



Cheltenham Local History Society Journal 13 1997

Articles and other contributions appropriate to the Society's interests are welcome for possible publication in the Journal and should be submitted to the Hon Editor:

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Grateful acknowledgement is made of Cheltenham Arts Council assistance in funding this publication.

Price to non-members: £3.50

ISSN 0265 3001

Printed by Top Flight
93 St George's Place
Cheltenham GL50 3QB

Cheltenham's Bandstands	MICK KIPPIN	2
The Old Swan and Betty Humphrys	PHYLLIS WHITE	7
A Visitor to Cheltenham in 1832: the Diary of Sarah Sargent	STEVEN BLAKE	14
Cheltenham and the Lifeboats	BETTY GREENE	20
Who Built Rosehill?	OLIVER BRADBURY	25
The Church and its Chapels in Medieval Cheltenham: a Summary	MICHAEL GREET	34
Cheltenham's Mineral Wells: a Checklist	STEVEN BLAKE & OLIVER BRADBURY	39
A Shurdington Tomb	DAPHNE DOUGHTON	47
Before the Bench in 1844	ERIC ARMITAGE	49
Montpellier Multiplied: a 'local' name in its wider context	JAMES HODSDON	54
Recent Books & Articles	STEVEN BLAKE	58
GRO: 1996 Accessions for Cheltenham Area	JULIE COURTENAY	59

Cover Illustration of the Montpellier Bandstand by Aylwin Sampson

Cheltenham's Bandstands

MICK KIPPIN

THE LAST two years have seen renewed public interest in Cheltenham's bandstands. During 1994 the Cheltenham Civic Society raised sufficient funds to have the Montpellier bandstand restored to something very close to its original glory and the Pittville bandstand has also been restored thanks to the Cheltenham branch of the Royal Air Force Association. This article concentrates on the history of the two remaining bandstands, at Montpellier and Pittville, but also mentions others that have not survived. The map detail is taken from the Ordnance Survey 1923 1:2,500 sheets.

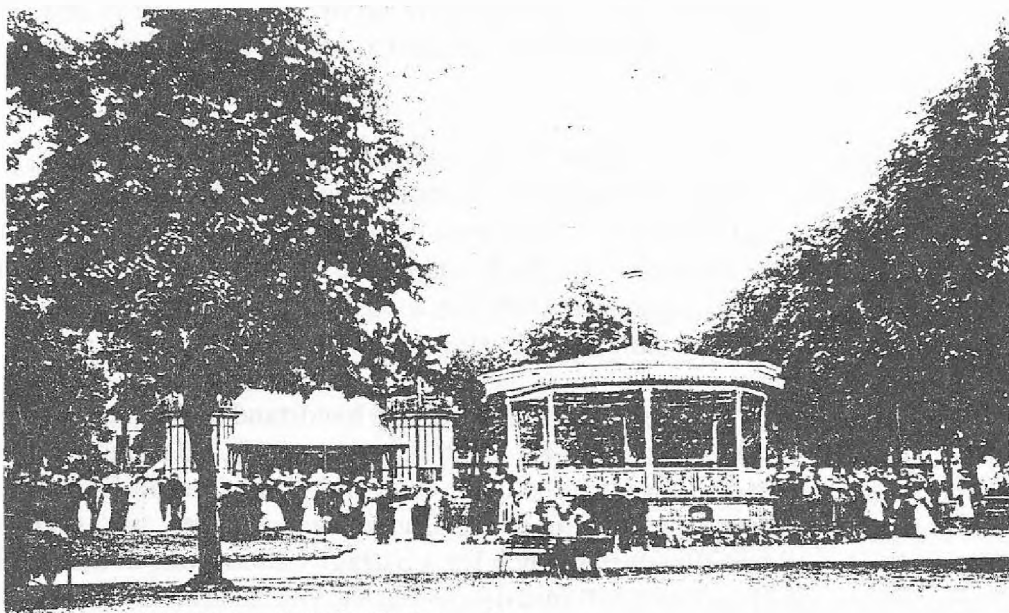
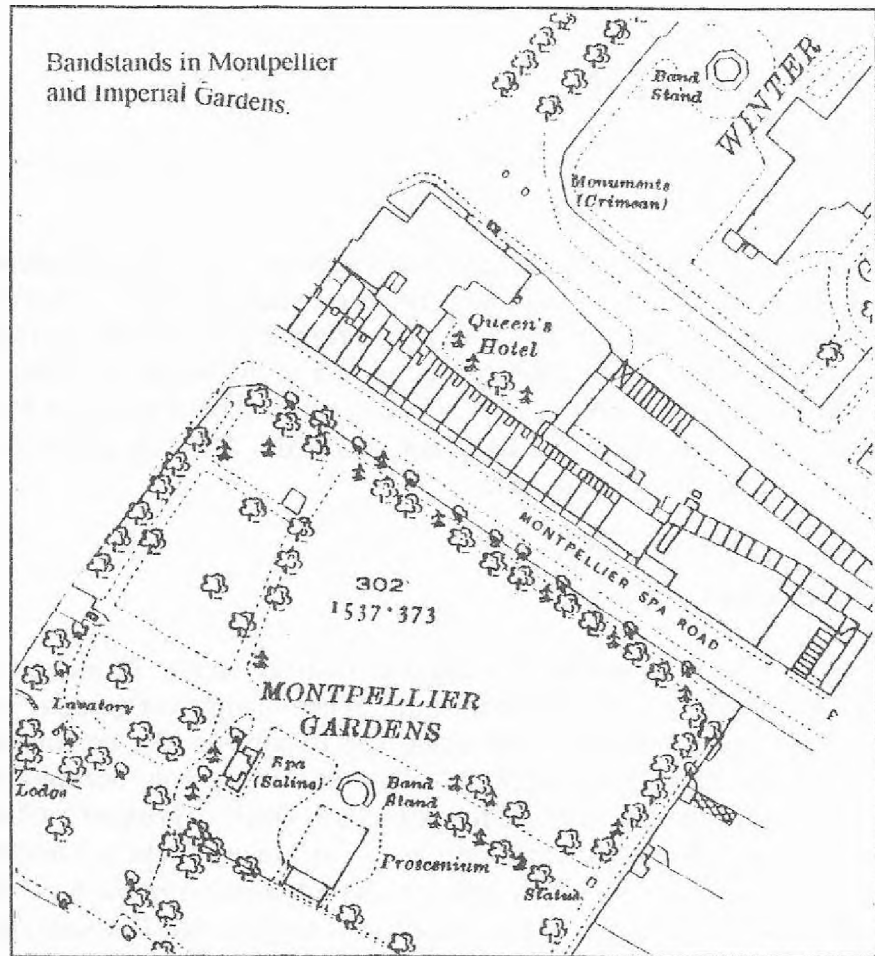
Montpellier

The first Montpellier spa was built by Henry Thompson in 1809, and from a very early date the spa had its own band. When the present gardens were first laid out, in 1831, a Chinese pagoda was constructed specifically for the use of the Montpellier band. The hexagonal pagoda was approximately on the site now occupied by the public toilets; it is represented in the composite frontispiece to Davies' *Stranger's Guide*, first published in 1832, and in an 1836 engraving reproduced in Steven Blake's *Cheltenham, a Pictorial History* (1996). (*These two, which differ in several details, are the basis of Aylwin Sampson's cover illustration.*) There is some evidence to suggest that Pearson Thompson had plans to build another bandstand in Montpellier Gardens as early as 1841, but it is not known for certain how long the pagoda survived. It was still extant in 1845, when it is referred to in Rowe's guide, though the same source shows that at this point the band was housed under the colonnade of the Montpellier spa. The present Montpellier bandstand was erected in September 1864, making it the oldest bandstand in the British Isles still in use. Two other bandstands, at Birkenhead Park (1847) and Clapham Common (1861), are actually older, but sadly are now no longer in use.

Following the recent restoration of the bandstand by the Civic Society, there were several appeals for the old Gym building to be demolished and for the borough council to tidy the area up. While a general tidy-up is supported by all interested parties, we should not be too quick to bring in the bulldozers: the back end of the Gym building is in fact quite old, having been put up by the council in 1900 (at a cost of £322) as an open-air theatre - officially known, as shown on the map opposite, as a Proscenium, or stage.

In 1902 the council put the job of repainting the bandstand out to tender. Three offers were made, for £20 10s, £26 10s and £48. Not surprisingly Mr J M Smith got the job for his £20 10s. The base of the bandstand is quite deep and roomy and in Edwardian times it was used as a store for targets belonging to the Cheltenham Archers, who used to shoot in the gardens. During World War II the winch for a barrage balloon was housed in this space. In more recent times the bandstand fell into disuse and the whole structure became dangerous

and was boarded up. Finally, in May 1993 the council's planning committee considered several options for the bandstand's future. One plan was to move the whole structure down the road to Imperial Gardens. Nice as this idea would have been, it is unlikely that the bandstand would have survived the move. A later and much publicised plan was to turn the whole thing into a restaurant. This met with much opposition, but the idea does, as we shall see, have some historical precedent. At this juncture the Cheltenham Civic Society stepped in and organised the restoration and reopening of this historic landmark within the town.

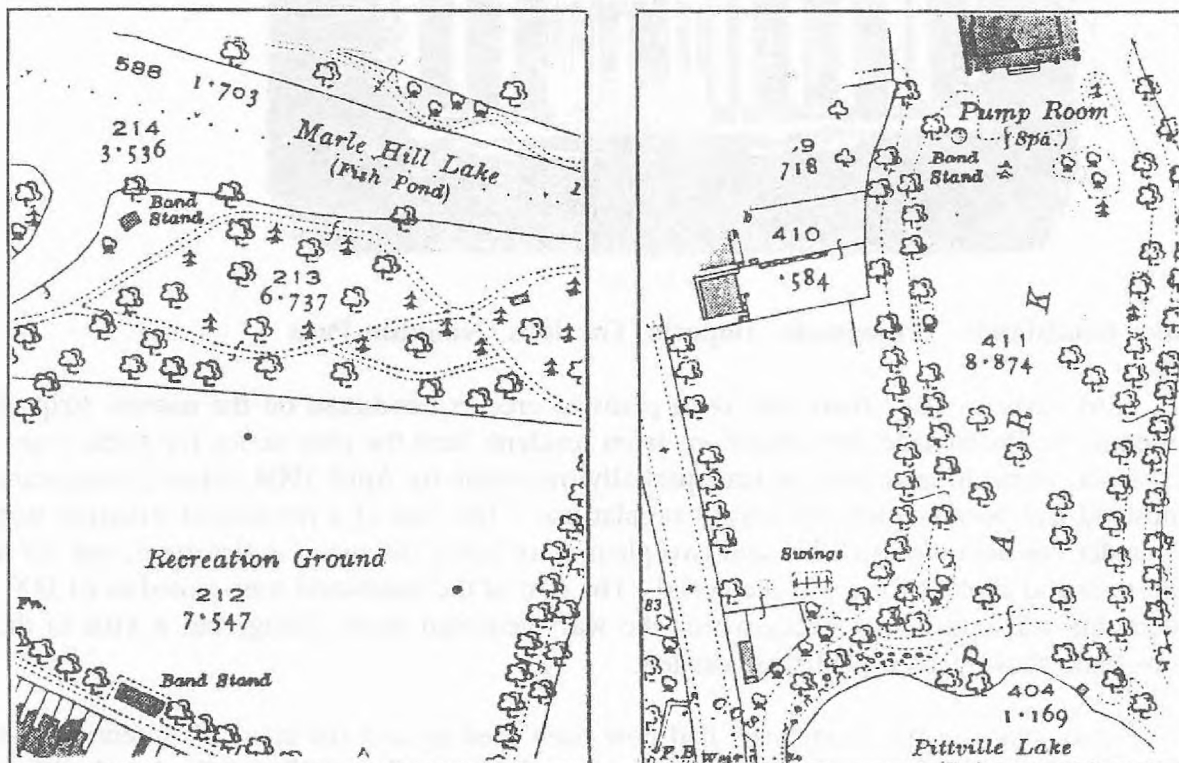


21 CHELTENHAM. — Montpellier Gardens. — LL.

SELBY C.

Pittville

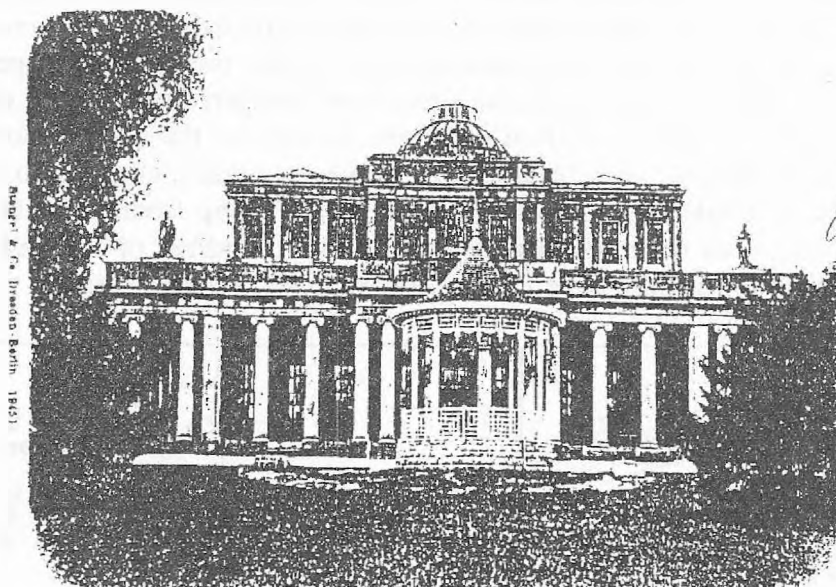
The bandstand in Pittville Park is not contemporary with the pump room of 1830, being built only in 1900, after the park had passed into public ownership. There had been a temporary bandstand in Pittville since about August 1898, but this had been on the other side of the Evesham Road, in what was then termed the Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground. In March 1900 the council's town improvement committee instructed its entertainments sub-committee to produce a report and recommendations as to the provision of a permanent bandstand for Pittville. The following month the committee considered two designs submitted by the borough surveyor and instructed him to obtain tenders for the construction of two bandstands, one circular and the other rectangular. It was originally intended to erect the circular one by the boating lake and the other in front of the Pump Room. By the end of June only one tender had been submitted, by Messrs Collins & Godfrey of Tewkesbury, for £317, with an additional £60 if they were to have oak shingles instead of tiles.



Pittville: Bandstands at (left) Agg Gardner Recreation Ground and Marie Hill Annex, and (right) the Pump Room

Up to 1900 a path ran straight up the gardens from the lake to the front of the Pump Room, and the new bandstand was erected at the end of this. However by 1901 the path had been grassed over to give the wide lawn there is today, and Collins & Godfrey moved the bandstand to its present position for a further £25. The construction of the circular bandstand in front of the Pump Room was contrary to the council's original intentions and it follows that the rectangular design was by the boating lake. Sadly this second bandstand, like so many others, later became a target for vandals and at a meeting of the parks and recreation committee on 5 November 1957 a report was submitted about the damage being caused. The committee discussed the possibility of it being converted into a refreshment kiosk - just as happened more recently over the Montpellier bandstand. However, by January 1958 no

applications for the tenancy of the bandstand had been received and a decision was put off until a later meeting. The structure appears to have been demolished in 1958-9. (The smaller structure marked 'bandstand' on the 1923 OS map, directly by the lake, was merely temporary and was later moved and turned into a sports pavilion; residents do not recall that it was ever used as a bandstand.)



Pillville Spa

Cheltenham

*St**Your**request**[Signature]*

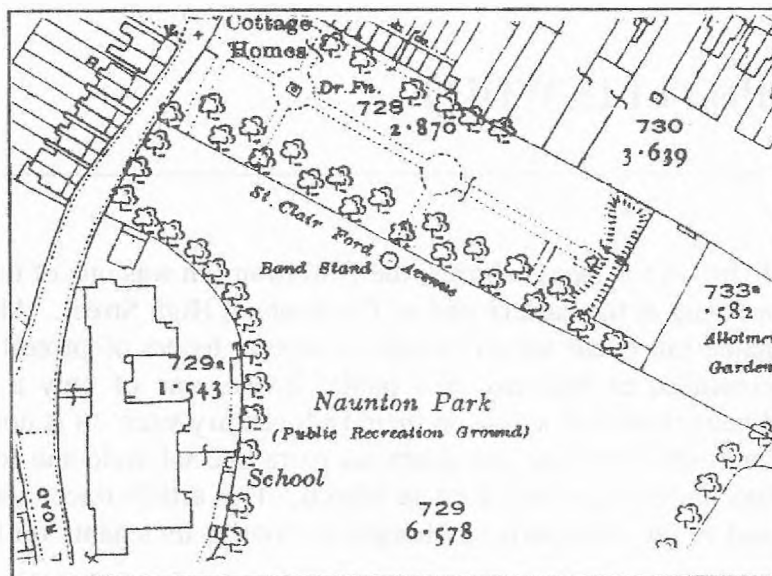
Other bandstands: Promenade, Imperial Gardens, Naunton Park

As early as 1887 there had been plans to erect a bandstand on the narrow strip of garden in the Promenade, but objections from residents kept the plan on ice for some years. Resistance seems to have been at least partially overcome by April 1904, when a temporary bandstand had been erected and was in regular use. The idea of a permanent structure was still under consideration in 1920 and two plans were being discussed at that time, one for a bandstand and another for a war memorial. The cost of the bandstand was quoted as £1,000. Either this was considered excessive or the war memorial more fitting, but a visit to the Promenade shows which plan was adopted.

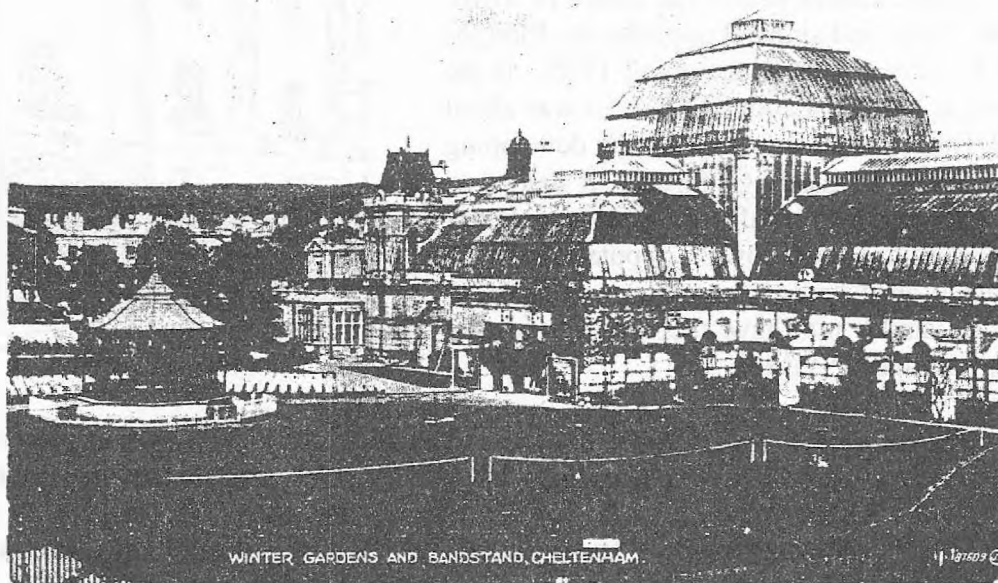
Any space in the Promenade had now been used up and the council's attention was directed to the nearby Imperial Gardens, home to the magnificent Winter Gardens building from 1878 to 1940. As at Pittville, the bandstand which was to stand here was not contemporary with the original gardens, being added many years later. In January 1920 Walter MacFarlane & Co. of Glasgow offered to erect one of their popular designs for £625. This was agreed, and the bandstand opened on 6 May 1920. The ceremony was marred by a Mr Whitworth who heckled the mayor and other speakers, saying that the council had erected the bandstand without authority from the Ministry of Health! Unfortunately for Cheltenham, in 1948 the whole construction was sold to Bognor Regis council, for £175, and it now stands on Bognor seafront, having recently undergone considerable restoration. In May 1896 the council's town improvement committee was told that Mrs St Clair-Ford was prepared to pay for the construction of a bandstand in Naunton Park as had been contemplated by her late husband Captain St Clair-Ford. This bandstand was duly erected,

being somewhat unusual in having a thatched roof; it was a regular venue for concerts by local bands until December 1925, when it was removed as a result of its deteriorating condition.

The most recent attempt to erect a bandstand in the town was in September 1929 when the borough surveyor was instructed to prepare plans and estimates for one in Sandford Park. It appears this idea was never followed through, although Sandford Park did have its share of band concerts.



Bandstand in Naunton Park, Leckhampton.



