



The Fairford Flyer

Newsletter No 25

July 2017

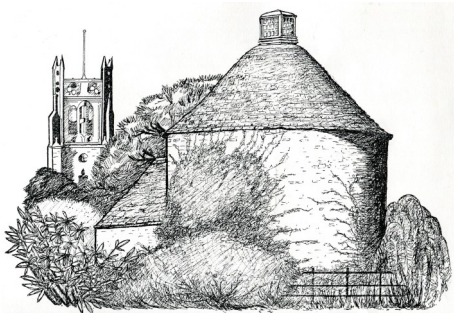
FAIRFORD HERITAGE OPEN DAY - September 9, 2017

The idea of Heritage Open days has grown from small beginnings to become an influential event on the nation's annual calendar. Its origins go back to 1994 when it formed part of England's contribution to the European Heritage Days. Its purpose was to invite the public to experience local history, architecture and culture and it would be free. It could include public, private and voluntary sites. It has grown from about 700 sites to over 5,000 in 2016. The plan is to recognise that "there are always new stories to tell and new places to open." It takes place on the second weekend of September and can take up to 4 days, depending on local organisers.

The History Society decided to make a modest start on one day, Saturday September 9th. At Fairford Community Centre there will be a 'Fairford's lost and hidden past' exhibition and some of the more interesting items collected by Fairford History Society since 2004 will be on display. There will also be an opportunity to listen to excerpts of some of the oral history recordings made by Fairford residents and some local film.

At 10.30 am will be the launch of Fairford Walkers are Welcome followed by a Heritage Walk led by Syd Flatman. Tomb trail at 12.30 and River walk at 2pm. St Mary's Church tours will take place at 11 am and 2pm;

AND Have you ever seen inside the Dovecote? Ernest Cook Trust has kindly given permission for the inside of the Dovecote and estate carpenter's shop to be viewed. ECT has also given permission for the public to walk up to Fairford Park, and see the estate yard, all that remains of the former Park House.



A map with points of interest of the sites of former buildings in the town and short histories will be available.

FAIRFORD HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 9 September 2017, 10-4pm

at Fairford Community Centre

includes the launch of

FAIRFORD WALKERS ARE WELCOME

at 10.30

followed by a GUIDED HERITAGE WALK,
a RIVER WALK - 2pm
and GUIDED TOMB TRAIL at 12.30

ST MARY'S CHURCH TOURS - 11 am and 2 pm

Exhibition on

FAIRFORD'S LOST AND HIDDEN PAST DISPLAY OF ITEMS

collected by Fairford History Society since its start in 2004
Listen to local oral history and see local films

See inside the Dovecote and estate carpenter's shop in Park Street

Walk up to see all that remains of Fairford Park House - the Estate Yard (courtesy of Ernest Cook Trust)

A map will be available showing other lost buildings around the town

REFRESHMENTS

All are welcome on the day but if you can let us know beforehand, we would appreciate it.

Contact: 01285 711768 enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk



WALKERS ARE WELCOME



'Walkers are Welcome' is a nationwide initiative, launched in 2007, to encourage towns and villages to be 'welcoming to walkers'. The network now has over 100 locations across the UK which benefit from 'Walkers are Welcome' accreditation and promotion through the 'Walkers are Welcome' website. <https://walkersarewelcome.org.uk>

The aims of 'Walkers are Welcome' are to encourage and support towns and villages to:

- Be attractive destinations for walkers with top quality information on local walks
- Offer local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities within their areas
- Ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained, improved and well signposted
- Contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies
- Promote the health benefits of walking and increase participation
- Encourage the use of public transport

Through Fairford Community Voice, Fairford has recently applied for accreditation to 'Walkers are Welcome'. Together with Fairford Town Council, new initiatives are now being planned to upgrade the town's walking maps, signposting, conditions of the walks and promotion of these walks.

