



# Cheltenham Local History Society

**JOURNAL 24**

**2008**

From the Editors	<b>SUE ROWBOTHAM &amp; SALLY SELF</b>	<b>2</b>
Edward T. Wilson (1832-1918) Co-founder of Cheltenham Photographic Society	<b>DAVID ELDER</b>	<b>3</b>
Beetham's the chemists (1846-1960s)	<b>SUE ROWBOTHAM</b>	<b>9</b>
Growing up in Wellington Street	<b>AMINA CHATWIN</b>	<b>10</b>
Cheltenham's Early Market Buildings	<b>CAROLYN GREET</b>	<b>15</b>
The Owe 40 Club – National Lawn Tennis and Squash in Leckhampton	<b>ELIZABETH MILLMAN &amp; PAULINE BRADSTOCK</b>	<b>28</b>
The Macready Mystery	<b>SUE ROWBOTHAM</b>	<b>34</b>
The De Cheltenham Family in 14 <sup>th</sup> Century Gloucestershire	<b>MICHAEL GREET</b>	<b>35</b>
Where is your Nearest Post Office?	<b>MICK KIPPIN</b>	<b>40</b>
F.W. Robertson (1816-53) 'Philosopher, Poet, Priest and Prophet'	<b>ALAN MUNDEN</b>	<b>41</b>
Frederick Whishaw, Boris the Bear Hunter and the Moored Grotto	<b>ERIC MILLER</b>	<b>47</b>
'The Grand Exhibition of Plants of all Nations' - 1853	<b>GEOFF NORTH &amp; ELAINE HEASMAN</b>	<b>50</b>
Lifting the Lid on a Royal Scandal	<b>TERRY MOORE-SCOTT</b>	<b>54</b>
We Knew Percy Braisby	<b>JUDY SMITH</b>	<b>57</b>
The Honorary Freemen of the Borough of Cheltenham	<b>PETER SMITH</b>	<b>58</b>
Cheltenham commemorative Guineas and half Guineas of George III	<b>MARTIN WARBURTON</b>	<b>60</b>
The New Hall in Bennington Street – Laying the Memorial Stone	<b>VIC COLE</b>	<b>62</b>

Recent Books and Articles on the History of Cheltenham	<b>STEVEN BLAKE</b>	<b>67</b>
Gloucestershire Archives: Cheltenham Area Acquisitions, 2007	<b>JULIE COURTENAY</b>	<b>68</b>
Society Publications		<b>70</b>
Members' Interests and Research Topics	<b>DOROTHY SEATON-SMITH</b>	<b>71</b>
Index to Journal 24		<b>73</b>

## From the Editors

### SUE ROWBOTHAM & SALLY SELF

ONCE AGAIN we must thank all the new and established contributors who have taken time to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard to write an article for the Journal this year. We are always astonished by the breadth and depth of members' interests.



Cheltenham Promenade flooded at Neptune's Fountain on 20 July 2007. The Chelt, which supplies the Fountain, normally runs in a large culvert directly under this part of town.  
*Photo courtesy of Mary Nelson.*

It is ironic that Journal 23, published in April 2007, included an article on Cheltenham floods over the past 200 years. Just a few months later we had some of the most extensive flooding in living memory. The new River Chelt flood defences could not cope, and many homes and businesses were inundated with the murky flood water that flowed unchecked through the streets on 20 July 2007. Cheltenham and many other places across the county suffered a total loss of water supplies for up to two weeks. If we had lost power as well there were plans to evacuate large numbers of people because of the health risks. If you were directly affected by the flooding we hope that you came through relatively unscathed. If you have photographs or a story to share about how the floods

affected you then please contact the Editors. In our enthusiasm for the past it is easy to forget that the way in which significant events in Cheltenham impact on us today is the history of tomorrow.

Knowledge sharing is one of the principal aims of the Society, so if you are carrying out original research on a topic relating to the history of Cheltenham please think about writing an article for a future Journal. We are happy to discuss your ideas with you. If you have never written an article before, and do not know quite where to begin, please let us know. We are happy to help in any way we can. For more confident contributors we have guidelines for the format of text and illustrations. Please ask if you would like a copy. Please note that the closing date for submissions for Journal 25 is 31 Dec 2008.

# Edward T. Wilson (1832-1918) Co-founder of Cheltenham Photographic Society

DAVID ELDER

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WHEN DR EDWARD THOMAS WILSON, father of Dr Edward Adrian Wilson (the Antarctic explorer), died in 1918 his obituary read, 'No man has done so much as he to stimulate and promote the intellectual life of the town of Cheltenham...'<sup>1</sup> Not only was he responsible for founding and supporting many of the town's institutions, including the Delancey Hospital, Victoria Home, and public library and museum, but also he played an active role in education as a governor of the Ladies' College, as well as in science as the person who introduced a supply of clean drinking water to the town. A man of many talents and wide-ranging interests<sup>2</sup> it is not surprising that he counted photography among his varied interests. After all, it was from 1838 onwards, only six years after Wilson was born, that photography started to gain popularity when a certain Monsieur Daguerre first produced his pictures on iodised silver plates.

Edward Thomas Wilson was born in Liverpool on 16 December 1832, the son of a wealthy landowner. After being educated in St. David's and Liverpool he attended Oxford University to study classics and natural science. Although he had been heir to a vast fortune a series of bad investments meant that he would have to work for his living. A medical career was chosen, and after completing his medical training in London, he applied for his first professional post at Cheltenham. He moved there in 1859. Six years later, he made one of his many lasting contributions to his newly adopted town. Writing in his journal, he recorded it thus: 'the year was a memorable one to me. I got back to Cheltenham on January 3 and next day the first Photographic Society was started with Dr Abercrombie as President while I acted as Secretary'.<sup>3</sup> In this way, Britain's seventh oldest amateur photographic society was established, a society which still thrives in today's digital age, counting one hundred among its current membership.

Long before he arrived in fashionable Cheltenham, photography had been exciting the public's attention. As far back as 1841 a Photographic Institution had been established at Imperial Nursery, on The Promenade, by a Mr Palmer. It sold the new-fangled daguerreotypes, 'undeviating likenesses ... produced by the agency of light in a few seconds'.<sup>4</sup> The *Cheltenham Examiner* reported the historic event with great solemnity: 'On Monday the first day of the institute being opened, the weather was lovely and a great many of our leading gentry honoured Mr Palmer by sitting to his invisible *artiste*, and in all cases the sitters were presented with undeniable references to their own personal identity. Nothing can exceed the fidelity with which the minutiae of feature, dress and posture are represented by this talismanic process. We can conceive nothing more pleasurable than the feelings of a distant relative or friend on receiving one of these exquisite mementoes from those who are dear to us.'<sup>5</sup>



Portrait of Dr Edward Thomas  
Wilson with tripod  
Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum  
(Ref. 923)

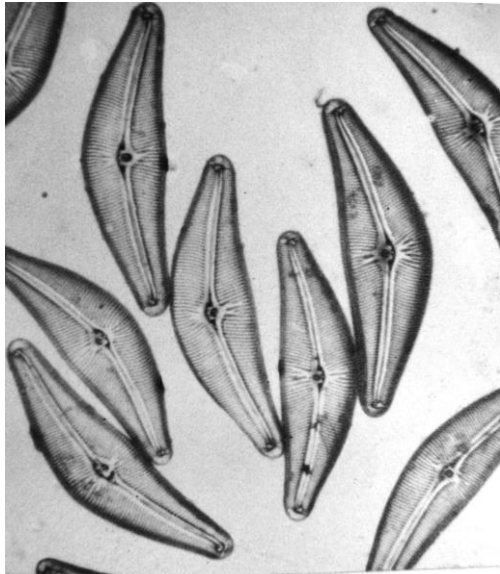
Although it is not clear when Wilson first became actively interested in photography it seems likely that family influences may have played their part. For it was through his Aunt Susan that he was introduced to one of the great photographers of the day. Francis Frith (1822-1898), the brother of his Aunt Susan, was to become one of the famous pioneering Victorian photographers, travelling to the 'Dark Continent', and even venturing beyond the sixth cataract of the Nile. Wilson met him several times. However, one occasion in 1850 particularly stuck in his mind: 'I remember once in the early days standing for 20 minutes while a picture was being taken with myself in the foreground. His [Frith's] first real effort was with a sort of van adapted to the purpose and fitted up as a dark room - with this he travelled through North Wales, and the sale of his pictures not only covered all expenses but brought in a handsome profit as well. This encouraged him to make the still more arduous but more profitable venture in Egypt.' Writing five years later, he also recalled another 'amusing experience' when he and Frith, the latter having recently returned from another tour in North Wales, drove on a Brougham with yellow blinds all through London to Winchmore Hill much to the amusement of passers by for 'it resembled a van for a dwarf or other show and attracted much attention'.

What is clear is that photography became a useful tool for his work, and not just something he pursued for leisure. On 27 February 1865 his letter to the local press sparked off a debate on Cheltenham's water supply which subsequently led to him being called to give evidence to a House of Commons committee later that year. However, the indisputable evidence that won him the argument of the day was achieved through the production of photographs of fungi which he found growing in the tanks of Severn Water at Worcester!

His main photographic interests, however, centred on natural history and photomicrography, the science of photographing microscopic objects, sometimes combining the two as in this remarkable series of photographs which include a cricket's tongue, a microscopic section of fir wood, and a range of different microorganisms (Navicula, Coscinodiscus Diatomaceae, and Terpsinoe Musica) which are types of phytoplankton or algae.

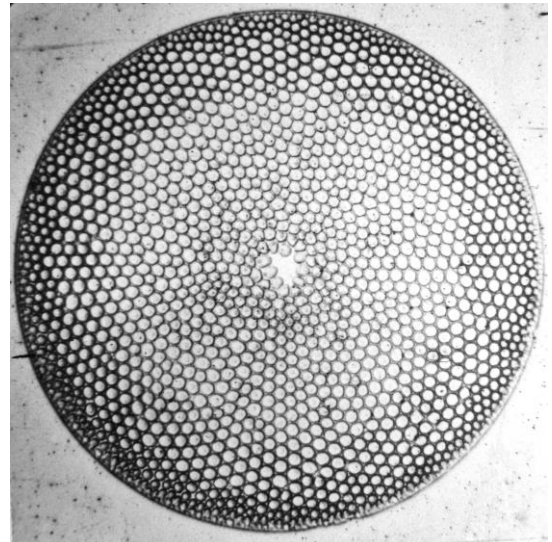
Working with his friend, Dr Abercrombie, he developed pioneering new techniques to achieve such accurate image exposure and sharp focus. At the time he was setting up the Cheltenham Photographic Society, he wrote: 'we were there working together on all spare evenings at Photomicrography and very engrossing it was, though from want of proper appliances and having to use artificial light it took a great deal of time. We began with the oil lamp, then lime light and lastly magnesium, which gave very fair results.' It was following this success that he wrote an article on photomicrography for the *Popular Science Review*, and later the technique received special mention in a definitive manual on the subject.<sup>6</sup>

Given the ingenuity of the technique it is worth reproducing here how the process was achieved. As Beale describes it, 'these gentlemen [Drs. Wilson and Abercrombie] use a blackened base-board 8 feet in length; the focussing box of an ordinary camera with its focussing screen, the microscope and illuminating apparatus being all kept in a straight line by side strips of wood. The microscope is movable on a sliding board and can be clamped at any distance, or the camera box and microscope made to approach or recede from one another singly or together. A couple of strips of blackened wood are attached to the eye-piece end of the tube of the microscope, and slightly diverging to the top of the camera. The whole of this part is covered with black velvet, pile inwards, and well secured from outside lights at all parts, especially round the tube of the instrument. The base-board can be set on any steady table or support. The focussing screen is of glass covered with collodion, sensitised and covered with a solution of tannin. The draw tube of the microscope, if any, is removed and the tube lined with black velvet. The correction for the want of concordance of the actinic and visual focus is



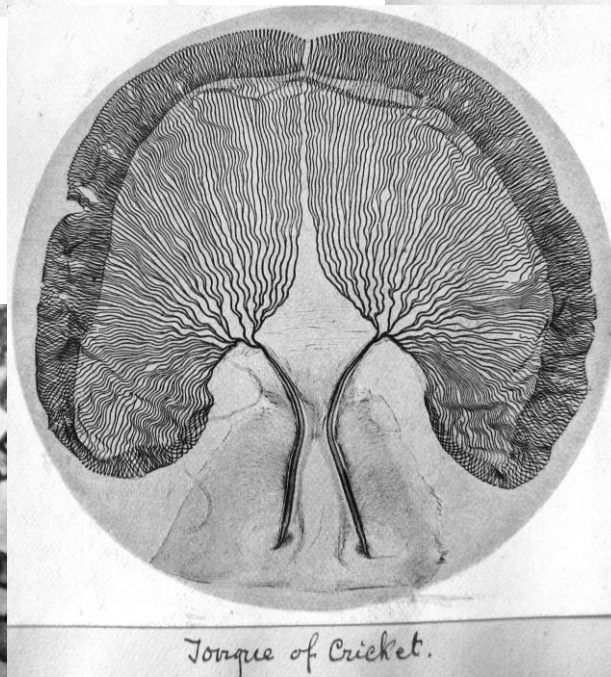
*Navicula.*

2



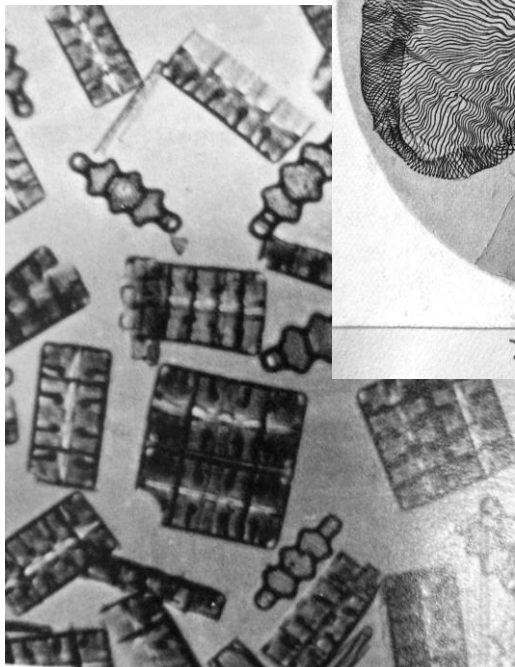
*Coscinodiscus.*  
*Diatomaceae*

3



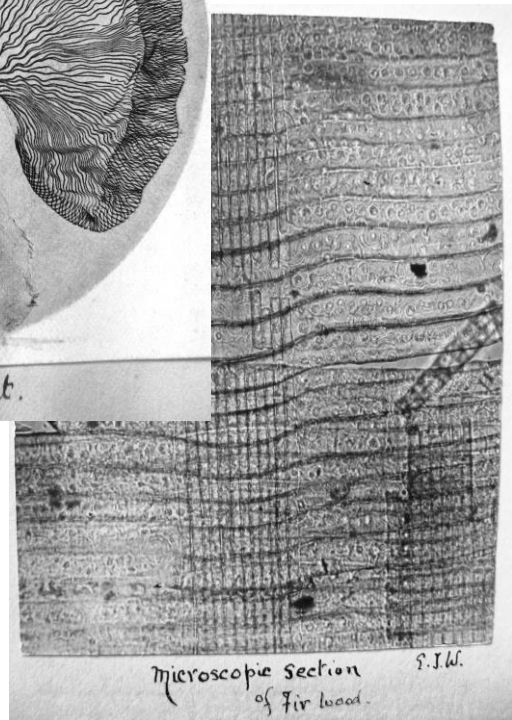
*Tongue of Cricket.*

1



*Terpsinoe musica*

4



*Microscopic section*  
*of fir wood.* P.J.W.

5

A selection of Dr Wilson's astonishing photographs.

**1:**A cricket's tongue (ref. 913).

Three types of phytoplankton or algae:

**2:**Navicula (ref. 896); **3:**Coscinodiscus Diatomaceae (ref. 897);

**4:**Terpsinoe Musica (ref. 898).

**5:**A microscopic section of fir wood (ref. 899)

*Courtesy of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum*

effected by what is called “turning out”. The coarse or rack adjustment is left for focussing. By means of a lever arm which at one end clamps the milled head, and at the other is attached to a long rod resting at the side of the apparatus, and very delicate movement is obtained. The fine adjustment is left to regulate the compensation required between the chemical and visual foci, and to mark this more easily, a ‘dial plate of card’ is attached to the body of the microscope, whilst a wire which is bent at one end so as to clip the milled head of the fine focussing screw, is at the other used as the index point for the divisions of the card.’

A three-inch focus bull's eye lens was recommended for the condenser. Beale goes on to say that, ‘oil lamps, oxycalcium and magnesium lights have been used, but the last is preferred, and the wire is burnt in preference by successive flashes. To secure the point of light being in a proper position a small telescope upright, of brass, regulated by a screw, is fixed to a block adapted to slide in the support common to the microscope and light; at the apex of the brass upright is fixed a small tin gutter or pipe of sufficient capacity to admit the wire easily and diverted down at an angle of 45 degrees. A movable stop with a pin-hole aperture is recommended in the preliminary arrangement for securing the exact position. About one quarter of an inch of the wire is exactly opposite the pin-hole. The camera is set to certain lengths, so as to give images of the objects of a definitive size. The “turning out” consists in actually testing each objective for the number of turns or parts of a turn of the fine focussing screw by means of the dial card, to make the correction for the actinic focus. The time of exposure for wet collodion plates varies, and should increase according to the colour of the object, and the degree of enlargement. A tolerably light object, magnified fifty diameters, may need ten minutes with the oil-lamp. By placing a small vessel of warm water in the camera, to keep the collodion plate moist by its vapour, Drs. Abercrombie and Wilson have exposed plates forty minutes with success’.



Photographic excursion to Sir John Pakenham's  
(L to R: E.T Wilson, Dr Abercrombie (by tripod),  
Baynham Jones, Penny, seated unknown figure)  
*CAGM (Ref. 901)*

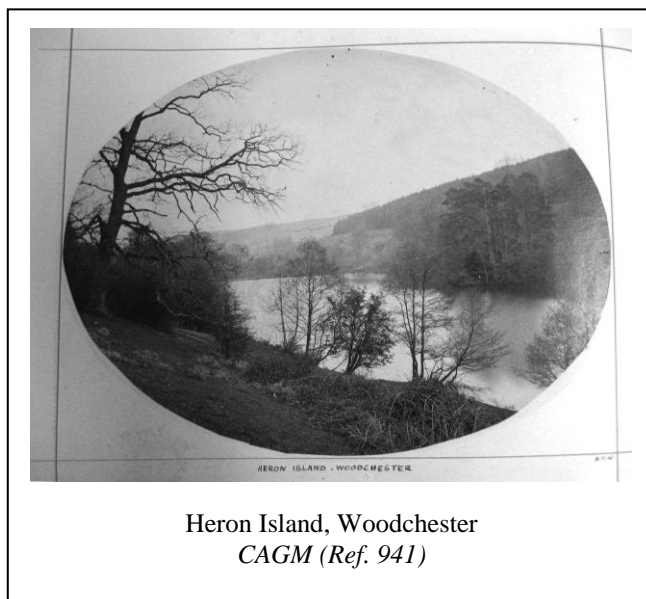
Beale was greatly impressed with the resulting images. Whilst the definition did not quite match up to some of the finest prints that were obtainable through daylight negatives, nevertheless the prints possessed ‘a peculiar delicacy in the half-tones and shadows’, and whilst there was much roundness of the objects ‘all of the general characteristic appearances of the objects are exceedingly perfect, and the simplicity of the apparatus, and the immense advantage of the efficient illumination in all weathers, are great advantages.’

However long and time-consuming the process was, Wilson managed to escape regularly from the confines of the studio, enjoying many excursions with Dr Abercrombie and other friends from the Photographic Society.

On one occasion the *Cheltenham Examiner* reported on the Society's excursion to Woodchester Park on 25 April 1871, commenting how ‘some very good pictures were secured in spite of a rather cloudy day’ and that it was resolved in future to return ‘to a spot the beauties

of which are inexhaustible'.<sup>7</sup> On that occasion it is likely that Wilson took the photograph, right.

Despite being most active, it was not until 1896 that the Society organised its first major exhibition, inviting entries both nationally as well as locally. The *Cheltenham Examiner* gave a detailed report of the exhibition which was held at the Corn Exchange at the beginning of March. Nine hundred pictures were presented in total, a 'fine collection of specimens of photographic work... illustrative of every branch of the art'.<sup>8</sup> Of these there were 118 entries submitted for the open class for landscapes and



seascapes with a gold medal being won by Percy Lankester for 'Pretty Jane'. Additionally, there were over 40 entries for studies of architecture (interior and exterior) which, to impress the judges, needed to meet 'almost faultless' technique. On this occasion a silver medal was awarded to C.S. Baynton for 'Cloister, Haddon Hall'. In the figure and portrait class there were 120 entries with Lankester again being the overall winner for 'Gladys', 'a sweet little picture of a sweet little girl'. There was also a large field for the class of studies of animals, flowers and scientific objects. That for flowers went to General Dawson, President of the Society, for a picture of 'Primrose in pot'. Prizes were also awarded for David Hedges' picture of a St. Bernard Champion. A particularly challenging class in the exhibition was reserved for hand camera work, which was won by E. E. Barron for the depiction of two vessels riding at anchor beneath moonlit clouds. There was also a class of work for lantern slides which was won by W.C. Beetham, vice-president of the society and a close friend of Wilson's, for his 'Pines of Arthog'.

Reflecting the old-fashioned, chauvinistic attitudes of the day it is interesting to note that there was a separate class which was open for ladies only. As the *Examiner* put it, 'It is astonishing that a member of the fair sex should convey around a 12 by 10 camera and produce results technically so excellent'.

The majority of the rest of the classes were open to members only. 'Waves' by W.C. Crofts was a 'fine example of half-plate hand camera work'. Dr G. B. Ferguson won a bronze medal in the hand camera class for 'Skating in Pittville'. W.C. Beetham won two prizes, for 'his spirited study of two yachts running before the wind' and for lantern slides set of pictures of hoar frost, while W.H. Bagnall won a bronze medal for a set of architectural pictures.

The exhibition itself was opened by the Mayor, Alderman Colonel Rogers, with General F. Dawson, president of Cheltenham Amateur Photographic Society, present. The Mayor commented how he thought that the exhibition would 'elevate the minds of both sexes', acknowledging that 'interest in photography was not confined to one sex'. He commented that photography was not just a 'source of amusement to those who practised it' but also 'a necessity to portrait painters ...because by its aid the best possible pose was able to be ascertained before the portrait was transferred to canvas'. He concluded that it '...was a matter for congratulation that, with the beautiful instruments now available, they could take photographs of the scenes they visited on their holidays, and put the negatives in their portmanteaus for development at leizure [sic]'.

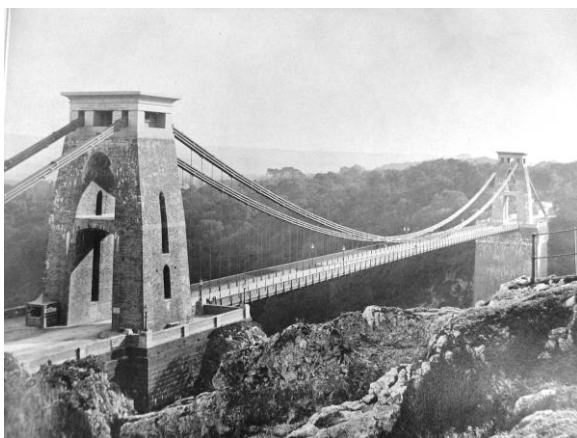


Cheltenham  
College  
Chapel, 1865  
CAGM  
(Ref. 924)

The exhibition's judge was Mr England, the oldest photographer in the country barring the mayor, who also described himself as a keen photographer, Colonel Gale and a Mr Pringle. The latter described the exhibition as 'phenomenally successful', commenting that it '...was very improbable that [the judges] had ever in a hall of that size seen a larger proportion of thoroughly good work' and that 'photographers now attempted to produce work which was more distinctly artistic than was done in previous years'. And so it was important to blot out of the mind that these were photographs at all and view them from 'the artistic point only'. Photography, he claimed, now divided into two sections, the scientific where exact accuracy should be aimed for, and the artistic where it was important to give pleasure from the aesthetic point of view. He congratulated the Cheltenham Society on its fine exhibition, concluding that 'Cheltenham always kept itself abreast of every advance, particularly in aesthetic matters'.

It is likely that Wilson would have entered his own photographs into this exhibition and subsequent ones, judging by the number and quality of prints that are still preserved as part of the Wilson Collection which include the examples below.

The Collection also demonstrates his attempts to take technically challenging subjects, whether it was lightning (taken by its own light) or the eclipse of the sun which was visible on 17 April 1912.



Clifton Suspension Bridge, 30 August 1870  
CAGM (Ref. 937)



Eclipse of the sun, 17 April 1912  
CAGM (Ref. 919)



All in all, the Collection portrays a highly talented amateur who was still most active in pursuing his photographic interests well into his eighties. It shows both his artistic and scientific sides, the latter particularly through his application of innovative photomicrographic techniques. And it provides a valuable record of the birth and development of one of Britain's oldest amateur photographic societies, due in part to the passion and commitment of Edward T. Wilson. 4 January 1865, the date when the society was established, is important not only in Cheltenham's history but also in the history of amateur photography.

<sup>1</sup> *Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Graphic*, 4 May 1918

<sup>2</sup> For a comprehensive account of his life and achievements, see David Elder 'He Went About Doing Good': The Life of Dr Edward Thomas Wilson (1832-1918), *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* 22 2006, pp.13-21.

<sup>3</sup> E.T. Wilson, *My Life. Volume I: 1832-1888. Volume II: 1889-1916*. Illustrated, hand-written. Two black leather volumes with gold lettering. (Wilson Collection Ref. 1995.550.35 A & B, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum). All quotations are from these volumes unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>4</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner*, 1 Jun 1841, p.4 col.4

<sup>5</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner*, 15 Sep 1841, p.3 col.5.

<sup>6</sup> *Beale's How to work with the microscope*, by Lionel Smith Beale, 1880, pp.306-307.

<sup>7</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner*, 10 May 1871, p.8 col 2.

<sup>8</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner*, 4 Mar 1896, p.8 col 3.

## Beetham's the chemists (1846-1960s)

### SUE ROWBOTHAM

I FIRST BECAME AWARE of Beetham's 'wholesale chemists' and 'toilet preparations manufacturers' of Cheltenham when I came across a very attractive newspaper advertisement on eBay. As often happens I soon had a collection of adverts, some from national and even international publications, dating from the 1880s to the 1930s. The adverts show images of female beauty that clearly reflect the times in which they were published. Intriguingly nothing seems to have been written about this apparently well-known Cheltenham company so I began delving into its history.

"ALWAYS YOUNG."

**Beetham's  
Glycerine  
AND  
Cucumber**

PRESERVES THE COMPLEXION  
from the effects of the  
**HOT SUN, WIND, HARD WATER, &c.,**  
more effectually than any other preparation, and keeps  
**THE SKIN**  
**COOL and REFRESHED in the HOTTEST WEATHER.**  
It entirely removes and prevents all  
**SUNBURN, FRECKLES, and TAN,**  
and restores the  
**SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, AND WHITE.**  
The wonderfully cooling properties of the CUCUMBER JUICE  
render it delightfully Refreshing and Soothing if applied after  
being OUT IN THE HOT SUN, TENNIS-PLAYING, WALKING,  
YACHTING, &c. It allays all irritation from the  
**BITES AND STINGS OF INSECTS.**  
It is the most perfect Emollient MILK for the Skin ever produced,  
and being perfectly harmless, is  
**INVALUABLE FOR THE TOILET AND THE NURSERY.**  
**BEWARE OF INJURIOUS IMITATIONS!**

"ALWAYS FAIR."

Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., 2s. 6d., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Free for 3d. extra by the  
Sole Makers: M. BEETHAM and SON, Chemists, Cheltenham.

*Illustrated London News* 13 Jun 1887  
Courtesy of Geoff North

Beetham's was established in Cheltenham in about 1846 by Michael Beetham, a native of Doncaster, Yorkshire. The family are thought to have been Baptists, and the Golden Valley Baptist Chapel was once known as Beetham's Chapel. Beetham's continued trading in Cheltenham until the early 1960s when they appear to have merged with another long-established chemists, C. & P. James, which still exists in St George's Road.

If you remember visiting Beetham's, or you know anything about the Beetham family, company or products please let me know. My contact details are inside the front cover.

# Growing up in Wellington Street

AMINA CHATWIN

---

WELLINGTON STREET RUNS FROM ORIEL ROAD in the south to Bath Street at the north, which leads into Cambray. Building plots were being sold in 1819 on ground 'immediately adjacent to Colonel Riddell's newly-erected and splendid houses'.<sup>1</sup> These stood crossways between Wellington Street (first called Wellington Place) and the Bath Road. The street was further developed from 1828-33.<sup>2</sup>



Wellington Mansion, 1826. In 1816 Wellington planted an oak on the bank of the Chelt in the mansion grounds. Riddell later added the obelisk as a second memorial to Wellington.

*From Griffith's History of Cheltenham. Courtesy of Jill Waller.*

There could be no other name for the street than Wellington, for only a few brief years before the development began, the area had been the glittering centre for the Duke of Wellington's first of four celebrated visits to the town, which took place in 1805, when the Duke took the waters as a health cure following service in India. He stayed in Colonel Riddell's house, then called Cambray House, but soon changed to Wellington Mansion. His last visit in 1816 followed shortly after his triumphant victory over Napoleon at Waterloo. Only a matter of a few yards from the north opening of the embryonic Wellington Street three fine triumphal arches were erected [in 1816?] at the High Street entrance to Cambray, one large enough for the passage of carriages. The arches were made of wood, painted to imitate stone, with portraits of the Duke together with the names of the principal battles in which he had been engaged.<sup>3</sup> These were illuminated for three evenings, and for a few brief days it must have been the most popular and fashionable part of the town.

