

MAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2006

It seems no time since I was writing last year with news that there was no news! Since then things have improved on the health front with Ann having just received an all clear for another six months following her latest scan and my spinal problem has been totally resolved by the surgery I had last year. I must go no further without saying a big thank you to those of you who wrote, e-mailed or called us to wish a speedy return to good health. I am pleased to say your good wishes seem to have worked! So with the final posting date approaching for those family members living furthest from the UK it is time again to record some family events of the past couple of years. All of the content of the newsletter will be available on the website at www.manfamily.org and whilst many will have access to this, there are just as many who do not have Internet access and will not have had the opportunity to do so. Therefore this more traditional method is the only way for us to communicate and I hope the newsletter gets to be passed around the various family groups. I suspect my address list is woefully out of date and so if you know of anyone in your family group who would like to receive a copy please let me have an up to date address.

I have decided to feature for this year a book published in 2005 by Two Rivers Press 35 – 39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS www.tworiverpress.com edited by Adam Sowan entitled *The Stranger in Reading*. It is a reproduction of John Man's book originally published in 1810 and printed by Snare & Man in Reading. John (1749 – 1824) was a brother of Henry and James Man from whom we are all descended and his book is a witty account of the trials and tribulations of life in Reading in the early 19th century. There are a few uncanny parallels with today – if one uses a little imagination. The book is punctuated with new illustrations by Andy Clark who also produced the cover and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested. It is available through bookshops ISBN1-901677-44-3 or direct from the publishers by mail order at the web address above. The price is £12.00

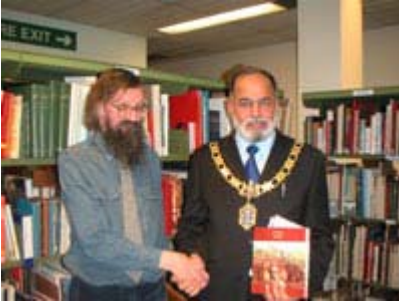
To introduce the book I can do no better than re-produce Adam Sowan's preface: -

"The Stranger in Reading is a lively and idiosyncratic account of the town, published anonymously in 1810; the author, a retired schoolmaster, pretended to be an outsider. I first encountered it while collecting material for *A Much-maligned Town*, an anthology of opinions of Reading over the last four centuries; Man provided me with some irresistible passages, largely because he was the first commentator to give the town anything resembling a bad press. As I re-read the book and learnt more about its author, I began to feel a strong affinity with John Man. Like him, I was born in London but have lived in Reading for 30 years and more; I too retired early from full-time work, and am now about the same age as he was when he wrote the *Stranger*; I share his affection for the town and also his exasperation at its shortcomings; I also collect books, and have myself written several about Reading. As the *Stranger* approaches its bicentenary it seems to me that this significant and entertaining book deserves a wider circulation, joining several other reprinted accounts of a town that was just starting to expand and change radically, with marketing giving way to manufacturing.

