

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER No. 111

FROLICS 2017 AND 2018

Frolic 2017 took place in Wincanton, Somerset, in September. You can read an account of it in the accompanying Journal. The Committee welcomed two new co-opted members: Diana and Peter McKay of Nottingham.

Frolic 2018 will be in Norwich from 28th to 30th September. There will be further details in the Spring Journal.

PETER JAMESON

Some members will already know the sad news that the previous Diary Editor, the Revd Peter Jameson, died on 3rd July 2017. He will be greatly missed within the Society. His funeral was held on 28th July at St Bartholomew's Church, Cross-in-Hand, East Sussex, and attended by our Chairman, Martin Brayne, and by Sheila Minet of Ticehurst. Peter was an active member of the Heathfield Choral Society, and in recognition the Choral Society sang two anthems at the service. You will find an obituary in the accompanying Journal.

OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY IS RETIRING

The Society's Membership Secretary is the first point of contact for new members. The present incumbent, Ann Elliott, has been in the post since 2000, and having reached a significant milestone has decided to retire. We are pleased to report that Diana McKay has volunteered to take on the role. If you move house, or learn of the death of a fellow-member, please contact her.

OUR NEW "AFFILIATIONS OFFICER"

Following the appeal in the last Newsletter, we are pleased to report that David Sharp of Edgefield, Norfolk has volunteered for the newly-created post of "Affiliations Officer". He is a member of the Norfolk Family History Society and has other East Anglian interests, so will be well-placed to represent the Parson Woodforde Society in Norfolk forums.

CHERISH WATTON – YOUNG HISTORIAN

Cherish Watton is a 24-year-old from North Elmham, Norfolk, who became the first “student member” of our Society. Last summer, she graduated from Cambridge with First Class Honours in History. A project there was a “long essay” on Nancy Woodforde’s role in her uncle’s household, and for this she received a Cambridge Historical prize. She has now moved to Churchill College, Cambridge, to do an MPhil. We hope to hear more of her progress.

REVD HELEN RENGERT STARTS HER MINISTRY IN WESTON

Weston Longville has a new parish priest, the Revd Helen Rengert. She is actually a curate, and the Rector is her husband the Revd Keith Rengert, now Rector of Reepham and eleven other parishes. Revd Keith was officially licensed as Rector in Reepham on September 18th. Revd Helen is also based in Reepham, but has special responsibility for Weston and the Wensum benefice. On 10th September she started her ministry in Weston with a parish tea, followed by a walk “in the steps of Parson Woodforde” round the countryside, followed by Evensong.

LECTURES AT UEA IN NORWICH

The 2018 Spring programme of the Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Research Group has two lectures which might be of interest to members. On February 10th, there is a lecture on “What Pre-Victorian Churchwardens can tell us”, and on April 14th, on “From Brewing to Gentry: Creating small country estates”, given by our member Margaret Bird; she started to publish the Diaries of Mary Hardy in 2013, and she led a Frolic excursion to the Hardy family Brewery in Letheringsett that year. Lectures are given at the Centre of E. Anglian Studies (Room Arts 0102), at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, at 2.30p.m. For more information go to www.nahrg.org.uk.

SHEILA HARRISON’S TALK IN SUFFOLK

The *Saxmundham News* recently reported on a talk by our member Sheila Harrison, given to the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History

Group. There was a good deal of interest from the audience. Sheila has a repertoire of three different Woodforde talks which have been given to local audiences.

5-VOLUME BERESFORD

Spotted at the Buxton Book Fair, a 5-volume edition of Beresford's "Diary of a Country Parson", original editions from the 1920s and 30s, in beautiful condition, and formerly owned by Dora Saint of the "Miss Read" novels, a keen Woodforde fan. They were priced at £225. The vendor is *ChrisBaronBooks@aol.com*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2018 is due on January 1st. It is £16 for ordinary UK members, £25 for Overseas members, and £10 for Students under 25. Many members now pay their annual subscription by Standing Order, which greatly reduces the Society's administrative burden. If you do not yet do this but would like to do so in January 2018, then please contact the Treasurer, Ann Brayne, at the address below, for a standing order form, or print the forms on the Website under "Contact".

If you still wish to pay by cheque, then please use the form below.

To the Treasurer, Mrs Ann Brayne, Long Croft, Whitehough Head, Chinley, High Peak, SK23 6BX

I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to the Parson Woodforde Society, for my subscription for the year commencing 1st January 2018.

NAME (Please print)

ADDRESS

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LUCY WORSLEY AND PARSON WOODFORDE

Lucy Worsley's recent book, "Jane Austen at Home", uses Parson Woodforde's Diary on six occasions – and there's no meal in sight! The six references are all taken from the one-volume edition, not the Beresford 5-volume or the Society's 17-volume edition, so Dr Worsley has much more to explore for a future book! A member writes "It's a really interesting read, being an historian's take on the subject as opposed to a literary historian's approach where one has to pick one's way between speculation and conjecture parading as fact. I was very amused that she used Harriet Wilson as a witness – but it works."

Many thanks to contributors: Martin Brayne; Ann Elliott; Beryl Griffiths; Sheila Harrison; Doris Ker.

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