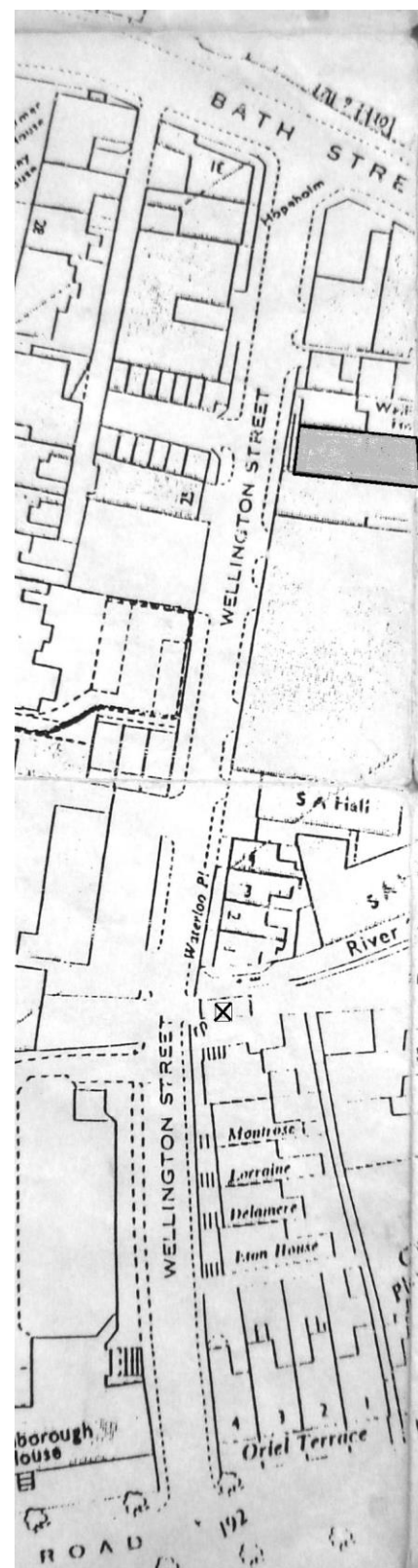
The gardens, or as they were grandly called in those days ‘the pleasure grounds’ to Wellington Mansion ran down to the River Chelt, and in memory of the Duke’s visit he consented to plant an oak tree on 22 July, the anniversary of the Battle of Salamanca. In the following year an obelisk in the Egyptian style was erected near the tree. This would have been very close to about half way down what is today Wellington Street, where it crosses the river (approximate location marked X on plan, right). It continued standing for 27 years.

I was born in a house called St Albans, which stands towards the north end of the street on the east side (shaded on plan, right). Perhaps the house was originally intended to be the first of a terrace, for it had the look of a slice from a row of houses. My father bought the property in about 1927, with £1,000 left to him by an aunt (whose name was Amina).

St Albans is said to have been named after the Duchess of St Albans, formerly Harriot Mellon, one of the finest comic actresses of her time. She had often come to play at the Theatre Royal in Cambray and to visit her mother and step-father who lived nearby. In about 1815 Harriot married Thomas Coutts, a septuagenarian banker from London, who was the richest untitled commoner in England at that time. After Coutts’ death in 1822 Harriot married the Duke of St Albans, 20 years her junior. Despite her humble beginnings Harriot, Duchess of St Albans, was accepted into society.<sup>4</sup>

At that time the street must have had quite a rural atmosphere because there were large trees all down the opposite side of the road. The big garden with an enormous copper beech tree belonging to Selby Lodge in Cambray, took up a large part of the west side. Later Jay Vernon, an actress, lived there and used to say the tree would never be taken down as long as she lived. It did not long survive her, and now the whole garden has houses built on it.

Opposite St Albans was a small field and one can judge the low price of land in those days because at one time my father thought of buying it for a tennis court. Later it was taken over by Boulton’s the stonemasons, whose works were a little further up the street, on the same side as our house. They were very diverse and ramshackle buildings all covered with white stone dust.



Detail from H.M. Land Registry  
plan dated 1987

Further up the street the road went over the river Chelt and by standing on one's toes and craning to see over the wall one could occasionally see a duck or some other interesting piece of wildlife.

Wellington House, next door to ours to the north, was let into flats, and during World War II the small top flat housed an old lady who was a long-standing friend of my grandparents. She always knew that if there was any bombing she could come to us and shelter in our basement. This she seldom did but on one occasion, one of the few when the town received a number of bombs, she tottered in saying 'I thought I had better come because things were falling off the mantelpiece.' This was probably the evening when a house in Tivoli was destroyed and Pilley Bridge was hit.<sup>5</sup>

On the south side of the house was an upholsterer's workshop, which during the war was taken over for making components for munitions for the aircraft industry. The premises ran through to the Bath Road and were owned by a family who lived in the Regency house that was number 25. Later when it belonged to the two sons they had a dispute between themselves about the ownership of the workshop and as they could not agree to sell it, the house eventually fell down.



St Albans (centre) with Wellington House to the left. The space to the right that Amina describes is now infilled with a Regency-style modern building.

*Photo by Sue Rowbotham*



St Albans, Wellington Street  
*Photo by Sue Rowbotham*

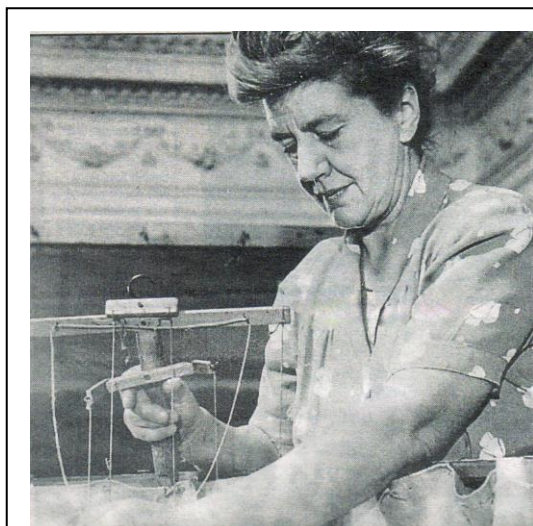
I do not remember much about the little terrace of four low cottages at the south end called Waterloo Place, the first listed in 1876,<sup>6</sup> except that one old man who lived there wore a shiny black sou-wester and was therefore known to me as 'Skipper Sardines' after the picture on a tinned fish product.

Opposite the cottages were two semi-detached houses, Buckingham Lawn and Buckingham Villa, in the former lived the chef from the Ellenborough Hotel, on the corner, with his family. There were several children and when the war started they were augmented by some evacuees so that I was never sure how many there were. In his garden he instructed everyone in the street how to put out incendiary bombs with a stirrup pump. That is everyone except a family of Jehovah's Witnesses who refused to join the nightly fire watching rota because they said God would look after them – they were not popular! Opposite was the last house in the terrace at the south end of the street, which lay back from the road and used from time to time to start falling into the Chelt. Next door lived a lady who took in two evacuees and loved them dearly and they kept in touch for many years.

The only other family I knew in the terrace was on the corner at the other end. The interior was Dickensian – the sitting room was heavily furnished and the walls covered in red flock paper. At one time the lady of the house had been a dressmaker and a long wing had been built on the back of the house as a workroom. It was still filled with relics of this past use and she would dive in and return with Edwardian trimmings or bits of fabric from a long-forgotten era. In the first floor flat, spacious rooms linked by Regency folding doors, lived the mother of Olive Blackham, who ran the Roel Puppets, a marionette theatre of considerable repute, for adults.<sup>7</sup> Olive came to Cheltenham from the country, for the duration of the war, to do useful work at a bank. It was here that I first learnt to make and operate puppets.

We knew the lady who lived in the corner of Wellington Street and Oriel Terrace. During the war her brother and his wife were torpedoed, on some voyage, probably homeward-bound, and after spending many days in an open boat quietly went overboard together to leave more food for the remaining survivors.

It was a strange time; everyone was uprooted from their homes, many living in barracks with nowhere to go when they were allowed out except to cinemas or dances. For this reason they learnt to dance and mother's dancing school flourished. Early in the war there were a great many Polish airmen at the Staverton airbase. They formed a choir and gave performances at the Town Hall. Today, singing by Russian choirs, in similar style, is well-known; but to us the superb singing of an all-male choir, often, or was it always, without any accompaniment but background voice beats or grunts, was a revelation.

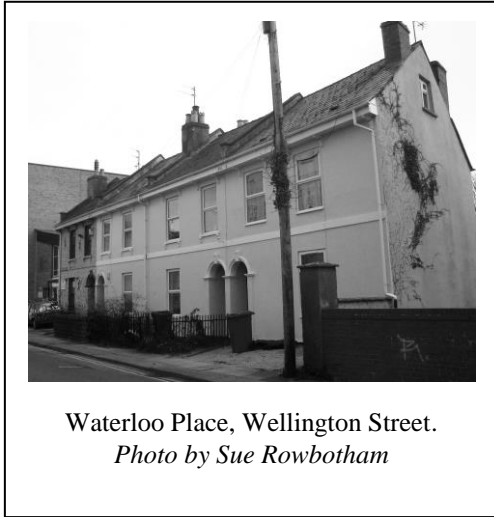


Olive Blackham with the Roel Puppets,  
Cheltenham Music Festival 1948.  
*Courtesy of Ian Denny*

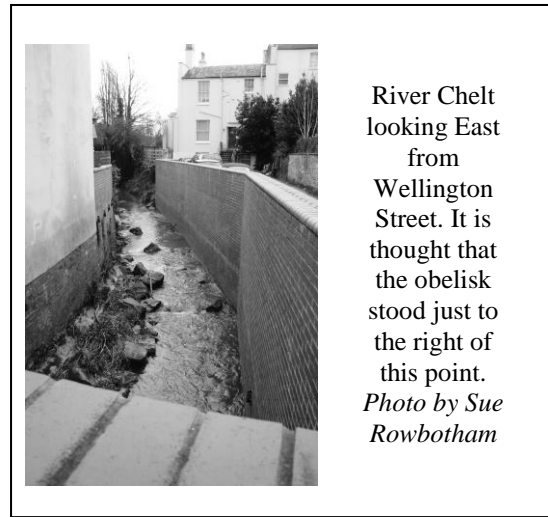


Amina Chatwin with puppets.  
*Courtesy of Geoff North*

There was a great deal of making one's own entertainment – there were two big pageants at the Town Hall, in which most of the town took part. I belonged to a concert party that was set up to entertain the troops, and on one occasion we were lost in the fog on Staverton Airport. We were in a bus looking for the hall where we were due to perform, but even the guards we met had lost the building they were guarding. We must have found it in the end! Ken Newman used to play popular music on the piano, with great vigour, making it almost leave the ground, much to the chagrin of the classical pianist who shared the bill. His wife Pat was the bright and lively performer with tap dance routines and Pauline Allen, who was our glamorous *femme fatale*, would sing heart-rending songs like *Lili Marlene*. It was my job to perform two Spanish dances, both playing castanets, one bright and jolly, a dance of the peasant people, the other classic with a long white dress trimmed with black lace and a mantilla.<sup>8</sup>



Waterloo Place, Wellington Street.  
Photo by Sue Rowbotham



River Chelt looking East from Wellington Street. It is thought that the obelisk stood just to the right of this point.  
Photo by Sue Rowbotham

People from all over the world were in England and in Cheltenham; free Norwegians, free French and men from across the British Commonwealth. One evening I saw a tall, turbaned Sikh, in the uniform of an RAF officer, walking down the middle of the road in the snow – coming to our house for a dance lesson of course! Then there was a Singhalese, as black as pitch to my childish eyes, but he spoke English better than we did ourselves, with a cultured Oxford accent.



St Albans' entrance hall  
Photo by Sue Rowbotham

After the war, for some reason unknown to me, we were inundated with Chinese. Perhaps they came to study industry at Dowty's. Our front door led into a typical Regency hall, with an elegant plaster ceiling and it was there that the next pupil would sit in a wheel-back chair beside an oak chest, outside the Dance Studio. For several years the chair seemed to be permanently occupied by a smiling Chinaman, one or other in the long succession that came to learn to dance. One of our assistants taught so many that she became known as Lotus Flower!

It was a time of togetherness. We were grateful to all those who came to help us in our time of trial. There was no black, white or Asian then; we were all just fighting for freedom, together.

<sup>1</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 27 May 1819.

<sup>2</sup> Hodsdon, James, *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham*, (BGAS, 1997).

<sup>3</sup> Goding p.313

<sup>4</sup> Rowbotham, S. & Waller, J., *Cheltenham: A History* (Phillimore, 2004).

<sup>5</sup> This was probably 11 December 1940, the night of Cheltenham's worst bombing raid, when approximately 2,000 incendiary bombs and over 100 high explosives were dropped on the town, killing 23 people. The worst hit areas were Stoneville Street, near the Gas Works, and Brunswick Street, St Pauls. A gasholder at the Gasworks, part of the nearby Sunningend Works, St. Margaret's Villa (ticket office for the Black and White coach station) and Pilley Bridge, Leckhampton were also hit. From Rowbotham & Waller [Editor]

<sup>6</sup> Hodsdon, James

<sup>7</sup> For the story of Olive Blackham and the Roel Puppets see Ian Denny's excellent Puppet Archives web site <http://www.iandenny.co.uk/page50.htm>

<sup>8</sup> A lightweight lace or silk scarf worn over the head and shoulders, often over a high comb, by women in Spain and Latin America.

# Cheltenham's Early Market Buildings

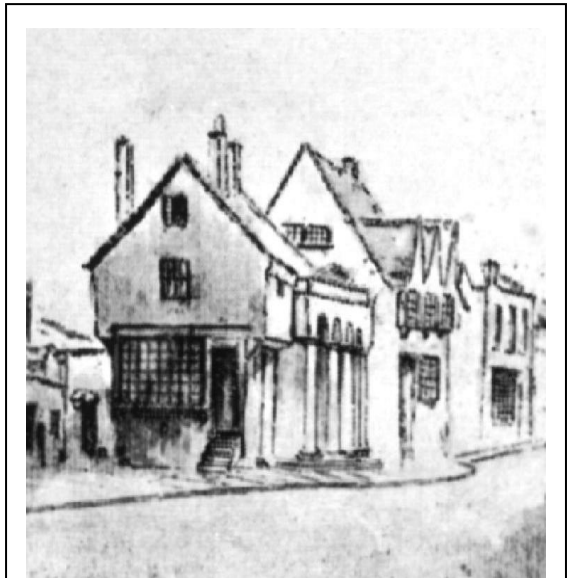
CAROLYN GREET

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CHELTHENHAM RECEIVED ITS RIGHT to hold a weekly Thursday market in 1226, in the reign of Henry III. Though it is not known when the first permanent market structure was erected, the mention in 1421 of wood from Oakley being brought to make 'a stall for the market'<sup>1</sup> suggests that one was in existence by then. Leland visited the town in the 1530s, describing Cheltenham rather dismissively as 'a longe towne havynge a market'; court books of the period indicate that there was both a Market House and a Booth Hall.

The Market House had space for more than simply stalls; an entry<sup>2</sup> in the Manor Court Books for 1610 states 'that the armor there shall be delivered to the Constable for the time being by a schedule indented and that the rent of the Market House shall be employed towards the dressing and keeping of the same and for that the armor shall be continually kept in the said house such a person shall dwell in the same as the Constable with some of the chiefest Inhabitants shall make choice of for the better keeping of the armor'. This armour may have been the 'fower Corslets and two muskets with their fur[niture]' that the tything of Cheltenham was charged with providing in 1608. A review of men and armour had been ordered that year and the Lord Lieutenant of every county required to take 'a general view...of all the Forces in that county...that the trained bands may be made complete...and also by causing the defects of the Armor, weapons and furniture to be sufficiently repaired and amended'.<sup>3</sup>

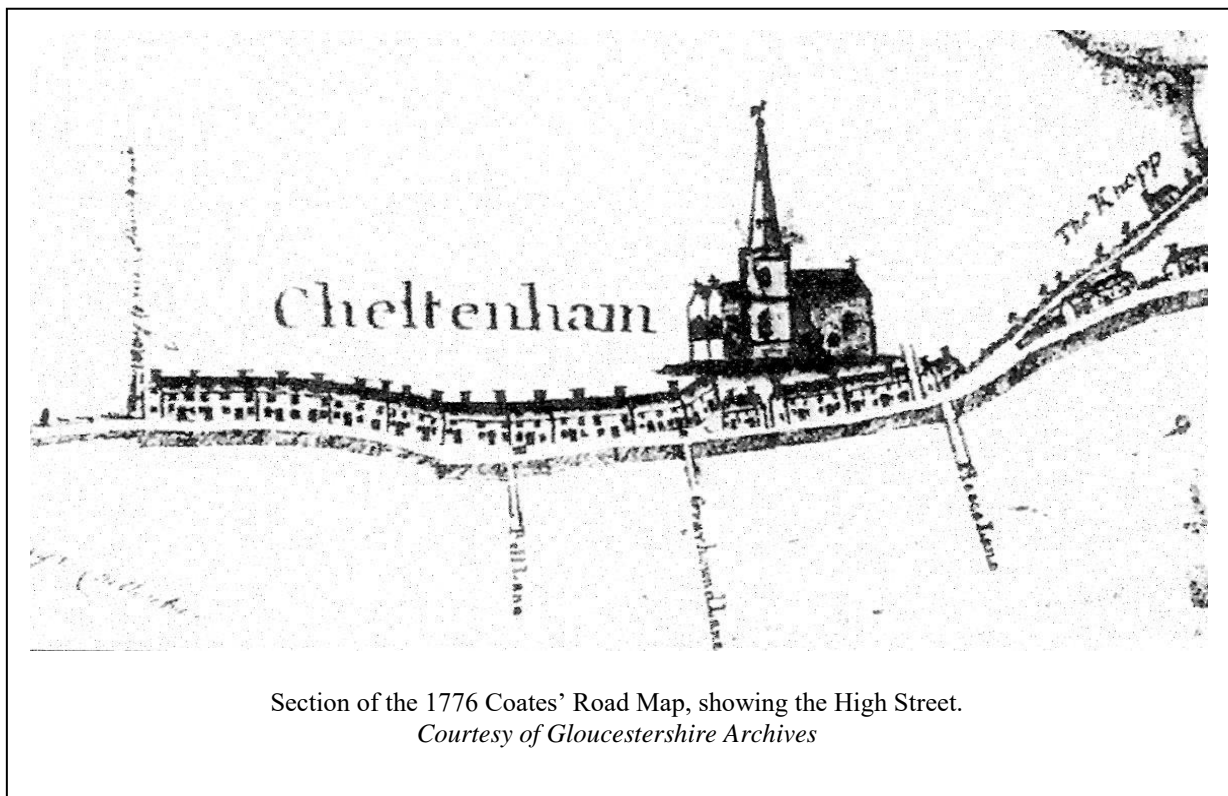
Six years later Norden's Survey mentions 'two market houses...which standeth in the streets'. Presumably the main one was the Market House where the armour was kept, while the other (smaller?) was that known as the Booth Hall, perhaps a more basic structure with no permanent stalls, where people bringing small quantities of produce could have shelter for a lesser toll. The jurors giving evidence for Norden's survey refer to 'the profits of the said markets and fairs and of the standings and stallage...' It is not always clear whether a reference is to the Market House itself or to the Booth Hall (which was also later referred to as the Butter Cross); sometimes 'Market House' does for either. John Prinn, in his entries in the Manor Court Book for 1690,<sup>4</sup> refers to 'two publiq structures, one for butter and cheese and another for a corne Market over which is a handsome large Roome for the service of the Lord of the Manor for the keeping of his Courts'.



Detail of 1804 drawing of the High Street by John Nattes, showing the pillared 1778 Market House and Barrett's House beyond to right.  
*Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum*

Cheltenham has no obvious open square or ‘place’ for a market, such as one finds in for example Tetbury or Malmesbury, and clearly never has had. The ‘longe towne’, which for centuries was a single street, was (and is) reasonably wide in the central section; a small path led to the medieval parish church to the south, and a few lanes led off to the north, but the part to the east of the church, particularly between it and the (probably sixteenth century) Plough Inn is quite wide enough to accommodate a smallish market building. There is no specific evidence for the precise location of this first Market House, but its successor was apparently built on much the same site and for the position of this there is some evidence, as follows.

The road plan published by G. Coates in 1776<sup>5</sup> shows Cheltenham as a row of buildings on the south side of the street with a disproportionately large church lying behind and a few lanes off to the north. Looked at closely, it is possible to see that there are two features actually in the street itself and separate from the buildings. The larger of the two is almost exactly opposite Bell Lane, now Winchcombe Street, opposite the Plough; the other lies further to the west, opposite Greyhound Lane, now North Street. It is reasonable to suppose that these represent the Market House and the Booth Hall.



Section of the 1776 Coates' Road Map, showing the High Street.  
*Courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives*

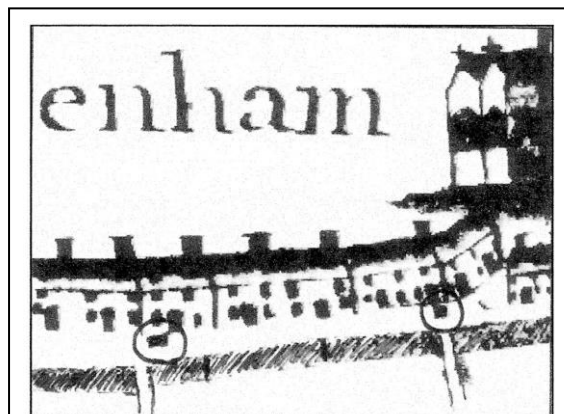
Further evidence that the 1655 Market House was in the area close to the Plough comes from newspaper advertisements; in 1751<sup>6</sup> ‘Thomas Harvey...is now removed to a new, large, handsome and commodious Inn...opposite the Market-house, called the Swan’. The Swan stood on the corner of Winchcombe Street, virtually opposite the Plough, and may even be the building that still exists there. Twelve years later the Crown Inn, a few yards along the street, is described as ‘opposite the Corn Market House’.<sup>7</sup>

The earliest main Market House lasted until the mid-1600s when it was taken down; in his will of 1654 Christopher Bayley, schoolmaster at the Grammar School for thirty-two years, left £80 ‘for the erecting of a Market-house for sale of Corne within the said Towne’. This, his executors petitioned, should be built ‘in or neere the place where the old market house before it



was taken down did stand'.<sup>8</sup> This would be the logical spot in any case, clear of other buildings and an obvious focus.

The new Market House was built of stone and stood on stone pillars, and possibly looked similar to the surviving one at Tetbury (Glos.) which also was erected in 1655 (though the one at Tetbury was originally considerably larger than it is today). As the executors had requested, there was a 'convenient room over the same' for a wool market, and here the Court Leets were also held. John Wesley, on his first visit to the town in August 1744, described the building as 'a rude structure, open on all sides and supported by stone pillars'.



Enlarged detail of the Coates' map showing the two detached buildings

During the period between the demolition of the old Market House and the erection of the 1655 replacement, the old Booth Hall must have served the purpose; once the grander new building was provided it seems to have remained in use, though now generally referred to as the Butter Cross.

Only the earliest guide-book to the town was produced while the 1655 Market House still existed: the *Cheltenham Guide* published in 1781 mentions 'certain coarse old buildings supported on stone pillars; these are called the Corn Market, Butter Cross, and another below them neither has nor merits a name [a footnote refers to this as 'an old uninhabited house belonging to a Mr Hayward']'. A little further down, is a kind of cage or prison, built of stone... It is hoped that objects so very unsightly will soon be removed, and the necessary accommodations for marketing etc. placed on some more retired and convenient spot. Just below these, on the south side of the street, a narrow avenue leads on to the churchyard...'<sup>9</sup> This 'narrow avenue' still exists.

It is worth mentioning here that in the churchyard, near the 'narrow avenue' referred to above, are small brass markers let into the path, used to measure cloth etc. Their date is unknown, but this must be an additional indication of a market nearby.

By 1786 the old market buildings were embarrassingly dilapidated and old-fashioned. Though it was the visit of King George III in 1788 that was to establish Cheltenham firmly as a fashionable watering-place, the town's reputation was growing yearly and visitors used to the clean modern terraces and handsome public buildings of Bath would find these 'coarse old buildings' neither picturesque nor interesting. Moreover the Market House stood only a matter of yards from that focus of social activity, the Assembly Rooms.<sup>10</sup> Catering for the ever-increasing numbers brought its own supply problems. Something needed to be done.

In 1786 fifty-eight Town Commissioners were appointed by Act of Parliament to be responsible for 'the Paving, Repairing, Cleansing and Lighting of the Street of Cheltenham and for removing the present and preventing future encroachments, nuisances and annoyances therein'. One of their earliest decisions was that the old Market House and Butter Cross should be pulled down and the sites 'laid into and made part of' the street.<sup>11</sup> Evidently there was some (wilful?) misunderstanding of the Commissioners' intentions, as a notice was published in the *Gloucester Journal* - Cheltenham had no local newspaper until 1809 - on 25 February 1786

announcing that 'Whereas a report has been artfully and industriously propagated in order to prejudice the minds and alarm the apprehension of some of the inhabitants...[they] may rest assured that the scope and purpose...is only for the paving, cleaning and lighting of the town, and for removing certain buildings called the Market House, Butter Cross and Dungeon, and no private building whatsoever'.

The Commissioners noted in the minutes of their meeting on 18 July 1786<sup>12</sup> 'it is ordered that the Market House and Butter Cross be taken down and that the materials be sold by Public Auction on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July instant and that three Notices of such sale be put up one at the Market House, one at the Butter Cross and one on the Church Door'. This was duly done, and the Market House was sold to John Cooke for £54, having cost £80 to build 130 years earlier. The Butter Cross or Booth Hall, which was probably much smaller and in a far worse condition as it must have dated at least in part from the pre-1655 days, went for £10 10s 0d to Thomas Wilks. There is a story<sup>13</sup> that a stone was dug out of the foundation bearing the date 1107, but this seems too far-fetched to be credible. The removal of the old Booth Hall cleared the way for the construction of the imposing Colonnade, the building of which began in 1791, at the entrance to what would later become the Promenade.

Two months after the sale of the old properties the Commissioners' Minutes record 'We do order that a Market House shall be forthwith built on the Scite [*sic*] where the old Blindhouse and where the present Prison stand...' <sup>14</sup> Shortly afterwards a plan of the proposed new building was produced, and by 8 November it was 'Agreed with John Everis and Thomas Keyte for the building of a Market House according to the plan and at the Prices described and mentioned in certain papers signed by them and delivered to our Clerk'. These 'papers' have not survived, but some sixteen months later the Treasurer paid Everis and Keyte £70 'on account of the Market House or Butter Cross.'<sup>15</sup> The building was presumably ready for business in 1787-8, just in time to cater for the major influx of visitors brought by the King's visit.

This is the first market building of which we have a pictorial record; in 1804 John Nattes produced a small pencil sketch of a stretch of the High Street looking west from what is now the top of the Promenade, and this clearly shows the market building with its pillared front. There was no second floor, and one suspects that virtually from the start the building was an inadequate substitute for the previous one. Its site was still central, though a little further down from the 1655 Market House. Next to it on the west was the large timber-framed house erected by William Barrett in c.1710, also shown in Nattes' sketch, and on the east was another timber-framed building, jettied and plastered, which may even have been the 'old uninhabited house' so disparagingly referred to in the 1781 *Guide* and which was finally demolished in 1817. The site of the new Market House had been the former prison; first a small 'Blind House' (so called because of the lack of windows), then apparently rebuilt as a (larger?) prison. The prison was removed to 'the place where the Pound is [Fleece Lane later called Henrietta Street] and...a new Pound...made within the Common called the Marsh and near the Gate there'.<sup>16</sup>

The expansion of Cheltenham continued at an astonishing rate, particularly in the wake of the King's visit in 1788, as visitor numbers shot up, from 374 in 1780 to 1100 in 1790 and an estimated 1700 in 1800.<sup>17</sup> A Market House adequate for a small agricultural town could not cope with the requirements of such numbers, and by 1803, a mere sixteen or so years after being built, it was described by Humphrey Ruff in his *History of Cheltenham* as 'small and not adapted to the quantity of marketable produce with which the town now requires to be supplied, [it] is become very inconvenient, and unfit for the purposes for which it was intended. As the spirit and size of the town increase, so we have reason to expect that another market house will be among the first objects of improvement.'

Indeed it was; the second of Ruff's guidebooks published three years later<sup>18</sup> announced that 'some of the spirited inhabitants have entered into a subscription for building one on a spot of ground adjoining, which will do credit to the town'. That same year the Commissioners resolved<sup>19</sup> 'that it will be advisable to purchase ground and erect a new Market House'.

Unfortunately, for this new Market House it was no longer a simple matter of sweeping away some dilapidated old buildings and re-using the site. A much larger space was needed, and as there was no longer a Booth Hall the old Market House would have to be retained at least until the new one was ready. Negotiations were quickly set in train for the purchase of a good-sized site a few yards below the existing one, between the present Church Street and the current Victorian premises of 'The Famous'. At the time the plot contained a house and garden owned by John Newman, a wheelwright; smaller areas owned by Simon Turk and John Ballinger would also be needed as the ambitious new plan was to include a Shambles behind the Market House. Ballinger, a gardener, had premises along Church Street<sup>20</sup> to the east; Turk ('stay & corset maker and dealer in hats') was at the western end of the site.

