

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

AUGUST 2017

NEWSLETTER No. 110

FROLIC 2017 – STILL TIME TO BOOK

This year's Frolic takes place near Wincanton, Somerset, between Friday 8th and Sunday 10th September. There is still time to book a room at Holbrook House, a country-house hotel in beautiful countryside. Frolic-goers always enjoy the Woodfordean atmosphere and the Saturday coach-outing, this year to Bath. A booking-form was enclosed with the April mailing, but if you need another one, then contact Jenny Alderson on 01963-350763, or email her on jenny@aldersons.plus.com.

COULD YOU BE OUR "AFFILIATION SECRETARY"?

The Committee believes that the Society would benefit from an "Affiliation Secretary", who will take on the task of liaising with several organisations with which the PWS is affiliated, and for raising Parson Woodforde's profile with these and other institutions. They include the Centre for East Anglian Studies, the Federation of Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Organisations, and the Association of Literary Societies. There would be opportunities for participation in events run by other affiliated societies. Perhaps a Norfolk resident would be best suited for this, although much of the activity would be internet-based. If you are interested, phone Martin Brayne on 01663 750354, or email him on editor@parsonwoodforde.org.

DO YOU PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY CHEQUE?

If you are one of those members who expects to pay the 2018 annual subscription by cheque, then you will shortly receive a letter from our Treasurer, Ann Brayne, suggesting that you might help to ease the Society's administrative burden by changing over to paying by standing order. A form will be enclosed.

"THE FORTUNE TELLER" BY SAMUEL WOODFORDE, R.A.

In 2014, the Society was given the opportunity to purchase the large oil-painting by Samuel Woodforde, R.A. of his wife Jane Gardner. It was

in serious need of restoration, and an appeal was launched to fund it. It raised £1450, a sum just sufficient to pay for its restoration, which has included cleaning, repairs to the canvas, the insertion of a slip frame, repairs and polishing of the frame. The Society is very grateful to those members who contributed to the appeal. We will have news of the painting's eventual home in due course, which should include some public availability. The painting was reproduced on the front cover of the Journal for Summer 2014.

REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY

The Rector of the 12 parishes in the Reepham and Wensum Valley is Canon Margaret Dean. She and her husband Revd Timothy Dean, Rural Dean and Curate, are to retire.

The new Rector is to be the Revd Keith Rengert, until recently Rector of Horsham St Faith. The new Curate will be the Revd Helen Rengert. She will have an office in Reepham but will have special responsibility for the Wensum Benefice, which includes Weston Longville.

ARCHBISHOP CORNWALLIS' TOMB DISCOVERED

On Easter Sunday, the *Sunday Telegraph* reported the discovery of the tombs of five Archbishops of Canterbury, at St Mary-at-Lambeth next to Lambeth Palace. The church was deconsecrated in 1972 and became the Garden Museum. Recently it has undergone major renovation which has resulted in the discovery of forgotten tombs in a vault. Of the five Archbishops whose tombs have been discovered, the most important is Richard Bancroft, Archbishop 1604-1610, the chief overseer of the publication of the King James Bible. But Woodfordeans will be equally excited by the discovery of the tomb of Frederick Cornwallis, Archbishop of Canterbury 1768-1783. His wife Caroline Townshend was the cousin of Parson Woodforde's close friend Mr Du Quesne.

Another burial of interest in St Mary-at-Lambeth is that of Nancy Storace, Mozart's favourite soprano; James Woodforde heard her sing on two occasions. She died in 1817 at the early age of 51, and has a memorial tablet in the church. The Garden Museum reopened on May 22nd, so the memorial is on view again.

RARE OLD JOURNALS FOR SALE

Some rare early Journals have become available, covering most of 1968 to 1977, a period when our first Editor, Roy Winstanley, was writing his pioneering articles.

If you would like to discuss purchasing them *en bloc*, please contact Nick Howarth on nick.howarth@gmx.co.uk.

DON'T FORGET THE INDEX

If you have a significant number of old PWS Journals, and you have access to the internet, you may find the Journal Index helpful to find out when a particular article was published. On the website www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk, go to "Publications" and scroll down to the link to the Journal Index. You can trace articles by subject, name, place or author. If you can't find what you are looking for, then try "search" or "find" for a distinctive word in the title.

THREE WOODFORDEAN HOUSES FOR SALE

Three historic houses which were once the homes of Parson Woodforde's friends are for sale. Morningthorpe Manor, midway between Diss and Norwich, was once the home of Roopes (Mrs Davy's family) and the Howes family. Woodforde's friend the Revd George Howes was born there. Its owner, the antiquarian Ron Fiske, a member of our Society, put his collection of historic documents, books and other artefacts up for sale last year, and now the Manor itself is for sale. Also on the market are Reepham Old Rectory, the home of Woodforde's friend the Revd Richard Priest, and Sparham Old Rectory, the home of the Revd Edward Atthill, and later the Revd James Stoughton, both known to Woodforde.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO ...

In September 2017, the Parson Woodforde Society will assemble for the annual Frolic at Wincanton. Exactly 250 years previously, on 10th September 1767, James Woodforde spent a convivial afternoon, evening and night at Wincanton. In the afternoon there was a Concert,

then Supper (“a very handsome one”) at the Bear in the Market Place, and after supper there was cards. Woodforde lost 5/- at an all-night Quadrille session, surely a significant sum to him, as his salary as his father’s curate was only 10 guineas p.a.



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

