

A CHRONOLOGY OF CRIME AND CONFLICT IN CHELTENHAM



by Members of Cheltenham Local History Society

Compiled by Jill Waller



INTRODUCTION

The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council held their annual County Local History Afternoon on 2 October 2004, the theme of which was 'Crime and Conflict in the Midlands'. This book was compiled to accompany a display put on by the Cheltenham Local History Society at that event.

Despite its hard-to-shake-off genteel image, Cheltenham is a town of many contrasts, as this book illustrates, revealing a seedier side where many of the crimes committed were prompted by the poverty of a large section of the population. A cross-section of the crimes and conflicts that have been prevalent in the town are presented here, and many of the entries are mere examples of those that occurred with monotonous regularity. Some of the conflicts that concerned Cheltenham over 100 years ago still arise to disturb the residents of the modern town.

Much of the research for this book was reliant on secondary sources, and I would welcome any corrections or contributions that the reader feels should be included in any amended future edition.

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CRIME ...

CRIME – ASSAULT

- 8 Aug 1527 **William Foster** assaulted **William Ermyt** with a billhook. **William Ermyt** was evidently unpopular as in **May 1529 Richard Bradburn** struck him with a shovel, which drew blood. (Cheltenham Manor Court Rolls)
- Jun 1528 **John Yate** was fined 2d for attacking **Henry Fisher** and **George Goderich** with a stick, drawing blood from **George**, in the tithing of **Charlton**.
- Jul 1842 An inmate of the **Workhouse**, **George Durbin**, was fined 40s with costs for assaulting **William Blackburn**. Whilst the men were employed in breaking stones, **Durbin** was lying on top of the heap of stones. When **Blackburn** asked him if he was feeling unwell, **Durbin** struck him on the head with a stone hammer.
- 3 Feb 1849 **Michael Geeves**, fly driver, was charged with taking part in a **prize fight** at **Sevenhampton**. He was bound over to keep the peace.
- Apr 1849 **Charles Lloyd Harford**, of **Evesham House**, assaulted **Henry P. Steele** at the **Parish Church**. Later that year **Harford** was in dispute with the church over the ownership of a pew.
- 4 Mar 1851 **Pancakes** sold at **Cheltenham College** were pelted at the seller because the pupils were not satisfied with the quality of his goods.
- Apr 1851 **William Sheldon** appeared at the **Gloucester Assizes** for allegedly assaulting **Lydia Stride**.
- Dec 1853 There was constant rivalry in the town between the **Grammar School** and **Cheltenham College**. The Head of the **Grammar School**, **Dr. Rupert Humphreys**, brought charges of assault against 2 **College** boys. He ordered one of his own **Grammar School** pupils, **George Micklewright**, to be severely flogged for his part in the affray. **George's** father considered that his son had been excessively punished and brought an action against **Dr Humphreys** and the **Drill Sergeant** who carried out the flogging, **Andrew Livingstone** who was described as a 'cruel and bloodthirsty person'. £4 damages were awarded against the headmaster.
- Mar 1870 **Col. Seton of Oxford Terrace** was charged with assault on his servant.
- 29 Jul 1871 **James Rawlings**, 15, was sentenced to 3 months in **Gloucester Gaol** for **maliciously wounding Thomas Lloyd** with a knife at **Leckhampton**.
- 15 Nov 1871 'Thomas Wood, 40, **Tewkesbury Road**, a young labourer of dark complexion and scowling appearance, member of a family somewhat remarkable for personal violence, was charged with an exceptionally brutal and unprovoked assault upon two women.' *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Aug 1872 An employee of the **Cheltenham Ladies College** was charged with threatening a young lady.
- 1874 **Henry Swinhoe** of **Pittville**, well-known for his dislike of perambulators', was fined £2 for an assault on a nursemaid in **Winchcombe Street**. He pushed his stick between the spokes of the wheels and tried to tip the pram. The girl was nursemaid to **Mr Von Holst**, so the baby so nearly thrown out was probably the young **Gustav**.
- Jul 1877 **George Hill Adams**, clerk in holy orders, faced charges of **indecently assaulting** 3 girls.
- Jul 1878 A violent assault was carried out on a gamekeeper by navvies working for the **Banbury & Cheltenham Railway**.
- Feb 1879 **E. Westley Nunn**, formerly of **Suffolk Square** took out an action for assault against **Dr. Hemming**.
- Jun 1881 **Jonathan Riste** of the **York Hotel** assaulted the stationmaster at **Grange Court**.
- Nov 1887 **James Connor**, a member of the **Town Council** and keeper of the **Lamb Hotel**, was involved in an assault case.
- Jun 1900 **John Powell** was charged with stabbing **Frank Alexander Jelf** during celebrations for the Relief of Mafeking.
- Sep 1904 A warrant was issued for the apprehension of the North Ward **Board of Guardians** representative, **Albert Henry Clarke**, for assault.
- May 1905 **Herbert Sumner** was convicted of **horse-whipping** a policeman outside the theatre.
- 20 May 1983 It was reported that **violent crimes** in Cheltenham had increased by nearly 50% on the previous year. In **December 1983** it was announced that crimes of **violence** and **damage** in the Cheltenham police division had risen by 40% during the year.
- 15 Oct 1984 It was announced that senior pupils of the **Cheltenham Ladies' College** were to be issued with **rape alarms**.
- 6 Sep 1985 Cheltenham **Social Security Staff** experienced **violence**, **threats** and **abuse** by angry claimants.
- 2 Jun 1987 Teams of detectives hunted for **thugs** responsible for a series of **brutal attacks** in Cheltenham.
- 17 Jun 1987 A **Social Services** report revealed Cheltenham had the most cases of reported **child abuse** anywhere in the county.

- 11 Jul 1987 A third **sex assault** in as many weeks occurred in Cheltenham.
 24 Mar 2000 The manager of **Cheltenham General Hospital** launched a **poster campaign** warning that **attacks** on staff and patients would not be tolerated.

CRIME – CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, STATUTES, &c.

- 1334 An inquisition established that ‘the townships of **Cheltenham, Arle, Alston, Westall, ... Charlton, Leckhampton** and **Swindon** have not kept watch according to the said Statute’.
- 4 May 1334 **Richard Golde**, of the tithing of **Alstone**, was fined for not **maintaining the ditch** between his holding and the **Chapel** of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Cheltenham Manor Court Roll)
- 1520s **Walter Pate**, the father of **Richard Pate**, founder of the **Grammar School**, was frequently mentioned in the **Cheltenham Manor Court Rolls** for **breaking the assize** (i.e. not using the standard weights and measures) as a butcher, baker and ...chandler. He also kept an inn, and was fined for overcharging.
- 28 Nov 1527 **Thomas Church** was ordered to remove his **dung heap** from the King’s highway at **Colamstrete** in **Leckhampton**.
- June 1528 In **Alstone** tithing it was ordered that ‘no beasts or sheep are to be pastured on the corn field called Sondfeld ..., on penalty of a fine of 6s 8d’. The tenants of **Bafford** tithing were ordered that ‘all pigs be kept ringed’ between August and February, presumably to manure the land without uprooting growing crops. [*These are typical of many such entries in the **Cheltenham Manor Court Rolls**.*]
- Jun 1528 **Robert** and **Thomas Goderich, John Higges** and **John Lovear** were fined for keeping their beasts in the cornfield called **Samfordesfeld**, in **Westal** tithing, **unhobbled** and wandering freely, thus disobeying the order of the **Manor Court**.
- Oct 1528 Every inhabitant of the tithing of **Westal** was ordered to ‘**repair** his own part of the **highway** between **Westall Grene** and the stone bridge, and the **bridge** itself, so that the King’s subjects can cross safely’.
- 1611 **Guy Dobbins** banged his drum through the town, **advertising** a play to be performed at the **Crown**, followed by numerous labourers, including one with a truncheon mimicking a marshallman. They refused to stop when ordered by the **Bailiff**, who was concerned about the **plague** at nearby **Tredington** and **Prestbury**, and were subsequently heavily fined.
- 31 Oct 1811 ‘As dangerous consequences may result from letting off **fireworks**, in this town, on the approaching 5th November, we trust our constables will strictly execute the duties of their offices, by apprehending every person who thus wantonly practice such illegal diversions.’ (*Cheltenham Chronicle*)
- 16 Feb 1816 A baker’s servant was fined 5s for **wheeling** his barrow on the **pavement** of the **High Street**, and refusing to tell his name when demanded by the Surveyor.
- 1830s The **Cheltenham Act of 1625** had established that a widow was entitled to ‘**freebench**’ of one third of her husband’s **copyhold land**, unless she had **agreed** to the sale of any of it during his lifetime. This right was dramatised in an extended court case during the 1830s involving the widow of **Col. Riddell**. Separated from his wife, the **Colonel** lived in **Cheltenham** from c.1800 until his death in 1825. During that time he bought and sold considerable amounts of property around the town. His widow seemed unaware of his death or any entitlement until **1830** when she started legal proceedings to recover her widow’s **freebench**. In 1835 the courts had found in her favour, and **Mrs Riddell** proceeded to enter many of the **Colonel’s** former properties in pursuance of her claims. Included amongst these was **8 St George’s Place** (now 22), that **Col. Riddell** had sold, with the garden land opposite, to **Dr Edward Jenner** in **November 1804**.
- 1834 **Badger-baiting** in **Charlton Kings** churchyard, where it was frequently held after the Sunday service, was stopped.
- 16 Dec 1837 **Westal Green** was to be enclosed, having been ‘of late years used exclusively for the purpose of **beating carpets** on’. The practice had caused much annoyance to local residents and had frightened passing horses.
- Jun 1840 **Lillian Smith** was accused by a fellow barber of **shaving** on a **Sunday**.
- Apr 1842 **Messrs. Olive & Harpin**, fishmongers, were fined 1s and 1/6d costs for permitting their **chimney** to be on **fire**.
- Apr 1842 **James Davis** was charged by **Beadle Williams** with **hawking fish** after one o’clock, and was fined 1/6d with 3/6d costs. He was fined again 2 months later for repeating the nuisance.
- Apr 1842 **Ellen Dogherty**, ‘a miserable-looking object with a child in her arms’ was charged with **begging** and ordered to leave town the following morning.

