

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER No. 123

A NEW PRESIDENT

Following the retirement of our President, Professor Richard Wilson, we can announce his successor. It is Margaret Bird, whose life's work has been the editing of the Diaries of Mary Hardy, the Norfolk brewer. They, and Margaret's commentary, have been reviewed in the Journal. Margaret lives in Kingston upon Thames, but is very familiar with Norfolk, both from her work on Mary Hardy, and also because she has a boat on the Broads. We wish her a long and happy term as our President.

FROLICS 2021 AND 2022

As those who attended will know, our recent Frolic in Somerset was very successful. Holbrook Manor was an excellent venue, and the excursion to Stourhead, Ansford and Castle Cary was enjoyed by all. You can read an account of it in the accompanying Journal.

Frolic 2022 will be in Norfolk, possibly in Norwich in the week commencing 12th September.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES FLOODED

James Woodforde was a Wykehamist not solely because of his attendance at New College, Oxford, but also because of his years at Winchester College, 1752-57. The newsletter of the Hampshire Archives Trust recently reported on a serious flood in the Muniment Tower of the College where the archives are stored. After heavy rain, the Upper Muniment Room was seriously affected and the medieval floor-tiles on 14th-century mortar were badly damaged, and the floor partially subsided. It was a major operation to save the archives. Repairs to the floor are expected to take a very long time.

FIRST PRIZE FOR FANTASY

The *Book Collector* journal was founded by Ian Fleming in 1952. Last spring it ran a competition to describe a “fantasy banquet for bibliophiles”. There were 543 entries, including 50 from Russia! Some entries featured Paddington Bear, Sherlock Holmes or Jane Austen and other familiar characters, but the first prize was won by our Chairman and Journal Editor, Martin Brayne! His entry was commended for its wit. It was entitled “Dining with Samuel Rogers: extract from a letter from Maria Edgeworth to her half-sister Honora”. It was set in 1816, and guests included Byron (who behaved badly) and other literary figures. Many congratulations, Martin!

WHITE-TAILED EAGLES IN NORFOLK

The *Wensum Diary*, the parish magazine of Weston Longville, reports that a population of up to 60 white-tailed eagles (also called sea-eagles) are to be released in north-west Norfolk, at Wild Ken Hill near Heacham. This follows a successful release on the Isle of Wight in 2019. The new eagles are juveniles from Poland. The effects on livestock and wildlife will be monitored for the 10 years of the licence period. It is expected that the eagles will prey on birds, rabbits and fish. The *Wensum Diary* hopes that eagles will be seen in the parish!

Did Woodforde ever see an eagle? Inspired by the “fantasy banquet for bibliophiles” described above, you are invited to compose an entry from Woodforde’s diary on the subject, in up to 150 words. The winning entry will be published in the next Newsletter, and the top three entries will receive a PWS bookmark. Send your entries to me (details on p4), by February 11th, 2022.

THE BUNTING COLLECTION

Our late President, George Bunting, of Camden and Castle Cary, collected diaries by many writers besides James Woodforde. Now, his collection of diaries has been donated to the Bishopsgate Library and given the name of “The Bunting Collection”. It is

available to researchers, and its catalogue may be viewed at:
www.bishopsgate.org.uk/collections/bunting-collection

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2022 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 2022, 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".

Gift Aid: If you have not yet gift-aided your subscription, but would like to do so, then you can download the form on the Website, or ask Peter McKay for a form. Gift-aiding benefits the Society by 25% of your subscription.

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

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 2022.

NAME (Please print)

ADDRESS

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THE COUNTRY PARSON ROSE

If you are an expert on roses, you may already know that there is a rose named "The Country Parson", developed by David Austin rose-growers. It is a fragrant yellow shrub rose, very healthy and robust. It was featured on "Gardeners' World" this summer, when Monty Don chose to add it to his blue and yellow garden. Our Chairman has one in his garden.

MR MICHAEL WHITWORTH

We are sorry to report that Michael Whitworth died last February. After a visit to All Saints, Weston Longville, he joined the Society, and bought most volumes of the diaries. He spent many happy hours absorbed in the diaries and read little else!

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