

DOVETALES

13th Edition – Spring 2009

NEWSLETTER of the
NAUNTON DOVECOTE
CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NAUNTON UPON COTTESWOLD?

or



NAUNTON UNDER WINDRUSH!

Sadly the latter as it turns out: on 20th July 2007, shortly following our last edition of Dovetales, the village suffered serious flooding as can be seen from the above photograph, kindly supplied by David Turton, and taken at the height of the flood water on that day. Those of you who were stranded the other end of the village or who live elsewhere will hardly believe the extent of the water flowing through the Millhays.

I walked down to the Dovecote at dusk on that day and was astounded to see a

torrent of water flowing out of the gate of the Dovecote yard, above the tractor shed entrance. The water lapped at the edges of the lean-to and only the top few inches of Jonny Duval's willows, planted on the far bank and standing over six foot at the time, were showing above the water. The water was pouring over the top, not just of the bridge ahead, but the walls on either side – which subsequently collapsed under the force of the water overnight.

The stories we used to think laughable of a man who ‘drowned in Naunton Brook by the Dovecote’ became easily believable and I did not dare cross the bridge over the Windrush by the Tractor Shed for about ten days after that night, the flow of water being so intimidating.

Our Dovecote however stood strong against the water, as she has done for four centuries, and damp guano was the only evidence of the floods.

The boundary wall adjoining the footpath was demolished by the force of the water, but was kindly re-erected by the waller mending the adjacent walls (we think).

Those of you who are not here will have to forgive your Trustees and the Dovecote Society Committee for putting their plans on hold for the following months as there were few people involved with the Dovecote who were not affected, directly or indirectly, by the flooding and the damage it caused. Hopefully we are now all back on track and are now in a position to report some progress.

A DECADE OF DOVECOTE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 5th July 2009

The Ten Year anniversaries of the founding of the N.D.C.S. and the Trust passed by unmarked as a result of the flood chaos, but this July 5th we are planning a celebration of the Trust’s purchase of the Dovecote (1999). We are hoping to have a ‘Dovecote Day’ following the ‘Spirit of Naunton’ Service, which we hope will be at the Dovecote as well (subject to the PCC’s approval).

Duck-Racing will probably ensue, as it often does, and ‘The Great Decadent Decade Duck Race’ or something similar will no doubt occur to swell the coffers of the Society towards our current and planned improvements.

**Please put the date in your diary
and watch out for further details
of what will happen on the day.**

DIARY DATES

•••••
• Sat 20 June 2009 **Donkey Derby** •
•
• Sun 5 July 2009 **Dovecote Day** •
• (with Spirit of Naunton Service) •
•••••

* * *

Members and Friends outside Naunton please also note that there is a village Donkey Derby being held in aid of the Village Hall refurbishment on Saturday 20th June, and Dovecote products will be on sale there.

TRACTOR SHED REMOVAL

Don't worry - **IT IS GOING!**

Planning Consent for removal was obtained on 16 May 2008, together with consent to re-instate the Cotswold stone boundary walls along the shed's existing line. This will mean the area outside the gates, where vehicles can draw up, will remain outside the boundary walls - even though it does belong to the Trust.

An appeal for funds to pay for the demolition, removal of asbestos and re-building of the walls (estimated cost £7,500) has been very successful and we have received funds and pledges of help from Mike and Licia Crystal, Tim Mitchell (new owner of the Manor), Stuart and Gill Corbyn, Jonny Duval, John Foster, Dominic Collier and Karen Hood, Malcolm and Julia Law, Charles Penney and Keith and Judi Russell. Thanks to them for their help – and thanks to Gordon Brown for the Gift Aid Tax Reclaim.

Huntsmans Quarries have been very helpful - they will provide the stone at a large discount and have helped with advice on the technical side of the demolition. Vanessa Gatford has also kindly donated some mature walling stone to mix with the new.

CAN YOU HELP SELL OUR PRODUCTS?

