



Fairford Flyer No. 83 March 2026

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 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 154 memberships as of 1 March.

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

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19 March 'On two wheels - the fascinating story of the bicycle' by Bill King, one of our favourite speakers
16 April 'Brief History of Tetbury' by Jane Haines
21 May 'Misericords' by Miles Dodd
18 June 'Gloucestershire Follies' by Jonathan Holt

The Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the book sale and refreshments at the January and February meetings. We will have raised about £250 so far towards our new display boards.

Fairford in Close Up - January meeting



Edwin Cuss gave members his usual excellent presentation of Fairford pictures. He pointed out features that most of us would have missed, for example, the Gas Works chimney in the background of a picture of the Bull Hotel in the Market Place looking south and in the picture above the Nissen huts and sentry box that still

remained in Fairford Park in 1947 which was a winter of exceptional snowfall. It should be remembered that some of the photographs are well over 100 years old and show great clarity of detail.

Stanford Hall

A member sent this in which is of interest to all railway buffs.

British Rail (Western Region) used Hall class engines for mainline operations principally from 1944 to 1959, in all some 330 were built; they took their names from houses having the word Hall in their title within the western area. The engine number 5937 was named after Stanford Hall (two miles from Fairford). A good example of a Hall class engine still in working order is the Hogwarts Express this was 5972 originally called Olton Hall.

GWR 4900 Class No. 5937 Stanford Hall was a 4-6-0 steam locomotive built by the Great Western Railway in July 1933. It was part of the "Hall" class, initially allocated to Newton Abbot, and later operated from other areas such as Cardiff East Docks. The locomotive was withdrawn from service in November 1963 and subsequently scrapped.



A new book for the Archive

'Illuminating stained glass' by Juliette Macdonald, Helen Whittaker, and Keith Barley. Lund Humphries, 2025

Keith Barley, restorer of the Church windows completed in 2010, attended the Memorial Service for Geoff Hawkes and brought with his latest book on illuminating stained glass with the sub-titled 'Creativity, conservation and craft at Barley Studio' The first section entitled 'Conservation and craft' describes work completed at various churches and cathedrals across the country and includes St Mary's, Fairford describing Keith's 20-year project. It is illustrated with before restoration and after restoration in the east window, specifically the crucifixion of Christ and the two sinners where their faces have been sympathetically restored.

There follows a section about Helen Whittaker, MBE the Creative Director at Barley Studio. It describes her concepts and creative approach, and the variety of techniques used in creating stained glass and how they conceive projects for new buildings which blend the traditional and contemporary design. The book is

beautifully illustrated with examples of their old and modern designs. It shows how stained glass can play a significant role in our visual culture and heritage.

The book is at the Steward's point in the Church and in the FHS Archive.



NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Wilts and Glos Standard 4 January 1890

DENTAL SURGERY.

MR. E. BURNETT, R.S.D.E.,
109, DYER-STREET, CIRENCESTER.

ESTABLISHED RESIDENT SURGEON DENTIST NEARLY
14 YEARS.

Late Surgical and Practical Dentist to Her Majesty's
Government Schools in all Ireland for 10 years.
(Successor to Dr. Grimshaw.)

E. B. VISITS Malmesbury and Tetbury professionally on the First and Third Wednesday in each month, and will attend at Mr. HANKS', Photographer, &c., High-street, Malmesbury, from 10.30 a.m. till 1.30 p.m.; Tetbury, same day, at Mr. HUGGINSON'S, Confectioner, Market-place, from 2.30 till 6 p.m.

Mr. BURNETT also visits Lechlade on the Fourth Tuesday in each month, at Mrs. ELDRIDGE'S, High-street, from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.; and the same day at Mr. CHARD'S, next to the Ball Hotel, Fairford, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Consultation Free. Moderate Charges.

North Wilts Herald 3 January 1890

ACCIDENT: On Wednesday evening an accident befell a woman named Worton, who was a passenger in Mr Gibb's bus from Maiseyhampton to Fairford. It appears to have been her intention to leave the bus near the Retreat, and on finding that Gibbs had driven past the place, she must have attempted to alight whilst the 'bus was in motion, with the result that she fell on the back of her head. Assistance was at hand, and she was taken to the house of Mr Comley. Mr Iles was sent for, and did everything possible for his patient, who was afterwards removed to the Cottage Hospital, where Mr Iles further attended her. She had sustained a slight concussion of the brain, but as she was somewhat better on Thursday, it is hoped no serious consequence will accrue.

North Wilts Herald 10 January 1890

FIRE: On Sunday evening a fire was discovered on the premises in the occupation of Mr S Smith and known as the 'milking path' where only a few months ago valuable hay and straw ricks were set on fire by children playing with matches. On the present occasion the fire seems to have arisen in a low shed, built as a kind of lean to, and communication with a spacious stone building and slated barn. The shed was filled with straw and the barn partly with oats in the straw, which had only been stacked a few days previously, and partly with a quantity of wheat straw. The contents of the barn belonged to Mr T Minchin. At the end of the barn was built a stable, with hayloft over also occupied by Mr Minchin and it in were three horses, a chaff machine, harness etc. The fire was first discovered about seven o'clock in the evening and spread with such rapidity that the whole of the contents of the barn were speedily a mass of flame. Rising rapidly to the roof, the flames ignited the timbers, and by eight o'clock almost the whole of the roof had fallen in. The efforts of those first on the scene were to rescue the horses from their perilous position. The door of the stable was forced open, and with some difficulty the animals were got out. The chaff machine and other articles were also removed. The flames had burnt through a door which communicated from the shed to the stable but as there were no actual communication with the barn as soon as the fire in the shed had burnt itself out the stable was comparatively safe. The doors of the barn were then forced open and the waggon removed before it sustained any damage. Whilst this was being done however, a tile from the roof fell upon the head of a man named Henry Tombs, cutting it severely, and serving as an effective warning against any similar attempt to rescue the goods which were in danger. The Fire Brigade with their engine were promptly on the spot and did everything possible to check the conflagration. Unfortunately, for a considerable time the water supply was restricted to what they could procure from a pump on the premises, and by the time anything approaching a good supply could be obtained all hope of extinguishing the fire was at an end. They were nevertheless successful in preventing the fire from spreading. Four small ricks of hay and straw which were close to the barn escaped destruction, owing no doubt to the wetness of the thatch. Both the barn and contents were insured. Mr Minchin was from home at the time, but the police were quickly on the spot after the outbreak and made active enquiries as to the probable cause of the fire, though without any result.



Western Mail 28 January 1890

THE FAIRFORD WINDOWS: At the South Kensington Museum (writes our London correspondent) there may be seen some drawings by Mr Joyce of the exquisitely painted windows in the little church of St Mary at Fairford, in Gloucestershire. These windows have been I am sorry to say for some time in great danger of being entirely destroyed through the unstable state of the roof of the church, which had been threatening to fall in. However, I hear from Mr Carbonnel, the energetic vicar of the parish, that the restorations are now progressing speedily, and that great care will be taken in future to place these wonderful specimens of art beyond all danger of destruction. A committee of management has been formed, which includes Sir Michael Hicks-Beach MP who has an estate in the neighbourhood of Fairford; Lord Sherborne, Sir John Dorrington MP, Lord de Mauley, and others.

Keith Barley consulted the drawings at the Victoria and Albert Museum whilst restoring the windows. They are also in the 'Fairford Windows' book by Rev G J Joyce published in 1871.

Manchester Courier 28 January 1890

The committee charged with the care of the celebrated Fairford windows are making rapid progress with the roof of the chancel, the unsecured condition of which was a continued menace to the safety of the windows. Among the members of the committee are the Vicar, Mr Carbonnel, Sir M Hicks-Beach, Lord Sherborne, and Sir John Dorrington MP. Probably the windows as a specimen of their art have not a superior in England...

Fairford Window 1 Light 4 in 1871