



Friends of Firbeck Hall

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 27

Summer 2017

Chairman's Report

Planning Application for the development and restoration of Firbeck Hall

The Friends group is pleased to announce that a detailed planning application has recently been submitted to RMBC. The scheme was submitted and validated at the end of June, and represents a significant milestone in the recent history of Firbeck Hall, being the first official submission to the local authority for a future use of the Hall and grounds in approximately 27 years that have passed since the Rehabilitation Centre closed. The plans that have been put forward appear to be very similar to the scheme that was proposed at the public consultation event that was held in Firbeck in November 2016. We are aware that the scheme will now be carefully considered by RMBC and the local community and a process of consultation and review has begun. A public meeting hosted by the Parish Council will take place in Firbeck Village Hall on the evening of Friday 7th July, and public comments are now invited on the application online.

The Friends group has adopted a supportive stance in encouraging the owners and local authority to work together to develop a viable future for the site which would see Firbeck Hall restored, occupied and in regular use and we are delighted that this stage has now been reached. We look forward to bringing more detail to our Friends as the process moves forward.



Sheffield Daily Telegraph Friday April 26th 1889

Fashionable Marriage at Firbeck Rotherham



John Sidney Burton Borough in later life

The marriage of Miss Edith Fanny Maud Jebb, second daughter of the Rev. Henry Gladwyn Jebb, of Firbeck Hall, with Mr J. S. B. Burton Borough, of Chetwynd Park, Newport, was celebrated one hundred and twenty eight years ago in the picturesque church of Firbeck.

“The route from the Hall to the church had been handsomely, and yet quietly decorated. At the entrance to the carriage drive a triumphal arch had been raised, and the modest daffodil which had been so lavishly used, afforded a pleasing relief to the sombre hues of the evergreens. On the inside was the motto “Gold Bless the Bride and Bridegroom” while on the obverse side were the words “Welcome to Mr and Mrs J Borough.” Conspicuous were the initials of the bride and bridegroom. Baskets of flowers and plants were also suspended from the archway. There was a large display of bunting, both in the grounds and in the village. The ground decorations had been carried out under the superintendence of the Head Gardener Mr Egglestone. The next adornment reached was a line of streamers extending from the shop of Mr Vincent to the opposite side of the road. Flowers and evergreens had been entwined with much taste.

A triumphal arch had been pleasingly designed, and effectively decorated with evergreens, flowers, coloured favours, and national flags. The mottos were “Heartiest Congratulations,” and “Long Life to the Bride and Bridegroom.” A few yards further on, and near the church, another arch had been placed. Good use had been made of the evergreens, natural flowers (chiefly daffodils), and flags, with which it was covered. The mottos were “Health and Happiness” and “May Joy be Ever Yours.” The church walk and the aisles of the church itself had been carpeted with crimson felt. A cross in the centre of the communion table was composed of amazon lilies, and on each side were arranged roses, gardenias, guelder rose plants, lilies of the Nile, tulips, spirea, japonicas, maidenhair ferns etc. The supports for the lamps carried sprays of ordinary English ivy.

The marriage ceremony was appointed to take place at 2 o’ clock, but fully an hour before that time the congregation had begun to assemble. A large crowd gathered, the walk being lined with schoolchildren, who strewed bunches of primrose and violets in the path of the bride as she passed from the carriage to the building.

The bride was attended by six bridesmaids, three of them children, and two pages. Her dress had a bodice and train of handsome silver brocade; petticoat of white satin, draped with old Brussels lace. There was also a wreath of orange blossom, (grown at the Hall) and tulle veil.

The bridesmaids’ dresses were of white silk with panels of daffodil coloured silk interlaced with white moiré ribbon, they wore tulle veils. The two pages – little fellows aged about seven years – were Masters Turbutt and W.C. White. They had on white serge suits with a yellow sash around the waist, yellow silk stockings, and brogue shoes, and Tudor caps with ostrich feathers.

While the signing of the register was taking place, wedding favours consisting of choice flowers were distributed to the members of the congregation.

Miss Jebb's work amongst the villagers and in the school was evident had been greatly appreciated; many were the good wishes of her friends as she returned to the carriage. At Firbeck Hall a reception was held later in day and the guests were numerous.