- Jul 1842 **Michael Smith** was fined 2/6d with expenses for **hawking** fruit in the **High Street** after the hours allowed. **Beadle Russell** stated that **Smith's** cries could be heard a quarter of a mile away.
- Jul 1842 **Thomas Twining** was fined 6d and 3/6d costs for carrying **hogs wash** at 7.25 a.m. contrary to the bye-laws.
- Jul 1842 **Thomas Spiers** was fined 2/6d with 4/6d costs for using his cart without having his **name painted** thereon.
- Sep 1842 **Joseph Hinton** was charged with going about with his arm in a sling, **begging**. His father explained that **Joseph** had recently put his shoulder out by falling into a privy. He was discharged, as there was no evidence against him.
- Nov 1842 **Mr Vaile**, auctioneer of the **Assembly Rooms**, was fined for unpacking crockery in the **High Street**.
- Jan 1844 The **Town Commissioners** issued fines for neglect of **cleansing** household frontages.
- Sep 1844 **William Naish** was fined 2s 6d, with costs of 3s 6d, for failing to answer a summons for carrying **hogwash** after permitted hours.
- Jan 1848 **John Finch** was fined 1s and costs for permitting his **chimney** to be on **fire**, and took the opportunity to say that the police acted very properly on the occasion.
- Jan 1848 Two vagrants, **Emmanuel Ryder** and **John Cooke**, were committed to **Northleach** for 14 days, having been found sleeping under a hayrick belonging to **John Page** in **Whaddon Lane**.
- Feb 1848 The magistrates' attention was called to the practise of gambling, ball playing and Bandy playing in the **Tewkesbury Road** on Sunday mornings. The previous Sunday there had been a party of 20 or 30 playing in the road, and about 1-200 in an adjoining field.
- Mar 1848 **Edward** and **George Shanks** were charged with sleeping in **Montpellier Avenue** in one of the boxes in which the shutters were kept. They said they lived in **Rutland Street** and their father had shut them out. The mother denied this, and the Bench disciplined them with a caution.
- Mar 1848 **John Fowles**, licenced fly driver, was fined 5s and costs for plying for hire near the **Assembly Rooms** on Monday night about 11 o'clock without having lighted lamps.
- 15 Jan 1849 **David Flynn**, a 'pretended deaf and dumb boy' was charged with **begging**. He had on him a paper on which was written 'This poor boy, that is dumb and cannot speak or ask but of himself, requests your charitable assistance for relief, and to the Lord God, may relieve your soul.' He was committed to **Northleach** for 14 days.
- 8 Feb 1849 **Harriot Hunt**, 30, was charged with sending her children out to **beg**, the girl singing in the street and the boy asking **alms**. The children were out in all kinds of weather, while the mother stayed in a lodging-house. **Hunt** said she had no home, and no means of making a livelihood, except a little occasional sewing. She was discharged by the Bench on promising to leave town.
- Apr 1849 **John Baylis** was charged with **beating carpets** against the **Old Wells** palings. The proprietor, **George Rowe**, did not wish any penalty inflicted, but wanted the practice stopped. **Baylis** was discharged on promising not to repeat the offence.
- 22 Dec 1849 **Patrick Conner**, an old man who had been in the army under the Duke of York in 1783, charged with **begging**, was discharged on promise to quit town. *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- 1852 The **New Town Act** was passed under which a number of offences were identified, including hawking, obstructing the pavement or roadway, and leaving horse/s and vehicles unattended.
- 1853 The **copyholders** of **Cheltenham** won a court case resisting increases in **manorial fees**, which had remained virtually unchanged for centuries. In 1843 **James Agg-Gardner**, a successful brewer in the town, had bought the **Manor of Cheltenham** from **Lord Sherborne** for £39,000, and his **steward** had imposed these increases on the **copyhold** tenants.
- May 1854 The **Public Office** fined a large number of local traders for using **inaccurate weights**.
- May 1854 **James Lediard**, an eminent bill sticker, was cautioned for placing **advertisement boards** on the public footway in **Winchcombe Street**. There was only one board and it was for charity for the wives and children of the Expeditionary Force (Crimean War). The Bench dismissed the case on the promise that the offence would not be repeated.
- Jun 1854 **George Potter** was charged with leaving a horse and wagon **unattended** in the street, and fined 1s, costs 7s. This was a safety issue, as illustrated by a case reported in Sep 1854; A horse and cart belonging to **Jordan** of **Charlton Kings** was left standing for a short time outside the shop of **Malvern**, brushmaker, **High Street**. The horse took fright and was driven in on the pavement against **Malvern's** window; then it ran against the plate glass from of **Voile & Co**. Several pounds worth of damage was caused.
- Jul 1854 **Samuel Collett**, greengrocer of **Sherborne Street** was charged with leaving empty vegetable baskets outside his house, partly on the **footpath** and partly in the gutter, for half an hour. **Collett** pleaded that he was an old soldier; he and his wife had 146 years between them; the baskets were there only until the cart came for the empties.

- Jul 1854 **Charles Winstone** was fined 6d, costs 7s, for leaving a truck load of stone opposite his stone yard in **Fairview Street** for 1½ hours, causing an **obstruction**. He said they were loading the largest stone in Cheltenham, intended for **Dr Colledge's** door. Meanwhile another truck load of stone had arrived from the railway station, and that had to wait outside the yard. Street obstruction was a common offence after the **Cheltenham Town Act of 1852**.
- Aug 1854 **Joseph Matthews** was fined 6d, costs 7s, for **hawking** dried fish in the streets. He claimed hardship, as he had no other way to earn a living. He was told by the Bench 'We cannot help it. We do not make the law. Our duty is to enforce it'. After the **Cheltenham Town Act of 1852** it was an offence to solicit for customers in the streets or to sell door to door. It was legal, however, to deliver to regular customers who had placed orders. The law may have been partly to prevent annoyance to residents, and partly to protect regular tradesmen with shops.
- Aug 1854 A 20-year-old woman, **Ann Stroud** from **Charlton Kings** was charged with being **drunk** and sleeping in a fly in the **George Hotel** yard. Her story was that she went with a friend to the railway station in the fly, and was to have been taken home afterwards. She had fallen asleep and was taken to the fly yard instead of home. She was dismissed with a reprimand for being drunk.
- Sep 1854 The **Sanitary Committee** was accused of exceeding its powers in an effort to combat **cholera**.
- 13 Sep 1854 **John Griffin** and **Emma Edwards** were found **fighting**, surrounded by a crowd of 200. They were bound over £10 to keep peace for 12 months.
- Feb 1855 Under the **Improvements Act of 1852**, the **Town Commissioners** levied fines for **throwing rubbish** into local streams.
- Feb 1858 Fines were levied for opening into **sewers** without permission.
- 1863 A 4-day inquiry was held into the claims of the new **Lord of the Manor, Robert Sole Lingwood**, solicitor, who had bought the **Manor** as a business speculation in **1862**. He pressed the **copyholders** to enfranchise their property (*i.e.* convert it to freehold) at their great cost, and advised them that he would be **claiming** for any timber felled, or clay dug for brickmaking, on copyhold property without permission of the **Lord of the Manor**. The copyholders' solicitor quoted from the **Domesday** entry and the **Cheltenham Act of 1625** as evidence against **Lingwood's** proposals. Elderly **copyholders** witnessed that no forfeit had ever been paid for timber and clay since the days of **Lord Sherborne**. The **copyholders** won their case, and the **Manor of Cheltenham** continued to collect only nominal rents and fines until **copyhold tenure** was finally abolished in an **Act of 1925**.
- Mar 1864 **Shackleford's Wagon Works** were fined one shilling for causing **smoke nuisance**.
- Feb 1868 A baker, **Frederick Constable**, was fined for not **weighing** a fancy loaf before selling it.
- Apr 1868 **Thomas Harper** of the *Cheltenham Mercury* was accused of offences by the **Factory Inspector**.
- Mar 1869 **Police Inspector Chipp** accused the **Inspector of Nuisances, Mr Morgan**, of using **foul language**.
- Oct 1869 Five town bakers were summonsed, accused of **adulterating** their **bread** with **alum**.
- 13 Nov 1871 **Christopher Lane** was summonsed for selling **fireworks** at his shop in **Great Norwood Street** without a licence.
- 7 Oct 1874 A milkman was fined £1 for selling **adulterated milk**, the first case of its kind in Cheltenham.
- Sep 1876 **Charles Bradley** protested at his second fine for not having his child **vaccinated** against smallpox, an offence under the **Vaccination Act of 1871**. In **1876, 8 vaccination defaulters** were fined up to 10s or 14 days imprisonment, with costs of 8s 6d.
- Dec 1876 **Arthur Heavens Smith**, solicitor, was released from prison after non-payment of costs in the **Postlip Mills** river fouling case.
- May 1877 The manager of the **Co-operative Stores** in **Clarence Street** was found guilty of selling bread without **weighing** it.
- Jan 1878 The **Town Hall (Regent Street)** manager was accused in court of having **insufficient urinals**.
- Nov 1878 The Police Court fined 10 men for refusing to comply with the **Vaccination Act**.
- 21 Jul 1884 A youth named **Edward Green** was fined 5s with 11s 6d costs for ringing **Mr Vent's** doorbell and then running away. The Bench considered him an example of the 'young ruffians who turned the **High Street** into a bear garden on Sunday evenings'.
- 31 Jul 1884 Two boys, **Matthew** and **Robert Long**, were ordered to pay the costs, of 5s 6d each, of the case brought against them for **flying a kite** in the highway.
- Dec 1885 Three offenders were charged and fined for **sliding** in the **Promenade**.
- Feb 1886 A well-dressed man, **Richard Mason**, was charged with **begging** in **Portland Square**. He had been out of the **Workhouse** for a week, and was found with a small amount of change and some bread and cheese. The police superintendent said that 'no bona fide workman would go about begging, but the men who were usually caught committing the offence were lazy persons who did not want to work'. **Mason** was sentenced to 7 days hard labour.