The *Gloucester Journal* of 31 August 1807 carried an advertisement inviting tenders for the new buildings and also for a new prison and Engine-house; two were received, from Edward Smith and Mr Melsom, and by the middle of November the Commissioners had decided that Smith should be given the contract, the work to be completed by Lady Day 1809. Melsom, who was paid ten guineas for his trouble in preparing estimates and 'journeys etc.' was an auctioneer from Gloucester. Smith, however, was a local; currently the town's Surveyor, he was an enterprising man who among other activities had established the town's first 'Boarding House' at the express suggestion of Simeon Moreau, Cheltenham's first Master of Ceremonies.<sup>21</sup> Some of the land was cleared straightaway, and William Hands bought the material of the old property for £43.<sup>22</sup> Newman and Ballinger, well aware that their land was to be compulsorily purchased, proposed at a Commissioners' Meeting in March 1808 that Mr Thomas Smith of the Bank (no relation to Edward) should value it. Smith, perhaps sensing a conflict of interests, declined and it was the Surveyor who later that year reported that Ballinger's suggested compensation of twenty guineas was a reasonable sum.

Simon Turk was asked to sell for £25 a 'piece of ground adjoining the intended new Market House extending from the end of the Passage along which the Commissioners have a right of road up to the churchyard & being about three and a half feet in width for the purpose of extending the plan of the shambles'.<sup>23</sup> This was only a small strip but it meant he could no longer use his existing pump; the Commissioners therefore agreed to supply him with a new one and also to repair damage caused to his property when the foundations for the new building were dug.<sup>24</sup> Newman's land was bought at auction by the Commissioners for £702.<sup>25</sup> The house was bought by Messrs. Fisher Wells & Co., bankers, who built premises for themselves to the immediate east of the new Market House, successfully arguing that 'from the value of the ground given up by them to the public after deducting therefrom the value of the privilege they are to have of making use of the Market House Wall in lieu of a party wall which without such privilege they must have been at the expense of building and charging them also with the value of the ground upon which such party wall would have stood ...it appeared to them that there was fairly due [from the Commissioners] the sum of £37 5s 10d.'<sup>26</sup> The Commissioners decided that this was fair; they then realised that John Ballinger was also apparently using one wall of the Market and asked him to repay the twenty guineas; Ballinger's reaction is not recorded.

The first stone of the new Market House was laid by on 30 March 1808 at the north-east corner, Coins were placed underneath it and a brass plaque, which unfortunately has not survived, bore the following inscription, as recorded in Goding:<sup>27</sup>

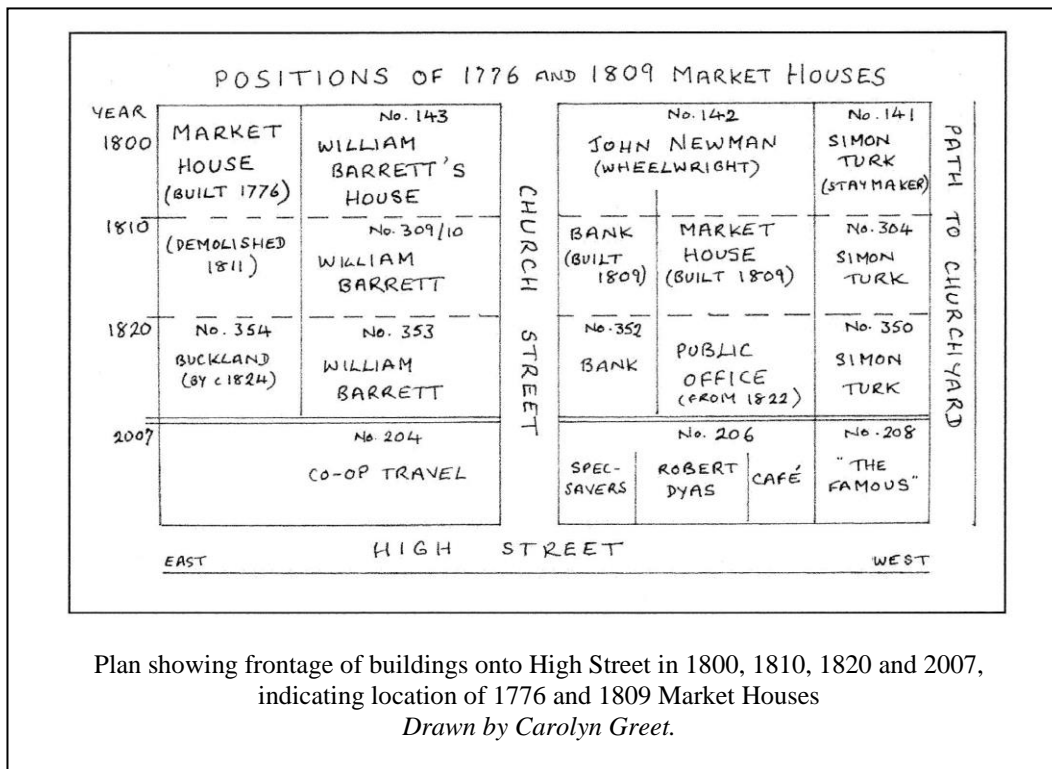
*May this Structure prove advantageous, and conduce to the prosperity  
of the Town of Cheltenham, so deservedly celebrated for its  
salubrious Waters!*

*Be it known to posterity*

*The Right Honourable James Lord Sherborne,  
Baron of Sherborne, in the County of Gloucester,  
The Lord of the Manor, and most benevolent Patron  
And Well wisher to the Improvements of this Place,  
A Nobleman, ever assiduous and ready to come forward,  
To the Protection of the King and the Church  
Placed the first Stone of this New Market-house,  
By Francis Welles, and Theodore Gwinnett, his Stewards,  
(The Corps of Royal Volunteer Cavalry and Infantry  
being assembled upon that occasion)  
On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the Month of March,  
in the year of our Lord 1808,  
In the Reign of George the Third  
The best and most deservedly beloved of Kings.*

*Edward Smith, Architect*

Work progressed quickly, with one modification to the original plan when the Surveyor suggested that the building would look much better if faced with stone. 'The expense thereof' he assured the Commissioners, 'would not exceed £31', and they evidently agreed.<sup>28</sup> A final touch was 'a proper weathercock'.<sup>29</sup> By May 1809 the new Market House was open for business.



The old Market House had continued in use during the construction, but even once the new one was opened it was felt to be still useful. In May 1809 it was decided that it should be kept for the sale of fruit and vegetables, and the Commissioners ordered that the space between the columns should be railed off; they then changed their minds and decided that the building should be appropriated for the sale of 'Glass and Earthenware'. Evidently some stallholders were reluctant to move to the new buildings, perhaps because of higher rents, but the Commissioners were adamant that 'the Fish Stalls and Poulterers' Stalls be immediately removed' (from the old Market)<sup>30</sup> and this was apparently done.

The Commissioners were keen to open up the area around the new Market as far as was possible and make access easier, and as early as July 1809 they were putting out feelers about buying the properties adjacent to the old Market with the aim of demolishing them, and finding out how much this would cost. A particular annoyance was the extreme narrowness of the street at this point, largely caused by Barrett's house, and in 1810 it was decided to approach the owner and try to buy it. Unfortunately the current owner, the grandson of the original builder, was something of a thorn in the side of the Commissioners. William Humphris Barrett, a prominent Quaker, the owner of the town's main mill (still known today as Barrett's Mill) and unlikely to take kindly to having his property demolished, was not a man to take on lightly. A committee was formed – perhaps with the thought that there was safety in numbers – of Rev. John Neale, Rev. Hugh Hughes Williams and John Riddell Esq. 'for the purpose of dealing with Mr William Humphris Barrett...' By October they felt brave enough to resolve that 'Notice be given to the proprietor...of the intention of the Commissioners to purchase these premises for the benefit of the town and of their intention that the value thereof shall be settled by a jury [safety in numbers again; WHB was refusing to negotiate]...it being the unanimous opinion of this meeting that the street is rendered so narrow by these and the adjoining Buildings as to make the measure absolutely necessary'.

Barrett remained uncooperative however and continued to ride roughshod over the Commissioners; in 1812 the Surveyor, reporting that the space between Barrett's house and the Bank, leading to Church Street, was 'in a most offensive state' and should immediately be remedied, added meaningfully 'I understand it is considered by Mr Barrett as his private property...' In 1815 the Commissioners were still sporadically recording resolutions to consider purchasing Barrett's house, but it was not until October 1817 that he agreed to sell. He did well out of it; the Commissioners handed him a cheque for £800, and in addition there were two further sums of £350 each, to be paid after three and four months. This price was for the house alone; it was by then over one hundred years old and very old-fashioned, and Barrett intended to build a replacement. Cheered by their success, the Commissioners then rather pushed their luck by trying to buy the rest of Barrett's ground, still 'for improvements'. After an initial flat refusal, they proposed that he should give up 'a small part or nook of the remainder of the ground for the purpose of rendering the passage there more uniform and commodious, and in lieu thereof offered him an equal quantity of land at the eastern end of his intended new building';<sup>31</sup> to their relief he agreed.

Once the new Market was open, there was no attempt to keep the old one in any state of repair. Part of the problem of clearing the area was solved in January 1811 when one market-day the old Market House suddenly crashed to the ground, narrowly missing a large number of passers-by who were on their way to the new Market close by. There was only one injury, to a woman who habitually sold pottery in the area between the columns; as the *Cheltenham Chronicle* reported,<sup>32</sup> she 'was enveloped in the rubbish, and had her shoulder dislocated and otherwise bruised: a large beam falling obliquely over her head saved her from the dreadful consequence that might have resulted from the situation'. A subscription was immediately got

up for her, as all her stock had been destroyed in the accident. Others also suffered some loss; John Hancocks was paid £12 12s 0d and Samuel Jones £8 0s.0d ‘as a compensation for the loss they respectively sustained by the fall of the Old Market House’.<sup>33</sup> Perhaps some of their goods were damaged by the rubble. The stone steps were left, but two years later a group of local shopowners were given permission to remove them and level the area at their own expense, the Commissioners providing £5 towards the cost.

And so with the laconic dismissal by the *Chronicle* that: ‘It has for a long time been a disgrace to our town and a dangerous nuisance to its inhabitants and fashionable visitors’, the old Market House vanished after an existence of only twenty-four years.

The splendid new, stone-faced Market House, with its great room above, adjoining Shambles and a warehouse at one end, was opened – without apparently any particular ceremony – at the beginning of May 1809. There was a flurry of last-minute decisions about pipes to be installed so that each fish stall was linked to the ‘common sewer’ (an idea that surely should have been thought of earlier?), the necessity for a set of public scales and weights, licences for ‘persons plying for hire as Basket Men or Basket Women’ and the price to be paid by those bringing butter for sale (fixed at 2d). The Rules of the Market Tolls were displayed within the building on a painted board.

A Surveyor and Clerk of the Market was appointed, initially for one year with effect from 4 May; Robert Merrifield, at a salary of £50. A month later he was provided with an assistant to help collect the tolls, though the latter was also responsible for keeping the Market House clean. Later the Commissioners decided it was more satisfactory to let the tolls by annual auction.<sup>34</sup>

The inaugural event at the ‘Great Room over the Market Place’ was the public auction of stalls and standings. Not all were taken, but most seem to have been; the Minutes recorded who successfully bid for each stall:

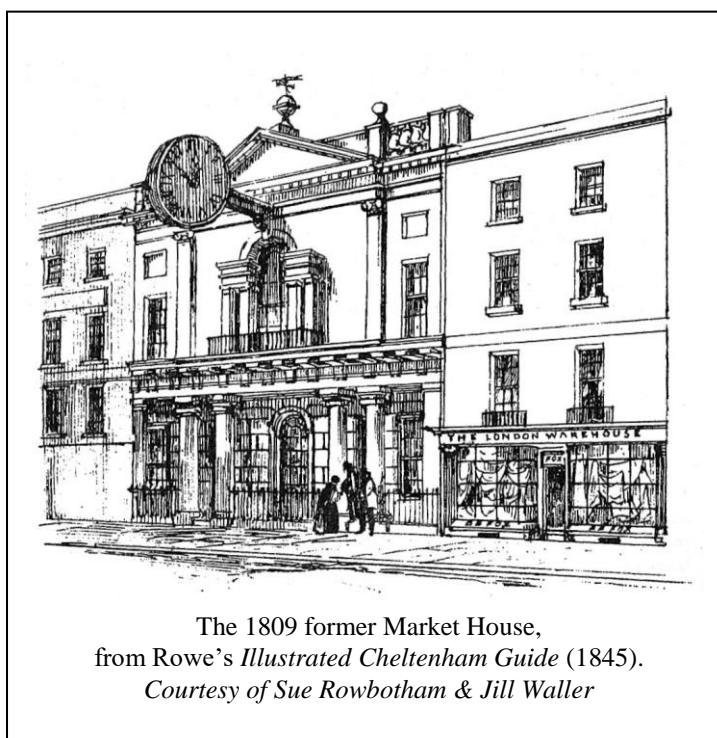
<i>Butchers</i>	<i>Baynham Jones</i>	} stall no.	1	5s.0d per week	
			}	2	3s.6d
			}	3	4s.0d
		<i>Richard Price</i>		4	4s.0d
		<i>John Brunsdon</i>		5	3s.6d
		<i>Richard Haight</i>		6	3s.6d
		<i>John Hitch</i>		7	3s.6d
		<i>John Harris</i>		8	3s.6d
		<i>John Harvey</i>		9	4s.0d
		<i>Jonathan Wildey</i>		10	5s.6d
		<i>John Matthews</i>		11	(illegible)
		<i>Thomas Cox</i>		12	7s.0d
		<i>David Harvey</i>		13	7s.0d
		<i>John Brydges</i>		14	6s.6d
<i>Fish</i>	<i>Jonathan Wildey</i>		15	4s.0d	
	<i>Baynham Jones</i>		16	3s.6d	
	<i>Edward Smith</i>		17	4s.6d	
	<i>Gilbert Davis</i>		18	7s.6d	
	<i>for Henry Ward</i>				
	<i>Warehouse adjoining no. 18 Baynham Jones</i>				

Most if not all of these were not themselves butchers or fishmongers but presumably purchased the year's lease as a business proposition, subsequently collecting the rent from those who actually supplied the goods and manned the stalls. A possible exception is Jonathan Wildey; his brother James had been a poulterer just along the High Street since the 1790s, and though Jonathan is described as 'horse dealer and chapman' in 1810, he does not seem to have been a very astute businessman (an ill-considered sideline as the proprietor of a landau for hire left him bankrupt in 1811) and might well have set up for a time in a business similar to his brother's. Of the others Baynham Jones, who took three of the butchers' and one of the fish stalls as well as part of the warehouse (for 4s.6d), was an important figure in the town, a Commissioner, the builder of Cambray House and later the developer of Cambray Spa.

There were evidently a few minor problems with the building which Smith was requested to sort out, but on the whole it was felt to be a considerable improvement on the previous premises: 'The comfort attending the New Market House, as well to the sellers as buyers, is becoming every day more obvious...' The usual local pessimists had predicted gloomily that prices would rise, but '...instead of an increase in the prices of commodities, as was anticipated by some, we are happy to observe that a general competition has rather produced the contrary'.<sup>35</sup>

There is no surviving illustration of the building as it was at the time. However, it later became the Public Office housing the Magistrates' Offices and solicitors' offices, and George Rowe's *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide*<sup>36</sup> shows it as it appeared in the 1840s. It had apparently been refronted by then, and an imposing clock was added in 1828, but the general plan – a large room with window on the first floor, pillared front downstairs with a central arched entrance – is probably in essentials as it was when first built. The weathercock is still there too. Certainly there was a recess between two projecting sections, for these are referred to when detailed arrangements for the stalls were discussed.<sup>37</sup> There were also cellars

or vaults beneath the building. There was some anxiety about the capitals of the pillars a year or so into the building's life and the Surveyor had to arrange for some urgent repairs. Inside, the building was whitewashed, this being renewed periodically.



The 1809 former Market House,  
from Rowe's *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide* (1845).  
Courtesy of Sue Rowbotham & Jill Waller

There was considerable discussion about the best way to organise the various stalls; some of the butter stalls - probably just benches where baskets could be rested - had initially been sited on the western side, but then it was decided that it would be better to have the fish stalls in that position. Three fish stalls were therefore fitted up in the western part of the building at the front 'as far as the recess extends'. The western projecting part was to be for poulterers' or occasionally fishmongers' stalls, placed close to the wall and with 'racks or rails' above. Most of the stalls were for the butchers, and these must have taken the space on the eastern side of the

building. Sellers of butter and other small goods would have space along the south side of the building and also to the rear of the fish stalls on the west.

Along the south wall – it was called the ‘Dead Wall’, either because it had no windows or perhaps because it faced the churchyard – were placed benches; these seem to have been something of an afterthought, as it was not until the building was already in use that the Commissioners decided to ‘consider the propriety of agreeing with Mr Rooke for some Benches he has to dispose of’.<sup>38</sup> These surplus benches could have come from either the old Upper Rooms which were falling out of use and being turned into salerooms, or the Lower Rooms, which by contrast were becoming so popular that they were about to be rebuilt; Rooke owned both the Upper and (since 1806) the Lower Rooms.

It is difficult to work out exactly how the area behind the Market House was arranged. The warehouse appears to have been here, with an entrance from outside and also presumably one from the interior next to stall no. 18. Access to the Shambles, where most of the butchery would have taken place, was probably from the west along the strip of land bought from Simon Turk. The Shambles was closed off by a gate, and a slightly confusing entry in the Minutes<sup>39</sup> refers to a window with shutters to be ‘opened and set up at the South end of the Shambles corresponding with the Gate on the opposite side’. In addition to the £25 he had received for the strip of land, Turk was paid a further £10 in March 1810 for ‘injury [i.e. inconvenience] entertained by him in building the new Market House’.

Two final items for the accommodation of the public were provided: a ‘proper crossing’ across the street and (some months later) ‘...a proper Stone...in order to prevent nuisances being committed in the corner of the Market House Passage’.

At the initial auction in May 1809 not all the stalls and cellars had been let, and in April 1810 the Commissioners decided to advertise them to rent by private contract, though one vault was to be reserved ‘for the reception of empty Hampers, Crates etc. heretofore left on the pavement’ (where they had presumably obstructed still more the already narrow street). However there was no take-up from this, and the following October the Commissioners were still minuting decisions to auction the cellars ‘either separately or together’.

One unqualified success appears to have been the large first-floor room above the main market hall, which quickly became officially known as the Town Hall. Not only were the Commissioners’ meetings held here, during the summer Season it was frequently used for exhibitions, auctioneers’ sales and similar events. During the very early days of its existence, the Abbé César asked for permission to hold Roman Catholic services there on Sundays, a request the Commissioners were happy to grant.<sup>40</sup> Local auctioneers were apparently charged little if anything for using the premises, provided that they were resident tradesmen of the town or selling goods belonging to a resident. ‘Strangers’ who did not fall into this category were charged one guinea per day, though such sales took place only 10 - 20 times a year. Not all shopkeepers were happy with the number of auction-sales held, and there was some muttering in 1812 that the Commissioners should forbid them, though a correspondent to the *Chronicle* pointed out that ‘some of the Shop-keepers would willingly turn out every person who came to sell any thing that they dealt in, by which means we should be at their mercy’.<sup>41</sup> Occasionally the auctioneers themselves caused problems; an exasperated entry in the Commissioners’ Minutes on 7 May 1817 orders the Clerk to ‘give notice to Mr Benjamin Newbury that unless he removes the Beds and other things belonging to him in the Town Hall within one week they will be removed into the Street’.



The Market House was also from time to time the setting for more social gatherings. One such was held on 11 July 1814 for the 'gardeners, fisherwomen etc.' About fifty people had a 'sumptuous' dinner with plenty of ale and punch, the latter given by 'several respectable tradesmen', followed by dancing until late. Mr Yearsley, the landlord of the Eight Bells public house nearby, provided the food. This '*grand route*' as the *Chronicle* called it, which took place in the upper room, was presided over by Mr Thomas Heyward, the current renter of tolls.

It does seem however that despite its advantages there were inconveniences to the building, perhaps not so much from its organization as from its situation. 'Offensive water' from the Shambles collected on the pavement and a gutter had to be made to carry it away. Congestion of the footways had been a problem from the start, with the parking of empty crates already referred to. The main gates of the building too had been allowed to open out and obstruct the pavement, and the Commissioners ordered in 1811<sup>42</sup> that '...the gates of the Market House [are to] be at all times from henceforth prevented from opening into the street' – though quite how this was to be achieved is not explained. In bad weather rain and snow blew in through the arch 'to the great annoyance of the persons below' and the Surveyor, Mr Morhall,<sup>43</sup> suggested to the Commissioners that the top of the arch should be enclosed with a glass window, a drawing of which he provided.<sup>44</sup> The Commissioners themselves had found the upper room somewhat draughty until they decided to have 'a green baize door to be put up at the top of the stairs for the purpose of making the Town Hall more warm and comfortable'.<sup>45</sup>

Also, although the official stalls with their convenient benches and drainage direct to the sewers no doubt provided welcome and efficient service, inevitably other and less official sellers of goods attempted to take advantage. A letter in the *Cheltenham Chronicle*<sup>46</sup> from Mr Morhall in 1814 complained about 'the present nuisance immediately before the Market House...if the retailers of old cloaths [*sic*] were expelled, the room would be better occupied by those who bring the absolute necessities of life for sale, instead of annoying the passengers by the occupation of the footways'. This was a repeated complaint, but unfortunately little could be done, as when the tolls had been let for the year, the only restriction placed on the renting of stalls was that of price, as 'it was not anticipated the present renter would make the Stalls into Shops'. The Commissioners did what they could; a letter was sent to William Hayward, the current renter, warning him that 'he will be sued for penalties if he persists longer in suffering any stall in the Market House to be used for the purpose of selling Books or other dry goods'.<sup>47</sup> It was not only the sellers of books and old clothes who caused problems. In a complaint reminiscent of those sometimes heard these days about the prevalence of fast-food sellers on the streets, Morhall continued, 'We have observed...that hawking various articles of food, contrary to the local act for its prevention, continues: this distroys [*sic*] competition'.

In fact, the problem which had bedevilled the previous two Market Houses – those of 1655 and 1786 – had arisen yet again; a building inadequate for a town expanding too rapidly for its facilities. One possible solution was to move some of the sellers and find a separate site for a 'Green Market' – fruit and vegetables – and in 1816 the Commissioners felt they had located the perfect position, Rose and Crown Yard opposite the existing Market House. A committee was set up to investigate and reported back at the next meeting. It was not good news; though the site was suitable, they were horrified at the expense: '...the great sum of money which it would require to purchase sufficient ground to make it eligible for a Market is so far beyond the expectation of the Committee that they cannot recommend the undertaking unless the Commissioners think proper to purchase the whole of the property in the Yard and resell in Lots to build a new Street and reserve a Lot for a complete Market'.<sup>48</sup> This was more than the Commissioners were prepared to contemplate, though the idea of a Green Market in Rose and Crown Yard was to be raised occasionally over the next eighteen months.

By the middle of 1818 the question of replacing the Market was becoming urgent, and the Commissioners discussed approaching Lord Sherborne with a view to either selling the existing building and building a new one, or purchasing property elsewhere and extending the market over two sites. After taking legal advice, they discovered that they had no power to sell the existing Market House and that an Act of Parliament would be necessary for any such major changes as those proposed. That was obtained, but it did not solve the problem of what should actually be done about providing a new building. So in July 1821 a complete change of tack was decided; they agreed to relinquish to Lord Sherborne their interest in both the existing Market House and the tolls, and also in any future new Market House buildings. In exchange, they considered that he should pay two-thirds of the cost of obtaining the Act of Parliament, and also cover the cost of the remaining nine years of the lease. Lord Sherborne felt that the sum asked for this latter - £500 per annum until 1830 – was too high, nor was he happy about the stipulation made by the Commissioners that they should have exclusive use of the room above the Market. Eventually he reluctantly agreed, with the assurance that if he did require the room he would see that a suitable alternative was provided, and with that the Commissioners were content. They formally abolished the office of Clerk of the Market, handed over their rights and the course was clear for the Lord of the Manor to establish a new Market independent of the Commissioners.

Lord Sherborne's new Market was a far larger and more complex construction, situated between Rose and Crown Yard on the east and Counsellors Alley<sup>49</sup> on the west. It was fronted by an extraordinary triple arch of vaguely oriental design; beyond this an arcade of shops<sup>50</sup> led up to a large square of stalls for butchers, fishmongers and greengrocers, with a hall 84ft by 42ft in the centre where poultry and eggs were sold and which also functioned as a Corn Hall. As Griffith's *New Historical Description of Cheltenham* (1826) stated, 'This arrangement has given the highest satisfaction to all parties...removing from one of the principal promenades of this fashionable town the great inconvenience of a public market'. It is hoped to examine the history of this Market in more detail in a later article.

Once the new Market was in operation, the old building did at least escape the fate of its predecessor. The bankers Messrs. Hartland took over the building and (according to Goding) refronted it, using the premises until the late 1820s. From then for many years it was solicitors' offices, while the large upper room became the Public Office where Magistrates' sessions were held. After Cheltenham became a Borough in 1876, this became the Municipal Office. Eventually in 1915 the building was bought by Woolworths, and in 1960 it was acquired by Tesco, until in 1969 its career ended in a spectacular fashion when it was destroyed by fire.

<sup>1</sup> Hart, Gwen, 'The Liberty of Cheltenham', *Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club* Vol. 33 (1957-61) p.22

<sup>2</sup> Gloucestershire Archives (GA) Manor Court Books (MCB) D855 M8 f79 dated 5 Oct James 8. I am indebted to Jane Sale for this reference.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, John, *Men and Armour for Gloucestershire in 1608* (1902)

<sup>4</sup> GA MCB D855 M12

<sup>5</sup> GA Q/SRh/177a/1

<sup>6</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 1 Jan 1751

<sup>7</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 23 May 1763

<sup>8</sup> MCB D855 M11

<sup>9</sup> [Butler, W.] *The Cheltenham Guide or Useful Companion* (1781) p.23

<sup>10</sup> The 'Lower Rooms' built 1784

<sup>11</sup> Paving Act 1786

<sup>12</sup> GA CBR A1/1/1

<sup>13</sup> Recorded by Goding, John, *A History of Cheltenham* (1853) p.100

<sup>14</sup> Minutes of Paving Commissioners (Minutes) 27 Sep 1786

<sup>15</sup> Minutes 7 Mar 1788

<sup>16</sup> Minutes 27 Sep 1786

<sup>17</sup> Ruff, H. *The History of Cheltenham* (1803) p.124

<sup>18</sup> Ruff, H. *Ruff's Beauties of Cheltenham* (1806, reprinted 1981)

<sup>19</sup> Minutes 16 September 1806

<sup>20</sup> Also known for a time as Ballinger's Lane, according to Hodsdon, J. *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* (BGAS, 1997)

<sup>21</sup> 'A good general Boarding-Table seems to be much desired by the Company, and would certainly answer to any person, well calculated, who may establish one.' Moreau, Simeon, *A Tour to Cheltenham Spa* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1786 p33

<sup>22</sup> Minutes 1 Dec 1807

<sup>23</sup> Minutes 16 Feb 1808

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Hart, Gwen, *A History of Cheltenham* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1981) p.246

<sup>26</sup> Minutes 10 Jan 1809

<sup>27</sup> *op. cit.* p.101

<sup>28</sup> Minutes 12 Jul 1808

<sup>29</sup> Minutes 4 Apr 1809

<sup>30</sup> Minutes 6 Jun 1809

<sup>31</sup> Minutes 14 Nov 1817

<sup>32</sup> 14 Jan 1811

<sup>33</sup> Minutes 5 Mar 1811

<sup>34</sup> The Commissioners had a twenty-one years' lease of the tolls from the Lord of the Manor, Lord Sherborne. The renters of tolls were Thomas Hayward (1813-15) and William Hayward (1815-21); some of the sums paid being £345 (1813); £490 (1815); £530 (1816); £580 (1817); £540 (1818); £615 (1819); £630 (1820). William Hayward was more than once in trouble with the Commissioners for being in arrears with his payment.

