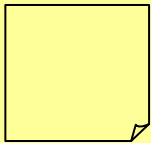




# FOHA NEWS

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## Spotlight on Modern Kitchen

After 40 years, the modern kitchen is not fit for purpose under current legislation & is in need of a radical overhaul. The Friends' originally installed & refurbished the former Parlour in the 1970's. For some time the kitchen has given grounds for concern. It was also revealed that had not The Friends focused on the kitchen it could have been closed two weeks before the Christmas Craft Fayre in November, which would have proved disastrous & embarrassing to the Old Hall

⇒ It is a commercial kitchen but used as a 'semi staff room' which is inappropriate.

ate.

⇒ It is in need of de cluttering

⇒ It could be better

pose

⇒ It is proposed making it more efficient with the west area being the 'wet area' & the

**A Happy New Year & Decade to all our Members & Readers**

cleaned & left presentable

⇒ It requires a gas interlocking system

⇒ Requires a new canopy that envelopes the cooking area, the present one is not fit for pur-

'east area' the dry are for food preparation [resembling the format of a medieval kitchen!]

⇒ The kitchen also requires a 'commercial' freezer & refrigerator to ensure efficient temperature control.

⇒ There is concern that the catering arm has an inadequate supply of sets of crockery & cutlery for Corporate Hospitality.

⇒ Recently two facilities have been incorporated into the kitchen a washing machine & a dish washer.

⇒ The estimated cost for the work is c 15k, English Heritage has a responsibility for

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 1 JANUARY 2010

Accompanying your winter edition is the Membership Renewal Form for 2010 with a provision for Banker's Order [& Gift Aid] which will relieve you of this annual ritual.

Enclosed too but in a new format, designed by David Belton, the 2010 First Tuesday Lecture Programme, incorporating the Sunderland Lectures. Tickets for all five Sunderland lectures are now obtainable either at the Old Hall Gift Shop from Mike & Pat at the stall held on the First Tuesday Lecture nights.

Accompanying the newsletter is a Return Form for tickets & much needed volunteers to augment the happy band who work tirelessly on our behalf.

**THE NEXT FIRST TUESDAY LECTURE 12 JANUARY 2010 @ 7.30pm**

### The Old Hall's Modern Kitchen — moving from the Dark Ages into the 21st century

for appliances however the LCC is responsible for appliances under the current Lease. In the 1960's it served as a public function room & several may recall wedding receptions being held in there. In the 1970's this space was deemed to be beyond conservation & restoration & therefore remodelled into the 'modern kitchen,' which has well served its 'shelf life date'.



The Friends' have generously kicked started the project with the purchase of a commercial dishwasher costing £2,591 including VAT.[ almost the entire proceeds of the lecture programme for 2009] The Dishwasher was installed just prior to the Christmas Craft Fayre & proved to be a boon to staff. The kitchen has experienced underinvestment for several years. During the last four fiscal years 2004/09 catering has taken 61,244.35 [ Income 39, 925.60 Expenses = 21,318.75 ] The 64\$ question ~ where is the future investment coming from to bring the kitchen up to standard & maintain that long term.

Joan Smithson, the Acting Site Co-ordinator, writes.....

"I would like to say what a great help to the staff, the dishwasher was at the recent Craft Fair. It has quickly become a friend & well respected addition to the kitchen equipment! Now we have this marvellous piece of professional dishwashing equipment & have realised the benefits it gives us in efficiently cleaning the crockery /cutlery, as well as relieving staff of the strenuous work of manually washing the dishes, it seems absolutely amazing that we have managed for so long without one. The installation has been a great boost to staff morale"

Please pass on grateful thanks from the Staff to the Friends for their generous support & in getting the machine fitted & working. I am sure that the dishwasher will add to the 'attractiveness 'of the Hall when groups are considering the venue with regard to corporate hire etc"

