

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

SPRING 2012

NEWSLETTER No. 89

FROLIC 2012 IN LONDON

The 2012 Frolic Weekend will take place between Friday, August 31st and Sunday September 2nd. We shall be based at the Goodenough Club in Mecklenburgh Square, Bloomsbury. This is a comfortable “oasis” in a quiet area, close to the Foundling Museum which we shall visit. A booking form is enclosed with this mailing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012

Subscriptions for 2012 were due on January 1st, and many of you will already have paid by Standing Order. If, however, you pay by cheque and have not already paid, a subscription form is provided at the bottom of page 3. Many apologies for not providing this with the last Newsletter.

A WOODFORDE TALK IN HAMPSHIRE

A talk on “The Georgian times of Parson Woodforde” is to be delivered by Society member John Heighes on Tuesday April 24th. The audience will be members of the Waltham Chase Group of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, but PWS members are also invited. It will start at 7.30pm at Waltham Chase Village Hall, Winchester Road, just south of Bishop’s Waltham. For more information, contact John on 01425-275800, or email j.heighes@btinternet.com.

DRAMATIC EVENT IN SUFFOLK

On 4th June, at 7.30 pm, there will be a dramatic performance at St Andrews Church, Mickfield, 5m north-east of Stowmarket. It is entitled “An evening with Parson Woodforde”, and is part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It will feature a narrator with a cast of 22 “silents”, and a choir. Ring the Musical Director Alan Page on 01473-890350 or write to him at Campanella, The Green, Pettaugh, IP14 6DH for information about booking. Alternatively, find details on website <http://pettaugh.onesuffolk.net>, then search for “Woodforde”.

WIND-TURBINES APPEAL

In the newsletter dated Winter 2010, we reported on the planning application for two very large wind-turbines on the site of the old airfield at the back of the Old Rectory in Weston Longville. The application was rejected by Broadland District Council, but on appeal it has been allowed. Unless there is a counter-appeal to the High Court, the 125m (410 ft) turbines will be going up after all.

NORFOLK ARCHIVE CENTRE – “HARBORD OF GUNTON”

This spring the Norfolk Archive Centre has an exhibition called “A Norfolk Estate, its places & people” based around the “Harbord of Gunton” archive. In James Woodforde’s time the owner of Gunton Hall was Sir Harbord Harbord, who he met at St Faith’s Fair in October 1777. Sir Harbord was MP for Norwich for 30 years and was created Baron Suffield in 1786. The exhibition includes a colourful book of maps produced in 1784, showing every field, road and wood, as well as many other historic documents of the period. The exhibition runs until 30th April.

PAUL MINET

Many of you will remember Paul and Sheila Minet from our annual Frolics, which they last attended in 2010. Sadly, Paul died on 6th February, and on 22nd February I attended his funeral in St Mary’s Church, Ticehurst, East Sussex. One of the tributes to Paul’s life mentioned the Parson Woodforde Society, but other speakers highlighted his outstanding contribution to the antiquarian book trade.

One of my special memories of Paul dates from the Frolic at the Maid’s Head in Norwich in 2002. Paul dressed up as Squire Custance and delivered a speech giving his (Mr Custance’s) frank opinion of his Rector Mr Woodforde. But James Woodforde was not the only diarist in whom Paul was interested: for some years he edited a publication called “The British Diarist”. Besides his many literary interests, Paul was much involved with the French Hospital of La Providence in Rochester, a Huguenot foundation. We send our condolences to Sheila and their family.

JOHN BETJEMAN ON WESTON LONGVILLE

In 2010, the SPCK published a book entitled "Betjeman on Faith: an anthology of his religious prose". It includes the script of a BBC2 talk from 1974 called "A passion for Churches", which includes 9 lines on Weston Longville church and a reference to Parson Woodforde "full of good dinner", comparing him to the Rev. Jimmy James, the Rector at that time.

SUBSCRIPTION MYSTERIES !

The Treasurer, Dr David Case, has received a Standing Order Payment from an unnamed member who banks with Northern Rock with account number ending 954; please would he identify himself to the Treasurer whose address is given below. We have also received a subscription from 'Nicholas Beresford' for whom we have no records; if anyone knows him please let us know.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription was 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.

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 2012.

NAME (*Please print*)

ADDRESS

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THE BELLE SAVAGE

Reading the brilliant *Kenilworth* by Sir Walter Scott, I find two travellers stopping at the “Belle Savage” Inn on Ludgate Hill. This was the inn patronised by Woodforde and Nancy in 1782 and 1786, but after being bitten by bed-bugs they started going to the Angel Inn off the Strand instead. *Kenilworth* is set in Elizabethan England, and is entirely free of characters who speak in Scottish dialect, which some readers find a challenge in Scott’s other works. The novel is an imaginative retelling of the story of Amy Robsart, the secret wife of Elizabeth I’s favourite the Earl of Leicester.

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