Fairford WAW is launching this initiative on Saturday September 9 with a small ceremony followed by Heritage Walk as part of Fairford Heritage Open Day. . A River Walk will take place in the afternoon.



SAFEGUARDING ST MARY'S

June Lewis wrote a piece about some of the perils that had threatened the well-being of St Mary's over the years. Here is part of her article about a rather different threat in the 20th century.

Fear for the safety of our windows is not confined to warfare. As soon as the suffragettes turned their attention from the City to historic buildings, Fairfordians were set by the ears. An Assistant was engaged to help the Custodian for the specific purpose of "observing all visitors". All packages and handbags had to be inspected. The cracks and crannies in the church itself were sealed up and even the slot in the organ in which the bellows worked, was fitted with a lid so that it could be locked when not in use.

A night watch committee was set up. Four men volunteered to patrol the four sides of the church. By what I gathered from talking to one of these patriotic townsmen it was not such a morbid affair. A rug over the tombstones, a few sandwiches and a bottle of whisky may not be everyone's idea of a pleasant night, but I've heard of much worse duty conditions.

The organist not to be outdone kept up a long and thunderous voluntary at the end of the Sunday service hoping to distract any suffragette sympathiser in the congregation from hanging around afterwards. I wonder how Richard Kimber the nineteenth-century Clerk would have related such carryings-on.

Geoff Hawkes



Mr T Godwin guarding the Church during the Suffragette Movement , 1910-1911 (JLJ Archive)

NINETEENTH-CENTURY RECORDS OF LEPIDOPTERA MADE AT FAIRFORD BY JOHN TAYLOR [HEADMASTER OF FARMOR'S SCHOOL 1883-1921]

From Charles A. Witchell and W. Bishop Strugnall, *Fauna and Flora of Gloucestershire* (Stroud: George H. James, 1892), extracted by Eric Jones, 24th May, 2017. There are only two copies of this book in the county library system.



Taylor supplied the authors with a list of butterflies and moths he had found at Fairford from which they printed 5 of his records of the former (pp.248-249) and 111 of the latter (pp.254-259), two of the moths apparently being the only Gloucestershire records to that date.

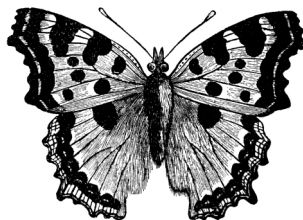
The species names given are the then current scientific names, with no English equivalents. For the butterflies they used the definitive list made by R. South; fortunately I possess South's *Butterflies of the British Isles* (1906, new edition 1921) which made it possible to identify them.

Taylor no doubt found many of the other butterflies then common in the county but five were picked out by the authors: Clouded Yellow, Large Tortoiseshell, White-letter Hairstreak, Adonis Blue and Small Skipper. Of these neither I nor the only other person I know who is interested has seen White-letter Hairstreak or Adonis Blue at Fairford, while Large Tortoiseshell is now extinct in Britain.

Taylor's moths include the sole county records of *Leucania turca* (Double Line Moth) and *Corennia quadrifasciata* (the old name for *Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata*, the Large Twin-spot Carpet Moth). The latter at any rate still seems to be scarce. I have no source that would interpret the scientific names of the remainder, which anyhow may often be obsolete. But the full set of Taylor's records establishes him as a significant Gloucestershire entomologist.

Eric Jones

Large Tortoiseshell



MEETINGS

As you know every year FHS arrange a programme of meetings. It seems to get more difficult each year. However, this year we have been lucky in opportunities arising from local history enquiries. For about two years now we have been helping Allan Ledger with research into John Keble, as he has written a small booklet on the topic,. Now it is shortly to be published and he has agreed to talk to us in March.

A month or so ago we had an email from Dr Samantha Harper who is a member of the Tudor Chamber Books Research Project at the University of Winchester. She had come across an entry regarding the visit of Henry VIII to Fairford in 1520 and asked if we knew about it. Of course, we did but it resulted in interesting emails, culminating in her agreeing to talk to us this November on 'The private lives of the Tudors'. Apparently Henry VIII had previously been staying at Littlecote. Those of us with young children in the 1980s will remember very enjoyable days out there. A lovely place, now a hotel.