#### Newsletter by e mail

The cost of posting newsletters to our friends & supporters is now a significant sum. If you are happy to receive it in electronic format, please e -mail the editor at

kenmare01@hotmail.com

and go on line and access it in colour >

[www.gainsboroughholdhall.co.uk](http://www.gainsboroughholdhall.co.uk)

*"What you leave behind is not necessarily what is engraved necessarily in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."*

### RUNNING OF THE OLD HALL — FACTS & FIGURES 2008/09

The new perimeter wooden fencing erected in 2008 cost £8,799.35

The Old Hall took 29,629.24 in the **Gift Shop** [ down on 33,425.53]

**Catering** realised 17,428.60 up on 14,532.87]

**Admission Charges** netted 52,040.25 [ down on 53,949.08]

**Staffing costs** 150,955.15 reduced by 34,34,939.04 on the previous year 185,894.19 due to a restructuring. But the Old Hall still cannot manage on permanent staffing & sorely relies upon panel staff, which begs the question is the Old Hall running efficiently as it might do!

**Energy costs** 7,058.46 whereas in 2007/08 = 9,674.91 a saving despite

huge increases to the contrary!

**Postage** 279.00 [ 279.35]

**Telephone** 3,584 [ 3,583.90]

**Ground Maintenance** 1,829.95 [ 1,393.26 ]

**Rates** 462.00 **Water Rates** 286.83

**Refuse Collection** 325.26

**Advertising /Promotions** 9,468.31 [ 18,476.36]

**English Heritage Maintenance Grant** 53,315.00 [ 44,496.00] significantly up by 8,819!

Key [ ] = previous financial year 2008/09

## **Book Mole** Henry: Model of a Tyrant Dr David Starkey

How and why did Henry VIII turn from a glamorous Renaissance prince into this country's greatest tyrant? David Starkey's magisterial concluding biography, published to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession to the throne, tells this remarkable, bloodthirsty story.

When Henry VIII came to throne in 1509, he had already distinguished himself as a scholar, musician and athlete. So how did this glamorous young Renaissance prince become this country's greatest tyrant? Desperate to cement his claim to the throne, Henry quickly became frustrated by the lack of a male heir from his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. His impatience increased after he became infatuated with the beautiful Anne Boleyn. When Anne refused to become his mistress, a desperate Henry was forced to take action that would set the course of British history for the next 500 years. In a move that would have fateful consequences for all involved, Henry ordered his lifelong friend Thomas More to implement religious changes that would allow him to remarry. The resulting establishment of the Church of England catapulted Henry to the height of his personal power and led to More's death. Catherine was dismissed, Anne was ushered in, and so began the bloody cycle of marriage, divorce and execution for Henry is still remembered today. And yet behind this brutal history was a man traumatised by bitter divorce.

David Starkey's magisterial concluding biography of this most complex of British kings, published to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession to the throne, tells the bloodstained story of his remarkable shift from humanist prince to all-powerful despot during one of the most vivid and significant periods of British history

Hardcover 400 pages, Harper Press ISBN 10 007 288700 £25 Amazon £18.75 pub Oct 2010

## **Katherine the Queen: The Remarkable Life of Katherine Parr by Linda Porter**

The general perception of Katherine Parr, the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII, is that she was a provincial nobody with intellectual pretensions who became queen of England because the king needed a matronly consort to nurse him as his health declined. In the various studies of the six wives of Henry VIII she receives much less attention than Katherine of Aragon or Anne Boleyn. Her main achievement, in the famous rhyme about Henry's six wives, is that she 'survived'. Yet the real Katherine Parr was attractive, passionate (she had a mighty temper when aroused) ambitious and highly intelligent. She was thirty years old (younger than Anne Boleyn had been) when she married the king. Twice widowed, held hostage by the northern rebels during the great uprising of 1536-37 known as the Pilgrimage of Grace, her life had been dramatic even before she became queen. It would remain so after Henry's death, when she hastily and secretly married her old flame, the rakish Sir Thomas Seymour. Katherine died shortly after giving birth to her only child in September 1548, her brief happiness undermined by the very public flirtation of her husband and step-daughter, Princess Elizabeth. Despite the vivid interest of her life, this is the first full-scale, accessible biography of this fascinating woman who was, in reality, one of the most influential and active queen consorts in English history.

