

THE WHITLOCK TOMB - UPDATE

In the September 1994 issue I did an article on the Whitlock memorial to Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632) and his wife Elizabeth Bulstrode. The Tomb is in Fawley church in Buckinghamshire, near Henley on Thames. It was second on the Parish list for major repairs. The Whitlock Family Association raised 500 towards the repairs and we continue to receive donations towards this project.

I have now received an update from the Fawley Parochial Church Council. As with most projects there is some good news and some bad news. The good news is that project they have been currently working on, the repair of the Freeman Mausoleum will be complete by July and the Whitlock Tomb is their next fund raising task.

The bad news is they have had an update on the work required and the architect has recommended total dismantlement. As well the supporting wall is damp and the problem must be resolved prior to replacing the tomb. The cost estimated in 1988 to 10,000 is now 37,000. One bright spot in this is that Fawley church has been graded 2* which also applies to its contents. This means the project is now eligible for a grant from English Heritage. If this can be acquired other charities will also contribute.

The Council is very optimistic and plans are already underway to start the application process. If things go well restoration could be underway by next year.

The Whitlock Family Association printed a booklet about the Whitlocks of Wokingham, detailing this part of the family. It was sold to raise funds for this project. If anyone has other fund raising ideas I would be interested to hear them. We certainly have masses of material that could be put into publications and sold but no time to actually do the work.

Fawley is a Mecca for Whitlocks and interest continues to grow as there is connection to Virginia in the 1600's and we suspect the huge Virginia families descend from this part of the family. I put together a short itinerary for those wishing to visit places associated with this part of the family in and around London.