

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER No. 129

FROLIC 2024 – OXFORD

The 2024 Frolic will be at New College, Oxford, between Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th September. More details and an invitation to register interest are enclosed with this mailing. We last stayed in New College in 2019; members who were there or at earlier New College Frolics will know that it is a very special experience, which makes one feel close to James Woodforde's own experience.

FROLIC 2023 – LOWESTOFT

The Frolic at Lowestoft in September was very successful. You may read an account of it in the accompanying Journal. We were lucky to have mild and dry weather, and a very welcoming venue.

HANDSOMELY BOUND JOURNALS

The late Sydney Quin, who died in 2001, was a founder-member of our Society in 1968, and our President between 1975 and 1977. Now his grandson Jeremy offers us his set of bound PWS Journals, to any member who would like to own them. They cover the years 1968 to 2005, and have been handsomely bound in blue hardcovers. There are 16 volumes in total. Offers starting at £350 please, to me (details on page 4).

MODERNISATION OF THE WEBSITE

The plan to modernise the PWS Website is under way! Alan Ovenden has organised that all old Journals from 1968 onwards have been uploaded to the new website (as yet unavailable to members). This involved removing all the staples, scanning them, uploading them, and re-stapling them, a sizeable task. There is more work to do before the new website is made available to members.

VINYARDS AND BREWERIES

Babus Vinyard, Weston's only vineyard, has recently done extremely well in the WineGB East competition. It won silver medals for its Dulce Solaris and its Late Harvested Solaris, and a bronze medal for The Rose 2022. But most interestingly to us, it won a silver medal for "The Parson's Pleasure", an "easy-drinking white", named after Parson Woodforde. Congratulations to Babus Vinyard!

Nor must we forget Woodforde Ale, also named after our Parson, for those who drink beer rather than wine. In November 2022, an ale named "Parson James" was the "ale of the month". It had "4.5% #Red Ale, with chocolate and crystal malts, a hint of rye and maris otter."

"PARSON WOODFORDE" PUB REVIEWED

The Eastern Daily Press recently reviewed the "Parson Woodforde" Pub and Restaurant. It gave a very favourable account of the food presented. Members who attended the Frolic in September 2022 will remember our Buffet Lunch at the Parson Woodforde, which I certainly thought was excellent.

TWO HUNDRED ANF FIFTY YEARS AGO

In December 1773, James Woodforde was no longer the Curate of Ansford; his cousin Frank Woodforde had sacked him when he took over as Rector. James was waiting for the right Living to come up at New College, but in early December he was at home in Ansford.

"Soon after Dinner we all went to Cary and saw some remarkable Feats of Horsemanship, performed by a Man just come to Town and he performed exceeding well. Gave him 0:1:0. He rode full galop upon three Horses, laid down on them & then got up upon his Feet with Ease, with two Horses also standing upon two Quart Pots, between two Horses, stood on his Head one Horse on a full gallop, hanging with his Head downwards & his hands touching the ground full Galop & taking up 4 Handkerchiefs. Another Man rode full Galop standing upon his Feet in the Saddle & a Boy on the Man's Head." [1.12.1773]

One shilling seems a poor recompense for these circus skills!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2024 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 2024, then please contact the Membership Secretary, Diane McKay, at the address below, for a standing order form, or print the forms on the Website under "Contact", <https://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk/contact.htm>.

Gift Aid: If you have not yet gift-aided your subscription, but would like to do so, then you can download the form on the Website, or ask Diane McKay for a form. Gift-aiding benefits the Society by 25% of your subscription.

If you would like to pay by **BACS online transfer**, then please pay to the **Parson Woodforde Society's** account: **sort code 20-53-77, account no. 50737097**, Please give the reference **Woodforde sub.** and send a confirmatory email to diane.hammans@btinternet.com.

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

To Diane McKay, 68 Hillside Rd, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3AY

I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to the Parson Woodforde Society, for my subscription for the year commencing 1st January 2024.

NAME (*Please print*)

ADDRESS

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RECTOR'S SABBATICAL

The Revd Helen Rengert, Rector of Weston Longville and the several other parishes in the Wensum Benefice, is soon to start a 3-month Sabbatical. She will visit Australia, Scotland, and Northumberland, as well as seeing family and friends. Her predecessor James Woodforde never had a Sabbatical as such in his 25 years in Weston Longville, but he did make regular long visits to Somerset, which perhaps seemed as distant then as Australia does to us.

Many thanks to contributors: Margaret Bird; Dr David Horne; Jeremy Quin.

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