**Hardcover:** 456 pages **Publisher:** Macmillan (12 Mar 2010) **ISBN-10:** 0230710395 £20 from Amazon for £16

## **Douglas Haig: The British Army and the First World War by Prof Gary Sheffield**

Written by acclaimed military historian, Prof Gary Sheffield, this is a revisionist biography of one of the most controversial figures in British military history. Born in Edinburgh and educated at Oxford (although he never completed his degree), General Douglas Haig is unquestionably one of British history's most notorious individuals. Serving in the military from 1884 until 1920, he helped organize the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), commanded by Field Marshal John French, upon the outbreak of the First World War. Haig died in 1928 and was given a state funeral, one which thousands upon thousands of people attended. Yet, it was not long before the assault on his reputation began. Historians, soldiers and politicians alike heaped criticism onto him. Branded a 'donkey' and nicknamed 'the butcher of the Somme', he is still regarded by several modern historians as an inept commander, who showed disregard for the lives of his men. In this compelling new biography, Gary Sheffield overturns many myths about Haig, and the British army during the First World War. The first person to scour a number of crucial sources on the general, he reveals that Haig was a much greater figure than typically portrayed. He shows that Haig was a keen advocate of technology such as tanks and aircraft, and played huge role in turning the small, professional colonial police force of 1914 into the technologically advanced citizen army of 1918 that defeated the German army and won the greatest set of military victories in British history. In this completely original analysis, the result of a decade's research, Gary Sheffield presents General Haig in a new light and rescues this maligned man's reputation

Hardcover 400 pages Harper Press [18 Feb 2010] Price £25 Amazon £20 ISBN 10 007739634

## A Reassessment of the Old Hall's

### American Connection



The Old Hall's American connections are far more extensive than at first realised & calls for a more balanced presentation, in addition to that of the Pilgrim Fathers,' telling of a far more exciting story. And to top it all there is a link with Haydn!

In 1720, the Hickmans moved into their New Hall at Thonock & part of the Old Hall was let off to the Berties, relatives of the Hickmans. The 3rd of Earl of Abingdon, Willoughby Bertie lived there with his wife, Anna Maria Collins. Several of their children were born at the Old Hall, according to the Parish Registers, including their first son, Charles Bertie, in 1734, who was baptised 25 Sept 1735 & buried on 25 April 1736 at Gainsborough. Their second son was James Bertie baptised at Gainsborough 25 Sept 1735, who later perished in a fire on Oct 12 1745 at their home at Rycote when he was 10. However there was another spare — Willoughby Bertie, [named after his father] who was born at the Old Hall [16 January 1740](#), & baptised at Gainsborough 18 February 1740 he was to become the 4th Earl of Abingdon. Other siblings born at the Old Hall were; Anna Marie Bertie christened 17 Nov 1736 & Elinor, 15 July 1738 .

Willoughby Bertie, [4th Earl of Abingdon] was educated at [Westminster](#) & at [Geneva](#). He graduated from Magdeline College ,Oxford in 1761 with a Master of Arts (M.A.). On 7 July 1768 at [St. George's Church, St. George Street, Hanover Square, London, he married](#) Charlotte Warren was the daughter of [Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Warren](#). They sired several children Willoughby Bertie, Lord Norreys ([8 February 1779 – 20 February 1779](#)) Willoughby Bertie, Lord Norreys ([9 April 1781 – 1810](#)), married Catherine Jane Saunders on [26 November 1808](#), died without issue [Montagu Bertie, 5th Earl of Abingdon \(30 April 1784 – 16 October 1854\)](#) Hon. Peregrine Bertie ([30 July 1790 – 17 October 1849](#)) Rev. Hon. Frederic Bertie ([12 February 1793 – 4 February 1868](#)) Lady Caroline Bertie (d. [12 March 1870](#)), married [Charles John Baillie-Hamilton](#) on [23 January 1821](#)