The Old Swan and Betty Humphrys

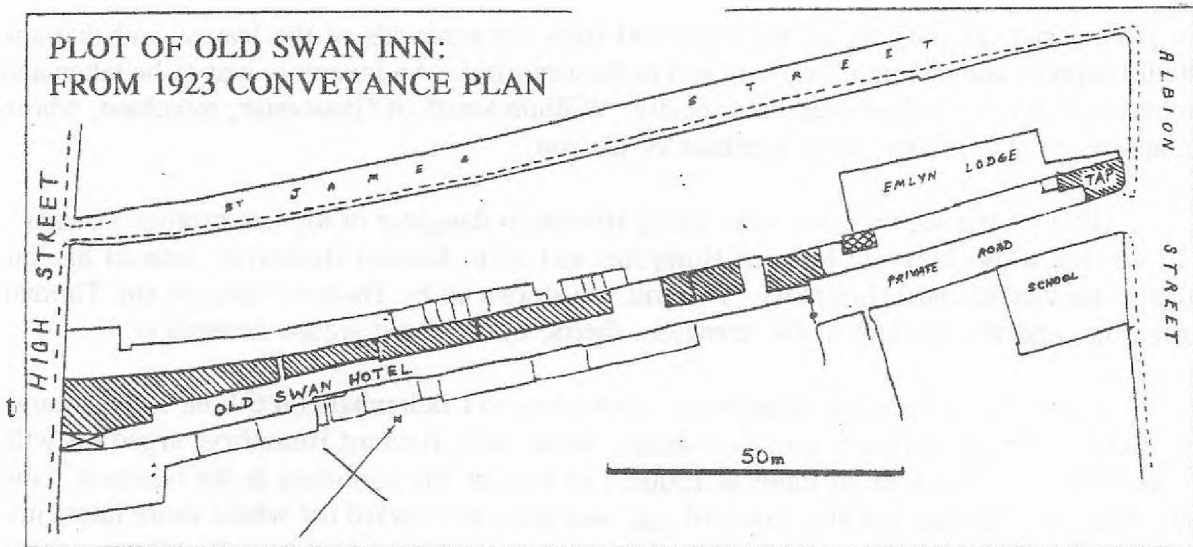
PHYLLIS WHITE

FOR OVER two centuries, the Old Swan Inn was one of the first hotels to greet the traveller arriving at the eastern end of Cheltenham High Street. Although in 1995 it lost its original name (an event which prompted several letters of protest to the *Gloucestershire Echo*), it continues in business as a public house, one of only a handful of licensed premises in Cheltenham still active on their 18th-century sites. It is now called O'Hagan's Bar, offering an Irish theme and no doubt an extra special welcome to Irish pilgrims to the Gold Cup meeting at Prestbury Park in March. This article traces some of the history of the building, and of the Humphris or Humphrys family, its tenants for most of its first 50 years.

The property stands at the east end of Cheltenham on the north side of the High Street, immediately opposite Barrett's Mill Lane. Currently No 37 High Street, it was earlier No 60. The Old Swan was in existence under this name by 1775, when it is quoted as the western boundary of property sold by one Mary Ellis to her nephew John Cooke¹. No earlier reference to the inn or this name has been found, suggesting it was built not long before; the name Old Swan is thus something of a puzzle, as the separate establishment nearer the centre of town, called the Swan and situated opposite the Plough, appears to have existed since about 1725. If the Old Swan is indeed of about 1770, this was about the time Thomas Hughes was active in developing the eastern end of the High Street. It helped to answer the pressing need for more and better accommodation as the town's reputation grew, and situated as it was at the eastern entrance to the town, could not have been more ideally placed to attract the visitor.



The plot on which the inn stood was originally a substantial one (see plan overleaf), running from the High Street right through to the back road later named Albion Street, and resembling the narrow burgage plots further west in the town. In addition to the main premises, vaults and outbuildings at the southern end, there was space for a garden and close, and, by the 19th century, a small subsidiary public house or tap at the Albion Street frontage, as shown on the plan. Records described later show that an appreciable quantity of timber grew on the attached land. The plot was part of the holdings of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as trustees of the Pate's Charity, though it is uncertain whether it was included in the original 1574 grant.



Richard Humphris (fl. 1776, d. 1792)

A College survey made in 1787² shows the tenant as Richard Humphris. The lease to Humphris was made or renewed in 1779, and shows he was liable for the upkeep of the building and could fell wood for that purpose³. The surname Humphris (variously spelled) was common in 18th century Cheltenham and the surrounding area, and it is almost impossible to determine from which branch Richard is descended. However his will made in 1791 refers to his late brother Thomas, and it is interesting to note that a Thomas Humphreys of Cambray Mill is one of the commissioners listed in the Cheltenham Vestry Books at the time of the 1786 Lighting and Paving Act. A Cheltenham guide of 1792 lists two Thomas Humphries, one a publican and the other a gentleman.

Richard Humphris is known to have married at least twice, and the tenant of the Old Swan may well previously have been in the same trade elsewhere in town: in 1776, a Richard Humphris of Cheltenham, victualler, and Mary his wife (née Mary Lydiate, granddaughter of William and Sarah Lydiate) sold to Thomas Pope, baker, unspecified land and property in Cheltenham which Mary had acquired in 1754⁴. It is tempting to conclude that the proceeds of this sale enabled Humphris to take on the lease of the Old Swan and perhaps carry out some improvements there.

Richard Humphris or Humphreys described himself in his will as a victualler, and although he does not specifically name the Old Swan, he does devise and bequeath 'my Messuage Tenement and Premises wherein I now dwell and which I hold by Lease under the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College in Oxford, together with my Stock of Liquor, Household Goods and Furniture, Plate, Linen

and China unto and for the use of my beloved wife Betty, until my son Thomas arrives to the age of twenty one years, or she remains my widow'. He directed that Betty be responsible

for paying and discharging all the rents and fines for renewals of the leases, and that she should support and maintain 'my said son in his minority'. An inventory was to be taken and signed by Betty and lodged with his executor, William Smith of Gloucester, merchant, whom he appointed, with Betty, joint guardian of his son.

Also mentioned was 'my niece Mary Humphris daughter of my late brother Thomas'; £10 was left to his kinsman Richard Humprhis and £5 to Samuel Humprhis, sons of his late cousin, another Richard Humphris. The will was drawn up by Thomas Hancock and Thomas Pruen jnr, and the spelling of the surnames theirs, but Richard signed *Humphrys*.

The burial of Richard 'Humphries' took place in Cheltenham on 6 June 1792, though the Bishop's Transcript gives no age at death. In his will, Richard Humphrys urged his wife to 'keep a proper stock of all kinds of Liquors so long as she continues in the business', and with their son Thomas just five years of age, and her son Edward (of whom more later) just seventeen, Betty had little option but to continue to support them and herself. The lease was made over to Betty, and when in June 1794 the Corpus bursar made one of his periodic visits to view the Cheltenham properties, he was able to report the inn 'in good order, much done to back building etc. since our last visit'. In Cheltenham's earliest street directory, published by Shenton in 1800, Mrs Betty Humphris is prominently listed as proprietress of the Old Swan Inn.

Betty Humphrys (1749-1826)

The future landlady of the Old Swan was baptised at Coln St Denis, just east of the Foss Way south of Northleach, on 24 September 1749, the daughter of Simon and Betty Hathaway. The baptismal record gives no occupation for Simon, so the social status of the family at that date cannot be determined, but in view of the relatively unusual Christian name, it seems possible that the will of a Symon Hathaway of nearby Hawling, made in 1808, may be that of Betty's father.

Though this Symon was able to sign only with a mark, and is described in the will as a 'labcar', i.e. labourer, the will itself suggests he was of rather more substance than a normal labourer. He leaves his 'beloved wife Betty Hathaway all that my Messuage or Tenement lying and being in the parish of Bishops Cleeve, together with all my other Freehold Estates', which after his death were to pass to his son and executor Thomas. He left his other children, six daughters and three sons, £12 each. The sons, Simon, Peter and Andrew, are named; there is no mention of a daughter Betty. She would however at this stage have been well established on her own account.

The next mention of the name Hathaway at Coln St Denis is in 1775: 'Edward Hall Illegitimate son of Betty Hathaway was privately baptised y^e 24th day of August and received into the church November y^e 6th'. Some seven years later, there is the following entry: '1782 29 August George Parfett of this parish widower and Elizabeth Hathaway Spinster of this parish were married by Licence'. Regrettably neither licence nor bond, which would have shown the age and occupation of George Parfett, survives, but Elizabeth does sign herself Betty, strongly supporting her identity with the 1775 baptism.

again. This time the entry in the marriage register reads '1785 28 May Richard Humphries of Cheltenham Widower and Betty Parfett Widow of this parish. By Licence.' Both were able to sign their names, Betty with her baptismal name (not Elizabeth), but again neither licence nor allegation survives to provide further information on the couple. It is however interesting to note that a Charles and Joyce Turk, whose son Nicholas was baptised at the same time as Betty's in 1775, were the witnesses to her first marriage, and Joyce Turk one of those to her second.

Betty seems then to have moved across the Foss Way to the adjacent parish of Chedworth, which could suggest Richard Humphrys had some interest there as well as his business at the Old Swan in Cheltenham. In the Chedworth burial register are two entries which surely refer to three children of this marriage: '1785 Richard the son and Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Humphrys and Elizabeth his wife buried October 8th' and '1790 Richard the infant son of Richard Humphrey of Cheltenham and his wife Elizabeth was buried January 4th'. Between these two events, there is an entry in the Cheltenham Bishop's Transcripts: '1787 6 October Thomas the son of Richard and Betty Humphries of Cheltenham was baptised'. It seems reasonable to infer that all the children were born in Cheltenham, despite the infant burials outside town. Although Richard Humphrys senior had been married before, there is no mention of children from another marriage in the 1791 will, nor is there any reference to any illegitimate son of his wife's (Betty was later to acknowledge him in her own will).


After her husband's death, Betty managed the Old Swan for over two decades, probably prospering with the influx of visitors to Cheltenham in these years and doubtless a well-known figure locally. Many must have regretted the day when she decided to retire and the following pair of announcements appeared in the *Bath & Cheltenham Gazette* of 26 May 1813:

OLD SWAN INN and TAVERN, CHELTENHAM

BETTY HUMPHRIS, gratefully impressed with the continued support of her Friends, embraces this opportunity to beg their acceptance of her sincere acknowledgement, and respectfully informs them that she has relinquished the above Inn and Premises to MR JOHN BISHOP, for whom she solicits a continuance of that flattering patronage for which the OLD SWAN has been so long and so successfully distinguished.

JOHN BISHOP, in entering on these Premises would be deficient in gratitude, were he not to return his warmest thanks to his Friends, whilst in the Linen-Drapery line; and at the same time he humbly entreats the patronage of his predecessor Mrs Humphris, as well as his own particular Friends, and the Public at large, to the above Inn and Tavern, assuring them, that if strict attention, CHOICE LIQUORS, and unremitting assiduity, be deserving of support, he will constantly endeavour to merit it. THE OLD SWAN has been recently rebuilt in a commodious style, and in addition to its general accommodation possesses excellent Stabling and is admirably suited for Travellers being situated at the beginning of the town, in the direct road for London, Bath and Oxford etc.

The Churchwardens of Cheltenham
To Mr. Bishop



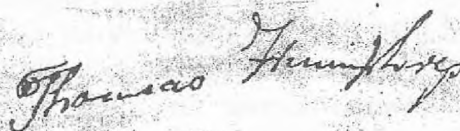
		L	S	D
Dec ^r 25 th 1820	To 6 Btlles of Tent	1	18	—
Jan ^y 8 th 1821	do do	1	16	—
	1 do Sherry	—	3	—
29 th	3 Tent	—	18	—
By John W. Bishop				
Jan ^y 31 st 1821		L	4	15 0

Billhead of John Bishop, sub-tenant of the Old Swan Inn from 1813 to c.1826. The invoice is made out to the churchwardens of Cheltenham, most of the entries being for 'tent', a weak Spanish red wine ('tinto') used for communion.

(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Record Office: GRO ref. P78 CW/2/18/4)

The Corpus Christi College records show that John Bishop was a sub-tenant: a bursar inspecting Cheltenham properties in November 1817 records the main tenant still as Betty Humphris, the inn being then 'an excellent brick house 14 yards in front including 4 yds of gateway in good repair now in the occupation of John Bishop who pays £260 p.a. to Mrs Humphries, £30 of which is to be expended in repairs improvements etc. £4 7s Insurance. £17 College Rent. A new cellar was sinking in the yard when I was there. There is stabling for 19 horses in good repair. 9 Ash Trees. 1 Elm and 2 Hazels. (N.B. The cellar is now completed. June 1818)'⁶.

On her retirement in 1813, Betty may in fact have made her interest in the Old Swan, or part of it, over to her son Thomas, but if so it was soon to revert to her. In his will dated 1 January 1815, Thomas Humphrys describes himself as a yeoman, of Cheltenham, weak in body but of sound memory, and he goes on to 'give and devise unto my honoured Mother Betty Humphries all that my Leasehold Messuage or Tenement and Premises in Cheltenham called the Old SWAN INN', together with all his other personal property. He appointed Betty his executrix. By April, Thomas was dead, and was buried at Chedworth: '1815 Thomas Humphreys from Cheltenham in Glos. April 15 - 27 years'. His estate was valued at £3,000.



In retirement, Betty did not move far from the Old Swan, only across the road to No 425 High Street (now No 54, the Strand Fish Bar), where the recent adjoining gated development covers what was the rear of her premises. She remained active, and in an 1820 directory is shown as a lodging house keeper at this address. She survived to the age of 75, and was buried in Cheltenham on 30 November 1826. She had made her will on 17 January of that year, leaving to her niece Augusta Thornton (then living with her) a legacy of £20, a bedstead, a bed and its furniture. To her granddaughter Elizabeth Wood Hathaway Long, daughter of her son Edward Hathaway Hall of Cheltenham, gentleman, went all her clothing, and to another niece, Elizabeth Barnard of Cirencester, widow, went an annuity of £10.

Business at the Old Swan had evidently been good enough to allow her to buy the properties opposite, and these, the largest part of her estate, went to her son Edward: 'all those my two Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses and Gardens belonging thereto, situate and being on the South side of the High Street ... and now in the several occupations of myself and Stephen Lawrence, Grocer'. To her daughter-in-law Hannah Hall née Sheppard, whom Edward had married on 24 February 1800, she left an annuity of £60 after the death of Edward.



Betty Humphrys' illegitimate son Edward in due course became the new tenant of the Old Swan (it is not clear what became of John Bishop). An advertisement in the *Cheltenham and Gloucester General Advertiser* for July 1827 ran as follows:

OLD SWAN INN

EDWARD HALL takes leave to inform his friends that his house-warming dinner will take place on Wednesday 25th July inst., when the company of any friend will be esteemed a favour. Edward Hall will thank those Gentlemen who may be pleased to favour him with their company to take tickets at the Bar on, or before, Saturday 21st inst. Tickets (Including Wine) One Pound: - Dinner on the table precisely at 4 o'clock.

The later history of the Old Swan is sketchy, but Edward Hall may not have remained there long. An appraisal of the inn was carried out in September 1828 for John Barrett, perhaps of the Barrett mill-owning family (it was valued at £924 15s 3d), and another appraisal was made in October 1829 (value decreased to £790 5s 6d), possibly suggesting two rapid changes of tenancy⁷.

The property nevertheless remained in the hands of Corpus Christi College, until it was sold on 14 May 1923 to the Cheltenham Original Brewery Company Ltd for £2,000. After a series of mergers and acquisitions this brewery became in 1963 part of Whitbread plc, the present owners. The site is a good deal smaller than originally, for in 1961 some 1120 square yards at the rear of the property, and the buildings on them, were sold off to Cheltenham Borough Council. This section has since been cleared and is now part of the St James's Street car park. The remaining buildings were listed in 1983, under the Town & Country Planning Act 1971.

Acknowledgements: I would like to express my sincere thanks to Christine Butler, Assistant Archivist, Corpus Christi College, for the information so generously given; to Messrs Whitbread, Cheltenham; to Roger Beacham, Local Studies, Cheltenham Reference Library; to Gerald Overton, and to James Hodsdon. *Sketches of O'Hagan's Bar drawn 1997 by Aylwin Sampson.*



Notes

1. Cheltenham Manor Court Books, 20 Oct 1775. GRO D855 M16.
2. Corpus Christi College (CCC) Archives ref Fe 10/2
3. CCC Lease Book Vol 25
4. Manor Court Books, 19 Apr 1776

5. CCC Fe 10/2
6. CCC Fe 10/3
7. GRO D 2080 383 & 403

Genealogical references from relevant parish registers at GRO.

A Visitor to Cheltenham in 1832: the Diary of Sarah Sargant

STEVEN BLAKE

Introduction

Diaries and other personal accounts of visits to Cheltenham are among the most interesting and illuminating sources for the history of the town. Although a number - such as those by William Cobbett, the Revd Francis Witts and Catherine Sinclair - have already been published, others have not. Among the latter is part of the diary of a young lady named Sarah Sargant, from Edgbaston in Birmingham, who visited Cheltenham with her mother and brothers in June 1832. Sarah spent three weeks in Cheltenham, with a day at Gloucester, and then moved on to Malvern before returning to Birmingham. Her diary is now at the City Archives at Birmingham Central Library; its reference number is 592734 = IIR(21) and the account of her visit to Cheltenham is on pages 108-21¹. The diary entry is transcribed in full here, with a number of explanatory notes. To assist the reader, Sarah's continuous account has been divided into paragraphs, and punctuation (generally lacking in the original) has been added; her use of upper and lower case letters has however been retained.

The diary transcript

'I did not again leave home until the first of June 1832 when Mamma treated her family with a longer excursion than any of the preceding. Thankful we ought to be for the enjoyment at that time afforded us and for the opportunity granted of forming correct views of the places we beheld and of those which are described as similar. Cheltenham I had heard spoken of in glowing terms, but from what its peculiar attractions were derived I never understood. I found it altogether unlike any place I had seen. In architecture it cannot vie with any of the fine parts of London. Its shady walks seem to me to constitute one of the chief charms and the exquisite bands of music in constant attendance morning and evening at the spas another. Every accommodation is provided for visitors and the arrangement are formed and executed in a most liberal and equable manner.

Opposite to our lodgings in the High Street was the Arcade leading to a spacious and commodious market place - the butchers' stalls in cloister-like order in the first division, an enclosed house for poultry and eggs, butter etc. and an open yard for vegetables. On one side of the arcade are shops containing books, millinery, confectionery etc².

In walking up the High Street, the first turning to the right leads under a colonnade at the end of which is the post office³. The next turning to the right leads directly to the pump rooms. There is a drive in the centre and a walk on each side. The trees on each side of these walks are very thickly planted and so cut as to form an arch impervious to the rays

of the sun and to any but continued and heavy rain. This promenade must be upwards of a quarter of a mile in length⁴. It terminates at the Imperial pump room which is but little frequented⁵. When we were there it was half filled with plants used as specimens in the botanical lectures which were here given. The science of Cheltenham seems to have taken up her abode in this cold-looking place. A telescope and other instruments were prepared for such as were disposed to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Attached to the Imperial pump room are gardens laid out for promenades with broad walks bordered with high trees. These are to the left of the road as you go to the pump room and there is a botanical garden open only to subscribers and a private nursery garden⁶. At the back is a riding school at which some ladies amuse themselves⁷. They are not contented with taking lessons at the school but the master rides out with them and occasionally commanding a halt delivers a short lecture with directions for proceeding.

From the Imperial you walk onwards to the Montpellier spa, commonly called Thompson's from the name of its late possessor⁸. You enter a spacious promenade which from nine to half past ten in the morning and from half past seven till half past nine in the evening is filled with visitors. The water is in the morning dispensed in an elegant inner room of a circular form lighted in part by a sky-light in the centre of the dome. Quantities of beautiful geraniums, cactuses and other hot house plants are dispersed about this apartment, the adjoining library and a small room at the other end. Within the library is a reading room. The room through which you pass to the pump room and which is used for the promenading is large but consistently plain. A ball takes place every Thursday in the summer season at the Montpellier spa and we were told that every attention was paid to the company attending. The evening promenades are occasionally held in pretty gardens on the opposite side of the road to the pump room when a tent is erected for the musicians whose gay crimson uniforms add to the brilliancy of the scene. A partial illumination with gas among the trees is tastefully arranged. A small building containing trifling ornamental articles for sale and classed a museum at the back of the pump room attracts some portion of attention⁹.

