



# The Fairford Flyer

## Newsletter No 26

### January 2018



Recently donated to Fairford History Society were three framed pictures of Fairford. They were given by Hazel Jones who has moved into a retirement home and hadn't room to keep them. They were actually given to her by Heather Shuttlewood who died last year. Heather had Powell's shop at 9 High Street which was also formerly Hope's the Newsagent.

The pictures were of the Fairford Church, the Mill and the one above of the George [and Dragon]. They are pen and ink sketches drawn in 1933 by Arnold Griggs. The George was originally St George and the Dragon as depicted on the ancient sign, but replaced by a portrait of George III. The pub was always known as 'The George' so a later brewery thought it referred to King George III as he was known to be interested in farming!

Originally the building was thought to be a chantry – a place where priests sang masses and prayers for a benefactor. The niche above the door would have held a statue of the Virgin Mary; it was only uncovered when the plaster was taken off to reveal the building's woodwork. The George was recorded by 1634 and the first recorded landlord was Robert Wilson in 1791.

## FAIRFORD HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2017

Fairford's first Heritage Open Day on 9 September organised by Fairford History Society proved very successful. At Fairford Community Centre FHS had organised displays on the 'lost' buildings of the town e.g. the three chapels (the Congregational Chapel in the Croft, the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Milton Place and the Ebenezer Particular Baptist Chapel in Coronation Street); the Magistrate's Court and Police Station etc. There were items collected by FHS and examples of oral history and local archive film.

Over 80 people were able to see the impressive 1,196 pigeon holes contained in the walls of the Dovecote and the unusual central pillar. Visitors were also able to visit the Estate Yard which is all that remains of Fairford Park House demolished in the late 1950s to make way for Farmor's School. The Ernest Cook Trust Offices are in the yard and it was with their permission both of these sites were open to the public. Church tours were conducted by Mike Godsall and Geoff Hawkes.

It was also the launch of Fairford Walkers are Welcome which aims to attract visitors to the town. Malcolm Cutler, Chair of Fairford Walkers are Welcome, presented the certificate of accreditation to Mark Dudley, Deputy Mayor of Fairford. Over 30 people took part in the Heritage Walk led by Syd Flatman. There was also a guided Tomb Trail around St Mary's Churchyard led by Chris Hobson who gave interesting background to some of the churchyard's inhabitants. A River Walk took place in the afternoon led by Malcolm Cutler.

In 2018 Heritage Open Days will be over two weekends 6-9 and 13-16 September. It has not yet been decided whether to hold an event in the town, but if anyone has suggestions or contacts for opening places or would like to help organise please let Geoff Hawkes know.

## CRAFTSMAN'S ART AND MUSIC'S MEASURE

As a follow up to the publication of Music in the Windows of St Mary's Church in 2014, a talk was arranged to take place in the Church on 14 September entitled 'Craftsman's Art and Music's Measure: the making and playing of medieval instruments; illustrated by Alan Crumpler and David Hatcher with guest artist Dr Mary Remnant.

The afternoon talk gave an indication of the sound which may have been made by some of the instruments to be seen in the windows of St Mary's (which are illustrated in the FHS booklet—Music in the Windows of St Mary's Church).

Several of the instruments are quite plainly visible in the glass but some are less so and comparisons to similar instruments may be made from other contemporary sources including manuscript illustrations, stone and wooden carvings and window glass.

Alan, David and Mary played short extracts of medieval music on their instruments, including the long trumpet, shawm, rebec, harp, psaltery and pipe, recorders, portative organ, mandora and bagpipes. Some of the tunes were recognisable as played today.

## **PROPOSED NEW HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATION**

To commemorate the armistice that ended the First World War in November 1918 the society proposes producing a publication to record Fairford's contribution to the two World Wars. In 2005 a self-published monograph was produced by the History Society. It recorded those listed on the War Memorial with some biographical information and where possible information on where they were buried.

The aim now is to produce a publication of high quality in both research and in materials. Since 2005 much more has come to light so the new publication will be fuller and more accurate. We have considered many aspects of how the town contributed to the war effort in both 1914 -18 and 1939 – 45.

We have appealed to a number of local organisations for their support in producing a publication worthy of the events it will record. We have already received an encouraging response and we hope other organisations as well as individuals will get involved. Our aim is to make the publication widely available and of a quality that we can be proud of.

