

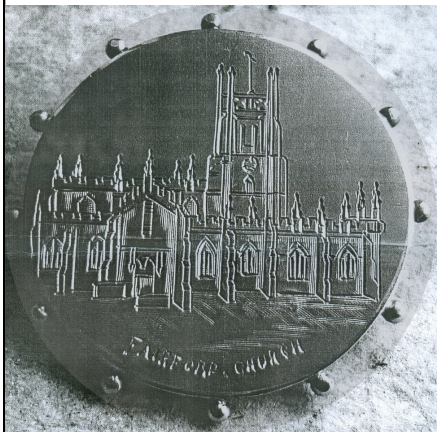


The Fairford Flyer

Newsletter No 22

January 2016

A Fairford collectible



Recently an antique Victorian silver brooch engraved with a view of 'Fairford Church' decorated with a beaded border and hallmarked on the back for Birmingham 1887 and maker's mark R.J.W. (Richard John Wakefield) was found at an auction. Richard John Wakefield was a popular jeweller living in Tenby Street, North Birmingham from the 1880s - 1920s. The brooch is now in the hands of a local resident.

The question was asked why was the brooch made to commemorate 1887?

In 1887, a major restoration of Fairford Church was organized by the vicar, the

Reverend Francis Carbonell. The subscriptions list for the restoration was headed by Queen Victoria and included dozens of peers and Members of Parliament. Fundraising for Fairford conflicted with the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings' (SPAB) Inglesham Church appeal and made obtaining funds for Inglesham difficult. Believing that the restoration was misguided, SPAB attempted to intervene at Fairford but was rebuffed by Carbonell. After learning that the intended restoration of Fairford included extensive work on the church's stained glass, William Morris wrote a detailed letter to Carbonell describing how stained glass should be repaired and restored. However, rather than sending the letter himself he wrote to Hugh Thackeray Turner, the Honorary Secretary, asking him to send the letter from the Society. *"I think it much better that this letter should be sent as coming from the Committee. If the person has heard of me at all it will only have been as the maniac of Kelmscott, and all he will think is that I am after a job".**

The work carried out in connection with the restoration took over six years and was dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Dr Ellicott on September 20, 1892.

It is thought that these brooches were made for subscribers to the fund or sold in aid of the restoration.

*William Morris's Kelmscott Connections by Frank C. Sharp. Reference: Birchall to Turner, 12 March 1887, SPAB Archives. Information and picture from a Fairford resident

FHS News

David Perry has kindly agreed to become the new President of Fairford History Society.

Gloucestershire Archives: Heritage Lottery Success

GA announced on December 21 that they have secured £1.1 Million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 'For the Record' project. The award unlocks significant funding from GCC, partners, trusts and foundations, as well as generous donations from the public.

It means the new Heritage Hub with opportunities, events and activities for everyone in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire can become a reality. GA will be able to keep preserving the documents that tell the ongoing story of the county's history.

Building work starts in July, from then documents will have to be pre-ordered and the Frith Centre will be used as a reading room for about two years.

Victoria County History

Work is continuing on the Cirencester section of the Victoria County History and a new professional archivist with more hours has been appointed. Sue Middleton and I have been transcribing 16/17th century wills and inventories to provide background information.

Archive enquiries

We have a steady flow of archive enquiries which are answered with varying degrees of success. One enquiry recently was someone who wanted to know who lived at East End House in 1945. He had a letter sent to his father by a friend called Michael with whom he had served in India from 1941 and would like to know who wrote it. Lady Hirtzel lived at East End house and I was able to find out that she had a son called Michael who had served in India. The enquirer was delighted. They are not always so easy!

Fairford's War Memorial and Roll of Honour

We are still planning a second edition of this publication and also want to include those men and women who served in both wars and returned to Fairford. If you have any information not already supplied to us please let us know.

01285 711768 or enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk

Chris and Alison Hobson

June Lewis-Jones 1935-2015

In 2015 we lost our local author, historian and President of Fairford History Society, June Lewis-Jones. Although she was born in neighbouring Lechlade, she lived in Park Street in Fairford from a young age. She went to Farmor's School and became head girl. She gained secretarial qualifications and became the headmaster's secretary and taught commerce at Farmor's and later was the bursar. She was very pleased that she had surpassed the record of time working at Farmor's of Mr John Taylor's (headmaster 1883-1921) record of 37/38 years.