<sup>35</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 29 Jun 1809

<sup>36</sup> Published 1845, reprinted 1981

<sup>37</sup> Minutes 6 Jun 1809

<sup>38</sup> Minutes 25 May 1809

<sup>39</sup> 6 Jun 1809

<sup>40</sup> Minutes 25 May 1809

<sup>41</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 4 Jun 1812

<sup>42</sup> Minutes 6 Oct 1811

<sup>43</sup> Morhall was the Town Surveyor from late 1812 until his death in a riding accident in September 1819

<sup>44</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 2 Dec 1812

<sup>45</sup> Minutes 5 Jul 1814

<sup>46</sup> 6 Jan 1814

<sup>47</sup> Minutes 6 Dec 1815

<sup>48</sup> Minutes 4 Sep 1816

<sup>49</sup> Now Oxford Passage

<sup>50</sup> Now replaced by Bennington Street

## *Cheltenham Examiner*

**March 1852**

### ***A Hungry Thief***

*Henry Martin, aged 14, a youth on his travels in search of adventures, but who, we shrewdly suspect, is destined one fine morning to 'travel further and fare worse', was charged with stealing a leg of mutton from the shop of Thomas Hastings, butcher, of St Paul's Street North. The case was fully brought home to the youthful adventurer, evincing his contrition by an abundance of crocodile tears, and said he was "werry sorry, but he was werry hungry." The Bench deposed of the case under the Juveniles Offenders Act, and sentenced the prisoner to one month's wholesome discipline at Northleach, including a whipping.*

# The Owe 40 Club – National Lawn Tennis and Squash in Leckhampton

ELIZABETH MILLMAN & PAULINE BRADSTOCK

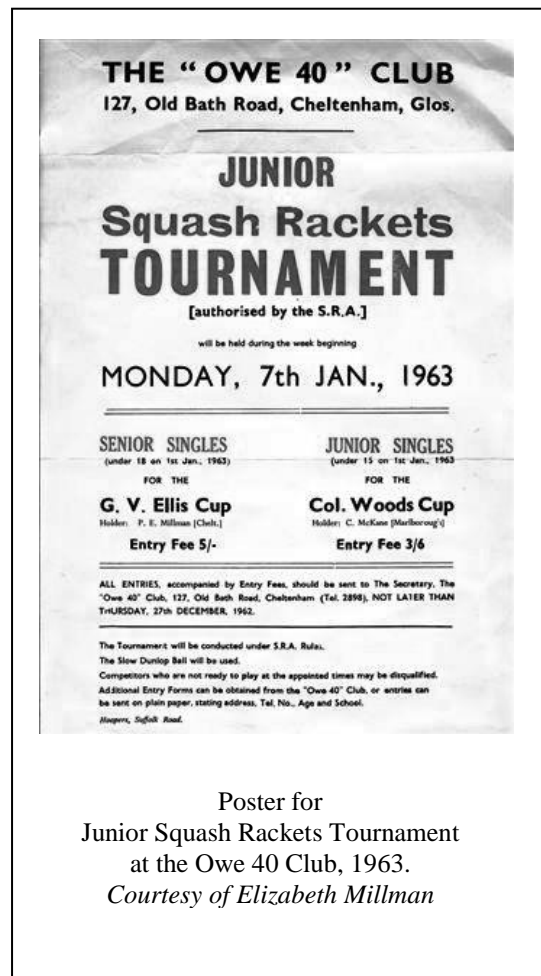
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*This article is compiled from Elizabeth and Pauline's contributions to the Society's 'Memories' project, with additional help from Elaine Heasman. The Editors would be grateful for any more information about the Owe 40 Club.*

AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE Henry Holgate Yolland and his wife Katharine bought some land on Old Bath Road, Cheltenham. They built a house, no. 127, on the site and named it 'Longuenesse'<sup>1</sup> after the place in France where they had been working together for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They laid four en-tous-cas<sup>2</sup> hard tennis courts and one grass court, and built a squash court. They then set up the Owe 40 Squash Racquet and Tennis Club, the name taken from the highest handicap in Lawn Tennis. After Henry Yolland's death in 1939 the tennis courts and drive became overgrown with weeds and brambles during World War Two, despite his widow's best efforts, although the squash court still continued to have bookings and was used by the Americans stationed nearby for handball.

In 1944 Major Albert Edward 'Ted' Millman, a former friend of Henry Yolland was on medical leave from the army, having been injured in 1943 and incapacitated for several months being blinded in both eyes. With only partial recovery of his sight, he came to stay with the Yolland family at Longuenesse. As an aid to his rehabilitation he began resurrecting the Owe 40 Club courts, later to be assisted at weekends by German Prisoners of War from Leckhampton Court.

In 1936, Ted Millman had decided to make the teaching of tennis his full-time career and in 1938 was running the Billesley Lane Tennis Club in Birmingham, where he promoted what was probably the first Professional match to be played in the provinces. Poor attendance and opposition from the L.T.A did not stop him from staging a further match, this time between Bill Tilden and Dan Maskell, in April 1939, at which event it snowed! Undaunted, in July 1939 he staged matches at the Aston Villa Football ground watched by 8,000 people. His plans were then rudely disrupted by the onset of war and on 16 September 1939 Ted found himself with the British Expeditionary Forces in France.



In 1945, having decided to leave the army and remain in Cheltenham, Ted arranged victory matches in May 1945 on the newly-renovated courts at the Owe 40 Club for charity at which Dorothy Round (Mrs Little), Mary Hardwicke (Mrs Hare), T. Falkenberg and Dan Maskell played. With double summer time and fine weather the tennis season continued through to October giving the ever increasing numbers being discharged from the services an opportunity to enjoy leisure moments denied them for so long. Sports equipment of all kinds was very scarce but the means were found to recover old balls and have old tennis shoes resoled. Fortunately, when Ted had turned professional before the war he had spent three months in a Sports factory learning the art of stringing so he was able to give new life to all the antique rackets with broken strings being retrieved daily from attics in the neighbourhood.

In September 1945 Ted married Elizabeth Cox who at this time was teaching juniors at Pate's Grammar School for Girls in Cheltenham and also played squash. After the wedding Elizabeth moved in with Ted and together they took over the running of the Club. Later on, the Millmans were able to purchase the strip of land between 127 and 131, which had been designated for a road, similar to and parallel with Naunton Park Road and which had previously been rented out as a vegetable garden.

A tennis school was formed at the Club, and Elizabeth Millman remembers those times well:

*As we started the Junior Tennis Courses and had large numbers of children for a week at a time during the April holidays we gained a lot of interest and support. I remember one mother saying to me that she was so pleased her children were able to come as they would meet all the right sort of people. This filled us with dismay as we prided ourselves on our wide and varied membership as befitted post-war attitudes.*



*'Collective Coaching' about 1947. Ted Millman is in foreground to right  
Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*

Ted Millman and his colleague Doug Gresham<sup>3</sup> were experienced and well-respected coaches in the world of British tennis. In 1947 Ted and Doug developed the Lawn Tennis 'Collective Coaching' programme, the aim of which was to raise the general standard of play amongst both children and teachers. The programme proved very popular and they were soon running demonstrations and coaching at schools and colleges across England, including Cheltenham.

In 1948 C.M. Jones, Editor of the magazine *British Lawn Tennis*, made the following comments on Ted and Doug's significant contribution to the post-war game:

*'...competitive tennis is now accepted universally as the finest game of all, for the development of such vital characteristics as courage, patience, initiative, concentration and tenacity.'*

*'Unfortunately, the war years put an end to nearly all competitions so the immediate requirement is to build up a generation of young players who will infuse renewed enthusiasm and keenness into this form of tennis. The first stage in this must be the demonstration of top class play and a sound instruction in fundamentals to as wide a section of teen-agers [sic] as possible.'*

*'Your collective efforts are supplying these requirements to vast numbers of our youth and they will undoubtedly result in many more youngsters taking an active and skilful part in tennis. In playing tennis they will develop naturally and happily into the types of people so necessary to restore this country to its traditional greatness.'*

Ted Millman and Doug Gresham also gave week-long courses for games' masters and mistresses at the Owe 40 Club itself. Miss M.A. Kettle, Games Mistress from the Convent of H.C.J., St. Leonards-on-Sea described the experience with great enthusiasm:

*'I think all the students who attended the first course [in 1947] ... will agree that it was entirely successful in achieving its aims. The thoughtful anticipation by the promoters of the needs, social as well as instructional, made it indeed a holiday course, in Cheltenham's delightful surroundings. Whilst the atmosphere remained friendly and informal throughout, the enthusiasm of Major Millman and Mr Gresham was so infectious that we were able to cover a wide theoretical and practical syllabus. Our efforts to practice our instructors' very sound theory of "learning by imitation" afforded the light relief without which no course is complete.'*



Tennis coaching,  
1949  
Courtesy of  
Elizabeth Millman

The Club's tennis courts were hired by various local groups including GCHQ (known locally as the 'Foreign Office'), Dowty Rotol, the National Coal Board (NCB) and Mrs Lea's A-Z Club.<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Millman remembers that members were 'many and varied', and included mathematician Professor Jacob Bronowski, Director of the Coal Research Establishment of the NCB in Stoke Orchard<sup>5</sup> from its opening in 1950 and later Director General Process Development for the Board 1959-1963, inventing 'Bronowski's Bricks' – a smokeless fuel. Professor Bronowski is probably best-remembered for his appearances on the BBC television version of *The Brains Trust* in the late 1950s, and as the presenter and writer of the BBC television series *The Ascent of Man* (1973). Other members included:

*'...– William Lord Kinnoul, a Peer of the Realm, who was a student at Cirencester Agricultural College and became a family friend, ...a very dear Mrs Grundy who lived at Park House in Thirlestaine Road supported us from the start. She was a member of the East Gloucestershire Club<sup>6</sup>, a club rather antagonistic towards the newly-opened Owe 40 club. Another generous supporter was Colonel Berger who lived in 'Karenza', Bath Road. He had been in the regular army and became a tennis coach and he thought 'Millman' was alright!'*

Post-Wimbledon celebrity charity and exhibition matches were held at the Club and also on the grounds of Cheltenham College from the 1940s to the 1960s. Visiting tennis celebrities not previously mentioned included Jack Kramer,<sup>7</sup> Pancho Segura<sup>8</sup> and Lew Hoad.<sup>9</sup> There was great excitement in the last week of August 1946 when Fred Perry,<sup>10</sup> Wimbledon Mens' Singles Champion in 1934-36, and World No. 1 player for five years in the 1930s, was brought to Cheltenham by his brother-in-law, the internationally-popular actor Walter Pidgeon. Fred was to play the winner of the Singles Final and present the prizes. Also in that week, on Thursday 29 August 1946, Ted convened a meeting of all competitors at the Belle Vue Hotel, Cheltenham and explained that with their support he wanted to establish an Association of their own – the response was positive and unanimous and The Lawn Tennis Professional Association (later known as The Professional Tennis Coaches Association) was formed.

Elizabeth Millman has vivid memories of their hectic life at the Club:

*'I was left to run the club with many and varied helpers when Ted and Doug were away. One memory is of having to be available every 40 minutes to take the squash court fees. Our own children's baths, mealtimes etc had to be timed accordingly. I later ran Ladies' Tennis afternoons, always feeling I must play with the worst players and put the others tactfully into fours according to ability and temperament.*

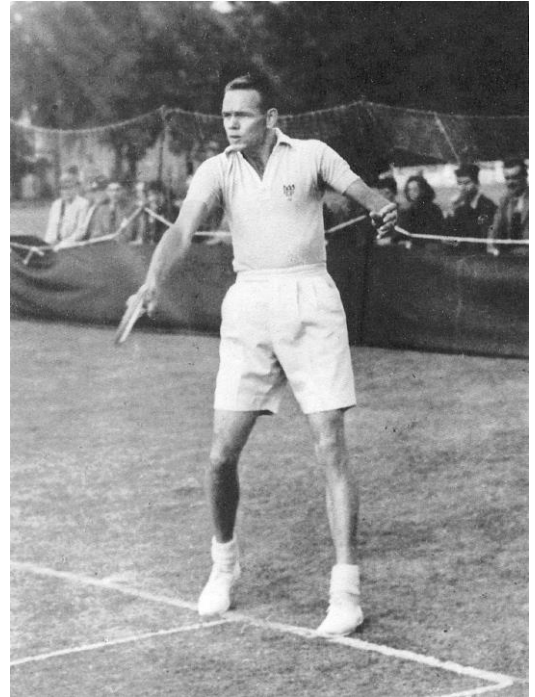
*'They were good days but very hard work as we lived on the premises, had no weekends or Bank Holidays off and were on duty from 8 a.m. in the morning until 10 p.m. or later. It was easier when we built a club room separate from the house.'*

Ted and Elizabeth Millman closed the Owe 40 Club in 1965 and sold the land to developers in 1968. The vegetable patch is now the road into Naunton Park Close and the original drive to the squash court with its Air Raid shelter half way down is now the road to the garages behind the houses. The entrance to 127 Old Bath Road was re-routed to the rear.

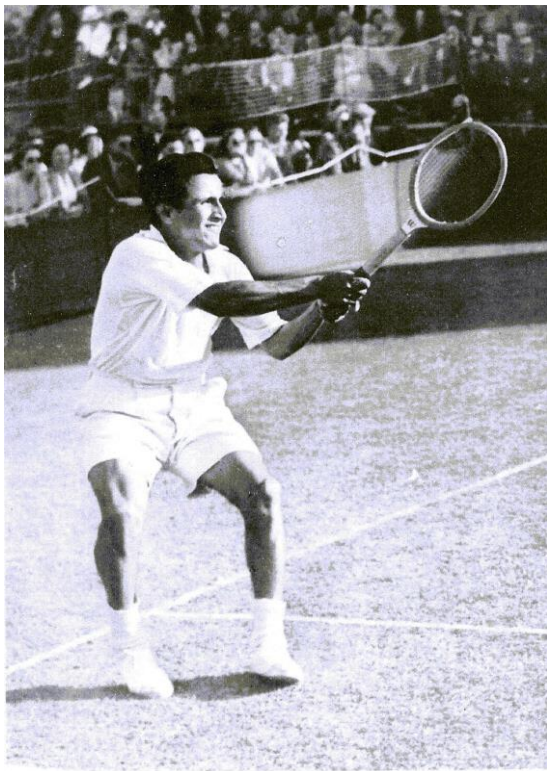
The Millmans continued to be closely involved with squash and tennis both in Gloucestershire and nationally even after their 'retirement'. They ran the Cirencester Club and organised national squash tournaments. Their son Paul, born in Cheltenham in 1946, played squash for England and their elder daughter Valerie born in 1949 played at Junior Wimbledon.



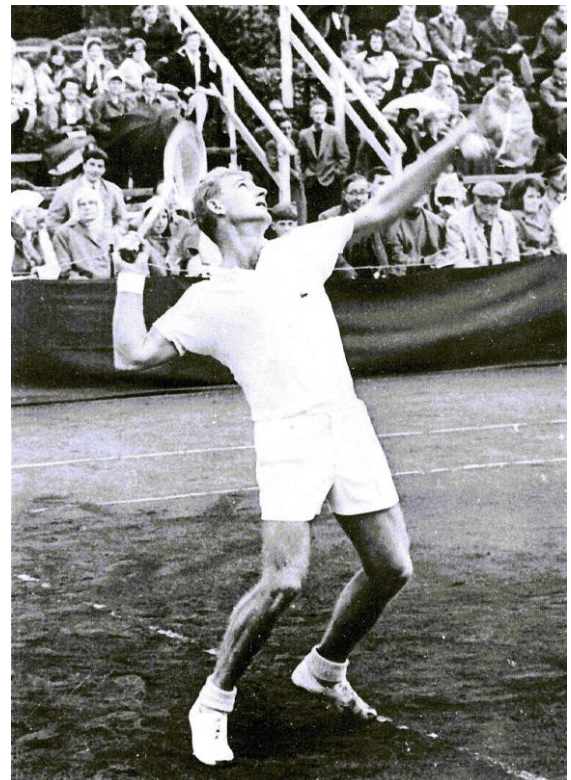
Mary Hardwick & Dorothy Round  
Charity match, Cheltenham 1945  
*Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*



Jack Kramer  
Exhibition Match, Cheltenham 1952  
*Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*



Pancho Segura  
Exhibition match, Cheltenham 1952  
*Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*



Jack Kramer  
Exhibition match, Cheltenham 1965  
*Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*





Presentation to Ted and Elizabeth Millman at the New Club [at its previous premises off the Promenade] following the closure of the Owe 40 Club in 1965 after 21 years. Col. Pat Woods [centre left] presenting a silver salver to Elizabeth Millman [centre] and Ted Millman [centre right].  
*Courtesy of Elizabeth Millman*

Throughout his career Ted Millman saw a steady flow of pupils being accepted for Junior and Senior Wimbledon but his main successes were with his squash pupils, several of whom reached National and International Standards. The highlight must surely have been Mrs S. Mackintosh (nee Speight) bringing back to Cheltenham the crown of World Ladies' Champion in 1960. Ted himself felt the greatest moment of his professional career was in 1966 when Jonah Barrington won the World Squash Championship. The following extract appeared in *The Times* on 23 December 1966:

*'Barrington...he learnt his game at Cheltenham College and the local Owe 40 Club, now no more, though its professional, Ted Millman, had a nostalgic hour watching his one-time pupil win the greatest prize the game has to offer.'*

In January 1972 two squash courts were opened at the East Gloucestershire Club, with two more opened in 1980. Ted, one of the Club's few Life Members, was appointed as the Official Squash Coach, and it was not long before both the men's and women's teams were amongst the top in the country. In 1984 Ted produced *A History of Professional Tennis 1919-1984* co-written with his son Paul and published by the Professional Tennis Coaches Association (PTCA). Ted died in April 2000, shortly before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

***Editors' note:***

Pauline Bradstock, who provided the initial draft for this article sadly died 16 February 2008. We are grateful to Elizabeth Millman, Ted's widow, for her help to enable the article to be completed.

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<http://www.webmatters.net/cwgc/longuenesse.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred\\_Perry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Perry)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_Kramer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Kramer)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancho\\_Segura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancho_Segura)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lew\\_Hoad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lew_Hoad)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy\\_Round](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Round)

<http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Obits/Bronowski.html>

Kelly's Directories of Cheltenham – various dates

Millman, Ted, *A History of Professional Tennis 1919-1984*, pamphlet (PTCA, 1984)

<sup>1</sup> Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery is approximately 3 kilometres from St. Omer to the left of the D928 Abbeville road. There are now over 3,000, 1914-18 and nearly 450, 1939-46 war casualties commemorated in this site.

<sup>2</sup> En-tous-cas tennis courts have an all-weather playing surface made up of successive layers of porous volcanic rock. Courts are still constructed in this manner today.

<sup>3</sup> Ted Millman and Douglas Gresham published *Lawn Tennis: Techniques, Training and Tactics* in 1953 (Bell) which was subsequently used extensively as a text book.

<sup>4</sup> The A-Z Club was a club for adults playing lawn tennis in the evenings. Mrs Lea was the wife of A.J. Lea, B.Sc., Headmaster of St. Gregory's Roman Catholic School in Cheltenham for more than 20 years.

<sup>5</sup> Stoke Orchard is just outside Bishop's Cleeve, about five miles from Cheltenham.

<sup>6</sup> Tennis was first played at the East Gloucestershire Club in Old Bath Road in 1885.

<sup>7</sup> Jack Kramer was a champion U.S. tennis player in the 1940s, winning the Wimbledon men's singles final in 1947, and the men's doubles finals in 1946 and 1947. A World No. 1 player for a number of years, it has been claimed that he is a 'possible candidate for the title of the greatest tennis player of all time'. Kramer was also a leading promoter of professional tennis tours and a relentless advocate for the establishment of Open Tennis between amateur and professional players. In 1972 he became the first Executive Director of the Association of Tennis Professionals.

<sup>8</sup> Ecuador-born Pancho Segura was a leading tennis player in the 1940s and 1950s, both as an amateur and as a professional. As a professional in 1950 and 1952 he was the World Co-No. 1 player and in his autobiography in 1979 Jack Kramer counted Segura as one of the 21 greatest tennis players of all time.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Lewis Alan 'Lew' Hoad was also considered by Jack Kramer to be one of the top 21 best players of all time. Hoad was ranked in the World Top Ten for amateurs for five years from 1952, reaching No. 1 in 1956.

<sup>10</sup> Fred Perry was the last Englishman to win Wimbledon.

## The Macready Mystery

### SUE ROWBOTHAM

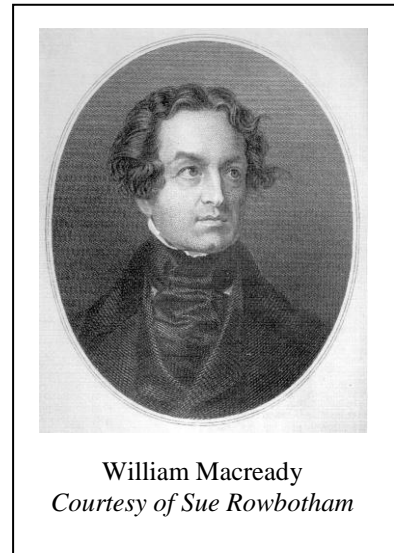
CELEBRATED SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR William Charles Macready retired to 6 Wellington Square, Cheltenham in 1860 and lived at this address until his death in 1873.



The mystery figure  
Photo by Sue Rowbotham

Macready gave his farewell performance as Macbeth at Drury Lane on 26 February 1851. After retiring to Cheltenham he lectured and read aloud in the town, and Charles Dickens, a good friend, is known to have stayed with him on several occasions in the 1860s, whilst doing reading tours of provincial theatres. Macready died in Cheltenham on 27 April 1873, and is buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, London. A bronze plaque to William Charles Macready was erected at 6 Wellington Square, Cheltenham by the Public Libraries Committee and was unveiled by his son, Sir Neville Macready on 15 March 1927.

Between the bay windows on the upper façade to 6 Wellington Square there is a tall narrow niche, in which is set a carved stone figure. The niche and the pedestal appear to be original, but the figure stands awkwardly on the pedestal and looks out of proportion in the space. Was it added at a later date, perhaps by Macready? If so who does the figure represent? Shakespeare, a Shakespearean character, Macready himself? Can anyone tell me more?

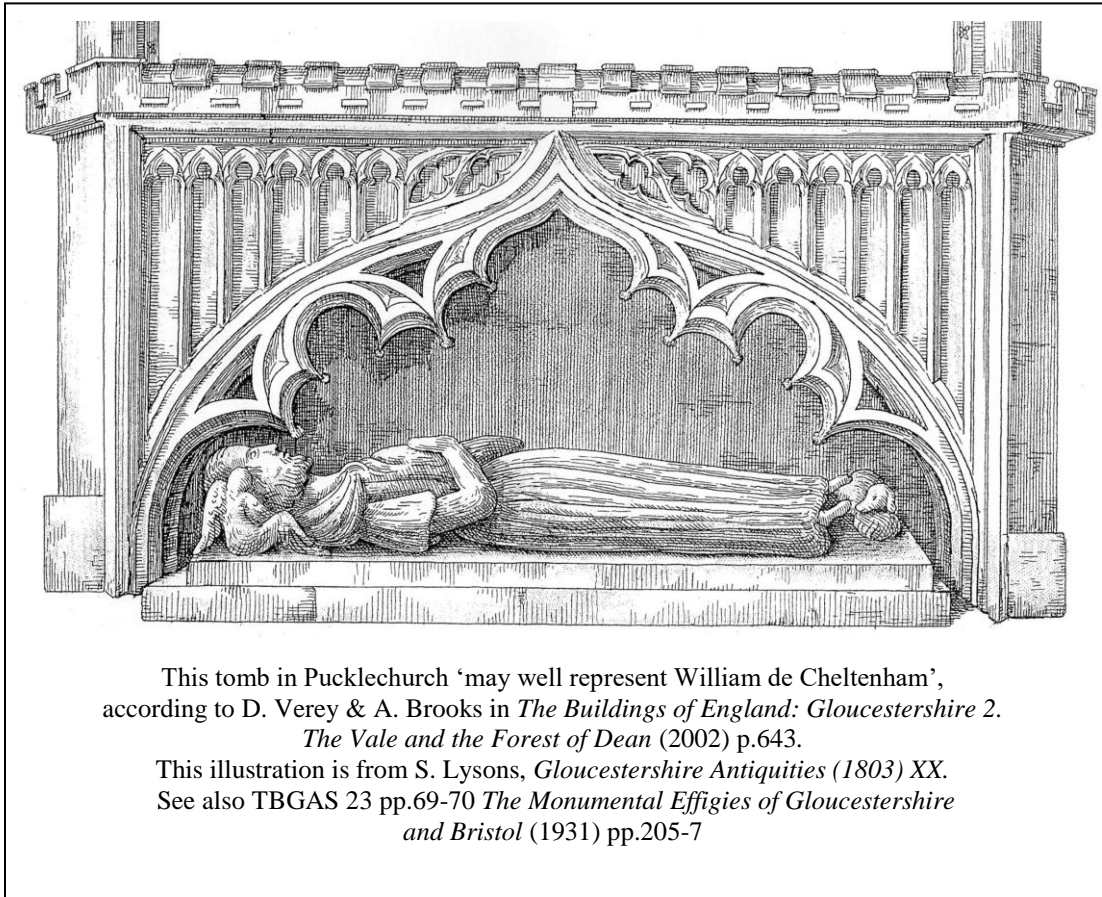


William Macready  
Courtesy of Sue Rowbotham

# The De Cheltenham Family in 14<sup>th</sup> century Gloucestershire

MICHAEL GREET

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This tomb in Pucklechurch 'may well represent William de Cheltenham', according to D. Verey & A. Brooks in *The Buildings of England: Gloucestershire 2. The Vale and the Forest of Dean* (2002) p.643.

This illustration is from S. Lysons, *Gloucestershire Antiquities* (1803) XX. See also TBGAS 23 pp.69-70 *The Monumental Effigies of Gloucestershire and Bristol* (1931) pp.205-7

## ***Background***

MEMBERS OF CHELTENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY who are also readers of *Charlton Kings Local History Society Research Bulletins* will already know that in the Register of Wulstan de Bransford, Bishop of Worcester, permission is recorded in July 1339 for John de Cheltenham to have oratories in Woodcroft and Charlton, and in October 1343 for his widow Eleanor to have an oratory in the parish of Cheltenham, presumably also in Charlton.<sup>1</sup> From this it was deduced that they may have lived in Ham, Charlton Kings, perhaps at Ham Court, from shortly after 1327.<sup>2</sup> This possibility was supported by evidence that a William de Cheltenham has 15s worth of land in Ham c.1450.<sup>3</sup> I note also that Ham 'Manor' was later held at a rent of 15s.<sup>4</sup>

It is also known that John was Steward of Thomas Berkeley's estates in 1339, and also probably brother of William de Cheltenham, also Steward (from 1332). John was also an M.P. for Gloucestershire in 1339. John and his brother were perhaps the Justices of Oyer and Terminer criticised in a Parliamentary petition of 1343.<sup>5</sup>

### *New Evidence*

Additional evidence has now been published in the *Charlton Kings Local History Society Research Bulletin*, 2006, which provides support for earlier suggestions.<sup>6</sup> We now know also that (a) John de Cheltenham was in Charlton Kings in 1330, and seems to have been an attorney; (b) that he held land elsewhere in Gloucestershire; (c) that Woodcroft, of which William was lord, was in Hawkesbury parish. We also know a lot more about William's career and land holdings.

In 1330 John de Cheltenham, Lord of Hyldesleye (Hillesley [Holdesleye in 1327]<sup>7</sup> in Hawkesbury parish: see below) witnessed a deed<sup>8</sup> by which Alicia Henries transferred one and a half selions (usually four per acre) in Brodecroft<sup>9</sup> Charlton Kings to Lord William de Rasteleye for 10s sterling.

It is uncertain why John de Cheltenham would witness such a small transaction unless the land had been the subject of dispute, or William de Rasteleye (Rosteleye in 1327), the highest tax payer in Dowdeswell (at 5s 3¼d)<sup>10</sup> needed a witness of comparable status to himself.

John de Cheltenham cannot definitely be traced before 1330. The name appears twice in the list of Lay Subsidy taxpayers of 1327: under Newington Bagpath and Ozleworth at 2/-, and at Brockworth at 18½d; but we do not know if this is our John. (A possible relative, Walter de Cheltenham paid 4/- in Sandhurst).<sup>11</sup> However the identification of Hyldesleye as Hillesley in Hawkesbury is confirmed by the fact that William de Cheltenham has been identified as Lord of Woodcroft.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, in 1396 the Abbot and Convent of Pershore declared they had acquired 'lands and tenements called Woodcroft and Hildesley in the lordship of Haukesbury from William de Cheltenham of Pokelchurche twenty years ago [...] worth £10 yearly'. This may be the manor of la Waast in Hawkesbury, sold by William to intermediaries, with the agreement of Pershore Abbey, in deeds of 4 January 1374 and 4 June 1375, and then transferred to Gloucester Abbey, with the Advowson of the manorial chapel.<sup>13</sup>

John's role seems to have been acting as a lawyer for the Berkeleys, among others. In 1330 John was also involved in the transfer of Beverstone Castle and the manors of Beverstone and Ovre (Gloucestershire) and Barewe (Somerset) to Thomas Berkeley; and the transfer of Purton to William de Cheltenham. In 1338 he witnessed the transfer of a moiety of Elston in Orcheston St. George (Wiltshire) to Maurice Berkeley.<sup>14</sup> In 1336 John de Cheltenham presented a chaplain to the perpetual chantry at Hillesley. It is notable that William de Cheltenham was Patron of Hillesley chapel in June 1349.<sup>15</sup>

### *Note*

Since this article was submitted for publication it has been established that on 15 October 1328, at Cheltenham, William Scot, priest, of Gloucester, was appointed chantry priest of a chantry at Hillesley Chapel. The Patron was Eleanor Lyvet, Lady of Woodcroft, and Custos of the heir of John Lyvet.<sup>16</sup> If John de Cheltenham later married Eleanor this might explain his link to Woodcroft and Hillesley.