At right angles with the promenade are roads with neat rows of houses on one side and shady walks on the other and at some distance further are mansions of various shapes and sizes, some of which are inhabited by the proprietors and others let to the visitors¹⁰. The gardens belonging to these villas are not only indicative of the taste of the possessors. They are in a high state of cultivation and are like all the other gardens and walks appertaining to this neatest of neat places in the nicest state of presentation. It is really wonderful how the proprietors of the walks can afford to pay for so much sweeping as must take place in private, for the brooms never make a public appearance.

Some of the handsomest buildings, viz Lansdown Place and Crescent are not completed and Suffolk Square can scarcely be said to exist¹¹. A chapel has been erected whose appearance is not quite in correspondence with the gay apparel of the congregation assembled there¹². To the right of the Montpellier spa and rather nearer the town is the Old Well where a band of music is stationed. Not being subscribers we did not pretend to enter the gardens belonging to the Old Well but we took the liberty of surveying the long celebrated walk whose aspect is imposing from the immense height of the trees and the width

of the gravel¹³. Near the entrance to this walk is the Crescent, the houses of which are not sufficiently erected to look good. The garden fronting it is remarkably pretty¹⁴.

The length of the High Street is its most distinguishing characteristic: the buildings at the lower end are very shabby but they improve gradually. The shops and hotels in the centre are sufficiently good-looking and the houses which approach the country at the upper end are neat and pretty. The aspect of the streets at right angles with the High Street is dark but in some of them there is a pleasing uniformity in the buildings. Cambray Place on the right hand in walking up the street is very pleasant, the gardens in front of the houses being filled with pretty shrubs. A house on the Bath Road is much admired. It was built by Captain Scott and perfection was required in every minute particular appertaining to it¹⁵. Near to it is one of the prettiest views in the neighbourhood, which could, we were told, be nowhere seen to such advantage as from the leads of the captain's house.

During our stay at Cheltenham we thought ourselves happy in having it in our power to attend regularly at the old church¹⁶. The Rector, Mr Close, is I think the finest preacher I ever heard¹⁷. He possesses all the natural requisites for attracting the attention of a congregation. His person is handsome and his voice good. His manner and the modulation of his tone are calculated to excite the highest degree of interest and to touch the heart. He preaches the gospel in its purity, keeping free from all fanciful theories and while he constantly inculcates with emphasis the grand truths of salvation is free from that sameness with which men of inferior powers are too apt to weary their hearers. We were informed that there were several other good preachers. Sir Henry Thompson¹⁸ has gained popularity and with Mr Brown¹⁹ [sic] I have little doubt we should have been pleased, but having once heard Mr Close we were unwilling to lose any opportunity of listening to him again.

Our lodgings opened into the church-yard, and it was this proximity which was the cause of our obtaining sittings which strangers are generally unable to do. Such a congregation attending each morning and evening on the sabbath I never beheld. The pews are close and uncomfortable and the pulpit is so placed that a large part of the attendance never behold the face of their Minister. It is said that the dress of the visitors is less gay than formerly and this is supposed to be owing in some measure to the strenuous manner in which Mr Close and Mr Brown [sic] have declaimed against such vanities. Mr Close is a man of exemplary character and full of zeal for the honour of his Heavenly master. He exhorts to alms-giving not with timidity but by inculcating in his auditors the privilege of giving. Perhaps it may be in accordance with his wishes that boxes for various charities are dispersed at the Montpellier spa. It is customary at Cheltenham to obtain a shilling ticket at the door of the chapels for the admission of each person. The old church is an exception, a slight gift to the pew opener, to whom our cook, an acquaintance of hers, had spoken in our behalf sufficing.

Mr Close is greatly interested in an Infant School established under his superintendence, and carried on in a pretty little building erected for the purpose²⁰. The children attend on a Sunday, when some ladies supply the place of the governess and a short time since they were addressed from the pulpit by their Minister. In this school-room a lecture is delivered on the Friday preceding the monthly administration of the sacrament. On each Wednesday evening there are prayers and a sermon in the church. Mr Close delivers

a lecture every day in Passion Week, the exertion attendant on which so far exhausts his frame that he is forced to resort to Malvern to recruit²¹ but always returns on each Sunday to address his flock.

In enumerating the houses with which we were most pleased I have forgotten a row of agreeable looking residences on the right hand side of the Promenade. Amidst these is the Imperial Boarding House²². The Clarence Hotel is near the Crescent²³. The Plough, the Royal Hotel and Yearsley's Boarding House are situated in the High Street²⁴.

Against the last mentioned a terrible commotion was excited during our stay. The reform Bill had just passed - its advocates were not just in Cheltenham but the knowledge of this circumstance did not prevent the opposite party from dining together for the purpose, as I suppose, of condolence. In the course of the evening the populace assembled around the doors of the hotel. Some of the windows were broken, repeated yells were uttered and back-rappers²⁵ set off, but the most energetic efforts were directed against the person of Lord Ellenborough²⁶. As he was entering his carriage a stone was thrown at him. Two gentlemen in attempting to ward off the blow were the sufferers from the violence of the mob. The hat of one preserved him from serious injury, but the eye of the other was wounded and although leeches were immediately applied to his face would long be disfigured. The alarm conveyed to his friends in London from the exaggerated account of the incident given in the newspapers grieved him even more than the pain caused by the blow.

The external appearance of the hotels at Cheltenham is greatly inferior to those at Leamington, but in other respects I feel a decided preference for the former place. Cheltenham is so large that you feel quite independent, which you could scarcely do at Leamington. Yet the influx of company at Cheltenham has caused it to be in some degree deserted by the nobility.

The new spa at Pittville, which is at the distance of a mile from Cheltenham may one day become the resort of the beau monde. The immense expense incurred by the proprietor in the erection of the magnificent pump room and corresponding gardens would seem to render it probable, but four or five years have now elapsed since the preparations were commenced and the company still frequent Thompson's pump room and Pittville is still deserted²⁷. The building is situated on an eminence: the architecture both within and without is on a grand scale and in good taste. A colonnade encircles the lower part of the pump room and a dome much ornamented within completes the whole. A broad gravel walk from the centre of the building conducts you to a pretty piece of water at each end of which is an ornamental bridge. Beyond the water are two pleasure gardens and an abundance of shady walks which will be very agreeable when the trees shall have attained their full size.

On our first entrance to Cheltenham we formed rather too favourable an opinion of the surrounding country arising from a cursory view of the hills which encompass it. Of these I never attained more than a distant view but my brothers climbed Leckhampton Hill and were pleased with the scenery which they descried from it ...'

Sarah Sargent

Notes

1. The diary covers the years 1822-32 and its inside front cover has Sarah Sargant's signature and the date 22 March 1822. The inside front cover is also inscribed, in another later hand, 'Excursions to London, Lichfield, Dudley Castle, Kenilworth, Warwick, Bridgnorth, Cheltenham, Malvern during the years 1822-32, by a resident of Edgbaston in Birmingham, the sister of William Lewis [*sic*] Sargant, author of various works on political economy, currency and trade'; this no doubt refers to the educational reformer and political economist William Lucas Sargant (1809-99) whose father made military arms and other equipment 'for the African trade' in Birmingham (see *Dictionary of National Biography*). I am grateful to Nicholas Kingsley, Birmingham City Archivist, for drawing the diary to my attention, and for permission to transcribe it for this publication. I am also grateful to Elisabeth Gemmill for undertaking the initial transcription of the manuscript, and to the Revd Dr Alan Munden for helpful comments on the transcript.
2. The Market Arcade, with its Moghul Indian style entrance onto the High Street, was opened in 1823. It was demolished in 1867 and the market itself was moved to new site off Gloucester Road in 1876; the site of the arcade is now marked by Bennington Street.
3. In 1832 the Post Office was on the east side of Clarence Street; its approximate site is now marked by Rymans the stationers.
4. Sarah is referring to the Sherborne or Imperial Promenade, as she later makes clear.
5. The Sherborne or Imperial Spa, opened in 1818, was closed down in 1837 and replaced by the Queen's Hotel. The spa building was moved to a site further down the Promenade, where it was variously used as a warehouse and a tea room until its demolition in 1937 to make way for the Regal cinema - the site of which is now occupied by Royscot House.
6. Now the gardens in Imperial Square.
7. The Riding School was situated in North Parade (now Montpellier Spa Road), at the corner of Trafalgar Lane; its site was later occupied by a car showroom and garage, which was replaced by the new Montpellier Apartments in 1995.
8. The Montpellier Spa was established by Henry Thompson in 1809; the building described by Sarah Sargant (now the Montpellier branch of Lloyds Bank) was built in two stages: the colonnaded Long Room in 1817 and the dome or Rotunda in 1825-6. Sarah's diary describes each of these two elements of the building, beginning with the Rotunda.
9. Mawc & Tatlow's Museum, which stood to the south of the Montpellier Spa between 1817 and 1843, was replaced by the shops of Montpellier Exchange (now the Montpellier branch of Barclay's Bank).
10. The rows of houses referred to are those of the North and South Parades, now Montpellier Spa Road and Montpellier Terrace respectively; the villas, many of which still survive, were spread across the Montpellier property, particularly in the vicinity of the Bath Road.
11. Begun during the building boom of 1822-5, the development of both the Lansdown and Suffolk estates was severely curtailed by the financial crisis of December 1825 and consequent slump in the building

industry, which was only just beginning to revive at the time of Sarah Sargant's visit.

12. St James's, Suffolk Square, built in 1825-30.

13. The site of the Old Well and its gardens is now largely occupied by Cheltenham Ladies' College.

14. Royal Crescent, built between 1805 and the early 1820s. Its garden is now a car park, with the Royal Well Bus Station beyond.

15. Thirlestaine House, built c.1823 and now part of Cheltenham College.

16. St Mary's, Cheltenham's medieval parish church.

17. The Revd Francis Close (1797-1882), who was curate of Holy Trinity in 1824-6 and incumbent of St Mary's, 1825-56, before his move to Carlisle as Dean.

18. The Revd Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., was curate of St Paul's, Cheltenham, 1831-3.

19. The Revd John Browne, curate of Holy Trinity, 1828-57.

20. St James's Square Infant School was established in temporary premises in 1828, and a purpose-built school was opened in 1830. Though much altered, it still survives as an office building called Wynnstay House.

21. I.e., to recover.

22. Built in 1823, and now occupied by Hoopers and adjoining shops.

23. Built c.1820 and now John Dower House, headquarters of the Countryside Commission.

24. All three have now been demolished; Yearsley's Boarding House was on the north side of the High Street, immediately to the east of the Grammar School, into whose buildings it was incorporated c.1852.

25. A back-rapper is a kind of fire-cracker.

26. Edward Law, 2nd Baron Ellenborough (1790-1871), who had been a member of the Duke of Wellington's government in 1828-30, settled at Southam de la Bere c.1830 and chaired the inaugural meeting of the new Cheltenham Conservative Club in 1832. The Reform Bill passed its third reading on 4 June 1832 and received the royal assent three days later. Lord Ellenborough records in his diary for 13 June that he had been insulted in the street on 8 June and that a mob of 400-500 people had gathered outside Yearsley's Hotel during a Club meeting on 12 June, but that he had been able to reach his carriage unharmed (quoted in A Aspinall (ed.), *Three early nineteenth century diaries*, 1952). This is clearly the incident to which Sarah Sargant refers.

27. Sarah Sargant was clearly aware of the problems that beset Pittville Spa, isolated on the north side of town, from its opening in 1830.

Cheltenham and the Lifeboats

BETTY GREENE

A STRIKING and often reproduced Victorian photograph (see for example Steven Blake's *Pictorial History*) shows an incongruously large lifeboat being launched into the small ornamental lake at Pittville Park. This article explains the background to that event, and uncovers evidence of a second Cheltenham-associated lifeboat, with a hint of a possible rivalry between their respective sponsors.

What then was the connection between inland Cheltenham and sea-going lifeboats? By the middle of the 19th century the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (founded 1824) was actively supported by the townspeople, who raised enough money to provide 'the Cheltenham Life Boat'. Built by Woolfe of Shadwell, London, at a cost of £256, this was a 32ft vessel of 10 oars. In October 1866 the public lined the streets to see it taken in procession to Pittville. Here it was christened by Lady Charlotte Schreiber, wife of the MP, who broke a bottle of wine against the rudder before the vessel was 'manned by a number of sailors in cork jackets and at a signal given, was launched into the Lake amidst the hearty and vociferous cheers of the thousands who witnessed the operation, and the performance of Rule Britannia by the Bands of the Rifle Companies . . . the Boat was rowed several times across the Lake and after the performance, by the crew, of two or three nautical manoeuvres to shew its buoyant powers, was, by means of suitable tackle, submerged. It however instantly righted itself; by some self-acting agency turning over and expelling the water which it had received in capsizing'¹.

The *Looker-On* reported fully on the ceremony, the route and arrangement of the procession, the dinner in the Plough Hotel that evening for about 56 important committee members and friends, and the subsequent ceremonies when the lifeboat was transported to Burnham for its second launch². A surplus of £190 from subscriptions was handed over to the RNLI, and a further small profit from the crowds at the launch was divided between the General Hospital and the Girls' and Boys' Orphan Asylums. At Burnham, it became the first lifeboat to be stationed on the Somerset coast to serve the busy shipping trade in the Bristol Channel; in service until 1887, it was to save 36 lives in all³.

In 1924, the year of the RNLI's centenary, Cheltenham again became actively interested, a committee being formed to celebrate the anniversary by raising £500 as its share of the national target of £500,000. At this time a lifeboat rowed by oarsmen cost £2,000, while £6,000 would provide one of the very few motorised boats. Throughout the year, the committee worked towards its £500 target. Activities included a lantern lecture on 27 February in the supper room at the town hall. Regrettably, this was a 'great failure with an audience of mostly children and the committee and takings of £4 2s 9½d mainly in coppers'. On 2 March the clergy were encouraged to hold services and collections to support Lifeboat Sunday. In August there was a flag day, a *thé dansant*, jumble sales, whist drives and dances. A thousand letters appealing for subscriptions of 6s were sent to all the 'principal

houses in the town' and collecting boxes to business houses. On 30 August a grand fête was held in Pittville Park with another lifeboat, this time motorised, on the lake, a band, dancing on the lawn, and fireworks. However, the weather was a 'great disappointment' and the attendance of about 2,000 not enough to make a profit. By the end of the year the branch had managed to collect £300 to send to RNLI headquarters⁴.

No such difficulties arose in the provision of another Cheltenham-associated lifeboat, the earliest. This was called the *Morgan*. The small RNLI museum at Barmouth on the west Wales coast has a 4ft-long scale model of this extraordinary boat that attracted my attention even before I read the accompanying label, which stated that money for the craft had been given by a Mrs Morgan of Cheltenham⁵. Who was Mrs Morgan, and what was her connection with the sea? The RNLI archives had no information about her, but plenty about the boat.

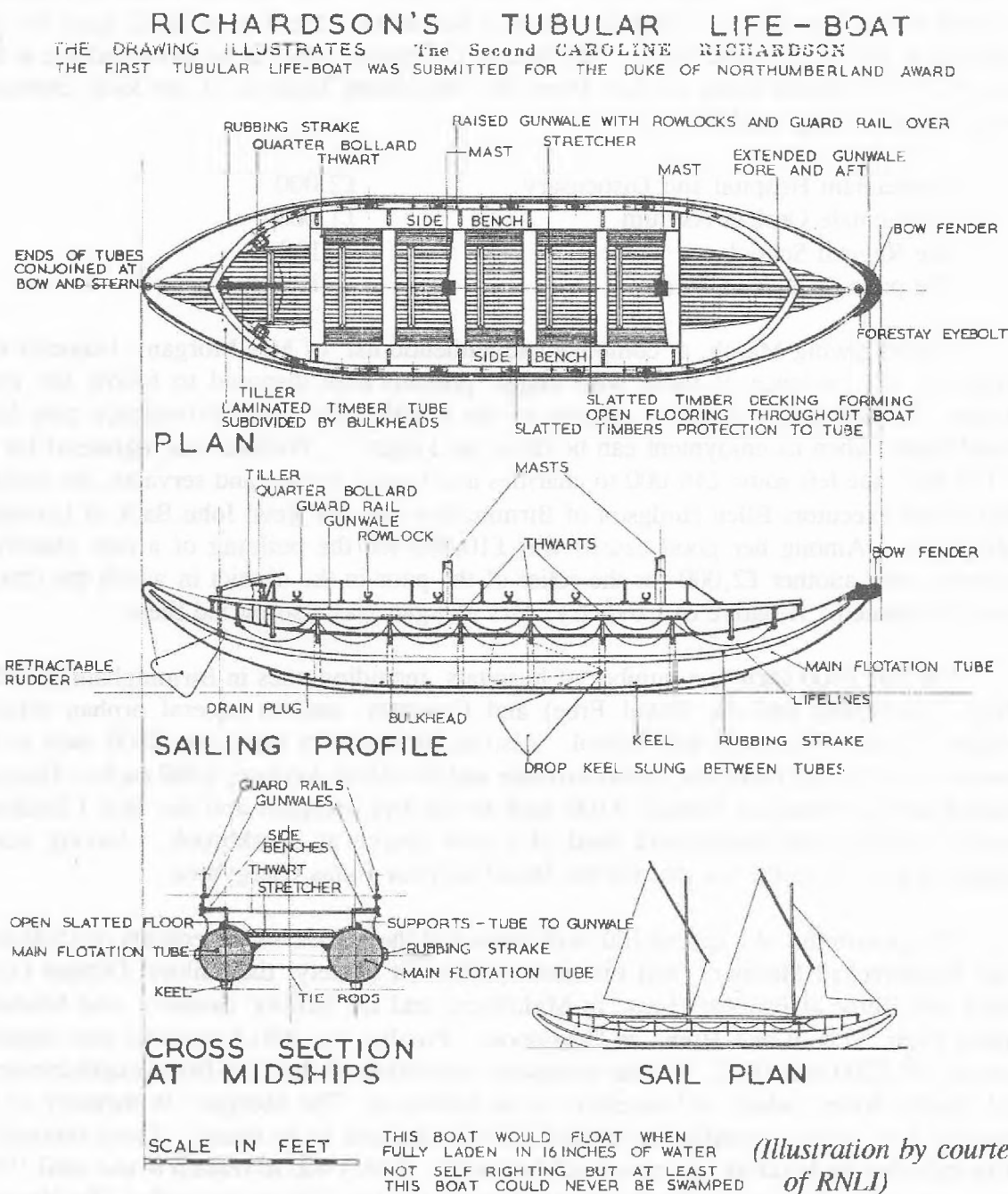
Its origin lay early in the 19th century when the Duke of Northumberland offered a prize for the best design for a self-righting lifeboat. Among the many and varied entries was one for a tubular lifeboat designed by Henry Richardson and his son of Bala, north Wales, and built in 1852 by William Lees of Manchester of ½in-thick iron. It was not so much a self-righting lifeboat as an unsinkable life-raft. The craft was navigated from Liverpool to Lands End and thence to Ramsgate and London with an experienced coxswain (Thomas Evans) and crew who were completely satisfied with its performance⁶. Although it met rough weather off St David's Head and again off Padstow, it 'rose on the waves so that no sea ever broke over it'. It had also been successfully beached and rowed off again.

As shown overleaf, its main structure was two iron cylinders 40ft long and 2½ft in diameter, set 3ft apart with the ends tapered, curved and turned inwards so as to meet in a point at bows and stern. They were divided into watertight compartments. On top of this rigid framework were cross and longitudinal battens set about an inch apart so that water could flow between them. Side planks 8in high supported eight thwarts for the rowers, and above them 12in-high gunwales carried the rowlocks. The total width of the 'boat' was 8ft and it would be pulled by 14 or 16 oars and steered by an ordinary rudder. There were masts with two lug sails and a jib. In a rescue it could carry '80 men and if they all stood on one side it would make no great difference'. The weight was 31cwt and the draft of only 11in, which made it an ideal craft for working along shallow coastlines. The cost was £202.

It would appear to have been an extremely wet and uncomfortable craft but after its visit to London and trials against a conventional lifeboat off Woolwich, it returned to North Wales. This craft was the successful improvement on many earlier attempts at similar structures which had appeared at intervals since 1813. The judges expressed a doubt 'that the iron of which the cylinders are formed will be liable to rapid decay . . . but as the inventors have overcome greater difficulties, no doubt, this minor objection will be vanquished too; and we heartily wish them the success that their public spirit and perseverance have so fairly entitled them to'.

Time proved the excellence and durability of the craft, which served on the Rhyl station from February 1856 to 1893; Rhyl had been selected because it had recently suffered a heavy loss of crew when its previous lifeboat capsized. The *Morgan* was followed by the

similar *Caroline Richardson I* and then *Caroline Richardson II*, donated by Henry Richardson's son H T Richardson (see plan below). Although built by the Thames Ironworks Co, the tubular cylinders of the latter boat were of laminated wood; it remained in regular use until 1939.