She had had 28 books published on all sorts of subjects and had also written many short stories and plays, some of which were produced on radio. She had been writing regularly for Cotswold Life since 1967 as well as producing articles for the Gloucestershire Echo and the Wilts and Glos Standard and other newspapers and journals.

June was a Cotswold Way Warden and had walked the Cotswold Way herself and written a book on it. She kept Cotswold sheep, the old breed, and became an expert on spinning, weaving and dyeing and was involved with the Cotswold Sheep Society. She researched many other country crafts and local Gloucestershire folklore.

She supported many local causes and often donated proceeds of her books to local societies. June was the Secretary of the League of Friends of Fairford Hospital. The *Son et Lumière* production in 1978 was in aid of the Hospital. She was also a supporter of the Friends of Fairford Church and the proceeds of her book *Tiddles the Cat and the Nursing Nun* went to the Church.

June was President of Fairford History Society since its start in 2004 and gave several talks in the early years of the Society. She was always most supportive and wrote articles and always helped with information for enquiries.

Of course, we must not forget her greatest fan, her husband Ralph, who sadly died just 2 short months after June. We will miss them both, a great loss to the town.

Fairford Flyer edited by Alison Hobson. With contributions from Geoff Hawkes and Alison Hobson and the Fairford resident. Photographs from the FHS Archive and June Lewis Archive.

FHS Archive

Apart from the legacy of her 28 books, June has left her Archive of research material to Gloucestershire Archives which is being looked after by Fairford History Society for the time being. Thanks go to Katharine Mitchell, Ralph's daughter for organising the great number of boxes that have arrived at the Archive Room in the Community Centre.

FHS is in the process of sorting through the plethora of fascinating material for Gloucestershire Archives. Amongst the items we have found so far are: a tin box of items from an Iron Age dig, including arrowheads, flint and a brooch with a lovely pattern on it; a WW2 airman's silk handkerchief with a map on it which had been carried on bombing missions; a scrap of wood with part of an RAF roundel and the inscription '*crashed at Lechlade, 11 March 1940*'; and a framed dietary scheme from the Lunatic Asylum of the 1840s. See below

Pauper dietary of the Fairford Lunatic Asylum, April 1847

Breakfasts

Bread 8ozs; Butter ½ oz; Tea with sugar and milk 1 pt; Milk porridge 1 pint with bread 6ozs for some of the patients. In the summer, a few of the patients have boiled milk 1 pt, with bread 6 ozs

Dinners:

Sunday: Meat cooked from bone and gristle, 6 ozs. Suet pudding made from best seconds flour 6 ozs

Tuesday : Vegetables—potatoes, parsnips, turnips and peas mixed together and peas and beans when in season 9 ozs

Supper: bread, cheese, beer

Those patients who are engaged in agricultural labour to have meat for breakfast and beer in, lieu of tea, if they prefer it. Meat every day for dinner and an extra quantity and also an extra quantity of pudding and vegetables . To have ale extra at dinner and at supper and to be allowed tobacco and snuff.

The diet of the sick and of the old and infirm and of patients labouring under peculiar delusions to be ordered by the medical officer.

It can be seen that the patients were well fed. The produce would have come from the Iles Farm, south of the Asylum, where patients worked. The idea was that with fresh air and good food, some patients would recover quickly.

'Buried in woollen' - the origin of the phrase

A gem from June's collection is a decorated affidavit confirming that a burial had taken place 'in woollen'. It is not from Fairford but there are examples in our parish registers. In the late 17th century laws were passed governing the material allowed for shrouds etc. The aim was to protect the English wool trade and reduce the importation of foreign linen. Over time these laws were widely ignored and finally repealed in 1863.



Richard Powell of the Parish of *Bidmpt*
in the County of *Glouc* doth Oath, That *Richard*
George of the Parish of *Bidmpt* in the County of
Glouc lately deceased, was not put in, wrap, or wound
up or Buried, in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet or Shroud, made or mingled
with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver, or other than what is made
of Sheep's Wooll only, Nor in any Coffin lined or faced with any Cloth,
Stuff, or any other thing whatsoever made or mingled with Flax, Hemp,
Silk, Hair, Gold, or Silver, or any other Material, contrary to the late
Act of Parliament for Burying in Woollen, but Sheep's Wooll only. Dated the
18 day of *June* in the
Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord
Charles the Second by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland,
France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dom. 16 *4*

Sealed and Subscribed by us
who were present and Witnesses
to the Swearing of the abovesaid
Affidavit.