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Willoughby succeeded to the title of 4th Earl of Abingdon, Berkshire [E., 1682] on 10 June 1760 & also to the title of 8th Lord Norreys, of Rycote on the same day .Bertie travelled extensively on the Continent & met Voltaire He died on 26 September 1799 aged 59.

His will was probated in May 1800. Bertie, was a flutist & became a patron of music through his brother in law, [Giovanni Gallini](#) who brought him into contact with [Carl Friedrich Abel](#), but the cache for Bertie was attracting Joseph Haydn over to England in the 1790's. Haydn actually dedicated a piece of music to Lord Abingdon which can still be heard & purchased. Haydn dominated the concert programme in London which cost Bertie £1, 600 in losses , [almost = £120,000 in today's money]

Walpole described the 4th Earl as "a singular young man, not quite devoid of parts, but rough and wrong-headed, extremely underbred but warmly honest."<sup>1</sup> Lord Charlemont wrote of him, "a man of genius, but eccentric and irregular almost to madness."

He was well known in horse-racing circles, his most famous horse was Marske. The house at Rycote today is on the site of what remains of the stable blocks adjacent to the palace, which was excavated by Time Team in 2001. In 1770 he started the Earl of Abingdon's Hunt between Thame and Tetsworth, with kennels at Rycote. He restored Rycote where he later lived. In 1769 he funded the construction of the [Swinford Toll Bridge](#) across the [River Thames](#) near [Eynsham](#) which has recently sold for 1 million & is still exempt taxes under a special dispensation granted by George 111!

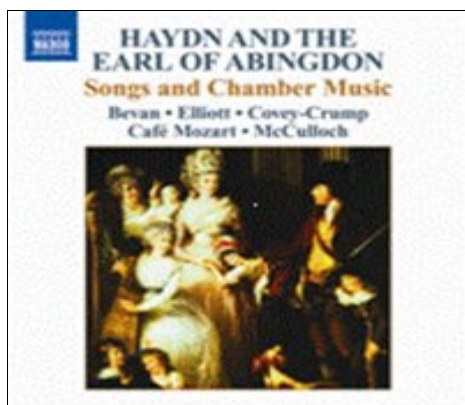
Bertie's wife died on 28 January 1794 at [Rycote, England](#), from a 'complaint of the stomach'. She was buried on 8 February 1794 at Rycote Chapel [14c] now in the care of English Heritage.

When Bertie took his seat in the Lords, the Colonists were revolting & he supported their cause all the way, which gained him popularity. He wrote numerous pamphlets & berated Burke for not denouncing more strongly the Government in its handling of the revolt. [Thoughts on the letter of Edmund Burke on the Affairs of America 1777]

Bertie believed, that the colonists were justified however there may have been another reason, for his opposition, on his wife's side. In 1744 his in laws, the Warrens had migrated to the new world, & had purchased a 300 acre farm along the Hudson River, what is now Christopher Street north to about West 21st Street and bounded on the east by Minetta Brook and Bowery Lane (now Broadway). Sir Peter and his wife Susannah De Lancey lived in a manor house with a large formal garden in the area now bounded by West 4th, Bleecker, Charles, and Perry Streets

His wife had a share in the estate in the Warren estate & her portion included the land that came to be known as Abingdon Square.

In 1794 the City Council changed the designation of streets and places with British names in order to reflect American independence. Nonetheless, the name of Abingdon Square was preserved, because the Earl and his wife had sympathized with the American patriots, and he had argued in Parliament against British policy in the colonies.