- Mar 1886 **Henry Tanner** was fined 5s, with costs, for **snowballing** in **Hewlett Street**. He gave his wrong name to the police and said he only threw one snowball at someone who had hit him in the ear with one.
- Sep 1887 Sixteen local tradesmen signed a letter **protesting** about the **nuisance** of boys selling the *Echo*.
- Sep 1888 **George Mutlow Abell**, a solicitor of **Rodney Place**, was fined for **fishing** in **Dowdeswell Reservoir**.
- Sep 1892 The **Health Department** brought prosecutions for **illegal pig-keeping** and failure to empty a **manure pit**.
- May 1893 **Felicia Morgan** was fined 10s for allowing her dog onto the **Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground** (Pittville Park).
- Apr 1894 **William J.R. Chetwynd** was fined 40s for exposing the public to **scarlet fever** by being on the streets.
- Apr 1897 **Dorcas Craddock** was **finned** under the Food & Drugs Act for selling **adulterated milk**.
- Aug 1898 **Francis Howard Aucott**, a High Street butcher, was **finned** for selling **unfit meat**.
- Jul 1899 The **police** were criticised for enforcing a new bye-law concerning the **lighting** of **vehicles**.
- Feb 1900 **Newspaper boys** were fined for annoying **F.T. Daniel, Esq.** with their **cries**.
- Oct 1900 **Catherine Wilson**, 'Madame de Mudella', was sentenced for practising **fortune-telling**.
- Apr 1901 **Thomas W. Smith** of **Exmouth Street** was fined for not posting **Factory Act** notices.
- Apr 1901 **Josiah John Lane** was fined for not having a **safe** circular saw.
- Apr 1901 **Smith Bros.** of **Albion Street** and **Leckhampton** were fined for having **unprotected** circular saws and shafts. An employee, **W.J. Day** lost 3 fingers.
- Apr 1901 A mineral water manufacturer, **Seager & Co.**, was fined for its staff not wearing **protective** clothing.
- Apr 1901 **Shillingford Engineering**, of the **Trusty Engine Works** at **Lansdown**, was fined for not **protecting** rotating machinery.
- Feb 1902 A **steam organ nuisance** occurred on the **Athletic Ground** when the proprietor of the Roundabout was fined for its loud music.
- Mar 1903 The **police** were instructed to charge anyone **dropping orange peel** on the pavements.
- Jul 1903 The **Education Authority** fined 14 parents for their children's **absenteeism** from school.
- Jan 1904 **Fred Woodward** and **Albert Lewis** were fined for allowing their **chimneys** to catch **fire**.
- Jun 1904 **Cavendish House** was fined for **employing** a young girl for **excessive hours**.
- Oct 1904 **Elsie Sylvia Cole**, 'Madame Sylvia', was fined for practising **palmistry** in **Clarence Street**.
- Mar 1905 'Madame Meredith' was fined for practising **palmistry** at the Trades Exhibition in the **Winter Gardens**.
- May 1905 **John N. Corbett**, farmer, **illegally employed** women on **Sundays** at his **Promenade Creamery**.
- Mar 1906 **Thomas Brunskill**, a 12-year-old, was fined 1s for **extinguishing gas lamps** with a long stick.
- 14 Sep 1939 The first **fine** in Cheltenham was imposed for infringement of the **blackout regulations**, at the **Majestic Hotel**, the **Park**.
- Oct 1939 A local man was **finned** 5s for **shooting a homing pigeon**, valued as a lifesaver during wartime.
- 4 Jan 1940 The local **bus company** was in court charged with showing more than the **permitted amount** of **interior light**.
- 3 Jun 1985 **Pollution experts** toured **Kingsditch Lane** factories after fish were found **poisoned** by dumped **toxic industrial waste**.
- 1 Feb 1989 A major Cheltenham bookseller defied the **Sunday trading ban** by opening to the public.
- 12 Oct 1993 A 10-month-old baby of **Orchard Avenue** received a court summons for failing to pay a £26.26 **poll tax** bill.

CRIME –DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR, DRUNKENNESS, &c.
(Including Licensing Offences)

- 3 Apr 1815 'We are sorry to state that the irreverent conduct of several **disorderly** labourers of **Charlton**, on the Sabbath Day, has called forth an order for the Church Wardens to arrest future offenders. We trust they will do away the necessity of punishment by fulfilling their sacred duties in future.'
(*Cheltenham Chronicle*)
- 1829 Following the preaching by the **Rev. Francis Close** against the **evils** of **horse racing**, **mobs** threw missiles at horses and riders at the racecourse on **Cleeve Hill**. The following year the great **grandstand** at the course mysteriously **burned** down.
- Aug 1839 **Thomas Fitzgerald** was charged with being **drunk** and **swearing** 3 oaths during divine service on Sunday morning. He was fined 3s and 1s expenses.

- Aug 1839 **Norris Johnson** was charged with being **drunk** and **assaulting** a number of police officers, kicking, biting and tearing at their clothes. He behaved in such a riotous manner at the **Station House** that he was obliged to be put in irons. He was fined £2 with 5s expenses.
- Apr 1842 The landlord of the **Dolphin Inn**, **Henry Yearsley**, was charged with allowing **disorderly** people to meet at his house. He claimed to be out of town at the time and promised to turn out all bad characters in future. He was fined 10s with 3/6d costs.
- Apr 1842 **Mary Sturch** and **Elizabeth Price** were committed to **Northleach** for 2 months for **shouting** and **cursing** in **Albion Street**.
- 6 Jan 1849 **Thomas Goulding** and **Mary Jones** were fined 5s and costs for being **drunk** and lying in the street in a state of instability. The female prisoner had to be taken to the Station House in a truck.
- 8 Dec 1849 '**John Lowe**, a lad in a smock frock, was charged with being **drunk** and **disorderly**. He stated that he was the **Earl of Fitzhardinge**, and insisted upon being admitted to the **Plough Hotel**. He said "When I gets a drop of drink in me I'm clean off my 'yed'." He was reprimanded and discharged.' *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- 1 Oct 1851 **Caroline Wolzencroft**, 'a notorious nymph of the pave', well-known to the Bench, was charged with her usual offence of **drunkenness**, **disorderly** conduct and making use of **obscene language** in the **High Street**. 'The prisoner, who was veiled, and dressed in the trumpery finery so peculiar to her class, begged hard for forgiveness, and candidly admitted that her memory was really so exceedingly treacherous, that she did not remember the trifling circumstance of being taken to her commodious lodgings at the "barracks".' *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- 1852 **Caroline Wolzencroft**, of police notoriety, was charged with annoying **Mrs Elizabeth Mayer** of **65 Regent Street**. There was supposedly some 'tender connection' between **Wolzencroft** and **Mayer's** son, which led to **Wolzencroft** knocking furiously at their door one night until 5 a.m. **Wolzencroft** was bound over to be of good behaviour for 6 months.
- 10 Mar 1852 '**William Forest**, of pugilistic notoriety', was charged with being **drunk** and **disorderly**, and evincing his pugnacious propensities by offering for the consideration of 2d ... to serve the superintendent out by giving him "a jolly good thrashing, and lowering him a peg or two". ...The prisoner, instead of knocking the Supt. Down, was himself floored and was accommodated for his rash hardiness by a night sojourn in the Station House. ...' *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Apr 1852 **Thomas Lewis**, the keeper of **Dawson's Dublin Stout House**, **Lower High Street** was fined 5s with 7/6d costs for selling beer **after hours**. **Supt. Seyes** regretted to state that Lower High Street had 'become very disorderly in consequence of the numerous beer shops in the vicinity'.
- Sep 1852 On almost her 40th appearance before the Magistrates, **Caroline Wolzencroft** was found guilty of being **drunk** and **disorderly**. When in the dock, she appeared to be affected with tremors, and had to be assisted by the constable. She had been creating a disturbance in **Regent Street** and the **Promenade**. She was committed to **Northleach** for 14 days.
- Oct 1852 **Catherine Mahone**, an elderly teetotaler [*she claimed not to have touched a drop for 12 months*] was brought up for the 40th time on a charge of **drunkenness**. **PC Dash** reported that he had found the prisoner at about five o'clock in the afternoon quite drunk in the **Promenade**.
- Apr 1853 **Catherine Mahone**, 83, once again appeared before the Magistrates on a charge of being **drunk** and **disorderly**. The Bench suggested she should be admitted to the **Workhouse**, but **Mr Wilson** of the **Board of Guardians** 'begged to decline any interference with her'! As she had no money to pay a fine, she was, as usual, allowed to depart.
- Apr 1854 **Stephen Yearsley**, solicitor, was charged with being **drunk** and **disorderly**.
- Jun 1854 **Henry Martin**, landlord of the **Cleveland Arms**, **Tewkesbury Road**, was fined for being open during the hours of divine service. This was quite a common offence, the usual excuses being that the drinkers were lodgers, the landlord was absent or the Parish Church clock was always wrong. The maximum penalty was 40s.
- 21 Dec 1858 The landlord of the **Brave Old Oak** was summoned for selling beer **out of hours** on **Sunday**. The man to whom the beer was supplied before 12 o'clock was a lodger in the house, who was getting some bread, cheese and beer for his breakfast. The magistrates decided that even a lodger has no right to get beer. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* agreed with this decision, but thought that, if carried out to its fullest extent, it would prevent a gentleman at **The Royal**, **The Plough** or **The Queens** having a drink, before 12.30pm on Sundays, or even with his dinner between 3 and 5. 'Of course, however, policemen never dare attempt to meddle with such establishments.'
- Aug 1862 Two policemen were accidentally injured by a **mob** in the **Lower High Street**.
- May 1864 The inhabitants of **Tewkesbury Road** appealed for **police protection**.
- May 1864 **Enoch Hill**, landlord of the **Portland Ale & Porter Stores**, was fined for selling beer **out of hours**.
- Apr 1870 An inquest was held on a man killed in a **drunken brawl** in the **High Street**.

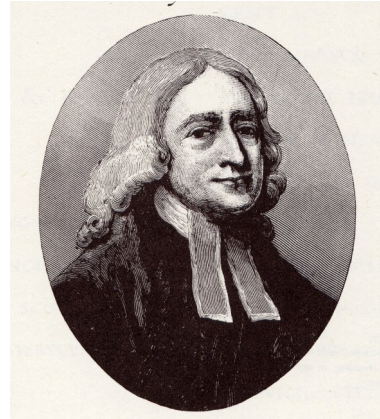
- May 1870 Complaints were made about the **drunken crowd** that gathered in **Rutland Street** on Sunday evenings.
- Nov 1872 A case of **drunkenness** was just one of many frequently occurring in **Rutland Street**.
- Nov 1874 A '**notorious house**' in **St Paul's Street South** was referred to in a **drunkenness** case.
- 1876 **Mary-Anne Smith**, 'a wretched looking object', was charged with being **drunk**, and was fined 10s with 4s 6d costs or 14 days at **Gloucester Gaol**.
- May 1878 **Messrs Stallard** lost an appeal against a conviction for the **unlicensed** sale of **spirits**.
- Nov 1881 **Tom Cook**, landlord of the **Lamb Tap, Albion Street**, was fined for selling **spirits** without a licence.
- Jan 1888 'Amazons' of **Rutland Street** appeared in the Police Court for **brawling**.
- Dec 1888 A woman called simply **Lettie**, and known to be no stranger to the **bottle**, was discovered by a PC so **incapable** in **American Way** that she had to be conveyed to the police station in a borrowed sack truck.
- Aug 1889 A letter appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner* complaining of **beggars** and **rowdy boys** in the streets.
- Oct 1890 The police opposed renewal of a **licence** for the **Adam & Eve** public house as there were already 16 other licensed premises within 220 yards.
- Sep 1891 Employees of **Messrs. Webb**, coal merchants, were charged with being **drunk and disorderly** during their excursion to Evesham.
- Sep 1893 It was suggested that there was need for a **policeman** to control **crowds** at the **theatre** entrance.
- Jul 1903 A **mob** stoned the house of **Mr Sheppard**, who had objected to the **noise** made by a **steam organ** on the **Athletic Ground**.
- Jan 1904 Six young men were charged with causing a nuisance with their **drunken carol-singing** in **Montpellier Terrace**.
- Apr 1904 **Soyer's Hotel** in **Imperial Square** was granted a **licence** for a **restaurant** despite opposition from the **police** and the **Queen's Hotel**.
- Oct 1904 **Rose Martha Lippett** of **Cakebridge Terrace** was prosecuted for **child neglect** under the **Habitual Drunkards Act** and sent to a **Home for Inebriates** for 2 years.
- 9 Feb 1967 The Cheltenham **Licensing Justices** expressed great concern over **drinking** amongst young people.
- 5 Jun 1971 50 **Hell's Angels** from Essex, Bristol and the Midlands visited the town and caused £1,000 of **damage**.
- Sep 1975 Gangs of youths continuously **harassed** residents of **Up Hatherley**.