The tubular lifeboat at Rhyl had in fact originally been called *Noddfa* (Refuge), becoming *The Morgan* in about 1858 when Mrs Elizabeth Hill Morgan gave £202 10s. The gift was made through an intermediary, Miss Ellen Hodgson of Lawn House, Edgbaston, Birmingham, evidently a friend of long standing and later to be an executrix of Mrs Morgan's

Although no fewer than four maritime organisations were among beneficiaries of the several charitable bequests in her will, Mrs Morgan does not appear to have had prior strong connection with seafarers' welfare, though it may be noted that the first Honorary Secretary of the Rhyl RNLI station was a Revd Hugh Morgan; no connection has been traced. In 1840 she and her husband Hill Morgan MD, a retired member of the Medical Board in Bombay, are listed in the *Annuaire* at 7 Berkeley Place, Cheltenham. He died in 1842, aged 64; she continued to live in the same house. She died in December 1864 'at an advanced age at her residence'⁸, her wealth being evident from the 'munificent legacies to our local charities' printed the following week⁹:

Cheltenham Hospital and Dispensary	£2,000
The Female Orphan Asylum	£1,000
The Ragged Schools	£100
The poor of St John's district	£100

The following March, a 'complete and authentic list' of Mrs Morgan's bequests was printed for the guidance of those who might 'possibly feel disposed to follow her good example . . . when they come to dispose of the wealth with which Providence may have blessed them, when its enjoyment can be theirs no longer'¹⁰. Probate was registered for up to £120,000; she left some £46,000 to charities and family friends and servants, the residue going to her executors Ellen Hodgson of Birmingham and the Revd John Back of Coventry to distribute. Among her good causes was £10,000 for the building of a new church at Coventry, with another £2,000 for the relief of the poor in the district in which the church would be situated. A native of Coventry, Mrs Morgan was also buried there.

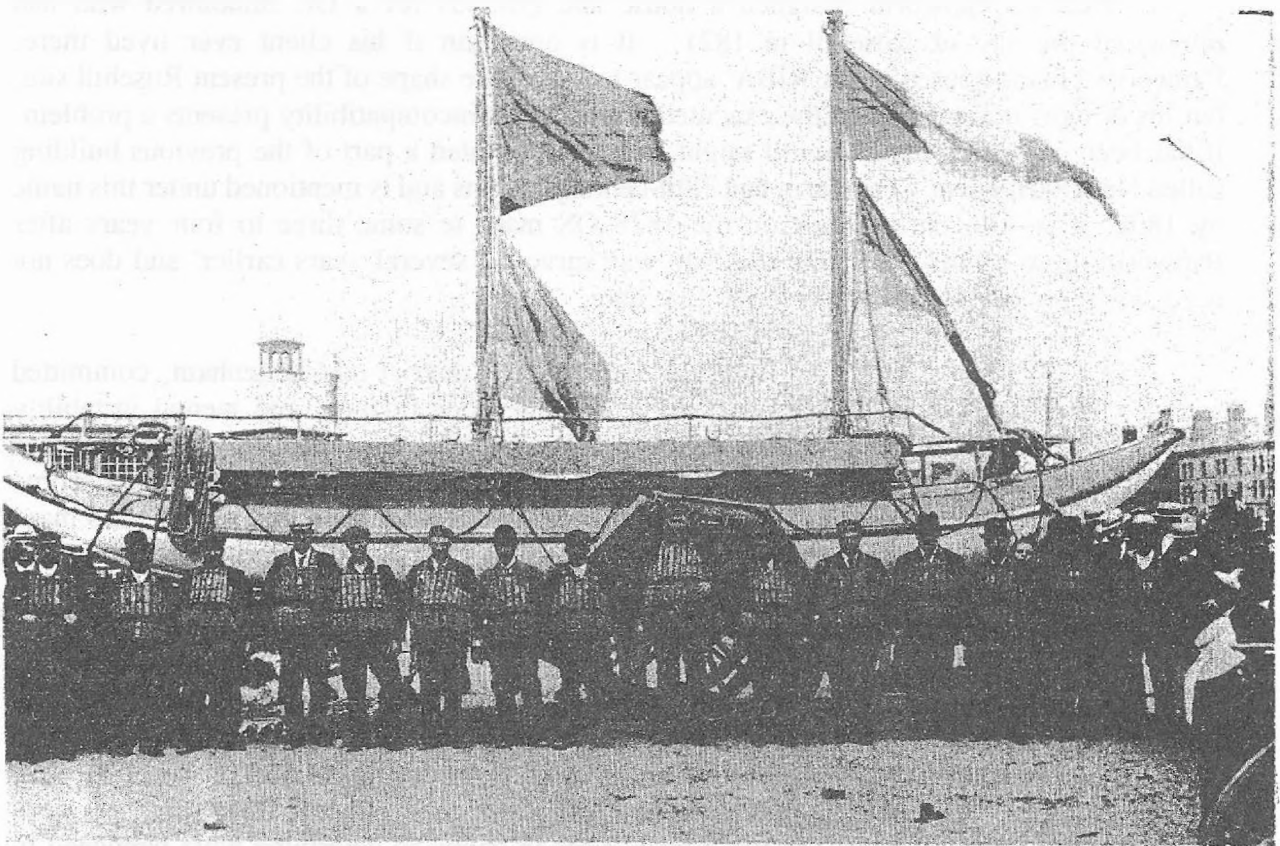
She left £500 each to a number of hospitals, including ones in Birmingham, London (Putney, Brompton and the Royal Free) and Coventry, and to several orphan schools including London Wanstead and Bristol. Also in Birmingham there was £500 each to the General Hospital, the Deaf and Dumb Institute and the Blind Asylum; £200 each to Queen's Hospital and the Bluecoat School; £100 each to the Eye Hospital and the Sick Children's Hospital; £500 to the endowment fund of a new church at Sparkbrook. Among minor bequests was £100 to the Society for the Relief of Poor Pious Clergymen.

The possibility of a special link with ships and the sea shows in bequests of £500 each to the Shipwrecked Mariners' and Fishermen's Benefit Society; the Sailors' Orphan Girls' School and Home at Froggnal House in Middlesex; and the Sailors' Soldiers' and Marines' Orphan Girls' School and Home at Devonport. Finally, the RNLI received two separate bequests, of £200 and £650, 'for the complete renovation of the Life-Boat establishment at Rhyl, North Wales, which is henceforth to be known as "The Morgan" in memory of the charitable lady whose liberality has enabled these donations to be made'. These renovation works included the building of a new brick boathouse, which was to remain in use until 1995. It does not appear that in fact the station itself as well as the lifeboat was called *The Morgan*. According to the RNLI archivist, the tubular lifeboat cost £130 to build, but the £202 10s of Mrs Morgan's original gift no doubt included all its equipment, the trials and getting it into service at Rhyl in 1856.

Mrs Morgan's death in 1864 and the publication of the full details of her will in 1865 brings us almost full circle to the Cheltenham Lifeboat with which we began, yet there is no mention of Mrs Morgan in any of the accounts or subscription lists preceding the launch of the more famous boat. Could there have been some rivalry? It hardly seems possible that the donors of lifeboats in a town the size of Cheltenham would remain in ignorance of one another, or that if Mrs Morgan's work had indeed inspired the provision of the second lifeboat, this fact would not have been mentioned. Yet she does seem to have been completely ignored.

Notes

1. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 13 Oct 1866.
2. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 27 Oct 1866.
3. Information from Mr Jeff Morris, Hon Archivist, Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Society.
4. RNLI, Cheltenham branch minute book, 1924-31.
5. Label quotes *Country Quest*, July 1983.
6. RNLI, Poole headquarters minutes, Sep 1852, pp. 101-2.
7. Personal communication from RNLI.
8. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 10 Dec 1864.
9. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 17 Dec 1864.
10. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 11 Mar 1865.



Men of the Rhyl station with their Tubular lifeboat

(by courtesy of the RNLI)

Who Built Rosehill?

OLIVER BRADBURY

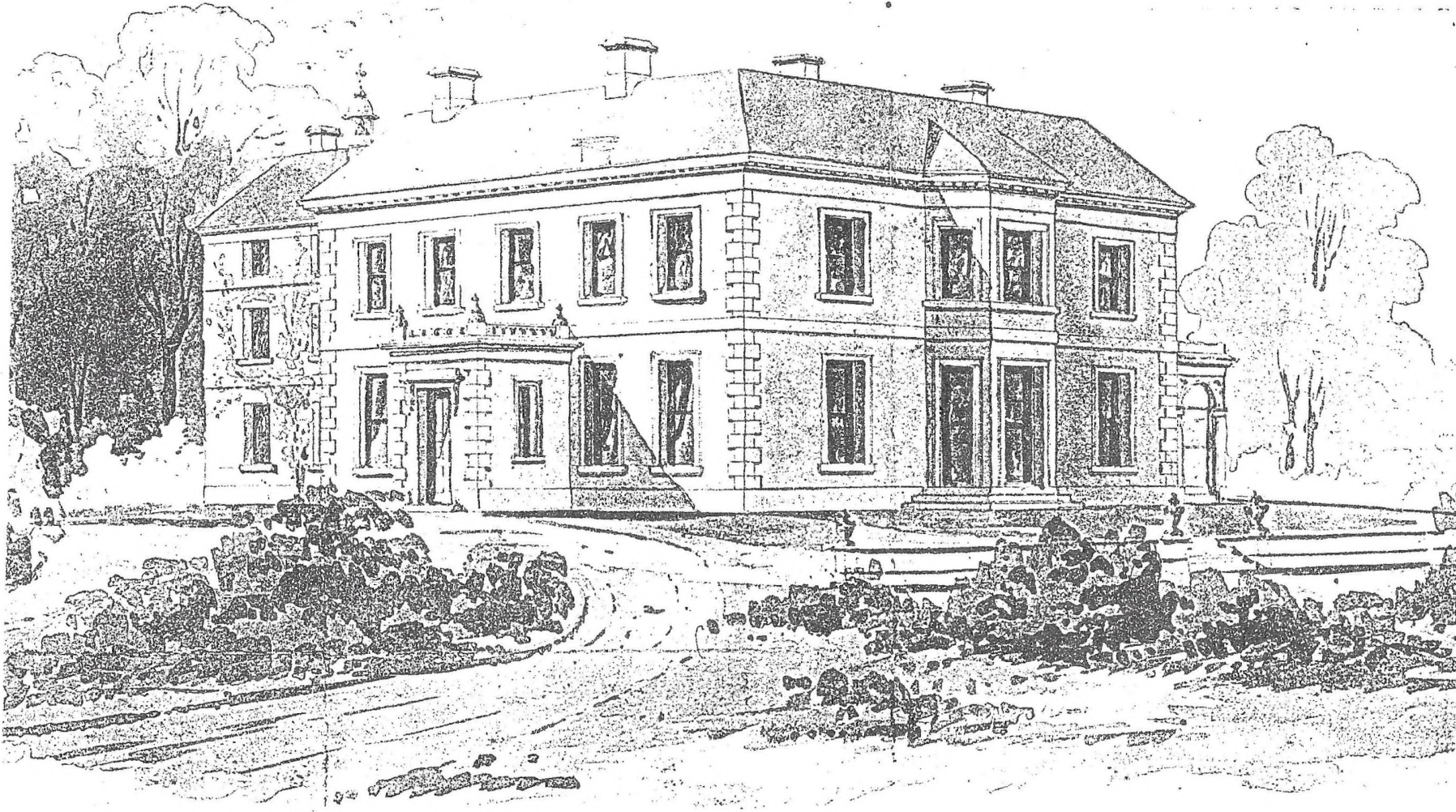
ROSEHILL WAS a substantial mid-Victorian house with Regency origins situated in a large corner plot between the present Evesham Road and New Barn Lane. It was demolished in 1991. Traditionally it has been attributed to the distinguished Regency architect J B Papworth, reliably associated with several buildings in Cheltenham in the 1820s; this paper reviews the evidence for this attribution, and explains the sequence of building on the site.

Writing in 1951, Bryan Little noted 'Papworth seems to have had his introduction to Cheltenham via a Dr Shoolbred for whom, in about 1824, he designed a villa which I have failed to identify among the many like it in the town.'¹ By 1970 David Verey had identified 'Dr Shoolbred's' house as Rosehill with the following description: 'Rosehill is a detached part of St Paul's Training College in Evesham Road. The original Regency house was designed by J. (B.) Papworth, in 1824. He also laid out the grounds - some of the trees may still survive - and paid particular attention to the views obtainable from the house, which has suffered much alteration in Victorian and later times. It is now surrounded by new College buildings.'²

In 1824/25 Papworth designed a house and grounds for a Dr. Shoolbred who had purchased the site of Rosehill in 1821. It is uncertain if his client ever lived there. Papworth's plans housed in the RIBA³ appear to match the shape of the present Rosehill site, but his designs never matched the executed house. This incompatibility presents a problem. It has been suggested that Rosehill might have incorporated a part of the previous building called New Barn Farm. This farm had 18th-century origins and is mentioned under this name by 1806; it is still marked thus on the 1828 OS map, ie some three to four years after Papworth drew up his plans, but the map was surveyed several years earlier⁴ and does not necessarily prove the farm survived to that date.

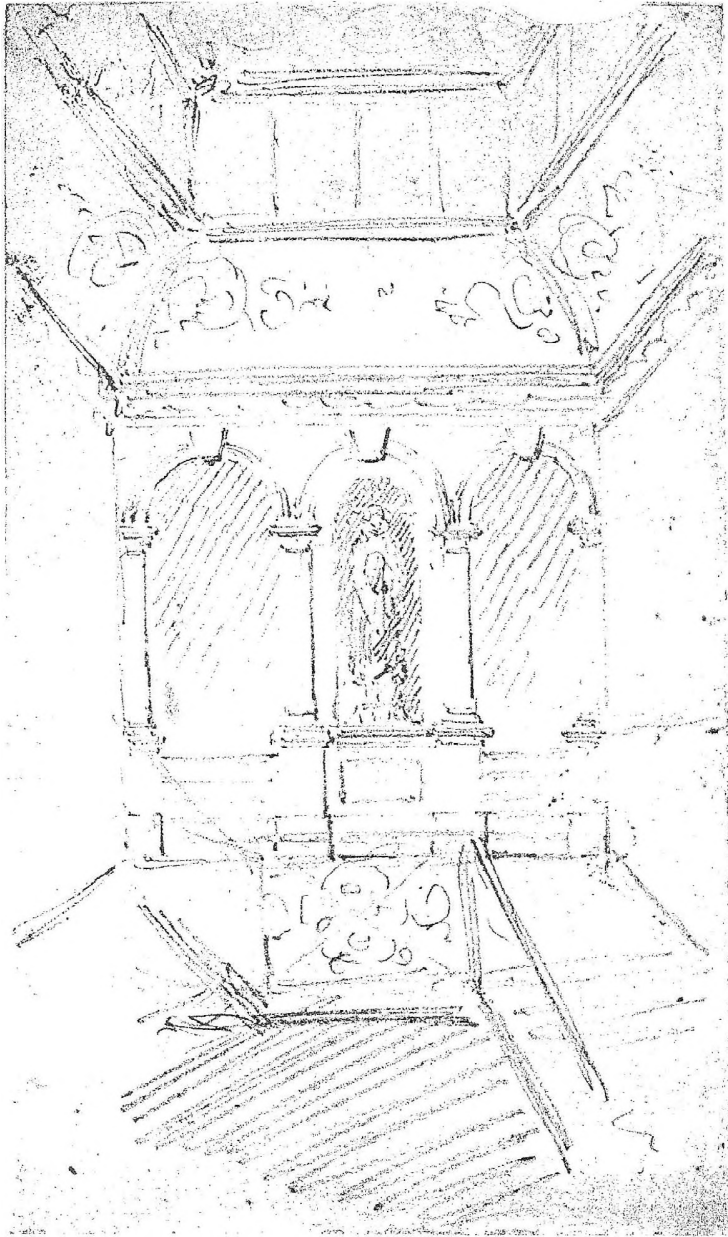
In 1831, Shoolbred, then living in the Cambray district of Cheltenham, committed suicide, leaving a widow. It seems possible that the poor finances and mental instability which led to this act might have affected his relationship with Papworth and the progress of the planned house. By 1834, when the site is marked on Merrett's map, it has become 'Rosehill'. The position of the building here marked is different from that on the 1828 map. In 1828 New Barn Farm was situated along what is now New Barn Lane, but by 1834 there is a large building in the middle of the 'Rosehill' site. So there was probably a new or redeveloped building by 1834 if not earlier⁵.

Research for this article makes it possible now to state firmly that the form of the building demolished in 1991 was the work of the architects Waller & Fulljames. The Rosehill commission is listed within the works of the partnership housed in the Gloucester Record Office⁶. They built Rosehill between 1850-55 for their client C P Dodson. Now we know the date of erection we can work backwards in trying to determine what happened in



Rosehill: south and west fronts, from 1850-55 plans by Waller & Fulljames
(GRO D2593 2/97, reproduced with permission)

the crucial period between c.1824-25 to 1850-55. Were Papworth's plans ever executed?



If Papworth's scheme was realised it is very unlikely anyone would have gone to the trouble and expense of demolishing his work and replacing it with a later house. More realistically Papworth's building would have been remodelled according to Victorian taste, but a thorough inspection of the Victorian house by Ken Pollock revealed no traces whatsoever of an earlier Regency core, even in the cellars, the level most likely to have escaped a revamp⁷.

Waller & Fulljames produced two sets of ground plans for the house. One of these matches the house that was built, and the other was perhaps an alternative scheme. Several of the plans are marked 'Design for Additions and Alterations' and some are marked for example 'Ground floor at present'. This would imply that there was a building there already. Perhaps this was New Barn Farm or Papworth's house for Dr Shoolbred, but Waller & Fulljames' plans are numerous and detailed enough to suggest a virtual rebuilding of the site.

Despite providing several schemes only two elevations designed by Waller & Fulljames are actually recognizable. These are the south and west fronts, the 'show' fronts designed to have the most impact. It is conceivable that Waller & Fulljames executed only these two fronts and nothing else as there is a curious dearth of interior schemes within their designs for Rosehill. They drew up many floor plans, but anything relating to the interior is often not more than a doodle. There is a rough sketch [above] for a grand top-lit gallery at the top of presumably the main staircase, the main feature being an arcade of three keystone arches. The central arch houses a raised statue, and the other two arches have steps within to a higher level - possibly a first floor corridor. Although roughly drawn the mood of the scheme is Italianate, like the exterior. There is a pen and ink sketch for what appears to be an ironwork fireguard, two fireplaces, a 'Sketch for floor in porch by Messrs

Minton⁸, and some cornice mouldings, but again this does not add up to a major reworking of the interior. One must suspect someone else was responsible for the interior.

In the Cheltenham Reference Library there is a catalogue titled 'Chas. H. Rainger, Builder, Decorator, Sanitary Engineer, &c.... Bath Place, Cheltenham'; it was issued in 1904, the year the firm marked its centenary. In the introduction Charles Rainger tells us that his grandfather Joseph Rainger came to Cheltenham in 1804; 'He soon appears to have acquired considerable business. Among some of his more important works may be mentioned Dowdeswell Court..., Rosehill, Pittville.... etc.' Unfortunately he does not tell us when his grandfather was active at Rosehill, but it would be plausible for him to have been there after the Papworth/Shoolbred work and before Waller & Fulljames. I propose he might have worked on Rosehill prior to Waller & Fulljames in 1850-55. However, the décor looked distinctly more late 19th century than mid, and there is a possibility that Rainger remodelled the interior some time *after* Waller & Fulljames. Without further evidence one can only speculate, although the Rainger connection could explain Rosehill's extraordinary series of elaborate interiors as they were interior designers as well as builders. Reproduced in their centenary publication are various Cheltenham commissions executed during the late Victorian and early Edwardian period. The plates show sumptuous and cluttered interiors typical of the period; Rosehill was not reproduced despite being singled out in the introduction, though stylistically it falls perfectly into place within the Rainger oeuvre.

In 1877 Rosehill came on the market, and it was advertised in the *Cheltenham Looker-On*⁹ in glowing terms as:

'A First-class Stone-built Mansion, occupying an elevated position, a Mile from the centre of Cheltenham, and commanding very extensive and beautiful Views. It is approached by a winding Carriage Drive, with Lodge at entrance. Has Eleven Bed Rooms, Three Dressing Rooms, Bath Room, spacious Nurseries, Boudoir or Workroom, handsome principal and secondary Staircases, elegant Drawing Rooms, together 47ft long, lofty Dining Room 27ft by 18ft, noble Entrance Hall forming Billiard Room, Inner hall, Schoolroom or Study, extensive Domestic Offices, and Capital Cellarage. The House is surrounded by charming and well-timbered Pleasure Grounds, with shaded Shrubbery Walks, Wall Fruit and Vegetable Gardens, Double Vinery, Greenhouse, Forcing Pits, ornamental Paddock, with Fruit Trees, Orchard, and enclosure of pasture; at a convenient distance are Stabling for Ten Horses, Cowstalls, Coachman's Cottage, and numerous other Out-buildings, the whole comprising in a ring fence about 10A. 3R. 2P.'