## *William de Cheltenham*

### *Introduction*

According to Nigel Saul, William de Cheltenham was 'perhaps the most remarkable and active man in fourteenth century Gloucestershire due to the position he held as Steward to the

third Thomas Berkeley', 1326-1362. B. Wells-Furby describes him as 'principal officer of Thomas III [...] and Maurice IV, died 1368'. (It is not known how William de Cheltenham and John de Cheltenham came to the notice of the Berkeleys. They might, however, have descended from the William de Cheltenham who was Bailiff of Gloucester at various times between 1255 and 1269).<sup>17</sup>

### *His Offices*

William was Steward to Thomas Berkeley from 1332. His duties included the management of the estate, presiding over hundred and manorial courts, and witnessing legal documents. He served the Berkeley family as 'retainer or attorney for more than twenty years'. He also acted as attorney for Sir Thomas Bradeston 'soldier' for 'and counsellor to Edward III'. However, William de Cheltenham never saw active military service himself.<sup>18</sup>

William held in turn almost every office in Gloucestershire, except that of Sheriff, forbidden to Stewards. He was, inter alia, Knight of the Shire (MP) in 1328, 1331, 1332, 1334, 1335, 1336 and 1338; Keeper of the Peace, 1336-1359, (also in Herefordshire and Worcestershire 1344-1361); Justice of Labourers, 1351-1359 and Justice of Oyer and Terminer. He was also a Commissioner of Array in 1338; and Commissioner of Weights and Measures in 1343 and 1358. He was also guardian of Thomas, son of Maurice of Berkeley of Uley, 1351.<sup>19</sup>

In April 1339 William was for an unknown period Steward of the Gloucestershire temporalities for the Bishop of Worcester. 'In addition to clothes; and sustenance (for him and his horses) he was to receive 10 marks (£6 13s 4d) to be paid quarterly' from the Bishop's Manor of Henbury. The extra pressure of work may be why John de Cheltenham acted as Steward of Berkeley and Knight of the Shire in 1339.<sup>20</sup>

### *Landholdings*

William de Cheltenham held land in Pucklechurch and Hawkesbury and the manors of Purton in Awre and Little Marshfield. He was also a buyer of small estates. He bought Purton in Lydney in 1328 and sold it to Maurice IV of Berkeley in 1366. William surrendered his life interest in 1367. Smythe states Little Marshfield was granted to William for life, but it is 'likely the reversion of Little Marshfield was bought by Maurice IV' as well as Purton. There is evidence of May 1367 that William had a lease of it for his life with a remainder to Maurice IV, and to James his son and male issue.<sup>21</sup>

In 1339 William acquired a messuage, two carucates of land, three acres of meadow and 24/- of rent in Hawkesbury. In 1342 William exchanged twenty acres of land with the Bishop of Bath and Wells in Pucklechurch, where he already held one messuage and a carucate of land of the Bishop for 2/- rent a year.<sup>22</sup> In 1359 he was said to hold £40 worth of land and rents in Pucklechurch and Hawkesbury from the Bishop, and the Abbot of Pershore by knight service.<sup>23</sup> In 1366 William still held two messuages, four carucates of land, twenty marks in rents, worth 100/- in addition to the rents, from the Bishop.<sup>24</sup>

### **Payment for Services**

Smythe, in writing about the recompense William received for his services to Thomas Berkeley, stated he had a fee of £10 6s 4d for life. He also had rents from lands in Arlingham (which were more), and the wardship of the heir of John Berkeley of Wick-by-Arlingham, with the profits of that manor during the minority of the latter. Smythe put the profits of his two

manors at not less than £250 a year. In 1329 William was also given the lands and holdings of John, son of Robert de Oulepenne, nephew and heir of John de Oulepenne, and his marriage. If he died before his majority William would be given the wardship/marriage of the next heir.<sup>25</sup>

For comparison, Thomas Berkeley III had 'clear income in 1328 of £425 [...]' rising to '£1150 in 1347'. ('At the end of the thirteenth century the daily wage, in cash, without food provided of a skilled worker such as a carpenter could be 3d, [and] an unskilled labourer [...] would get 1d or 1½d without food'.<sup>26</sup>

### *Service to the Church*

Of only twenty one perpetual chantries endowed by knights, esquires or their widows in Gloucestershire, between 1300 and 1500, William de Cheltenham founded two, and re-founded one, though I have not yet established the identity of the latter.<sup>27</sup>

The first two were:

(a) Pyrton's Chantry, founded by 'Sir' William de Cheltenham, in the Chapel of St. Leonard at Pyrton (two miles or more from the parish church) for a priest praying daily for the founder, his ancestors and all Christian souls. An inquisition of June 1359 said it would be no damage to the King for William to grant twelve messuages and twelve virgates of land at 'Piriton next Awre' to a Chaplain to celebrate daily. The premises were held of Gilbert Talbot paying one sparrow hawk or 2/-.<sup>28</sup>

(b) St. Gyles' Chantry, at Hillesley, was founded by William de Cheltenham, to say mass daily and pray for the founder, his ancestors, the lords of Berkeley, and all Christian souls. About Michaelmas 1365 it was said to be 'destroyed by pestilence' and the Abbot of Pershore had no objection to the grant of land to the chaplain. An inquisition of April 1366 stated the interests of the King would not suffer if William granted three messuages, three virgates, a mill and 20/- rents in Hillesley and Sedlewood to the chaplain here for his maintenance. In June 1342 William also had a licence for an Oratory in Pucklechurch.<sup>29</sup>

In 1356 William was also to be prayed for in a chantry at Stone, near Thornbury, one of three founded there by John Sergeant, in 1356.<sup>30</sup> Sergeant was Steward of Berkeley in 1378 and had served as 'MP' for Bristol in 1363. He also served as an Escheator in 1374-5, and was on the Commission of the Peace in 1374.<sup>31</sup>

According to the Register of Wolstan Bransford, who was Bishop of Worcester, 1339-1349, Thomas (III) 'Berkeley was responsible for no less than six [chantries], though four were in the name of his chaplain'. This chaplain was William de Syde, variously referred to as Dominus or Sir in documents. He founded a chantry in Syde Church, and chantries of St. Katherine, (at Cambridge in Slimbridge Parish), of St. Maurice, (at Newport, Berkeley Parish) and of St John the Baptist, (at Wortley, in Wotton Parish). Each chantry had one chaplain except Newport which had two. They were to pray for Thomas (III), his son, his brother and others, including William.<sup>32</sup>

William de Cheltenham's help was also sought by the Church. Local abbeys needed the services of 'powerful and well connected local gentry' perhaps to assist with litigation. Following attacks on monks and Hailes Abbey property in 1347 the Abbot there wrote to the Chancellor, as in 1345, to ask for William to be granted a Commission of Oyer and Terminer. He may also have been on the Abbot's Council.<sup>33</sup>

*Later life*

Little more is known of William's family, apart from the fact he was married to one Eleanor; but his son, Maurice, served as Knight of the Shire in 1360. William was also noted as co-executor of Maurice, son and heir of Maurice Berkeley of Compton Greenfield, on 24 April 1371. He last appears in documents in 1374; though Rudder says a William de Cheltenham held lands in trust for Pershore Abbey 19 R II (22 June 1395 - 21 June 1396).<sup>34</sup>

William does not seem to have achieved knighthood, as he always signs documents after those of that rank, but may have become as Esquire. His personal achievement of arms was a chevron in a border engrailed, (from seals in the PRO, c.1365).<sup>35</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Charlton Kings Local History Society, *Bulletin*, (CKLHS) 13, p.8

<sup>2</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin* 20, p.16

<sup>3</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin* 15, p.17

<sup>4</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin* 3, p.5

<sup>5</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin* 13, p.8

<sup>6</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin* 52, pp.57-58

<sup>7</sup> P. Franklin. *The Taxpayers of Medieval Gloucestershire*, Sutton (1993) p.112

<sup>8</sup> Gloucestershire Records Office D7661 Box 5

<sup>9</sup> CKLHS, *Bulletin*, 13, pp.6-7, *Bulletin* 15, p.28 and *Bulletin* 46, p.6

<sup>10</sup> Franklin, p.47

<sup>11</sup> Franklin, p.74, pp.82-3

<sup>12</sup> John Fendley, Notes on the Diocese of Gloucester by Chancellor Richard Parsons c.1700, *Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, (BGAS, 2005), p.267 under Hawkesbury

<sup>13</sup> 'Inquisition of 1396. E Stokes, Abstracts of Inquisitions Post Mortem for Gloucestershire, 1359-1413', Vol. 6 *British Record Society*, (BRS, 1914) p.197. Also J. Fendley, (2005) p.267

<sup>14</sup> B. Wells-Furby, A Catalogue of the Medieval Muniments of Berkeley, (TBGAS, 2005) p.148, p.480, p.541

<sup>15</sup> R.M.Haines, *A Calendar of the Register of Simon de Montacute, Bishop of Worcester 1334-1337*, (HMSO, 1996) p.300, p.377; and *A Calendar of Wolstan de Bransford, Bishop of Worcester, 1339-1349*, (HMSO, 1966) p.409

<sup>16</sup> R.M.Haines, *A Calendar of the Register of Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Worcester 1327-1333*, (HMSO, 1979) p.202

<sup>17</sup> N.Saul, *Knight and Esquires: The Gloucestershire Gentry in the Fourteenth Century*, (OUP, 1981) p.65, p.157; B. Wells-Furby, p.427; N.M. Herbert, *A History of the County of Gloucester*, Vol.4, p.372.

<sup>18</sup> Saul (1981), p.55, p.64, p.76

<sup>19</sup> Saul (1981), p.153, p.157, p.162; E.G.Kimball, *Rolls of the Gloucestershire Sessions of the Peace, 1361-1398*. (BGAS) 62, p.28 states he was Knight of the Shire from 1325

<sup>20</sup> R.M.Haines. *The Administration of the Diocese of Worcester in the first half of the Fourteenth Century*. (SPCK, 1965), p.142; R.M.Haines, *A Calendar of Wolstan de Bransford, Bishop of Worcester, 1339-1349*, (HMSO, 1966) p.13, p.298; CKLHS, *Bulletin* 13, p.8

<sup>21</sup> C. Dyer, *Lords and Peasants in a Changing Society*, CUP, (1980), P379; N. Saul, P230; E. Stokes, Abstracts of the Inquisitions Post Mortem for Gloucestershire, 1359 -1413, Vol.6, *British Record Society*, (BRS, 1914), p.40; J. Smythe, *Lives of the Berkeleys*, (1883) Vol. 1, p.342; Wells-Furby (2005), pp.473-4, pp.480-1

<sup>22</sup> Wells-Furby, P469; E.A.Fry, *Abstracts of IPM for Gloucestershire*, Vol. 5, (BRS, 1910), p.296

<sup>23</sup> Stokes, p.5

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*, p.40

<sup>25</sup> Smythe, Vol.1, p.342; Wells-Furby, p.561

<sup>26</sup> R.H.Hilton, *A Medieval Society*, (1983), p.76, based on John Smyth of Nibley, and p.5

<sup>27</sup> N.Saul, *Religious Sympathies of the Gentry, 1200-1500*, BGAS 98, (1980), p.102

<sup>28</sup> J.Maclean, *Chantry Certificates*, (BGAS, 1883-4), p.289; Stokes, p.5

<sup>29</sup> Maclean, p.276; Stokes, p.40; Wells-Furby, pp.469-70; Haines. Bransford, p.448.

<sup>30</sup> Saul, *Religious Sympathies of the Gentry*, p.102; *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1354-1358*, p.341. However, in Maclean (p.267), the name of William de Cheltenham is wrongly omitted.

<sup>31</sup> Kimball, p.30 gives some details differently: JP, 1358-1377; Justice of Labourers in 1350s; Tax Collector, 1372; Tax Assessor in 1379; Escheator for Gloucestershire and Hereford in 1374.

<sup>32</sup> Haines Bransford, pp.xxxv-vii. Thomas (III) also founded chantries in his name at Over Chapel in Almondsbury and St. Augustines Abbey in Bristol. William de Syde also had Oratories at St. Augustines, and Berkeley in January 1340, and Kingsweston in Henbury, in August 1345, pp.447-448. See also E.S. Lindley. William de Syde. BGAS 71, 1952. pp.169-170, who refers to Syde as Steward, and Receivour and Parson of Awre on the basis of Smythe,

*Lives of the Berkeleys*, Vol. 1, p.342. The latter compares the rewards paid to William de Cheltenham and Syde, and their character. Wells-Furby, pp.385-6; Maclean, p.269.

<sup>33</sup> Saul, *Religious Sympathies of the Gentry*, p.108

<sup>34</sup> Saul, *Knights and Esquires*, p.157. Wells-Furby, p.468, p.480, p.574. Rudder, *A New History of Gloucestershire*, Sutton (1977), p.482

<sup>35</sup> T.Woodcock, J.Grant, *Dictionary of British Arms*, Vol. 2, (Society of Antiquaries, 1996), p.416

## Where is your Nearest Post Office?

MICK KIPPIN

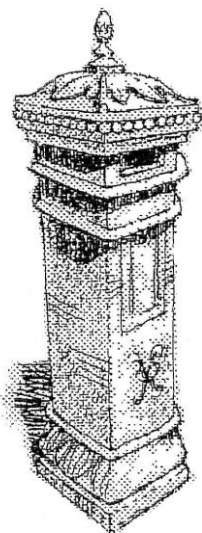
With the present spate of post office closures we could all take heart from the following article published in the *Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic* on Saturday 2 May 1959, the newspaper's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

*'AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, the town's postal service was in private hands, being run by a grocer at 137 High Street. It was not until 1805 that the Government took it over and established a recognised office with one official, a Mr Belcher, known as the 'Red Postman'. The office moved frequently during the first two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, during the greater part of which the services of a single postman, supplemented by a 'window delivery' for callers at the office, seems to have been all that was required.*

*'That was, of course, long before the days of the penny post, mails were received and despatched by stage-coach. As late as 1840 it cost 4d to send a letter to Gloucester, 7d to Birmingham or Bath, 8d to Bristol, 9d to London, 10d to Liverpool and as much as 14d to Aberdeen. By that time the office had been moved to Clarence Street.*

*'In about 50 years the staff had been increased by six clerks and sixteen letter carriers, working two deliveries of about 40,000 letters and 8,000 newspapers. By 1900 there were six deliveries on each weekday and one on Sunday, and a staff of 159, which included two telephonists, the G.P.O having taken over the National Telephone Company's branch in Regent Street.*

*'By the end of 1958, in addition to the head office in The Promenade, there was a branch office in Montpellier and 21 town sub-offices. The staff now consisted of 40 postal and telegraph officers, three telegraphists, 176 postmen and 85 telephonists. They dealt with an average of 431,300 letters and 8,000 parcels posted in Cheltenham each week, and delivered about 440,000 letters and 13,000 parcels. Everything had been speeded up by the use of 35 motor vehicles travelling a total of some 467,000 miles in a year and four motorcycles for the use of the half dozen telegraph messengers, who covered 22,000 miles in their journeys. There were 115 pillar-boxes in the town and 21 stamp-selling machines.'*



Cheltenham has eight of only 94 hexagonal Penfold pillar boxes in the UK. They were installed in 1855.

Courtesy of Aylwin Sampson.



# F.W. Robertson (1816-53)

## ‘Philosopher, Poet, Priest and Prophet’<sup>1</sup>

ALAN MUNDEN

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FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON who spent five years as a curate at Christ Church, Cheltenham, was subsequently regarded as a significant figure in the nineteenth-century church. In Cheltenham he experienced a profound crisis of faith, and as the minister of Trinity Chapel, Brighton he became a celebrated preacher. The posthumous publication of his sermons and biography twelve years after his death, enhanced his reputation as an independent thinker who prepared the way for the Broad Church movement in the Church of England.

Frederick Robertson was born in London in February 1816, the eldest of seven children born to Frederick and Sarah Robertson. Initially his father taught him at home and his education continued at Beverley Grammar School, at a seminary at Tours in France, then in Edinburgh – first at the New Academy and then briefly at the university. The family had strong military connections and Frederick remarked that 'I was rocked and cradled to the roar of artillery.'<sup>2</sup> His grandfather and three uncles had been army officers and his father was a captain in the Royal Artillery. Frederick's three younger brothers entered the army, and his father wanted him to become a clergyman, but at that stage he felt unworthy of the calling and favoured a military career like the rest. Initially he spent an unfulfilled period in a solicitor's office in Bury St Edmunds, and his release came when his father obtained a commission for him in a cavalry regiment in India. This he declined in favour of going to university followed by ordination. He entered Brasenose College, Oxford, lived a sober and serious life, and in preparation for ordination learnt the whole of the text of the New Testament in Greek and English. He took part in university debates and developed what became a life-long passion for poetry. On Sundays he worshipped at St Ebbe's (under the ministry of the moderate Evangelical, William Weldon Champneys) and at St Mary's (under the ministry of the Tractarian, John Henry Newman). Robertson became unconvinced by the teaching of the Oxford Movement, and confessed that he had 'walked with Newman...to the brink of an awful precipice.'<sup>3</sup> Early on he rejected Tractarianism and in time reacted against Evangelicalism and maintaining that he was a non-party man. During the vacations he returned to Cheltenham to be with his family and worshipped with them at the parish church. One of Robertson's companions was Brownlow North, then something of a worldly and wealthy dandy, who was known for having proposed to, and been accepted by, nineteen young ladies during the course of a winter in Cheltenham!<sup>4</sup>



Robertson was made a deacon in July 1840 (and ordained priest a year later) and graduated BA in 1841 and MA in 1844. His first curacy was at St Maurice and St Mary,

Kalender, Winchester, but he left after only a year through illness. Like other Victorians poor health dogged him throughout his life and led to his premature death.

In the parish he was hard-working, studious and devout and became something of an ascetic. On leaving Winchester he travelled on the Continent and settled in Geneva where he met and married Helen, the third daughter of Sir George William Denys. Soon they returned to England and settled in Cheltenham living first with his parents at Rodney House, 1 Rodney Place, then at 28 Park Place and finally at 2 Lansdown Place. In time the couple had a family of four children. His father Captain Frederick Robertson<sup>5</sup> was an active member of the congregation at Cheltenham parish church, a keen supporter of Francis Close, and one of the founders and later a council member of Cheltenham College.

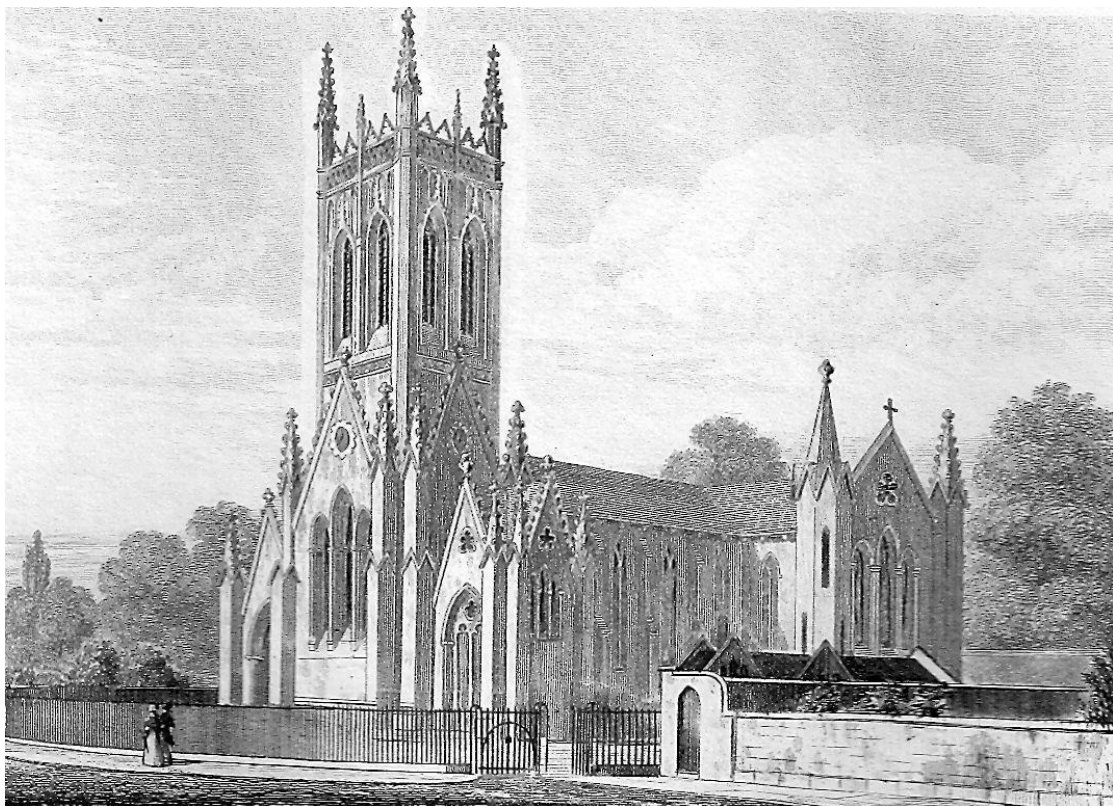
In January 1842 F.W. Robertson sought the advice of a friend over the sort of parochial situation he was looking for. 'Can you tell me of a curacy which combines diametrically opposed qualities - sufficiency of stipend and easiness of work? By easiness, I mean half services, that is, I cannot take any duty single-handed, but must have either a resident rector, or a stipend sufficient to procure regular assistance. I have had a district church mentioned to me. Such a thing would just suit me.'<sup>6</sup> The church to which he referred was Christ Church,<sup>7</sup> Cheltenham, which included the nearby hamlet of Alstone. The morning and afternoon service took place in the church, and in the evening at the infant school in Alstone.<sup>8</sup> Robertson began his parish duties in the summer of 1842, and generally speaking preached to the afternoon congregation.

The second incumbent of the recently opened Christ Church was the accomplished preacher Archibald Boyd,<sup>9</sup> one of a number of Irish Evangelicals who ministered in England. He began his ministry at the church in March 1842 and remained in post for seventeen years until he became the vicar of St James', Paddington. In 1867 he became the Dean of Exeter and died in 1883. He and Francis Close were both controversialists and worked well together (and Close and his family lived adjacent to the church in The Grange, the house given to him by members of his congregation). In the pulpit Boyd was an accomplished orator and his sermons were considered to be more polished than those of the incumbent of Cheltenham parish church.

Robertson was impressed with the grandeur of Cotswold Hills and the beauty of the woods around Cheltenham. 'Among these hills are some of the loveliest valleys I know anywhere. The building, too, of Cheltenham is far better in style than that of Brighton – greatly varied, and almost all the detached villas in good taste, some Italian, others Elizabethan; but there is an air of lightness and grace about it which is quite different from cockneyism. This is much assisted by the abundance of trees with which the town is filled; many of the streets like boulevards; one long walk of ancient elms, a noble avenue.'<sup>10</sup> As well as appreciating the beauty of the area Robertson became involved in the life of the town, and his many literary and social accomplishments were well matched to the society in which he lived. He was already influenced by the Romantic Movement and through this became acquainted with some of the local literary circle that included the poets Sydney Dobell and Alfred Tennyson. At the same time Robertson was an accomplished horse-rider and this was an advantage at a time when 'riding parties at Cheltenham [were] a special institution.'<sup>11</sup>

Though Robertson is seen as one who turned his back on Evangelicalism, it is possible that he was an Evangelical more by family association than from any inner conviction. He was acutely aware that his own spiritual quest was a solitary exercise. 'Only a man must struggle alone. His own view of truth, or rather his own way of viewing it, and that alone, will give him rest. He can only *adopt* the views of other minds for a time; and so long as his own is inert, the

help that he gets directly from others generally does no good.<sup>12</sup> Robertson's studies included 'many departments of human knowledge, science, politics, chemistry [and] languages', and his exposure to radical German theology, and to those 'schools [of thought] whose conceptions shatter even the bases of sheer deism',<sup>13</sup> brought about a profound spiritual crisis that caused his Evangelical faith to slip away. It became all too apparent that his whole 'career was one of continual mental fight',<sup>14</sup> the result of which was that he became deeply introspective and depressed and was dogged by a sense of failure. 'He examined, one by one, the foundations of belief, and one by one they seemed to give way. He commenced anew in life the search after truth. One result was that he threw off Evangelicalism as a system, and permitted himself to indulge in bitter taunts against his old friends the Evangelicals.'<sup>15</sup> His clash with them was over such matters as the inspiration of scripture, the nature of the atonement, the significance of baptism, the reality of hell and the strict observance of the Sabbath. One observer perceptibly concluded that 'he was a poet, he was not a theologian; he interpreted faith entirely by feelings; he protested against dogmatic theology.'<sup>16</sup> Robertson was thus his own man, and 'revolted against conventionalism, hard orthodoxy, and stereotyped forms of thought.'<sup>17</sup> While Evangelicals and Tractarians both claimed that they alone possessed the truth, and enjoyed 'a peculiar favouritism'<sup>18</sup> with the Almighty, Robertson's convictions were far less dogmatic and far more open to change. He confessed that 'these are my opinions, at least they are the opinions which I hold now. I am not sure what my opinions will be next year.'<sup>19</sup> For Robertson the faith he professed was not sustained by party dogma and man-made systems, for 'Christianity is a spirit, not a set of rules'<sup>20</sup> which meant that he condemned the 'theological rancour' that characterised 'the religion of the day.'<sup>21</sup>



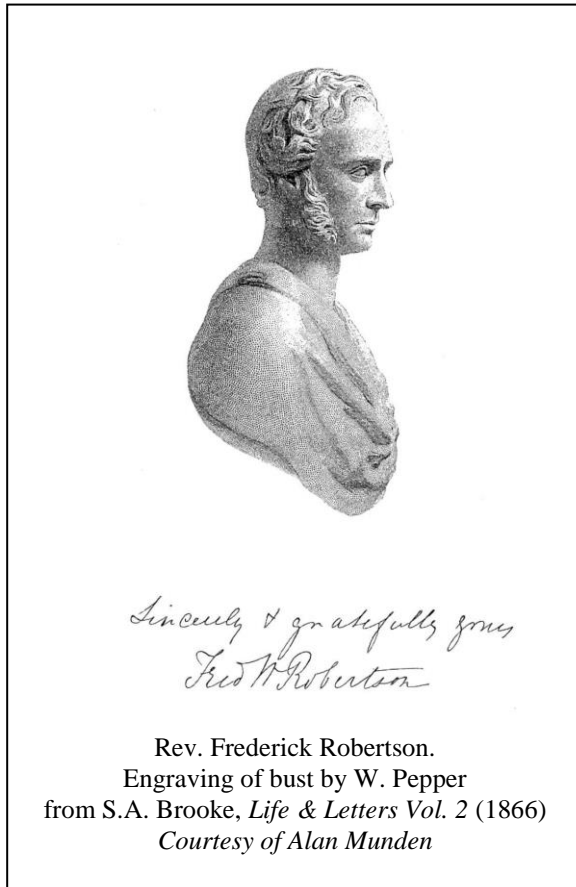
Christ Church, Cheltenham. Drawn and engraved by G.P. Johnson.  
From *Johnson's New Historical and Pictorial Cheltenham and County of Gloucester Guide* (1846).  
Courtesy of Sue Rowbotham & Jill Waller

However, when he was a curate in Cheltenham, his underlying uncertainty and religious doubt was not apparent to any but his own friends and he was a junior member of the circle of which Francis Close was the hub. On ten occasions Robertson preached at Cheltenham parish church and under Close's chairmanship Robertson spoke at numerous public meetings,<sup>22</sup> that included lectures to the inhabitants and visitors on various topics including poetry. It is likely that while Robertson was able to survive under the direction of the gentle Archibald Boyd, it is unlikely that he would have done so under the firm control of Francis Close. Clearly Robertson greatly admired Boyd,<sup>23</sup> and their friendship continued until Robertson's death, and had it not been for Boyd he would not have remained in Cheltenham. Robertson was convinced that his ministry had been a failure. '[My work] is far less satisfactory than at Winchester, partly from the superficial nature of this place, in which I would not remain another day but for the sake of my coadjutor and leader; partly from the effect of the temptations and the frittering away of time almost inseparable from a residence here.'<sup>24</sup>

A close friend recorded his impressions of what he saw. Out of the pulpit Robertson suffered from poor health and nagging doubts and despair. 'He was led to reconsider his views...he suffered severely during the later part of his stay at Cheltenham. He did not willingly say much to me; but there was something which he could not hide from a friend, which allowed him no rest for the sole of his foot. His health so suffered that I urged the necessity of giving up his curacy, and advised him to go abroad.'<sup>25</sup> His wife Helen also suffered from ill-health, and it only improved when they moved to the south coast. In September 1846 Robertson returned to the Continent and his further academic study only made things worse and his inner turmoil continued so that 'his faith was shaken to the very core.'<sup>26</sup> While he was away he resigned from his curacy. He was broken and dispirited, and confessed 'I shrink sometimes almost in torture from the idea of beginning work again, with the possibility of five such years once more before me.'<sup>27</sup> Back in Cheltenham he concluded that 'if I take work, it must be single handed. I am afraid I can no longer brook to walk in leading-strings.'<sup>28</sup> For Robertson his 'ministry of twilight, at the best, and difficulty, has closed,'<sup>29</sup> but his immediate prospects were far from clear.

Although Daniel Wilson,<sup>30</sup> the Bishop of Calcutta, offered Robertson a chaplaincy in India, he was obviously unaware of his change of heart. This position he wisely declined since it was unlikely that Frederick and Helen would have survived the lengthy journey or the oppressive climate. However he then accepted, after initially refusing, the unusual position of curate in charge of St Ebbe's, Oxford. William Hanbury who was the rector for nearly sixty years, was a lunatic and confined elsewhere and in his absence the church was served by a succession of able curates in charge, many of whom were Evangelicals.<sup>31</sup>

Although Robertson was only in post for a couple of months his preaching attracted a growing congregation. However he did not remain long in Oxford and was offered and accepted, the position of minister of a proprietary chapel in Brighton.<sup>32</sup> He began his ministry at Trinity Chapel in August 1847 and stayed there until his early death in August 1853. Though members of the Wagner family dominated the religious life of the town, it was Robertson who became 'the most celebrated clergyman in Brighton.'<sup>33</sup> Many residents and numerous visitors were attracted by his preaching and the congregation included a large number of working men. In the light of Robertson's abhorrence of Evangelicalism it is moving to observe that as he lay dying he was ministered to by James Vaughan, the Evangelical incumbent of Christ Church, Brighton. Robertson was highly regarded by his friends and supporters and on his death £1,400 was raised for the support of his widow and family. He was commemorated in Oxford, by a marble bust in the Bodleian Library, and a memorial window in Brasenose College; and by a gallery screen in Christ Church, Cheltenham.



After Robertson's death his name became associated with those clergy in the Church of England (like Julius Hare, Charles Kingsley and Frederick Denison Maurice) who held Broad Church convictions. While during his lifetime Robertson had kept his distance from them, it was felt that since his views were not unlike theirs that he should have a sympathetic biographer. The choice fell on Stopford Brooke (1832-1916) a man already known for his liberal theology and after leaving the Church of England became more identified with Unitarianism. Undoubtedly his convictions coloured Robertson's biography and gave Brooke a platform from which to express his own views, so that the reputations of both subject and biographer became established by the publication of his *Life and Letters of Frederick W. Robertson* (1865). Thirty years later Frederick Arnold's *Robertson of Brighton* (1886) was less polemical and more objective. Arnold, who lived near Brighton, was born in Cheltenham, where his father had been a curate to Francis Close from 1831-33.