CRIME – DRIVING OFFENCES

- 16 Feb 1816 A post-boy, **William Lewis**, on the summons of the Surveyor, was fined 40s for '**furiously driving** a post-chaise through the public streets, to the imminent danger of the passengers'.
- Apr 1842 **John Partridge**, in the employ of **Thomas Wasley**, was fined 3s and costs for riding on the shafts of a waggon.
- May 1842 **William Rind** was fined for passing through the **Lansdown Gate** with a gig without paying the toll. **John Harris**, driver of a mail coach, was fined for breaking the windows of the tollhouse at **Lansdown Gate** when he was kept waiting at 3 o'clock one morning.
- Jul 1842 **John Cleave** was fined 5s and 4/6d costs for **furiously driving** a butcher's cart in **Sherborne Street**, by which means a child was knocked down and driven over.
- Mar 1869 Two fly drivers, **Lawrence** and **William Piper** were fined 2s 6d and 5s respectively for leaving their flies **unattended**, whilst **William Piper** was cautioned for **furious driving**.
- Apr 1870 Several correspondents complained in the *Cheltenham Examiner* of the **nuisance** caused every evening in the **High Street** by numbers of men and boys racing on **velocipedes** and **bicycles**.
- Oct 1877 **Thomas Bedwell** sued **Mr Stocks** for the death of his mare in a **collision**.
- Oct 1895 A man was **fined** 1s for failing to ring his **bicycle bell** when passing a crossing after sunset.
- Feb 1898 One of 57 carriage drivers waiting outside the **theatre** was charged with **obstruction**.
- Feb 1898 **Major John Hargreaves** of **Leckhampton Court** was charged with forcing a **cyclist** off the road in the **Promenade**.
- Mar 1899 A Bristol motorist was fined for **driving furiously** in a motor car in **Pittville Street**.
- Jun 1900 An organ-grinder named **Gizzi** sued **Mr Talbot** for causing horses to wreck her organ. The jury completely misunderstood the case.
- Mar 1903 **William Garbutt** of **Ormond Place** was fined for **exceeding** 6 mph in his **car** in **Gloucester**.
- Jun 1903 A **motorist** was fined £2 for **recklessly driving** his car at 20 mph in **Bath Road**.



'Maud's Elm', Swindon Road



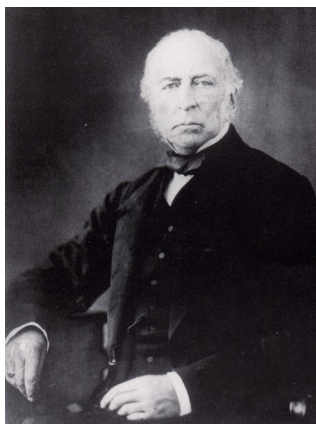
John Wesley
(1703—1791)



Memorial beneath the Rose Window in the
Parish Church to Mrs Katherine A'Court
d.1776



Stocks at Charlton Kings dating from 1763



Anthony T. Lefroy, Esq.
first Chief Constable of
Gloucestershire 1839—1865



Members of the Gloucestershire Constabulary at
Northleach c.1860

- Jul 1903 **Frank Ballinger** was fined £5 for **furious motor driving** at **Pittville** resulting in a third party injury. At this time several fines were imposed on motorists caught speeding (15 mph).
- Jan 1904 **Beatrice Bethington** was fined 5s for **wheeling** her **bicycle** on the pavement in the **Promenade**.
- Sep 1904 **Edward Moulder** was fined for **racing** his butcher's cart in **Prestbury Road**.
- Apr 1905 **Capt. Cecil Elwes** was convicted of **driving furiously** in the **Promenade** at 20 mph.
- 24 Jan 1952 The town's first **zebra crossing** prosecution occurred following an infringement in the **Promenade**.
- 31 Mar 1979 Angry **motorcyclists** rode through Cheltenham helmetless to protest against a new law forcing them to wear **crash helmets**.
- 31 Dec 1984 85 people, including 30 pedestrians, had been **injured** during the previous 5 years as the result of **accidents** on major Cheltenham roads within the **Inner Ring road system**.
- 28 May 2000 Police threw a **cordon** around Cheltenham to head off around 2,000 cars invading the town to take part in the biggest illegal '**cruise**' rally.

CRIME – FRAUD

- 1820 **Dr Adam Neale** published a letter that cast doubt on the genuineness of the **Cheltenham waters**. Although this was immediately refuted in a letter from **Dr Jameson**, it was found that **Epsom Salts** had been thrown daily into one of the wells.
- 13 Apr 1835 **John Forbes**, architect of **Pittville Pump Room**, was found guilty of **forging** bills of exchange in the name of his employer, **Mr Prosser**, to pay personal bills. **Forbes** was sentenced to transportation for life, but this was commuted to a term of imprisonment after a petition containing over 4,000 signatures, including those of the members of the jury, was presented to the Crown.
- Jun 1842 **James Roberts** was charged with **coining counterfeit** fourpenny pieces from a compound of zinc and lead. He was committed for trial to the assizes as this was considered a serious offence.
- 18 Mar 1848 '**Fraud** – A man dressed as a sailor went into a Cheltenham grocer's shop and offered for sale a packet of tea. The tradesman wishing to taste it, the sailor opened a corner of the packet and took out a small quantity which proved to be excellent. The money was paid, and the sailor left another packet until he called again. On inspecting his purchase, the tradesman found that the packet was chiefly composed of sawdust; a small quantity of tea was enclosed in lead being placed in the corner, from which the rogue took the sample.' *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- Jul 1848 **Charles Grey**, a baker of **Clarence Street**, was accused of distributing **inferior bread** for the **Board of Guardians**.
- 3 Dec 1857 Two men carried out a **scam** in **St George's Street**, whereby they dropped a small parcel containing brooches that appeared to be of value. A woman picked up the parcel, and refusing to give it up, she was persuaded to give the men £1 10s to retain the treasure she had found. When they had gone, she discovered the value of the jewellery to be about 2s. To cap it all she discovered that 9s 5d had been taken from her pocket while she was talking to the men.
- 1859 When the headmaster of the **Grammar School**, **Dr Edward Rupert Humphreys**, absconded to America, it was discovered that all the books and lectures produced under his name since **1855** were the work of **Mr H. Owgam** of **Clifton**, who 'ghosted' all this work for **Dr Humphreys** for a substantial fee.
- Aug 1863 **Henry Forty** and **Richard Maisey** were accused of **defrauding** the **Steeplechase Committee**.
- May 1870 A lady was caught **fraudulently cashing a cheque** at the department store, **Debenham & Freebody**.
- Feb 1875 A well-known local commercial traveller, **Samuel Birks**, was charged with **fraud**.
- Feb 1878 The Cheltenham branch of the **Gloucester & Western Counties Bank** was involved in bank **fraud**.
- Jun 1881 A saddler named **H.J. Maule** was convicted of **malpractice**.
- Feb 1882 **Frederick Langford Pruen** pleaded guilty in the Crown Court for **forging a cheque** and was sentenced to 15 months hard labour. In **May 1882** he was removed from the Rolls of the Incorporated Law Society, and in **May 1883** he was re-arrested on another charge of **forgery** – he had presented a **forged** bill of exchange for £1,100.
- May 1887 **George Barrow**, a jeweller, faced allegations of **forgery** at the first meeting of his creditors.
- Jan 1889 **Walter Gaskins**, ex-rate collector of Prestbury who had been sentenced for **fraud**, was released from prison.
- Dec 1890 **William Colburn Verity**, a pawnbroker, was charged with **fraud** and involvement in **forgery**.
- Oct 1894 A **Bus Company** conductor was convicted for **fraud** for reissuing used bus tickets

- Mar 1897 **Arthur Stone** faced a long list of charges of committing **fraud** in local shops.
- Feb 1898 **F.H. Cliffe**, a failed author, was examined in **bankruptcy** and faced allegations of **fraud**.
- Dec 1898 **Frederick James Davis**, a bankrupt outfitter of the **High Street**, owed £1150. He was alleged to have been involved in a **conspiracy** with **J.H. Preece**.
- Jan 1900 **Edwin Alfred Dunn** was fined £2.16s for not having a rail ticket.
- Jun 1900 A meeting at the **British Union Inn** led to **fraud** charges over property in **Painswick Road**.
- May 1902 The Borough Surveyor, **Joseph Hall**, was alleged to have received £1,000 from **Mr Nevins** of the **Tramway Authority** in a ‘serious **breach of contract**’.
- Jul 1903 At the **Union Workhouse fraud** was implied in the method of tendering for groceries.
- May 1905 The **bankruptcy** of **Harold Claude de Vigne**, a ‘character reader’ of **Regent Street**, was alleged to be **fraudulent**.
- Jun 1905 **Ernest Hicks** was convicted of **fraud** for dishonestly claiming to be collecting for the **Police Mission Soup Kitchen**.
- Aug 1905 **Mr Finimore** was accused of producing **quack medicines** while in the employ of **J. Brunskill**.
- Aug 1905 **The Original Brewery** was involved when an alleged **fraud** by **Lewis Hunt** with regard to the **Berkeley Arms** was heard by local Magistrates. **Lewis Hunt**, the former landlord of the **Berkeley Arms** had uttered a **false deed** for the pub, and was sentenced to 7 years in prison.
- Nov 1905 At the **Original Brewery** annual meeting it was announced that profits were down due to **fraud** and the high unemployment of their working men.
- Mar 1906 **Richard Gibbins** sued **Matilda Andrews**, **Florence Bliss**, and **Maude Waine** for selling a house they did not own.
- 13 Mar 1980 An intensive drive by police unearthed **forged** Cheltenham Festival **racing tickets**.
- 21 Jul 1993 **The Axiom Centre** in **Winchcombe Street** was granted a reprieve from **closure** and given 18 months to create an **arts centre**. This closed in **February 2000** amid allegations of **fraud**.