At the time of Rosehill's demolition in 1991 it was a pale shadow of the Victorian glory just described. The grounds had been built over and ruined save for some mature woodland around the edges, but the actual building was remarkably intact, especially the interior, despite having been a hotel from 1922 to c.1950, and then a college campus until c.1990. Documentation of Rosehill is surprisingly good ranging from Papworth's 1824/5 designs to photographs of the house prior to its demolition in 1991¹⁰; however, no house deeds earlier than 1895 appear to have survived. In between these dates are Waller & Fulljames designs from the 1850s; 1893 sale particulars¹¹ which have a lithograph of the house, plus a very detailed map of the grounds, and a 1930s-40s brochure¹² from the period when it was the Prestbury Park Hotel. The brochure is particularly useful as one glimpses

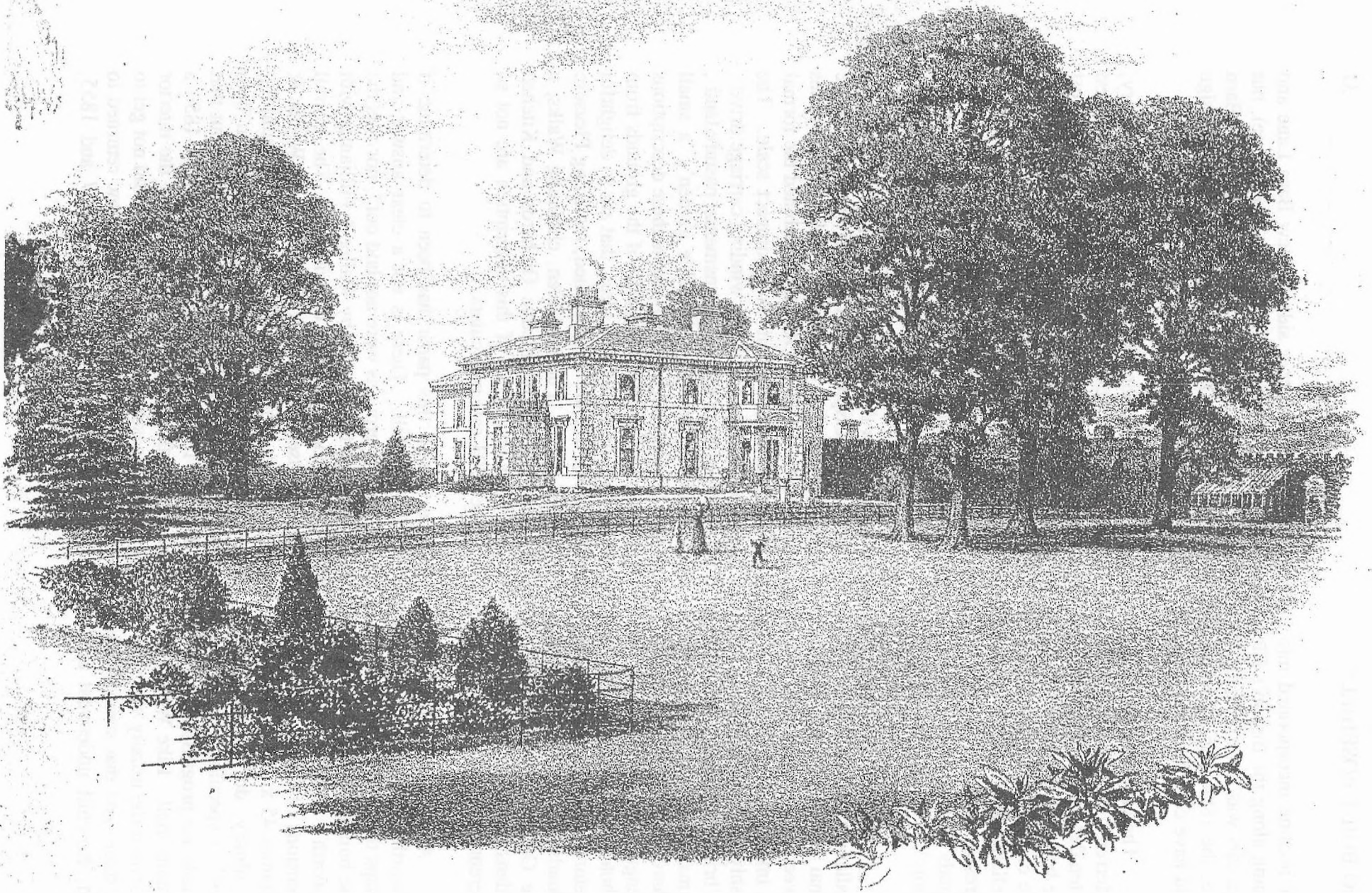
Victorian Rosehill with photographs of furnished rooms, like 'The Sun Lounge' (conservatory/billiard room built in the 1920s), views of the garden including a picturesque arboretum, and stables.

The interior was surprisingly elaborate for Victorian Cheltenham. There were six rooms in the central core of the ground floor with a different stylistic theme to each. The most distinguished room was the former drawing room which was in a pleasantly understated French Rococo style similar to Waddesdon¹³. This room presents a marked contrast to the usual rather deadpan interiors of Victorian Cheltenham, lightly decorated in restrained plaster mouldings with interesting compositional panels on and above the doors. There were two large wall-mounted mirrors with ornate gilded Rococo frames clearly designed in situ above the 'Anderson' white marble fireplaces. The ceiling was painted with a cherubim subject matter on canvas - again probably unique in the town. The windows had curious cast-iron glazing bars in a serpentine pattern and panels of painted glass depicting musical instruments. The dining room was more Baroque in spirit with its elaborate broken-pediment door-cases and heavy cornice. Another room featured a Jacobean-revival flavour, with strapwork ceiling and deep floral frieze below the cornice. The main staircase was substantially built in stained oak, quite ponderous in style, but a skylight of coloured glass illuminated the landing. Even the bedrooms were ornately decorated. The 1893 sale particulars describe these rooms in great detail.

The Grounds

The earliest depiction of Rosehill's grounds is on Merrett's 1834 map, though Papworth had prepared a scheme ten years earlier. Depending on the accuracy of Merrett's map, if one is to compare it to Papworth's plans, it is immediately evident that his design was never executed. According to Merrett the grounds were very simple with trees or shrubs around the edges. The only decorative element are some curved plantings towards the centre of the garden. The house is approached via a lodge and carriage sweep approximately half way up the Evesham road side of the grounds, but curiously this lodge moves down into its final position in the south-west corner by 1838 according to the 1842 Prestbury apportionment map. This lodge was possibly built or altered by Waller & Fulljames (they provided a lodge and gate design) and survived into this century, but it is unknown when it was demolished or what it looked like, though in 1893 it was described as a 'Brick-built lodge containing two bed rooms, sitting room, kitchen, pantry and larder; and outside - closet, wood and coal houses'. On both the 1828 and 1834 maps there is a single outbuilding along the New Barn Lane side of the grounds which might have become incorporated into a more complex set of outbuildings erected later in the century.

Papworth's design though informal is complicated. He provided a layout scheme for a rich and complex variety of trees and shrubs including almond, acacia, laburnum, sweet chestnut, hollies, fruit trees, ash, birch/elms and oak, firs and mulberry. The house is approached from the top left-hand corner via a lodge or possibly a toll house in the north-west corner¹⁴. The house is surrounded by a large lawn especially in the town direction, and beyond this the grounds are screened by planting and serpentine woodland paths. Papworth also designed a rough scheme for a plot of land belonging to Rosehill which



Rosehill: south and west fronts, from 1893 sale particulars
(GRO SL65, reproduced with permission)

later became incorporated into the race course, on the other side of New Barn Lane and running along the Bishop's Cleeve Road (the far south-west corner of the race course), but again this was not executed. Unfortunately Merrett's map does not go beyond New Barn Lane; the 1884 map shows no indication of Papworth's handiwork, though a loose design could have completely changed between the 1820s and the 1880s.

The gardens were to become more formal as fashion shifted during the 19th century, if Merrett's map is compared to later views and descriptions of the grounds. The earliest written description from 1877 quoted earlier conveys how charming Victorian Rosehill must have been. A lithograph of the house and garden from the 1893 sale particulars depicts the large central lawn and the peripheral planting. In the far right-hand corner is an intriguing castellated wall (described in 1893 as 'an old ivy-clad wall rendered picturesque by the buttresses and battlements') pierced by an arch which leads into the next section of the grounds running along New Barn Lane. This appears always to have been a plain field-like section¹⁵. The castellated wall section still survives, as does most of the peripheral planting.

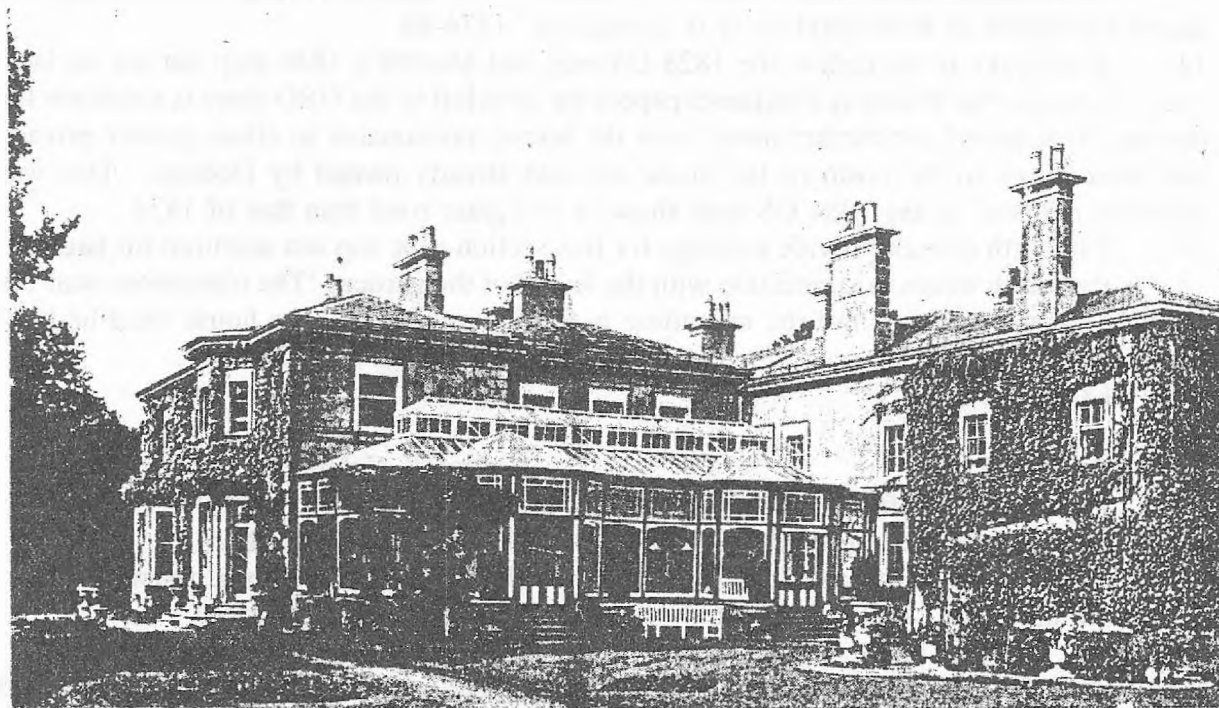
There are two views of the mature grounds in the Prestbury Hotel guide. One is an woodland view of a former bridle path known as 'The Spinney'. The other view is from the formal terrace adjacent to the house with steps and urns designed by Waller & Fulljames between 1850-5. The two contrasting photographs show how Rosehill combined the formal and informal qualities of a 19th-century landscape park albeit on a compact scale. The lavishly-produced 1893 sale particulars describe in great detail the 'winding carriage drive', the 'brick-built lodge', 'asphalte tennis court' (an early example?), 'ornamental pasture land', 'a small rookery', 'an apiary', 'walled-in kitchen garden', 'vegetable garden', 'a small orchard', and 'the glasshouses'. There is simply not enough space to quote these descriptions at length, but I will complete this section with the c.1940s description of the grounds from the hotel guide: 'The drive leading to the Hotel winds through the trees, that are so delightful a feature of the grounds, which cover twelve acres, and are well planned, including Pleasure Grounds, Miniature Park, Croquet and Tennis Lawns, Putting Green, charming Walks, a Rose Garden, Grape, Peach and other green-houses, productive Orchards and Kitchen Gardens, Jersey Cows and Poultry.' The spirit and detail of this description are not so different to that in the 1877 *Looker-On* or the 1893 sale particulars.

As mentioned earlier the main objective of this paper has been to determine if Papworth was architecturally responsible for Rosehill. There is not a clear answer and perhaps there will never be one. It is clear that the grounds were not laid out¹⁶, nor was the house built to his designs, but comparing the ground floor layout by Waller & Fulljames with Papworth's there is a striking similarity, going beyond mere coincidence. The overall dimensions of Papworth's main body of the house were 46½ x 56ft, those of Waller & Fulljames 45 x 56ft. This would suggest that both dimensions relate to the same building. The library, drawing/dining room, and central staircase are in the same places in both cases¹⁷. I speculate that the shell of Papworth's house for Dr Shoolbred was built, but that it made no progress after Shoolbred's death in 1831, remaining between c.1831-1850 a dormant shell. Like Waller & Fulljames, Papworth provided few schemes for the interior decoration (he usually was very specific) again suggesting that the commission did not get to that stage, and that someone else did it. After Shoolbred's suicide, his widow returned to Bath; Rosehill underwent at least four changes of ownership between 1837 and 1855,

suggesting it had little sustained attention in this period.

Rosehill's demolition in 1991, despite Ken Pollock's well-reasoned case for its survival, is regrettable. At the time, it was deemed not distinguished enough, though perhaps if more had been known of its history it could have survived. Its history was quite complex with the involvement of at least three architects. Admittedly there was nothing 'exquisite' about Waller & Fulljames' building in comparison to a Regency building of say 30 years earlier; in comparison, Papworth's designs *were* exquisite, and it is a pity they were never (fully) executed. Nevertheless it was a good example of a comfortable, well-designed Victorian town house with an emphasis on quality over beauty. There is not enough space to describe Waller & Fulljames's exterior at length though it could be summarised as a richly sculptural example of the Franco-Italianate style, standing in a dominant position at the elevated northern entrance to the town.

Acknowledgements: I am especially grateful to Ken Pollock, Dr Nigel Temple, Dr Steven Blake, and John Harris at Gulf Oil for helping me with this paper.



Rosehill as it appeared in the 1930s, when it was the 'Prestbury Park' private residential hotel (from a contemporary guidebook).

Notes

1. *Cheltenham* (Batsford, 1952), p. 70.
2. *Gloucestershire: The Vale and The Forest of Dean*, p. 137.
3. RIBA Drawings collection, catalogue for the office of J B Papworth, p. 100.
4. The 1828 OS 1" map is based on a survey made 1811-17, revised in the mid-1820s.
5. The survival of 'New Barn Farm' on maps as late as 1842 (Davies) is almost certainly merely repetition of an outdated survey.
6. GRO, D2593 2/97: Waller & Fulljames, plans for Rosehill; '1850-55, Prestbury: alterations and additions to Rose Hill House - classical'.
7. Waller & Fulljames's cellars did not go under the main part of the house, but followed the orientation of the rear service wing (east). The ground floor service corridor is echoed in the basement as are the fireplaces in the service wing rooms which shared the same flues from the cellar.
8. Royal Doulton (Minton) cannot trace the pattern.
9. 6 October 1877.
10. Private collection.
11. GRO SL65; particulars include view of house and detailed plan of grounds.
12. 'Prestbury Park Private and Residential Hotel'. Very well illustrated especially the interior. At Francis Close Hall.
13. Waddesdon, Bucks, the French-style chateau with Rococo revival interiors built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild by G H Destailleur, 1874-89.
14. A turnpike is marked on the 1828 OS map and Merrett's 1834 map but not on later ones. Amongst the Waller & Fulljames papers for Rosehill in the GRO there is a scheme for moving New Barn Lane further away from the house, presumably to allow greater privacy and more space to the north of the house on land already owned by Dodson. This was probably realised, as the 1884 OS map shows a straighter road than that of 1834.
15. Papworth did not provide a design for this section as it was not acquired till later on.
16. Papworth writes in connection with the layout of the garden: 'The plantations near the building cannot be done until the mounding is formed around it. The house must be built first.'
17. Compare:

Papworth

Library 18 x 23ft

Drawing room & vestibule 18 x 36ft 6in

Hall & study 17ft 3in x 27ft 9in

Dining room 18ft 3in x 28ft 6in

Waller & Fulljames

18 x 18ft (same position)

18 x 38ft (same position)

18 x 27ft 9in (combined space)

18 x 27ft (same position)

Like Waller & Fulljames, Papworth provided alternative schemes, and one of the schemes relates very closely to Waller & Fulljames's in terms of dimensions. Curiously Papworth's cellar design (presumably the first section built) does not match Waller & Fulljames. There are further similarities in a series of service rooms off a corridor to the north of the main block. A WC and closet are in very similar locations. The orientation and layout of Waller & Fulljames service wings, stables and outbuildings (east) do not correspond to Papworth's (north).

The Church and its Chapels in Medieval Cheltenham: a Summary

MICHAEL GREET

Summary

THE CHURCH in medieval Cheltenham is first noted between 781 and 798 or 800. It may have been a minster but this is not certain (Ross, I xxvii). In 1086 there is said to be evidence for a church in Cheltenham that had subordinate chapels and a separate priory (Middleton, p. 54). The Domesday Book shows that there was a church in Cheltenham with priests and that it held 1½ hides (an endowment later part of the rectory lands of Cheltenham). Since the chapels were later subordinate to the parish church of St Mary's (1133), it is likely that they were so subordinated in 1086 and St Mary's is not therefore to be identified with the priory. There is some evidence that the priory was sited away from the present site of St Mary's. Subordinate chapels existed at **Leckhampton** (earliest reference 1162-64); at **Charlton Kings** (dedicated 1190-91 or 1193); and **Up Hatherley** (possibly subordinate to Cheltenham for an unknown period)¹. There were also two private chapels (one at **Arle**) served by the church at Cheltenham. There is also evidence for an oratory at **Ham**, Charlton Kings.

Evidence

The first evidence of a church at Cheltenham is at the Council of Cloveshoe in 803, when a dispute over a payment due from the church at Cheltenham ('monasterio in parochia Deneberhti Celtanhom', quoted in Sawyer) was settled. The Bishop of Worcester's predecessor Heathured (bishop in 781-798 or 800) had, allegedly, received the profit from Cheltenham².

Barbara Rawes suggested that lands at Cheltenham may originally have been given (by the king) as part of the endowment for Gloucester Abbey (Rawes 1984, p. 7). Following its decay c. 767 he may have resumed them and given the diocese 30 hides at Prestbury. A mortgage of these to the Bishop of Hereford, subsequently foreclosed, could explain the later food-rent debate already noted (Paget 1996).

'Another synod, held at Gloucester in 1086, mentions the priory in its list of rentals, and also a 'church with chapels'. These are mentioned separately in a way to imply that the church was independent of the collegiate foundation and this is borne witness to by the plan and arrangement of the church which seems to be purely parochial' (Middleton, p. 54, based on Spellman's *Councils* I 386: Wilkins, *Concilia* I 168).

The Domesday Book refers to priests at Cheltenham having 1½ hides ('ad eccl'am

p'tin 1 hid et dim. Reinbaldus ten eam'). The lands held by Reinbald were later granted to Cirencester Abbey. They later reverted to the Crown and were granted to the Earl of Essex in the 17th century. They included the site of the former priory (Rawes 1983, pp. 2-3). 'Anciently within this towne was a Priory which is now the house let by the Lord Capell (ie the earl of Essex) to the person who farms his Tythes' located on the site of the later 100-106 High Street (Rawes 1983, quoting John Prinn). Such a priory of course may have been merely the name for the house where the priests serving the church lived under a superior (prior), the name meaning only that it was subordinate to a mother house. It would then have been on the edge of Cheltenham (Paget 1996).

A reference in the Cirencester Cartulary Vol II document 412/443 speaks of the priests in Cheltenham as a Chapter ('et capitulo de Chilttenham'). This may mean no more than that the Cirencester priests doing duty at Cheltenham had regular chapter meetings as they would have done at Cirencester. It may imply that before the church was granted to Cirencester there had been a group ministry at Cheltenham which acted in some way as a body corporate (Greet 1984).