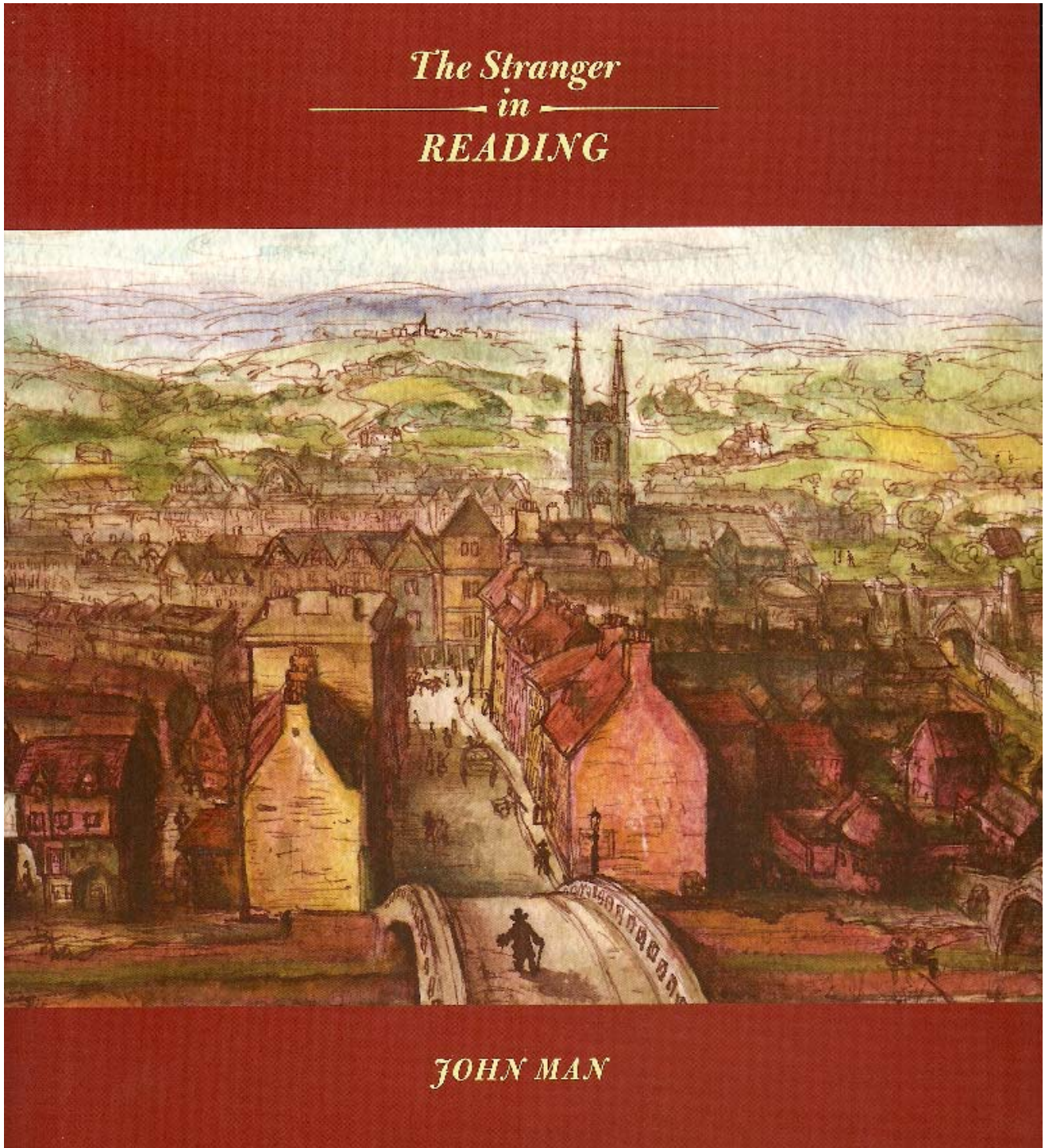
I have corrected a few obvious typos in Man's text, but otherwise it is reproduced verbatim, with his spelling, his liberal use of capitals and italics, and his generous punctuation. (One sentence contains three colons, five semicolons and no fewer than thirty-two commas; yet it is surprisingly readable.) I have included Man's town plan and key and the three original illustrations; his footnotes retain their place throughout the text, and my own comments and clarifications appear alongside."

There is a fulsome introduction giving an outline of the family history and our origins in Hambleton, Buckinghamshire, which I gave an outline of in this Newsletter in 2001. The introduction goes on to outline the life of John Man, schoolteacher, barge-master, bibliophile and historian. For me the book is fascinating especially as I have had the opportunity to handle some of John's original manuscripts preserved in the volumes of the Cumberland Letters at the British Library. I will never forget the aroma of wood-smoke from the open fires as I read those original manuscripts.

The Stranger is described as a lively, witty eye-witness account of Georgian Reading. The author, John Man, had strong views on everything from politics, religion and the theatre to umbrellas, beer and beggars, and when the book first appeared (anonymously) in 1810 it ruffled not a few local feathers.



Left – Adam Sowan presenting a copy of *The Stranger* to the mayor of Reading at the launch in January, and below a facsimile of the front cover of *The Stranger*



It was our privilege to be invited to attend the launch of this book at Reading Central library and whilst there we came across two original volumes of anecdotes written by John Man in similar vein to the book. I purchased a set of photocopies of the anecdotes and if any family member is interested in having a copy of these I would be pleased to re-produce them. I will, though have to make a charge for

this as there are about 200 pages. I can re-produce these for £20 to cover the cost of copying, the paper and postage – please let me know if any are required.

There have been a good many notable events in this family of ours over the last two years. I know there will be some about which I do not know – equally I may have slipped in one or two cases so if I have omitted your notable event from the following section please forgive me. Of course I would appreciate any updates you may care to send and David will, at the same time, use these details to bring the website up to date. So here we go... I have decided to list the events in no particular order: -

Simon and Diana Man tell me that their eldest daughter Abbie got married on 18th September 2004 to Jeremy Muir, an Australian, and that the happy couple are living near Airlie Beach.