We currently sell our various products at The Black Horse, The Coffee Shop, Stow Tourist Office, G.P. Post Office, Mary's Laundry and at local events. If you live in, work at or know of a good local location where we could display and sell our Post Cards, cards etc., please contact Penny Hanks (01451 850459)

We will obtain a small Grant from 'Friends of the Cotswolds' a new Charity based at Northleach recommended to us by David Glenn of Huntsmans Quarries Ltd. This charity supports projects which conserve and enhance the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: for further information, see www.friendsofthecotswolds.org.

Unfortunately, the V.A.T. exemption which applied to 50% of our work on the Stable Block will not apply on this project.

For those who harbour fond feelings for the building, take a long, hard, lingering look now as it is liable to disappear at any time in the next few months - funding is nearly sorted out and final arrangements are being made.

We may well have to close down the adjacent footpath for a short time during the demolition, but notice will be given; we hope that people will be patient with us over this, but we need to ensure that the removal is done safely.

If anyone else would like to contribute financially towards the removal of the Shed - now is your moment! It is our intention that the Trust's general funds should not be depleted by such a popular project and it therefore has to be self-funding. The sooner we reach our target, the quicker it goes!!!!

When the Shed has been removed, we anticipate providing some rustic-looking seats - maybe logs or stones, a litter-bin and an invitation to put a contribution in our Donation Box. We hope that villagers and people passing on foot will enjoy taking a rest there.

Other ideas you may have would be helpful. There was a suggestion of a boules pitch; should we plant a couple of trees for shade? If so, what type? All ideas are welcome.

The Trust is considering planting rare English apple tree varieties in the 'wilderness' area adjoining the river behind the sluice gates. Peter Lewis is sourcing these and any help or expertise on this subject would be welcome.

TRUST AND DOVECOTE SOCIETY NEWS

'Who've we got now?' You ask....

Current Trustees are:-

**Donna Renney, Peter Lewis,
David Pickup, Corrinne Powell,
Penny Hanks (Chairman).
Secretary: Diana Woolley**

New Treasurer (replacing Andrew Barwood) is Gerard Hanks – now qualified as a C.I.M.A. Accountant. Although he lives in London and cannot attend meetings, he has prepared our latest accounts, Charity Commission submissions etc.

N.D.C.S. Committee members are:

**Donna Renney, Robbie Johnson,
Pat Boulton, (Ralph Boulton Co-opted),
Barbara Steiner (Treasurer),
Corrinne Powell and Penny Hanks
(Chairman)**

The Society Committee has not met recently, but will do so soon to plan details of our 10-year celebrations.

We have discussed the possibilities of merging the two organisations, but to a certain extent, while projects are in hand, they have quite different functions and responsibilities. The Trust is still looking into the possibilities of changing the Trust to a 'membership-based' Trust and would be interested to hear members' feelings and thoughts on the subject.

Such a change would be radical and would probably involve closing down our current Trust and starting another with different terms of reference. Not something to be done lightly and we are in the very early stages of discussions - your input would be appreciated.

FUTURE PLANS

STABLE BLOCK RENDERING 'SEEKING SPONSORS'

The Trust is obtaining quotes for rendering the concrete block section of the walls of the stable block rental units, in the style recently used on Cromwell House. Cotswold District Council would like us to do this and it would greatly enhance the appearance of the building. We are currently looking for sponsors for this project and if anyone would like to make a contribution to this, please contact a Trustee (see above).

The next obvious project is to restore the stone sluice building by the river. This is currently very overgrown and in danger of collapse. Suggestions have been made that it could be restored to its original state and that possibly the engineering aspect - the generation of electricity from the river flow - could be re-instated to working condition.

This would be an interesting environmental and educational project and would give another dimension to the use of the Dovecote Site for the local community, with possible involvement from Schools etc.

We would need the agreement of the water authorities and - importantly - the interest of sufficient engineers out there with the relevant specialist knowledge. I believe there are some of you who would be interested in taking this up and the Trustees/NDCS Committee would like to hear from you NOW.

DON'T LET THE BANKERS CRUNCH OUR DOVECOTE!!!!