John Bussell
Richard Bussell



William Durman vicar of *Bidmpt*
in the County of *Glouc*
do hereby certify that the day and year abovesaid, the said *Richard*
George came before me and made such Affidavit as is above
Specified, according to late Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for*
Burying in Woollen. Witness my Hand the day and year first above-
written.

William Durman

The Religious Census of Bristol and Gloucestershire 1851. Editor Dr Alan Munden, BGAS Monograph, Volume 29, 2015

We have acquired for the archive a copy of the religious census of 1851 which was compiled alongside the regular ten-yearly census due that year. It was ostensibly used to see if there was sufficient seating in places of worship for current needs. As the census relied on what was submitted by local clergy and ministers, it is somewhat idiosyncratic.

The population of Fairford at the time was recorded as 1,859. The Roman Catholic chapel in Horcott, opened in 1845, was listed under Kempsford which was correct at the time. It held 130 seats, all free. Average attendance was 60.

The parish church of St Mary's, was recorded as providing 130 free seats and 400 other, a total of 530. Attendances on the census date, March 30th were:

Morning 292 + 123 Sunday School (average 300 + 135 SS)
 Afternoon: 383 + 125 SS (average 380 + 125 SS)

Interestingly, St Mary's was shortly to embark on a large reordering scheme which provided free seating for all the 600 parishioners it would accommodate.

The Croft Chapel could seat 200, all free, with afternoon attendance on the census day of 50 and in the evening 70 while the Baptist Chapel in Milton Street provided 100 free seats and 150 other with a morning attendance of 130 + 65 SS. The organisation here was slightly different with an afternoon Sunday School only and an evening adult service. The Croft Chapel was about to establish a Sunday School. The Primitive Methodist Chapel and the Ebenezer Chapel had not yet been established.

The figures show the high level of attendance at church and chapel. They also show the influence of the Sunday School movement. Another point to notice is that it was a period of rebuilding and re-ordering for many places of worship. The religious census was never repeated.

If you are interested in Edward II, the other recent BGAS publication received is 'Edward II; his last months and monument by Jill Barlow and others.

The Inklings visit Fairford

Seventy years ago, in December 1945, a group of literary gentlemen took the train from Oxford to Fairford. They went under the title of The Inklings. Their usual haunt was an Oxford pub called the Eagle and Child but they enjoyed outings.

The best known members of the group were C S Lewis and J R R Tolkien. It was intended to be a belated celebration of the ending of the war. Rooms were booked at The Bull for three nights. The group had originally planned take a country inn "for at least a week, and spend it entirely in beer and talk."

When Lewis arrived he was met at the station by his brother 'Warnie' and Tolkien who had arrived the previous day to put in some walking. They discovered their group had shrunk to just three as others had had to drop out but they were comfortably installed at The Bull and they made time for plenty of walking. Their walks included one to Whelford and another to Coln St Aldwyns.

We did feature this visit a few years ago in a Fairford Flyer in 2008 but it recently appeared with a lot more detail in the December edition of The Countryman. The article by Nick Channer was accompanied by some good illustrations. We commend it to our readers. We now have a spare copy which can be borrowed.

Geoff Hawkes

The Fairford party made the best of it. They walked. They argued. They found a pub called the Pig and Whistle. They admired the flat countryside. 'I don't remember ever seeing more exquisite winter, colouring, both of sky and landscape, of the subdued types', Warnie Lewis wrote in his diary. "Down on the river was a perfect mill house where we amused ourselves by dreaming of it as a home for the Inklings." Then on Friday afternoon, they took the train back to Oxford.

Note: The Pig and Whistle was a Quenington public house

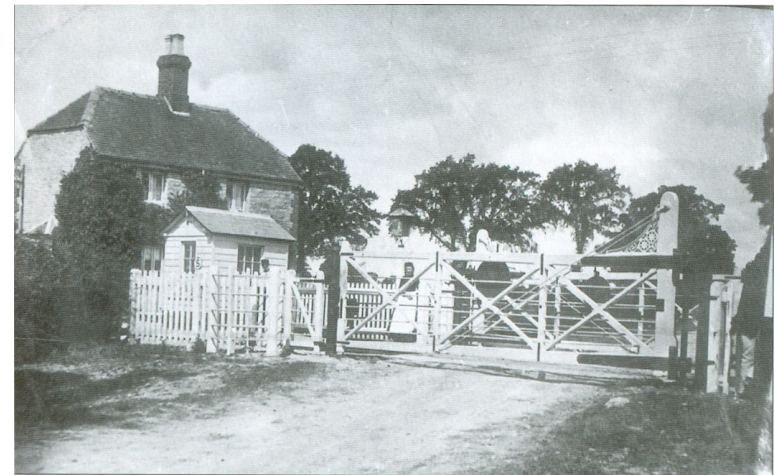
From The Inklings by Humphrey Carpenter p203-4. Harper Collins. Pbk 2006

