received at the Libraries of Messrs. Davies (Royal and Montpellier); Mr. Hale, Promenade House; or the Rev. W. G. Chamberlain.

Many of the Private soldiers (Other Ranks) who took part in the Battle of Waterloo later fell into hard times with only a Waterloo Medal as their official recognition, although some of the wounded did receive a pension. One such man was Samuel Collett who was originally from Tewkesbury but had served with the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo. After the battle he was invalided out of the Army having been wounded twice. By the 1840s Samuel was a greengrocer and shoemaker in Cheltenham. In the local newspapers of January 1861 advertisements were placed by the vicar of St James, Cheltenham asking for donations to supplement Samuel's meagre pension which amounted to just four pence a day after payment for his lodging. The appeal

was successful in easing the last few years of Samuel's life before he died in March 1863 at the age of 84 and was buried at Leckhampton.

Waterloo Teeth



There is a set of Waterloo teeth on display in Victoria Gallery, Liverpool; dentures were made from real human teeth scavenged from the corpses on the battlefield of Waterloo. Teeth from young healthy soldiers were extremely valuable and dentists cheerfully advertised their wares as 'Waterloo Ivory.'

From the booklet for the Service of Commemoration to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 18 June 2015 at St Paul's Cathedral.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Windsor and Eton Express - 18-25 June 1815

GLORIOUS VICTORIES IN THE NETHERLANDS - OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS BULLETIN

Downing Street June 22, 1815

The Duke of Wellington's despatch dated Waterloo, 19th of June, states that on the preceding day, Bonaparte attacked with his whole force the British lines supported by a corps of Prussians, which after a long and sanguinary conflict terminated in the COMPLETE OVERTURN OF THE ENEMY ARMY with the loss of over one hundred and fifty pieces of Caisses and two Eagles. During the night the Prussians under Marshal Blucher, who joined in the pursuit of the enemy, captured sixty guns and a large part of Bonaparte's baggage. The Allied Armies continue to pursue the enemy. Two French Generals were taken.

Letter to the Lord Mayor

Downing Street June 22, 1815

My Lord - I have the greatest satisfaction in informing your Lordship that the Hon Major B Percy has just arrived with the dispatches from the Duke of Wellington dated Waterloo the 19th instant containing the account of the most decisive and glorious victory having been obtained over the whole of the French Army by the Allied Forces on the 18th instant, the result of which has been the overthrow of the French Army with the loss of more than 200 pieces of artillery, an immense quantity of ammunition and part of the baggage belonging to Bonaparte.

The loss to the British Army in gaining the success has unfortunately been most severe. It has not been possible to make a return of all the killed and wounded when Major Percy left local quarters, the names of the Officers killed and wounded as far as they can be collected are annexed.

I have the honour to be Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant.

BATHURST

In fact, Major Ponsonby of Hatherop was among those listed as killed but he was found seriously wounded the day after the battle. A question was asked as to whether there was any compensation. It appears that local subscriptions were collected all over the country.

Pilot (London) - Tuesday 25 July 1815

The Waterloo subscription at Brighton already amounts to between five and 6,000l (£).

The Officers and Privates of the Royal Glamorgan Militia, now quartered at Cardiff, have unanimously agreed to subscribe two days' pay to the above fund.

A meeting of the principal inhabitants of Chepstow took place on Tuesday last, at the Beaufort Arms, when a liberal subscription was entered into for the widows and children of the brave countrymen who fell in the Battle of Waterloo.

On Tuesday last, at a meeting of the corporation of the city of Gloucester, the sum of 100 guineas was unanimously voted, in aid to this patriotic subscription; and on Thursday, a meeting of the inhabitants at which the Worshipful the Mayor presided, was held at Tolsey for the same laudable purpose; when appropriate resolutions were entered into and several sums subscribed.

Three hundred of our brave Waterloo wounded, the worst cases, have been brought to the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar, from Brussels.

We understand that the wounded soldiers at Waterloo who could not be moved without imminent danger, and so many cases were never before known in the British Army, were successfully placed in tents upon temporary field bedsteads.

Yesterday afternoon a vast number of spectators assembled on Westminster Bridge, understanding that two distinguished officers, who were wounded at the Battle of Waterloo, were expected to attend there. About half past two o'clock, Major Parker of the Royal Horse Artillery, who had lost one of his legs, and who, we are happy to state, is as well as can be expected and Ensign Croft of the 1st Regiment of Guards who is wounded in one of his feet alighted from a boat at the stairs and were cheered by spectators. There were several persons of distinction in their carriage waiting for their arrival, who accompanied them to their respective residences.

Meanwhile in Fairford...

Oxford Journal 4 March 1815

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION By Mr WANE

On Thursday at the George Inn, Fairford, at two o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions of sale as shall be produced - One hundred capital ELM TIMBER TREES, in lots lying, with a number to each lot, in the parish of Fairford.

For further particulars, and for a view of the timber, apply to the auctioneers, at Fairford, aforesaid.

Oxford Journal 15 April 1815

FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

John Wilson, butcher, having taken on the business of his father, F Wilson, begs leave to inform the friends of his said father and the public in general who may kindly honour him, with their support, that every endeavour shall be used by him to merit of the continuance of his favours, and hopes, by attention to their commands, and punctuality in the execution of them, he shall be enabled to give satisfaction.

Fairford April 13th, 1815

Gloucester Journal 30 October 1815

Specious swindler - An advertisement in this page gives an accurate description of a person, against whose practices we consider it necessary to caution the public. At Hereford, under the assumed name of Walters, he hired a horse and gig to go to Malvern, but drove off to Fairford, in this county, where, under pretence of their being his own property, he left them, after contriving to procure from Mr Miles of the Bull Inn an advance of money until his pretended return from Oxford, for which place he set off in a post-chaise, in order to place at College the youth who accompanied him! The first time he was afterwards heard of however, was by a letter, bearing the post mark of Stratford upon Avon, which he had the audacity to send to the parties he duped at Hereford, mentioning where their property was left; in consequence of which the gig and horse have been restored to them on their merely defraying the expense of the keep of the horse. On the 10th Inst, he played off the same trick successfully at Birmingham, by the appellation of Mr G Wilkinson; and on that occasion he left the horse and gig at Ludlow, under similar circumstances. It is strongly suspected that he has been practising his nefarious deceptions in this way in various quarters for some time as he has been traced to Marlborough, where in the month of July last he succeeded in defrauding a person by the same means. The youth who accompanies him, has been his hopeful pupil throughout these scenes of deception and fraud!

(John Miles, originally of Mitcheldean, was the innkeeper of the Bull Inn from at least 1798 until he became bankrupt in 1816. Whether his financial misfortune was due to his advancing a sum of money is not known! John sold off his stock and crops from his farm at Horcott and moved to Lechlade where he died in 1832. Hopefully the 'specious swindler' was caught and punished for his 'nefarious deceptions'.