

THE WHITLOCK TOMB

In September 1994 I did an article in the Newsletter about the restoration plans for the Whitlock memorial at Fawley in Buckinghamshire. For those not familiar with this project, the memorial was built in 1633 by Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke based on instructions in his father's will. The memorial is to Sir James Whitlock and his wife Elizabeth Bulstrode. [See Vol.13 No.3 pg 5]

As the memorial was over 360 years old it was sadly in need of repair as were several other features of Fawley Church, including the roof!! The Freeman mausoleum in the churchyard also needed repair and had priority over the Whitlock memorial because of its exposed position. The roof and the mausoleum are complete and in a recent letter from the Fawley Parochial Church Council, John Stuart states "While working on the Freeman we got the stonemason to investigate the wall backing the Monument with the good news that it is dry and does not need any serious work. English Heritage/the Lottery Fund finally decided that they only had enough money to conserve structures which were in imminent danger of falling down so they were unable to give us any money, but their investigation of the Monument advised a less drastic conservation than we had planned. In particular, removal of a section of plaster on the inside above the Monument showed that the sloping 'roofing' slabs which cover the monument are an integral part of the wall, are in good shape and do not need to be removed."

Mr. Stuart goes on to say that this news reduced the cost of repairs to £16,000 and with funds on hand and promises totaling £18,000 they have now put the job out to tender and expect work to commence in the new year. Since launching the campaign in 1994 to assist in the repair of the memorial we have raised \$1295.85. In 1995 we forwarded £500 and the last remaining funds will now be remitted and the fund raising closed.

Fawley has become something of a Mecca for Whitlocks visiting Britain particularly as it is likely the huge Virginia families descend from Sir James Whitlock's cousins. The repair of this memorial and the existence of the remains of the two Whitlock homes of Fawley Court and Phyllis Court nearby make this a very important 17th century Whitlock location. I would like to sincerely thank all of you who contributed to this cause and I will keep you informed of the progress of the repairs. Hopefully we will get a picture of the final restored memorial within the next year.