**Please become a 'Friend
of Naunton Village Trust'**

**LONG-TERM FUNDING
N.D.C.S. AND N.V.T**

I am sorry to keep batting on about this, but it is even more important in the present financial set-up that we have a scheme to fund the Dovecote in the long term.

Already, those kind people who have committed to becoming 'Friends of the Naunton Village Trust' are making a significant difference to our underlying financial position, and their annual contributions are, for the most part, being increased (25% at current tax rates) by the Gift Aid Claim we can make from the Inland Revenue.

These funds, together with our rental income and funds from N.D.C.S. sale of goods etc., cover the cost of current maintenance and insurance and add considerably each year to our reserves. But, we need to build up a substantial balance in the Trust because, should any repair be required to the Dovecote in the future, it will, by the very nature of the building, cost a huge amount of money. In the present economic climate and the state of public funds, Grant Aid will surely become very difficult to obtain, however worthy the cause, for many years to come, and we must be ready to be self-sufficient.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE fill in the attached forms and become a Friend now. We ask you to complete a Standing Order so that no further time is wasted on annual renewal, and, if you are a U.K. Taxpayer, please also complete the Gift Aid Declaration.

The minimum cost is £25 per annum for a household, or £10 for an individual, although we are of course delighted to accept larger sums.

PLUS - believe it or not - you get a Nesthole!!!! What more could anyone want??

WHAT IS NEST-HOLE SPONSORSHIP?

In the eight years or so since the idea was conceived, there have been many changes in the residents of Naunton, and many newcomers have no notion of what it is all about. I recently heard that you can 'write your own obituary' on an internet site - who needs that when you can go down in perpetuity in the Naunton Dovecote Book?

Even better, you can write an 'Obituary' of someone you have lost and would like to be remembered.

A Donor to the Naunton Village Trust (subject loosely to a minimum donation of £50) is entitled to 'Sponsor a Nest Hole'. Mary Fiveash drew up diagrams showing each of the 903 open holes inside the Dovecote. Each of the four elevations were naturally divided into five sections, each of which was allotted the name of a field in the general direction from the Dovecote in which it lay.

Sponsors, having chosen their hole, are issued with a magnificent Certificate; they are also invited to write something about themselves and, if they choose to dedicate their hole to a third party, something about that person (or pet/herd of cattle/etc.) to be recorded in a Dovecote Book. It is hoped that this will then make an interesting record for posterity by showing who helped to save the Dovecote and saying something about them.

**IF YOU HAVE AFFECTION FOR THE
DOVECOTE AND WANT TO DO
ONE THING TO HELP MAINTAIN
IT FOR THE VILLAGE IN THE LONG
TERM - THIS IS THE THING TO DO**

Current Friends are:

Peter & Jo Bate	The Black Horse
Mrs. C. Bedford	Dale House
Ralph & Pat Boulton	Mill View
B. & C. Bytheway	Kidderminster
Greg & Janet Clark	Beaconsfield
D. Collier & Family	Overbrook
S. & G. Corbyn	Foxhill, Dale St.
W. Davies & Family	Sunny Cottages
J. Duval & Family	The Pound
John Foster	The Quadrangle
Kathleen Gibbs	Ash Tree Cottages
E. M. Gleed	Rodmarton
Katie Hamer	Cherry Cottage
D. Hanks & Family	Spring Barn
Peter Harvey	Ivy Cottage
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Herbert	Gotherington
T. & O. Herbert-Davis	Ash Tree Cottages
C. & D. Hickman	Barn Hill
Pam Hill & Family	Pocklington
David Hoult	Suffolk
Helen Hoult & Family	London
R. Johnson & Family	Waterloo
Phil & Ann Jones	Sunny Cottages
Nicola Joynes	Surrey
M. & J. Law	Church House
P. & A. Lewis	Stonegate
Dr. D. Marsden	Hereford
Mrs. M. Maughan	Boundary House
J. & Rev. Milton	The Manse
D. & B. Mitchell	Mill View
Richard Osmond	Oxford
Lady Palmar	Church Farm House
Corrinne Powell	Kiftsgate Cottage
D. Renney & Family	Parker's Cottage
David Roberts	Hertfordshire
Alex Runciman	London
K. & J. Russell	Windrush Vale
V. Sears & Family	Huntsmans Cottage
M. Smith & Family	Hilltop
C. Smyth & Family	Dowdeswell
Spiers Family	Close Cottage
P. Stevenson &	
P. Johnson & Family	Sunnybank
B. & M. Stevens	Conifers
D. Stockwell &	
Family	Kingham
D. & M. Tucker	Sunnyside
D. & C. Turton	Sidelands
Julia Ward	Temple Guiting
D. Woolley	Humphries Barn
Mr. & Mrs. WJC	
Young	Sutton Coldfield