The title still exists within the peerage, the present holder being [Richard Henry Rupert Bertie](#), who thus became **14th Earl of Lindsey** and **9th Earl of Abingdon**. The family seat is at Gilmilnscroft House, near Mauchline, in East Ayrshire. He married [Norah Elizabeth Farquhar-Oliver](#), daughter of [Mark Oliver](#) and [Norah Frances Sapphire Farquhar](#), on 5 January 1957. Their son & heir is Henry Mark Willoughby Bertie, Lord Norreys, who was born 6 June 1958

The Abingdon link is that of a Rebel with a Cause, who befriended the 18c composer Haydn & was born at The Old Hall.

### **Gainsborough's Beer Festival attracted 1,000 people**



which was held for the first time in the Old Hall between 11—15 of October by CAMRA [Campaign for Real Ale] appealing to a new audience [in total 1,000 people] never targeted before.

Monies raised for several local charities included £150 to the FOHA Gardening Group, which was much appreciated. We understand that a second Beer Festival is being planned for 2010—Watch this Space!

### **William Rose 'Quiet Revolutionary'**

**\*\* A new book on Roses Brothers with rare photo footage has just been published & available from Sue Edlington Tel 01427 612030 .It is understood that there plans afoot for a launch on Jan 29 2010 at Gainsborough House, to be confirmed.**

### **A Celebration of Historical Associations with Gainsborough Old Hall**

**9c Alfred the Great** 868 married Elswitha of the Gani Tribe, Elizabeth 11 35 generation of the marriage!

**Sweyne & Canute** 11c—1014

**William & Aymer de Valence** 13c

**15c King Richard 111** 1483

**16c King Henry VIII** 1509 & famously in 1541 with Catherine Howard & Mary Tudor, later first regnant Queen of England

**Katherine Parr In 1529** married Sir Edward Burghlater Queen Consort

**17c The Pilgrim Fathers'**

**18c**

**Willoughby Bertie** 3rd & 4th Earl of Abingdon

**John Wesley** Founder of Methodism 1759

**19c**

**1826—The Bacon Family** descendants of Sir Nicholas Bacon courtier to Elizabeth 1 inherit.

**George Eliot** [ Mary Evans] who visited in 1859 & published in 1860 Mill on the Floss.

**\*\*William Rose** the Inventor of the Packaging Machine born at the Old Hall in 1856 d 1929

**Overnight Stay in Reading to visit  
Windsor Castle & Blenheim Palace  
Wednesday & Thursday  
August 4 & 5 2010.**



Windsor is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world and the Official Residence of Her Majesty The Queen. Its rich history spans almost 1000 years. The Castle covers an area of about 5 hectares (13 acres) and contains magnificent State Apartments furnished with treasures from the Royal Collection, St George's Chapel (one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical buildings in England and the burial place of 10 monarchs), and Queen Mary's Dolls House, a masterpiece in miniature. And there is much more to see—St George's Chapel Windsor, Eton College is

only a stroll away & then there is Windsor Town!

On route we shall stay for lunch & the afternoon at **Blenheim Palace** [ a former royal hunting lodge] home to the 11th Duke of Marlborough and birthplace of Winston Churchill. It was built between 1705 and 1722 in the rare English baroque style and is today one of the largest houses in the country. Inside the scale of grandeur continues with an 180ft library and 67ft high hall. The interior is lavishly decorated with guided tours available through the state rooms. The 'Untold Story' tells Blenheim's story through animated figures, video and projection technology while there is also an exhibition dedicated to Winston Churchill. Outside visitors can enjoy the hedge maze, adventure playground and butterfly house and of course the beautiful grounds designed by Capability Brown. A visit to Churchill's grave at Bladon is a must.