CRIME - ILLEGITIMACY

- 19 Apr 1827 Five Guineas Reward – Whereas a male child, about a week or nine days old, was left at the **Sun** public house in a new Basket, purchased of **Mr Maule**, Basket Maker, Cheltenham, between three and four o’clock of Saturday the 14th instant, by a Woman of middle stature, thin face, and dark complexion; about 22 or 23 years of age. She had on a dark flowered gown, black willow bonnet, apparently dusty, and a little the worse for wear. She had a bundle in her hand tied up in a blue handkerchief. *Notice is hereby given* that whoever will give such information as may lead to the discovery and conviction of the **inhuman mother**, shall receive the above Reward, by applying to **Mr Peter Butt**, Guardian of the Poor.’ (*Cheltenham chronicle*)
- May 1844 **Eliza Hinton** was charged with leaving a child at the house of **T. Sheldon**, solicitor, and breaking his windows. The child was 7 months old and **Sheldon** said it was two years since he knew **Hinton**. **Hinton** was discharged on giving a promise not to go near **Sheldon**, the Bench commenting that it was not for them to decide who the father was, but the **Board of Guardians**.
- 1 Jan 1849 ‘**John Lowe** was summoned for neglecting to obey an order of the magistrates for the support of an illegitimate child of which **Mary Cloudsley** had been delivered, by which a debt of £7 16s had been incurred. He was committed to **Northleach** for one month.’ *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- 10 Feb 1849 ‘**Neighbour Higgins** was charged for neglecting to obey an order of the magistrates for a weekly payment for the **support** of an **illegitimate** child of which **Rebecca Spragg** had been delivered, by which a debt of 24s had been incurred. He said he had a wife and 8 children, and the child was brought opposite his home to annoy his wife – ordered to pay.’ *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- 21 Jan 1852 ‘**Charles Bryant**, a journeyman bootmaker, was summoned to answer some delicate questions relating to the support of an “**interesting stranger**” presented to him by **Ann Artless**. Instead of putting in an appearance, he gave leg bail. ... The Bench ordered the gay Lothario to pay ... The complainant will have to bear in mind Mrs. Glasse’s advice on cookery, “first catch your hare”, before you can recover the magisterial reward.’ *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- 1 Sep 1852 ‘**William Dowler**, a village Adonis, was summoned to answer a few queries touching on the birth of an **interesting stranger**, of which **Anne Cooke** alleged he was the putative father, but the defendant repudiated the ties of kindred, and consequently refused to maintain the infant specimen of humanity, which nestled in the maternal arms. ... The gossip of the village at one period alleged that **William** was the favourite swain, whilst at another time it was too apparent she had transferred her affection to **George** or **Joshua** ... The Bench adjourned the case until Thursday in order to afford further evidence as to the identity of the real Simon Pure.’ *Cheltenham Examiner*.

CRIME – LIBEL & SLANDER

- Feb 1843 The *Cheltenham Chronicle* accused the *Cheltenham Examiner* of **libel** and **slander**.
- Nov 1852 **Earl Fitzhardinge** brought a **libel** case against **H. Davies** of the *Cheltenham Chronicle*.
- Apr 1857 **John Beard**, a **High Street** clothier, sued a rival **High Street** clothier for **slander**.
- Mar 1872 The *Cheltenham Examiner* editor accused the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of ‘**libellous twaddle**’.
- Nov 1874 **John Bingham** was charged with serious **libel** against the **Rev. William** and **Mrs Boyce**. A warrant was issued for **Bingham’s** arrest in **December 1875**, and he pleaded **guilty** at the **Gloucester Assizes** in **August 1875**. **Bingham** died the following **January**.
- Jun 1882 A former **Ladies’ College** boarding house lady, **Mrs Finn**, brought a **libel action** against **Miss Lucy March Phillipps**, a member of the **Ladies’ College Council**. **Mrs Finn** had complained that she had not received enough boarders and demanded compensation for the costs of equipping her rented premises. **Miss Phillipps** had written to her saying her account of her perceived wrongs was unreliable and full of misrepresentations. The case opened in the Queens Bench during which **Mrs Finn** made further accusations against the **Ladies’ College**. Judgement was given 2 years later, and although the arbitrator found **for Mrs Finn** over the libel, directing the **Ladies’ College** to pay her costs, he dismissed all her other claims, ordering her to pay the rent that she owed and all the costs of the arbitration.
- Jun 1889 The wife of **Col. William Hill** and the daughter of **Dr Morley Rooke** sued the *Sportsman* for **damages** in a Lawn Tennis **libel** case.
- Jan 1890 **George Mutlow Abell** served a **writ** on the *Cheltenham Examiner* claiming £2,000 **damages** for a **libellous comment**. The case was **dismissed** in **March 1870**.
- Jun 1891 The **Rev. C.E. Lefroy-Austin**, Deputy headmaster of the **Cheltenham College** Junior department, won a **libel** case.
- Feb 1895 **Henry George Margrett**, Town Councillor and money-lender, was sued for **slander** by **Mr W. Symons Smith**, solicitor.
- Jul 1900 **Francis Wheeler** sued the proprietors of the *Cheltenham Mercury* for **libel** and was awarded **damages** of £100.
- Feb 1905 **Charles Frederick Parsons** was awarded a **farthing** in **damages** in his **slander** versus **Hunt**.

CRIME - MISCELLANEOUS

- 1310-14 **John Gode** of Cheltenham, an excommunicated person, was in Cheltenham **prison** for 4 years for not acknowledging the **Bishop of Worcester’s** decision in the **Gloucester Consistory Court** that he was to marry **Juliana Scot**.
- 8 Aug 1527 **Elena Barks** was fined as a common **eavesdropper**.
- 1619 Local farmers and the Justice of the Peace resisted warrants to destroy local **tobacco** crops.
- 1634 The **Privy Council** sent **William King** to destroy **tobacco** crops, and he reported that there were considerable quantities being grown in Winchcombe, **Cheltenham**, Tewkesbury, Gotherington, **Arle** and **Charlton Kings**.
- 1652 An **Act** was passed prohibiting the planting of **tobacco** in England, but was met with a petition from the local growers, who were then permitted to keep the crop planted ‘for this year only’. The same concession was granted the following year.
- 1658 A troop of 36 horse, led by **John Beaman**, was sent from **Gloucester** to destroy the **tobacco** plantations. They were driven back by the inhabitants and local magistrates, and **Beaman** retreated to **Gloucester** reporting that ‘Abundance of tobacco there is about **Cheltenham**, and very good. I think that 10 men cannot destroy it in four days’.
- 1675 **Cheltenham** was described as populated by people ‘much given to plant **tobacco**, though they are suppressed by authority’. (Ogliby)
- 1691 A **Cheltenham** miller, **Richard Teale**, demanded **compensation** from the **Government** following the destruction of a small field of **tobacco** he had planted ‘in ignorance of the law’.
- 23 Dec 1749 A notice in the *Gloucester Journal* announced that **Anne**, the wife of **Richard King**, a cordwainer of **Charlton Kings**, had eloped from her husband – ‘Do not trust her – pay no debts!’
- c.1773 The **Rev. Winterbotham** recalled that at this time, when he was about 10 years old, there were 2 aged sisters in Cheltenham who were suspected of being **witches**. They, with their cat, were the ‘terror of the neighbourhood’, and, being poor, they begged from their neighbours ‘who were afraid to refuse them anything’. When they died they were refused a proper burial, neither having even a coffin. Winterbotham saw one of these ‘victims of folly’ dragged on a cart, followed by a noisy rabble, and buried in a piece of boggy ground outside the town without ceremony.

- Jun 1812 **Mr Chapman** of the **Rose & Crown** was fined 40s for refusing to provide dinners for soldiers of a detachment the day after their arrival in the town. Publicans were required to provide this fare under the Act of Parliament for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, as well as on the day of their arrival.
- 9 Aug 1814 After committing **suicide** by drinking vitriol, **Sarah Humphries** was buried at a crossroad that was said to lead to **Swindon Village** via the **Marsh**. This was the last crossroad burial in the Cheltenham neighbourhood.
- Dec 1840 It was found that the parish pews for the use of the **Grammar School** were being **let illegally** by **Pate's Charity**.
- Apr 1842 A lad named **John Solyman** was charged by the Governor of the **Workhouse**, **William Porter**, with **disorderly conduct**, refusing to work and using 'violent language of the basest kind'. **Porter** described him as 'the vilest character that ever was in the world'. While working in the potato bury, **Solyman** had been throwing rotten potatoes at the other boys. When ordered to leave he said he'd be 'b-----d' if he would, and had to be dragged out by force. He was committed to **Northleach** for 21 days.
- Jun 1842 The **Rev. D.L. Cousins** was charged with **negligence** of his duties as the **Workhouse** chaplain.
- 16 Jul 1842 'None of the "Great Unpaid" (*i.e.* **Magistrates**) honoured the office with their presence this morning, and accordingly, at a few minutes before 12 o'clock, the prisoners were taken back to the Station House.' *Cheltenham Free Press*.
- Feb 1844 The Stewards of the **Prestbury Friendly Society** were fined for refusing relief according to the Articles.
- 8 Feb 1844 A hamper containing a coffin of a baby boy was delivered from **Lansdown Station**, via the **Royal Hotel**, to the **Rev. Francis Close** at **The Grange, Bayshill**. An inquest concluded that it had a cruel practical joke had been played – the body was never identified.
- Mar 1844 **Rowell**, a farmer at **Swindon Village**, was charged with **shooting** a tame pigeon belonging to **John Barnard**. As both parties kept pigeons, the Bench assumed a genuine mistake had been made. Charge dismissed.
- 1848 The **Post Office** faced allegations of illegal **opening of mail**.
- Feb 1848 **Isaac Sallis** was fined 5s with 3/6d costs for **cruelly** using 2 poor half-starved horses in the street.
- Apr 1848 The **Post Office** was accused of illegally **opening mail**.
- 8 Jan 1849 **Richard Sampson** was charged with leaving a wife and child **chargeable to the Parish**. He said he had given his wife £5 seven weeks before, when she left him to go home. She bothered him for more money, but he said he would not allow her any more for 3 months as bills had come in 'for dresses she has had off the packman'. The Bench said it was a great misfortune that he should have such a wife, but he must pay the Parish. He was recommended to allow her a certain sum per week if he did not live with her.
- Feb 1850 **William Clark** admitted to a charge of being a **deserter** from HM 4th Regt of Foot. He deserted at Winchester the previous summer, and was committed to **Northleach** until communication could be made to his regiment.
- May 1855 **Lilian Boodle** was accused of erecting an **obstruction** by the **Leckhampton Commissioners**.
- Aug 1852 **Mr Ruck**, of the **Montpellier Baths**, sued the **Improvement Commissioners** for **damages** after a flood. He sued them again in **August 1857**.
- Oct 1861 Three French prisoners of war were brought to Cheltenham. They consisted of 3 Generals, including **General Lefevre**, and several privates.
- 3 Mar 1865 'The notorious **Ty Wooster**, who married **Mrs Hulbert**, the widow of a former proprietor of the **Lamb Hotel**, has at last got his quietus. After playing off all kinds of swindling dodges, and suffering divers terms of incarceration for the same, he turned his attention once more to matrimony, and came to grief therefrom. At the Northumberland Assizes last week upon a conviction for **bigamy**, he was sentenced to 7 years penal servitude.' *Cheltenham Mercury*.
- 5 May 1868 Three young men were spotted at midnight running hastily across the **High Street** from the **Plough Hotel**, one carrying a ladder which was quickly placed against the shop of **Mr Hollingsworth**, tobacconist. The men attempted to lift down the **Scotsman** from the balcony where it was riveted to the wall. A bucket of water was poured from an upstairs window and 'the luckless wight on the ladder' caught the whole stream, while the other two men escaped. Then he was taken into custody by two policemen and taken to the **Crown Hotel** to be identified. **Mr Hollingsworth** declined to press charges, and the police released the 'dripping young officer (for so he turned out to be) from custody'. It was thought that the saturated individual had laid a heavy bet that he would return to the hotel with the painted **Scotsman**.
- 10 Nov 1871 **John Hawkes**, driver of one of the **Queens Hotel** 'buses was fined £1 with 9s 6d costs for **cruelly** beating a horse.