The White Horse Whisperers was a coup by our Chairman. I had directed the enquiry on to him as I knew he was interested in local folk song. We couldn't really help with the enquiry but again Geoff met up with a member of the group and now we are looking forward to a very enjoyable evening in May.

We do try to have local input and when I saw Owen Humphrys had given a talk on Marston Meysey, he had no chance and has agreed to start off out season in September. (Yes, I know its in Wiltshire, but only just!)

And, why not take advantage of local expertise? Nick Humphries has been a volunteer at Chedworth Villa for some years now. He has spoken to us before and this time he will be revealing what was found at the dig at Chedworth this summer. He invites all members to visit Chedworth during the summer to see the progress of the dig.

We already have two meetings booked for 2018-19 season and we are always grateful for suggestions and contacts.

Date for your diary: August/September 2020 celebrating the visit of Henry VIII to Fairford—what a pageant opportunity!!

From the FHS and Newspaper Archives

FAIRFORD

Sale of Property. On Tuesday last, at the Bull Hotel, Mr CF Moore held an important sale of Fairford property.

Lot 1, two stone-built residences at Milton-end was bought by Dr King-Turner at £275;

lot 2, the shop and premises in High Street, occupied by Mr William Crampton, was withdrawn at £400;

lot 3, a villa residence in the Croft was withdrawn at £150;

lot 4, a cottage at Milton-end was bought by Mr W Giles at £220;

lot 5, the four acre arable field, Price's Field, went to Mr J L Scarrott at £160;

and lot 6, an enclosure of pasture land at East-end, was bought for Mr R R Barker at £140.

Wilts and Glos Standard Saturday May 18 1912

FAIRFORD

Accident. — On Tuesday evening last, Wombwell's Menagerie as being exhibited in the Market Place when a commercial traveller from Cheltenham got teasing the elephant and was seized by the animal, lifted in the air, and dashed with great force to the ground. Medical aid was immediately procured, when it was found that he had received severe internal injuries. It is seriously hoped this will act as a caution and prevent others from doing likewise.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle-Monday 15 October 1860

THE SOCIAL DIVIDE

Part of a letter from Jane Martha Hicks Beach, April 1831. (JLJ Archive)

"...the fever at Kempford has been very bad Mr Huntingford sent me an account of a plan for emigration – what a good thing it would be if one could get some of the worst of the parish packed off, both for them and the remaining inhabitants – here there are a lot of idle young men that are always in mischief when any mischief. He speaks of sending them for 8 pounds but I should not have thought that possible – my brother seems to like the plan so much that I think he will take it into consideration when he has any leisure to think it well over. You mentioned something of such a plan in one of your letters, but never proceeded to give any further information. There still seems to be a spirit of discontent among the people – they really seem dissatisfied now with 10 shillings [50p] than last year with 7 shillings. Two of the principal farmers very indiscreetly reduced their labourers a few weeks ago to 9 shillings on which they struck and came to the house. My mother spoke to two of them and they all behaved very quietly. When my brother came he settled that while the neighbouring villages paid 10s this[he] should also, but we expect more discontent as at harvest time the men want 15s [75p] which the farmers will not give. The public houses here do a vast deal of mischief – some of the most troublesome people in the parish are however disposed of for the present - either transported, in prison or runaway."

The Swing Riots had taken place in November 1830 and by April some of the rioters had been sentenced to transportation. Perhaps it was a progression of thought to get rid of some more of the trouble makers!

Mr Thomas Huntingford was Vicar of Kempford from 1810-1855. He had played a prominent role in the local area during the Swing Riots of November 1830 when he rallied the parishioners to resist the rioters and summoned the local militia.

