

# THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER No. 120

## FROLIC AND AGM 2021

The next Frolic, postponed from September 2020, will take place at Holbrook Manor in Wincanton, between **17th and 19th May 2021**. We have planned an expedition to Stourhead on Tuesday 18th May; the gardens, including the azaleas, should be particularly lovely in May. An "expression of interest" form is enclosed with this mailing.

It has been the custom of the Society to hold our AGM during the Frolic. It has not been possible in 2020, and the Committee have decided to postpone the AGM to May 2021 when the re-arranged Frolic will (we hope!) be held. The Committee have had three meetings during the year (two by e-mail and one by Zoom) when the Treasurer reported that the finances remain in a healthy state.

## PHYLLIS STANLEY

I am very sad to report that Phyllis Stanley died in August at the age of 94. Many members who attended Frolics will remember her enthusiastic personality and deep interest in many Woodfordean topics. "She was so kind to me" says one Frolic-goer. Another member writes: "She tenaciously encouraged me to adopt (and enjoy) historical research techniques which eventually led me to studying History at UEA ... I am where I am today due, in no small part, to Phyllis."

Personally, I remember how supportive she was to me in my early involvement with the Society. She founded this Newsletter in 1990. She was Secretary for 16 years until 1999, and she was a lifelong protagonist in support of Norwich history and culture.

## WOODFORDE PORTRAIT – UPDATE

The portrait of Parson Woodforde which used to hang in Weston Longville Church, and had suffered considerably from damp and mould, has now been professionally restored, with funding from the PWS and other bodies. The PCC, who own the portrait, are still

considering the most suitable place to re-hang it to avoid damp and bats.

The PWS Appeal raised £2850 from members and others. We are very grateful for your support. The Gift Aid repayment from the Inland Revenue will increase the total.

### **REVD HELEN'S PILGRIMAGE**

During the summer, Revd Helen Rengert, the "Team Vicar" with special responsibility for Weston Longville, undertook a sponsored solo pilgrimage from Norwich to Walsingham, taking four days. Starting from Norwich Cathedral, she walked through Ringland, Swanton Morley, Great Ryburgh, Stibbard, and on the fourth day, in heavy rain, to Walsingham, arriving to the sound of the Angelus bell. Luckily her husband, Rector Keith Rengert, was able to drive from Reepham to collect her to save her getting any wetter. The 37-mile pilgrimage raised funds for the whole Benefice, including Weston Longville.

Walsingham Priory has been a pilgrimage-destination since the eleventh century. James Woodforde and his friend Roger Hall visited it on May 6th, 1779, more tourists than pilgrims. They saw "some fine old Ruins of an Abbey" and "some curious Ruins of an old Monastery", the latter a former Franciscan priory.

### **BRIAN PATRICK**

The *Eastern Daily Press* recently had a long article "Remembering Brian Patrick", who died in 2020. He was the former headmaster who took part in the tours of East Anglia "All Preachers great and small" in company with David Woodward, a member of our Society. Brian Patrick took the part of the Revd Benjamin Armstrong, the nineteenth century diarist and Vicar of East Dereham, while David Woodward took the part of James Woodforde.

### **REVD FERGUS BUTLER-GAILLIE**

A bit of a mystery! The Revd Fergus Butler-Gaillie is the Curate of the Parish Church of Liverpool. In 2018 he produced a book "*A Field Guide to the English Clergy*", which I read last winter. It contains a

chapter on Parson Woodforde, primarily emphasising his love of food and drink. It cites an incident in New College Senior Common Room when, after an embarrassing accident, Woodforde was fined “*a number of bottles of very fine port*”. I have searched the relevant years, 1773-1776, but cannot find details of any such incident. If you can explain it please let me know (contact details on page 4).

Last July, the *Church Times* printed an article by Fergus Butler-Gaillie on clerical diarists. It includes: “*James Woodforde was particularly assiduous in visiting prisoners, offering what comfort he could to those condemned to die in that era of widespread executions.*” It is true that Woodforde saw prisoners in jail on a few occasions, but “*assiduous*” is unexpected.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2021 is due on January 1st. It is **£16** for ordinary UK members, **£25** for Overseas members, and **£10** for Students under 25. Many members now pay their annual subscription by Standing Order, which greatly reduces the Society’s administrative burden. If you do not yet do this but would like to do so in January 2021, then please contact the Treasurer, Peter McKay, at the address below, for a standing order form, or print the forms on the Website under “Contact”.

If you wish to pay by cheque, then please use the form below.

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To the Treasurer, Peter McKay, 68 Hillside Rd, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3AY

I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to the Parson Woodforde Society, for my subscription for the year commencing 1st January 2021.

NAME (Please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

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## **60th ANNIVERSARY, DUE IN 2028**

We are starting in good time to plan a 60th Anniversary publication. One possibility is a book collecting together memorable essays published in the Journal over the years, covering Parson Woodforde and his life. If you would like to be part of a sub-committee to discuss ideas, please contact our Chairman and Journal Editor, Martin Brayne, on *editor@parsonwoodforde.org*.

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**Society's website: [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk)**

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