It is evident that Robertson's change of heart cannot be entirely blamed on the Cheltenham Evangelicals. His inner struggles and crisis of faith had taken some time to mature. 'They grew and tortured him...[and] had been slowly growing into a conviction'<sup>34</sup> over the course of a number of years, and only became public after the publication of Brooke's biography. Furthermore, and without any real evidence, Gwen Hart in her *History of Cheltenham* (1965) inserted the two words 'in Cheltenham' into Robertson's description of contemporary Evangelicalism.

*'As to the state of the Evangelical clergy [in Cheltenham], I think it lamentable. I see sentiment instead of principle, and a miserable mawkish religion superseding a state which once was healthy. Their adherents I love less than themselves, for they are but the copies of their faults in a larger edition. Like yourself, I stand nearly alone, a theological Ishmael.<sup>35</sup> The Tractarians despise me, and the Evangelicals somewhat loudly express their doubts of me.'*<sup>36</sup>

While this may have characterised some aspects of Evangelicalism in Cheltenham, it should not be regarded as a blanket condemnation of them all, and by implication of their leader, Francis Close.

Robertson's preaching is still considered to be some of the finest in Victorian pulpit oratory, and he has been described as 'the first and the greatest of the psychological preachers of the Church of England.'<sup>37</sup> While his sermons may have lacked refinement they did establish his reputation as a significant liberal churchman who was a pre-cursor of the Broad Church movement.

- <sup>1</sup> S. A. Brooke, *Life and Letters of Frederick W. Robertson MA* (London, Third edition, 1866) Vol. 2, p.318.
- 2 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, pp.8-9 and Vol. 2, p.15.
- 3 Ibid., Vol. 1, p.120.
- 4 Brownlow North (1810-1875) was the grandson of the Bishop of Winchester (also called Brownlow North). He had been educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, and until November 1854 he lived a dissolute life. In that year he experienced a dramatic Evangelical conversion, and became a significant lay preacher and evangelist.
- 5 Frederick Robertson (1788-1873) entered the Royal Artillery in 1803, and served in the West Indies and America, and published papers on military matters. He retired from active military service and settled in Cheltenham. On the death of his wife he moved to Batheaston, Bath and died there in July 1873.
- 6 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, p.86.
- 7 Christ Church was opened as a district church in 1840 but it did not become a separate parish until 1872. See A. Munden, *Wearing the Giant's Armour. Edward Walker (1823-1872). The First Rector of Cheltenham* (Cheltenham, 2003) pp. 14, 19.
- 8 In 1824 Francis Close opened a schoolroom in a farmhouse and raised funds for a purpose-built schoolroom opened in April 1827, and licensed for worship in March 1834. This pre-dated the Infant School in St James' Square opened in temporary premises and opened in November 1828, and the purpose-built schoolroom opened in July 1830.
- 9 When he lived in Cheltenham Archibald Boyd (1803-1883) was a bachelor, and later married a wealthy widow. His nephew William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918) who expressed his own indebtedness to the sermons of F. W. Robertson, became the liberal-modernist Bishop of Ripon, 1884-1911.
- 10 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 2, p.99.
- 11 F. Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton with some notices of his times and contemporaries* (London, 1886) p.57.
- 12 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, p.120.
- 13 Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton*, op.cit., pp.58-9.
- 14 E.D. Mackerness, 'F. W. Robertson', *The Evangelical Quarterly*, Vol. XXIX, No. 4, Oct - Dec 1957, p.221.
- 15 Ibid., p.59.
- 16 [Richard Glover] *The Golden Decade of a Favoured Town* (London, 1884) p.142.
- 17 Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton*, op.cit., p.13.
- 18 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 2, p.203.
- 19 Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton*, op.cit., pp. 300.
- 20 F.W. Robertson, *'The Human Race' and other Sermons, preached at Cheltenham, Oxford and Brighton* (London, 1881) p.279.
- 21 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 2, p.180.
- 22 Eg. *Cheltenham Journal*, 22 and 29 March 1847 and 19 April 1847.
- 23 The only son of Frederick and Helen Robertson was named Charles Boyd.
- 24 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, p.87.
- 25 Ibid., p.113.
- 26 Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton*, op.cit., p.12.
- 27 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, p.128.
- 28 Ibid., p.124.
- 29 Ibid., p.128.
- 30 Daniel Wilson (1778-1858) Bishop of Calcutta 1832-58. He was on furlough in England from June 1845 to December 1846, and visited his sister in law, Mrs Greaves, at Cheltenham in July 1845. She was possibly Sarah, the wife of Dr W. Greaves of 6 Suffolk Square. Their son was Talbot Greaves, the curate of Francis Close 1854-55.
- 31 One of whom, Thomas Valpy French was curate in charge of St Ebbe's between 1848-50. Later he was a Cheltenham incumbent first briefly at St John's in 1864, then at St Paul's 1864-68. He was rector of St Ebbe's 1875-77, then Bishop of Lahore 1877-87.
- 32 For background information on proprietary chapels, see Munden, *Wearing the Giant's Armour*, op.cit., pp.14-15. Trinity Chapel, Brighton was erected in 1817 as a chapel for the Rev. Thomas Read Kemp (who left the Church of England in 1816 and returned in 1823). In 1825 Kemp sold the chapel to the Rev. Robert Anderson and the building was consecrated as an Anglican chapel on 21 April 1826. The original Greek Doric style building was Gothicised in 1885-87. It closed in 1984 and is now an arts centre.
- 33 Arnold, *Robertson of Brighton*, op.cit. p.200.
- 34 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit. Vol. 1, p.110.
- 35 In the Old Testament Ishmael was the son of Abram and Hagar and was banished after the birth of Isaac (Genesis 16 and 21).
- 36 Brooke, *Life and Letters*, op.cit., Vol. 1, pp.109-110. G. Hart, *A History of Cheltenham* (Leicester, 1965) p.218.
- 37 C. Smyth, *The Art of Preaching* (London, 1953) p.229.

# Frederick Whishaw, Boris the Bear Hunter and the Moorend Grotto

ERIC MILLER

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*This article tells of an Anglo-Russian family that settled in Cheltenham in the 19th century and of the Moorend Grotto, a Cheltenham 'folly', where one of its members lived for a few years.*

## *The Whishaws of St Petersburg and Cheltenham*

BERNARD WHISHAW, OF THE INFLUENTIAL ANGLO-RUSSIAN trading family mentioned in the last *Journal*,<sup>1</sup> came to Cheltenham on retirement. At the time of the 1881 Census his second wife, née Sophy Blessig, was already staying at 3 Fauconberg Terrace, with six of the children and four servants. In 1885, after the firm of Hills and Whishaw had been wound up at St Petersburg, Bernard took the family to live at Hereward, a house on the west side of Shurdington Road, now demolished. He had eight children by his first wife and eight more by his second. All appear to have been born and brought up in Russia, though the boys were generally sent to be educated at English public schools. Their daughter Lilian trained as a

nurse and during the First World War served as the Quartermaster at the Red Cross hospital at Leckhampton Court. Other members of the family continued to reside in Cheltenham long afterwards. Lilian and three other sisters – Mary, Alice and Winifred – are still remembered as having lived at Rockholm on Leckhampton Hill.

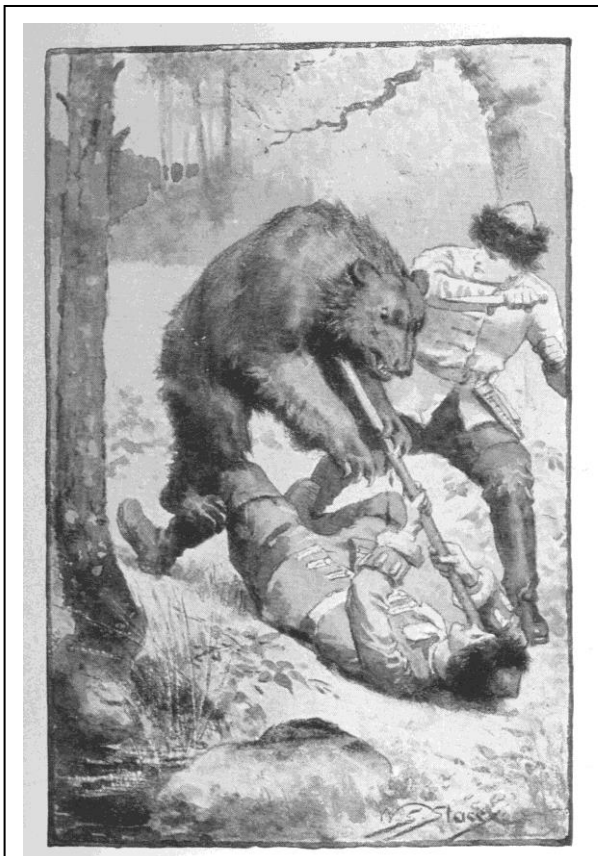


Illustration from *Boris the Bear Hunter*  
by Frederick Whishaw.  
Courtesy of Eric Miller

Among Bernard's children by his first marriage was Frederick James, born in 1854. From at least 1888 to 1895 he lived in Leckhampton, at The Grotto in Moorend Road. In his 1891 Census return he described himself as a 'vocalist/Russian translator'. He had found commerce at St Petersburg distasteful and soon after his marriage he moved to England and devoted himself to writing. He translated novels by Dostoyevsky and wrote over 70 books of adventure stories for boys, mostly set in Russia. He also taught music and singing and composed songs, besides writing English words for the songs of Tchaikovsky and other Slavonic composers. He was a talented actor, with a powerful tenor voice. In addition he was a good all-round athlete and a strong swimmer, bathing in the sea all year round.<sup>2</sup>

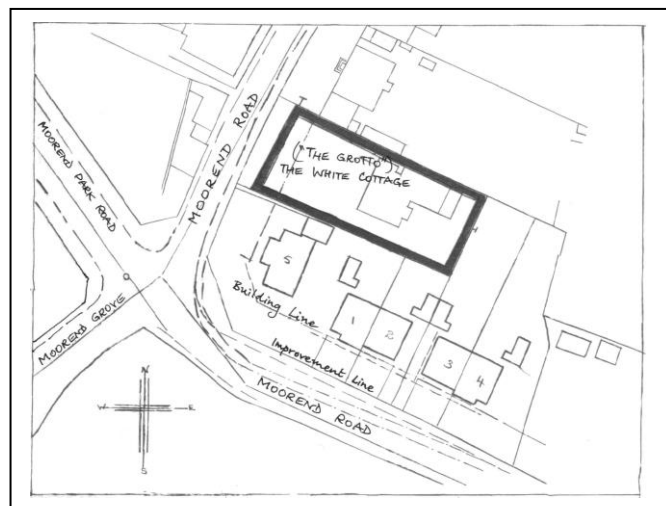
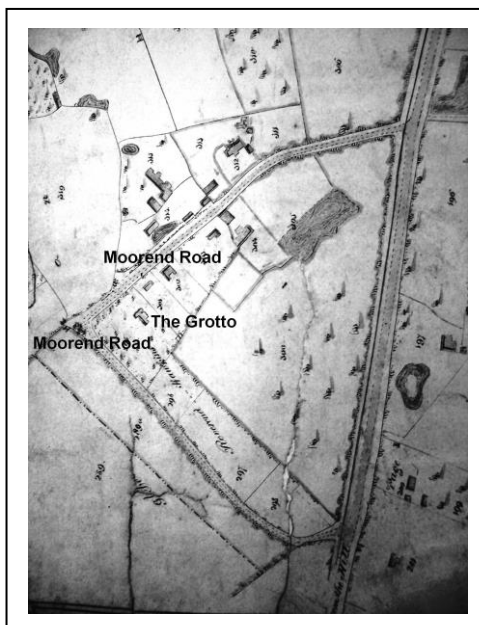
Frederick Whishaw contributed an amusing article for the *Leckhampton Parish Magazine* about the Tsarist Russian Police; though written in 1888, much of it could have applied equally well in the Soviet era. Similar accounts of life in Russia were included in *Out of Doors in Tsarland*, published in 1893 and therefore one of several which must have been written while he lived at The Grotto. I was able to purchase a second-hand copy of another, *Boris The Bear Hunter*. It describes how Boris, having carelessly left his trusty spear leaning against a tree, was rescued from a bear by no less than Peter the Great. He was taken into the service of the Tsar and accompanied him on many adventures. On one occasion he saved ‘the most valuable life in Russia’ from an enraged she-bear (see illustration on p.47).

### *The Grotto*

Frederick Whishaw’s address at The Grotto in Leckhampton is of especial interest, as the house qualifies as one of the ‘follies of Cheltenham’. It was referred to briefly in an article in *Journal 15* by Oliver Bradbury, who – reasonably, in the apparent absence of evidence to the contrary – concluded that the building had been demolished some time after 1940. He described it as a house with grotto features, of irregular shape on a large corner plot.

It is now clear that the building has in fact survived as No 24 Moorend Road, a detached house standing on that selfsame site. The late owner told me that it had previously been known as The Grotto but had been renamed White Cottage. It is made up of two parts, an original cottage-like structure and a taller Victorian addition. Thatching on the roof has been replaced with tiles, following a fire, which no doubt has reduced any ‘grotto’-like character that the building might have displayed previously.

There is evidence that the Moorend Grotto existed as early as 1819, some fifteen years before its first mention in an *Annuaire*. In that year readers of the *Cheltenham Chronicle*<sup>3</sup> were encouraged to visit a ‘curious exhibition’ there. It had already been seen by the Duke of Gloucester, who had permitted his name to be used as its patron. Unfortunately, it is not stated what was on show. Further entries in the same newspaper<sup>4</sup> shed a little light on the establishment. In December 1822 the death of Mrs William Trye [Judith] was announced. Her memorial inscription in Leckhampton Church states that she lived at ‘Moorend Grotto Cottage’. In January of the following year the sale was advertised of ‘Moorend Grotto, cottages and grounds’. These were said to have been opened three years previously, the work of Mrs William Trye – clearly a reference to the exhibition – and were reopened the following May.



The Grotto as marked on 1837 map (left, *Gloucestershire Archives*) and on builders’ plans in 1957 (above)



In July 1831 Henry Norwood Trye, Walter Lawrence Lawrence and John Aubrey Whitcombe<sup>5</sup> sold The Grotto to the Reverend William Hawkins and others.<sup>6</sup> A map dated 1837<sup>7</sup> shows the 'Reverend Hawkins' as the owner of a wide strip of land beside Moorend Road, including the corner plot on which The Grotto stood. In the 1881 Census the actual occupant of the house was named as the Reverend Charles Hawkins (a son, perhaps). Three years later, together with the Cheltenham surgeon Clement James Hawkins, probably an older brother, he sold the property to Sarah Mary Trye. She and her sister Eleanor Meredith lived there from about 1896 until their deaths before the First World War. In 1932 their nephew Captain John Trye had moved there, when he was Mayor of Cheltenham. The house remained in the ownership of the Trye family until 1957, when it was bought by Charlton Kings Builders, who built in part of the grounds one detached and three semi-detached houses (nos 24a-e Moorend Road), marked on the plan (see previous page).

Regardless of ownership, The Grotto has often been occupied by tenants, for example a retired farmer, Thomas Joynes, in 1851, Richard Liddell in 1858, Arthur Bailey Rye in 1876 and in 1881 a general's widow, Mary Fenson. It was advertised to let unfurnished in 1886:<sup>8</sup> 'a charming detached cottage residence', with three reception rooms, six bedrooms, ground floor offices, fitted bathroom, stabling, a good-sized garden and a 'capital tennis lawn'. The successful applicant will have been the vocalist, Russian translator and author – Frederick Whishaw – who there conceived *Boris the Bear Hunter*.

<sup>1</sup> 'Eminent Cheltonians commemorated in Leckhampton', *Journal* 23, pp.24-25.

<sup>2</sup> James Whishaw, *A History of the Whishaw Family*, 1935.

<sup>3</sup> 12 Aug 1819.

<sup>4</sup> 5 Dec 1822, 9 Jan 1823 and 8 May 1823. I am grateful to Roger Beacham for supplying this unique information, based on his own notes. The original library copies are no longer available, and the British Library Newspaper collection at Colindale does not hold copies of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* for those years.

<sup>5</sup> These names occur frequently in Leckhampton transaction deeds in the 19th century, as land that formed part of the Tryes' manorial estate was gradually being disposed of.

<sup>6</sup> I am grateful to Mrs Badham-Thornhill and her late husband for allowing me to consult the relevant documents held by their solicitors.

<sup>7</sup> Gloucestershire Archives ref D303/P6.

<sup>8</sup> *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 5 Jun 1886.



**MISS ANNIE BURNS  
BURNS,**  
Of 7 Pittville Lawn, Cheltenham, who died on Sunday, May 10th, 1925, in her 95th year. She was the last surviving grandchild of Bobbie Burns, the immortal Scotch poet, and was a daughter of Lt.-Col. J. G. Burns, the fourth son of the poet, by Bonnie Jean Armour. She had lived in Cheltenham 77 years.

# ‘The Grand Exhibition of Plants of All Nations’ - 1853

GEOFF NORTH and ELAINE HEASMAN

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*This article continues our series on Cheltenham events and locations that were considered to be of sufficient interest to be published in national newspapers and periodicals.*

## **Introduction**

*THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* was first published 14 May 1842. This first edition, targeting a mainly middle-class readership, had a circulation of 26,000 copies, cost 6d and included 32 woodcuts spread over 16 pages. In this issue were pictures of the war in Afghanistan, a train crash in France, a steam-boat explosion in Canada and a fancy dress ball at Buckingham Palace. The importance of the illustrations was made clear in the statement that the aim of the paper was to bring within the public grasp the:

*‘very form and presence of events as they transpire; and whatever the broad and palpable delineations of wood engraving can achieve, will now be brought to bear upon every subject which attracts the attention of mankind’.*

The paper was a success and was soon selling over 65,000 copies a week.

The paper was founded by Herbert Ingram (1811-1860) and his friend Mark Lemon (1809-1870), the editor of *Punch* magazine. Ingram grew up in Lincolnshire in humble surroundings, attending a charity school in Boston before being apprenticed at 14 to printer Joseph Clarke. Later he moved to London where he worked as a journeyman printer. In 1832 he set up a printing and newsagent’s business in Nottingham with his brother-in-law. As a newsagent Ingram saw the popularity of newspapers on the rare occasions when woodcuts were included. He felt that there was money to be made from a paper/magazine published on a regular basis with illustrations but it was not until ten years later after he had moved back to London and met up with his friend Lemon that he was able to put his theory into practice. His death in 1860 was tragic. He drowned, along with his eldest son and other passengers aboard the *Lady Elgin* on Lake Michigan following a collision with another vessel.

Ingram was a staunch Liberal and in 1856 stood for election in his home town of Boston. He favoured social reform and throughout *The News*’ articles and illustrations relating to such issues as the poor laws and conditions in the factories and mines are self-evident. Ingram employed leading artists of the day to illustrate social events, news stories, towns and cities with the result that the whole spectrum of Victorian England was recorded pictorially in *The News*. We are fortunate that many issues were obviously treasured by families and kept safe and also that bound volumes were produced for future reference. Today, copies are readily available and able to be purchased by the collector quite cheaply. They are an important source for the local historian, providing detailed reporting of events together with that all important illustration which is often lacking in early local newspapers. The advertisements, for which high prices were charged thus ensuring good profits, are another valuable source of information for the historian.

**ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS - 16 July 1853 p.2****Report of The Grand Exhibition of Plants of all Nations at Cheltenham**

*'On Tuesday the county of Gloucester and Cheltenham Horticultural Society<sup>1</sup> held their annual Exhibition at Cheltenham. The fête was distinguished by a variety of splendid plants, fruit, flowers etc. from the Continent – this being the first occasion of foreign contributions being received at such exhibitions in this country; and the success which has attended the experiment promises great additions to the attractions of our Horticultural Societies.*

*'The fête was given in the beautiful grounds of Pittville. The display of fashionably-dressed ladies, in the light summer costume, gave great gaiety to the scene. The banks of the lake, with its fountains playing, formed an agreeable promenade for the company, after gratifying the sight with the lovely flowers of all kinds, and from distant countries. There were contributions from Madame Legrelle, of Antwerp; M. Von Gert, of Antwerp; M.L.T. Bailleur, Ghent; from Messrs. Standish and Noble, Bagshot, Surrey<sup>2</sup> Veitch and Son, Chelsea,<sup>3</sup> etc.*

*'Messrs. Rollison and Son,<sup>4</sup> Mr Hodges,<sup>5</sup> Miss Phillips, Mr Head, A.E. M'Donnell Esq., Courtland S. Shaw, Esq., Mr Clark,<sup>6</sup> and Mr Barrett, were some of the victors, as well as the Continental competitors.*

*'The Customs in London and Dover very politely forwarded the plants from the Continent without opening them, and sent down an officer to inspect them on their arrival.*

*'The general arrangements of the fête were under the superintendence of Mr J.H. Williams, honorary secretary.*

*'The approach to the gardens is either by the road or through two gardens divided by roads. On entering the last, in which stands the Pump-room,<sup>7</sup> is a beautiful lake and a broad walk: on each side of the latter are parterres and shrubs; and a little beyond is a meadow. From the sides of the Pump-room projected two marquees, each 200 feet long and 30 feet wide; these were joined at one side each by another marquee, 420 feet long by 40 feet wide; forming three sides of a quadrangle. These marquees were supplied by Piggott and Co., of Fore-street, London; as were also the numerous flags which decorated the grounds, marquees, and pump-room. The bands of the Highlanders and 1<sup>st</sup> Royals played throughout the day, until past six in the evening.*

*'The tents were occupied nearly as follows:- In the long marquee to the right of the broad walk, were ranged the stove and greenhouse plants, and Standish and Noble's hardy plants. The long marquee on the left contained the fruits, and a miscellaneous collection of plants. The bouquets and vases of flowers, as well as some of the exotics, were placed in the Pump-room. Small tents, appropriated to the visitors, were placed in various parts of the grounds.*

*'We have not space for the list of prizes; but upon the preceding page we have Engraved the Prize Plate [see engraving p.52], and the exquisite productions for which they were awarded.*

*'The group may be thus described:- The tall central Vase was given for the best stand of Cut Flowers; the Vase behind the centre for the best Cape Heaths; the Tankard, for exotic Orchids; the large two-handled Vase, the highest prize for the best Greenhouse Plants; and the small Challenge Cup for Roses.*

*'The flowers composing the groups are – Orchids, Heaths, Roses, Fuschias, Chinese Clematis. The Erythrina Laurifolia, the Allemande Cathartica, the Erica Retorta, the Epacris Miniata, the*



*Berberis Trifurca, the Oncidium Papilio, an exotic Orchid; the Anguloa Clowesii, from Peru; the Pitcher Plant; the Dion Edule, reared in Ghent; the Petunia. The fruit consists of pine-apples, melons, grapes, peaches, etc.*

*‘In one of the tents, with the cut flowers, were two baskets of paper flowers, which were much admired for their verisimilitude, in juxtaposition with the exquisite realities of nature. There were also exhibited some wax flowers, of equal elegance.’*

#### **Comment**

We are grateful to Tony Sale who has contributed the following comment with regard to the silver displayed in the illustration.

*‘Like the picture as a whole, the silver prizes are typical of the fussy over-ornateness of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tall central prize vase for Cut Flowers could be used as such, but the others appear to be pieces for display. The vase behind, for Cape Heaths is a standing cup with gadrooning around the base of the bowl and an applied flowery band near the top. The so-called tankard prize for Orchids, looks impractical to drink out of; but it may be a jug as it appears to have a spout; there seems to be no connection with orchids, being embossed with a drinking scene. The trophy for Greenhouse Plants is a large two handled covered cup with an elaborate flowery cartouche, within which some suitable wording and winner’s name could be engraved.’*

#### **References**

*Illustrated London News*, 16 Jul 1853

*Cheltenham Examiner*, 1 Aug 1855

Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Directory 1863

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk>

<http://beehive.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk> [Cheltenham Horticultural Society]

<http://www.gfgs.org.uk> [Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies]

<http://rhodyman.net> [Rhododendron History]

<sup>1</sup> A Horticultural/Garden Society is believed to have existed in Cheltenham in the 1830s, and many shows were held at Pittville in the Pump Room over the years. In 1940 the Cheltenham & District Allotment & Garden Society was formed, later to become the Cheltenham Horticultural Society as it is known today. Currently, on the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies website there are more than 130 societies listed.

<sup>2</sup> Messrs. Standish & Noble began their famous nursery at Sunningdale in Surrey in 1847, the year before Joseph Dalton Hooker arrived back from India with seed of his 26 species of Himalayan rhododendrons that were to play such an important role in hybridizing over the next 100 years. In the 1850s Standish & Noble were offering many robust hardy hybrids for sale.

<sup>3</sup> Over the years, the Veitch family was instrumental in sending collectors all over the world and introducing a great many valuable plants into cultivation in Britain.

<sup>4</sup> Rollisson & Son Nursery, Tooting, London [assumed].

<sup>5</sup> The reference to Mr Hodges may be Hodges, Nursery and Seedsman of Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham. On 26 July 1855, just two years after this Exhibition, Mr Hodges lost valuable shrubs and plants in his conservatory and garden in the severe flooding which occurred in the town, said to be the worst experienced in 273 years. His loss was estimated at £150.

To read more about the flooding in Cheltenham see ‘Under Water: Flooding in Cheltenham 1731-1985’ by Mick Kippin, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* **23** (2007) pp.10-13.

<sup>6</sup> In 1863 Mrs Clark is listed at Nursery and Seed Warehouse, 58 High Street, Cheltenham.

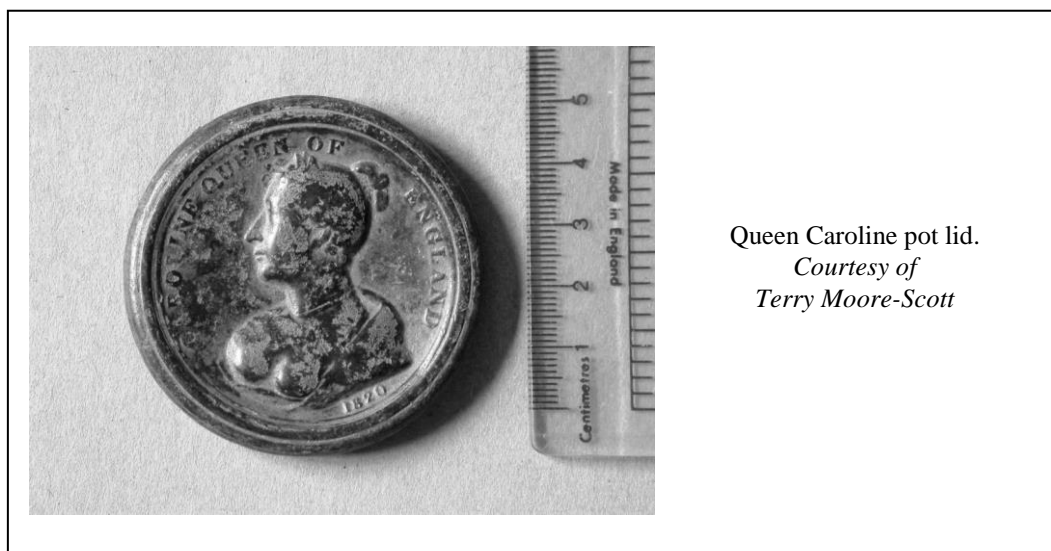
<sup>7</sup> For views of Pittville Park and the Pump Room (exterior and interior) published in *The Illustrated London News* 12 May 1860 see ‘Grand Flower Show and Military Fete in Cheltenham’ by Mick Kippin, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* **20** (2004) pp.37-39.

# Lifting the Lid on a Royal Scandal

TERRY MOORE-SCOTT

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I WAS RECENTLY ASKED BY A NEIGHBOUR to help identify an object which he had dug up in his garden. It looked like a copper-alloy medallion depicting, on its face, the image of a female and around the edge the words ‘Caroline Queen of England’ with a date 1820 (see illustration below). It soon became apparent though that the object was no medallion but possibly some kind of lid for a tin or box. This identification was confirmed by the British Museum who commented that objects like this were produced for supporters of the Queen (Caroline) at the time of her trial in 1820. I was intrigued that such an unusual object should have turned up in the small Severn-side village where I now live and I then began to wonder what impact the royal scandal surrounding the Prince of Wales and Caroline might have had on the people of Gloucestershire and in particular of Cheltenham.



The somewhat sordid story of the Prince of Wales (later George IV) and Caroline is probably familiar to many but perhaps not everyone. To summarise very briefly,<sup>1</sup> in the late 1700s the Prince of Wales was in need of a wife in order to clear his mounting debts and, in 1795, he was presented with his cousin Caroline of Brunswick. One description is of her being short and ugly, of unclean habits and ‘excessively loose’, another adding that she never changed her undergarments and her body odour was overwhelming. Not surprisingly therefore, from the very start the Prince appears to have found Caroline repulsive: he refused to live with her and eventually broke off relations (but only after she had conceived a daughter, Princess Charlotte). They separated after only one year and eventually, in 1814, Caroline went abroad, travelling around Europe and behaving in a shockingly lewd fashion wherever she went. In due course, she became intimately involved with a commoner, one Bartolomeo Bergami, much to the embarrassment of the royal family and establishment in England. Nor was the Prince’s behaviour beyond reproach during this time. His name was linked with several mistresses but perhaps the best known and most influential of these was Frances Villiers, Countess of Jersey. Their relationship had started well before George’s marriage to Caroline and it continued for a number of years afterwards. To add insult to injury, Lady Jersey was early on appointed as one of Caroline’s Ladies of the Bedchamber, a position she exploited to make trouble between the royal couple.