- Oct 1872 The local branch of the **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** brought its first prosecution, for **cruelty** to a lamb.
- 19 Nov 1873 'I **Mrs Honor Meek**, did not, nor do I intend to run my husband **William Meek**, of the **Noah's Ark** beer house, **50 St George's Street**, in Debt, although he has advertised me. He has turned me out of house and home, and has left me in total distress; he has beaten me and ill-used me most unmercifully. I am black and blue from the ill-usage I have received at his hands. The reason of my advertising this is to remove all false rumours that the public at large may have heard. **Mrs. Honor Meek.** (*Cheltenham Examiner*)
- Apr 1875 **Willam Laurence**, a retired auctioneer of **St George's Street**, was sued for **breach of promise** of marriage.
- Jul 1875 The **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** brought a charge of **cruelty** to a mare against **Rebecca Crocketts**.
- Jun 1878 The **Great Western Railway Co.** was sued by **Boulton's**, stonemasons, for **damage** to a statue in transit.
- Aug 1877 **Henry Herbert** faced charges of **seduction** in the case of **Herbert v. Hughes**.
- Aug 1881 The **Board of Guardians** faced allegations of **mistreatment** of **Sarah Probyn**.
- Mar 1883 A printer from Cheltenham, **William Onion**, was charged with **bigamy**.
- Feb 1884 An inquest was held into the death of **Elizabeth Rowley**, allegedly from **overwork at school**.
- Aug 1887 The Captain of the **Church Army** caused a **scandal** when he eloped with one of its members.
- Apr 1888 **Frederick T. Ewens**, a printseller, committed **suicide** while in custody charged with setting **fire** to his shop in the **Promenade**.
- Feb 1893 **Robert Leywood** sued his solicitor when he purchased the **wrong house** after the houses in the street were re-numbered.
- Feb 1894 A former Relieving Officer, **Arthur Greenway**, was unable to attend his bankruptcy examination as he was in **Gloucester Prison**.
- Apr 1896 A notice of a **Manor Court** meeting called by the Lord of the Manor, **J.T. Agg-Gardner**, read 'ATTEND or be FINED'.
- May 1898 **George and Elizabeth Shaw** appealed against a conviction of **neglect** of their children.
- Aug 1898 **Martin Rucker** brought a case of alleged **infringement** of the **Electric Patent**, transforming a high tension current.
- Sep 1898 It was alleged that **non-subscribers** were being allowed into **Montpellier Gardens** without paying.
- Aug 1899 The **Town Council** was sued over **road repairs**, with 2 cases of horses falling on poor roads. **A.B. Wall** and **B. Combe** both lost their cases.
- Jun 1900 A cabman, **Josiah Jones, jun.**, unsuccessfully defended himself in court against a charge of **trespassing** on the railway and was fined heavily.
- Jan 1901 A gasfitter of **Thirlestaine Place**, **O.E. Beard**, sued for his share of the **legacy** of **Susannah Twynning**.
- Feb 1901 In the case of **W. Smith v. Miss E.C. Griffin, Smith** was found guilty 'a bad case' of **bigamy** and sentenced to 18mths in prison.
- Feb 1901 **Henry Smith** and **William Kingdom** were fined for accidentally shooting **Bunce**, a youth, at **Arle**.
- Dec 1903 **Arthur Heavens Smith**, solicitor, sued the **Tramway Co.** for **breach of contract** after one of their trams broke down at **Prestbury**, forcing him to walk home to **Cleeve Hill**.
- Aug 1904 **George Hopton, jun.** was sued by his landlord, **W. Ecockes**, for turning **Queensville, Tewkesbury Road** into a pigsty.
- 2 Feb 1978 The police and immigration officers rounded up **illegal immigrants** found in Cheltenham.
- 29 Aug 1979 Security was tightened in **High Street** stores when police searched premises following a **bomb threat**. On **29 December 1983** a major **bomb scare** sealed off the **Lower High Street** while an army bomb disposal unit used a remote-controlled robot to detonate charges.
- 18 Mar 1981 During **Rag Week** a **streaker** raced along the **Promenade** pursued by police.
- 18 Dec 1984 Fear was expressed that **animal rights campaigners** had placed **rat poison** in turkeys and chickens sold at the town's supermarkets.
- Mar 1988 A male **streaker** was a late finisher of the Cheltenham **Gold Cup**.
- 1 Feb 1989 The **Borough Council** 'declared war' on thousands of tenants who owed over £30,000 in **unpaid rents**.
- 3 Mar 1989 Security forces kept a close watch on **IRA** activities in case Cheltenham's **Race Week** was used to infiltrate new terrorists into Britain.
- 17 May 1989 **GCHQ** opened its doors to **High Street banks** for special seminars on how to beat prying **hi-tech pirates**.

- 28 Oct 1992 A 15-year-old boy died of **gas sniffing** while in **council care** in Cheltenham. His death inspired a countywide campaign against **solvent abuse**.
- 9 Sep 1993 A **remand prisoner** arrived at a Cheltenham court in a luxury 6-door stretch limousine because a prison van was not available.
- 24 Nov 1994 **GCHQ** faced a major security crisis when it emerged that a **computer hacker** at **British Telecom's** main database gained access to its records.

CRIME – MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER, ETC.

- 1221 **John of Brockhampton** killed **Christine of Arle** and fled to the Church and escaped. He was to be found and outlawed, but the deed was not considered **murder** because it was done in time of war, although not **John** was not a soldier.
- 1221 Unknown criminals came to the house of **Hugo** in Cheltenham and **killed** him, his wife **Matilda**, his son **John** and his daughter **Julia**.
- 1221 **William de Fonte** and his son **Alexander** were suspected of causing the **death** of a merchant who was a guest in **William's** house. They attended court, held by 6 of the King's judges in **Gloucester**, to defend themselves, but refused to stand trial. The **Jury** said that **Alexander** and his mother **Agnes** had **killed** and **robbed** the merchant and that **William** had consented to the **robbery**. The men of **Charlton**, **Leckhampton** and **Ham** agreed. The family was imprisoned but **William** was later released.
- 1700 The story of **Maud Bowen**, after whom the tree **Maud's Elm** was named, was first **recorded**. **Maud** was on her way back from Cheltenham to her home in **Swindon Village** when her uncle **Godfrey** tried to **kidnap** her for the local lord, who had wicked designs on her. A struggle ensued, **Maud** fell into the river and drowned, then **Godfrey** was **killed** by an arrow from the bow of **Maud's** sweetheart. Called to explain the affair, the wicked lord declared that **Maud** had **killed** her uncle and then taken her own life. In keeping with the tradition of the time, **Maud** was buried at a crossroads, like all suicides, with a stake thrust through her heart. **Maud's Elm** grew from the stake, serving as a monument to the unfortunate **Maud Bowen**, until the ancient tree was cut down in **May 1906**.
- 23 Sep 1776 **Mrs Katherine A'Court** died having been **poisoned** by her footman, **Joseph Armstrong** whom she had caught **stealing** from her. The inscription on her memorial tablet in the chancel of the Parish Church describes her as having had 'the strictest honour and virtue, elegance of manners, integrity of heart and delicacy of sentiment'. However, in 1786 a correspondent to the *Gentleman's Magazine* suggested that **Armstrong** probably had some provocation for murdering Mrs A'Court as she was known for her cruelty to her servants, and frequently tore the footman's hair and beat him.
- The following year **Joseph Armstrong** was **hanged** in **Gloucester Gaol** for the **murder** of his mistress, and his body hung in chains in a **gibbet** on the **Marsh** (St Paul's area of Cheltenham). The gibbet was situated near a lane leading to Marle Hill, beyond Dunalley Street. A year later the body and chains were missing, thought to have been taken by **Armstrong's** relatives. Many years later, when the gibbet posts were being removed to plant a hedge, a young labourer found the chains and remaining bones a few feet under the earth. He supposedly died of shock shortly afterwards.
- Aug 1839 The suspected **murder** of **Mary Anthill** in **Benhall Wood** was reported. **Frederick Rigby**, **Edward Pool** and **Thomas York**, who had been working on the railway to **Gloucester**, were charged with being connected with her **murder**. However, in **September** her body was **exhumed** and evidence was found that **foul play** was **not** the cause of her death.
- Feb 1840 A robbery was carried out at **Piff's Elm**, during which a man, **Mr Yarworth**, was injured. He subsequently died and in **May 1840** a man named **Summerfield** confessed to his **assassination**.
- 30 Jun 1848 The body of **John Mulcock**, fly proprietor, was found in **Wyman's Brook**. At the Inquest, the jury considered the possibility that **Mulcock** had drowned himself, following the failure of the Conservative candidate, **James Agg-Gardner**, to win the current election as MP. However, they returned a verdict of 'Wilful **murder** against some person or persons unknown'.
- Mar 1851 At the South Wales Assizes held at **Swansea**, **Lieut. Charles Henry Ackerley, rtd.** was found **not guilty** of **manslaughter**. **Lieut. Ackerley** was a **retired** naval lieutenant, formerly of **Cheltenham**, and well-known in **London** for his eccentric but philanthropic projects. He had been charged by **Jenkin Aubrey**, a collier of **Aberdare**, and another with feloniously killing **Matthew Tingle**.
- May 1851 A former **Cheltenham College** pupil escaped assassination in **Aden**.