Shortly after 4.0'clock the happy pair, amid the congratulations of the friends, hearty cheers and a shower of rice, drove off to Worksop, from which they travelled to London en route for the South of France for their Honeymoon. The brides travelling dress was of fine cloth of a new shade of blue grey; trimmings moiré of similar colour and gold braid. It should be stated that at the wedding Mrs Jebb, the mother of the bride wore a handsome brocaded silk dress, with velvet trimmings relieved with old lace. Regarding the wedding cake, its weight was over 234lbs. It was in three tiers and had been made by Mrs Steptoe, the Housekeeper. On the top were arranged orange blossom lapageria rosea 'Alba', white lilac, silver leaves and doves."



A memorial window in St Michaels & All Angels church, Chetwynd, to John Sidney Burton Borough and his wife Edith Maud Fanny Jebb.

The Prince of Wales' visit to Firbeck Hall on 11th July 1935 *compiled by Julia Colver*

On a sunny day soon after Firbeck Hall had opened its doors as a glamorous County Club, the Prince of Wales travelled by rail to Dore & Totley station and travelled in the Lord Mayor's car to the Great Yorkshire Show at Norton, Sheffield. He was received by Earl Fitzwilliam and had a tour of the show and had lunch there. The Prince was then driven to Firbeck Hall and a quote from the Sheffield Telegraph follows:

"New Club Arouses the Prince's Admiration.

The Prince was impressed with the appearance of Firbeck Hall and he inspected the club premises.



All photographs courtesy of Carl Spedding

Presented to him by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield were: Lord and Lady Fielding*; Mr Cyril Nicholson** and his wife and daughter; and Captain Campbell Black***, the airman, and his actress bride, Miss Florence Desmond.

The Prince then walked through the ballroom to the swimming pool where a large number of members were bathing. He expressed his admiration of the club and was particularly interested, as a keen golfer, in the golf course.

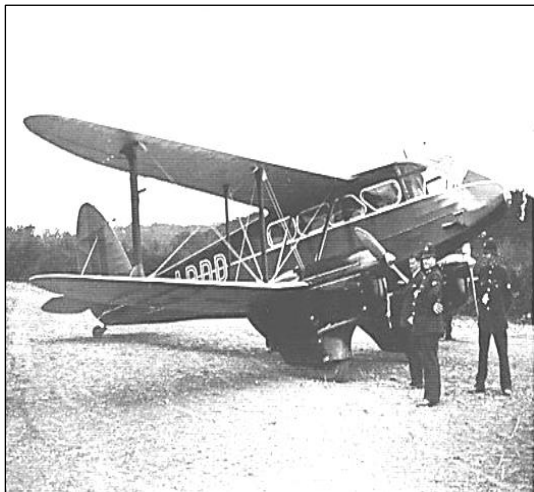
* Lord Fielding was Chairman of the Country Club.
 ** Mr Cyril Nicholson was the owner of the Country Club.
 *** Mr Campbell Black was a famous English aviator and designed the airfield at Firbeck. He had previous connections with the Prince of Wales as he piloted him on visits to Africa looking for game.

Florence Desmond, Mr Campbell Black's wife, was a famous actress, film star, comedian and talented impersonator.



Prince in light suit, foreground

He later partook of tea on the terrace overlooking the bathing pool, and the members gave him an enthusiastic send-off when he left for his 'plane'."



Policeman guarding the Prince's plane

A further extract on the visit from a Yorkshire Post report at the time reads:

"By Air from Firbeck

Then, taking off from the aerodrome piloted by Captain Fielden, the Prince coasted awhile and returned to circle the house, which he left to the sound of cheering.

Firbeck has been a country club for only a short time, but the Prince had heard so much about it that he wished to see it."

**Final resting place of Florence D. Jebb,
 sister of Edith Maud Fanny Jebb,
 Chetwynd Churchyard, Shropshire
 by Valerie Oxley**



The inscription reads:-

To the dear memory of Florence D. Jebb
 daughter of the Rev. H. G. Jebb of Firbeck
 Hall, Yorkshire born 18th June 1854 died
 27th June 1925.

"I know in whom I have believed"

Committee Contacts

Chairman

Simon Drohan 01777 712696

Gen. Secretary/Press & Publicity

Sid Ellis 01709 813330

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Valerie Oxley 01709 813451

Meetings Secretary & Newsletter

Julia Colver 01709 812982

Assistant Secretary

Una Ellis 01709 813330

Environment

Derek & Enid Bailey 01709 815075

Minutes Secretary

Chris Stanton 01709-818927

Email: friends@firbeckhall.net

Website: www.firbeckhall.net. The observations and opinions expressed in the various articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or of the FoFH Committee and their accuracy cannot be verified.