Eventually, in 1820, George III died, the Prince of Wales became king and so Caroline officially became queen. The Government's attempt to bribe her to stay out of the country was unsuccessful and in the spring of that year she returned to England to claim her rights. Then, in November 1820, on grounds of her alleged adultery (of which she probably was guilty) the government introduced a Bill into the House of Lords aimed at depriving her of her title and dissolving the marriage. In the end, they were forced to drop the charges, not least because of the huge popular sympathy there was for Caroline. William Hazlitt, in a later article,<sup>2</sup> wrote: 'During much of 1820, the Queen's business captivated the nation. It was the only question I have ever known that excited a thorough popular feeling. It struck its roots into the heart of the nation; it took possession of every house and cottage in the kingdom'.

Here then could be the explanation of my neighbour's find: a discarded commemorative lid (long since detached from its tin or box) acquired by some early 19<sup>th</sup> century cottager in rural Minsterworth with sympathies for Caroline's cause (much as, in more recent times, people acquired mugs or plates commemorating Princess Diana). Of course it may not have been quite as earnest as this. Cartoonists of the day often depicted Caroline in quite unflattering ways and it has to be said that, compared with officially-minted medallions showing Caroline (and even allowing for the worn surface of our example), the figure on our lid is not particularly flattering or decent, implying perhaps a tongue-in-cheek approach to the whole subject.

As far as Cheltenham is concerned, we might have expected the town to be staunchly supportive of the royal cause and this seems to have been so. The Prince after all was no stranger to Cheltenham, apparently visiting here briefly during the royal stay in 1788 and again in 1806.<sup>3</sup> At no time though does Caroline appear to have paid a visit nor does her name appear in any of the annals relating to the resort town. Lady Jersey by contrast seems to have been well-known here. She lived in Cambray for some years in the early 1800s<sup>4</sup> and we know that she patronised Cheltenham's Theatre Royal on a number of occasions between 1810-21.<sup>5</sup> Jersey Place in Hewlett Road (first recorded in 1825) was probably named after her.<sup>6</sup>

Some idea of the town's attitude towards Caroline might be construed from the way the affair was reported in issues of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Gloucestershire Advertiser* of the time. The Queen's return from the continent was mentioned twice in May 1820 but only very briefly under 'London Mails'. Coverage of the trial in the autumn of that year was however much fuller, with verbatim reporting of witness examinations providing salacious details of the relationship between the Queen and Bergami. That the Queen was popular with the general populace is nevertheless clear from various reports of loyal addresses being presented in her honour in towns around the West Country including Cirencester. Following news of the trial's collapse, it was also reported that bells were rung and fireworks let off in Gloucester, Stroud, Painswick and Tewkesbury. I found no reports of such celebrations occurring in Cheltenham. It may also be significant that Goding makes no mention of these events at all. Could it be that Cheltenham was showing that its sympathies were firmly with the Prince of Wales?

George IV's coronation took place the following year, in April 1821, but Caroline had been told that she was not to take part. She nevertheless went to Westminster Abbey on the day and demanded to be let in, only to have the door slammed in her face. Nineteen days later she died and her body was taken for burial to Brunswick where, as she had requested, her coffin carried the inscription: 'Here lies Caroline of Brunswick, the injured Queen of England'. Lady Jersey, her arch-rival, only just survived her, dying in Cheltenham in July of the same year.

### Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Sue Byrnes, formerly Archaeological Finds Officer at Gloucester City Museum for her assistance in identifying the pot lid in question and to Dr Steven Blake of Cheltenham for his helpful comments on the article.

<sup>1</sup> A distillation of information from a number of sources including:

- *The Dictionary of National Biography* (OUP)
- Thomas W. Laqueur, 'The Queen Caroline Affair: Politics as Art in the Reign of George IV', *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol.54, no.3 (Sep 1982), pp.417-466.
- Christopher Hibbert, *George III: A Personal History*, (Viking, 1998)

<sup>2</sup> Published in the *Literary Examiner*, 15 Nov 1823.

<sup>3</sup> See John Goding, *Norman's History of Cheltenham* (1863), p.309

<sup>4</sup> See Gwen Hart, *A History of Cheltenham* (1965), pp.161-2

<sup>5</sup> From the collection of Theatre Royal playbills in Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (playbill nos. 639, 653-6, 1048, 1241 and 1324-5).

<sup>6</sup> James Hodsdon, *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham*, (Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society's Record Series vol.9 (1997), pp.90-1

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Advertisement from *Cheltenham Spa* guide (1938), published by Norman Brothers Ltd., Bennington St.  
*Courtesy of Sue Rowbotham*



# We Knew Percy Braisby

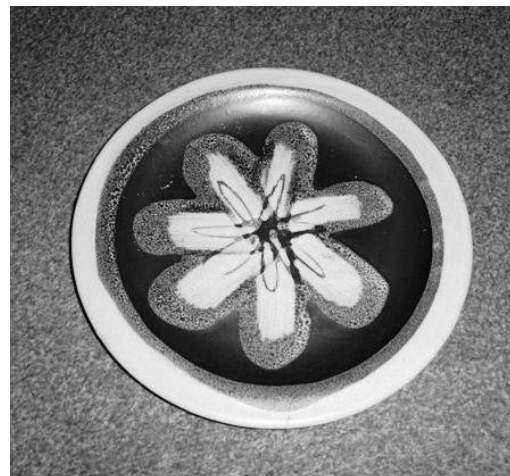
JUDY SMITH

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Percy Braisby at work.  
*Courtesy of Judy Smith*

WITH REGARD TO THE ARTICLE 'Percy Braisby and the pottery figures' by Leslie Burgess published in Journal 23, I should like to add that my late husband Peter and I were friends with Percy and his wife Sheila. We first met at *The Jolly Brewmaster* in Painswick Road in the early 1960s not long after we first came to Cheltenham. Percy had his own pottery at Barrett's Mill for many years and often held exhibitions of his work. Peter and I used to serve the drinks whilst Sheila prepared the food. I still have a few pieces of Percy's work in the house today.



Pieces by Percy Braisby, owned by Judy Smith.  
*Photos by Geoff North*

# The Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Cheltenham

PETER SMITH

---

‘THE DISTINCTION OF A FREEMAN goes back to the earliest times of community or local government and therefore deep into the history of this country. Sometimes through custom and then recognition or initiation in charters given by the Crown, persons who had become distinguished or occupied special positions were admitted to be Freemen and in the early days this right often, indeed generally, depended on birth, sometimes on servitude and frequently by marriage, gift or purchase. For many years now, however, a person has not been able to be admitted as a Freeman by gift or purchase. In former times freemen had a right to share in the benefits of any hereditaments or common lands in the Borough, and certain other privileges. These rights, however, with the recognition of the position of Freemen as one entirely of honour, have been swept away.

‘The Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act, 1885, empowered the Councils of Boroughs to admit to Honorary Freedom persons of distinction and those who had rendered eminent service to the Borough.

‘In comparatively recent years certain Cities and Boroughs have felt it right that they should confer the highest honour which it is possible for them to do on Regiments, Naval and Air Force Establishments, and this honour has become associated with the historic privilege conferred on military bodies of marching armed with ‘Colours flying and drums beating’ through the town or city to which it seeks to pay tribute in this way.’<sup>1</sup>

## *Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough of Cheltenham<sup>2</sup>*

The Rt. Hon Sir James Tynte Agg-Gardner, P.C., M.P.	30 Oct 1896 <sup>3</sup>
The Baron de Ferrieres	27 Feb 1900
Miss Dorothy Beale	28 Oct 1901
The Rt Hon Sir John Edward Dorington, B.T.	30 Apr 1908
William Federick Hicks Beach Esq., J.P.	07 Jul 1922
Alderman Charles Henry Margrett, C.B.E., J.P.	30 Jun 1927
David Lewis Esq., J.P.	31 Oct 1935
Robert Owen Seacome, Esq.	23 Jul 1937
Alderman Clara Frances Winterbotham, M.B.E., J.P.	06 Sep 1943
Councillor John Howell, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.	06 Sep 1943
Field Marshall Sir John Greer Dill, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.	07 Feb 1944

Alderman Edward Lawrence Ward	10 Jul 1951
General The Lord Ismay, G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O.	22 Sep 1951
Alderman Daniel Leopold Lipson, M.A.	27 Sep 1953
George H. Dowty Esq., F.R.A.E.S. <sup>4</sup>	10 Jan 1955
Captain John Henry Trye, C.B.E., R.N. (Retired), D.L.	19 May 1958
Walter Ansell Esq.	24 Oct 1960
Alderman Arthur James Bettridge	24 Oct 1960
Central Flying School, Royal Air Force, Little Rissington	02 May 1962
Alderman Arthur George Dye, O.B.E.	19 Nov 1965
Francis Desmond Littlewood, O.B.E.	19 Nov 1965
The Gloucestershire Regiment	09 Oct 1966
Richard Board Esq., M.B.E.	21 Sept 1967
Councillor Charles Graham Irving, M.P.	23 May 1977
Sir Robert Hunt, C.B.E., D.L., D.Sc.	18 May 1981
Honorary Alderman Kenneth John Fisher	24 May 1982
Dr Frederick Alexander Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., F.R.C.R.	24 May 1982
Honorary Alderman Charles Walter Allen Foster, M.B.E.	21 May 1984
Bernard Philip Ward, Esq., J.P.	21 May 1984
Royal Air Force Innsworth	18 Oct 1986
Honorary Alderman Aimbury Dodwell, M.B.E.	22 May 1989
Sir John Maundell, C.B.E.	16 May 1994
Honorary Alderman Miss M.N.P. Dent, O.B.E.	22 May 1995
Honorary Alderman J. H. Pennington	24 May 1999
Air Vice-Marshal Professor R.A. Mason, C.B., C.B.E., M.A., DSc.	21 May 2001
Dame Janet Trotter, D.B.E., B.D., M.A., MSc.	20 May 2002

<sup>1</sup> Extract from booklet published to commemorate, '*Conferment of Civic Honours upon The Central Flying School of Her Majesty's Royal Air Force*'.

<sup>2</sup> This updated list has been kindly supplied by The Mayor's Office, Cheltenham Borough Council.

<sup>3</sup> Date of admission to Freedom of the Borough

<sup>4</sup> Later Sir George H. Dowty, K.T.

# Cheltenham Commemorative Guineas And Half Guineas of George III

MARTIN WARBURTON

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*The Editors would like to thank Martin, a non-member, for sharing his considerable knowledge with members of the Society, in this article especially commissioned for inclusion in the Journal.*

OVER ONE THOUSAND DIFFERENT IMITATION GUINEAS and half guineas are known, of which the most common types bear the inscription 'IN MEMORY OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS'.<sup>1</sup> They were produced over a period of about 200 years and are made of base metal, usually brass. Occasionally they are found with the base metal gilded or silvered. Many carry the spade shaped shield seen on the regal guineas and half guineas of George III, and this can lead to them being mistaken for gold guineas and half guineas, despite having different legends and being only about half the weight of their regal equivalents.

Most of the imitations were produced as gaming counters, whilst others were advertising give-aways. A small, but distinctive, series are those which were produced as commemorative medalets to celebrate George III's visits to Cheltenham, Worcester and Weymouth, as well as to celebrate his periodic returns to health following bouts of illness. All have the portrait of George III on the obverse with the inscription 'GEORGE III DEI GRATIA'. The reverses of the Cheltenham pieces bear the inscription 'CHELTENHAM JULY 12 1788' around a crowned spade shaped shield.

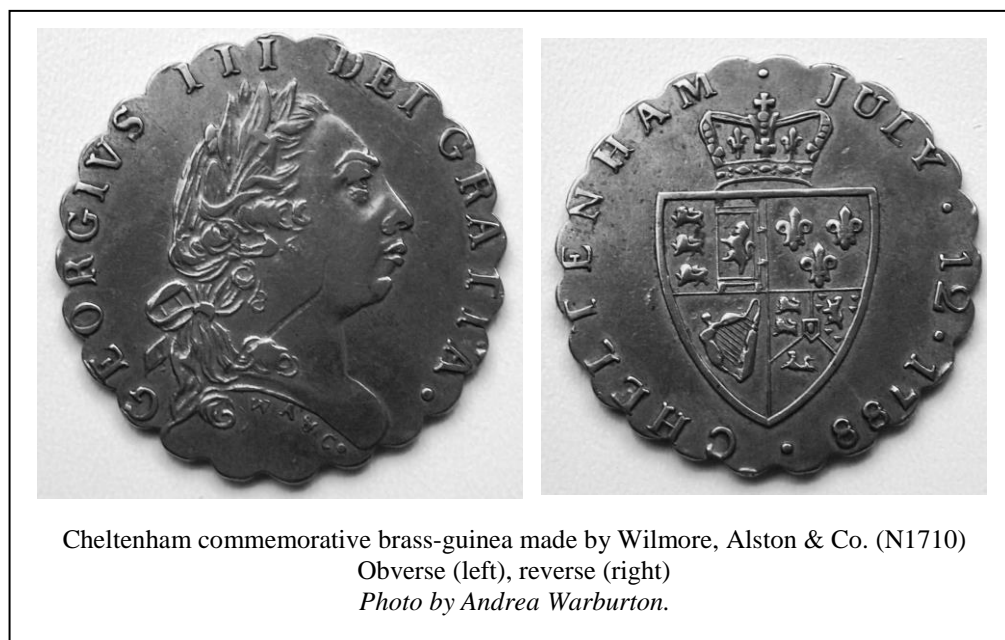
It would seem that the Cheltenham pieces were produced to celebrate George's arrival in the town that day.<sup>2</sup> The Worcester pieces also have a crowned spade shield on the reverse but with the inscription within the shield, or a reverse of musical instruments on an altar with the inscription around. They were produced to commemorate George's visit to the Three Choirs Festival there, whilst staying in Cheltenham. The inscription on these pieces is 'WORCESTER 6, 7 & 8 AUGUST 1788', or a variation thereof. A single variety has been found for Weymouth in the form of a half guinea inscribed on the reverse 'VISITED WEYMOUTH JUNE 30 1789' but with no shield.



Cheltenham commemorative silvered half-guinea made by Charles James (N1410)  
Obverse (left), reverse (right)  
*Photo by Andrea Warburton.*

Turning now to the Cheltenham pieces in a little more detail. To date seven different die varieties of the half guinea are known. They have been produced by five different makers, whose initials appear beneath the bust of George III. Whilst some of the varieties are found with both brass and silver finishes, others have been found with only one or the other finish. It is quite possible that all the varieties exist in both brass and silver finishes, though these have yet to be found. The photographs on p.60 illustrate the obverse and reverse of a silvered half guinea (diameter *c.*20mm) made by Charles James, die-sinker, Birmingham (C.I below the bust). A single variety of half guinea is known for Cheltenham with a shield and garter on the reverse, though this has not been seen by the author.

Ten die varieties of the guinea are known from five different makers, four of whom are in common with the makers of the half guineas. Interestingly none of the varieties have yet been found with both brass and silver finishes: eight of them in brass and two silvered. Photographs below illustrate the obverse and reverse of a brass guinea (diameter *c.*25mm) made by Wilmore, Alston & Co, button makers etc, Birmingham (WA & Co below the bust). Further details of the different Cheltenham pieces can be found in the checklist by W. Bryce Neilson.<sup>3</sup> The two illustrations are listed in Neilson as N1410 and N1710 respectively.



Commemorative pieces of George III are keenly sought after by collectors, since they have both local and historical interest, as well as being over 200 years old. Being tokens, rather than regal coins, they are usually found in good condition, thus making them attractive pieces in their own right or as part of a collection.

The author would be pleased to receive requests for further information via the Editors or to hear of any information on Cheltenham commemorative guineas and half guineas of George III which might add to the sum of knowledge about these fascinating pieces. Email Martin at [martin@richardmills.net](mailto:martin@richardmills.net) or contact him via the Journal Editors.

<sup>1</sup> Neilson, W. Bryce, *A Thousand Guineas – a Checklist of Imitation Guineas and their Fractions* (Galata, 2003)

<sup>2</sup> Information received from Sue Rowbotham, Cheltenham Local History Society.

<sup>3</sup> Neilson.

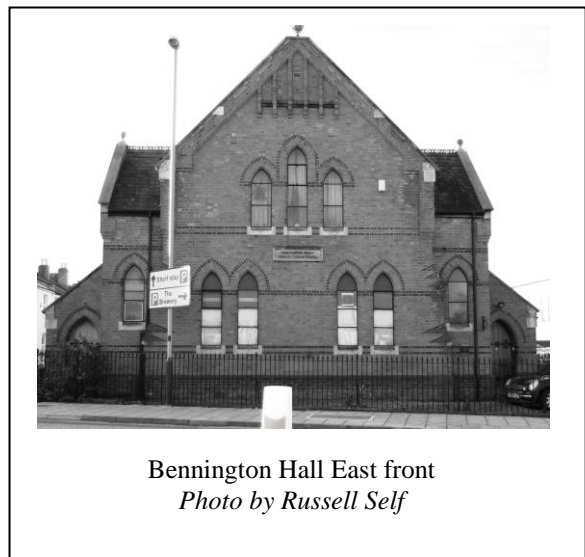
# The New Hall in Bennington Street - Laying the Memorial Stone *Cheltenham Free Press* 16 September 1882

VIC COLE

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Editor's note – this article is transcribed from the *Cheltenham Free Press* and has been edited as thought appropriate. The full article can be seen at the Library.

*'ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, Mr William Nash Skillicorne, Jun., son of his Worship the Mayor performed the pleasing ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the new hall in Bennington Street, which is being erected by the promoters and supporters of the United Sunday School. For the past six years this institution has had its head quarters at the St George's Hall, but circumstances have arisen necessitating the removal of the School operations to some other site, and the workers in this branch of religious education may well be congratulated on having been able to secure so eligible a site as that in Bennington-street. The purchase of the Trafalgar Tavern, and the adjacent piece of land, was effected without any great difficulty,*



Bennington Hall East front  
Photo by Russell Self

*and the rapidity with which building operations are being pushed forward is proof of the energy and zeal possessed by the gentlemen most interested in the erection of the building.*

*'It is almost needless to refer to the great success of the United Sunday School during the six years of its existence. The claims of the institution have been kept prominently before the public, and a large amount of interest has been awakened on its behalf. Allied with the school, which has as its superintendent Mr J Bloodworth, is the Onward Band of Hope, a juvenile temperance organisation, which is not surpassed in numbers of excellence by any similar society in the town. The meetings of this useful adjunct to the Sunday School will be carried on in the new hall under the able superintendence of Mr Saunders. Regarded in the light of a town improvement, the erection of Bennington Hall calls for special notice. From the general appearance of the lithographic drawing of the premises, we should think there can be no difference of the opinion that the new hall will be quite an ornament to the neighbourhood in which it is being erected. The 'Trafalgar' is to be converted into class-rooms, and this part of the work is, in fact, on a fair way to completion. It is admitted by all people interested in any way in Sunday School work, that no school of anything like large proportions can be carried on successfully without class-rooms for the senior scholars, and large provision made in this direction at Bennington Hall, indicates wise forethought on the part of Mr Bloodworth and his coadjutors.*



East Front detail  
Photo by Russell Self

*'The new building has three frontages. The entrance being placed next to St Margaret's Road [is] connected with the schoolroom by spacious lobbies. The schoolroom is 58 feet by 36 feet. In addition to this are the transepts on each side, 22 feet by 7 feet. Off the entrance end of the school, an infants' classroom is taken, 24 feet by 15 feet 6 inches, this being connected with the main room by revolving shutters. Over this classroom is a gallery capable of seating 100 adults. Access to the infants' classroom and the gallery over is obtained from each entrance lobby. At the opposite end of the room, and next to the existing building, is a platform 20 feet wide, with ornamental front. This is about 12 feet deep, the back portion being raised in steps to be used as an orchestra, most of which is in an arched recess. On each side of the orchestra are passages leading to the classrooms, and the doors from these passages lead to the lavatories for*

*boys and girls respectively. The height to the wall plate is 15 feet, and to the ceiling 27 feet, the principals and purlins being exposed to view. All the wood work will be pitch pine and varnished. The walls will be plastered in stucco, and black lined into blocks, while round the edges of the windows the chamfered pressed brickwork will be seen. The arch over the orchestra also will be pressed brickwork with a moulded label over. The general character of the building will be Gothic, with pointed heads being introduced to all the windows and doors. The exterior is faced with pressed bricks pointed in black mortar, and relieved with blue bricks arranged in bands, etc, the gables being treated in ornamental oversail courses. The new building, together with the existing part, will be enclosed with a neat iron fencing. Hot water will be the mode of heating. The building will accommodate between 500 and 600 scholars, and the total outlay, which includes the purchase of the site and buildings, and the fittings for the school, classrooms, etc; is computed at £2,000, and the work is to be completed by Christmas. Messrs. Chatters and Channon are the architects, who obtained the work, in competition, a short time since, and [it] is being personally superintended by Mr Chatters. Mr Essex, Swindon Road, is the builder, who has made rapid progress with the portion already done, and so far has carried it out in a very creditable manner.*

*'The ceremony on Wednesday was favoured with delightful weather, and a large concourse assembled in and near the partially erected building. Many of the school children with their teachers and parents formed part of the gathering, whilst many ladies and gentlemen interested in the movement attended for the purpose of showing their sympathy with the pleasing surroundings. Flags placed on the scaffold poles imparted a festive appearance to the scene. A platform was erected near part of the building in which the memorial stone was to be placed, and this was occupied by Capt. St Clair-Ford, who presided over the proceedings, Mr W N Skillicorne, jun; Revs. J. M. Blackie, H. Wilkins, E. S. Shelton, S. Chester, J. W. Coad, and Messrs. James Bloodworth, E. Ellis (Chepstow), and other gentlemen. The first hymn having been sung[...]*

*'[...] as Mr Skillicorne was suffering with a severe illness, but he the speaker was pleased to say that the illness was decreasing, and before long he trusted they might see Mr Skillicorne in the enjoyment of his usual health. He had written a kind letter expressive of his*

*regret at not having been able to take part in the ceremony, and, as Mr Bloodworth had just whispered into the speaker's ear, sending a donation of £5 to be placed on the stone. (Applause) [...further apologies for absences were given and other donations made.]*

*'He (Captain St. Clair-Ford) was very glad, because in connection with the new hall there would be a Band of Hope. (Hear. Hear. Applause) They knew he took a deep interest in the temperance question, and was always pleased to hear of the success of the various organisations, but he would not weary them with a long temperance speech, or he expected the friends who were attending would want chairs placed for their convenience. (Laughter) It had struck him that the name of the building which had been purchased, and was to form a part of the school premises, suggested some pleasing recollections. Trafalgar; what did it mean? It meant a grand victory, and just as the great Nelson said, "England expects every man to do his duty," so the speaker felt sure that all engaged in the work connected with Bennington Hall would teach the children how they could best do battle with the world, and how they best do their duty to God and man. (Applause) He verily believed...*



Bennington Street Hall  
Photo by Russell Self

[Captain St. Clair-Ford continued by encouraging more financial support for the new Hall, hoping that they could raise £2,000 or £3,000. Mr Bloodworth then spoke, and referred to the fact that it was William Nash Skillicorne's first public act, he continued]

*'...to give a brief resume of the school's history since its commencement. In 1876, the second Sunday in May, some few Sunday School teachers in Cheltenham found themselves out of work. He need not enter into the cause of this, suffice to say that it was a fact that they were out of work, and in connection with these were a few Sunday School children who were away from their ordinary school. He (Mr Bloodworth) stayed at home a great part of that Sunday, but in the evening several of his good friends, teachers in connection with the school, came to him and said, "A great many children who have been in our school, have been to no school today. They have been wandering the streets, and say they won't go back to school." It seemed to the speaker that something ought to be done to get them back, or prevent them running the streets,*



by doing which they were losing the good impressions they had gained. He had always had a very great aversion to anything like setting up a new cause, or causing what was sometimes known by the name of the ugly word, "a split." At first he said he would not have anything to do with starting a new school, but his friends reasoned with him for sometime, and bye and bye he said, "I will tell you what we will do: you go home and we will pray over this matter, and ask for guidance, and then you can come and see me again on Wednesday evening". They came according to appointment, and they still seemed to be of just the same opinion as to the formation of another school. Then came the question of place, and the teachers having found out that St. George's Hall was free on Sundays, entered into an agreement to hire it, and on the first Sunday morning of the school in this place they had exactly seventy children. Since then the numbers had gone on increasing, until they had almost more children than they knew what to do with.



Bennington Street  
Photo by Russell Self

On Sunday about eighteen months ago a certain gentleman was passing down the streets of Cheltenham giving away tracts, when he was attracted by some singing at St. George's Hall. He came into the room, and took up a position at the back of the room. He was a stranger to the speaker, but he entered heartily into the closing exercises of the school, and expressed approval at the way in which things were managed, and then the speaker walked up the street with the gentleman, and told him some of their difficulties. The gentleman said, "You must pray about it, and not only pray about it, but if you want to do anything you must put your

shoulder to the wheel, in the same way that we have been doing at Exeter Hall for the Young Men's Christian Association." They would see that he [Mr Bloodworth] was alluding to Mr George Williams. (Applause) Well the school went on increasing, and a few months ago they received notice that the landlord of St. George's Hall intended to raise the rent to £45 a year...[and] ...there was the inconvenience of the place. There were no class-rooms, and they felt the want of these for the young men and women, who were growing rapidly in number.

'He [Mr Bloodworth] had turned his eyes on the Trafalgar, but had not mentioned it to anyone. Speaking to one of the teachers, he said, "If we were to have a building would you give so and so?" naming a pretty big sum. He shook his head, but when they met together and the speaker said to this teacher, "What shall we do?" the reply was, "I shall do what you asked me." The gentleman was a modest man, and would not like the speaker to mention the sum he promised, but it was a kingly amount. Others said they would give certain sums, and the speaker saw something like £300 or £400 within reach... [Mr Bloodworth also wrote and asked £100 of Mr Williams] ...he [Mr Bloodworth] could see where £700 was coming from, and he accordingly said to the teachers, "We may move." They at once went and saw Mr Chesshyre about the Trafalgar premises, and they were purchased for £850, and now they expected not only a room capable of holding 500 or 600 children, but there would be a number of class-rooms

as well. The building would probably cost over £2,000 before it was completed, and towards that amount they had a little over £1,000...

'...After Mr Skillicorne had laid the stone, there would be an opportunity for them to come forward and lay their offerings on the stone, and if they were numerous, they knew that a number of small pieces, made into one, would make a large gift. They wanted to open the building the first Sunday in the New Year, and they thought this hope would be realised, because they had a good builder, one who meant business. (Applause).'



The original foundation stone is now in a very poor condition  
Photo by Russell Self

## The Only ENGLISH GIANT, And One of the Seven Wonders !

To be SEEN at No. 70, High Street,  
Opposite the Regent Library, a surprising  
YOUNG GENTLEMAN, only Seventeen Years  
Old, and is near

### Eight Feet high ! !

Measures 26 Inches from the Foot to the Knee ;  
length of the foot 15 Inches ; is well proportioned ,  
and allowed by Gentlemen of the Faculty, who  
have seen him, to be one of the greatest Novelties  
ever witnessed.

This Phenomenon has never been publicly introduced but to four persons of distinction, viz. the Emperor of Russia, King of Prussia, Count Platoff, and Prince Blucher, who are highly gratified at seeing *so* Gigantic a Youth.

He has also been visited by several of the most eminent of the Faculty, among whom Drs. Cooper, Ogle, Munroe, and Daniel, of the Medical Board Blackfriars, who declare him to be a prodigy of nature – The Proprietor is well aware that such an attraction was never before exhibited in England, and flatters himself, that he shall meet with that encouragement from the Nobility, Gentry and Public at large, for which they are highly esteemed.

Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen, 1s.  
Every day (except Sunday) from 11 to 4, and from  
5 to 10 in the Evening

# Recent books and articles on the history of Cheltenham

List compiled by STEVEN BLAKE

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Aldred, David, 'Cheltenham's Little Imitators – the mineral springs and spa-lets of Gloucestershire', in J. Bettey (ed.), *Archives & Local History in Bristol & Gloucestershire. Essays in Honour of David Smith*, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 2007, chapter 12 (pp.137-60). Includes many references to Cheltenham itself, and to mineral springs at Arle and Prestbury (Hyde Spa and the Prestbury Hydropathic Institution).

Barlow, Jill, 'Cheltenham Manorial Court 1608', in J. Bettey (ed.), *Archives & Local History in Bristol & Gloucestershire*, 2007, chapter 8 (pp.82-8). An examination of the business of a court held on 1 April 1608, and dealing with alehouses, highways, housing, keeping the peace, nuisances and land.

Barton, Iain, with contributions from Julie Sargent and Jeremy Lake, *Sandford Parks Lido Swimming Pool. Our history and community*, published by the Lido Trust to mark the pool's refurbishment, 2007. 22pp. Issued free of charge.

Druce, Nigel, 'Coombe Hill Canal. A little local failure?', *Tewkesbury Historical Society Bulletin* **15** (2006), pp.33-6. An outline history of the canal, which was opened in 1796 to assist in the transport of goods and building materials from the River Severn to Cheltenham.

Ford, John, *Coachmaker. The Life and Times of Philip Godsall 1747-1826*, Quiller Press, Shrewsbury, 2005. 248pp. Unpriced. A biography of a leading London coachmaker, who settled in Cheltenham in 1814 and developed land and houses at Montpellier.

Gill, Peter, *Cheltenham's Music*, Sutton Publishing Ltd., Stroud, 2007. 158pp. £12.99. A well-illustrated account of Cheltenham's musical history from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

Moore-Scott, Terry, 'Leckhampton Moated Site: An update', *Glevensis* **39** (2006), pp.28-30.

O'Connor, David, *John Burgh Rochfort. Preacher Extraordinary*, Charlton Kings Local History Society, 2007. 23pp. £2.00. An account of the life and work of a Baptist minister at Charlton Kings (1838-1908).

Price, Arthur, *Cheltenham Stone. The Whittington Quarries*, Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, 2007. 162pp. £12.99. A comprehensive account of the quarries from which the stone used to construct many of Cheltenham's buildings came.