Total Income 2007/2008 £1,780 + Gift Aid

I would stress that those of you who would prefer to stay with the N.D.C.S. Membership can of course do so as this will continue as normal at the same annual rates (£5 for Adults £1 for Children £1 for O.A.P.s)

Current N.D.C.S. Membership is:

Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Curtis	Mr. and Mrs. G. Hill
Diana O'Brien	Graham
Owens	
Liz Beaumont	Fr. Peter
Slocombe	
Doug & Beryl Mitchell	Cedric Virgin
Nora Brett	Mr. and
Mrs. B. Sweeny	
Mr. and Mrs. L. Quaranto	Mornee Button
Ian and Tracy Hanks	Sylvia Hanks
John Elliott	Ken and
Sara Ogilvie	

Membership Renewal is now due and the form is on p 7 of this Newsletter.

**FORMS ARE ENCLOSED FOR
EITHER BECOMING A 'FRIEND' or
RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP
- PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS
YOU ARE ABLE.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES,
PLEASE PHONE PENNY HANKS ON
01451 850459 or write to her at Spring
Barn, Naunton, Cheltenham, Glos.
GL54 3AS**

FINALLY, Editor (P. Hanks) is attempting to complete the Great Dovecote Book in time for display at the 10 Year Celebration in July. If she has contacted you and you have still not responded, or if she contacts you in the near future, it would be very helpful to have a response - the Dovecote Book will be a record for future generations of the various people who helped save the Dovecote and, like David Hanks' Millennium Book, it will hopefully be interesting and a colourful record of a moment in time. - Thank you.

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A ‘FRIEND OF NAUNTON VILLAGE TRUST’ (Charity Number 1070477)

£10 per individual or £25 for a Family/Household

Taxpayer’s Full Name(s):

.....

Address:

.....**Post Code**.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION

**Naunton Village Trust
Charity Number 1070477**

I would like Naunton Village Trust to treat as Gift Aid all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I understand that for this declaration to be effective, I must already be paying income or capital gains tax of an amount equal to or greater than the tax reclaimable by Naunton Village Trust.

Signed: *(if applicable)*.....**Dated**.....

I have completed the Standing Order Form enclosed herewith in the sum of £..... per annum/quarter/month and return it herewith.

I would/would not like a Nest Hole – please send me details
(please delete as applicable)

**Please return this form to P.A. Hanks, Spring Barn, Naunton,
Cheltenham Glos. GL54 3AS**

OR:

**I WOULD LIKE TO RENEW/COMMENCE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE NAUNTON DOVECOTE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

Your Name(s):.....

.....

.....

.....

Address:

.....

I enclose a cheque/cash for £ *(payable to N.D.C.S.)*

**Adult/Associate Membership £5 / Children £1 / O.A.Ps £1 per annum
Renewal Date: 1st October annually**

I would like to order Dovecote Merchandise

- Tea Towels @ £3.50 each 6/£18
- Notelet Packs @ £2.50 per pack of 10 A4 folded to A5.....
- Packs of 5 ‘B & W Dovecote Logo Cards (£2.50).....
- Dovecote Post Cards @ .30p each **NEW**.....
- Dovecote Post Cards – Pack of 5 for £1 **NEW**.....
- Packs of 5 Blank Cards @ £2 per pack

Postage much appreciated (if applicable) **Total: £**.....

COMING SOON – LONG HANDLED CALICO BAGS @ £4.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DO IT TODAY FOR YOUR
DOVECOTE!