- ◇ You will stay in a AA 4 star rated hotel—Best Western Moat House Hotel, Reading, which is situated c 30 mins from both Blenheim & Windsor Castle.
- ◇ You receive Bed & Breakfast and an Evening Meal plus admission into Windsor Castle & Blenheim Palace
- ◇ for Double: £129 [ £15 Single supplement & £9.50 insurance optional] with coach. You will be required to provide lunch on both days & other incidentals at Blenheim & at Windsor.
- ◇ An Itinerary will be sent before the visit. Please book early to avoid disappointment this visit is open to Members & Non Members.
- ◇ Obligated to receive Deposits by 1st May & the Balance by 3 July please.
- ◇ The overnight stay at Hampton Court Palace, which took in Hatfield House was well received & i commend this Windsor Outing for your consideration.
- ◇ Pick up Points: The Old Hall, Focus & Lea Green
- ◇ The Outing will be cancelled and all monies refunded if there is insufficient uptake.
- ◇ Please supply mobile numbers or landline numbers just in case you are late for pick up points to avoid protracted delays.
- ◇ Please advise on wheelchairs & special needs e g diet etc.
- ◇ This outing is arranged through the Wilfreda Group



“As good as Ice Cream”

The Visitor's Books Read on...

The Old Hall has had a tradition of a Visitor's Book since they managed the Manor House from 1949 to 1979, a custom continued until recently by LCC, & at the behest of The Friends, continues to this day, The Friends now supplying the Visitor Book. A few weeks ago I received several registers back to 1989 & thumbed through them to spot usual comments & signatures.

“When the Hall falls down Gainsborough will disappear, a fine monument to our past”.

“Excellent Kitchen—Best Display of what a medieval kitchen was like that i've seen”.

“Cool”

“Lovely to visit after 73 years”

“Wonderful place, warm hospitality”

“The most interesting property i have viewed to date..”

### Bakewell and Haddon Hall Outing – 19 September 2009

Carol Smith, who is one of The Friends Posties reflects on her first outing with The Friends.....This was my first outing with the FOHA, and an excellent opportunity to re-visit my favourite Derbyshire town and the Hall that I had visited 30 years previously, though in the intervening years trudging passed several times in the summer heat or torrential rain.

On this trip the coach was fully booked and Paul also took car passengers. Bakewell basked in the late summer sun and my walk along the river could not have been more enjoyable. As a bonus, there was also time to browse the local shops and, not being in the company of serious walkers, I didn't go into a single shop selling walking gear!

The Hall was as charming as I remembered, and the gardens as delightful. I could really imagine it as a family home. As always, when visiting such houses, I was fascinated by the kitchens and their fittings but relieved not to have had to prepare Sunday dinner in them. However, what has made a lasting impression on this visit is the Chapel, with its delicate wall-paintings and 17<sup>th</sup>. Century, three-decker pulpit. The white marble effigy of Lord Haddon, who died at only nine years of age in 1894 had a touching fragility and was carved by his grieving mother. It is a replica of the original which can be seen in Belvoir Castle.

I agree with some members of our group, who would have liked to know the names of some of the plants in the gardens, that it would have been interesting if they had been labelled. However, I also feel that information in the Hall could have been better presented, with more layering to cater for the wide age-range of visiting family groups. But the teasels were an excellent and subtle way of reminding visitors not to sit on the chairs!

I can't end without mentioning Dorothy. Having no travelling companion, the journey each way could have become tedious. However, I struck up a conversation with the lady sitting next to me. Imagine our surprise when we found out that she had grown up in the village I left to move to Gainsborough five years ago. She had lived about three minutes walk from where I had lived for almost 20 years and she had attended the village school where I had, more recently, taught for almost 20 years. Just imagine how much we found to talk about. What a fantastic day!