In a previous letter from Jane Martha Hicks Beach (1801-1882) to her sister in law Jane Henrietta Hicks Beach (1809-1831) wife of William Hicks Beach (1783-1856), she had described an account of the Swing Riots in the area.

(Gloucestershire Archives [D2455/F3/3](#))

"I was so happy to hear you escaped the mob so well as you did at Oakley Hall, there have been such terrible doings in some places I was sadly afraid you would have been frightened at the time. I had a very long letter a few days

ago from Mr. Huntingford giving a particular account of all the doings in that country - he seems to have been very active & to have acted with great promptness - his own parish all came to him in the handsomest manner, saying that if he would do what he could in their behalf, they would leave it all to him & if any strange mob came to Kempford they would stand by him, & not join them, does not this shew that much may be done by a resident clergyman when he is attentive to his parish & makes himself respected & esteemed by his parishioners - Kempford was the only village I heard of that set so good an example. John Keble wrote - more for the sake of letting us all was quiet, than by way of giving any account of the proceedings, nor did he mention the part he took, which Mr. Huntingford did, a very foolish one I think tho' Mr. H mentioned it in his praise - what could surely be more injudicious than [he, John Keble] getting on a thrashing machine which he did at Quennington haranguing the mob, till the machine was broken under him, & then striking a man, which brought on him the threat of being demolished next with a sledge hammer - nothing less could be expected from such a rabble. Mr. Morton however headed the Lechlade horsemen gallantly & before the Lancers arrived at Fairford which Mr. Huntingford sent for, completely dispersed the mob, & they took prisoners 22 one day & 16 the next - the most furious were quite frightened - one fellow rushed under an old woman's bed & scared her out of her wits by the sudden heaving up of the bed - 2 more lay down in a pond with only their noses out of the water; another was found hid between two mattresses - the worst, a Southrop man escaped having secreted himself in some straw he set a boy to watch, & he whistled as the signal when in [sic] was time for him to make off. They broke into poor Mr. Montgomery's house & the Clergyman's at Hannington without pity: if the Lechlade people had not been so active the consequences must have been dreadful, for Mr Barker could do nothing at all at Fairford - he was only insulted & abused, but could not get any to come forward as special constables."

One of the causes of the Swing Riots was that as a result of the use of machinery for harvesting the agricultural labourers lost their 'gleaning rights' and so had not enough grain to make bread to see them through the winter and were so poorly paid could not buy it. Although allotments had been in existence before, from the 1830s there was an increase in provision by landowners to provide land for allotments. It was thought that as well as growing food it would keep the labourers out of the alehouses. The former allotments at West End Gardens date from this time.

FAIRFORD: HOSPITAL INMATE'S SUICIDE

Charles Barnes, [age 45] a patient at Fairford Hospital, escaped through a lavatory window, and his body was found later in the River Coln, in three feet of water. A verdict of suicide was returned at the inquest.

Gloucester Citizen – Friday 5 August 1910

In the 1901 census Charles was a shepherd, lived in East End married to Martha with 4 children. His parents also live in Fairford but died in 1902 and 1906. His wife Martha had died in 1907

FAIRFORD: BIRD NEWS!

In an elm tree close to the Three Magpies Inn, near Fairford, Gloucestershire, a nest has been built by two magpies. The proprietor of the inn is named Sparrow

