

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2015

NEWSLETTER No. 103

WELLS FROLIC

Between September 11th and 13th, the Society's AGM and Frolic took place in Wells. It was a truly Woodfordean weekend, the visits to Ansford Parsonage and Cole Place being particularly special. You will be able to read a report of it in the Winter Journal.

The vacancies on the Committee, described in the Chairman's appeal in the Summer mailing, have been resolved satisfactorily. Two existing Committee members take up new roles: David Case, who is stepping down as Treasurer, becomes Vice-Chairman; Lee Abraham becomes Committee Secretary. At the AGM, two new Committee members were elected: Ann Brayne, who becomes Treasurer, and Brian Richardson who becomes Facebook Manager.

If you would like to play a part in helping to run the Society, please contact Martin Brayne on 01663 750354, email *editor@parsonwoodforde.org*.

REEPHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY

Since the departure of the Revd Selwyn Tillett in October 2014, there has been no Priest-in-Charge at Weston Longville and the other parishes in the Wensum Benefice (Alderford & Attlebridge, Swannington and the Witchinghams; Ringland has recently moved benefices). Now, organisational changes are planned, and affect the recruitment process: a "Team Vicar" will be appointed to serve the Wensum Benefice, reporting to the Rector of Reepham, within the planned "Reepham & District team ministry". The post is half-time, three to four days a week. Interviews are scheduled for 23rd September.

The Wensum "Benefice Profile" assures potential applicants that the 1970s Rectory next to Weston Longville Church is "more modern than the one which was the home of Parson Woodforde"!

The successful applicant will have four parishes, four PCCs, and seven medieval churches to deal with, (of which five churches are in regular use), as well as a five-bedroom Rectory to look after.

CAROLINE MOSEY

In the last Newsletter, we reported the death of Caroline Mosey. She was 86 and died quietly at her home in Stratford-on-Avon in June. Caroline was born in Paignton in Devon and spent some years working in the family pastry-shop there before moving to Stratford. Her final job was as an archivist with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and in retirement she became an active member of the U3A. She led its "Church visiting and Heraldry" group up to the time of her death, and was all prepared to take her latest story to the Creative Writing group on the morning of her death.

Caroline had been a Society member since 1977, and was a regular at Frolics until 2012. She contributed a number of articles to the Journal and to the *Wensum Diary*. She will be particularly remembered for her "Imaginary Conversations", but it is a more personal essay, "1779 revisited", which is reproduced in the accompanying Journal.

Caroline had a complete run of Society Journals from 1968 onwards. They are available to purchase *en bloc*, at £60 not including postage. Contact Martin Brayne on 01663 750354, email editor@parsonwoodforde.org. They may be collected from Martin in Derbyshire if you wish to avoid postage, which is likely to be £30-£40.

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY WANTS OUR WEBSITE!

The Parson Woodforde Society website, www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk, has been selected by the Curators of the Bodleian Library as being of "lasting research value and worthy of permanent preservation in the "Web Archive"". We may be surprised but flattered by this academic interest from the Bodleian, founded in 1602. Apparently it does not involve the Society in any work, but will mean that successive versions of our website are preserved in the Bodleian's "Web Archive" online.

"I spent part of the Morning at the Bodleian" wrote Woodforde on 29th April, 1774. He cannot have thought it likely that the Library would one day hold the notebooks in which he kept his diary, but at least he would have understood it. But what would he think of a "Web Archive" devoted to him and his diary?

FIRE IN WESTON CHURCH!

On Sunday July 5th, there was a small fire in Weston Longville Church. It is imaginatively described in the accompanying Journal, and was reported in the *Eastern Daily Press*, the *Wensum Diary*, and other local media.

TEA TOWEL FROM WESTON LONGVILLE

A brand new TEA TOWEL, boldly inscribed with images of Weston Longville, including the Church, the Pub, the Village Hall, and, of course, Rev. James Woodforde himself, is now available from Weston Church. It is available at the back of the church, price £5 – a snip! Proceeds from sales will go towards the upkeep of the church. So, if anybody comes to the church, on a visit, or to look round, a small stock should be available on the table at the back of the church. Place money in the wall safe near the door as you come in.

If you would like to order the tea towel by post, please send a cheque for £5.95 to include p&p, made out to “*Churchwardens’ Account, Weston Longville*”, to Dick le Grice, The Old Hart, Weston Longville, Norwich, NR9 5JU.

PHYLLIS STANLEY IS 90!

Honorary member Phyllis Stanley, now resident in the historic Great Hospital, Norwich, was 90 in early September. Our Chairman Martin Brayne sent her a card from the Society. In earlier years, Phyllis was Membership Secretary, and at the same time, Committee Secretary and Norfolk Frolic-organiser. She founded the Newsletter and was its first Editor, and wrote a monthly page for the *Wensum Diary*; she has contributed many articles to the Journal over the years, and wrote the 2008 booklet “Walks around James Woodforde’s Norwich”. We wish her many more years of well-earned retirement.

The Great Hospital, in Bishopgate near the Cathedral, was founded in 1249 by Bishop Walter Suffield. Its grounds include an historic “Swan Pit” dating from 1793, in which cygnets were grain-fed to make them ready for the table. The pit is the only one to survive in Britain and is a listed “building”.

THE AUTUMN OF 1765

Two hundred and fifty years ago this autumn, the young curate James Woodforde was in the process of moving into the Lower House at Ansford, an exciting venture for him, but it was overshadowed by his mother's serious illness. He frequently reported in his diary on the ups and downs of her health, twice writing "Not my Will but Thine be done."

In national politics, the new Stamp Act was causing outrage in the American colonies. The Ministry of George Grenville gave way to that of the Marquis of Rockingham. On October 31st, the King's Uncle the Duke of Cumberland died at the age of 43. Nineteen years after Culloden, he was still known as "Butcher Cumberland" after the cruel manner of his victory over the Jacobites of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

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