*Editorial note: a big thank you to Mrs Jones [ 91 this February!] for suggesting the venue which proved to be a huge winner. Please give the Committee your ideas for an Annual Outing in 2010!*

#### + Obituary +

It is with regret that we have to report the passing of the following Friend whom we remember with gratitude

Mr David Parry of Morton  
RIP

#### Webscape

[www.gainsboroughholdhall.co.uk](http://www.gainsboroughholdhall.co.uk)

Website visits on visits, on 5 Jan 2010 visits had swelled to 80,500 = 6,589 visits, averaging 366.05 per week —18 weeks- since 28 August 2009 which realized 73, 911

The updates for both The Old Hall & The Friends Events Programme 2010 are now on line.

This newsletter can be viewed in colour on the website!

STOWE & THE ARCADIAN GARDENS

Dr Jonathan Foyle

Thursday 25 February 2010 @ 7.30pm

Tickets £6 each



**Stowe in Buckinghamshire is renowned for its beautiful landscape and for its school, which has since 1923 been the saviour and guardian of the magnificent eighteenth-century mansion at the heart of the site.**

Today, Stowe House is in need of immediate help to stop time and weather from accelerating its decay, a situation which has gathered a unique collation of partners committed to regaining the original quality of the house. World Monuments Fund has joined a private donor in a £9 million challenge to secure the future of Stowe House.

But why should we care about supporting Stowe House amongst an array of fine great houses that need support? Essentially, be-

cause it is the centrepiece of one of the most beautiful and complex historic environments in Britain, and our work, in tandem with a range of committed partners, will make the house available to everyone to enjoy, realizing a major, imaginative and shared cultural resource at the heart of England.

**It will eventually cost more than £50 million to restore Stowe House, one of Britain's grandest buildings, to its 18th-century glory and such is the scale of the project that no one has any idea when the work will be finished. But for the bursar of the public school that is housed there, *the task is a labour of love.***

It is to restore Stowe House, one of Britain's grandest but most threatened country houses, to its 18th-century glory. Home since 1923 to Stowe School, the house in Buckinghamshire is one of the Palladian gems of Britain. Its gardens, 400 acres strewn with nearly 40 Grade I listed temples, arches and follies, is the birthplace of the English landscape movement. Lord McAlpine, a Stowe old boy (a Stoic) and a former treasurer of the Conservative Party, believes that it ranks second only to Versailles as the most important landscape garden in the western world.



## Dr Jonathan Foyle— Chief Executive of World Monuments Fund in Britain

He trained as an architect and art historian, and holds a doctorate in Archaeology, specialising in early Renaissance architecture in Britain with the belief that early Tudor England was a more involved participant in European Renaissance culture than is generally acknowledged. He developed a practical knowledge of major and minor historical monuments over fifteen years, first as an assistant surveyor of Canterbury Cathedral, and then as Buildings Curator at Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace for almost eight years

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM OLD HALL GIFT SHOP

**DATA WATCH — Record of footfall since August 2009****The Old Hall Visitor Figures**

<b>August</b>	<b>paying</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>non paying</b>	<b>1897</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>paying</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>non paying</b>	<b>2661</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>paying</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>non paying</b>	<b>3305</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>paying</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>non paying</b>	<b>4164</b>
<b>7,740</b>	<b>26.09%</b>	<b>PV</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	
<b>21,928</b>	<b>73.91%</b>	<b>NPV</b>		

29,668

**FOHA****First Tuesday Lectures:** Sept 93 Oct 98 Nov 93 Dec 87**Sunderland Lecture:** Sept 33**The Christmas Craft Fayre:****2009 Sat 1,180 Sun 1,233 = 2,413**

2008 Sat 1,137 Sun 1,516 = 2,653

2007 Sat 960 Sun 1,338 = 2,298

**First Tuesday****Lectures****£1.50p**

are £1.50p, inclusive of light refreshments, the committee decided to make this one off charge in the interests of greater efficiency & clarity.

The next edition will be mail dropped before Easter to avoid the rise in postage due on April 1st.

