

# The Fairford Flyer

Fairford History Society

Newsletter No 1

Summer 2005

## FAIRFORD HISTORY



## SOCIETY

### Australian Visitors

A gentleman from Brisbane Australia, and his 15 year old son contacted Alison Hobson recently having seen details of the Fairford History Society on this website. Harold Hope and his son Cameron, were visiting Fairford to retrace their English roots. Apparently, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Harold's grandfather lived in East End.

Harold knew that one of his grandfather's siblings had emigrated to Canada and another to Australia, but wondered if any other relatives were still here. Before he left, Harold kindly donated a copy of the book "Farmor's School" by H W Hedges, published in 1938, to the Society.

Cameron & Harold Hope with Alison and Nick Hobson .



### Fieldwalking

Anyone interested in 'Fieldwalking' should contact Roger Phillips 712083 asap as there are positive signs that this event will take place after harvest. RP

### Meeting dates at the Community Centre 2005/6

Sep 15<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm

May 11<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm

### Chairman's report

The outstandingly successful 'School Dinners' was the last event of our first year and this newsletter rounds off the 2004-5 programme. I think we should congratulate ourselves that our new venture is now established and prospering. Our progress has been made possible by financial help from local organisations (see IT) and by our own fundraising efforts. Do you remember the cake stall? Our working groups will continue through the summer and our autumn meetings open with :-

**Fairford at War  
a talk  
by June Lewis Jones  
and a photographic  
exhibition by Edwin Cuss  
on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>  
in the 7.45pm Community  
Centre**

We look forward to hearing our President's talk about a subject on which she is so knowledgeable and the meeting will be augmented with a display of photographs from the Edwin Cuss collection and he will be happy to chat with members.

I should like to end by expressing my personal thanks to all who have helped during the year, especially the members of the committee and to those whose skills, knowledge and goodwill have made our meetings so interesting and happy.

KC

### **FHS Committee**

Keith Cottam (Chair) 711054

Brian Routledge (Vice Chair)

Alison Hobson (Secretary)  
711768

Geoff Hawkes (Treasurer)  
712053

Margaret Bishop (FCC rep)

Trevor Hing (FTC rep)

Roger Phillips (Fieldwalking)

Lesley Pincombe (Group  
Coordinator)

John Read (IT)

Ian Westlake

## IT

We are lucky to be living in a time of relatively cheap computer hardware and software and the Internet. We intend as a society to make full use of these technologies so that as many people as possible can see and hear the constantly increasing amount of material we have in our archives.

### **The scanned archive**

Through generous grants we have been able to buy a laptop computer, a scanner and the necessary software to enable Alison Hobson to set up an archive of all the books, photographs and objects people have lent or given to us. Where possible we catalogue these (using a scheme recommended by Corinium Museum) then scan them and store them on our database. This means that we can easily find pictures of any of our catalogued items with just a few keystrokes on the laptop.

We are very grateful to all those who have provided material for the archive.

### **Our website**

We are in the process of setting up our own website. It is hoped that this will include details of the society, and some short articles

about various aspects of Fairford history, together with photographs and sound recordings. Later we hope to make an edited version of our full archive available which will be searchable and will be a serious research tool for the amateur historian and for schools.

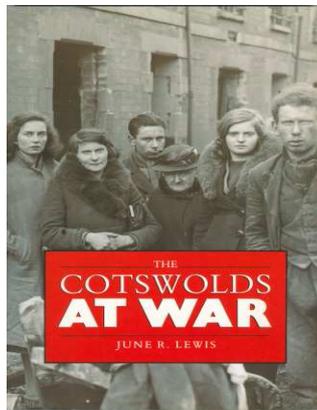
### **Thanks to donors**

We would like to thank Rob Knight, the Fairford Town Charity, the Fairford Preservation Trust and the Ernest Cook Trust for grants towards all the equipment we have bought. Our work would

not be possible without their generosity. **JR**

### **Members from afar**

At the display stall at the Fairford Festival on Saturday, I was delighted to meet a family who had been evacuated to Fairford during the war. They have fond memories of the Fairford area and were delighted at the prospect of the September meeting's talk 'Fairford at War'. Although one is living here in Wales and the other in New Barnet, Herts they have joined FHS and booked their rooms at the Bull in anticipation of the September meeting. They were even more delighted when I showed them June Lewis-Jones book 'The Cotswold at War' and found themselves in a photograph with other people they knew. Again this link had been made through [www.fairford-tc.co.uk](http://www.fairford-tc.co.uk) website. **AH**



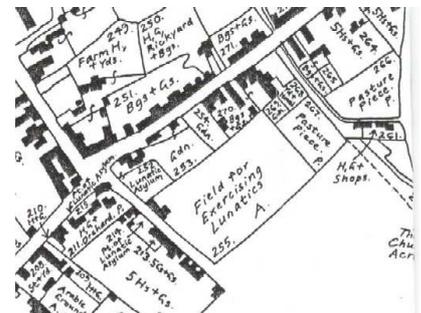
### **Oral History**

Thanks to some generous donations we now have all the equipment needed to make sound recordings. Members have been trained in using the equipment and audio CDs have already been produced. Editing is a very time consuming process so we haven't been able to get on as quickly as we had hoped. If you have offered to make a recording and are still waiting please bear with us, we will be approaching you very soon. **GB**

### **Group Leaders**

**Geoff Bishop** *Oral History*  
**Keith Cottam** *Film*  
**Alison Hobson** *Archiving*  
**Colin Moulden** *Railways*  
**Roger Philips** *Fieldwalking*  
**John Read** *2006 play*  
**Colin Watkins** *Education*  
**Clive Watson** *Development of Fairford*

If you would like to be involved with any of these groups please contact the person concerned or the Secretary.



From an 1841 map of Fairford

### **Membership Sep 05-Aug 06 £2.50**

You can join at any meeting or by ringing the Secretary or Geoff Hawkes.

Membership forms can be downloaded from

[www.fairford-tc.co.uk](http://www.fairford-tc.co.uk) and

given to any committee member or handed in at Fairford Town Council Office, 3 London Street.

### **Food Glorious Food edited by June Lewis Jones. Price £2.00**

A reprint of the 1982 edition with a new introduction.

A history of the School Meals Service with recipes from the staff of Farmor's School.

#### **Proceeds are to go to FHS.**

Many thanks to our President June Lewis Jones for this contribution.

Available from any C'ttee member or FTC Office.