

THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY

SPRING 2013

NEWSLETTER No. 93

FROLIC 2013 - OXFORD

You will find enclosed a Booking Form for the 2013 Frolic, based at Milton Hill House Hotel, near Didcot, Oxfordshire. It takes place on September 20th-22nd, and will include an historic event, the unveiling of the plaque to James Woodforde at New College, Oxford.

SETS OF DIARIES AND JOURNALS

Due to members down-sizing or, sadly, dying, there are some almost-complete sets of the Society's unabridged Diaries, quarterly Journals and Supplements available to purchase. Also available:

- a Beresford 5-volume 1968 edition of the diary in dust jackets in excellent condition;
- "Woodforde papers & diaries", edited by Dorothy Heighes Woodforde; it includes Nancy's Diary for 1792.
- Roy Winstanley's "Parson Woodforde: the Life & Times of a Country Diarist".

Individual items may be posted to you, but larger sets will need to be collected, from either south-east Kent or south-west London. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Jenny Alderson, on 01963-350765 or email jenny@aldersons.plus.com.

NORWICH – CITY OF MUSEUMS AND LITERATURE

Following the Norwich Bridewell Museum's successful re-opening last summer, a small but select event was held there last autumn, for charitable organisations to hand over their promised financial donations. The Parson Woodforde Society was represented by Phyllis Stanley, deputising for Martin Brayne; three other Norfolk organisations who have contributed, including the Friends of Norwich Museums, were also present.

On **Thursday, 25th April**, the Bridewell Museum is holding an Adult Learning event on Parson Woodforde. The event starts at 2.30pm and

the cost is included with the museum admission charge. There is no need to book. If you have not already visited the refurbished Bridewell Museum and seen the new Woodforde display, 25th April would be a good day to go!

Last autumn, the City of Norwich was declared a UNESCO City of Literature. It was celebrated with a reception in the House of Lords. Writers associated with Norwich include George Borrow, Anna Sewell and Harriet Martineau, and many others.

THE MOON AT BINHAM

Last autumn a Society member attended a fascinating evening at Binham, Norfolk, about the Moon. It included poetry, singing, and astronomy, and readings from Woodforde's Diary, all on the subject of the moon.

NEW COLLEGE CHARTERS RESTORED

New College, Oxford, has had some of its historic medieval Charters restored by expert conservationists from the Hampshire Record Office. The eight Charters restored include one of Thomas à Becket, one of Richard III, and one of William of Wykeham, the founder of New College, which dates from 1381.

GREAT YARMOUTH MUSEUM – WOODFORDE CONNECTIONS

In June 1778, Parson Woodforde and the Pounsetts were visiting Great Yarmouth. They called at "Boulton's" (sic) shop, and the diarist commented that Boulton was "an Antiquarian & has a good many Curiosities as well as Medals". In December 2012, the *Eastern Daily Press* reported on the opening of a reconstruction of Mr Boulter's collection, inside the Time and Tide Museum. It is called the "Boulterianum" and is described as possibly Norfolk's first museum. It does not contain Mr Boulter's original curiosities, which were all for sale (Woodforde could not afford the 10 guineas he asked for a set of 12 medals), but period objects assembled to make an eighteenth-century display.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY WOODFORDS

Robert Woodford was the ancestor of Parson Woodforde, and a puritan lawyer who became the Steward of Northampton. He was also a diarist, and some extracts from his diary were included in an article by John Heighes in the Journal of Spring 2012. His full diary, *The Diary of Robert Woodford, 1637-1641*, has just been published in the Camden series. It has been edited by John Fielding, who describes it as a fascinating source for the study of allegiances in the Civil War.

A CONTEMPORARY NORFOLK DIARIST

Another diarist was writing at the same time as James Woodforde, less than 20 miles from his parsonage. She was Mary Hardy, and her 500,000-word text, *The Diary of Mary Hardy, 1733-1809*, will be published for the first time in its entirety on 30 April 2013. Until now only brief highlights had appeared.

The wife of a farmer, maltster and brewer, the world she presents in her 36-year daily diary is very different from Woodforde's. This was a thrusting commercial and manufacturing family: Whig in politics, and restless in their spiritual search. The religious vitality of the time is portrayed, with the arrival of the Church of England Evangelicals and the supplanting of the Calvinistic Methodists by the Wesleyans.

Society member Margaret Bird has spent 25 years editing the copiously annotated and illustrated volumes, with their 450 pages of index. They will be published by Burnham Press.

In the last Journal, Winter 2012, there was a review of *A Victorian Clergyman: the Diary of William Mitchell, 1830-1917*. The book is available to Parson Woodforde Society members for £8.50, including p&p. The book may be obtained from Clare Eagle, 130 Lower Rd, Bemerton, Wilts, SP2 9NW.

DO YOU BANK WITH LLOYDS TSB?

Our Treasurer, Dr David Case, has received a membership subscription by Standing Order from an unknown member, who banks with Lloyds TSB and has bank account no. 4****968. Please could the member identify him- or herself to Dr Case, at Fairfield, 25 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7JA.

DIARY VOLUME 4, 1769-1771

In the last mailing we included an Order form for the new edition of Volume 4, but unfortunately the price of the volume plus postage was underestimated. It is **£19** including p&p.

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