Sale, Jane (ed.), *Charlton Kings Local History Society Research Bulletin* **53** (2007). 64pp. £3.50. A wide range of notes and articles on Charlton Kings by a variety of authors, including Excavations in Sandy Lane (Jane Sale), the Diamond Sanitary Laundry (Jane Sale), Charlton Kings Choral Society (Ann Hookey), the local Militia and Volunteers (C.P. Love), 'Glenview' in Harp Hill (Derek Copson), local residents Marian Colmore (Eric Miller), John Prinn (Jane

Sale) and Marcus Sisson (David O'Connor), and events in Charlton Kings in 1891 (Mary Southerton) and 1907 (Don Sherwell).

Waller, Jill (compiler), *A Chronology of Nonconformity and Dissent in Cheltenham*, Cheltenham Local History Society, 2007. 34pp. £4.00.

Wills, Jan, and Catchpole, Toby (eds), 'Archaeological Review No. 30, 2005', *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **124** (2006) has short notes on a number of archaeological assessments and evaluations of sites in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham (p.223) and in Prestbury (p.230).

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## Gloucestershire Archives: Cheltenham Area Accessions, 2007

**JULIE COURTENAY**, Head of Collections

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Many of the following records are not yet catalogued in detail. Please contact the Archives before you visit if you are interested in seeing them.

Newly catalogued in 2007 is the archive of John Moore (1907-1967) of Tewkesbury and Kemerton, novelist, poet, broadcaster and countryside campaigner. You can find out more about the John Moore Archive and other collections online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives)

As ever, we are grateful to hear of records that may be at risk and to discuss their safe-keeping in the Archives. We hope to welcome Cheltenham Local History Society members to our re-designed and refurbished searchroom during 2008.

*Julie Courtenay, Head of Collections,  
Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW  
Tel: 01452 427772  
Email enquires to: [archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk)*

**Alstone:** deed of lands including Great Tyne Mead and land in Rewen field, Wettfurze, the Hillfield and Deep Benhall, 1723 (D11050)

**Apprenticeship indenture** of Charles Edgar Hopkins to John Lance of Cheltenham, draper, 1883 (D11044)

**Cheltenham Borough Council:** programmes and related papers for Cheltenham festivals and musical events, 2006 (DC146 accession 10829); various planning records including assessments for Swindon Village Conservation Area, Cheltenham Central Conservation Area, Old Town, Montpellier and Bayshill Character Areas, with details of buildings of

local interest and shopfront design guide, 2006 (DC148 acc 10927); copy of plans of mineral water wells, reconstructed in 1903-1904, produced by Cheltenham Borough Council in 1956 [copy made c.2007]; leaflet about the Pump Rooms and wells, c.2007 (D11021); annual statements of accounts, 1888-1973; statement of borrowing powers and loans indebtedness, 1959 (CBR acc 11095); electoral register for Cheltenham: full register published 1 December 2007, in force for 2008 (Q/Rer acc 11147); Water Department 1:500 scale OS record sheets, showing water mains, [early-mid 20th century] (D2826 acc 11019)

**Cheltenham and County Harriers Athletics Club:** various committee minutes, 1999-2004; secretary's papers, 1994-2006; newscuttings, photographs and results sheets, 1989-2006 (D10980)

**Cheltenham Hebrew Synagogue:** records including 'Registry of deaths in the Cheltenham Congregation', 1869-1895; minutes, 1939-1941, c.1950-1967; rule book with duties of various officers of the synagogue [undated], 19th century; book marked 'W J Simmonds Machsor (Rosh H) 1763' includes some births and deaths recorded on the flyleaf; class registers, 1948-1949; accounts, 1833-1989; Schoder Book (donation book) and ribbons, undated [19th century]; membership cards 1945; correspondence file concerning Dr Pflingst of Birmingham, 1948-1950, cemetery matters, 1970s -1990s; synagogue repairs and rent, 1831-c.1950s; Elm Street Cemetery papers, 1894, 1913, 1998 (D10846)

**Cheltenham Horticultural Society:** Cup Trophy Record, listing events, categories, trophies and winners, 1983-2005 (D10456 acc 11125)

**Cheltenham Town Football Club:** programmes of home matches, 1954-2002, and away matches, 1970-2004; club magazines, 1971, 1973, 1990 (D5244 acc 10974)

**Cheltenham Workers' Educational Association:** minutes, 1988-2006, WEA magazines, newsletter and reports, 1995-2003 (D4227 acc 11119)

**Christ Church Anglican Parish:** marriage register, 1981-2006 (P78/3 acc 10894)

**Dancey family of Cheltenham:** autobiography; household bills; albums of family history and photographs, and family trees, 20<sup>th</sup> cent (D11062 acc 11124)

**Dowty Group, engineers:** additional records of Downtys and associated companies including: minutes of Downtys 1937-1943, Aircraft Hydraulics Appliances, 1938-1956, British Messier, 1947-1961, Dowty Rotol, 1976-1988, and Dowty Aerospace Gloucester, 1989-2005; accounts, 1934-1939 and 1957-1992; articles of association of various related companies, 1936-2001, including Dowty Equipment, 1955, Dowty Messier, 1969, Dowty Aerospace Gloucester, 1986, and Smiths Aerospace Gloucester, 2001; photographs of works at Llanthony Road and Cheltenham Road East, [20th century]; company registration and name change certificates, [20th century]; Rotol visitors' book, 1941-1959 (D8347 acc 10936)

**Everyman Theatre:** additional programmes 1960s-2006 (D6978 acc 10825)

**Gloucestershire County Council building and maintenance files relating to educational establishments** including papers relating to the new building for Cheltenham Grammar School, 1958-1965, and conversion of the Gate House Hostel to a Child Guidance Centre, Cheltenham, 1973 (K1940)

'Great Street' deed, 1796 (D10822)

**Miss J Hamblett of Cheltenham, local historian (d.2007):** papers relating to the local history of Cheltenham during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, compiled by Miss J. Hamblett. Include notes, photocopies of documents, correspondence, a history of Cavendish House, newspaper cuttings, photographs and videotapes (D11121)

**Holy Apostles, Charlton Kings, Anglican Parish:** records including marriage registers, 1945-2000; PCC minutes, 1927-1990; PCC accounts, 1950-1993; minutes of various committees, 1927-1984; papers and photos concerning fire at church in 1970 and subsequent restoration, including restoration committee minutes, 1970-1972, 1970s; papers concerning church property and buildings, [1871]-2000, including copy will of C C Higgs who built the church, (1882-1884), and papers concerning terrier and inventory, [1871]-2000; miscellaneous correspondence and papers including testimonial book presented to former incumbent, 1919, statistical returns of parish work, 1919-1937, and school project on church, nd [mid-1980s]-1989; parish magazines, 1945-1999; photographs of church, events and groups, (1876)-(1948), including choir, (1876), and football club, [1913-1914]; membership card for Holy Apostles Institute, nd, c.1910; fixture card for Holy Apostles Association Football Club for season 1912-1913; Mothers' Union records, 1955-1999 (P386 accs 10994, 11014 and 11149)

**Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School:** governors' minutes, 2003-2006 (S78/14 acc 11040)

**Illman Young Landscape Design Ltd of Cheltenham:** project files containing minutes, reports and correspondence and drawings, c.1986-c.2006 (D10830)

**Manor of Cheltenham:** extent of the manor in 1294 [photocopy of original held at The National Archives ref E106/2/2] and transcription [typescript] (D10876)

**24 Marle Hill Parade** deeds, (1869)-1962 (D11106)

**St Michael, Anglican Parish:** service registers, 1975-2001; PCC minutes, 1965-1991; annual accounts, 1961-1989, and incumbent's annual reports, 1985-1991; papers concerning church fabric, 1974-1988, including quinquennial report 1987 (P78/17 acc 10897)

**John Moore (1907-1967)** of Tewkesbury and Kemerton, novelist, poet, broadcaster and countryside campaigner. His correspondence and papers include many references to his involvement as organiser of the Cheltenham Literary Festival in the 1950s and 1960s (catalogue reference D8451)

**Roy Sindrey of Cheltenham, market gardener:** "A Cheltenham Lad on the Western Front": account of the life and times of Roy Sindrey (1891-1975) during World War I, compiled by his grandson in 2007 (D9031 acc 10898)

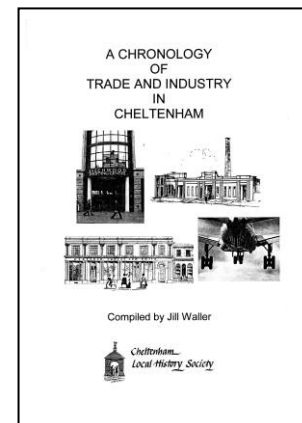
**Thornbury House, 443 High Street:** deeds, 1838-1888 (D10870)

**Willans, solicitors of Cheltenham:** additional deeds relating to Cheltenham area, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> cents (D5907 acc 10823)

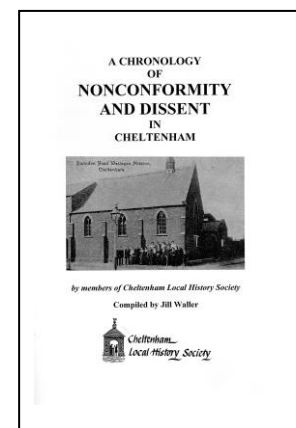
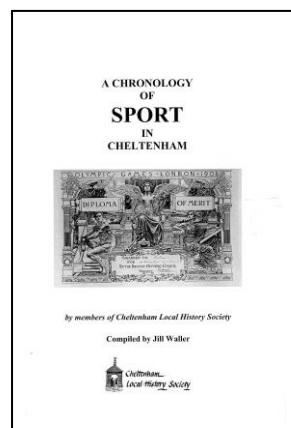
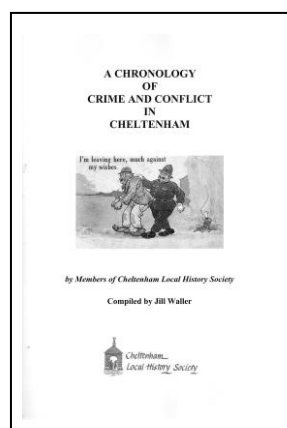
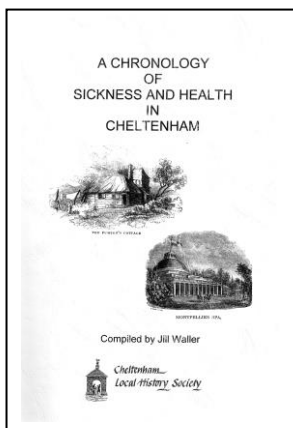
## Society Publications

Since 2002 Cheltenham Local History Society has published a series of Chronologies of Cheltenham to accompany the Society's displays at the annual Gloucestershire County Local History Afternoon. These publications are the direct result of many hours of dedicated effort by Jill Waller, with contributions from Society members, and provide a wealth of easy-to-access information on significant dates for the following:

- Trade and Industry
- Sickness and Health
- Crime and Conflict
- Sport
- Non-conformity and Dissent.



Each Chronology costs £4 plus postage. If you would like a copy please contact:  
 Geoff North, 7 Parr Close, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 1NH  
 Tel: 01452 857803 or email: [geoffreynorth@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:geoffreynorth@blueyonder.co.uk)



# Members' Interests and Research Topics

## DOROTHY SEATON-SMITH

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*The Society aims to share knowledge and promote research. With this in mind, members are asked, when joining the Society or renewing their membership, to specify any topics being researched or any special interests they may have.*

*If you pay your membership by standing order please ensure that you return the slip with your interests each year or your interests will not be included in future lists.*

To be put in touch with a member, please contact Dorothy Seaton-Smith (see inside front cover for details).

MEMBER(S)	INTEREST(S) AND/OR RESEARCH TOPIC(S)
Eilleen Allen	Pates family; Priory Terrace; Carlton Street; Hewlett Road; Charlton Kings; Swindon Village
Eva Bailey	Cheltenham & Indian connection; The Park; Christ Church
Anthony Barlow	Cheltenham Railway Station
Pat Barlow	Cheltenham General Hospital
Roger Beacham	Theatres; Lillah McCartney, actress; Prestbury
Peggy Boone	History of Gardening
Sue & John Brasher	Prinbox Works, Tivoli; Tivoli Wagon Works, Lypiatt Street; W.H. Brasher 1865-1942 (church organist, choirmaster, lay preacher)
Simon Butler	Architectural History
David Carroll	Cheltenham Town Centre (High Street/Promenade); Cleeve Hill; Pate's Grammar School (boys, later co-ed); Cheltenham's evolution since earliest days; World War 1- impact on town
Joyce Cummings	Economic & social development of St Peter's, St Paul's and Fairview areas – the workshops of Cheltenham; Family history; Living & working in the Strand (High Street from Cambray to Sandford park entrance)
Angela Dovey	History of St Paul's & St Peter's; Cheltenham Workhouses and Schools, High Street, also Lower High Street; Cheltenham's history in general
Jenny Eastwood	Stanhope Street area of St Peter's; Travellers resident in St Peter's
Tim Edgell	Breweries & pubs of Gloucestershire; Brewery memorabilia collector (Gloucestershire)
Mike Grindley	Portland Square & Albert Place district; RAF Montpellier, Cheltenham 1918-1919; Caffieri family
Elaine Heasman	Cheltenham's writers & poets – information required in preparation for History Afternoon October 2008; Cheltenham's lifeboats & benefactors; History of the Playhouse site, Bath Road; Joseph Hall; Cheltenham's first telephones'
Barbara Holden	Southam 14 <sup>th</sup> century farmsteads; Cotswold farmsteads in particular
Martin Horwood	Cheltenham MPs 1832-1992
Gordon Jones	Yeomanry & Cavalry in Gloucestershire, particularly The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars

<b>MEMBER(S)</b>	<b>INTEREST(S) AND/OR RESEARCH TOPIC(S)</b>
Jill Julier	Hewlett Road areas; postcards
Amaryllis Kearney	Social history of ordinary people; Family history; Bath Road, St Luke's, High Street, St Paul's & Fairview
Mike Kippin	The Volunteer Movement in Gloucestershire, 1794-1908; Medals presented to people in Gloucestershire
Chris Lammiman	All Saints & Fairview
David Lillywhite	History of Cheltenham Camera Club; Cartes-de-visite 1850-1860
George Marchant	Victorian Elementary Schools in Cheltenham
Sandra Maxted	Sussex House, owners, staff & guests
Eric Miller	Leckhampton; Notable Cheltonians
Alan Munden	Churches & Chapels of Cheltenham; Francis Close; Edward Walker; Jane Cook; Frederick Robertson
Mary Nelson	Up Hatherley; Cheltenham's trees
Geoff North	Voluntary Aid Hospitals in Cheltenham 1914-1919; the 'Glosters' & any military interest with Cheltenham; Marianne North, Victorian artist & traveller; The County of Gloucester & Cheltenham Horticultural Society in the 1850s
Ken Pollock	South Town (Bath Road area); Leckhampton fields; The Park
Ron Prewer	Family histories; History of St Paul's & St Peter's
Sue Rowbotham	Maskelyne family; W.D. Slade; Christchurch Schools; Constance family; entertainment, especially circuses & magicians; Beetham's chemist
Derek Rowles	Tivoli Road
Diane Ryley	Barrett's Mill; Prestbury Mills
Russ & Sally Self	History of Arle; Cheltenham maps and books
Dorothy Seton-Smith	Field family history (including William Field, chimney sweep); Social & economic development of St Peter's, St Paul's & Fairview areas – the workshops of Cheltenham; St Monica's Home for Girls (C of E)
C.A. & P. Smith	Tibbles family; Local history
Bol Stallard	Fanny Glossop, died 15 May 1874; Grace Glossop, Elizabeth Meakin, c. 1891-1922; History of Cambray Chambers; Cambray Pace, pre 1922
Peter Stephens	Casino Place; 56, Shurdington Road; Black & White Coach Station; Cheltenham postcards
Margaret Stocker	The Palmer & Gwinnett families of Cheltenham; TB in Cheltenham; Late Victorian Cheltenham
Klara Sudbury	Lower High Street; Winchcombe Street; Social history
Valerie Tomalin	Old Cheltenham
Brian Torode	Pearson Thompson, 19 <sup>th</sup> century Cheltenham architects; Tivoli, Cheltenham; Cheltenham's Masters of the Ceremonies; Suffolk Lawn & Lypiatt Terrace
Carol & Mike Waddell	Family history; Cheltenham since the First World War; St Peter's area of Cheltenham
Jill Waller	Cheltenham Trade & Industry (any information to update CLHS 'Chronology'); Cheltenham property deeds; Alstone area
David Whitfield	Daniel James Himpbris, architect & surveyor, 1815-1879



# Index to Journal 24

Abercrombie, Dr .....	3, 4	Chatters & Channon (architects) .....	63
Act, Paving, Repairing, Cleansing, Lighting .....	17	Chatwin, Amina with puppets .....	13
Allen, Pauline .....	13	Chelspa advert .....	56
Alstone .....	42	Cheltenham Museum .....	3
Ansell, Walter .....	59	Cheltenham Public Library .....	3
Arnold, Frederick .....	45	Cheltenham, Eleanor de .....	39
Assembly Rooms .....	17	Cheltenham, John de .....	35
A-Z Club .....	31	Cheltenham, Maurice de .....	39
Bagnall, W.H. ....	7	Cheltenham, William de .....	35
Ballinger, John .....	19	Chesshyre, Mr .....	65
Barrett, William .....	18	Chester, Rev S. ....	63
Barrett, William H. ....	21	Church Street .....	19
Barrett's Mill .....	21, 57	Close, Francis .....	42
Barrington, Jonah .....	33	Coad, Rev J.W. ....	63
Barron, E.E. ....	7	Collective Coaching, Tennis .....	30
Bath Road .....	10, 12	Colonnade, The .....	18
Bath Street .....	10	Cooke, John .....	18
Bayley, Christopher .....	16	Counsellors Alley .....	26
Baynton, C.S. ....	7	Court Leets .....	17
Beale, Dorothea .....	58	Coutts, Thomas .....	11
Beale, Lionel Smith .....	4	Cox, Elizabeth .....	29
Beetham, Michael .....	9	Cox, Thomas .....	22
Beetham, W.C. ....	7	Crofts, W.C. ....	7
Beetham's (chemists) .....	9	<i>Crown Inn</i> .....	16
Beetham's Chapel .....	9	Davis, Gilbert .....	22
Beethams, advert .....	9	Dawson, Gen. F. ....	7
Belcher, Mr .....	40	Dead Wall, The .....	24
Bell Lane .....	16	Dent, Hon. Ald. Miss M.N.P. ....	59
<i>Belle Vue Hotel</i> .....	31	Dill, Field Marshall Sir John G. ....	58
Berger, Col .....	31	Dobell, Sydney .....	42
Bettridge, Ald. Arthur J. ....	59	Dodwell, Hon. Ald. Aimbury .....	59
Blackham, Olive .....	13	Dorington, Sir John Edward .....	58
Blackie, Rev J.M. ....	63	Dowty Rotol (aircraft manufacturer) .....	31
Blessig, Sophy .....	47	Dowty, George H. ....	59
Blindhouse .....	18	Dungeon .....	18
Bloodworth, James .....	63	Dye, Ald. Arthur G. ....	59
Bloodworth, Mr .....	62	East Gloucestershire Club .....	31, 33
Board, Richard .....	59	<i>Ellenborough Hotel</i> .....	12
Boarding House, first .....	19	English Giant, 1815 .....	66
Boulton's (stonemasons) .....	11	Essex, Mr, Builder .....	63
Boyd, Rev Archibald .....	42	Evangelicalism .....	42
Braisby, Percy .....	57	Everis, John .....	18
Brodecroft, Charlton Kings .....	36	Exeter Hall .....	65
Bronowski, Prof Jacob .....	31	Falkenberg, T. ....	29
Brunsdon, John .....	22	Famous, The (outfitters) .....	19
Brydges, John .....	22	Fauconberg Terrace .....	47
Buckingham Lawn (Wellington Street) .....	12	Fenson, Mary .....	49
Buckingham Villa (Wellington Street) .....	12	Ferguson, Dr G.B. ....	7
Burns, Annie .....	49	Ferrieres, Baron de .....	58
Burns, Lt-Col. J.G. ....	49	Fisher Wells & Co (bankers) .....	19
Burns, Robert .....	49	Fisher, Hon. Ald. Kenneth J. ....	59
Butter Cross .....	15	Fleece Lane .....	18
Cambray .....	10, 11, 55	Floods	
Cambray House .....	23	Cheltenham floods, last 200 years .....	2
Cambray Spa .....	23	Neptune's Fountain .....	2
Caroline, Queen of England .....	54	New River Chelt flood defences .....	2
Central Flying School (RAF) .....	59	Promenade .....	2
César, Abbé .....	24		

Foster, Hon. Ald. Charles W. A.....	59	Lawn Tennis Professional Association .....	31
Freemen of Cheltenham.....	58	Lawrence, Walter .....	49
Frith, Francis.....	4	Leckhampton Hill.....	47
Gale, Col.....	8	<i>Leckhampton Parish Magazine</i> .....	48
GCHQ.....	31	Lewis, David .....	58
Gloucester & Cheltenham Horticultural Society ....	51	Liddell, Richard.....	49
Gloucestershire Regiment.....	59	Lipson, Ald. Daniel L.....	59
Grand Exhibition of Plants of all Nations 1853 .....	51	Littlewood, Francis D.....	59
Grange, The .....	42	Mackintosh, Mrs S. ....	33
Gresham, Doug.....	30	Macread, William Charles.....	34
Greyhound Lane .....	16	Manor Court Books .....	15
Grotto Cottage .....	48	Margrett. Ald. Charles H.M. ....	58
Grotto, The.....	47	Market House .....	15, 17, 18, 19
Grundy, Mrs.....	31	Market House Passage .....	24
Haight, Richard.....	22	Marsh, the.....	18
Ham .....	35	Martin, Henry .....	27
Ham Court .....	35	Maskell, Dan .....	29
Hancocks, John.....	22	Mason, Air Vice-Marshall Prof. R.A. ....	59
Hanna, Dr Frederick A. ....	59	Master of Ceremonies, first .....	19
Hardwicke, Mary .....	29	Matthews, John .....	22
Harris, John.....	22	Maundell, Sir John .....	59
Hartland, Messrs., bankers.....	26	Mellon, Harriot.....	11
Harvey, David.....	22	Melsom, Mr.....	19
Harvey, John.....	22	Meredith, Eleanor.....	49
Hawkins, Clement J. ....	49	Merrifield, Robert.....	22
Hawkins, Rev William.....	49	Millman, Albert E. ....	28
Hayward, Mr.....	17	Millman, Elizabeth .....	29
Hayward, William.....	25	Millman, Paul .....	31
Hedges, David .....	7	Millman, Valerie .....	31
Henries, Alicia .....	36	Moorend Grotto.....	48
Henrietta Street .....	18	Moorend Road.....	47
Hereward (Shurdington Road).....	47	Moreau, Simeon .....	19
Hewlett Road .....	55	Morhall, Mr .....	25
Heyward, Thomas.....	25	Municipal Office .....	26
Hicks Beach, William Frederick.....	58	Nates, John - sketch of Market House.....	18
High Street.....	66	National Coal Board.....	31
Hitch, John.....	22	Naunton Park Close.....	31
Hoad, Lew .....	31	Naunton Park Road .....	29
Hospitals		Neale, Rev John .....	21
Delancey .....	3	Newbury, Benjamin .....	24
Leckhampton Court (Red Cross) .....	47	Newman, John.....	19
Howell, Cllr. John.....	58	Newman, Ken.....	13
Hughes, Rev Hugh.....	21	Newman, Pat .....	13
Hunt, Sir Robert.....	59	Norden's Survey.....	15
Imperial Nursery.....	3	North, Brownlow.....	41
Irving, Cllr. Charles G. ....	59	Old Bath Road.....	28, 31
Ismay, Gen. The Lord.....	59	Onward Band of Hope.....	62
James, C. & P.(chemists).....	9	Oriel Rd.....	10
Jersey Place (Hewlett Road) .....	55	Oriel Terrace .....	13
Jersey, Lady .....	55	Owe 40 Squash Racquet & Tennis Club .....	28
<i>Jolly Brewmaster, The</i> .....	57	Painswick Road .....	57
Jones, Baynham .....	22	Palmer, Mr.....	3
Jones, Samuel .....	22	Park House .....	31
Joynes, Thomas .....	49	Park Place.....	42
Karenza (Bath Road) .....	31	Pennington, Hon Ald. J.H. ....	59
Keyte, Thomas.....	18	Perry, Fred.....	31
Kinnoul, William Lord .....	31	Photographic Institution .....	3
Kramer, Jack.....	31	Photographic Society.....	3
Lankester, Percy .....	7	Pidgeon, Walter.....	31
Lansdown Place.....	42	Pilley Bridge.....	12

- Pittville, Horticultural Show 1853 ..... 51  
Pittville, Skating in..... 7  
*Plough*..... 16  
Post Offices  
    1958 summary..... 40  
    Montpellier..... 40  
    Penfold pillar boxes ..... 40  
    Promenade, The ..... 40  
Price, Richard..... 22  
Pringle, Mr ..... 8  
Prison ..... 18  
Promenade Post Office ..... 40  
Promenade, The ..... 3  
Rasteleye, Lord William de ..... 36  
Regent Library ..... 66  
Riddell, Col. .... 10  
Riddell, John ..... 21  
River Chelt ..... 11, 14  
Robertson, Cap Frederick ..... 42  
Robertson, Frederick W. .... 41  
Robertson, Helen..... 44  
Robertson, Sarah..... 41  
Rockholm (house)..... 47  
Rodney House (Rodney Place) ..... 42  
Rodney Place ..... 42  
Rogers, Ald. Col. .... 7  
Rose & Crown Yard..... 25  
Rose and Crown Yard ..... 26  
Round, Dorothy ..... 29  
Rowe, George ..... 23  
Royal Air Force Innsworth ..... 59  
Rye, Arthur Bailey ..... 49  
Saunders, Mr..... 62  
Schools & colleges  
    Alstone Infant School..... 42  
    Cheltenham College..... 8, 31, 33, 42  
    Grammar School ..... 16  
    Ladies' College..... 3  
    Pate's Grammar School for Girls ..... 29  
    United Sunday School (Bennington Street) ..... 62  
Seacome, Robert Owen..... 58  
Segura, Pancho..... 31  
Selby Lodge (Cambray)..... 11  
Shambles, The..... 24  
Shelton, E.S..... 63  
Sherborne, Lord ..... 26  
Shurdington Road ..... 47  
Skillicorne, William Nash Jun. .... 62, 63  
Smith, Edward ..... 19, 22  
Smith, Thomas ..... 19  
St Albans (Wellington Street) ..... 11, 12  
St Albans, Duchess of..... 11  
St George's Hall..... 62, 65  
St George's Road ..... 9  
St Margaret's Road ..... 63  
St. Clair-Ford, Cap. .... 64  
Staverton Airport ..... 13  
*Swan, The* ..... 16  
Tennyson, Alfred Lord ..... 42  
Tesco (High Street)..... 26  
Theatre Royal ..... 11  
Thirlestaine Road..... 31  
Town Commissioners ..... 17  
Town Hall..... 13, 24  
Tractarians ..... 43  
*Trafalgar Tavern* ..... 62  
Trotter, Dame Janet ..... 59  
Trye, Cap John..... 49  
Trye, Cap John H..... 59  
Trye, Henry Norwood..... 49  
Trye, Mrs William ..... 48  
Trye, Sarah M. .... 49  
Turk, Simon..... 19  
Tynte Agg-Gardner, Rt Hon Sir James..... 58  
Upper Rooms..... 24  
Vernon, Jay..... 11  
Victoria Home ..... 3  
Ward, Ald. Edward L. .... 59  
Ward, Bernard P. .... 59  
Ward, Henry ..... 22  
Waterloo Place (Wellington Street) ..... 12, 14  
Wellington House (Wellington Street) ..... 12  
Wellington Mansion ..... 10  
Wellington obelisk..... 10, 11  
Wellington Place ..... 10  
Wellington Square ..... 34  
Wellington Street..... 10  
Wesley, John..... 17  
Whishaw family..... 47  
Whishaw, Bernard ..... 47  
Whishaw, Sophy ..... 47  
Whitcombe, John A. .... 49  
White Cottage ..... 48  
Wildey, James..... 23  
Wildey, Jonathan ..... 22  
Wilkins, Rev H. .... 63  
Wilks, Thomas..... 18  
Williams, George..... 65  
Williams, J.H. .... 51  
Wilson, Dr Edward A. .... 3  
Wilson, Dr Edward T..... 3  
Winchcombe Street ..... 16  
Winterbotham, Ald. Clara F. .... 58  
Woolworths ..... 26  
Worship, Places of  
    Beetham's Chapel..... 9  
    Christ Church..... 41, 44  
    Christ Church,i ..... 43  
    Golden Valley Baptist Chapel ..... 9  
    Market Hall (Roman Catholic) ..... 24  
Y.M.C.A. .... 65  
Yearsley, Mr ..... 25  
Yolland, Henry H. .... 28  
Yolland, Katharine ..... 28

## Well Walk, 1810



*View of the WELL-WALK from the Pump.*

Illustrations from the  
*New and Improved*  
*Cheltenham Guide*  
Printed by Wood &  
Cunningham (c.1810)  
*Courtesy of Elaine Heasman*



*View of the WELL-WALK, CHELTENHAM.*

## Errata – Journal 23

### **‘Aylwin Sampson – Writer and illustrator’ by Sally Self p.3**

Apologies to Aylwin for referring to him as ‘a man of Sussex’, when he is in fact ‘a man of Kent’.

### **‘Percy Braisby and the pottery figures’ by Leslie Burgess pp.56-7**

Percy Braisby’s studio was at Barrett’s Mill, not Sandford Mill