We would welcome any information about the men and women who went to war, especially those who served and returned. The criteria for inclusion in the publication is that the individuals must have lived in Fairford prior to joining the Services or that they had been born in Fairford.

Geoff Hawkes

## **News from Gloucestershire Archives**

The building work is progressing but there have been some delays. The Archives will be closing at 4.30 pm on Wednesday 28th February 2018 to move into the newly refurbished Heritage Hub. We will be reopening at 9.00 am on 13 March 2018. Work will then continue on demolishing the Frith Centre and building the new training/conference centre. Hopefully to be completed in July 2018. Please check <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/> before visiting as arrangements may change.

We were delighted to receive an archive bequeathed to us by the late June Lewis-Jones, a well-known local author and historian of Fairford. Alison Hobson of Fairford History Society has spent almost 2 years listing the contents of the collection ready for transfer to the Archives. This help is much appreciated by our busy team. Mrs Lewis-Jones collected, researched and wrote extensively so it will take a little longer before the 20 or so transfer boxes have been processed ready for research.

## **UNESCO Memory of the World**

An African slave song, or chant from the Lloyd Baker Archive at Gloucestershire Archives noted down by anti-slavery campaigner Granville Sharp in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century has been accepted into UNESCO Memory of the World register. It is the only known transcription of an African slave song and a unique legacy of the African heritage in Barbados. The words of the song allow us to hear the voices of the slaves themselves as they reflect on their situation. The song is of great interest to musicologist and is an extremely rare example of pre 20<sup>th</sup> century Barbadian music. The score is complete including both words and music, which means it can be studied and played in full. It can be seen by googling Unesco Memory of the World and selecting region and country UK.



