

# THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

WINTER 2012

NEWSLETTER No. 92

## FROLIC 2013 – OXFORD

Next year's Frolic will be based at Milton House Hotel, Didcot, a Georgian country house hotel near Oxford. We shall go to New College to see the Woodforde plaque in the Cloisters, and also visit Blenheim. The dates are **20th-22nd September**, so put these dates in your 2013 diary!

## DIARY VOLUME 4 – NEW EDITION AVAILABLE

In this mailing you will find an order form for the new and significantly updated edition of Volume 4, 1769-1771. Peter Jameson's revision of this long out-of-print volume of *The Diary of James Woodforde* has been eagerly awaited and will be available shortly.

## NEPHEW BILL'S LOG BOOKS

New York Public Library has the "Log Books" of Nephew Bill Woodforde, dating from the early 1780s when he was stationed on Staten Island with HMS *Ariadne* and *Astraea*. It is apparently not possible to photocopy the books, so if you are visiting New York, or if you are one of our US members who is able to visit the Library, then it would be very valuable if you could report on it to the Society. The books are to be found in the Schwarzman Building, Room 328, ref. MssCol 123.

## CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE

Ann Williams has decided that, after 12 years as Committee Secretary, it is time for her to step down from that role and from the Committee. During those years, she has many times organised our annual Frolics, and members who attend them will have warm memories of her and her husband David as friendly and capable organisers. Ann has been a Committee member since 1995, and

Secretary since 2000. She grew up in Weston Longville, and is very proud to be descended from Anne Richmond, Parson Woodforde's washerwoman who is mentioned in the diary many times. Ann looks forward to meeting her friends in the Society at future Frolics.

In her place, Robert Bates has agreed to become Secretary. A life-member since the age of 18, he has been a Committee member since 2010, and is descended from Weston Longville villagers of Woodforde's time, including Mrs Dunnell and shoemaker John Bates. His researches into Norfolk ancestors uncovered the later life of Sukey Boxley, "Woodforde's Missing Maid".

At the AGM at the London Frolic this summer, Lee Abraham was elected to the Committee. She has been a Society member for over 10 years, and is well-known to all those who have attended Frolics, where she has participated in entertainments and compiled the Quiz more than once.

## **NEW ON THE WEBSITE**

If you have access to the Internet, then you will be interested to know that more of the Society's details are now on the website, [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk).

(a) The Index to the complete Diary, available in printed form at the end of Volume 17, is now online under "Publications". Scroll down to "Index to contents of diary volumes".

(b) The forms needed for Membership application, renewing your subscription, making a Gift Aid declaration, or instructing your Bank to pay by Standing Order, are all now online under "Contact".

## **NORFOLK THEMES IN THE *DAILY TELEGRAPH***

In September the *Daily Telegraph* had a half-page about Norfolk in the "QI" series. It included a paragraph about the Norfolk dialect, a topic which has been addressed several times in the Journal over the years, by various members including the late Clifford Bird.

More recently, there was a letter to the *Telegraph* about "Norfolk Beefing" apples, saying they were the finest variety of cooking apple, if cooked slowly. James Woodforde, who spelt them "Beefans", had a tree of them at Weston Parsonage.

## CUSTARD-CUPS AT THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM

A recent acquisition at the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch is a set of nine “custard cups” from the 1780s-1790s, in green and white pearlware. An explanatory label includes a quotation from Woodforde’s Diary of May 14th, 1789, describing a meal which included “green Apricot Tarts and Custards.” The Museum has rather misleadingly added a phrase from an unrelated entry “I eat very hearty”. How hard it is for Woodforde to live down his reputation for gluttony!

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription for 2013 is 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 (which can also be found on the PWS website). If you would like to set up a standing order, or gift-aid your subscription, then contact Dr Case, or print the forms from the Website as described above.

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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 2013.

NAME (Please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

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## **SOCIETY MEMBERS MONITOR THE WEATHER**

During September, a *Weather Eye* column of *The Times* was all about Parson Woodforde's weather notes and seasonal comments, from skating at Oxford to the dreadful winters of the 1790s. The column was based on a correspondence with Society member Sheila Harrison, a Suffolk historian who has given local talks on Parson Woodforde.

On November 25th, our Chairman Martin Brayne appeared on BBC1's *Countryfile*. He was interviewed by Julia Bradbury on the top of the Church tower in Huntspill, Somerset about Daniel Defoe and the great storm of 1703, the subject of his 2007 book *The Greatest Storm*.

## **"HALL FOR ALL"**

The new Village Hall, situated in Weston Longville but also serving Morton-on-the-Hill and Attlebridge, is to be called the "Hall for All". It was opened on 28th October in a ceremony watched by hundreds of residents of the three villages.

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**Society's website: [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk)**

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