On December 15th 2004 Eleanor Ida Lloyd (nee Man) died at a nursing home in Bushey, Hertfordshire aged 94 she was the longest lived female member of the Man family and at the time of Eleanor's death there are just 3 of Edward Garnet Man's 32 grandchildren still living. Eleanor was survived by her two children Janet and Reneé and five grandchildren & eight great grandchildren with a ninth on the way.

Sadly I must now report that Eleanor's daughter Reneé Tovey also died suddenly on 9th November 2006 in Menorca, Spain and we send our deepest sympathies to husband Thomas.

More cheerfully, Marc Ponthus & wife Ann nee Pickworth added a twig to the tree when son William Ponthus was born on 1st November 2004

Colin Man Carden tells me that son Charles Anthony Carden was married on 5th August 2005 to Debra M. Smith whose date of birth was 23rd July 1974. "Very happy event" says Colin.

Simon & Diana Man told me that the 2005 news from their side of the Man family is that our eldest daughter, Abbie, is expecting a baby in March 2006. She and her Australian husband, Jeremy Muir, married in September 2004.

Helen Lorenz wrote to tell David and me of the changes to their family – these are: -
Husband Andrew is now Chairman of the financial communications group at Financial Dynamics.
Books written by Andrew are: A Fighting Chance (1989), BZW, the first ten years (1996), End of the Road, BMW and Rover (1999 & updated version 2005), Kumar Bhattacharya, the unsung guru (2002). Andrew, Helen, James and Harry are now living at Bray in Berkshire. (Just a few miles from Hambleden, Marlow and Wargrave – the places of origin of this family)

Diana & Simon Man wrote to tell that son, Henry, is getting married this August (2006) in Madrid to Natalia Perez Fernandez.

On February 25th 2006 Clifton Eugene Man, son of Jeffrey & Leah Man, grandson of my cousin, Ed Man married Michaela Renee Arthur at Arnold, Maryland USA – we wish them lots of happiness in the future

Lily Allison Man daughter of Rev. Ron Man and Betsy, was married to Brandon Russell at Memphis Tennessee on 29th July 2006 again we wish the happy couple all happiness for the future.

My own father Gordon Huntley Man reached the dizzy heights of 80 years of age on March 23rd 2005 needless to say love & good wishes went to him!

William Carver, son of Charlotte was married on 16th October 2004 to Sarah Wetters, his long time love!

Sadly, Barbara Man wife of the late Maj. Gen Patrick Holberton Man CB; DSO; MC died on 21st October 2005 aged 93. Barbara is survived by daughters Charlotte and Barbara and Charlotte's two sons William & Henry.

Emily Wood, Grand-daughter of the late Sir Hugh Casson wrote to me in 2005 to tell me of a change of address, but more importantly of her marriage to George Milton on 2nd August; our congratulations to them both.

Gavin Mellersh wrote me this year and sadly told me of the sudden death of Peter Toynbee late husband of Mariel (Gavin's sister) on 7th November 2005. We are sorry for your sad loss Mariel. Gavin told me that Mariel had moved home but I do not have a new address. Could you let me have it please Mariel?

On a happier note, Gavin also tells me that his daughter Louise wife of ex Australian fast bowler Carl Rackemann gave birth to a son, Thomas Robert on January 21st 2006. Congratulation to them!

Sue Man's marriage to James Wright took place in Phoenix Arizona this year - our congratulations and best wishes go to them both.

Rachel, Andrew, Grace and Anna were delighted to announce the safe arrival of Frank Geoffrey Foakes, born 12pm 25th February 2005 at the Horton Hospital Banbury, weighing 8lb – another new twig!

Lieselotte Adam wrote to tell me that her husband, Garnet Denison Adam died in February 2005 leaving at that time, Jevon and Timothy Crosthwait as the surviving grandchildren of Edward Garnet Man.

Timothy Crosthwait CMG; MBE; died on 9th November 2006 in London aged 85 and is survived by his wife Anne. Timothy was a distinguished diplomat having joined the Indian Civil Service in 1937 and serving as assistant private secretary to the Viceroy of India from 1942 – 1944. He was appointed MBE in 1944 and in 1955 joined the Commonwealth Relations Office. He spent four years as Deputy High Commissioner in Ceylon, High Commissioner to Zanzibar from 1963 – 1965 and was appointed CMG in 1964. Timothy served as Deputy High Commissioner in Malta then High Commissioner in Guyana and was Ambassador to the Malagassay Republic from 1970 – 75.

And finally...Stephen Durnford was married to Sandra on 31st August 2006 – our hearty congratulations to them both.

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May I take this opportunity of wishing a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to the whole family.

Steve Man.

Steve Man - December 2006.