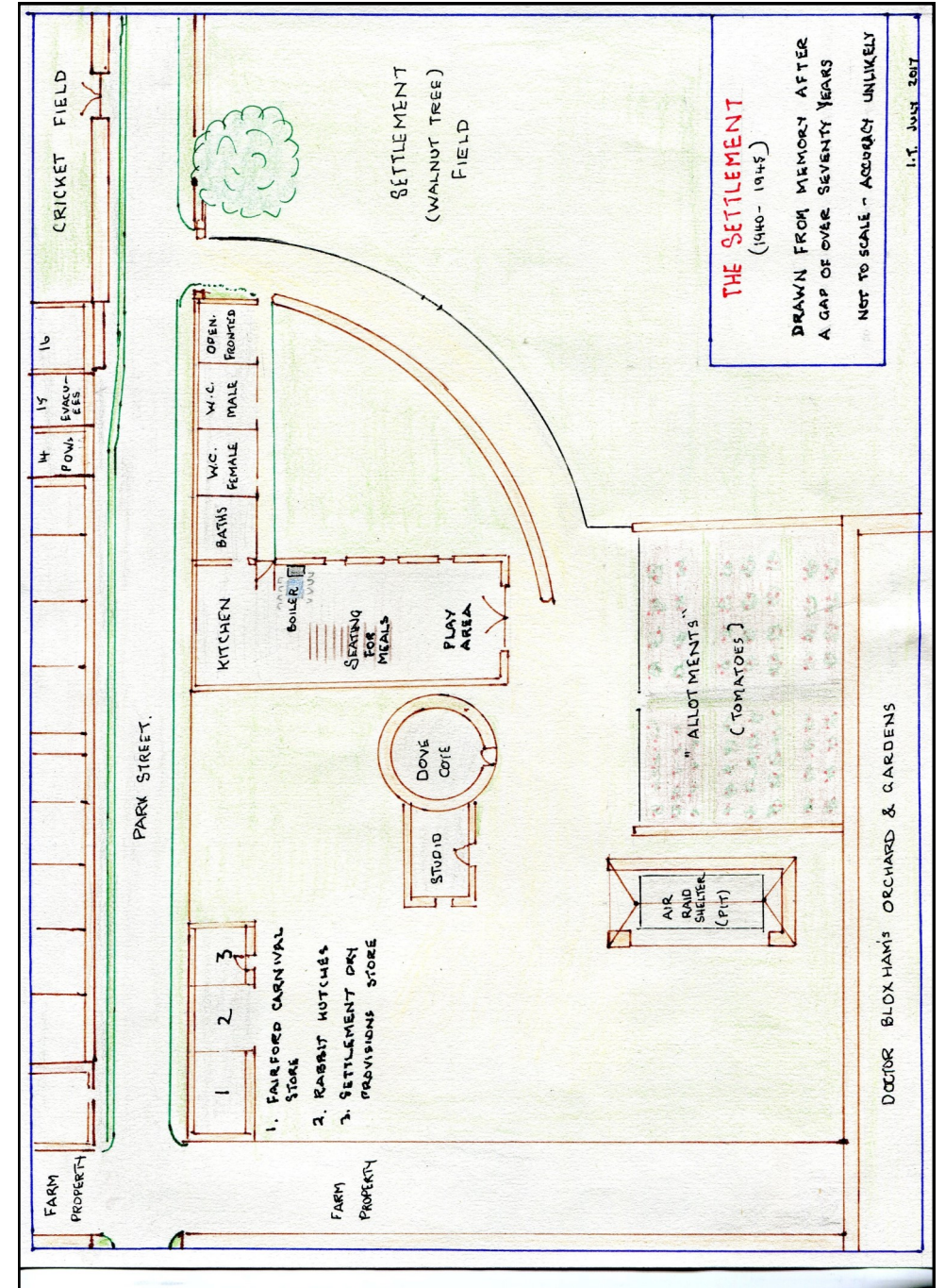
## FHS ENQUIRIES

### KUFFELER –the first headmaster of Farmor’s School

In October of last year we were contacted by Mr John Philip de Blocq van Kuffeler who had seen mention on our website of Jacob Kuffeler in our Occasional Paper Number 4 about Richard Green, Master of Fairford’s Free School. Jacob Kuffeler was the very first Master of the Free School that had been built in 1738 from money bequeathed by Mary Barker and her niece Elizabeth Farmor. Mr de Blocq van Kuffeler is the custodian of his family’s extensive archives and has traced his ancestors back to another Jacob Kuffeler in Austria in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The result is a very impressive privately published book which records the lives and work of his ancestors who later settled in Germany, the Netherlands and England. We were able to add more information regarding ‘our’ Jacob Kuffeler which extended the history of the English branch of the family to two more generations. Following further correspondence Mr de Blocq van Kuffeler visited Fairford in November when we were able to show him the Community Centre building where his ancestor had been Master of the Free School from 1738 to 1751. This not only illustrates the intimate connection between local history and family history but also demonstrates the value of making available some of our publications on our website to encourage the two-way exchange of information.

### Kings visit Fairford

In June 2017 we were contacted by Dr Samantha Harper, a researcher based at Winchester University. She is one of a small team of academics who are transcribing the Chamber Books of Henry VII and Henry VIII which gives detailed day-to-day information on Royal expenditure and activities. She had spotted a reference to Henry VIII staying with John Tame at Fairford on 26 August 1520 during one of the King’s progressions around the country and kindly sent us a copy of the relevant page from the Chamber Book. Following this initial contact Samantha kindly agreed to give a talk to the Society on ‘The Private Lives of the Early Tudors’ which was based on her research and which took place in November. The meeting was very well attended and greatly appreciated by all. It was also revealed that Henry VII also visited Fairford in 1496/97 and stayed with John Tame. The work on the transcription of the Chamber Books will continue well into 2018 and will eventually be made freely available online. More information on this fascinating and very worthwhile research programme can be found at [www.tudorchamberbooks.org](http://www.tudorchamberbooks.org).



## The Settlement

Ivor Tully was evacuated to Fairford during World War 2 and has now come back to live in Fairford. He has kindly written down his memories of his time as an evacuee which are in the process of being transcribed for a future publication. They give an insight of what that time was like through a child's eyes.

For the Heritage Day in September he drew a map from memory of what the area known as the Settlement was like. This is interesting as apart from the Dovecote, a useful reference point, there is absolutely no trace.

The small building attached to the Dovecote was used by the war artist Rosemary Gwynne Jones. She drew a picture of an evacuee which appeared in June Lewis's book 'The Cotswolds at War'. This is a picture of Ivor Tully that he had not seen until he saw it in June's book. It is now hanging in the Imperial War Museum.