In 1133 the church and its chapels ('et capellis') were granted to Cirencester Abbey (Cartulary Vol I, document 28/1). The locations of the chapels at this date are not known, but while Charlton Kings may be ruled out, Leckhampton may have been one of them and Up Hatherley the other, based on the obligation to pay pensions later established (see below).

Leckhampton

There is no mention of a church at Leckhampton in Domesday Book, but this is not necessarily significant. A chapel may have existed here before the first reference (1162-64, see below) as Leckhampton was presumably the home farm of the earlier royal estate (suggested by the placename) before being granted out as a separate manor. In 1162-64 its priest, referred to as a (?rural) dean ('decanus'), was summoned before the Archbishop of Canterbury over a dispute with the Canons of Cirencester over a payment of dues (Cartulary Vol II document 412/443). Leckhampton may have acquired parochial status by then but it still owed dues to the mother church in 1303 (Cartulary Vol III document 484). There is a reference to Leckhampton having a rector in 1270 (Miller, p. 59). A will of 1512 shows that the church was by then dedicated to St Peter (Miller, p. 11).

Charlton Kings

The chapel at Charlton Kings was dedicated in the presence of William, Bishop of Hereford, and Richard, Abbot of Cirencester. This was evidently during a vacancy in the see of Worcester (either between May 1190 and May 1191, or between June and December 1193) before 31 July 1195 when Pope Celestine refers to the chapel (Cartulary Vol II document 415; Greet 1982). It is most unlikely there was any church in Charlton before this. The manor of Charlton was created c. 1140 and the chapel was built on land (given by the lord of the manor) perhaps in return for a hide of land given by him to Cirencester Abbey³ (Cartulary Vol II document 568; Greet 1982, 1983; Paget 1987).

Hatherley

There is also evidence of another chapel, at Hatherley. Dr Ross suggested that a chapel at Up Hatherley might have been subject to Cheltenham at first, then later to Badgeworth⁴ but the basis for this belief is not clear. It may be as follows. A late 13th century document (Cirencester Cartulary Vol I document 8) refers to an 'ecclesia' at Hatherley owing a pension of 12d to Cirencester (the lowest sum in the list of pensions payable by the churches and chapels mentioned). No capella is listed as such and perhaps the 12d reflects Hatherley's status: in the same list Leckhampton paid 2s; the sum at issue in 1162-4. The two churches are thus clearly associated.

A marginal note in the Cartulary (Vol II document 412) notes 'Lekhampton and Hatherle' are bound to pay pensions to Cirencester, and cross-refers to Vol III document 484 which reaffirms in 1303 that Leckhampton is liable to pay the pension. The last sentence of this document, in a different hand, states that Hatherley also has to make a payment. As the canons saw the payment as similar, perhaps Dr Ross saw this as evidence that Hatherley (up Hatherley in his view) had been subordinate to Cheltenham as Leckhampton had once been.

The taxation of Pope Nicholas, 1291, quoted by Viner 1888, shows that it was indeed Up Hatherley (Hatherl' sup(er)iore), a chapel of Badgeworth parish, that owed Cirencester the 12d pension. The same document also shows that the chapel of Down Hatherley (Hatherl' inferior) was also by then subordinate to Badgeworth. Another document shows this had not always been so. This document, of 1251 (Vol II 407/439) refers to tithes owed to Cirencester by Llanthony Priory for its cattle at Down Hatherley in the parish of Cheltenham ('infra limites parochie ecclesie de Cheltenham'). This seems clearly to show that some land at Hatherley (a detached part of Cheltenham parish?) was once subordinate to Cheltenham.

An earlier document in the Cirencester Cartulary (417/448, dated 1148-67) refers to a dispute over tithes 'de exsarto ad Chiltham pertinente' involving Osbert the Clerk of Hatherley. It is not clear whether Up or Down Hatherley is referred to here, but I note that one Osbert Dapifer witnessed the confirmation by Earl Roger of Butler's grant (1143-5, referred to below: see *Second Chapel*) and Osb(ertus) filius Hugonis (possibly the same man) witnessed the grant of assarts in the fee of Cheltenham (also referred to below). Presumably such assarts could only be within Cheltenham manor as Roger held no adjacent manor. It is also possible that this Osbert was the 'clerk of Hatherley' previously mentioned, which would explain his involvement and identify Up Hatherley.

Two earlier writers on Cheltenham's history, Sawyer (p. 65) and Goding have also stated that there was once a chapel of Cheltenham at Hatherley. Goding writes (pp. 155-6): 'The chapel at Hatherley was situated on the estate at present rented by Mr Pickernell [Up Hatherley House⁵] and tombstones, cross steps, and other vestiges of the ancient structure have been discovered there'. This appears to locate the chapel within Cheltenham manor.

The available evidence does not yet conclusively prove whether the third Cheltenham chapel was at Up or Down Hatherley. Nevertheless, though the 1251 document shows that Down Hatherley was at one time in Cheltenham parish, it is most unlikely for a chapel at Up

Hatherley within Cheltenham hundred and manor (Rawes 1984 p. 2) not to have been once subordinate to Cheltenham parish (as was Butler's, at least) even if it was later resubordinated.

Private chapels

In the Cirencester cartulary there are references to gifts of land to the church at Cheltenham for serving private chapels:

Arle: In 1141-50 a virgate of land was given by Walter of Brussels so that services might be celebrated 3 days a week at Arle (Cartulary Vol II document 419/450). The chapel had a graveyard and from remains found must have been adjacent to Arle Court (Welch, pp. 291-2).

The second chapel: In 1143-5 there was confirmation by Roger, Earl of Hereford, of the gift by one Butler to the church of St Mary, Cheltenham, for serving his chapel (Cartulary Vol II document 426/457). This Butler is Ralph (Walker, p. 36) who also gave land in Cheltenham (an assart at Oakley) to Llanthony Secunda (Walker, p. 46)⁶. This chapel was obviously in Cheltenham and may be the chapel known from other evidence to have been at Hatherley.

An oratory: In 1339 a licence was granted for two years for John de Cheltenham to have mass celebrated by a suitable priest at his oratories at Woodcroft and Charlton without prejudice to the rights of the parish church. A grant in 1343 (applicable to the parish of Cheltenham) to the wife of John de Cheltenham suggests this was Charlton Kings (Register of Wolstan de Bransford, Wores. Historical Society, 1966, pp 13, 97, 448. Greet 1985). 'It seems likely that soon after 1327 [Ham] became one of the homes of the Cheltenham family ... [it] seems the only location far enough away from [Cheltenham] parish church or Charlton chapel to justify this [oratory] and some tradition of a chapel may lie behind the name St Quintan's given to [a] small house in the estate in 1617' (Paget 1988).

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Mrs M Paget for her comments on a draft of this paper; also to Dr S Bassett for his comments; and to Mr R Beacham of Cheltenham Reference Library for identifying Mr Pickernell's residence.

Notes

1. As detailed in the evidence, at Leckhampton and Up Hatherley dues were paid to Cirencester Abbey to which Cheltenham and its chapels were granted in 1133. These payments suggest these were the early Cheltenham chapels.
2. 'H P R Finberg 1964: 158 (Lucerna: Studies of some problems in the early history of England) has suggested it was the rent for the lands of the minster church at Prestbury not Cheltenham as such that was the subject of the dispute.' (Rawes 1984, p. 1).
3. Ross states 'Badgeworth, with its chapels of Shurdington and Up Hatherley, from which in 1291 the Abbot of Cirencester had a portion of 1/-, and which may earlier have

been a chapel of Cheltenham as Hatherley certainly was'.

4. Compare the gifts to Cirencester in connection with the provision of services at Arle and Butler's chapel.

5. Thomas Pickernell lived at Up Hatherley House (identified by R Beacham from 1861 Census).

6. *Ibid*, p. 46, Charter 73. This charter also mentions a donation of another assart at Hatherley and a second one of 8 acres at Oakley both in the fee of Cheltenham by one Richard. In Cheltenham Manor Llanthony had 'Redgrove Manor (Harthurstfield, originally in Hatherley) with a dovecote 1143-55 SO9122 and land at Oakley SO9122'; Rhodes 1989). The location of these assarts is not known for certain but Mrs Rawes noted that 'many of the field names (in Redgrove Manor, Up Hatherley) suggest a woodland environment and it is likely that this was one of the last parts of the Hundred to be brought into cultivation' (Rawes 1988, p. 19).

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Cheltenham's Mineral Wells: a Checklist

STEVEN BLAKE and OLIVER BRADBURY

Introduction

GIVEN THE importance of the mineral wells to the town's development, it is surprising that no comprehensive attempt to catalogue them has previously been made. Earlier accounts have tended to review the wells selectively, usually from a health rather than an historical standpoint; changes of name, and similarities of name for different wells, have long been sources of confusion. The present article summarises what is known of 26 distinct sites, and will aid further research.

The following list aims to identify every commercially-operated mineral well that has existed within the town since the early 18th century. It has been prepared from histories and guide-books to the town from the 1780s; John Fretwell's *Guide to all the watering and sea bathing places* (1824); maps and plans from 1806 onwards, including the 1855-7 'Old Town Survey' and the 1884-5 large-scale Ordnance Survey, and from a number of reports on the town's mineral waters, in particular F A Abel & T H Rowney, *On the mineral waters of Cheltenham* (c. 1848), J H Garrett & Joseph Hall, *A report on the waters of Cheltenham* (1893), and Edgar Morton's *Report on the prospects of developing the mineral water wells within the borough* (1944). Although we have tried to include an entry on every recorded mineral well, the entries are by no means exhaustive and further research into many of them might be undertaken. Details of the major spas (notably Old Well, Montpellier, Sherborne, Pittville and Cambray), which have been adequately covered in existing published accounts, have been kept to a minimum. No attempt has been made to include information about either the geological background or chemical composition of the waters themselves. As far as possible, the checklist is in order of each well's establishment. The opportunity has also been taken to reproduce four early views of long-vanished or disused spa buildings, three of them not to our knowledge previously published.

The checklist

1. **The Original or Old Well**, discovered c.1716. Commercialised by Henry Skillicorne 1738-42, including the planting of the Well Walk and the building of a brick canopy above the well and a small assembly room to one side. A second assembly room, usually known as the Long Room, was built on the other side of the well in 1775, following which the original assembly room was converted into a depot for bottling the waters and as a lodging for the 'pumper', employed to dispense the waters. By 1812 it had become a 'Repository of Arts', selling artists' materials and souvenirs. These buildings were demolished by George Rowe and Samuel Onley jnr in 1849-50, and replaced by the large Corinthian-style Royal Well Music Hall, at which the waters were dispensed in a conservatory. This building was bought by Cheltenham Ladies' College in 1890, and demolished to make way for the Princess Hall in 1895-7.



Fig. 1 The Original Chalybeate Pump Room, drawn and published by Henry Lamb, 1824-5. Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museums Acc. No. 1907.22.1. The view is from the east of the present College Road, on the south side of the Chelt and looking west.

2. **The King's Well or Royal Spa**, accidentally discovered during the digging of a fresh water supply for Fauconberg House (also known as Bays Hill Lodge) at the time of King George III's visit in 1788. It is marked as 'shut' on Trinder's 1809 map. Its site is now in Overton Road, between the lane leading from Malvern Road and Sidney Lodge (itself the site of Fauconberg House).
3. **Original Chalybeate Spa**, on the banks of the river Chelt, south of the Upper High Street, was established c.1802-3, probably by W H Barrett, of Barrett's Mill, who according to Griffith's 1818 *Guide* 'built a commodious room for the company, and also laid out gravelled walks to the upper part of town, from which it is distant but a few hundred yards'. Samuel Griffith's 1826 *Guide* gives an alternative origin, stating that the well 'was discovered by Mr Cruikshanks, chemist to the Board of Ordnance in 1803'. A print of the small pump room was published by Henry Lamb in 1824-5, reproduced here as *Fig. 1*. Exactly when it ceased to be a spa is uncertain, but it is named as Chalybeate Cottage on the 1855-7 map and as Field Lodge in 1884-5. The lower part of the building appears to survive as an electricity substation on the east side of College Road, just north of the entrance to Sandford Park.
4. **Dr Jameson's Well**, otherwise known as **Lord Sherborne's Well**, was established c.1802-4 by Dr Jameson, author of *A treatise on Cheltenham waters and bilious diseases* (1809). It was neglected by 1816 and was succeeded by the Sherborne Spa (no. 13 below). Its site is now occupied by the Gordon Lamp at Montpellier.
5. **Hygeia House** (later Vittoria House), Montpellier. Built by Henry Thompson c.1804, it acted both as his home and as the first spa serving the Montpellier estate until 1809. The building survives in Vittoria Walk as the office of Bayley Donaldsons, chartered surveyors.
6. **Fowler's Cottage**, established 1807 at the south-west corner of Cambray Place, between Cambray Passage and Engine House Lane (now Rodney Road). An engraving of the cottage was included in Williams' 1824 *Guide* and is reproduced here as *Fig. 2*. It was replaced in 1834 by the Cambray Spa (no. 16 below) and later became a house known as Woodlands or Woodland Villa, later 21 Rodney Road. It was demolished, probably in the 1960s, and its site is occupied by four modern houses called Trelawn Court.
7. **Orchard Well**, on the Old Well property (no. 1 above), is marked as 'new spring' on Mitchell's 1806 map. Feltham's 1824 *Guide* claims it was dug in 1807 to meet a deficiency of water at the Old Well, that it was so named because it was situated at the top of a field of fruit trees, and that it was covered with a square brick pump room. Its exact location is uncertain, but it was described in the 1944 report as having been situated between Bayshill Road and Montpellier Street; the map which accompanies the report marks its site as in the back lane behind Royal Parade. However, in 1996 a stone-lined well was discovered beneath the verandah of 21 Royal Parade (built c.1850); could this have been the Orchard Well?
8. **Montpellier Spa**, opened in 1809. Wooden building demolished 1817 and replaced by George Underwood's colonnaded Long Room, to which Papworth's Rotunda was added in 1825-6. Now the Montpellier branch of Lloyds Bank.
9. **Alstone Spa** (described in 1824 as **Allstone Villa New Spa**) was established c.1809 by



Giles scil Birm

EAST VIEW OF J. FOWLER'S CHALYBEATE SPA.

Fig. 2. East view of J. Fowler's Chalybeate Spa, published 1824. Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museums Acc. No. 1987.185. Site now occupied by Trelawn Court, Rodney Road, near the footpath through to Cambray.

the owner of Alstone Villa, variously named as Mrs Fisher or Mrs Smith. The villa occupied the site of, and may even have been converted from, the pre-1809 parish workhouse, clearly marked on Mitchell's 1806 map. By 1816, although the well itself was described as covered by 'a temporary room', the grounds, through which ran the river Chelt, had been laid out with tree-lined walks 'as pleasant and desirable as those at any other place of similar resort', and the villa had been 'fitted up in an elegant manner for the accommodation of lodgers'. The spa is believed to have operated until c.1834, and its waters were made available once again between c.1903 and at least 1944. The present Alstone Spa Villa, at the corner of Millbrook Street and Great Western Road, was built c.1900 and stands a little to the west of the original Alstone Villa, which appears to have been demolished c.1906. On one side of Alstone Spa Villa is a small timbered building, built in 1903 to shelter the water-drinkers. It appears to have been sited originally against Alstone Villa and was presumably moved to its present location c.1906. Until recently it contained a pump, now moved to the outside wall of a new adjoining house. The spring is still accessible, via a modern manhole.

10. **Octagon Turret**, Montpellier Field, may be the well opened by Henry Thompson 'in a field east of the Badgeworth Road' [i.e. Montpellier Street] in 1808. It stood next to Gothic Cottage and is illustrated in an anonymous pencil drawing, entitled simply 'Cheltenham', now in the Gloucestershire Record Office (*Fig. 3*). It appears to have stood on the site of the present entrance to Montpellier Walk and was perhaps demolished when the shops of the Walk were begun in 1843.

11. **Essex Well**, situated at the south end of Well Lane (now Montpellier Street), is marked on maps of 1809 and 1825. Feltham claims it was so named because its site was originally the property of the Earl of Essex, and that it was covered by a small brick pump room. Its site is now 1 Rotunda Terrace (the Montpellier Wine Bar), so perhaps it was demolished when the shops were built in 1844-7.

12. **Bestcroft Meadow Well** is marked on successive issues of Trinder's 1809 map as 'saline well for salts' or as 'saline well for the baths'. Apparently on the site of 1 Lansdown Place, therefore presumably gone by 1824-5 when that house was built.

13. **Sherborne Spa**, opened in 1818 and later known as **Imperial Spa**. Building dismantled 1837 to make way for the Queen's Hotel and re-erected further down the Promenade, where it served as a warehouse until demolished in 1937 to make way for the Regal cinema. Site now occupied by Royscot House.

14. **Pittville Spa**, opened 1830.

15. **Essex Lodge or Little Spa**, Pittville, opened as a subsidiary spa to that at the Pittville pump room soon after the establishment of the Pittville estate in 1825. It stood at the corner of Pittville Lawn and Central Cross Drive, and is illustrated on p. 57 of Rowe's 1845 *Guide*. It was demolished in 1903 and replaced, a little to the west, by the present refreshment kiosk.

16. **Cambray Spa**, at the corner of Rodney Road and Oriel Road, was built by Baynham Jones in 1834 and was designed by Thomas Fulljames of Gloucester. Latterly a Turkish Bath, it was demolished in 1938, its site being now part of the Rodney Road car park.

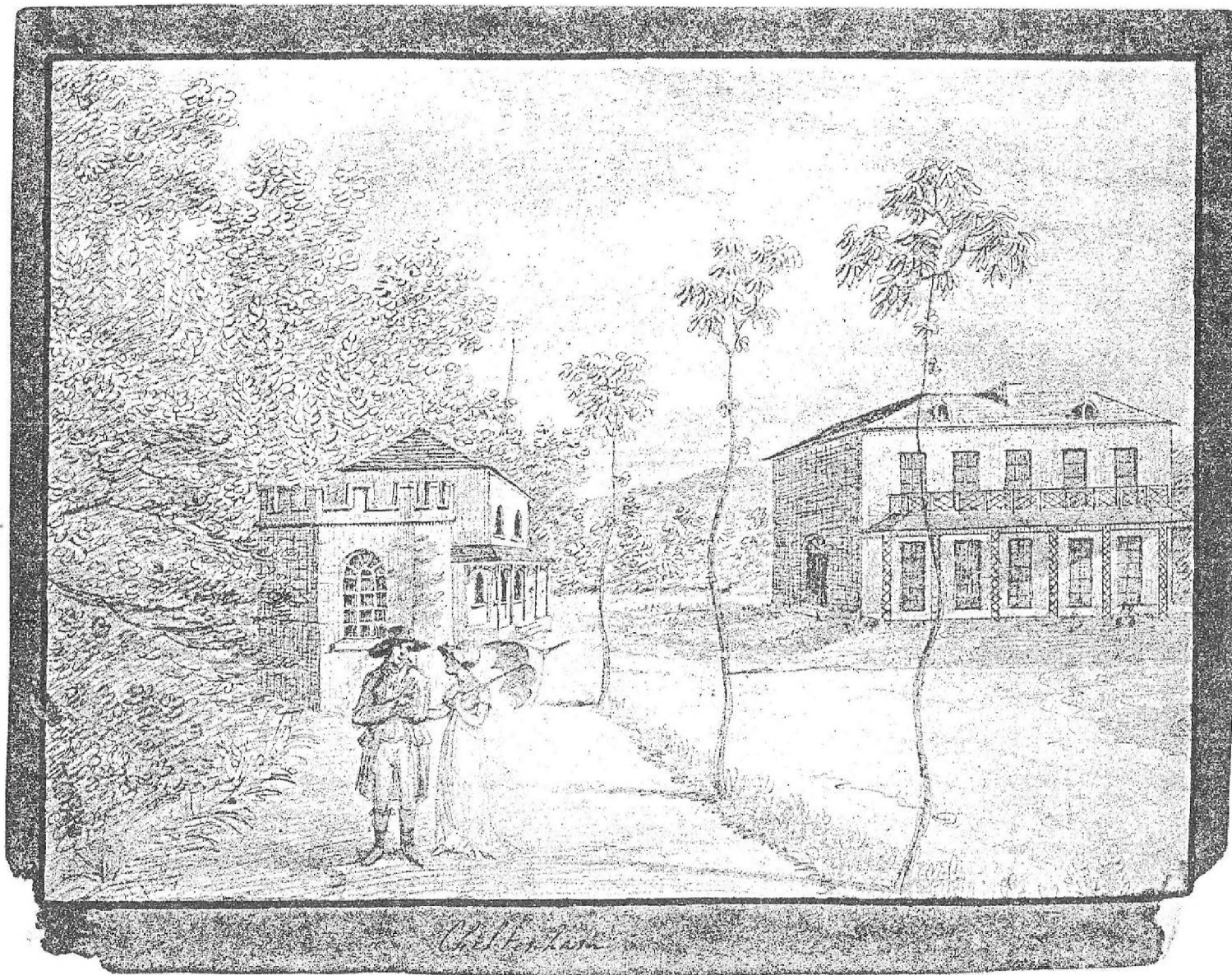


Fig. 3. 'Cheltenham', showing Gothic Cottage and the Octagon Turret, Montpellier. The drawing is of c.1810; the reverse is inscribed, in ink, 'Presented by Captain Kerr to Miss Anna Curry'. Glos. Record Office D1799 ZS/74; reproduced by kind permission of Mr Justin Blathwayt. The view is looking north, the house on the right being on the line of the present Montpellier Spa Road.

