Chapter 22
Milton Park and the Fitzwilliam Family

Early Family History

In the 17th year of the reign of Henry VII in the year 1502, William Fitzwilliam of Gaynes Park Essex, purchased from Robert Whytillbury for the sum of 1200 marks (£800) ‘The manors of Milton Marham with their appurtenances in Milton, Marham, Caster, Etton, Maxsey, Norborough and Depyngate….and the wharfare and the profits of the wharf and water of Gunwade’ (now known as Milton Ferry).

The indenture or ‘deeds’ of the estate were handed over in the font of St Paul’s Cathedral London as a sign of honesty and good faith in the transaction.

The Fitzwilliam family had long been established at Sprotborough in South Yorkshire until William Fitzwilliam (later the 1st Baronet) entered the City of London and made his fortune as a merchant and wool stapler. However he was also a courtier and became Treasurer and later High Chamberlain to Cardinal Wolsey who subsequently made him a member of Henry VIII’s council (‘for his wisdom gravity, port and eloquence and being a gentleman of comely stature’…)

At the end of his life in 1531, Wolsey spent Easter at Peterborough Abbey on his way to York. Notwithstanding his fall from favour with Henry VIII, Fitzwilliam invited his old friend and patron to stay at Milton along with his entourage who camped in the park near the main house.

The story goes that when the king heard that Fitzwilliam had invited the disgraced Wolsey to stay, he was so angry that he ordered all the tops of the oak trees in the park to be cut off as a warning to the owner!

Fig 22a. Milton Hall North Front.

Fig 22b. Sir William Fitzwilliam, 3rd Baronet.
There is no doubt that a house existed at Milton before 1500 but the North front as we see it today is mainly late 16th century and the work of the third baronet. Sir William 3rd, a remarkable Elizabethan, was three times Lord Deputy of Ireland for Elizabeth I between 1560 and 1594 at which time ‘being in a very advanced age and worn out by the fatigues of the war and the state there, he by Her Majesty’s permission, returned to this kingdom and retired to his native place Milton where he died in 1599’. He is buried alongside his wife on the South side of the chancel in Marholm church opposite his grandfather who occupies the canopied tomb on the North side.

In retirement Sir William 3rd was governor of Fotheringhay Castle and held this office at the time Mary Queen of Scots was incarcerated there. On the night before her execution, Mary gave the governor her seal and a portrait of her son James – later James I of England which still are at Milton to this day.

At the beginning of the 17th century, Sir William 5th was created 1st Baron Fitzwilliam in the Irish peerage and in turn his grandson was made 1st Earl Fitzwilliam again in the Irish peerage in 1716. It was this member of the family who employed William Talman to design the stable block and clock tower situated at the East end of Milton. As an architect, Talman had been responsible for works at Drayton, Burghley and Chatsworth. He had been Comptroller of the Kings Works since 1689 but he also worked closely with Christopher Wren who had married Lord Fitzwilliam’s sister. It is thought that the reason Wren himself did not supervise the project at Milton is that he was too busy in London following the great fire of 1666. Bearing in mind that Wren was responsible for the design of nearly fifty City churches, not least of them a new St. Paul’s Cathedral, the construction of which began in 1675, this may well be true.

The Eighteenth Century

The exterior of Milton Hall comprises three distinct styles of architecture. The Tudor and the Wren styles have already been noted but in the mid-18th century the main house was ‘Georgianised’ both inside and out. This work was carried out largely by Henry Flitcroft. The 18th century alterations came about following the marriage of the 3rd Earl Fitzwilliam to 2nd Marquess of Rockingham’s elder sister and heiress Lady Anne Watson-Wentworth.

The union of the Rockingham and Fitzwilliam families was one of the most important milestones in the history of Milton. Thomas Watson-Wentworth, created 1st Marquess of Rockingham in 1746, inherited the Wentworth estate on the death of his father in 1723.

When he died four years later in 1750 he was succeeded by his fifth and only surviving son Charles, 2nd Marquess, who was twice Prime Minister between 1765 and 1782. His political influence and wealth was enormous but alas, the Prime Minster had no children of his own so his heiress was his elder sister Anne who had married the 3rd Earl Fitzwilliam of Milton. Anne, mother of William 4th Earl Fitzwilliam, died in 1769 and when Lord Rockingham died thirteen years later in 1782, William inherited estates in North and South Yorkshire, Northamptonshire and County Wicklow in Ireland. The additional net estate income is recorded as being over £30,000 per annum at the time of his inheritance.
Rockingham had engaged Henry Flitcroft to design the Palladian mansion of Wentworth Woodhouse so it is likely that this was the reason his brother in law (3rd Earl Fitzwilliam) chose the same architect for Milton even though differing schemes for Milton had been presented by James Gibbs (architect of the Radcliffe Library, Oxford and the Senate House, Cambridge) and M Brettingham (pupil of William Kent).

Much to the displeasure of Flitcroft, Lord Fitzwilliam refused to allow the demolition of the existing Tudor North front, so the new Georgian work had to be joined to the older part of the house which explains the unusual mansard roof stitching the old to the new.

The 3rd Earl died in 1756 at the early age of 38 and his son William became 4th Earl at the tender age of eight. Although most of the interior had been completed by the time of his father’s death, it fell to the 4th Earl to complete the design of the Long Gallery and the adjacent Peterborough Rooms some fifteen years later following his return to England from the Grand Tour of Europe with his tutor Dr. Thomas Crofts. He employed Sir William Chambers to carry out this work in 1770 and 1771 and Chambers completed his commission at Milton by designing a temple which was given to the 4th Earl as a wedding present from his father-in-law Lord Bessborough. The temple stood on Temple Hill (close to the present Ferry Lodge site) until it became unsafe at the end of the 19th century and was taken down. A simplified version using the original pillars, bases and pediments saved carefully by the 10th Earl was rebuilt in 1986 in the woods at the West End of Milton Hall to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of Milton (Peterborough) Estates Company.

The final phase of building work took place around 1800 when the 4th Earl instructed John Carr of York to convert a courtyard on the South side of the house into two libraries. As before with Henry Flitcroft, Carr had carried out major work at Wentworth, which is probably why he was chosen for the Milton scheme.

During the 19th century the Earls Fitzwilliam centered their lives at Wentworth and on the death of Charles 5th Earl in 1857 the lands were split. As a result of this division, the Yorkshire estates passed to the eldest son William (6th Earl) while Milton was inherited by his younger brother The Hon George Fitzwilliam who, followed by his son, George Charles Wentworth Fitzwilliam, continued to live in a more modest style. It is for this reason in all likelihood that Milton was never the subject of Victorian alterations and extensions.

The park at Milton was laid out in the early 1790s following a scheme designed by Humphrey Repton who had already landscaped the park at Wentworth. At both places he wrote and illustrated his suggestions in a leather bound ‘Red Book’ with colour washed overlays to explain his ideas and proposals. The Milton book is dated 1791. In order to improve the appearance of the park he even moved the line of the main road – a task from which lesser men today might shrink.
The Twentieth Century

The turn of the 20th century saw the end of Queen Victoria’s long reign in 1901. Generally for English country estates this was a fairly settled time for those who had survived the agricultural recession of the late nineteenth century. The upheaval, turmoil and tragedy of the Great War was still some years away after which English estate life would never be quite the same again. For places such as Milton, the Edwardian era leading up to 1914 has been romantically described as ‘a long summer day’. At Milton, George Fitzwilliam had taken up residence with his wife Evelyn and their children. George took a close personal interest in the running of the estate - the stables and kennels in particular. He supervised the ordering of fodder for the horses and the management in these areas. His knowledge of estate affairs was such that later in his life in the early 1930s when his Agent, Mr H Wilmot, was taken ill and unable to continue in office, George was able to run the estate himself for the best part of the year until a replacement agent in the form of Mr E W Mackie could be found.

For a time towards the end of the First World War, George and Evelyn moved out of Milton Hall as a wartime economy measure. They moved into Longthorpe House which later became the Agent’s residence. Mr & Mrs Fitzwilliam made a significant personal contribution to the war effort by turning Milton Hall into a convalescent home for British Army Officers. Rooms such as the Pillared Hall, Smoking Room, Long Gallery and the Peterborough Rooms were all filled with rows of iron beds while the old masters remained in place on the walls.

The hospital was run privately at George’s expense and Mrs Rosie Reynolds, for many years housekeeper at Milton and whose father was coachman and later chauffeur to Mr George, can remember as a girl of four years old sitting on the hospital beds and talking to the soldiers.

It was at this time in 1917 that the late Daphne du Maurier made the first of several visits to Milton at the age of ten along with her mother and two sisters. It is quite clear from correspondence in later life between Miss du Maurier and the 10th Earl that the happiness and freedom experienced during these childhood visits made an enormous impact on the future writer which she never forgot. She told Lord Fitzwilliam that when she wrote Rebecca some twenty years later, the interior of Manderley was based on her recollection of the rooms and ‘big house feel’ of Milton in World War One.
Following the cessation of hostilities in 1918, the Fitzwilliams moved back into Milton but Evelyn died all too soon afterwards on Lady Day 1925 at the early age of 58. The fact that she was greatly mourned by her devoted husband is clear from the charming plaque which was placed in her memory behind the family pew in Marholm church. George continued on alone until his death in 1935 by which time the estate was in the depths of the severe agricultural depression which prevailed throughout the 1930s until the Second World War. Significant areas of land on the estate either lay idle or were let rent free for a couple of years rising to half a crown an acre if a tenant could establish a livelihood. The more fortunate farmers did survive in business and many of our tenanted farms are now still occupied by their sons and grandsons. The Jarvis, Morton, Darby, Longfoot, Harris and Garford families all began their Milton tenancies during these inter-war years.

Captain Tom Fitzwilliam (later 10th Earl) succeeded his father as master of Milton in 1935 and in order to preserve the estate holdings and to mitigate the effect of future death duties, much of the land and buildings was put into the ownership of a company and so in 1934 Milton (Peterborough) Estates Company was born.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the house and park were requisitioned in various stages by the Ministry of Works. Part of the house and the stable block were occupied by the Czech army and later Special Operations Executive who trained in the grounds and woods prior to being dropped by parachute behind enemy lines in France in the days leading up to the Normandy landings. An indoor pistol shooting range was built in the kitchen garden and recently when the stable clock tower was repaired we were amazed to note the number of bullet holes in the gold leaf ball at the base of the weather cock. Nissen huts were erected on the North front of Milton Hall and in dry times when the grass dies off, their concrete foundations still show through as a reminder of darker days. In one of the woods a large concrete arrow was set out in a clearing probably as a marker indicating the line of approach to Westwood aerodrome.

During the war, Captain Tom Fitzwilliam retained bachelor living accommodation at the Western end of Milton Hall for use when not on active service but he did not resume occupation of the main part of the house until his marriage to Joyce Fitzalan in 1956. At that time and in the meanwhile having inherited the title of 10th Earl, Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam supervised a major refurbishment of the house prior to moving back. Such was the quality of the work carried out that many of the rooms have not been redecorated or altered since then after nearly fifty years of use. Lord Fitzwilliam, a great countryman and supporter of many rural activities and societies, died in 1979 but his wife continued as chatelaine of Milton until her death in 1995 at the age of 97. She was succeeded by her daughter The Hon Lady Hastings who in turn was succeeded by her son Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland in 1997 following her untimely death due to cancer. Sir Philip and his wife Lady Isabella (nee Lambton) whom he married in 1980 continue to live in the hall today with their six children.

The Coming of the New Town

In the early 1960s, the concept of new towns was put back on the national political agenda by three forces; a surge of growth in the population, congestion and bad housing in the great cities and the idea that new towns could be ‘growing points’ for regions in economic decline.

Peterborough was earmarked as a town suitable for major expansion to alleviate the ever growing need for housing in the South East.

The gestation period of the new town of Peterborough was nearly ten years and fierce argument ensued throughout this time over the position of precise boundaries and how far the development should proceed to the West and North West of the town.

This is not the place to explain the complexities of the evolution and creation of Peterborough New Town, but suffice it to say that it is due in no small part to members of the Fitzwilliam family and their advisors that in 2004 Milton Hall remains a house in private
occupation and Marholm and Castor are still rural villages. It is quite clear that the original designers of the new town envisaged that Milton would become a Town Hall surrounded by a municipal park and Marholm and Castor would form an integral part of the new township much in the same way as Werrington and the Ortons do today.

In the end it was the creation of Bretton that had the greatest effect on Milton and in 1969 some 2,000 acres of estate land were acquired under threat of compulsory powers by Peterborough Development Corporation to provide the land on which to build the new township of Bretton.

Throughout the decade the issue of the new town must have been like a great ghost lurking in the background for those concerned with the control of the estate but it is remembered by those who lived here as a happy period administered by a benign triumvirate comprising Lord Fitzwilliam, his agent Samuel Egar and Major H M Peacock, a close friend of Lord Fitzwilliam who lived at the Ferry House, ran the shoot and was a highly respected authority on shooting and the breeding and training of gun dogs. Sam Egar had been assistant agent at Milton before the war and returned as Chief Agent to the Fitzwilliam Estates in 1960. Throughout the decade and before development opportunities arose following the creation of the new town, cash for estate buildings and improvements was in short supply. However this triumvirate of leaders is remembered with great respect and affection by all those who knew them.

**Milton Today**

Today Milton Hall stands proudly as the flagship of one of the great country estates of England. The park, some 500 acres in size comprising old pasture and oak trees originally laid out by Humphrey Repton is grazed by a flock of 1500 commercial breeding sheep – mainly North Country mules. In addition a small flock of pedigree Jacob ewes has existed at Milton for well over one hundred years. Every year nearly 3,000 lambs are reared and fattened off the grass for meat production.

A small suckler herd of twelve old English Longhorn cows are also usually to be found roaming the North park. The best heifer calves are retained for herd replacements and the remainder are either fattened or sold on to be finished elsewhere. The herd was started in 1980 with the purchase of 2 heifers from Leicestershire. At the time of their introduction to Milton, Longhorn cattle were a rare breed due to diminished numbers nationally. However with increased public awareness over food production, it is good to note that the qualities of the English Longhorn have once again been recognised and these cattle are now off the rare breed list.

The park is the only land on the estate today farmed in hand as a home farm and it is run by one extremely efficient shepherd, Les Hall with the help of his family and other part-time help as necessary at busy times of the year. The remainder of the farmland on the estate, the great part of which is arable, is let on agricultural tenancies to some fifty tenant farmers many of whom are now second or third generation occupiers of their holdings.

The woodlands on the estate were laid out primarily for shooting and hunting at various stages over the last two hundred years. In the main they are hard wood with oak and ash predominating and they are actively managed by a team of five foresters from the saw yard at Marholm. Our current Head Forester, Garry Atkinson, came down from Wentworth two years ago to succeed his namesake Michael Atkinson who retired after twenty-seven years in charge of the department at Milton. It says much for the team that this year all five of his staff, Mick Westlake, Mike Beeson, Peter Bone, Bob Latto and Kevin Conkey received long service awards with a combined estate service to date of 140 years.

The estate employs a total of thirty-nine full-time and eight part-time staff and sixteen retired staff continue to live in cottages in different areas of the estate. Heads of department all liaise closely with the chief agent and those in the estate office who consolidate and supervise the overall running of the estate with Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland.

The chief agent at Milton oversees the control of all the Fitzwilliam estates in Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire and more recently the Naylor-Leyland properties in North Wales. Samuel Egar held this position from 1960 to 1972 having succeeded Hubert Elliot who was Agent at Milton from 1938 to 1960. Later Mr Egar was succeeded by Michael Thompson who was Agent for twenty-three years until he retired in 1997.

His time in office saw major changes and expansion to the estate with the acquisition of farming land at Little Gidding, Sawtry, Upton, Sutton Heath and Ufford. Development was not limited to the agricultural part of the estate and in the newly enlarged City of Peterborough, where the Fitzwilliam family had traditionally held property, their commercial
interests were expanded and modernised too. Over the years the estate benefited enormously from his sound business acumen and also from his longstanding knowledge and experience of agriculture and the countryside.

As any landed estate comprises three elements of buildings, land and people, almost by definition it is a living organism and as such does not stand still for long. In order for an estate to consolidate and grow it requires not only efficient management but the vision and foresight of those at the helm to make the necessary decisions for the future brought about by ever changing government policy. All four agents mentioned above have been masters of their profession. Samuel Egar was President of...
Midland Counties Agricultural Valuers Association the year he died in 1973 and Michael Thompson was President of the Land Agency and Agricultural Division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1985 and Chairman of the Cambridgeshire branch of Country Landowners Association from 1994 to 1996. The present Chief Agent, Robert Dalgliesh continues in this tradition and he too will be President of Midland Counties Agricultural Valuers Association for a term of one year beginning later in 2004.

Sadly Michael Thompson’s retirement coincided exactly with the premature death of Sir Philip’s mother, the Hon Lady Hastings. Therefore 1997 became a particularly important milestone in the evolution of the estate with the appointment of a new Chief Agent and even more importantly a change of generation in the ownership of Milton. Milton Hall, which for eighty years had only been occupied by husband and wife, now began to echo again to the sounds of a large young boisterous family.

Prior to Sir Philip and Lady Isabella taking up residence in 1999, part of the house was given a ‘fifty year refit’ which involved restoring rooms back into use at the far end of the house which had been empty since the First World War. This project, closely supervised by Sir Philip and his wife with a keen aesthetic eye and focused attention to authentic detail has resulted in a glorious transformation of those corners of the house that had been laid low but now lend themselves ideally to everyday family occupation.

Milton has entered the 21st century on a sound note. Despite what could have happened, it is not the Town Hall for Peterborough and the North Park does not form the basis of a municipal pleasure ground. Sir Philip having trained in Estate Management at the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester and having studied business management in New York, not only lives in Milton Hall with his family but takes a close personal and informed command of his estates supported by a staff nearly a third of which have served twenty years or more to date.

In order to mark the occasion of five hundred years of the family’s ownership, a party was held last summer at Milton for staff, farm tenants and their families from Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire and Wales. By chance the anniversary coincided with Sir Philip’s 50th birthday and Mr Tom Naylor-Leyland’s 21st birthday. A splendid luncheon was served to some three hundred and fifty guests in a marquee on the North front and the day was much enjoyed by all present.

The estate has now entered its second quincentenary of ownership by the same family and there is much to be thankful for that we do so on such a positive note.
Fox Hunting At Milton

Early days of British Foxhunting
It is an accepted statement in sporting circles that modern fox hunting began in the mid eighteenth century and from this time hunting the fox as opposed to the stag became a favourite sport of English country gentlemen. The early masters did not keep kennel books recording the pedigree of their hound breeding but by 1728 formal records were being kept by the Duke of Beaufort at Badminton in Gloucestershire. At Brocklesby in North Lincolnshire the kennel book goes back to 1746.

It is said that scientific hound breeding and hound management in the way we know it today goes back to Hugo Meynell who succeeded Thomas Boothby as the legendary master of the Quorn in about 1753.

The first recorded foxhound show was held at the Cleveland Society’s Show at Redcar in 1859. Following a brief connection with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society it was moved to Peterborough in 1877 under the direction of Mr. Barford. It is now known as the Royal Peterborough Foxhound Society and the Fitzwilliam hounds were among the first big winners at these early hound shows in the days of Tom Sebright, George Carter and later in the days of Mr George Fitzwilliam and Will Barnard.

The tradition of fox hunting at Milton goes back to these formative years of the sport as the Fitzwilliam is one of the four great ancestral packs of England owned and maintained by the Fitzwilliam family ever since it was established by the 4th Earl in the 1760’s.

The 4th Earl, founder of the pack, died in 1833 at the age of 85 and he was succeeded by his son the 5th Earl who died in 1857. At this point an important change took place as the Milton Estate and with it ownership of the hounds passed to the Earl’s younger son The Hon George Wentworth Fitzwilliam. His elder brother who became the sixth Earl established a second pack in 1860 known as the Fitzwilliam (Wentworth) to hunt the Yorkshire country which hitherto had only been cub hunted by the Milton hounds which went to Yorkshire for several weeks in the Autumn each season.

The Golden Age
The Hon George Fitzwilliam was one of the finest huntmen of his day and he continued in the Milton mastership until his premature death, the result of a bad fall at Moonshine Gap in 1874. The seventeen seasons during which he was master represent one of the high water marks in the history of the Fitzwilliam hunt. The partnership of The Hon George Fitzwilliam and his huntsman George Carter was said to be second to none. George was not only a horseman but a hound man as well and so devoted to his master was the huntsman Carter that when The Hon. George was dangerously ill following his fateful fall at Moonshine Gap, Carter was scarcely able to blow his horn! His son George Charles Wentworth Fitzwilliam who inherited the estate and the hounds was only 13 years old when his father died.

During the next few years the mastership was held successively by Mr Charles Fitzwilliam, The Marquess of Huntley, The Hon Thomas Fitzwilliam (at the time agent for the estate), Colonel Henry Wickham and Mr. Joshua Fielden. Finally in 1895 young Mr. George, having resigned his commission in the Household Cavalry, came to live permanently at Milton and thus began his great mastership which was to last for the next 40 years.

Meanwhile, the 7th Earl Fitzwilliam continued in his capacity as joint master until his death in 1943. He used to travel down from Wentworth and stayed either at Milton or at the Haycock Inn at Wansford which he had purchased for the purpose. The horses were all stabled at Milton with separate grooms for Lord Fitzwilliam’s horses and those belonging to Mr George. On one side of the yard, Lord Fitzwilliam’s staff wore a yellow uniform with yellow barrows and buckets, while Mr. George’s on the other side of the yard wore green uniforms and pushed green barrows!

William Fitzwilliam (7th Earl) was one of the greatest figures in foxhunting history. He not only took over control of the Wentworth hounds but was inclined to take the bitch pack over to Coollattin, the estate in Ireland until in 1904 he established a new pack in that country. Several seasons later on the resignation of Lord Galway, he assumed command of the Grove country in Nottinghamshire which in those days was known as the Fitzwilliam Grove and so was in command of no less than four separate packs of hounds at the same time - three of them owned by himself and the Milton owned by his cousin Mr. George Fitzwilliam. There is no parallel for this in the whole of foxhunting history.

The Fitzwilliam (Milton) country was described in the early years of the twentieth century as follows: ‘The famous Fitzwilliam country is naturally divided by the River Nene which meanders through the valleys of Stanwick, Thrapston..."
and Oundle until it is lost to this country in the Fens of Peterborough which are agriculturally rich yet far too boggy for hunting. North of the River Nene is a fine woodland country in which young hounds revel in the early autumn and all hounds in the Spring; and South of the River Nene for nearly twenty miles right up to the Bedfordshire Ouse is one of the finest hunting countries in England. There are many natural woods, one of the largest near Huntingdon being Monks Wood which was the property of that fine sportsman the late Lord Chesham; and near that Southern end of the country there is much woodland about Abbotts Ripon and some attractive smaller woods between Monks Wood and one of the finest fox covers in England – Aversley Wood. Young sportsmen on long tailed blood horses may dream of quick bursts from gorse covers and very few have revelled in them more than myself; yet it is almost impossible to have a good pack of hounds, and consequent good sport without plenty of woodland. Then about fifteen miles from Huntingdon there is near Oundle the famous Barnwell Wold a big mother cover which always held plenty of foxes; and closer to Oundle, Ashton Wold; and also about Elton there are many good woods’.

This description of the Fitzwilliam country written by a well travelled fox hunter in 1908 is very typical of the period when the present day problems of motorways, urbanisation and electrified railways were yet to become thorns in the flesh of a master of foxhounds. Even when the late Tom Fitzwilliam (later 10th Earl) joined the mastership in the 1930s. Much of the land around Great Gidding was rough or even derelict due to the agricultural depression at the time. With the benefit of modern agricultural machinery and field drainage it is now considered the most productive arable land on the estate but in those days it was primarily a haven for foxes.

Indeed up until 1939 before the days of motorised hound transport, subsidiary kennels existed at Laurels Farm, Great Gidding where hounds were kept for three or four weeks cub hunting each Autumn. Another sight long gone is that of travelling to the meet by train. When hounds were due to meet in a far corner of the Country towards Higham Ferrers, the hunt horses, hounds and some mounted followers would hack down to Peterborough Station where a specially booked ‘hunt special’ would take them to Raunds where they would unbox and hack on to the meet. The whole procedure was then put into reverse at the end of the day.
Post War Hunting

Since the Second World War, the Fitzwilliam (Milton) hounds have continued to thrive. The continuity of family masters has been maintained by the late Earl Fitzwilliam, Sir Stephen and The Hon Lady Hastings and Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland ably supported over the years by joint masters such as the late Lord de Ramsey, Mr Michael Berry, Lord Kimball, Major Charles Deane, Major JA Warre, MC, Mrs Bridget Raby, Mr Rex Sly, Mr James Barclay, Mrs. Patricia Anderson and The Hon George Bowyer.

Hounds continue to meet most mornings in the Autumn hunting season and twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays from beginning of November until mid-March. George Adams continues in a long line of experienced professional huntsmen of this famous old pack of foxhounds and he is now in his twentieth season as huntsman.

Leaving aside the political issues with regard to field sports generally, the greatest difficulty that faces the hunt is that of reduced country due to the main London to Edinburgh East Coast railway, major roads such as the A1 and A14 and the rapid expansion of all the surrounding towns in recent years. The combined effect of all this has been to reduce the Fitzwilliam hounds to meeting twice a week during the main season as opposed to four days as was the case before the Second War.

William Craven

William Craven is a Chartered Surveyor and has been assistant agent at Milton since 1990. He is organist at Castor and Marholm and churchwarden at Marholm.
Fig 22q. Map of Milton Hall and Park drawn in 1643, before the addition of the Stable Range built in 1690.

Fig 22r. Fire at the Kennels Milton 1920s.

Fig 22s. Sir Stephen Hastings on 'Charlie' at the Fitzwilliam Point-to-point. This combination of horse and jockey were to go on to be three-times winner of the gruelling 4 and-a-half mile Harborough Cross Country Race.