## From the FHS and Newspaper Archives

**Cheltenham Chronicle Saturday 11 September 1909**

### **Fairford Cricket Club**

*An interesting match – the Cracks XII v the Crocks XXII of the club – was played in Fairford Park on Thursday in fine weather and attracted a large crowd of spectators. The Crocks batted first, and were dismissed for 81. W. Loughton (30) and J. Woodward (12) were the most successful with the bat, and W. Caldicott (eight wickets for six runs) and F. Miles (three for 23) did good service with the ball for the Cracks. The Cracks compiled 139, and thus won by 58 runs. H. Trigg (26 not out), W.J. Andrews (20), W. Caldicott (19) and H. Busby (14) were the top scorers, while for the Crocks J. Woodward was the most successful bowler.*

### **WW2 and the Blackout etc.**

Having been startled recently when driving at night by a pedestrian walking on the side of the road in Mill Lane with no light clothing, it made me think about the dangers of the Blackout.

**Gloucestershire Echo Monday 4 September 1939**

### **Woman killed near Fairford In collision with car**

*Mrs Sarah Day, aged 58 wife of the licensee of the Three Magpies Inn, near Fairford was killed in an accident during the black-out on Saturday night. (This was the day before Britain declared war on Germany.)*

*Mrs Day was returning home from Fairford and as it is understood, walking in the roadway when she collided with a motor car, driven by Miss Pauline Bridges, of Fairford which was travelling in the same direction.*

*The accident happened at about 9.50 at a point a mile from Fairford.*

*Mrs Day died within a short time.*

**Wilts and Glos Standard November, 1939**

### **Air Raids v Blackouts**

*Sir – Air raids are likely to run a bad second to Blackouts. Air raids may kill their thousands but Blackouts are likely to kill their tens of thousands*

*S Claude Tickell, Vicar of Latton cum Eysey, Cricklade.*

[unknown local paper] August 1939

### **Red Telephone Kiosks**

*A protest against the erection of hideous red telephone kiosks in Cotswold villages was made by the Rev E. C. Hanson. He asked if the Town Planning Committee had been consulted first.*

*Mr Meade said the Post Office had not consulted the Committee.*

*Mr Hanson declared that these pillar-box red kiosks spoil the whole landscape. He suggested the kiosks should be painted green or grey – plenty of them were painted in the latter colour. The Council made enough fuss about the shape on a working man's roof yet they allowed the Post Office to erect these monstrosities without protest.*

*Mr W.P. Bassett said that the County Council had refused to allow kiosks to be painted red, but after they had received two deputations from the G.P.O. their hand was forced and they had to give permission.*

*A resolution of protest was sent to the G.P.O.*

Some 70 years later there has been protest about the kiosks being removed!

### **Wilts and Glos Standard September, 1939**

*With regard to the suggestion that pedestrians should wear white patches at night, perhaps a revival of 'Dursley lanterns' would meet the case so far as men are concerned? The enclosed extract from the recently published 'Kilvert's Diary (volume 2) explains how people got over their difficulties a century or so ago: "My mother says that at Dursley in Gloucestershire, when ladies and gentleman used to go out at to dinner together on dark nights, the gentlemen pulled out the tail of their shirts and walked before to show the way and light the ladies. These were called the 'Dursley lanterns'"*

#### **The Spotter**

### **Cheltenham Chronicle 7 October 1939**

*Four fatal road crashes during blackout - cyclists killed at Cheltenham, Cirencester and Gloucester: an 18 year old Cheltenham girl, a 54 year old Cirencester labourer, and a 22 year old Down Hatherley electrician were killed during the blackout in collision with motor cars, also an Ampney St Peter plasterer who was killed the previous Sunday when walking near the Red Lion, Poulton.*

### **Birmingham Mail Monday 19 February 1940**

*The Fairford windows may claim to be among the greatest treasures possessed by English country churches, There has been some discussion in Fairford whether the glass should be taken out and removed to a place of safety until the war is over, but it has been decided that they are safe where they are.*

*"We think the windows are safe from the Nazis, but we were much more concerned about them in the days of the suffragettes," a Fairford man told me with a laugh. "We had to have a guard over them day and night".*

There must have been a change in the decision as the windows were taken out and stored in the cellars of Fairford Park some time later.