17. **Park Spa**, at the entrance to The Park from Park Place, was opened in 1850. As a pump room, it adapted, and moved to a new site, one of the two Greek Revival lodges that had been built on either side of Park Place, just north of its junction with The Park, by Samuel Dawkes in 1833-4. A view of one of the lodges in its original position is shown on p. 79 of Rowe's 1845 *Guide*, and a print of the new spa was published by Rock & Co. in June 1856 (*Fig. 4*). How long the spa lasted is not known, but the house which stands on its site, originally known as Gonia ('corners' in Greek) and now as Cornerways, may be as early as 1865.

18. **Lansdown Terrace Well** was in the back lane immediately behind 22 Lansdown Terrace, by the lane leading from Malvern Road to Overton Road and passing between the main part of Lansdown Terrace and Regan House. A well is marked in this position on the 1855-7 and 1884-5 maps, and the 1944 report states that it was renovated in 1904.

19. **Chadnor Villa Well** stood on the north side of Well Place, near its junction with Christchurch Road. It is marked as 'spa well' in 1855-7 and as 'pumping house' in 1884-5. Chadnor Villa, whence apparently its later name, stood at the corner of Well Place and Douro Road; its site is now occupied by flats. The 1944 report states that it was 'restored to good condition' in 1904. The well's site is now occupied by a house called Well House.

20. **Fulshaw Lodge Well** is shown, but not named, on the 1855-7 map and is marked as 'Well Cottage' on the 1884-5 map; in both cases it is shown in a field west of Christchurch Road. The house in Christchurch Road after which it was eventually named was not built until after 1885. The 1944 report states that it was formerly known as **Cottage Well**.

21. **St Florence Well** stood on the north side of Eldorado Road and clearly post-dated 1885; the 1944 report noted its existence in 1905.

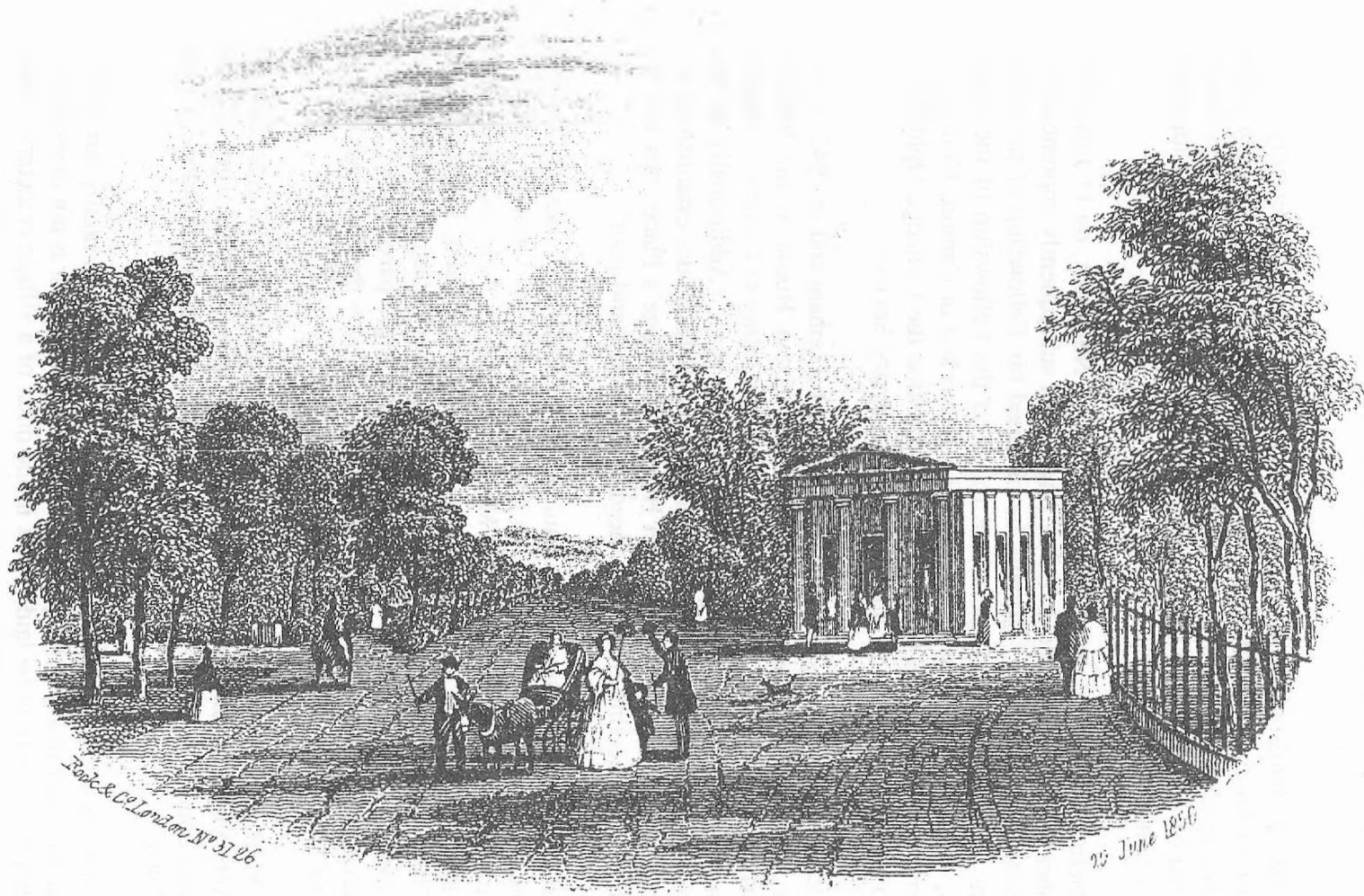
22. **Fieldholme Well** was situated in the footpath on the north side of Eldorado Road, and also post-dated 1885. It too was referred to in 1944 as having been in existence in 1905.

23. **Douro Villa Well** is mentioned in the 1944 report as having been in existence in 1905 and as being in the pavement on the north side of Lansdown Crescent, opposite the southernmost house in Douro Road, known as Lydney Lodge in 1885 and currently as Douro Lodge; confusingly, Douro Villa stands at the opposite end of Douro Road, by Lansdown Parade.

24. **Tower Well**, at Montpellier, is shown as a small octagonal building on the 1855-7 map, and was on a site now occupied by the Montpellier branch of the Midland Bank, at the west end of Montpellier Terrace, opposite Suffolk Place. It is marked as 'The Tower' on the 1884-5 map and was described in the 1944 report as having been 'opposite the former Madam Potter Gilmore's'.

25. **Montpellier Garden Well** was mentioned in 1944 as on the north side of the Gardens, by Montpellier Spa Road.

26. **Lansdown Lodge Well**, not shown on the 1884-5 map, was mentioned in the 1944 report. It was on the north side of Lansdown Road near the house called Lansdown Lodge.



Park Spa & Promenade, Cheltenham.

Fig. 4. Park Spa & Promenade, published by Rock & Co., 25 June 1856. Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museums Acc. No. 1987.186. The word 'SPA' is just discernible on the pediment.

A Shurdington Tomb

DAPHNE DOUGHTON

THE TOMB of Thomas Richardson Colledge MD and his family lies unexpectedly in the churchyard of St Paul's Church at Shurdington, some 3 miles south of Cheltenham. The memorial is distinctive in character and in the form of a raised cross (a hipped ledger monument, now spared of its rails), one of a dozen tombs of the period grouped together, several connected to Cheltenham families.

Colledge, sometimes spelt College, was born in Milsby, Northants, on 11 June 1797 and died on 28 October 1879. He was educated at Rugby and subsequently apprenticed to Dr Marshall of Leicester for five years. Initially he obtained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh and later there followed the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, in 1853. For over 20 years Colledge worked in Canton, China. He introduced the first medical missions in the country and founded the Colledge Ophthalmic Hospital. He was to become president of the Medical Missionary Society¹.

Returning to England (by then aged 45), he settled in Cheltenham and in 1842 moved from 11 Promenade Terrace to live at the newly-built Lauriston House at the head of Montpellier Street, where he stayed for the rest of his life. According to Cardew, Colledge practised in the town as 'a busy and valued practitioner' for 38 years. Additionally he was a physician to the Cheltenham Dispensary for Women and Children, besides establishing the local ophthalmic hospital in 1861, at Bournemouth House, St George's Place; this was his main original contribution to meeting the town's needs for the sick and poor².

Thomas Colledge, a family man, died at Lauriston House in 1879. Besides Thomas and his wife Caroline Matilda (1811-80), the tomb commemorates their children: William Shillaber and Lancelot Dent, who died in infancy in Macao, China; Caroline Georgina, eldest daughter, who died aged 17 in 1858; and Robert Inglis their youngest son, who died aged 12 in 1862 (both in Cheltenham). Their eldest son, George Welstead Colledge, of the Bengal Civil Service, dies abroad in 1865, in his 29th year. Sadly for the parents they were to survive all their children by many years and this probably explains why the tomb may be said to embrace this family story.

For Caroline Matilda the tomb is inscribed 'Ye must through tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God' (Acts XIV 22), and for Thomas Richardson Colledge the inscription reads 'In so much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these brethren, ye have done it unto me' (Matthew XXV 40).

The question may be asked why some members of this Cheltenham family buried and others commemorated this way in a Shurdington churchyard? The answer is not obvious, but probably lies in the family's desire to be laid to rest in the quiet of a village cemetery, rather than the alternative of Cheltenham's Municipal Burial Ground, opened in 1864³.

Notes

1. G A Cardew, *Echoes and Reminiscences of Medical Practitioners in Cheltenham of the Nineteenth Century*, E J Burrow, Cheltenham, 1930. Medical List, 1857.
2. *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 1 Jan 1842; Derek Dawson, feature in *Gloucestershire Echo*, 23 Feb 1991; *St George's Place, A Study in Depth of Cheltenham's Most Famous Thoroughfare*, Cheltenham Spa Campaign, 2nd edn, 1979; J Goding, *Norman's History of Cheltenham*, 1863.
3. J W Ludlow, *Introduction to the Cemeteries and Crematorium Department*, Cheltenham Borough Council, 1988.

(An earlier version of this article appeared in *Three in One*, News from the Parishes of Holy Trinity, Badgeworth, St Paul's, Shurdington, and St Mary's, Witcombe with Bentham, August 1996.)

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CHELTENHAM BY NIGHT A.D. 1875

Shades of evening, close not o'er us
 Leave our gloomy Town awhile;
 Gas alas is not afforded
 Hours of darkness to beguile.

Well may Fancy fondly tell us
 That in Feudal time we dwell -
 Every light extinguished early,
 Ere is heard the Curfew bell.

'Tis the hour when happy lovers
 In suburban walks delight:
 Who shall guide their wandering footsteps
 Through our darkened Town tonight?

Through the mist that floats above us
 Kindly beaming from afar
 Now their cheerless pathway glad'ning
 Yonder gleams the evening star.

When the night is round us gathering
 As I pace the streets alone,
 And mine eye in vain is seeking
 One gas light to rest upon.

Then I vow that I will wander
 To some Town that's lighted well,
 Some fair spot where Gas is cheaper,
 Town of Darkness, fare thee well.

Anonymous, *Cheltenham Examiner*,
 7 July 1875

Before the Bench in 1844

ERIC ARMITAGE

THE PUBLIC Office, with the offices of Williams & Griffiths, solicitors, and of the Clerk to the Magistrates, was at No 351 on the south side of the High Street, 7 doors from Clarence Street and 2 doors from Church Street. This was where the Cheltenham Magistrates in Petty Sessions met. There was an entrance in the High Street, and one at the rear facing St Mary's graveyard.

The Cheltenham Magistrates' jurisdiction was quite broad, extending to Coberley in the east and Boddington in the west, and to Gotherington in the north and the Witcombes in the south. Surrounding them were the Tewkesbury, Winchcombe, Northleach, Stow and Gloucester Petty Sessions. In 1844, the year of this sample, some 22 magistrates sat on the Bench at Cheltenham, but those sitting most were J Viner (62 times), W H Henney (55), S Teaste (48), S Wightwick (44), Col M P Wall (38), W Gyde (32), S Overbury (30), Capt D L Sinclair (22) and W S Evans (15). The remaining 13 magistrates sat 41 times.

There are some general points to make before presenting a simple analysis of the types of case brought before the Bench, and some extracts from the *Cheltenham Free Press*:

- a. Most cases were brought not by the police but by complainants who were members of the public.
- b. Dismissals in the Police Court were usually on one of four grounds:
 - the Bench had no jurisdiction, for instance outside the Cheltenham area, or a question of rights to be dealt with in other courts;
 - no prosecutor appeared;
 - contradictory evidence;
 - want of evidence.
- c. When prisoners were sent for trial to the Sessions or Assizes, they were either sent to Gloucester prison or bailed, with sureties acceptable to the magistrates. The prosecutor and witnesses were also bound over to appear.
- d. Magistrates were unwilling to give general rulings, making the point that they could only deal with specific infringements of the law. Complainants should see an attorney for advice.
- e. Magistrates were prepared on occasions to hear cases *ex parte*, in the absence of a defendant, if a summons or warrant had been issued.
- f. The statistics I quote are based on the Police Court reports in the *Cheltenham Free Press*. Unfortunately not all cases passing through the Police Court were individually reported. Again, because the Quarter Sessions reports were often selective and scanty, it is not always possible to match Cheltenham cases sent for trial to the Sessions.

	Cases	Dismissals
Stealing	170	54 of which 82 to Quarter Sessions/Assizes
Suspicion of stealing	28	19
Assault	104	35
Assault on PC	25	4
Other assaults	4	1
Damage to property	31	12
Drunk and drunk-related	152	32 8 ordered to leave town
Begging	50	34 24 to leave town; 16 to prison
Vagrancy	29	20 8 to leave town, 5 to return to own parish
Wife/family chargeable to parish	13	3
Incorrect weights	43	
Wages due, work done	25	5 15 to pay
Affiliation	11	
Rates (Poor, Town)	6	many more not individually reported
Turnpike tolls	9	
Town byelaws breaches	33	
Chimney on fire	14	13 resulting in fines
Miscellaneous	75	

(arson, counterfeiting, deserters, distress of goods, enticing dog, keeping a fierce dog, fighting, forging, house of ill fame, indecency, Loan Co arrears, nuisance, animals out of pound, illegal pawning, picking pockets, threatening, trespassing, violent/abusive/obscene language, etc.)

The following are selected extracts from reports for 1844, an average year without special incident, each extract illustrating some aspect of the Magistrates' role. The date given is that of the press report.

6 June Supt Russell (officer in charge of Police Court proceedings at Cheltenham Petty Sessions) said that a woman had lost her cape going to church. Randall, of a beer house in York Street, had the cape and wanted 1s for its return. The Bench ordered Supt Russell to get the cape and take Randall into custody if he refused to hand it over.

2 March Rowell, a farmer at Swindon village, charged with shooting a tame pigeon belonging to John Barnard. As both parties kept pigeons, the Bench assumed a genuine mistake had been made. Charge dismissed.

16 March William Kitchen, William Forrest and James Edwards charged with breaking into the house of Spencer Purser. All three discharged. The prisoners had complained about the condition of the cells and beds at the police station (*Free Press* comment: confinement in a wet cell and sleeping in a damp bed would not be sanctioned by law).

10 October Hampton, tailor, told by PC Scott to give up his seat to a woman, as he had no business in court. Magistrate Viner interjected that if anything was wrong the Bench should be approached (*Free Press* comment: those with business in the Public Office have priority, but the police must be civil).

6 April A private of the 61st Regt was in court with his hat on, but not on duty. He was told to take it off. A private of the 68th Regt entered the court with his hat off, but was on duty. He was told to put it on. (This was a matter of respect for the court. Not so long ago some magistrates objected when some of their number sat on the bench with their hats off, when it was the normal practice to sit on the bench with hat on.)

4 May Eliza Hinton charged with leaving child at house of T Sheldon, solicitor, and breaking his windows. Child was 7 months old and Sheldon said it was 2 years since he knew Hinton. Hinton discharged on giving promise not to go near Sheldon, the Bench commenting that it was not for them to decide who the father was, but the Guardians. (Traditionally the Overseers and Guardians dealt with bastardy cases, but certainly later in 1844 the Bench were deciding maintenance rates in bastardy cases and it would not be long before they decided paternity too.)

17 August (Glos. Summer Assizes) Mary Ann Holland, 24 years; reads well: stealing at Cheltenham on 26 July 18 yards of ribbon belonging to Frederick William Luck. Sentenced to 18 months prison; pardoned from 14 years transportation because of scrofula.

24 August (Glos. Summer Assizes) Charlotte Martin, 30 years: stealing at Cheltenham 2 cashmere shawls belonging to Henry Wood. Witness Mrs Jones had bought tickets and redeemed shawls. Judge admonished Mrs Jones for buying tickets of poor people; he also condemned the practice of pawnbrokers of taking pledges indiscriminately.

7 September Application to Bench for warrant for arrest of William Naish, for failing to answer summons for carrying hogwash after permitted hours. Magistrates' clerk, Williams, thought this was unwise, as to grant a warrant would leave Bench open to action. The best course was to issue another summons, and if Naish did not then appear, the case could be heard *ex parte*. Naish later fined 2s 6d with costs 3s 6d.

21 September Montague Alex, dentist, fearing a disturbance, applied to have a person sworn as special constable for the Cheltenham synagogue. Bench said they had no power to do this; if there was a disturbance, the offender should be held until the police arrived.

28 September Beard, a tradesman in High Street, was refused entry to the Public Office by a PC. Bench comment: so long as there is room, the public should be allowed in. *Free Press* comment on high handed police action.

16 November Jacob Green summoned by James Mills for receiving a sovereign for a 3d drink at the Crown Inn, and refusing to give change. Bench said they had no jurisdiction as there was no felony. Charge against Green dismissed - the landlord ought to have seen to the matter.

16 December Thomas Shepherd and Elizabeth Cottle summoned for being in possession of 17 skeleton keys and 2 jemmies. They lodged at the Hen & Chickens. PC Scott and Supt Russell searched their rooms as they were reputed thieves. Sentenced to 3 months prison at Northleach, as being rogues and vagabonds.

21 December PC Lewis Clifford charged with obtaining £5 by false pretences. Magistrates refuse to act, saying he should be brought before Tewkesbury Bench. (Tewkesbury Police were part of Glos Rural Police, under the command of Chief Constable Lefroy, who was based in Cheltenham, but Tewkesbury had its own Petty Sessions, outside Cheltenham's jurisdiction.)

16 December Groom, a mender of glass and china, living in Cheltenham 20 years, 12 of them in employ of Yates and Norman and the last 8 in business on his own, alleged that a man was going about town using his name and doing mending; both Major Askew and Lady Pepys had been served in this way. Bench said they had no power to act unless there was a specific charge. Press should take note and put people on their guard.

21 December Robert Dix summoned by PC Woodward, suspected of stealing meat from Coulson's butchers in High Street. PC thought he had seen Dix steal the meat, but when he stopped Dix, Dix abused him. The loaves in Dix's possession had been bought. *Free Press* comment: PC should have satisfied himself before making arrest that offence had been committed. (Police could not arrest on hearsay, which is why so many cases result from summons by complainants other than police.)

10 February Nash Blake charged with assault with intent on Eliza wife of Joseph Turner. Magistrate Viner pointed out that PC had no right to arrest, as he had not seen the assault.

10 February Schoolmaster in charge of boys walking in double file, charged with assault. Magistrate St Clair commented on inconvenience of boys walking double file down narrow footpaths. People has as much right to walk there as boys.

8 February Thomas Smith charged with assault on PC Seyes. Dismissed. Magistrate Viner said Smith had no right to interfere with PC in execution of his duty, but Magistrate St Clair said police should be warned not to give provoking answers. This PC exceeded his duty and his superiors should investigate.