- May 1856 A farmer, **John Prockter**, was **alleged** to have caused the **death** of a child through **neglect**.
- Dec 1864 **Elizabeth Perrin**, a servant aged 22, was indicted for the **wilful murder** of her illegitimate child, **Lizzie Perrin**. She was subsequently found **not guilty**.
- July 1865 **John Thomas Glass** shot **William Lynes** at the close of Poll in a politically motivated **murder**. **Glass**, who was the son of the parish clerk, was thought to have become unhinged in the fervour of the election. Following the shooting, **Col. Francis W.F. Berkeley** and **Col. Fitzhardinge** donated £150 to **Lynes'** widow, and an appeal fund was set up for her. **Glass** was sentenced to 15 years penal servitude in **Australia**, and was given a ticket of leave having completed this in **Nov 1870**, having promised not to return to England. In **Nov 1872** he died of consumption in Western Australia.
- Apr 1866 **Samuel Cherrington** was tried for the **murder** of **John Beard** at **Leckhampton** in February.
- Feb 1869 **Maria Brewitt**, formerly of **Newnham**, but living in lodgings in **Grove Street**, was charged with the **murder** of her child. She was found guilty **only** of **concealment of birth**, and sentence was deferred.
- Mar 1869 **John Davis**, a painter aged 58, appeared in the dock charged with the **attempted murder** of **Hannah Alcock**, daughter of **Benjamin Alcock**, landlord of the **Bell Hotel, High Street**.
- Aug 1871 A former Drill Instructor of the Cheltenham Volunteers (13th Company), **Sgt Maloney**, faced an **attempted murder** charge. He had taken a similar position in **Chipping Camden**, and was accused of attempting to **murder** a Private in that Company, **James Dunn**.
- Jan 1872 The family of **Thomas Jordon**, of Withyholt, **Charlton Kings**, grieved over his **murder** in the **Argentine Republic**.
- 8 Jan 1872 **Frederick Jones**, age 21, was **hanged** in **Gloucester Gaol** for the **murder** of **Emily Gardner**. **Gardner** was the daughter of the landlord of the **Early Dawn** public house in the **High Street**. In a fit of jealousy **Jones** had cut her throat with a razor as they were walking along what is now **Wellesley Road**, near Saxham Villas. Coincidentally this was near the site of the **gibbet** of 1776.
- Jul 1872 An ex-**Cheltenham** man, **James Wilkie**, was hanged in **Castlemaine, Australia** for the **murder**, in April, of a former well-known Cheltenham resident, **Henry Pensom**, whose body had been discovered down an unused mine shaft.
- Nov 1872 A local girl, **Mary Jane Addington**, formerly of **Chapel Street, Cheltenham**, was **murdered** in **London**. She had moved to **London** to work as a **prostitute** and met her fate at the hands of **Augustus Elliot**, a 25-year-old clerk.
- Apr 1873 It was reported locally that **Capt. Charles Agnew**, of the 16th Lancers, from **Cheltenham**, had been **murdered** by assassins at **Suez**. He was buried on **23 March 1873** at **Ismalia**.
- May 1874 A **Gloucester** man, **Henry Carrington Window**, was charged with the **attempted murder** of **Thomas Davis** in a **Cheltenham Parish Churchyard**, by **shooting** him with a pistol.
- Feb 1878 A servant girl, **Ann Bond**, was charged with **causing the death** of her new-born baby at **Charlton Kings**.
- 14 Dec 1880 The *Times* reported that **William Herbert**, a native of **Cheltenham**, was **executed** at **Newgate** for the **murder** of his sister-in-law, **Jane Messenger**, in **Finsbury Park**.
- Oct 1881 A man fell down the steps at the Cheltenham **circus**, and the ticket collector was charged with causing his death.
- Nov 1882 **Thomas Llewelly** was found **guilty** of the **manslaughter** of **William Webb**, a dairyman.
- Aug 1884 A **Leckhampton** man, **Thomas Harris**, a market gardener of **Pilley**, was charged with **murdering** his wife, **Hannah**, at their home in **Kilburn Lane, Paddington**. The couple had only arrived in **London** about 6 weeks before, and **Harris** accused his wife of having brought him to poverty and robbing him of £600 within a year. He was sentenced to death at the **Old Bailey** in September, and **executed** at **Newgate** in **October**. The **news** of his execution resulted in the **death** from **excitement** of a local man, an iron foundry worker named **Williamson**.
- Aug 1886 The wife of **Henry Spawton** was charged with his **manslaughter**. He had just been appointed **coachman** to **Captain Welch, RN** at **Arle House**.
- Sep 1887 An inquest was held into the death of the illegitimate child of **Selina Langford**. **Langford** was found **guilty** of **manslaughter** by **starvation**.
- 1888 **Jack the Ripper** killed 5 prostitutes in London. In **April 2001** crime writer **Tom Slemen** and criminologist **Keith Andrews** revealed that they had uncovered new evidence proving that **Jack the Ripper** was Cheltenham-born **Colonel Claude Reignier Conder** from **Tivoli**, who is buried in **Cheltenham cemetery**. Clues include cryptic messages carved on the victims' bodies and scrawled on a wall at a murder scene in ancient languages that **Col. Conder** knew from working as an archaeologist in the Middle East. Prostitute **Annie Chapman**, who was later killed by **Jack the Ripper**, stole items including archaeological finds of rings, from **Conder's** London house. **Tom Slemen** claims that all the victims helped steal or sell the stolen goods.

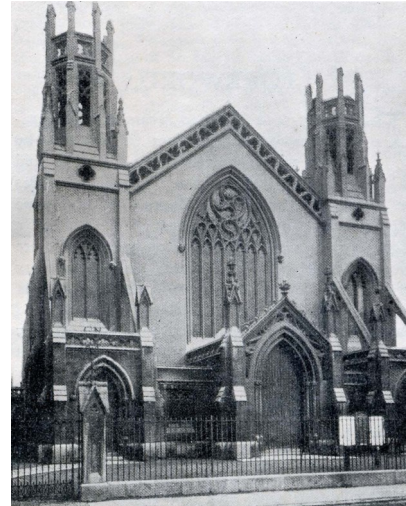
- Feb 1890 **Frederick C. Benwell**, of **Iseultdene, Evesham Road**, son of **Lt.-Col. Benwell**, was **murdered** in a wood outside **Princetown, Canada**, soon after leaving Cheltenham. His body was found in a swamp by 2 woodcutters. He had been shot twice in the head. In **October 1890 Reginald Birchall**, who had been a friend and mentor of **Benwell's**, was convicted on **circumstantial evidence** and **hanged** for the **murder** on **14 November 1890**. **Birchall** had offered **Benwell** a stake in his farm near **Niagara Falls** in exchange for £500. In fact this was a scam, as there was no farm, and **Birchall** tried to extract the money from **Benwell's** father after the **murder**.
- Aug 1893 **Rose Weeks** of **Stanhope Street** was charged with the **manslaughter** of her child, **Edwin Charles Weeks**.
- Sep 1894 **Job Hartland, Esq.**, a greengrocer of **303 High Street**, was charged with the **murder** of his son, **George**, and daughter, **Rebecca**. **Hartland** was **sentenced to death** at the Gloucester Assizes on 28 November 1894, but in fact died in **Gloucester Gaol** in December **1896**.
- Jun 1897 **William Hubert Iddles**, a baker of **Tivoli Street**, was charged with the **manslaughter** of **Richard V. Turner** after a quarrel at **Piff's Elm**.
- 9 Mar 1904 **Sidney George Smith**, age 23 – the last person from Cheltenham to be **hanged** in Gloucester Gaol. Depressed about his unemployment and poverty, **Smith** had **killed** his girlfriend, **Alice Woodman**, and then attempted to cut his own throat. His wound was stitched up in order for him to face trial for murder and, despite a petition against the decision, he was subsequently **hanged**.
- Jun 1904 **Kate Deane** survived a **murderous assault** by her husband, **Edwin John Deane**, in the **Hales Road** area. **Mr Deane** was charged with **attempted murder** with a razor and committed to the next Assizes.
- Mar 1905 **Mrs Alice Isbell Knight** was charged with **murder** after she was alleged to have **battered** her 3-year-old daughter to **death**. In **July 1905** she was transferred from **Gloucester Gaol** to **Broadmoor**.
- Jun 1905 An inquest was held on the body of **John Sebastian Lyons**, of **Fairview Road**, who committed **suicide** after attempting to **murder** his wife.
- 3 Feb 1938 Three salmon fishermen hauled a headless **torso** from the **River Severn** near **Haw Bridge**. The identity of the body has never been officially established, but it was believed by many to be **Capt. William Butt**. He had lived in **Old Bath Road** with his invalid wife and a nurse, **Irene Sullivan**, whose son **Brian**, a professional dancer, committed suicide at their home in **Tower Lodge, Leckhampton**, 2 weeks after **Capt. Butt** went missing.
- 28 Jan 1991 The bodies of Cheltenham twin sisters were found in a burnt-out barn at **Uckington**.
- 4 Jun 1993 Shoppers looked on in horror as a man **killed** his ex-lover in a **Swindon Road** DIY store car park before **killing** himself.
- 15 Aug 1996 Two Cheltenham teenagers were charged with the **murder** of a 16-year-old boy.

CRIME – THEFT

- 1221 **John**, son of **Abraham of Charlton**, fled into the church, admitting he was a **robber**. He agreed to leave the country as an **outlaw**.
- 1262 **Poachers** bound the keeper of **Prestbury Park** and made off with his game.
- 1330 **Henry of Upatherle (Up Hatherley)** was imprisoned by the Scots at the battle of Stirling for over a year. During his absence **Thomas of Upatherle** and **Robert of Prestbury** took his fields at **Upatherle**, demolishing his houses and taking his belongings. On **Henry's** return from Scotland they '**raised the hue and cry**' against him, claiming that he, **Henry**, had **robbed Thomas** of goods worth £100. Their story was believed and **Henry** was imprisoned in **Gloucester castle**. When he was eventually set free he obtained a writ against **Thomas** and **Robert**. However, the two villains badly **assaulted** him, 'so that he barely escaped death'. **Henry's** wife **Alice** presented a plea to the king, **Edward I**, whose response was hardly satisfactory; 'If the husband be alive, the plaint is his; if he be dead, the wife's plaint is nothing'.
- 1401 The **Bishop of Hereford** held an inquiry into '**poaching** in ye village of **Prestbury**'.
- Nov 1527 **Reginald Clerke** and **Richard Bradburn** broke into the house of **Henry Corston**, Sub-bailiff, through a hole in the roof and **took** 2 ladies' gowns decorated with silver thread.
- Nov 1528 **Robert Sturmy** claimed that **Andrew Grenehill** had broken into his close on **10 April** and his horses and cattle had trampled and eaten 20s-worth of grass so that **Robert** lost the profit from 8 acres that year.
- May 1529 The constable arrested 2 female **robbers** in the market.
- 1551 **William Elkens**, the vicar of **Prestbury**, embezzled money due to the freemen living in the village.



