

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

SUMMER 2013

NEWSLETTER No. 94

FROLIC AND AGM, 2013 – OXFORD

This year's Frolic takes place between 20th and 22nd September, and is based at Milton Hill House Hotel, near Abingdon. Details were enclosed with the Spring mailing. The splendidly-titled "Chattels' Fellow" of New College reports that the Woodforde plaque in the Cloisters is ready for our visit.

All Society members are welcome to attend the AGM, which will take place on Friday 20th September, at about 8.30pm.

WOODFORDE AT THE BRIDEWELL MUSEUM

On April 25th, Norwich member Phyllis Stanley attended a Woodforde event at the Bridewell Museum in Norwich. She reports that it was well-attended, but the presenter was only familiar with the 1-volume abridged Diary, not the Society's unabridged Diaries.

INDEX TO JOURNALS

A new, comprehensive Index to all quarterly Journals, from the start in 1968 up to 2013 and thereafter, will soon be made available online. It is in the form of a spreadsheet, but should present no challenges for beginners. It contains indexes by Name, Place, Subject, Author, and Book Reviews.

In 1993 Dr David Case produced a booklet covering the years 1968-1993. Users of that booklet should find the new online Index equally useful, and fully up-to-date.

HOUGHTON HALL – "THE BEST COLLECTION IN EUROPE"

In May 1779, James Woodforde and his friend Roger Hall visited Houghton Hall during their trip around north-west Norfolk, and Woodforde reported that the pictures were said to be the best collection in Europe. Later that year, those pictures were sold to Catherine the Great of Russia, and can normally only be seen in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. This is a special exhibition, "Houghton

Revisited”, which runs until 29th September. For more information, call 01603 598640, or visit www.houghtonhall.com.

A TALK IN DEREHAM

On Wednesday 18th September, Society member Margaret Bird is giving a talk to the Mid-Norfolk Family History Society, to which visitors are welcome. The talk is entitled “Working lives in the late eighteenth-century”, and it will feature “maidservants, farm-servants and their world”. Margaret Bird has recently edited *The Diary of Mary Hardy, 1773-1809*. The talk takes place in Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre St, Dereham, NR19 2EP, and starts at 7.30 pm; there is a £2 charge. Website <http://maryhardysdiary.co.uk> has details.

HONOURABLE MENTION – WOODFORDE IN THE F.T.

James Woodforde got a mention in the *Financial Times* of 20th April in an article by Deborah Alun-Jones about the literary output stimulated by the English Rectory. Referring to diaries and correspondence, Woodforde is coupled with the Rev. Francis Kilvert. Later, she quotes from Virginia Woolf’s “Two Parsons”, the subject of our Chairman’s after dinner talk at the 2012 Frolic (which was printed in the Autumn Journal). “Let us believe that some things last, and some places and some people are not touched by change”.

ADVANCE NOTIFICATIONS BY EMAIL

If you use email, you may be interested in a plan to notify members as early as possible of Woodforde-related events in their area. Just email me at northangerland@hotmail.com, putting “Parson Woodforde” in the Subject line, and I will add your email address to a list I am compiling.

DIARY VOLUME 10 (1782-1784) – NOW AVAILABLE

This long out-of-print and eagerly anticipated volume of *The Diary of James Woodforde* is now available, edited by Dr Heather Edwards. In addition to a complete revision from the manuscript Dr Edwards has provided new and up-dated notes.

A unique feature of this part of the Diary is the record that it provides of the effects in East Anglia of the major Icelandic fissure eruption of

1783. Whilst James Woodforde knew nothing of the cause, his Diary faithfully records what we now know to be the effects of that cataclysmic event.

As well as familiar characters like Mr & Mrs Custance, among the characters who appear are the Custance's gardener Michael Haylett, who is caught stealing from the kitchen garden; the tragic consumptive Molly Dade and the volatile Will Coleman; new rich neighbours the Micklethwaites with their strange and vulgar relatives; and the lively and attractive widow Elizabeth Davie and her suitors.

The book, comprising coloured frontispiece, Introduction, People in the Diary, text and appendices (including Nancy Woodforde's letters of 1782-84) and Index, amounts to 375 pp in the usual A4 format. The price to members is £16.00 plus £6.50 p&p, but you may order it for collection at the Frolic for £16.00.

DIARY VOLUME 10 – ORDER FORM

Please send to Mrs Jenny Alderson, Newland, Park Street, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7ED

Either

Please send me a copy of *The Diary of James Woodforde, Vol. 10* for which I enclose my cheque (payable to 'Parson Woodforde Society') for **£22.50**.

Or

Please reserve a copy of *The Diary of James Woodforde, Vol. 10* for which I enclose my cheque (payable to 'Parson Woodforde Society') for **£16.00**. I will collect my copy at the Frolic in September.

NAME

ADDRESS

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COLONEL BOB KNIGHT, M.B.E.

Members who attended Frolics in the past may remember Sally Knight, who often wrote the Frolic reports for the Journal, and her husband Colonel “Bob” Knight. Sally Knight died in 2010, and Colonel Knight has just died at the age of 95. The long obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* highlighted his military career: in June 1940 he was at Dunkirk, and soon after he witnessed the sinking of the *Lancastria* at St Nazaire; he took part in the Normandy landings, and in Jerusalem in 1946 he was in his office in the King David Hotel when it was blown up. After this posting, he was awarded the M.B.E.

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