

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2013

NEWSLETTER No. 95

FROLIC 2013 – OXFORD

As I write, the Oxford Frolic is still a few weeks away. By the time you read this, it will have taken place. We hope that it was as successful as always and that the visits to New College cloisters and to Blenheim were enjoyable. You will be able to read a report of the weekend in the Winter Journal.

GIFT AID TAX RECLAIM

In the past when reclaiming tax under the Gift Aid scheme we have been asked only to specify names of donors and the amount donated. This year a new form has been introduced which requires, in addition, the number (or name) of house and postcode for each donor. This allows HM Revenue and Customs to independently identify donors. This is not a major change as donors under the Gift Aid scheme have always been required to give their full address on the initiating Gift Aid form. However, we feel that this change should be made known to our members. **No further action** is necessary from those who already participate in this scheme.

The Gift Aid scheme provides the Society with a significant income (at no extra cost to members) and the Treasurer hopes that more members will feel encouraged to participate. Forms may be obtained from the website *www.parsonwoodforde.co.uk*, under "Contact", or from the Treasurer: Dr David Case, Fairfield, 25 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7JA.

INDEXES TO JOURNALS 1968-2013 ON WEBSITE

The Society's website, *www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk*, has been enhanced by a link to the Indexes to the Journals from 1968 to the present. There are five Indexes: Names, Places, Subjects, Authors and Book Reviews. Go to the "Publications" page on the Website and scroll down, then click on the link. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me (details on page 4).

WIND TURBINES IN WESTON LONGVILLE

The July issue of the *Wensum Diary*, the parish magazine of Weston Longville, had an article on the giant Wind Turbines which have divided local opinion since 2010. The two turbines will be installed shortly, just south of James Woodforde's rectory garden, and should become operational over the winter. The proposed units will be 125m high, as before, but slightly more powerful and 2% more noisy. Residents are asked to keep logs of two possible effects: "shadow flicker" and interference with Freeview television reception.

"JANE AUSTEN'S ENGLAND"

In June Roy and Lesley Adkins had a book-launch in Taunton for their new book, *Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England*. Parson Woodforde plays a significant part in the book, as does fellow-diarist William Holland. The authors are members of our Society, and their recent online newsletter included a history of the publication of James Woodforde's Diary and of our Society. They say that their book is the first to "set the world of Jane Austen and her novels into the context of the experiences of ordinary people in England."

The authors have made use of Woodforde's unabridged diary, and say that it is "a strangely gripping read, since it is effectively a true-life soap opera, where the ups-and-downs of the main characters are meticulously described, while other characters drift in and out of the narrative as the months and years pass." A very favourable review in the Scottish *Herald* described Woodforde as "one of the most endearing diarists of any age" (!) You will find our chairman Martin Brayne's review in the accompanying Journal. The book costs £20, and is published by Little, Brown. More information is available on www.adkinshistory.com.

A TALK IN TAVERHAM

In May, Society member Sheila Harrison gave a talk about Parson Woodforde to the recently-formed Taverham History Society. The audience appreciated the local interest of the Diaries – including the fact that Sukey Boxley was born at Taverham – and the story of Mr

Branthwaite of Taverham, who first appears on 19th June 1778 in a dispute with Parson Woodforde over fishing rights, and disappears on 9th February 1793 with this entry; "Mr Branthwaite we hear has left Taverham, sold his Horses, Hounds, Carriages etc. It is reported that he lived too fast."

Sheila Harrison is a popular speaker in Suffolk, giving talks to Women's Institutes, historical societies and other groups, and she was pleased to be invited to speak at a village so close to Parson Woodforde's own parish.

CASTLE CARY – WORK ON SHAMBLES AREA

In June, work started in the Market Place in the centre of Castle Cary to turn the Shambles area into a meeting-room. A Lottery grant is being used to make the space more suitable for exhibitions and other events. The funding will also help with the establishment of a weekly Tuesday Market, allowed by Castle Cary's ancient Market Town Charter, issued by Edward IV in 1468.

HATCHMENTS

Last autumn the *Wensum Diary* had an article about the Le Neve hatchment in St Peter's Church, Ringland, which was used for the funeral of Peter Le Neve in 1776. James Woodforde rented "College Land" from the Le Neves, who were the tenants of New College.

A Hatchment bears the coat-of-arms of a family, and after being displayed in the funeral procession, it was taken back to the deceased's home and erected over the front door, where it remained for up to a year. Finally, it was put up in the local church. In the area where I live, the church of St Mary's, Merton, displays the funeral hatchments of Lord Nelson and Sir William Hamilton. Nelson, with Sir William and Lady Hamilton, lived at nearby Merton Place, "Paradise Merton", in their notorious *tria juncta in uno*.

YARMOUTH – ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

James Woodforde was fond of Great Yarmouth, and would no doubt be impressed that the baroque St George's Chapel has undergone a £9m programme of restoration, which is now complete. Layers of paint have

been removed to uncover rich decoration of gold and lapis lazuli. Such decoration is only surpassed at Hampton Court, according to the Chair of St George's Trust.

Society's website: www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk
