

MILTONLETTER

OCTOBER 2009



UP COMING EVENTS

2009

**SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN THE
MEMORIAL HALL, SCHOOL LANE, CHALFONT ST GILES.
SPEAKER AT 4.00 PM FOLLOWED BY THE AGM**

Professor Gordon Campbell will be speaking on "Rethinking Milton's Life". Professor Campbell is an honorary patron of the Friends as well as the highly acclaimed author of the new biography of Milton together with Professor Thomas Corns. He is always an entertaining and thought-provoking speaker. The talk will be followed by the A.G.M and the event will conclude with mulled wine and mince pies.

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER - LANCE PIERSON IN LITTLE MISSENDEN

Those of you who enjoy Lance's performances may like to know that he and Belinda Yates will be presenting a programme entitled "John Milton in Voice and Verse" in St John the Baptist Church, Little Missenden at 7.30. Tickets £5 [to include a glass of wine] are obtainable on the door, or from the church on 01494 862008. Lance has been such a stalwart supporter of the cottage that we hope many of the Friends will attend.

2010

**THURSDAY 11 MARCH - BRIDGE DRIVE IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
CHALFONT ST PETER
AT 2.00 PM**

In response to requests from those who attended our first bridge drive in March this year we have arranged another Drive. Further details and booking form included in this newsletter.

**TUESDAY 4 MAY - SUNDAY 16 MAY CHALFONT ST GILES AND JORDANS
LITERARY FESTIVAL**

The Friends hope to arrange an event as part of the Chalfont and Jordans Literary Festival. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

EARLY MAY - BLUEBELL WALK

Plans are afoot for a bluebell walk locally. Details will be included in the next newsletter.

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER - 4.00 PM
MEMORIAL HALL, SCHOOL LANE, CHALFONT ST GILES**

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| 1. Apologies for absence | 6. Membership Secretary's Report |
| 2. Approval of Minutes of 2008 AGM | 7. Election of Officers and Committee Members |
| 3. Matters arising | 8. Payment of funds to Milton's Cottage |
| 4. Chairman's report | 9. Any Other Business |
| 5. Treasurer's report and annual accounts | |

If you intend to come, please complete the form at the end of the newsletter, and return it not later than Saturday 21 November 2009.

PAST EVENTS

TEA WITH CHILTERN SOCIETY - SUNDAY 5 JULY

Extract from the appreciative article by the leader of the walk, Brian Tordoff that was published in the latest edition of Chiltern News.



"It is not often that the interests of CS Historic Buildings Group and those of the Rights Way Group overlap as happened on 5th July when two of the Chilterns most historic buildings were incorporated into a five mile walk. It came about following the donation by Chiltern Society members towards the cost of renovating Milton's Cottage on the occasion of his 400th Anniversary when the Friends of Milton's Cottage had a very kind idea. They decided to further acknowledge our contribution by inviting CS members to afternoon tea after a walk.

So it was that, despite an off-putting (and fortunately, incorrect) weather forecast as well as the Men's Tennis finals, eighteen walkers assembled at the cottage and walked to the newly refurbished Quaker Meeting House at Jordans. There, we heard a little of its fascinating history and saw how the disastrous fire had been used as an opportunity to build an elegant extension to the beautifully restored meeting-house.

We returned to Chalfont St Giles via Seer Green without suffering the promised rain and were received by the friendliest of Friends who served us with refreshing drinks before we sat down to a beautiful array of delicious sandwiches and scrumptious cakes ... It was a lovely end to a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by us all. Those members who subscribed to the appeal but were unable to attend should know how much their contributions were appreciated and how Milton's Cottage is so much improved by the re-pointing which they helped to fund. "



PIMMS IN THE GARDEN - THURSDAY 27 AUGUST



*Would it rain?
Would it be too cold?
Would we be able to hold
"Pimms in the Garden"
in the garden?*

In the event, although the sky was grey the heavens did not open and about sixty members were able to enjoy glasses of Pimms and delicious canapés on the upper lawn at the cottage. Nancy and Eddy gave an update on progress at the cottage and events held and about to be held, and those who wished could look around the cottage at their leisure. As darkness descended guests navigated their way to the exit by candlelight - much as 16th century guests would have had to do.



*Do check newsletters and our website for details of Pimms in the Garden next Summer.
We hope to see you there.*

TOUR OF PENN HOUSE - MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

We are sorry that there was not enough advance notice to include this event in our last newsletter; fortunately guests at the Pimms evening were alerted in time.

The Earl and Countess Howe very kindly offered to open their beautiful and historic house to a maximum of thirty-two Friends of Milton's Cottage. Lord Howe, Chairman of the Milton's Cottage Trust, also offered to talk about the paintings in the house. The Friends were divided into two parties and whilst one toured the house, the other party partook of coffee and cakes [provided by the Committee] and wandered through the gardens. It proved to be a most interesting tour with Lord Howe recounting some of the stories of his illustrious ancestors, and explaining the significance of the magnificent naval paintings that adorn the house. Lady Howe was a most gracious hostess and kept the non-touring half, highly entertained with stories of her own. Here they can be seen opening the Friends' gift of Milton bookends.



LANCE PIERSON - A WALK AROUND MILTON'S LONDON SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER



John Milton and his father lived most of their lives in London, but that city was hugely different to the present vast metropolis. Most of the buildings that were significant in Milton's time have disappeared, reduced to rubble by bombing or redevelopment.



Eight Friends, and three others who just turned up having seen the event advertised on our web site, met Lance at one building that is still standing - the church of St Giles Cripplegate, where both John Senior and John Junior are buried.

From here Lance took us on a fascinating journey of discovery, showing us the site of the building where John had been born, and tracing the sites of many other of his residences. At many of these sites, Lance recited passages of poetry that John had composed whilst living there. Two hours after starting we arrived back at St Giles Cripplegate, and repaired to a local hostelry to rejuvenate ourselves for the journey home. It was an incredibly worthwhile experience and we are very grateful to Lance for his continuing support of the Cottage. He did not charge members for the tour, but donations were requested and raised £75 for the cottage. One thing strongly re-emphasised to us all by this visit, is the tremendous importance of the cottage - the only building left standing that can give any sense of atmosphere, and provide a genuine contemporary context.



YOU MAY LIKE TO KNOW

DR DAVID STARKEY IS GIVING TWO TALKS

The first on Wednesday 28 October in London entitled "History and Things" at the Royal Geographical Society at 7.00 p.m. on behalf of the World Monuments Fund see www.wmf.org.uk/activities

The second on Wednesday 2 December in Beaconsfield in aid of Action Medical Research at St Mary & All Saints Church, Windsor End at 7.30 pm. Tickets £20 Students £12. Light refreshments available. Box Office 64 Burkes Road: Beaconsfield HP9 1EW tel. 01494 673080

Dr Starkey has been a great supporter of the Friends. Many of you will have heard him speak at the Friends event in the House of Lords, and will want to hear of his latest interests.

BOOKENDS



The Cottage shop has recently begun to stock a new item. This is a pair of bookends with Paradise Lost at one end and Paradise Regained at the other. They are beautifully crafted and would make a lovely Christmas gift to someone of a literary bent. The price is £40 the pair. They are exclusive, and can be purchased only through the cottage.

THREE RIVERS MUSEUM



If you have not yet visited the Three Rivers Museum in Rickmansworth, then you may find it a very interesting experience. Nancy, Louise and Karen decided that they would take advantage of the kind offer of Bill Sharpe and the Chairman of their Trust to show us round. We found the Penn Rooms to be fascinating and it emphasised to us how sensible it would be for the two charities to work together as so much of the history illustrated in the Three Rivers Museum is highly relevant to Milton and his times.

The Museum is open between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. Mondays to Fridays, and 10.00 - 4.00 pm. on Saturdays. More information can be found on their website www.trmt.org.uk.

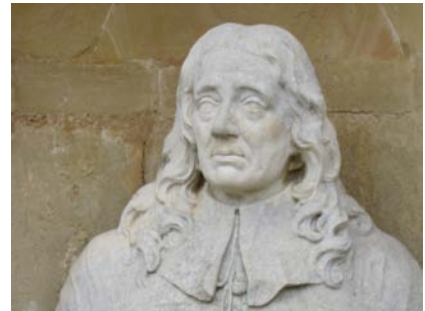
WHERE IS THIS?

This is the first of a series in which Karen Welch challenges you to locate an image of, tribute to, or quotation from Milton that she has found on her journeys around England.



CLUE: you would not have to leave Buckinghamshire to find this.

The answer will appear in the next newsletter



AND FINALLY !



BOOKING FORMS FOR THE AGM AND THE BRIDGE EVENT ARE ON THE REVERSE OF THIS PAGE

BOOKING FORM FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday 28 November 2008
Time: Following Professor Gordon Campbell speaking at 4pm
Place: Memorial Hall School Lane, Chalfont St Giles

Please let us know by **Saturday 21 November** if you are able to join us for the AGM, mulled wine and mince pies.

There is no charge to members of the Friends of Milton's Cottage, although contributions on the night to cover the cost of the wine and mince pies would be much appreciated. Our very special limited edition Milton Mugs will be on sale - the perfect Christmas gift for the Milton enthusiast.

Please reply either:

By Post to: Milton Events, c/o Tanglewood, Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles: Bucks, HP8 4SF or

By E-mail to: welch_tandk@hotmail.com

Enquiries about this event (but not bookings) may be made by telephone to 01494 875439

I will / will not / we will / will not be attending the AGM

Name/s

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BOOKING FORM FOR THE BRIDGE DRIVE

Date: Thursday 11th March 2010
Time: 1.45 for 2.00 pm
Place: Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, Gravel Hill, SL0 0QX
Tickets: £40 per table (£30 per table if you are a Friend of Milton's Cottage).

Cream teas will be provided: prize giving and a raffle will take place at 4.45 pm. Please bring your own cards.

Please return your booking form, cheque (payable to Friends of Milton's Cottage) and self addressed, stamped envelope by 28 February 2010 to:

Milton Events, The White House, Cokes Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4TZ

Enquiries to Nancy Neville on 01494 762509 or to nancyneville@post.harvard.edu

Name:

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Address:

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Email address:

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Phone number:

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Please reserve me table/s.

Cheque enclosed: £