An interesting snippet, or how important it is to date your newspaper press cuttings and photographs

PRESENTATIONS: An interesting event took place at the George Inn on Wednesday evening in last week, when Mr Charles Morse, who had been head ganger on the local branch of the G.W.R since the opening of the Fairford line was presented with a timepiece subscribed for by the station staff on his relinquishing that post to take over the duties of the keeper of the level crossing near Little Faringdon on the same branch line. Mr Alexander Iles, in making the presentation, paid a graceful tribute to Mr Morse's long and faithful service. The rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, and an enjoyable time was spent.

This newspaper cutting pasted on to a postcard and obviously a treasured possession gave no indication of newspaper or date. We can presume it is a local paper and probably the Wilts & Glos Standard as it doesn't appear in an online newspaper index (WGS is available on microfilm at Cirencester Library). Alexander Iles died in 1917 and Charles Morse was 62 in the 1911 census and living in Fairford described as a railway ganger. There is also evidence from a photograph of Mary Anne Morse, Charles's wife at Little Faringdon level crossing in c.1915 so the date can be limited from 1911 to around 1915. However pleasurable and rewarding research is, it is time consuming and would have been much easier if dated.

Note: 'evening was devoted to harmony' a curious phrase in these modern times - is it a nice way of saying they sang fuelled by drink, or did they sing harmoniously or just had a sociable time?



Mary Anne Morse at Little Faringdon level crossing, c. 1915.

From the Newspaper Archives

For this issue the source is the magazine 'Gloucestershire Countryside' 1932-41. These magazines were amongst the June Lewis Archive and make interesting reading especially the changes that affected the countryside during World War 2. Gloucestershire Rural Community Council was formed in 1923 with the aim of promoting education and alleviating poverty in rural communities in the aftermath of the First World War

The first magazine seems to have been produced around 1931 and June had the issues up to 1941 when they may have stopped because of the War. During those years its contributors were some well known people, poets - W H Davies, Ivor Gurney, F W Harvey and writer John Moore.

It is interesting that the same issues were talked about then as today – housing, industry in the countryside, transport. GRCC is still in existence and at the moment is helping Fairford with its Neighbourhood Plan.

From On Cotswold Inns by John C Moore in Gloucestershire Countryside Vol 1 No 2 January 1932

..I want to take you first to Fairford before closing time, and if we went late to Fairford we should probably lose ourselves on the way home. We should, of course, be sober; but we should be bewitched. I know this because each year, at a certain season I drive to Fairford to fish and dine with a publisher who journeys thither from town. Anon having done myself proud at the Bull I seek to return home; but the fairies and the witches cast their spells, the roads go mad and curl round in circles, the sign-post hide themselves - and always at some wretched hour before the dawn, I find myself at a strange place called Ready Token, where I discover my rightful road and drive home with the milk. I repeat that there is magic in it; let us go to Fairford early and cheat the fairies for once in a way.

The Bull is a fishing inn. Its bar is decorated with the pictures of the top-hatted, bewiskered anglers who haunted it long ago and - who knows? - may haunt it still. Its bar is also decorated, from May to September with the living successors of these anglers, sitting round the fireplace and telling each other, as no doubt the old ones did, just how they happened to lose that big one in the weeds. Upon the mantelpiece there reposes - a most memorable Hat: a Hat that is green and mouldy and full of feathered flies, the ambition of all countrymen and the bane of all countrymen's wives. Its owner, I fear, is learning the ways of Elysian trout

now; but the Hat remains, a memory and a memorial of the hours he has spent beside earthly streams.

Some work in the Women's' Institutes

Vol 1 No 10 January 1934

The sands of 1933 are running out and it may be well to take stock of some of the work in the Institutes.

[Mention of 'Grandmothers' Treasures' Exhibitions]

... The Fairford Group have started a most successful Market stall with first class produce in Cirencester, and no doubt the experience gained from exhibitions and demonstrations of food production, will stand the Fairford group members in good stead.

