

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

WINTER 2014

NEWSLETTER No. 100

A NEW PRESIDENT

It was with sadness that we learnt that Suzanne Custance has had to step down from the Presidency of the Society because of family ill-health. We hope to hear better news in future months.

However, we are pleased to report that the Presidency has been offered to and accepted by Professor Richard Wilson. He has been a member of the Society since 1968. He is Emeritus Professor of Economic & Social History at the University of East Anglia, the co-author of *Creating Paradise: The Building of the English Country House, 1660-1880*, and co-editor of *Norwich since 1550*. His particular interests are in the history of brewing, textiles and the country house. He has written a number of articles for the Society's Journal.

DIARY VOLUME 11

A new edition of Volume 11 of the Diary, 1785-87, has been completed by Peter Jameson and is ready for despatch. It may be ordered from Mrs Jenny Alderson using the enclosed Order Form.

FROLICS 2014 AND 2015

You can read a report of the very successful October Frolic in Norwich in the accompanying Journal. Next year's Frolic will be in Wells, Somerset, based at the Swan Hotel where we stayed in 2007, between Friday 11th September and Sunday 13th September 2015. On the Saturday, we hope to visit Castle Cary and nearby locations associated with James Woodforde. Put these dates in your diary now!

"THE FORTUNE TELLER" APPEAL

In the Autumn mailing, an appeal was launched for "The Fortune Teller", a large oil-painting by Samuel Woodforde, R.A., which the Society has purchased. The painting was reproduced on the cover of the Journal for Summer 2014. The appeal has so far raised £1,364, including Gift Aid, contributed by 56 members. Very many thanks to all of you. If

you have not yet contributed but would like to do so and have not got the donation form, please contact the Treasurer, Dr David Case (details below).

MRS MARGARET WILSON

Brian Pateman has let us know the sad news that Mrs Margaret Wilson died last February, aged 90. As Mrs Nunns, she was the Secretary of our Society until 1975. Six years later she married our Founder, Canon Leslie Rule Wilson. He died in 1991, and her ashes have been interred next to him in Great Lumley, County Durham.

A VISIT TO BECCLES

In October Sheila Harrison gave three talks about Parson Woodforde's Diaries, one of them to Beccles WI which was attended by about 50 members. The audience was especially interested in the Diary account of the tour of southeast Norfolk made in April 1786 in the company of Bill, back in Weston for a long visit after his adventures at sea, and Briton, the recent replacement for Will Coleman. The party called in at Bungay where they viewed the *Old ruins of Bungay castle – Scarce worth seeing*, before travelling the 6 miles to Beccles, where they slept at the King's Head, *a very good large Inn*, dining on *some of the finest Colchester oysters I ever saw* and breakfasting on *Oysters, Tea and bread and butter*.

Today the King's Head fills one side of the broad street called New Market, the Georgian facade of Woodforde's day sandwiched between two nineteenth century extensions. In 2013, after being closed for four years, it was re-opened as a Wetherspoons, and Sheila reports that it is still *a very good large Inn*.

BRIAN PATEMAN'S ORDINATION – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In the Autumn Newsletter, we reported the 60th anniversary of Brian Pateman's ordination to the Priesthood in June 1954. He writes of the celebratory service last summer: "It was a moving occasion for me, and one event which gave me much pleasure was the arrival of a Book Token and card sent by our Chairman on behalf of you all. With the Book Token I purchased a reprint of a revised edition of *The*

Buildings of County Durham by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. I have recorded inside it the occasion and the Society's gift. Thank you for it, and for the warm thoughts behind it."

GIFT AID TAX RECLAIM

The Treasurer, Dr David Case, hopes that more members will feel encouraged to participate in the Tax reclaim scheme, which provides the Society with a significant additional income at no cost to members. Forms may be obtained from the website *www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk*, under "Contact", or from Dr Case, whose address is below.

THE SOCIETY WEBSITE

Following the departure of the Revd Selwyn Tillett from the Wensum benefice, we are pleased to report that his wife Cassie, who runs the business "Working Order" will continue to manage our Society website from her new location on the Norfolk coast.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2015 is due on January 1st. It is **£16** for ordinary UK members, **£25** for Overseas members, and **£10** for Students under 25. If you pay by cheque, please use the form below (which can also be found on the PWS website). If you would like to set up a standing order, or gift-aid your subscription, then contact Dr Case, or print the forms from the Website under "Contact".

To the Treasurer, Dr David Case, Fairfield, 25 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7JA

I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to the Parson Woodforde Society, for my subscription for the year commencing 1st January 2015.

NAME (Please print.

ADDRESS

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NANCY STORACE ON RADIO 4

In September 1790, James Woodforde heard the celebrity soprano Nancy Storace sing in St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, and in October 1795, he heard her at Drury Lane. Last October, BBC Radio 4 broadcast a programme called “Nancy Storace: Mozart’s English Soprano”, presented by soprano Catherine Bott. Nancy Storace (1765-1817) was born in London. Her father was an Italian cellist and her mother a member of the Trusler family who owned the Marylebone Pleasure Gardens. In 1778 the Gardens were sold and the Storaces moved to Naples, then in 1783 to Vienna, where Nancy worked with Mozart to develop the demanding role of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She returned to London in 1787 and resumed her career.

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