10 February James Hodges charged with assaulting PCs Beard and Jones in the execution of their duty. PC Trigg said police had instructions about Hodges. Magistrates called for the instruction book and found no such entry. Dismissed.

1 June Harriett Phelps charged by Esther Trinder for assault. Trinder turned out at night by Phelps, her mistress, without money and wages of 10s 6d. Magistrate Overbury reprimanded Phelps for turning Trinder out at 10 p.m. Phelps to pay wages and costs.

24 August Alfred Sparrow charged with assault on William Aldington, brother of Sparrow's wife. Sparrow's wife had left him, going to Aldington for protection. Sparrow came to Aldington's house and assaulted him. Bench comment: if the wife was threatened and in fear of her life, she should go to the police.

30 March James Carter - suspicion of stealing a silver spoon and pawning it at Myers. Discharged: no-one claimed the spoon.

31 August Eliza Scott sentenced to 14 days in Northleach gaol for being drunk and disorderly. Supt Russell replied to allegation that there were not enough police about in the town. If the police interfered with people on the streets, which seemed to be implied, then the policemen would be on assault charges and be dismissed the force.

17 December Michael Mulherne fined with costs for being drunk and disorderly and assaulting Sgt Bennett. *Free Press* comment: the police bludgeon should only be used in extreme cases, and the less the better.

10 August Magistrate Teaste complaining about great number of beggars. Supt Russell suggests resorting to plain-clothes police again, but *Press* would jib at this. Teaste: there was no other way of dealing with this problem, but the police must use discretion.

2 March George and Jane Clark charged with holding an 'In Distress' paper in High Street, i.e. begging. Sent to relieving officer until strong enough to proceed.

21 December James Cook, sailor, charged with exposing an arm wound to get alms. Dismissed because no complainant appeared.

13 January Ann Davis charged with stealing silk, a bucket, a washing tub and doll's clothes from Eliza Dodwell, New Street, her employer. Articles had disappeared, but the only evidence against Davis was in Dodwell's dreams. Dismissed.

7 September Robert Smith charged with stealing 2 brass knobs from Lansdown Lodge, but prosecutor Warrener unwilling to press charge. Bench displeased at charge not being pursued, and insist on hearing it. Smith committed to Quarter Sessions for trial. *Free Press* condemned police practice of putting questions to prisoner and obtaining admissions in unguarded moments.

7 December Gibson and Kitsell, both druggists, and Wheeler, pork butcher, asked for measures to stop crowds gathering in front of shops not closing early. Magistrates said Bench had no powers, unless there was a breach of the peace. Bench quite ready to hear specific charges against specific people. Magistrate Teaste: it was injudicious that 1 or 2 stood out against the wishes of the town re earlier closing. (Earlier closing was 7 p.m. in winter, 8 p.m. in spring and autumn, and 9 p.m. in summer. Magistrates can only act if sworn that property injured or life threatened.)

In addition to such cases, the Petty Sessions also saw to a variety of other matters, including: the swearing in of constables and private soldiers; authorising apprenticeships; settlement cases; authorisation of public meetings; victuallers' licences; jury lists; and theatrical licences. The Public Office was indeed a place where much public business was done.

Montpellier Multiplied: a 'local' name in its wider context

JAMES HODSDON

WHY EXACTLY is a fashionable quarter of Regency Cheltenham called after the southern French city of Montpellier? I had no conclusive answer to this modest enough question even after extensive local investigation into the street- and place-names of the town¹. Just as the street-name research was going into print, new facts came to light, putting the Cheltenham Montpellier into better perspective as a member of a worldwide family of scions of the French original. Further enquiry has increased the tally to some 30 places and districts called Montpellier or Montpelier, mostly in the English-speaking world, and over 20 towns in the British Isles with Montpel(l)ier street-names; how many more remain to be added? This article outlines the "genealogy" of the many overseas offspring, from the early 18th century.

The reputation of Montpellier

Today, the French Montpellier, capital of the Hérault department, and a city of some 270,000 inhabitants, is perhaps best known abroad for its university. This is a continuation of its early renown as the site of the most famous French medical school outside Paris. This status, its position on one of the main natural routes through southern France, its equable climate, and its strong Protestant tradition, all combined to earn it a special standing among English travellers. This happened in the period when travel abroad for general educational reasons first began to become common as western Europe stabilised in the early 1600s - travel that was later to evolve into the more formalised tradition of the 'Grand Tour'. Though some early travellers went there partly for health reasons, Montpellier's early reputation with English speakers rested mainly on learning, and an appreciable colony of foreigners - students and other enquiring individuals - was to be found there². The 'medical/scholarly' phase of its reputation lasted until about the mid 18th century, but, for the English-speaking world, became eclipsed by a new dominant association, that of a place with a singularly healthy and attractive setting. So strong was this reputation - its essence summed up in the old-fashioned word *salubriousness* - that Montpellier became a byword, an example so well-known that further explanation was unnecessary. Thus Daniel Defoe, in his *Tour through the Island of Great Britain* (1724-6), was able to observe of the Suffolk town of Bury St Edmunds that it was 'a town fam'd for its pleasant situation and wholesome air, *the Montpelier of Suffolk*, and perhaps of England'. Defoe's use of this phrase clearly implies a reputation already well-established, but no earlier example has yet come to light.

The spread of the name

It seems to be in Ireland that the name Montpellier is first used outside France in a permanent and non-figurative sense. Montpelier Hill (sometimes Mount Pelier), 10 miles

south of Dublin, may have been named thus by 1720, the year it was crowned by a hunting lodge owned by the speaker of the Irish parliament. It can scarcely be coincidence that a second Montpelier Hill, just east of Phoenix Park in Dublin city, first comes to notice on a map of 1728. The reason for these two namings appears unrecorded, but, in view of the Scottish evidence (below), it may well have been because, as hills, both spots were considered airy and healthful. The name is repeated in two other streets near the Dublin city example; Montpelier also occurs by 1851 in Monkstown just a few miles from central Dublin, and is today marked by three streets that include the name. Elsewhere in Ireland are Montpelier, a village on the Shannon north-east of Limerick, first recorded 1768 and at one time having a spa (in decline by 1837); and a townland or farm called Montpelier in Atherry parish, Co Galway (named thus by 1851).

Slightly later in the 18th century, in Scotland, we are on firmer ground when seeking the reason for the name. Some 5 miles east of Edinburgh lies the village of Inveresk, attractively situated in a small valley opening to the sea, with a climate appreciably milder than that of its surroundings. Its minister, writing in 1792, said 'This situation makes the village not only agreeable, but healthy, and *obtained for it of old the name of the Montpellier of Scotland*'³. The description must have remained in local usage, for in 1808, an advertisement for a large house to let three miles east of Edinburgh runs thus: 'it is impossible sufficiently to describe the delightful situation and accommodation of this delightful building; and the air being generally very pure, it may, with propriety be termed *the Montpellier of Scotland*'⁴. Again, three years later, land for sale just south of central Edinburgh was described thus: 'about seven acres of Ground, to be feued for villas, at the head of Bruntsfield Links, immediately west and adjoining to the present Lord Provost's house, commanding a most extensive and beautiful view, and *by the physicians called the Montpellier of Scotland*'⁵. It is here that Edinburgh's Montpellier streets stand today.

Incidentally, these instances show the long-standing uncertainty that persists in the English-speaking world over the spelling of the name. Older references consistently favour the form with one L (as often used in France until c. 1800), and in many cases this spelling has been preserved to the present day. Other places however have changed to match the current French spelling with two Ls.

The healthful reputation explicit in Defoe and the Scottish examples had also crossed the Atlantic. The country home in Virginia of James Madison, fourth president of the US, was originally called Mount Pleasant. A cousin of his, writing in 1781 after a stay at the Madison plantation, commented thus on the good health of Madison's father: 'though I was the less surprised at it, after experiencing *the Salubrious Air of his fine Seat, not to be exceeded by any Montpelier in the Universe*'. Before the end of the 18th century, Montpelier had become the formal name of this mansion, which it retains to this day⁶. The name had already been adopted by the mid-1700s for at least two other estates, both in Maryland (in Howard County and Prince George's County), and one may safely conclude at this date that again it was because of the healthful associations of the French original, rather than from revolutionary sympathy between the Colonies and France.

The Caribbean is home to several further instances. The most famous is the Montpelier estate on the island of Nevis; in 1787, a daughter of this house became the first

wife of Horatio Nelson, who was stationed in the Windward Islands at the time. The estate was well established by this date; its naming appears to be of the mid 18th century, perhaps a little later. Again, one surmises that a favourable location led to the choice of name. There are two Montpelliers (perhaps no bigger than estates) in the US Virgin Islands; these islands were until 1917 Danish possessions, and this might be evidence that the special reputation of Montpelier was not confined to English-speaking colonists.

Yet by the end of the 18th century, other motives for adopting the name were also at work. The capital of the New England state of Vermont is Montpelier. The settlement dates from 1781, and we know that John Davis, one of the original proprietors, had known French Huguenots when he was living in Oxford, Massachusetts. He apparently preferred French names to the English names so widely adopted in his original state, and thus he called the new settlement in Vermont Montpelier; its neighbour became Calais⁷.

Over time, the name has spread to some 20 of the 50 United States. Many if not all the more recent examples are so named for secondary reasons, typically because their founders had migrated from Vermont or were acquainted with one of the other examples in the eastern states. Instances are Montpelier, Indiana, founded in 1836 by two men from Vermont; Montpelier, Mississippi, named in 1848 after the Virginia estate; and Montpelier, Idaho, named in 1864, also after the Vermont capital. While in North America, we should also note the apparently sole Canadian example, a village in the Papineau district of Quebec.

Concrete instances of the name Montpel(l)ier, as distinct from its use as a comparative description, do not arise in England until several years after those in America and elsewhere, no doubt because here the demand for names for brand-new settlements or areas was less. The first English example does indeed appear to be in Cheltenham, where it is recorded by 1809 for a spa establishment the development of which had begun the previous year, and which soon became the focus of a fashionable residential area. The enterprise was the work of the speculator Henry Thompson, one of the major players of the boom years of Cheltenham's fame as a place to take the waters. It was very likely Thompson who chose the name Montpelier, to reinforce the health-giving properties claimed for the water in the wells and baths he operated. The area's slightly elevated position in relation to the rest of the town may have added to the perceived appositeness of the name.

At this time, Cheltenham's fame was at its peak, and the rapid appearance of Montpel(l)ier names in many other English towns in the 19th century was probably due much more to the Cheltenham example than directly to the French original. Certainly Cheltenham has by far the greatest concentration of Montpelier streetnames of any British town. A local tradition in Cheltenham links the choice of Montpelier to the enforced stay there of a number of English prisoners of war in the Napoleonic era, but no corroboration has been found for this being the immediate cause of the choice of name. After Cheltenham, the earliest areas or streets called Montpelier in English towns and cities are as follows:

London 1813 (the first example is the Montpelier Tea Gardens in the inner suburb of Walworth; next appears a fashionable square and terraces in Kensington (1840-50), and by the end of the 19th century there were several other examples in other suburbs.)

Bristol	c. 1830
Harrogate	1835 (also a health resort, and certainly copying the Cheltenham usage.)
Gloucester	c. 1841 (also for a short time a spa)
Brighton	c. 1845 or perhaps a little earlier

Streets named Montpel(l)ier, probably all of somewhat later date, also exist in other English towns with greater or lesser claim to resort status (either coastal or inland), such as Buxton, Ilfracombe, Malvern, Torquay, Weston-super-Mare and Whitstable. Others are found in Belper, Billericay, Bolton, Bream (near Lydney, Glos), Caversham, Coventry, Dudley, Runcorn, Uxbridge and Wallasey; in these examples Montpellier appears to have entered the general canon of pleasant or prestigious names, and no special link with other Montpelliers in the UK or with France need be sought⁸.

An English instance of very different origin lies in the county of Essex. Here, in the parish of Writtle, lies Montpelier's Farm. This has its origins in the 12th century, and is named after a settler of the Norman period, being connected with the family of Bertram de Montpellers (c. mid-13th century) and John de Montepessilano (1297) or Mumpelers (1310). In deeds between 1488 and 1599, the name of this farm is seen variously as Mompelers, Mompillers, and Mount Pyllers⁹. Furthest from France appears to be Montpelier Retreat, a street in Battery Point, near Hobart, Tasmania. Here one suspects an emigrant from Gloucestershire, for there is a street of exactly this name (give or take an L) in Cheltenham.

As anyone who knows the Cheltenham example would readily have testified anyway, Montpellier is therefore a name with some cachet. This fame however is much broader than expected, and indeed of longer standing too, going back as far as the early 1600s. Can any other provincial town, in France or elsewhere, boast as many foreign offspring?

Notes

1. Nor did the Montpellier *bibliothèque municipale* have the answer, thus spurring the research for this article. Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* notes that Montpelier is 'frequently found in English streets, squares, etc due to the French town Montpellier being a fashionable resort in the 19th century', but the account presented here shows this statement to be unsatisfactory; the naming trend was a century older, and there seems to be no evidence that as a resort the French Montpellier was more visited than other continental spots, the names of which have generally not been copied abroad on any noticeable scale.
2. See e.g. John Lough, *France Observed in the 17th Century by British Travellers*, 1985, and John Stoye, *English Travellers Abroad 1604-1667*, revised ed., 1989.
3. Statistical Account of Scotland, 1792.
4. Advertisement for Brunstain House, in *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 6 Feb 1808.
5. *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 26 Jan 1811.
6. American National Trust World-Wide Web page for property at Montpelier, Virginia.
7. Information from Paul S Carnahan, Librarian, Vermont Historical Society.
8. Information from phone books and other miscellaneous reference sources.
9. P H Reaney, *Place-names of Essex* (1935), pp. 280-1.

I acknowledge with thanks the help of the Gilbert Library, Dublin; Edinburgh City Libraries; and the County Librarian, Limerick.

Recent Books & Articles on the History of Cheltenham

List compiled by STEVEN BLAKE

- Acock, Reginald, *Electricity comes to Cheltenham. A hundred years of light and power*, Glenside Books, Cheltenham, 1995. 172pp. £5.50. A comprehensive account of the town's electricity supply, published to coincide with the centenary of its introduction to the town in May 1895.
- Barton, Richard (ed), 'A short account of the establishment of the Catholic chapel and congregation at Cheltenham', *Gloucestershire Catholic History Society Journal* 30 (1996), 3-16. Transcription of a manuscript written in 1820 by the Revd J A Birdsall, now in the Douai Abbey archives, northern France. In addition to a detailed account of the early days of Cheltenham's Catholic congregation, it includes valuable details and insights into the life of the town between 1809 and 1820.
- Blake, Steven, *Cheltenham: A Pictorial History*, Phillimore & Co Ltd., Chichester, 1996. 128pp. £13.99. A 6000-word historical summary is followed by 180 illustrations, each with a full explanatory caption, covering all major aspects of the town's past.
- Doughton, Daphne, 'Cheltenham women and provincial medical care in the early nineteenth century', *International History of Nursing Journal* 1.3 (Spring 1996), 43-54. An account of the many medical and other charities which existed in the early-nineteenth century town and the important role played by women in their organisation.
- Gill, Peter, *Cheltenham in the 1950s*, Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd., Stroud, 1996. Over 200 photographs covering the life and appearance of the town during the 1950s, many of them not previously published.
- Johnstone, Janet & Boothman, Kath, *The Cheltenham Ladies' College. A brief history and guide*, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 1996. 24pp. £3.00. A concise and well-illustrated account of the College, past and present.
- Miller, Eric, *Leckhampton Yesteryear. Village Life, 1888-1939*, Leckhampton Local History Society, 1996. 92pp. £2.50. Aspects of village life, drawn from parish magazines.
- Mowl, Timothy, *Cheltenham Betrayed*, Redcliffe Press, Tiverton, 1995. 95pp. £7.95. An account of modern developments within the town since the last war, focusing on demolitions and inappropriate schemes, with many photographs.
- Paget, Mary (ed), *Charlton Kings Local History Society Bulletins*, published twice yearly. Approximately 40 pages per issue. £2 per issue. A wide range of notes and articles on the history of Charlton Kings, by a variety of authors.
- Sale, Jane, 'Place names around Cheltenham', *Gloucestershire History* 10 (1996), 2-4. Explanations of mainly Anglo-Saxon name-endings in Cheltenham and the adjacent villages.
- Sampson, Aylwin, *Gloucestershire worthies. People and places*, Westcountry Books, Tiverton, 1996. 79pp. £4.95. Brief accounts of over 200 people, many with Cheltenham connections.
- Whelpton, Tony, *The music makers. A history of the Cheltenham Bach Choir, 1946-1996*, T.D. Publications, Cheltenham, 1996. 144pp. £10.

GRO: 1996 Accessions for Cheltenham Area

JULIE COURTENAY, Senior Cataloguer

THE GRO receives about 250-300 new accessions of archives each year. Many come from local government departments but a varied range of material is deposited by private families, churches, businesses and societies.

The Record Office staff are always grateful to hear of records in private hands which may be worth preserving in the archives. They can give free advice on how best to store and look after records. For further information please contact David Smith, the County Archivist, at Gloucestershire Record Office, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW (tel 01452 425295). Collections here marked * are not yet readily available to researchers, because they have not yet been catalogued, they need repair, or are closed to the public for a certain number of years.

Bayley, estate agents of Cheltenham: additional records, 19th-20th cents.	D4442*
Cheltenham Borough Council: meteorological records 1876-1965 contract registers, 1930s-60s	CBR*
Cheltenham carpenter's notebook, 1895-1901	D7429
Cheltenham Coroner: case papers, 1993-4	CO7*
Cheltenham Methodist Circuit: additional records, 19th cent.-c.1996	D3418
Cheltenham solicitor's bill book, 1827-30	D7402
Cheltenham & District Business & Professional Women's Association: minutes and newscuttings, 1943-89	D7433
Cleeve View County Infant School: governors' minutes, 1990-3	SM78/11*
Dawes and Woolett family of Cheltenham: family papers, 18th-19th cents.	D7430
Everyman Theatre Association: newscuttings, programmes and photographs, 1970s-1992	D6540
Friendly Brothers' Order: correspondence mainly concerning Cheltenham members, 1825-74	D7444
Healing & Overbury, architects of Cheltenham: work diaries, 1914-91	D5587*
Holy Trinity C of E School: governors' minutes and head teacher's reports, 1989-93	SM78/10*
Leckhampton parish: plans for SS Philip & James, 1960s-70s	P198/2
Madley family of Cheltenham:	

diaries of Albert E Madley, 1956, 1966, 1976 & 1986	D7450
National Union of Teachers' annual conference at Cheltenham: programme, 1919	D6542
Provincial Grand Lodge of Gloucestershire Freemasons: minutes, registers of members, etc., 1818-c.1970	D7498*
Tanner, solicitor of Cheltenham: letter book, 1852-58; deeds concerning National Schools, 1816-1925	D245
Whaddon Child Health Clinic: annual reports, minutes, newscuttings etc, 1949-96	D2429

Deeds to various properties dating from the 17th century have been received from the following solicitors: Davis Gregory (D5902*); Rickerby Jessop (D7063); and Willans (D5907). Deeds to particular properties include:

Great Tyne Mead adjoining The Bogg, 1747	D7431
98 High Street, (1811)-1896	D7232
Public air raid shelters, 1943	D7467

BOOK REVIEW

Cheltenham: a pictorial history, by Steven Blake. Published by Phillimore, 1996; £13.99.

EVEN THE most cursory of glances at the local publications shelves of any bookshop will conform that 'of the making of collections of old photographs there is no end'. It seems that there is an inexhaustible supply no matter how small the place. Many have the impression of being the product simply of nostalgia and hearsay; others are more authoritative and systematic.

Cheltenham's coverage fortunately falls into the second category, as would be expected, for its compiler has all the qualifications of a local historian, and is of course a member of this Society! Steven Blake precedes his collection with a concise yet comprehensive history of the town, illustrated interestingly almost exclusively by prints rather than photographs; indeed the end-papers and cover, too, are artists' views of the townscape.

The main part of the book is taken up with generous-sized photos, categorised into such aspects as streets, religion and transport. Each is given detailed captions, mercifully free from frivolous comment. The information has a readability, but sometimes a very minor lapse of accuracy: for example, at illustration no. 49 it is stated that Prestbury Park has hosted *continuously* since 1831, whereas in fact 1902 marks the start of its permanent home; and is not the background to Holst's civic party (no. 68) the Winter Gardens rather than the Town Hall?

But this is mere carping. It is an excellent addition to the local historian's bookshelf. One final thought: why aren't the photos chronological instead of subject based? It would make illuminating viewing.