### **Cheltenham Chronicle, 13 September 1941**

#### **Vicar fined at Fairford**—Light showing from Vicarage

*The Rev F A W Gibbs, Vicar of Fairford, pleaded guilty and was fined 30s at Fairford Police Court on Tuesday for permitting a light to be displayed from inside the vicarage at 9.35pm on August 13.*

*S C Stevens said the light was showing through a downstairs window of a room which was used for A R P purposes, Mr Gibbs, when spoken to about the light, said that his wife went into the room and switched it on forgot to switch it off.*

### **Cheltenham Chronicle, 15 November 1941**

#### **Black-out cases at Fairford**

*For blackout offences Mrs Janet Jackson, manageress of the Bull Hotel, Fairford was fined 30s, William Henry Kelly, Manor Cottage, Kempsford, 10s and Mrs Annie Benson of High Street 10s at Fairford Police Court on Tuesday.*

### **Cheltenham Chronicle 1 March 1941**

#### **Fairford Evacuees**

*The part played by communal kitchens in the relieving the burdens of evacuation is illustrated by an enterprising plan which solved all Fairford's evacuee worries. Lady Hirtzel, of East End House, Fairford, has converted good farm buildings on her estate into a communal kitchen and rest centre for the colony of evacuees in the town. [actually buildings of the Fairford Park Estate]*

*Many of them arrive at the kitchen in the mornings in time to cook the breakfast. They are served with hot dinners at the same place and most of their days are spent sewing, reading and chatting in the sitting room. Washing facilities are also available, and the result is that evacuees and householders only see each other in the evening, and everything is entirely satisfactory.*



### **Cheltenham Chronicle Saturday 30 June 1945**

#### ***Fine Work of Fairford WVS Settlement***

*At the meeting of Cirencester Rural Council on Monday it was reported that the WVS Settlement at Fairford was, for all purposes connected with the Council, closing down.*

*During its existence from September 1939, to May of this year, the Settlement had served 175,983 meals and 135,062 hot beverages.*

*The Chairman (Mr G M Scratton) said that the organisation mentioned was something quite unique, and at some future date an expression of gratitude would be made to Lady Hirtzel and her helpers.*

### **Gloucester Citizen Saturday 27 October 1945**

*Whilst two boys were playing 'conkers' near a mill pond in Fairford, one of them made kick at the 'target'. The shoe became unloosed, flew off the foot, and landed in the pond.*

*The hue and cry raised by the boys brought some Polish soldiers to the scene. Unacquainted with the English language, but with the impression that there was a boy's body attached to the floating shoe, the Polish soldiers dived into the pond.*

*A policeman arrived as the mystified Poles returned to shore with a mere shoe. Acting as interpreter, he explained that the hullabaloo caused by the boys arose from the fear of the boys from a ticking off on reaching home, seeing that under the rationing system, shoes are not easily replaced nowadays.*

### **The Guardian Sunday 1 November 2009**

*By the end of the first month of war there had been 1,130 road deaths attributed to the blackout, and coroners urged pedestrians to carry a newspaper or a white handkerchief to make them more visible*

***Felicity Goodall***

Fairford Flyer edited by Alison Hobson. With contributions from eoff Hawkes, Chris and Alison Hobson and the FHS Archive

## **MEETINGS 2018**

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**

### **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE TO FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH FOR THE JANUARY MEETING**

#### **January 18 at 10 am**

Show and tell an opportunity to bring along and talk about any object that you consider of interest to an audience of History Society members. It can be of any period of any size—within reason. If you are prepared to contribute, please contact Geoff (01275 712053 or Alison (01285 711768)

#### **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

What the visitors thought: a light-hearted look at Cheltenham since 1700s 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

### **Summer 2018 A weekday visit to Chipping Campden**

A party is coming in April from Chipping Campden for a tour of St Mary's Church. We have been invited to send a reciprocal party of up to 12 people to visit their town and church. Roger Johnstone is an experienced guide. His suggested programme is:-

10.30am Arrive for coffee at the Eight Bells Pub  
11am Set off on walk round town  
12 noon Lunch at Eight Bells  
2 pm Visit to St James's Church  
4pm Tea and cakes

Please let Geoff or Alison know if you are interested.

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