Tickets for all Sunderland Lectures are now available from the Treasurer or the Old Hall Gift Shop

**Forward Planning – key milestones to be marked....****STOP PRESS****December Visitor Figures**

Medieval Christmas 12 Dec = 212 people, made up of 113 non payers & 99 payers on the door.

**Staff/Volunteer Christmas Bash**

was attended by 40 people, including staff The Friends, volunteers & supporters during which management were able to say 'thank you for their sterling work over the past year.

**December Vis Figs 2009**

total 1, 549, = 199 Payers & 1,350 Non Payers realising to date a total of 31, 217 'visitors' ie 7, 939 [ 25.43%] Payers & 23, 278 Non Payers [ 74.57%].

The next five years will witness several milestones which will be marked in some way;

2011—the 400th anniversary of the creation of the Bacon Baronetcy in May 1611, the same year as the Authorised Version of the Bible!

2012 - 60th anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen [ Feb 1952] & Coronation 1213 [ June 1953]

The London Olympics

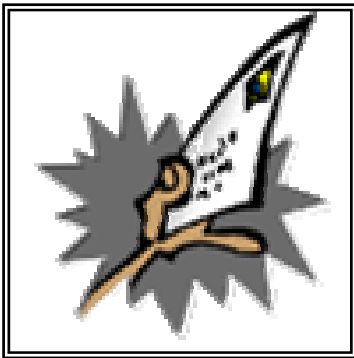
2014 Sweyne Folkbeard dies mysteriously at Gainsborough 2nd February & succeeded by Canute.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the publication of Mill on the Floss by George Eliot, who visited Gainsborough & its environs in 1859. There is a striking description in the book of the Great Hall, which she visited.

## THE FRIENDS OF THE OLD HALL

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LINCOLNSHIRE  
DN21 1PR

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officialfoha@hotmail.com  
www.gainsborougholdhall.co.uk



### Public Library in Old Hall !

The Friends' 'poured cold water' on proposed designs to use, on a temporary basis, the Lower Great Chamber as a library, whilst public library is given a make over, between January / March 2010. If it goes ahead, the tea shop will remain open & library users will have free entry to tour the Old Hall!

- ◇ It will interfere with Probus, which has contractual arrangement to meet on Monday mornings.
- ◇ The Friends' hold their First Tuesday Lecture in March & if the association was to meet elsewhere it would involve extra costs for an alternative venue.
- ◇ However, school children use this space for eating their lunches & for workshops, as it is heated. The Friends' believe that use of the Great Hall is out of the question during late February or early March as it will be too cold for the schoolchildren.
- ◇ Due care has to be taken in the use of the Lower Great Chamber having a restricted capacity level of 68 people at any given time under the fire regulations when furniture is in use.
- ◇ More info > [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/gainsboroughlibrary](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/gainsboroughlibrary)

### DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2010

**1 January 2010** Renewal of Membership due

**A Souvenir book celebrating the Jubilee is to be published this autumn > more details with the AGM Report ~ Watch this Space!**

**Ideas for the Annual Outing are most welcome, please pass them on to members of the Committee or through the Hon Sec.**

#### Holiday Period at the Old Hall

The Old Hall closed to the public on Friday 18 Dec 2009 & Re opened on Monday 4 of January 2010.

Opening Times until March 1st Weekday 10am to 4.00pm, Saturday 11am to 4.00pm & Closed Sunday.

#### Annual General Meeting 2010

**Please note** that the AGM for 2010 is advertised for Thursday 18 of November, the date has however been changed to **Nov 11 2010 @ 7.30pm**

#### Membership Roll

The Membership Roll on Dec 31 2009 stands at **638** members.

### What does your Membership

#### Give You?

**Free Admission into the Old Hall during general openings including on Event Days.**

- **First Tuesday Lectures**
- **Join the Gardening Group**
- **The Sunderland Lectures**
- **Outings**
- **Satisfaction of supporting Local Heritage**

**To name but a few !**