Dovecotes in Gloucestershire by Margery Westerling

Vol 3 No 9 October 1939

At Fairford the big circular dovecote has a feature apparently unique, and I can find no record of anything like it elsewhere. In place of the central revolving post and wooden ladder it has a stone pillar, 15 feet high and 22 feet 6 inches in diameter, containing about 226 nest-holes. In one or two houses there are circular platforms in the middle, said to be for feeding, but it is possible that they once formed the bases of similar pillars. The dovecote itself, with its external diameter of 27 feet, its octagonal cupola glazed with old 'bottle' glass, and over 1,400 well-constructed nest-holes, is a very fine one; but the unique pillar, hitherto unknown and unrecorded, make it an object of particular interest and a noteworthy addition to the county's list.

Vol 3 No 1 Oct 1937

An old lady when asked for whom she was going to vote in the last election replied:

"I can't vote Unionist - I don't approve of Unions. I was born in the workhouse: I can't vote Liberal because I've only got my old age pension and have nothing to give: and I can't vote Socialist - I don't hold with they Socials, the rooms get that hot."

Vol 3 No 2 Jan 1938

One to another: "Our outhouse leaked.,Miss, till we had a consecrated roof put on."

"Us wanted Mum and Dad to come and stay for Christmas, but they have always heated their bed with a warming pan and can't abide these new hot water bottles. So Mum said, "Us'll come and spend the day with 'ee, but us'll sleep in our own feather bed."

Vol 3 No 2 Jan 1938

From the Gloucester Journal - 100 years ago

Temperance and Malt

Tee-totalism is becoming so prevalent, that the consumption of malt is diminished to an extent that already touched the markets, and when, if further practised, will seriously affect the price of barley.

Vol 3 No 4 Jul 1938

From the Gloucester Journal - 100 years ago

A Hint—It should be generally made known to all drivers of vehicles on the public roads, as well as to the public at large, that from the 7th of October [1838], under a new Act of Parliament, it will be in the power of Magistrates, upon convictions of carelessness or furious driving, to commit offending parties to the tread-mill instead of letting them off with a fine as under the old law.

Vol 3 No 4 Jul 1939

From the Worcester Journal, May 1838 - 100 years ago

Mr Rowland Hill's plan of a penny postage has been partially tried as an experiment in Gloucestershire. The postage from Stroud to Nailsworth, which was formerly fourpence, has been reduced to one penny, and the consequence is that in average there are forty letters between those places where there was only one at a the higher rate.

Vol 3 No 10 Jan 1940

Courage. "Yes, I've turned sixty, and never been into Gloucester by meself. You'll think me a dreadful coward, but I don't think as I could. But (brightening up) if they wanted to cut a man's 'ead off, I think as I could 'old it for'em."

Vol 3 No 11 April 1940 The meaning of Sestone

Captains E. Rickards, South Hill, Maisey Hampton, Fairford, sends the following enquiry: - 'What is a sestone? The following occurs in a will, dated 1568, of an agricultural forbear of mine who lived at the base of Bredon Hill. - Item I geve to my sone Thomas Rychardes of Westencote my sestone so that he wyl be contented to bring an other sestone of his to the same place.'

On the homestead occupied by the said Thomas, still owned by the family, lies the half segment of an old cider mill, now used as a trough.

Note: this query wasn't answered but I think he has answered his own query, a sesterne [cistern] is a stone trough

Meetings 2016

All meetings take place in the Farmor Room of the Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm this year except for the February meeting which is at 10 am and the April meeting which will be in the Church.

2016

February 18	Along the River Coln by Edwin Cuss at 10 am
March 17	Tudor medicine by Cherry Hubbard
April 21	The Bells of St Mary's by St Mary's Bell Ringers <u>in the Church</u>
May 19	Young Laurie Lee and his family by Howard Beard
June 16	AGM followed by Highwaymen by John Putley
September 15	(to be arranged)
October 20	(to be arranged)
November 17	(to be arranged)

Enquiries Alison 01285 711768

Next meeting

**Thursday February 18 2016
at 10am at Fairford Community Centre**

**A Gloucestershire Epitaph
Lydney Park**

Here lie the bones of William Jones
Who when alive collected bones:
But Death, that horrid grisly spectre,
That most uncommon bone-collector,
He boned poor Jones so neat and tidy
That he lies in bona fide.

**www.fairfordhistory.org.uk
email: enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk**