



Cheltenham Local History Society

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ROBEY & CO. LITHOGRAPHERS, SHEFF.
CHELTENHAM

Drawn, Printed & Published by O. Rowe, Artist & Lithographer, Cheltenham.

EDITORIAL

Here is a familiar landmark (drawn by our old friend George Rowe), shown as it was about 160 years ago when it was still quite new. The long room and colonnade were built in 1817, while Papworth's copper-sheathed Rotunda was not added until 1826. Inside were mural paintings of hunting and country scenes, and the waters were pumped up daily from 6.00 am. For many years it played a big part in Cheltenham's social and cultural life: in 1848 Jenny Lind sang here; in 1891 Holst's Scherzo and Intermezzo were first performed here; in World War I the Rotunda was a Soldiers' Welcome, a place for troops quartered in the town to meet and relax. Quite a colourful history! Its present use is more mundane, but outwardly it looks little changed.

Kath Boothman

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LECTURE PROGRAMME DECEMBER 2016-MAY 2017

Meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Promenade
Visitors pay £2.

Tuesday 13th December:

Steven Blake—Pittville after Pitt

On February 9th 1842 Joseph Pitt, the developer of the Pittville Estate, died at the age of 83, with debts of at least £154,000. This talk will look at what happened next: the administration of Pitt's Estate by the Court of Chancery, the sale of the remaining building land at Pittville in 1843-5, the building of 62 new houses within the Estate between 1843 and 1890, and the Estate's management by the local surveyors, Engall, Sanders & Co between 1842 and 1890, in which year the Pump Room and Gardens were sold to Cheltenham Corporation.

Tuesday 24th January 2017:

Research and Display Evening

Our annual social evening gives members an opportunity to meet informally and to show the results of their researches. As usual refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. Sally Self would like to hear as soon as possible from any member who is willing to provide a display, large or small, of their research findings and/or source materials. Please contact Sally on 01242 243714 or e-mail journal.clhs@btinternet.com Visitors will be very welcome.

Tuesday 21st February 2017:

Adrian Barlow—Stained Glass in Cheltenham

Cheltenham boasts a rich and remarkable collection of 19th and 20th (and now 21st) century stained glass, which deserves to be more widely known and better appreciated. It is rich because it includes important windows by Burne-Jones, by Arts and Crafts artists such as Henry Payne, by the Scottish stained glass artist, James Eadie Reid, and by international artists such as Lawrence Lee and Joseph Nuttgens. All the major Victorian firms are also represented, and their glass repays close scrutiny. The collection is remarkable, first because by no means all the most interesting windows are to be found only in churches; secondly, because one of the artists taught at the Ladies' College before the First World War; and thirdly, because Cheltenham was also the place where the now internationally acclaimed Tom Denny made his mark with the stunning sequence of windows in the church of St Christopher, Warden Hill. This illustrated lecture aims to whet the appetite for further exploration.

Tuesday 21st March 2017:

Alec Hamilton—Coates Carter: a Late Flourishing of the Arts & Crafts

In 1908 John Coates Carter, Wales's most distinguished Arts & Crafts architect, retired to Prestbury. He was 49. For the next 19 years he immersed himself in Cheltenham life. He served as churchwarden at St Mary's, Prestbury, where his memorial is to be found. He designed its rood beam, chapel screen and pulpit, the powerful war memorial crucifix outside All Saints, furnishings for St Mary's, Charlton Kings and for churches in Gloucester and Slimbridge; and he remodelled The Manor House, his last home, in Prestbury. In Wales he had established himself as an original, adventurous and bold designer. But his most glorious buildings came after retirement, in an Indian summer of dramatic work in Newport, Abercarn and, most evocative of all, the tiny church of Llandeloy. In this lavishly illustrated talk, Alec Hamilton discusses a great Welsh genius coming to a sort of peace in the tranquil Vale of Severn.

Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 10.00 am for 10.30 am:

(Note venue: St Luke's Hall, St Luke's Place)

John Chandler—Cheltenham's History in Black and White

Cheltonians of a certain age will recall the 2.00 pm phenomenon, when the town centre was gridlocked by coaches of every imaginable hue, but especially by the monochrome vehicles of the eponymous Black & White Motorways. This company, and the consortium of coach operators called Associated Motorways of which it was part, created in Cheltenham a hub for express coaches second only to London's Victoria Coach Station. This talk will ask why it happened and why it came to an end, and assess its importance for the local and national economy.

Tuesday 25th April 2017:

Jan Broadway—Georgian Nurseries in Gloucestershire

The eighteenth century saw the development of a number of retail plant nurseries in Bristol and in towns and villages across Gloucestershire. This talk will explore who became nurserymen, what they grew and what we can tell about their nurseries. It will also look at how they marketed their plants and who their customers were. Finally it will consider the factors that led to the success and longevity of some nurseries, while others failed in more or less spectacular ways.

Tuesday 23rd May 2017:

AGM followed by John Dixon—Beguiling Barbara Cartland: 'Stranger in our Midst'

Do not be deterred by a mental image of an eccentric woman who wrote books about old fashioned virtues! Barbara Cartland's books were much less fascinating than her own life. She was born into a well-known family, the Scobells, who lived at Walton House, Ashchurch near



Tewkesbury, from 1911-1937. Her parents' wealth derived from the Cartland brass manufacturing company of Birmingham, and she might never have become a writer if her parents had not been thrust into (genteel) poverty after the suicide of her Cartland grandfather Colonel Scobell, followed by the tragic death of her father in World War I. Married twice, Barbara's own private life was something at variance with the image of romantic life portrayed in her books, and speculation about the parentage of her daughter leads us into intriguing Royal circles. Her second marriage however was long and happy. After World War II she moved into public affairs, pursuing some ideas which in the long term were not as eccentric as they were portrayed. At long last ennobled and after a long widowhood, Dame Barbara died in 2000.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Leckhampton Local History Society

www.llhs.org.uk

Note new venue: Meetings are normally held at Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton (next to the churchyard), at 7.30 pm. Admission £2 for visitors.

Wednesday 18th January 2017:

Dr Steven Blake—Who was John the Muffin Man? and Researching ‘The Old Man’: the Story of Cheltenham Sweeps

Wednesday 15th March 2017:

Dr Ray Wilson—The Mills of the River Chelt

Prestbury Local History Society

www.prestburyhistory.com

Meetings are held at Prestbury Women's Institute Hall (corner of Bouncers Lane/Prestbury Road), starting at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Guests pay £2.

Monday 28th November:

John Simpson and Steven Blake—Pittville

Charlton Kings Local History Society

www.charltonkings.org.uk

All meetings are held at the Baptist Church, Church Street, starting at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 22nd November:

Heather Atkinson—Cheltenham Workhouse

Tuesday 24th January 2017:

Adrian Barlow—Stained Glass in Gloucestershire

Gotherington and Area Local History Society

Meetings are held in Gotherington Village Hall, starting at 8.00 pm. Visitors are welcome, £2 per meeting.

Tuesday 22nd November:

Ian Hollingsbee—Inside the Wire: the Prisoner of War Camps in Gloucestershire, 1939-1948

Wednesday 14th December:

Mike Bottomley—Katharine Parr, Gloucestershire's Queen: the Life, Love and Times of the Last Wife of Henry VIII.

Tuesday 24th January 2017:

Jonathan Mackenzie-Jarvis—The Life and Times of Gloucestershire's Chimes

Tuesday 28th February 2017:

Tim Porter—The Origins of the Three Choirs Festival

Tuesday 28th March 2017:

Ray Wilson—The Mills of the River Chelt

Historical Association

Meetings normally begin at 7.30 pm and visitors pay £3. Cheltenham meetings take place in the Teaching Block, University of Gloucestershire Park Campus, and Gloucester meetings at the Oxstalls Campus.

Monday 12th December in Gloucester:

Dr Andrew Gant, Oxford University—Tallis, Taverner and Tambourines: Church Music and its place in English History and Culture

Monday 16th January 2017 in Cheltenham:

Dr Steve Poole, University of the West of England—England's Last Scene-of-Crime Execution

Monday 20th February 2017 in Cheltenham:

Dr Arfon Rees, Birmingham University—Writers and Terrorists: the Russian Literary Debate, 1870-1914

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

www.bgas.org.uk

Meetings are held in St John's Church Hall, Churchdown, GL3 2DB and start at 8.00 pm. Visitors pay £1.

Wednesday 18th January 2017:

Dr John Chandler—Victorian Values: the VCH, Past and Future

Wednesday 15th February 2017:

Ian Barnes, Cotswold Archaeology—Roman Rural Activity in Mickleton

Wednesday 15th March 2017:

John Loosley—The Poor Law in Gloucestershire before 1834

REVIEWS

Summer events and visits July–October 2016

Victorian Cheltenham walk, Monday 20th June

This summer evening walk began outside The Tivoli in Andover Road. Adrian Barlow, who led it, said he would take us mostly around Lansdown, focussing on the changes from Regency into Victorian architecture. The Lansdown estate had been built on land belonging to Henry Thompson, whose son Pearson had brought in the Jearrad brothers as architects. In Lypiatt Road we saw an ornate lamppost bearing the Cheltenham coat of arms and the familiar pigeon which, like other lampposts in the town centre, had been adapted from a support for tramway wires. Opposite was the Victory Club, a late classical building with Doric pillars in its portico. Lypiatt Terrace itself, with its round-topped windows, fancy chimney pots and balconies with stone balustrades, was Italianate. Here the servants would have lived in the roof, as shown by the dormer windows. The Italian influence was strong in the 1830s and many houses were named ‘villa’. We returned via Lypiatt Drive to Andover Road, where Adrian pointed out houses with cast iron balconies and a nearby Penfold pillar box, reminding us that



the postal system was largely devised by the novelist Anthony Trollope. He noted the Corinthian pillars on the Lansdown Hotel (built in 1848), an unusual feature here in Cheltenham. Lansdown Crescent, ashlar-faced with Doric columns and a shallow-pitched roof, contrasted with the quoins and pilasters on a later house opposite and with the almost ‘illiterate’ Ewlyn Terrace where there were Doric porticos at first-floor level and square pillars below. Aban Court on the other side of Malvern Road, now split

into two houses, had a bell on a central pillar and other features that suggested it might have been a school or perhaps a small convent. Christ Church, like Ewlyn Terrace built by the Jearrads, had a strange tower with false gables but was interesting on the inside. Passing down Lansdown Parade, where Adrian commented that the porticos were too large for two-storey houses, we returned to The Tivoli at the end of a very enjoyable and stimulating walk.

Cirencester walk, Wednesday 13th July

Thirty-two members and friends gathered in the porch of the parish church of St. John the Baptist. We started our tour by the war memorial, which was erected by private subscription in February 1918 to commemorate the dead of the war that still had another nine months to run. Close by on the wall of the church porch are

their names, 263 from the First World War and 64 from the Second World War. The first floor of the porch was for many years used as Cirencester's Town Hall. This has recently been restored using local craftsmen.

From the war memorial we were able to view the market place. Cirencester's market was mentioned in Domesday Book. The facades of the buildings on the same side as the church date back to the mid-18th century, hiding their medieval structure. Much infilling of the Market Place took place, but most of this was removed c1830. Time did not allow us to investigate the parish church of St John the Baptist, the largest in England. It was probably begun in the 12th century and the tower added around 1400. Instead, after pausing in its churchyard to view the East end of the chancel and the three parallel chapels, we walked through to West Market Place to see the medieval high cross which once stood at the head of the market place. Crossing the road we went up Black Jack Street: some suggest that the name refers to the St. John the Baptist statue on the church tower that had become blackened by the heat from the metal working industry in the area. At the end of Black Jack Street we entered the appropriately named Park Street, which is dominated by a magnificent



yew hedge, reputed to be the tallest in the world. Walking along past the wall surrounding the home of Earl Bathurst we crossed into Cecily Hill, until the 19th century the main route to Bisley and Stroud but now just a cul-de-sac leading to Cirencester Park. There is a mixture of buildings including some Bathurst estate houses. Further up the hill stands what is locally known as 'The Castle', built as a military barracks in 1857.

Returning down Cecily Hill opposite we saw a substantial wool warehouse reflecting the importance of the trade in former times. A house further down on the corner of Thomas Street and Coxwell may have belonged to the owner, John Coxwell, in the 17th century. Another clothier's house, Old Court, has rich moulding reflecting the standing of the occupier. Beside the Baptist Church stands the Royalist John Plot's house, which in 1643 was ransacked by Prince Rupert's men despite Plot's Royalist sympathies. They took £1,200, the equivalent of £184,000 today.

The walk officially ended at a house in Dollar Street that was willed to John Coxwell in 1587, but a few of us went into the Abbey Grounds to view the site of the Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary. The 900th anniversary of its foundation will be celebrated next year.

Sue Brown

Autumn lectures September - October 2016

At our first meeting on 20th September Sue Brown took the chair. The lecture season began with a talk by **James Rendell** on the subject of **H H Martyn**. James said that Herbert Henry Martyn was born in Worcester about 1843, the youngest of 13 children, of whom only eight survived to adulthood. He was premature and a source of much anxiety to his mother Rebecca who, because her husband George was a drunkard and a wastrel, had to work hard to support the family. When Herbert was five she sent him to school, where he was bullied. He was highly intelligent, however, and at the age of eight he was actually paid seven shillings a quarter to teach the other children. He was also good at drawing, and when he was 12 his mother showed one of his pictures to her employer, who was so impressed that she paid for the boy to go to art college. By the time he was 15 Herbert's father had died and his mother had gone to live with her sister, so he took lodgings and did part-time work to pay the rent. Meanwhile at art college he learned wood-carving and proved very good at it. He left college to take a job with the carver James Forsyth, working at Eastnor Castle, but he was bullied by Forsyth's apprentices and left to work as a carver for Richard Boulton at Worcester cathedral instead. When Boulton moved to Cheltenham in 1865 Herbert and his wife Fanny came too. In 1874 he left Boulton's and went into partnership with Alfred Emms, a monumental mason, then in 1888 he founded his own company, H H Martyn & Co. A few years later he bought the old Vulcan Ironworks, which he renamed Sunningend. The company grew and diversified further and by 1900 was employing nearly 1000 people. Herbert started a college to train new workers, including his second son Alfred Willie, who was born in Cheltenham in 1870. James showed pictures of some of the highly skilled work done by the company, notably carvings by Herbert himself. It also made fine furniture, memorials and stained glass windows. Among commissions successfully executed were the Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons, the Lutyens memorial in London and much fine decorative wood, iron and plasterwork for liners such as the Lusitania and the Queen Mary. In 1898 Herbert took Alfred Willie into partnership and handed over most of the responsibility for running the company to him. Alfred began building aeroplane wings at Sunningend in World War I, employing women to sew linen fabric to the wood frames and apply dope to tighten it. More ventures into aircraft manufacture followed, starting with an undercarriage designed by George Dowty. 1917 saw the formation of the Gloster Aircraft Company, which was to produce such famous planes as the Gladiator and the Typhoon. Martyn's renowned skill in woodwork also brought commissions for thousands of lightweight glider cockpits in World War II, but by then Herbert had gone, dying at the ripe age of 94 in 1937. James said that much of this story had come to light through the present owners of Herbert's former Cheltenham home, who had found a box in the basement containing Herbert's diaries. The audience clearly found it all very interesting and asked several questions at the end.

Our speaker at St Luke's on October 4th was **Angela Panrucker**, who gave a richly illustrated talk on **Sudeley Castle**. She explained that her photos included images of flower arrangements, taken in 1983 when she was official photographer for a flower festival held at the castle. Founded in the 8th century as a wooden hunting lodge for the Anglo-Saxon kings of Mercia, Sudeley had 1200 years of history. It was held by Ethelred the Unready and Edward the Confessor, whose nephew Ralph was the first to style himself 'de Sudeley'. Richard I had held a banquet there to celebrate his return from the crusades. In the 12th century, when Winchcombe was gaining prosperity from the growing wool trade, Sudeley was rebuilt in stone. The town already benefited from pilgrims visiting the shrine of St Kenelm at the abbey by St Peter's church: Angela showed a picture of the stone bath in the courtyard of the former



George Hotel, used by pilgrims who lodged there. The last of the de Sudeleys died in the 100 Years War, and about 1350 the property passed to Ralph Boteler, treasurer to Henry VI, who turned it into a castle and added a church. Boteler also built the now ruined tithe barn, north hall and banqueting hall and paid for the rebuilding of Winchcombe church, which has an unusual set of gargoyles known as the 'Winchcombe Worthies', caricatures of former abbots.

When Boteler had his property confiscated as a punishment for supporting the wrong side in the Wars of the Roses, Sudeley passed to the crown, held first by Edward IV, then by Richard III and after his death by the Tudors. Katherine Parr arrived in 1547 as the wife of Thomas Seymour, first Baron Sudeley. At that time Sudeley Castle was well-known for its rich and cultured court. The old abbey, dissolved by Henry VIII, was a convenient source of building stone for the townspeople, and Thomas too used some of it to build new apartments for Katherine. Sadly, she died in childbirth in 1548 and the fate of her child, Mary, remains a mystery. Angela showed photos of topiary shapes in the gardens representing Katherine and her lady in waiting Lady Jane Grey, niece of Thomas Seymour. Thomas was executed in 1549 and Elizabeth I gave Sudeley to Lord Chandos, whose descendants held it for 100 years. The sixth and last supported Charles I in the Civil War, when the castle was the headquarters of Prince Rupert. After being besieged twice it fell in 1644 and was razed by Parliament. Abandoned, for a time it was a picturesque ruin visited by tourists, including George III who, it is said, fell down the stairs in the octagon tower. In 1847 it was bought and turned into a family house by the Dent brothers, wealthy glove manufacturers. Their cousin John and his wife (later widow) Emma did much work on the church with its fine tomb of Katherine Parr and on the extensive and beautiful gardens, of which Angela showed many pictures. Today their descendants the Dent-Brocklehursts own Sudeley Castle and open it to the public. Many members have been there, but we all felt we had learned a lot from Angela's lively and entertaining talk.

On 25th October **Dr Jane Adams** gave us a talk entitled **Healing with Water: Cheltenham Spa in a National Context**. She began by showing a cartoon and a poem satirising life at Bath as it was typically seen in the 18th century: idle, frivolous and mildly disreputable, a place people went to for its social life at least as much as for medical treatment. The 19th and 20th centuries brought profound changes, however. In 1842 there were estimated to be 70 spas in Britain, but attendance declined until in 1918 the British Spas Federation could count only seven members. By the 1840s railways had arrived and sea bathing had become popular, especially with the rising middle classes, and also many people had bathrooms in their homes for the first time. Jane quoted population figures for Bath, Cheltenham and Leamington showing that between 1801 and 1841 they all grew dramatically, but by 1901 Bath had shrunk slightly while the others continued to expand. This was partly explained by the new treatments available at many spas; besides being encouraged to drink, which had been the major part of the usual ‘cure’, patients were offered special therapies for their ailments using the spa waters. Malvern, Harrogate and Buxton all had elaborate bathing complexes. Even Cheltenham, where the waters were much less plentiful, had its Montpellier Baths. In the 1840s Dr Jepson of Leamington was famous for his individualised hydropathic treatments. Hydropathy, including the use of hot baths, became very popular: Jane showed pictures of a whole-day regime of different therapies, and of the spa building at Buxton (funded by the Duke of Devonshire) with its many individual cubicles. Such private, personalised treatment was very different from the old convivial approach to ‘taking the waters’. Many practitioners of hydropathy were not medically trained, but Samuel Hyde of Buxton (1849-1900) represented a new breed of qualified doctors who became interested in it and made a good living out of it. To strengthen their credentials the authorities at Buxton and Harrogate had the therapeutic value of their treatments investigated and endorsed by a committee, as was already done on the continent. By the late 19th century a great variety of spa treatments was on offer, ranging from peat and vapour to paraffin wax and massage, and advertisements abounded. The concept of a ‘spa cure’ survived well into the 20th century. There was (as there always had been) a ‘lifestyle’ element: exercise, pleasant surroundings and the local climate all contributed to the recovery of health. In Cheltenham in 1918 there was a Spa Medical Advisory Committee still working to promote the spa, and in 1925 Cheltenham was advertised as ‘the Carlsbad of England’. Other spa towns had more facilities, both medical and leisure-oriented, and several had special hospitals, which, having proved beneficial for the treatment of wounded soldiers in and after World War I, later became part of the NHS. Their decline was due partly to the resultant collapse of the private market for spa treatments and partly to the development of new drugs. Now the Buxton building, long converted to offices, is being redeveloped as a ‘spa’ hotel and leisure complex. The benefits to be derived from a spa, Jane concluded, are still recognised in modern life. In answer to a question she said Cheltenham had never had a specialised hospital mainly because its various wells had been developed by different individuals.

Cheltenham Local History Afternoon
‘Women of Cheltenham’
Saturday 13th August
 at St Andrew’s Church, Montpellier

For this, the seventh in our series of biennial local history afternoons, we returned to the usual venue at St Andrew’s church and once again invited many other local societies to join us, so that there were stalls and displays in all the rooms. The main display prepared by CLHS members, which focussed on a wide variety of Cheltenham women of the past, both celebrities and lesser-known individuals, attracted plenty of attention. There was a talk by Dr Rose Wallis and her student Lauren Perrett from the University of the West of England on the theme ‘Perspectives on Crime and Gender in 18th and 19th century Gloucestershire’.



Rose said the criminal justice system was an important source for understanding the lives of ordinary people. Between 1750 and 1850 the criminal code became more severe, with an increasing number of capital offences for property crimes, but there were always far fewer female offenders and women tended to be treated less harshly than men. It was recognised that thefts they committed were likely to be crimes of necessity. Lauren then spoke on the offence of Petty Treason, first defined in an act of 1351, which came to include coining, fraud and the murder of masters by servants and of husbands by wives. In cases of coining cases far

more men than women were convicted; sometimes a woman was considered to be under her husband’s influence and thus exonerated. Where women killed their husbands poison was the usual weapon, and until 1790 they could be burned rather than hanged for it. She quoted the famous case of Mary Reed, who in 1796 made her husband ill with arsenic, after which her brother killed him. Mary escaped conviction but was publicly condemned as a wicked wife. The killing of masters by servants was predominantly a male crime, and because it challenged the patriarchal order little mercy was shown. Rose then spoke on behalf of another student, Isobel Sayer, who had researched the effect of urbanisation on women’s crime in Cheltenham. A population of 8,000 in 1811 had grown to 33,000 by the 1830s and there was much poverty. Women, whether workers or servants, typically committed theft and were imprisoned rather than transported. In cases of assault, gaming or disorderly behaviour the usual punishment was a fine, while vagrants and prostitutes might be sent to a house of correction. Sentencing was still influenced by old ideas of how women ought to behave.

There were two guided walks, one by Neela Mann on the theme ‘Cheltenham in the Great War’ and one by David Elder, ‘Lady Writers of Cheltenham’.

Summer events and visits (continued)

Montpellier Fiesta, Saturday 2nd July



The annual fiesta in Montpellier Gardens is an increasingly popular event offering a growing range of entertainments, and as usual it drew substantial crowds, the weather fortunately remaining fine all day. Among the many charity stalls the Society's stall was well placed to attract a share of the 'passing trade', and we had quite a rewarding day. Books and publications sold made a total of £99.50, and two new joint

memberships were gained. The Society wishes to thank all those who helped on the day.

Visit to Ross-on-Wye and Kilpeck Church, Wednesday 10th August

The coach left from Royal Well at 9.30 am as usual, and an hour later we were driving up the steep narrow streets of Ross to park at the Royal Hotel with its commanding view over the town to the River Wye. After coffee Heather Hurley of the Civic Society told us something of Ross's history. The name, she said, means 'promontory'. There was evidence of a Roman settlement and an Iron Age hill fort, and the town had a church, a mill and a market by the 12th century. The Royal Hotel stood on the site of a bishop's palace dating from 1166. Heather herself and Mary Sinclair-Powell then led two groups on guided walks. We took a footpath down the hillside and along by the river, a peaceful place now and popular with canoeists, but once busy with trades such as boat-building, rope-making and flax-dressing. We then climbed the steep path where



goods delivered by barge were formerly carried up to the town, admiring the gardens on either side. A blue plaque on Merton House in Edde Cross Street commemorated a visit from Lord Nelson in 1802. Turning down New Street we

came to the mock-Gothic Lock-Up (now a private house) where prisoners en route to Hereford or Gloucester were held in the 1840s. Near the Market House, built around 1650, we saw the half-timbered house of John Kyrle, the 'Man of Ross' (1637-1724), a celebrated local benefactor. We next went via the High Street to the very narrow Old Gloucester Road. George IV, in a visit in 1821, was so annoyed at being delayed by traffic there that he said Ross should be cut out of the mail route if it did not improve its roads. A new Gloucester Road was then soon built, opening in 1825. Further on we came to Copse Cross Toll Gate at the

foot of Old Maid's Walk, which recalls the sad story of a 17th century girl who walked there every day after her lover killed himself. At the top of the road we reached the churchyard and Prospect Gardens, a level green area with wide views over the landscape, a gift to the town from John Kyrle. Passing the 13th century church of St Mary and the 16th century almshouses we then made our way back to the Royal Hotel.



After lunch in Ross we drove on to see the Norman church of St Mary and St David at Kilpeck, said to be unchanged since it was built in 1140. By far the most interesting part of it is the porch with its intricate and enigmatic carvings, which owe their very

remarkable state of preservation to the unusual hardness of the local red sandstone. The theme of the carvings, as former churchwarden James Bailey told us, was the battle between good and evil. There were only three Christian symbols (angels, the tree of life and an *agnus dei* which was in fact a horse) and many that were more mysterious: snakes, a wyvern, human figures in Phrygian caps. In the middle ages Kilpeck had been a large prosperous village, and Hugh de Kilpeck, its lord, had founded the church as a thank-offering on his return from a crusade. Two sculptors who worked here may have come from Spain, perhaps travelling back with him, which might help to explain the exotic symbolism. After exploring the inside of the church, where there were more carvings, we had tea at the Kilpeck Inn and boarded the coach to drive back to Cheltenham. It had been a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting day.

SOCIETY NEWS

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following:

David and Doug Symes
 Alex and Helen March
 Roger and Carys Luff
 Mrs Jenny Buckland
 Mrs Lynette Martin
 Christopher Rimmel
 Colin Moss
 Christine and Thomas Papa

Tim and Helen Deeks
 Mrs Sue Pearce
 Dr Peter Lewis
 Penelope and David Manford
 Judith Ellis
 Karyl Spray
 Mary Fielding
 Bob Rogers

New members' interests:

Colin Moss—buildings, architecture, people/trades, origin of parks

Dr Peter Lewis—railway chronology

Penelope and David Manford—Old Fairview Road, shops, Dunalley School, Playhouse, Opera House, Rotunda

Judith Ellis—Chipping Campden

Bob Rogers—family history, 19th century commercial life, folk tales and music

VCH News

The big event this autumn was the launch at long last of VCH Gloucestershire Vol 13 – parishes along the Severn and Leadon valleys, and finally completing the coverage of all of the historic county west of the Severn. Dame Janet Trotter, Lord-Lieutenant, toasted the book – and all who had helped research, write and fund it – at an enjoyable evening ceremony on 14th September at Wallsworth Hall (aka ‘Nature in Art’) which lies within Sandhurst, one of the parishes in the volume.

Besides the many thank-yous and acknowledgements, there was also an entertaining talk by Prof Chris Dyer, an acknowledged expert in local history. Chris drew

on the contents of the new book to illustrate the particular flavour of these parishes, and how the river had influenced occupations, transport routes and prosperity over the centuries.

This has been a real milestone for the Gloucestershire County History Trust. Six years ago, work on the VCH here was on hold, with no identified funding. Now, we have one paperback



issued (on Yate), Vol 13 completed and on sale, and work progressing nicely on three further volumes, Cheltenham being one of them. It was good to see lots of Cheltenham faces at the launch, and sales of the book were encouragingly brisk. The introductory 25% discount will still be available till 1st January.

Meanwhile, the need for funds never goes away. The Trust is very grateful to the CLHS for the further grant (cheque received in September, thank-you), which is a great vote of confidence, *but* if we'd like to see a Big Red Book launch in Cheltenham before too long, then more support from individuals locally would be very welcome. I hope you'll consider the letter enclosed with this Newsletter.

And to conclude, my own renewed thanks to the indefatigable volunteers who continue to contribute, by cataloguing at the Archives, and writing up their own special subjects, to the Cheltenham project.

James Hodsdon

Miles of Miles

Have you the inclination - or the time - to fill more than 3000 pages in ten large scrapbooks with newspaper cuttings, coloured illustrations, postcards, quotes from Shakespeare, classical authors and other relevant sources on the history of Cheltenham, from Anglo-Saxon times to the early 20th century?

Alfred Miles did, and his scrapbooks are now in the care of Gloucestershire Archives, having been presented by the Miles family to the Cheltenham Library sometime in the 1930s. Alfred Miles (1853-1939) for many years ran the family firm, The Carriage and Motor Builders, Alfred Miles Ltd., which had been founded by his father Samuel. At first they built carriages and coaches, but later, like many similar businesses, they turned to the manufacture of cars and commercial vehicles. In the 1881 census Alfred is listed as a coach builder, employing four men and four boys at 19 Albion Street. By 1897 he had opened a new showroom in Winchcombe Street. It also seems likely that at some stage the business had premises in or near Keynsham Street.

Alfred was very interested in the history of Cheltenham and collected all kinds of relevant memorabilia and information, gluing the collection into his scrapbooks. The material is in a very haphazard form and it is, at present, difficult to access. I have mentioned, on several occasions, the 'Miles Project', and at last it is going to start. Plans are in place to digitise one volume, to start with, and volunteers have been recruited and training given. Each page will be catalogued and eventually the results will be made available for research by anyone who is interested.

I gratefully acknowledge the help the Society has received from Gloucestershire Archives staff, the Victoria County History contributing editor, Alex Craven, Cheltenham Borough Council who have given us a small grant and Steven Blake, who supplied background information on the Miles family.

If you are interested in helping this Project please contact me on 01242 243714 or email journal.clhs@btinternet.com

Sally Self

FEATURE

**‘All persons shall be kindly entertained as usual’
Cheltenham in the (old) news**

Have you noticed that one question always leads to another? After doing some research into Henry Skillicorne and his predecessors, it began to niggle me that the various books about Cheltenham didn't totally agree on when the mineral waters were first recognised. Well, I'm now reasonably happy that it was indeed 1716, but other dates proved hard to check. Samuel Griffith's *New Historical Description of Cheltenham* (1826) made an interesting claim about the early years of the well, to the effect that he'd seen a notice in a newspaper 'published 93 years ago' saying that while visitor numbers had dropped off of late, the town was still more than ready to welcome them. 1826 minus 93 = 1733, right? Diligent search failed to find the reference in any 1733 London papers (many available online). That left a slim chance of finding something in the *Gloucester Journal*, available on CD and microfilm at the Archives. Robert Raikes founded the weekly *Journal* in 1722, and most of its pages are filled with national and international reports copied from other papers. There's only a little local or regional news, and consequently Cheltenham items are very few, but interesting reading nevertheless.

I spotted about 30 references in the first 10 years of the *Journal*. Most relate to property for sale or let, often inns. So we hear (in December 1723) that 'Notwithstanding the sign and sign-post of the New Inn in Cheltenham are taken down; this to give notice that Mrs Hayse, whose former husband's name was Owen, and both lived in the same inn for many years, still continues to keep it, where all persons shall be kindly entertained as usual.' The George Inn was up for lease the following year – but in 1725 the New Inn was up for sale or lease again – 'it stands in the market place'. In December 1727, the Bull Inn was up for let: 'Hath been a public house for upwards of 50 years. Enquire of Mr John Hyatt malster in Cheltenham'. And then in 1728 the George was advertised again, 'being an ancient Inn and Tavern, with all conveniences. Enquire of Daniel Chester.' It seems that frequent change of tenancy is nothing new. Lastly, in 1729, the lease of the Pelican Inn is advertised: 'with very good rooms, cellars and stabling, a large garden, orchard and a plot of green sward ground. Situate well for the market there.'

There are rather fewer adverts for houses and farms, but one that caught my eye was from April 1728: 'To be Sold. An Estate, lying in the Parish of Cheltenham and County of Gloucester, consisting of Arable and Pasture, Part inclosed and Part Common Field land, of about 80L. per annum, well water'd and wooded, late the Estate of Mr Joseph Mason, deceased. — And also To be Let, A large convenient Dwelling-house, scituate in Cheltenham aforesaid, with a Pigeon-house, Garden, Stable, and other Conveniences thereunto belonging, fit for a

Gentleman or Tradesman, now in the possession of Mr Stephen Goldsmith.' These properties (not including the Bayshill well) had been part of William Mason's extensive lands, and were being sold off by his son-in-law Goldsmith.

Inter-county cockfights were regular occurrences, and one such was fought at the Crown Inn in March 1728: 'between the Gentlemen of Gloucestershire and the Gentlemen of Oxfordshire, for Two Guineas each Cock, and Twenty Guineas the Odd Battle. To weigh the 26th Instant, and Fight the 27th and 28th.' The weighing would have been to ensure that birds were matched with rivals of similar weight.

There are just a few items recording crimes and other occurrences: an apprentice gone missing; a horse stolen; a silver pint cup 'Stolen out of the house of Dr Gregory of Cheltenham ... Reward'; the flight of a man after an attempted assault on his neighbour's wife; a 'dreadful storm' in May 1731, with many windows broken and crops damaged.

And it was after paging through 10 years of the Journal that to my surprise, in the issue for 9 March 1731, I found Griffith's '1733' advert. Evidently he had drafted that part of his book a couple of years before he published it, and hadn't redone his calculation of its age. The announcement has been reproduced before, but it's worth giving again in full.

'Whereas the Famous PURGING MINERAL WATER at Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester has not been for some Years Last past so much resorted to as formerly, from a Report that the Inhabitants of the said Town were exorbitant in their Demands, and no Conveniences to be had reasonably: By a unanimous Meeting, Consent and Agreement of the Gentlemen, Tradesmen and Innholders of the said Town, THIS is to certify, that all Gentlemen, Ladies, and others may meet with kind Reception, and good Usage, with convenient Lodgings &c. and Ordinaries kept, if encouraged, at reasonable Rates.

Note, 'Tis a pleasant Town, situate on a fine Sand, and in a fine Air; and many Persons of Quality, and Distinction have been there, and received great Benefit. The chief Vertues are in the Rheumatism, Sciatica, Scurvy, Stone and Gravel, Internal and External Ulcers, and Asthma's.

The Season holds all the Summer.

There is a good Bowling-Green, and Billiard Tables for the Gentlemens Diversion.'

The latter years of Mason ownership of the well clearly hadn't been so successful, and we can sense the worry that, faced no doubt with competition from other spas, Cheltenham had to quickly improve its image. What wouldn't we give to have been at the 'unanimous Meeting'? The announcement was repeated in the *Gloucester Journal* in at least 1735, so trade presumably still hadn't picked up. It must have been with great relief that the town welcomed Henry Skillicorne when he arrived in 1738. He immediately started on his improvements to the well and its walks, and as we all know, he set the Bayshill spa on a sound and successful footing – ensuring that all visitors would be 'kindly entertained'.

James Hodsdon

FEATURE

Cheltenham's *Looker-On*: the 'missing' volume

Many members of the Society will be aware of the bound copies of *The Looker-On* (subtitled *A Note Book of the Sayings and Doings of Cheltenham*), the 19th-century town's fashionable weekly newspaper, which may be consulted in the Cheltenham Local and Family History Library in Chester Walk. For the first three years of its existence (1833-35), *The Looker-On* was a seasonal newspaper, published between early May and late October, but from 1836 onwards, until its demise in 1920, it was published year-round.

What members may not have noticed, however, is that the Library's run of the publication only begins with Volume 2 (May 3rd to October 12th 1834) and that Volume 1, covering May 4th to October 26th 1833 is (and presumably always has been) absent.



One of the last issues of the 'Looker-On', January 1920

Fortunately, a copy of that 'missing' volume is held by the British Library and could always be studied there – and, more recently (and far more conveniently) it has been digitised, along with the rest of the British Library's holding of *The Looker-On*, as part of the on-line British Newspaper Archive, which, along with on-line genealogical databases, such as 'Ancestry' and 'Find my Past', has transformed the way in which local history may be researched.

So, never having got round to doing so before, I decided to take a look and found some particularly interesting items, and some very 'quotable' quotes, which I very much wish I had seen before putting 'pen to paper' on a number of aspects of Cheltenham's history over the past 30-odd years – and of which the following provides just a 'flavour'.

Among them, on July 6th 1833, is a letter from 'An Habitual Grumbler', an annual visitor to the town for 35 years, who bemoaned what he described as the 'march of vandalism' that was replacing the 'sylvan charms' of the town's walks and rides with new houses. He notes that 'the woodman's axe has been particularly active during the last year, and where I left oaks and elms in full luxuriance in 1832, I return to find masses of brick and mortar. This especially applies to the south side of the town, and in some part also to the Arcadian grounds about Pittville, which, a few seasons ago, promised to attain perfection unannoyed by the too-substantial dreams of masons and carpenters'.

Certainly the rapid progress of building within the town caught the eye of *The Looker-On* on three occasions – for also on July 6th, and again on October 12th and 19th it

surveyed the ‘march of progress’, with some very useful statistics of house building, particularly at Pittville, where a slowdown in building during the late 1820s had been followed by a rapid revival in building from 1831 onwards. On October 19th, it noted that ‘the long pause which followed the completion of the Pittville Pump Room has at length been broken, and the dormant energies of speculation aroused into activity anew. The lots of ground originally marked out in maps and plans for the purposes of building are rapidly becoming the sites of real houses and villas, of which there are upwards of thirty at present in progress’.

But, for me, perhaps the most intriguing entry may be found in the final issue of the year, published on October 26th, which reported that the first *conversazione* of the recently (March 1833) established Cheltenham Literary & Philosophical institution had taken place in the Imperial Spa on Tuesday, October 22nd. As well as reporting on the displays of geological specimens and fossils, including ‘a petrified fish in a high state of preservation’, and the demonstrations of electricity and magnetism, the newspaper noted that ‘several beautiful designs sent in by Mr Jerrard, Mr Forbes and Mr Merrett were hung round the room. The new Plan of Cheltenham, which the last-named gentleman had just completed from actual survey, and which was ready for the engraver, proved also an object of considerable curiosity. The correctness of its general outline, and the clearness and fidelity of its details, were admitted and approved of by all present, and the high opinions expressed of its merits must have been highly gratifying to Mr Merrett’s feelings’.

Henry Merrett’s Plan, which was eventually published in July 1834, has of course been a vital source for Cheltenham historians ever since, and it is most useful to know, I think for the first time, the date at which it was actually completed ‘ready for the engraver’ – which (unless, of course, Merrett made any changes after the *conversazione*) effectively means that it shows Cheltenham in 1833, not 1834. And how one would love to know what ‘beautiful designs’ were submitted by the Cheltenham architects Robert William Jerrard and John Forbes: no doubt these were the ‘several Architectural Drawings’ that were noted as on display at the *conversazione* by *The Looker-On*’s ‘sister’ paper, the *Cheltenham Chronicle* in its far shorter report of the event in its issue for October 24th.

The Looker-On is not the only Cheltenham newspaper that is currently included in the British Newspaper Archive. The others are the *Cheltenham Chronicle* (1809-1950), the *Cheltenham Mercury* (1856-88) and the *Gloucestershire Echo* (1884-1950), while also of value to Cheltenham historians are the *Gloucester Journal* (1793-1950) and the *Gloucestershire Chronicle* (1833-1925). There’s a whole wealth of information just waiting to be discovered there, so why not ‘Google’ it and take a look – and even, with Christmas looming, perhaps treat yourself, or a friend or loved one, to a subscription to the British Newspaper Archive and start ‘delving’?

Steven Blake



BOOKS FOR SALE



Firstly, many thanks to everyone who has donated books to the society and to Elaine North for pricing them up for us. It is surprising how much we can raise for CLHS in this way. At the Montpellier Fiesta we raised £57, and £98.50 at the History Afternoon at St Andrew's, so we need more books especially on Cheltenham local history that we can sell around the £5 mark, which are the most popular. Book sales at the lecture evenings are variable, but it is all profit, so please come along and have a browse. We are always open to offers, especially on the more expensive books. The following are those I would probably not bring to the evening meetings as they are on general British history and for people who enjoy more depth. The remainder are mostly of neighbouring towns.

England in the Later Middle Ages, a political history (1973) M H Keen, hardback, £4

A History of England (1962) GM Trevelyan, hardback, £2.50

England in the Age of Improvement, 1783-1867 (1999) Asa Briggs, boxed hardback, new condition, £10

Age of Extremes, 1914-1991 (1995) E Hobsbawm, paperback, good condition, £3

The King's War, 1642-1647 (1974) C V Wedgwood, paperback, fair condition, £3

Frampton on Severn, portrait of a Victorian Village (2000) R Spence, hardback, signed copy, good condition, £6.50

Stow on the Wold, a history of a Cotswold Town (1980) J Johnson, hardback, very good condition, £6.50 (with free booklet on the parish church)

A History of Tetbury (1978) E Hodgson, hardback, good condition, £10

A History of Cirencester (1978) K J Beecham, hardback, ex condition, £15

Winchcombe, a history of the Cotswold Borough, 1st Edn (2001) D N Donaldson, excellent condition, £10

The English Spa, 1560-1815 (1990) P Hembry, hardback, good condition, £10 (including references to Cheltenham spas)

Kelly's directory (1978) Paperback, well-used copy, no map, (but difficult to find these days), £15

If you are interested in any of the above books, or wish to donate books to CLHS, please contact me either at heatherbell71@hotmail.com or on 01242 232740 (ex-directory). Many thanks.

Heather Atkinson

THE PATERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE
Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30 pm
in the Harwood Hall, Christ Church, Malvern Road

The architect Glen Howells, whose practice was responsible for the M5 Gloucester Services and the No 1 Bayshill Road apartments now under construction, will give this year's lecture entitled:

In the Public Eye: Creating Architecture for Public Spaces

Tickets £7 (including glass of wine) at the door. Doors open from 7.00 pm

CLHS DISPLAYS IN LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

8th Nov. 2016 - 2nd Jan. 2017	Emily Webb, the mother of 'Birdie' Bowers
3rd January - 3th February	Women of Cheltenham: Frances Duberley, Josephine Butler, Marianne Colmore
14th February - 27th March	Widows of the town, medieval and early modern
28th March - 8th May	Elizabeth Baghott, a controversial woman

NEW PUBLICATION

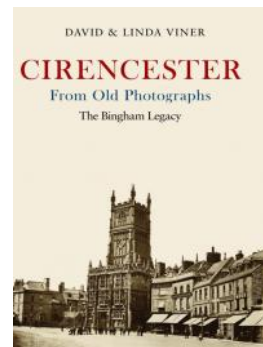
Cirencester from Old Photographs

by David & Linda Viner

The attractive market town of Cirencester has been a thriving place ever since Roman times, when it was known as Corinium and began its long and prosperous association with the wool trade. Though on the surface much about the Cotswold town has remained the same over the past century or more, life for its inhabitants has changed significantly. Presented here in these photographs is a fascinating portrayal of Cirencester in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The photographs in this book have been compiled by David and Linda Viner in their role as curatorial advisers to the Bingham Library Trust, a charitable body that preserves extensive collections of illustrative material and content, one of a number of philanthropic works gifted by Daniel George Bingham to the town of Cirencester.

Published in paperback in July 2016 by Amberley Publishing, price £12.99.



*FEATURE***HISTORICAL SNIPPET FROM MINSTERWORTH**

Read any history of an English village and it is mostly an account of significant events in the village's development, of land and property, local industries and of the important people who had key influences on what happened in the village through time. What is less likely to emerge is any intimate knowledge about the lives and living conditions of ordinary working people and the homes they lived in. These usually fall below the threshold for most historians.

I was interested, therefore, to discover that Gloucestershire Archives hold a number of probate inventories from the 17th and 18th centuries relating to Minsterworth people, ranging from poor workers and widows to relatively well-to-do yeoman farmers. The inventories, which were drawn up as part of the probate system when a person passed away, are especially interesting because they reveal not only details of the actual buildings these people occupied but also provide a lot of fascinating information about the contents of the houses and other possessions of the deceased.



A Minsterworth cottage of the 'one and a half floors' type, c 1900

In many instances, the persons responsible for producing the inventories appear to have worked their way through each property systematically room by room, listing all the pieces of furniture and other effects in each room and giving them a value. From this, we can say that some homes had only one and a half floors, others two floors. Invariably on the ground floor there was the main living room (usually described as the 'hall') and adjoining it a 'kitching', which in one and a half floor houses may well have been open to

the roof. Above the 'hall' in a one and a half floor house would have been the 'chamber' where the whole family slept. A cottage with full second floor would have had at least one more 'chamber' or bedroom over the kitchen. In many cases the chambers, apart from being sleeping quarters, would also have been used to store crops like barley, barrels of cider etc!

From the forty odd inventories recorded, I have picked just one to give you an example of the wealth of information provided (word spellings as in the original text – have fun trying to decipher them!).

A true and perfect inventory of all the goods of Sarah Phelps, widow, of the parish of Minsterworth who deceased September 5 1721.

Wearing apparell and money in purse.

***In the Halle**, 1 joynt cupboard, 1 long table, 4 joynt frame-stools & chaires, 1*

ovill table, 2 cobirons, two salts, one earthen dish, 2 small earthen dishes, 1 doz: and halfe of trenchers, one spinning whele, one reele, 2 reepehooks, 1 bar & cheeks.

In the Kitching, Eleven dishes of pewter, 2 pewter porringers, halfe a doz: of plates, one pewter tankard, 3 pewter spoons, 2 pewter candlestiks, one dripping pan, 2 pastypans, one tining cover, 2 spitts, 2 basting spoons, one toasting iron, one flesh fork, 1 paiier potthooks, one choping knife, one fire shoule and tongues, one trnell, 2 andions, one chafeing dish, one bellis, 1 salt box, 1 crane and links, one table and frame, 7 chaiers, 1 pick, 1 joynt stoole, one bacon rack.

In the Halle Chamber, 1 fether bed and bedsted, 2 bolsters, 3 pillos, 2 blanketts, 1 rug with the curtians and vallins, one other bed and bedsted, 2 bolsters, one pillow, 2 blanketts, one rug.

In the Chamber over the Kitchin, one flock bed and bedsted, two bolsters, one payer of blanketts. Wheate thrashed in the house 3 bushells, 1 bushell, 1 peck, one half peck, 6 payer of sheets, 15 napkins, 3 tableclothes, 4 pillow bears, 1 warming pan, 8 coars towels, 5 paire hairebags, 1 bushel and halfe of pease, 2 cobions, 1 saddle, 1 cieve.

In the Ringhouse, two brass kettles, 2 bellmetal potts, two bellmetal skilletts, one chese ring, one iron bar.

In the Day house, 2 brass kettles, 9 milk pans, two skells, 1 churne, 3 milking pailles, one chese roule, one butter basket, one frieing pan, one serche, one haier cieve, chese vates, one skimmer, a plank for salting of bacon with other things relating [to a] dayery.

In the Shop, 1 waine roap, one spinning whele, 1 payer of potts, 1 pad, one spitting shovel, one dough skeele, 1 payer scales with an iron beame, one saie, 9 hogsheads, 2 barrells, 1 kinderkin, 1 pipe, 3 tubs, 2 washtubs. Plowtack of all sorts. The muss mill & screws and press. The cistern at the well and thatching ladder. One half acre of wheate. One payer of gears with the tallet pole and lumber.

Total value: £28 00s 02d

The two oldest structures still standing in Minsterworth both date from the 16th century and there are a number of other timber framed farmhouses and cottages in the village, the earliest parts of which date from the 17th and 18th centuries. (Many more homes from those times have long disappeared). Identifying any of the properties inventoried with any of these old houses has proved to be very difficult – but I’ll keep trying!

Terry Moore-Scott

Footnote: The originals were transcribed by CLHS members and other volunteers for Gloucestershire Archives in support of work on vol. XIII of the VCH. I am indebted to their leader Sally Self and her team for their excellent work.

[Note: the house in the photo is Terry’s own, now much enlarged—Ed.]

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CAN YOU HELP?

Wicliffe Motors

An enquirer wishes to know if anyone has any photographs or other information relating to the former Wicliffe Motor Company of 27 Bath Road. He has a Morris Oxford that was purchased new from this garage by its original lady owner in 1968.

Margaret E Storey

An enquirer who is writing on a book on the battle for North Africa during World War II seeks information about **Margaret E Storey**, who worked at Bletchley Park and played a vital and untold part in the British victory. Born around 1918-20, she lived in Cheltenham after the war and may have died in 1990. The enquirer is anxious to contact anyone who remembers her or can suggest how relatives or friends of hers might be contacted, or who knows anything else about her.

If you can help with either of these queries please contact Joyce Cummings on 01242 527299 or e-mail joyce@cyberwebSPACE.net

NEXT ISSUE

Please forward any material for inclusion in the March 2017 issue by
Monday 13th February 2017
 to the Editor : Kath Boothman, 3 Taylor's End, Cheltenham GL50 2QA
 Tel: 01242 230125 e-mail: kbooth@dircon.co.uk

We are always very pleased to receive contributions from members—articles of any length, interesting facts and photos, memories, comments, all are welcome.