Gloucester Chronicle – Saturday 9 April 1910

FAIRFORD: THE SEASON

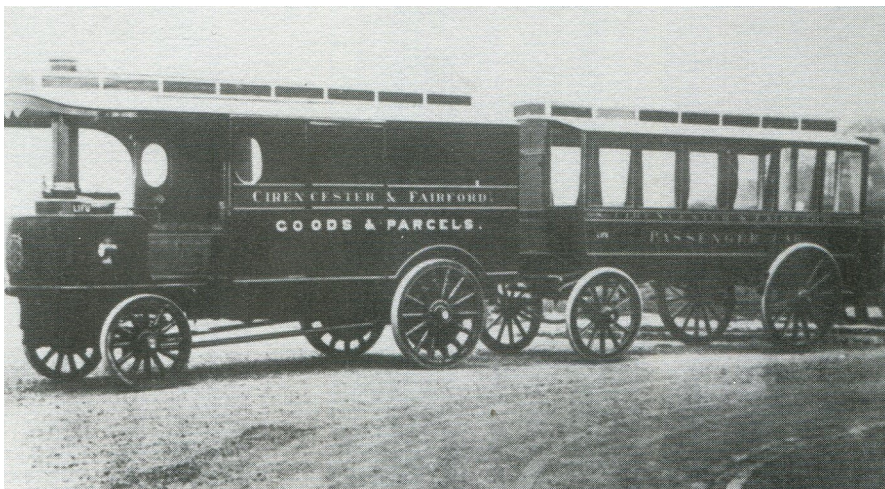
On Christmas Eve Mr F R Baldwin made the most unusual capture in his dining room of a fine 'brimstone' butterfly. No doubt the mild weather made the insect think summer had come a little before its time.

Wilts and Glos Standard January 4 1913

STEAM MOTOR CARS

An interesting application of motor-traction both for the conveying passengers and for heavy goods and agricultural produce, is to be seen in work on the nine mile or so of road between Cirencester and Fairford in Gloucestershire. A steam motor, drawing a short train of passenger cars and goods trucks, plies at regular intervals to and from these towns, between which there is no railway communication

Reading Mercury-14 May 1898



Great Western Railway Steam Bus 1897-1899. oil-fired steam powered Lifu goods and parcels passenger car

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again! Membership subscription is due in September. It remains at £5

Members with standing orders need not do anything, you will be contacted if there is a problem. Your membership card will be enclosed with this Flyer.

For those who pay annually a membership renewal form is enclosed with this Flyer. You can pay at any meeting or drop it in to the Community Centre, clearly addressed to FHS (we now have a letter slot on the left hand side as you go in, past the FTC Office), or by post: Fairford Community Centre, High Street, Fairford GL7 4AF

Another method of payment for those of you with online banking is bank transfer. The treasurer requests you name it something like <YOUR NAME> – FHS Subs 2017. The FHS Lloyd's Bank account number is 30-92-06 A/C 02170130. Thank You.

Fairford Flyer edited by Alison Hobson. With contributions from Malcolm Cutler, Eric Jones, Geoff Hawkes and Alison Hobson and the FHS Archive

MEETINGS 2017-18

All meetings take place in the Farmor Room of the Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm this year except for the **January and February meetings** which are at 10 am

September 21

Marston Meysey: some notes on the history and geography of a single-street Wiltshire village by Owen Humphrys

October 19

Archaeology of Chedworth Roman Villa by Nick Humphris

November 16

The private lives of the Tudors by Dr Samantha Harper, Project Researcher, Tudor Chamber Books at the University of Winchester

January 18 at 10 am

Show and tell or something similar

February 15 (half term) at 10 am

Fairford Carnival, 1919-1939 by Edwin Cuss

March 15

John Keble: Fairford's most famous son by Allan Ledger

April 19

History of Cheltenham by Steven Blake

May 17

The White Horse Whisperers: a contemporary folk trio from Faringdon. They will talk about local folksongs and perform

June 21

AGM and talk to be arranged

Other dates for your diary

September 9 10-4pm

Fairford Heritage Day based at Fairford Community Centre: Fairford's lost and hidden past displays, guided walks, St Mary's Church tours....and much more (see inside for more details)

September 14 at 2.30 in St Mary's Church

Craftsman's Art and Music's Measure: an introduction to the making and playing of Medieval Musical instruments; an illustrated lecture by a craftsman and musician. Tickets £5 from the Parish Office or Geoff Hawkes (01285 712053) geoffhawkes19@gmail.com

Enquiries Alison 01285 711768

www.fairfordhistory.org.uk

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