Francis Close
(1797—1882)



Highbury Congregational
Church, Wincombe Street
- opened in June 1852 and
demolished 1932



The Procession, 1902



Destroying the fences

The Leckhampton Riots



Foreman's Cottage in ruins



Demonstration May 25th, 1904

- 3 May 1728 **Mary Long** was committed to **Gloucester Gaol** by the **Rev. Francis Welles** on suspicion of ‘feloniously taking from **Letitia Clements** of Cheltenham, widow, one pair of course Holland sheets, value 10s, and one laced pinner, value 1s’.
- 15 Nov 1729 **George Johnson** of Cheltenham was **assaulted** and **robbed** between Chedworth and Colesbourne by three **highwaymen**. ‘They were all mounted on dark coloured horses, and one of them was a tall thin man, with black hair, and had on a dark-colour’d close-bodied coat, who robbed him of £23 in gold and silver, besides several goods, viz. Handkerchiefs, hollands, muslins, cambricks, dowlasses, and a silver watch.’
- 17 Sep 1810 **William Taylor** of **Cheltenham**, a butcher, was convicted of killing a fallow deer whilst poaching in **Charlton Park**.
- 15 Apr 1813 ‘**STOLEN**, A Plant called RHODODENDRUM [*sic*], from the Garden in front of **Wellington Lodge**.’ (*Cheltenham Chronicle*)
- 13 Aug 1818 ‘Persons who wander about at night to **rob orchards** and **gardens**, had better be cautious how they go near the Garden and Orchard belonging to **Mr Hughes**, adjoining to **Rodney Lodge**. Between three and four o’clock in the morning of Sunday last, a man in the act of taking apples out of that orchard, was **shot** at by the person who is appointed to protect the property, and was very near being severely wounded.’ (*Cheltenham Chronicle*)
- Apr 1842 **Thomas Staite** and **Richard Finch** were fined for cutting and **stealing** a quantity of underwood from the coppice of **Conway Whithorn Lovesy, Esq.**
- 20 Apr 1842 **George Phillips**, 17, **stole** a pair of shoes from **John Stone**. As **Phillips** had a previous conviction, he was sent to 7 years transportation.
- Aug 1842 **Richard Greening**, a lad with a wooden leg, was committed to **Northleach** for one month for breaking into the premises of **Elizabeth Brown** at 281 High Street. There were tracks in the garden of one foot and a wooden leg, which matched **Greening’s**. A carpet slipper was found in the garden and **Greening** was seen wearing such a slipper. He was a shoemaker and a shoemaker’s knife was found on the premises. **Greening** reported that, following his arrest, the police took his wooden leg from him and kept him on a stool without it for 7 hours.
- 13 Jan 1844 **Ann Davis** was charged with **stealing** silk, a bucket, a washing tub and doll’s clothes from **Eliza Dodwell, New Street**, her employer. The articles had disappeared, but the only evidence against **Davis** was apparently ‘in **Dodwell’s** dreams’. The case was dismissed.
- Feb 1844 Two labourers were charged with laying wires to catch game.
- Apr 1844 The **Gas Company’s** meters were alleged to be **overcharging** customers by 30 per cent.
- Aug 1844 (At the Gloucester Summer Assizes) **Mary Ann Holland**, aged 24, who could read well, was found guilty of **stealing** 18yds of ribbon belonging to **Frederick William Luck**. She was sentenced to 18 months in prison. She was pardoned from 14 years transportation because of scrofula.
- Dec 1844 **Thomas Shepherd** and **Elizabeth Cottle** were summoned for being in possession of 17 skeleton keys and two jemmies. They lodged at the **Hen & Chickens**. **PC Scott** and **Supt Russell** searched their rooms as they were reputed thieves. **Shepherd** and **Cottle** were sentenced to 3 months prison at Northleach, as being rogues and vagabonds.
- Jul 1847 **General Greenstreet** refused to forgive a 6-year-old child for the **theft** of some currants.
- 22 Oct 1847 **John Cooper** **stole** a gold watch and seals belonging to **William Ogden**. Having had a previous conviction, **Cooper** was sent to be transported for 7 years.
- Dec 1847 **Henry Lowe** was sentenced to 12 months in a penitentiary for **stealing** a tame rabbit from **Henry Stanton**.
- Jan 1848 **Joseph Badger** was found guilty of **stealing** a brass bell from **Alstone Lodge**. He was sentenced to 2 months in **Northleach**, and to be once whipped in the week previous to coming out.
- Mar 1848 **George Thomas**, aged 11, was charged with **stealing** a pot of jam from the shop of **James Hand**, milkman of **Great Norwood Street**. Although young, he had been already committed once to **Northleach** for 20 days and once whipped. The lad was committed to **Northleach** for six weeks.
- Mar 1848 **Benjamin Bliss** was charged with **absconding** from the Workhouse with union clothes. He was committed to **Northleach** for 14 days.
- Mar 1848 **James Henry Holloway** was charged with **embezzlement**.
- 4 Jan 1849 **James Johnson**, 16, and **Henry Hignell**, 12, were found guilty of **stealing** a quantity of lead from **Richard Leitchfield** and others. As **Johnson** had a previous conviction, he was sentenced to 7 years transportation. **Hignell** was sentenced to 3 months at Lawfords Gate and a whipping.
- 5 Jan 1849 **George Weaver**, aged 12, was found guilty of **stealing** 3 black puddings and 2 faggots from **Mr George Collins**, pork butcher. He was committed to **Northleach** for 14 days.
- Jun 1849 **Lady Ada Alice Wyatville**, ‘so-called’, although recently released from prison, was once again in conflict with the law. The following year she was charged with **theft** in London.

- Jan 1850 **Simon Chew** and **Henry Carr** were found guilty of **stealing** a glass fountain and 4 canaries from **James Rodway, Esq.**, of **Tivoli Lodge**. Having a former conviction, **Chew** was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for 7 years. **Carr** to was sentenced to 4 months in the penitentiary, and to be once whipped.
- Apr 1850 Silver plate was **stolen** from the **Keynsham Parade** home of architect **Daniel James Humphris**.
- Nov 1850 **Roadstone** to the value of £100 was **stolen** annually to throw at property in Cheltenham.
- 12 Feb 1852 **Charles Kitchen**, a lad of 15, was charged with **stealing** a pair of shoes, although he had in fact only succeeded in **stealing** one of the pair, from **William Raynor** who kept a second hand shoe shop at 281 High Street. The *Cheltenham Free Press* commented that as the police ‘may be gifted with second sight, it is just possible that they may see double, and convert one into a pair’. **Kitchen’s** mother insisted that her lad was the ‘honestest lad in the world’, went to school and did nothing but study the book. ‘The Bench, by way of further improvement, sent him to ‘Northleach Academy’ for a month, so that he may be taught the distinction between meum and tuam.’
- Mar 1852 **Henry Martin**, aged 14, was charged with **stealing** a leg of mutton from **Thomas Hastings**, butcher of St Paul’s St. North. He was sentenced to one month’s ‘wholesome discipline’ at Northleach, including a whipping.
- May 1852 **R. Rawstall**, the pew-opener at **St Mary’s Parish Church**, **absconded** to America with the money.
- Jul 1852 The **Workhouse** Master, **Mr Porter**, resigned during an inquiry into **false accounting**.
- 23 Feb 1853 **Charles Vines** absconded from the **Workhouse**, where he thought he was not given enough to eat, taking his Union clothes with him. He was arrested in the town over a year later, and sent to Northleach prison for one month.
- Oct 1853 A fruit vendor named **James Edmunds** was convicted of **stealing** peaches from the **Rev. Francis Close’s** garden.
- May 1854 The **Parish Church** pew-opener detected and **Old Charity Schoolboy pick-pocketing** during the service.
- Aug 1854 An elderly man named **Davis**, said to have a good income, was charged with **stealing** a piece of dead fence belonging to **Isaac Witts**, butcher. **Witts** said he had lost a good deal of wood from the fence and it cost the **Pittville** estate £20 a year to keep it in repair. Another piece of wood was found in **Davis’** house in **Portland Square**. He was fined 40s, plus costs and the value of the wood.
- Aug 1854 **Cornelius Clutterbuck**, ‘an idle urchin’, was caught **stealing** apples from **William Rasher’s** orchard at **Arle**. When asked by the Magistrate why he did not horsewhip the boy, **Rasher** replied ‘I have not the nerve for that’. **Clutterbuck** was discharged with a caution and on the promise that he should be well flogged by his father. Three other little boys, **John Fleetwood**, **James Davis**, and **James Herbert**, were charged the same day for stealing pears from **Rasher’s** orchard. They were also discharged and the Bench hoped that the parents would correct the boys and keep them out of mischief. [*Stealing fruit and garden produce was a perennial problem involving very young offenders, and fines were sometimes imposed and occasionally prison sentences given.*]
- Nov 1854 Brass plate was **stolen** from the home of **Frederick Marshall** at **3 Tavistock Place**.
- May 1855 A **Tivoli** grocer, **Mr Fluck**, accused 2 boys, aged 11 and 12, of **stealing** 10lbs of bacon.
- Jul 1855 A boy found guilty of **stealing** was sent to **Hardwicke Reformatory** for 2 years.
- Jun 1856 A tankard was **stolen**, which **Mr Sheepway** of **Prestbury Park Farm** had hoped to present to the **Hussars**.
- 1859 The **headmaster** of the **Grammar School**, **Dr Edward Rupert Humphreys**, appointed in **1852**, had been overly ambitious in his schemes to make the **Grammar School** rival **Cheltenham College**. In **June 1859** he resigned his post and sailed from Liverpool for **Prince Edward Island** with the wife of **Dr Stephen Comyn** who had been one of the school Governors for many years. A **relief fund** was set up for **Mrs Humphreys** and their 6 children (**Mrs Comyn** was a mother of 8). In **July** it was found that **Dr Humphreys** was **insolvent** with debts exceeding £26,000. In **August** he was under surveillance in **Canada**, and he wrote from Toronto to his Cheltenham creditors. He was arrested in America, as an **undischarged bankrupt**, in **September** and his wife visited him in prison in **Boston** in **November**. **Humphreys** lived on in Canada for another 20 years, and published a book on the education of officers.
- Aug 1860 **Francis Hooper** was charged with **stealing** £522 from **Thomas Summers**, carrier.
- Feb 1863 **John James, jun.**, a livery stable keeper, **absconded** to Australia with others’ money.
- Jun 1868 **John Dyke**, the poor rate collector for **Charlton Kings**, **absconded** with the money.
- Jul 1869 The man collecting for an appeal fund, set up for the widow and children of **Samuel Harle**, **absconded** with the money.

- 1870 At the **Workhouse Hannah Spencer** and **Elizabeth Merriman** were found with pieces of soap and other articles concealed on their persons, and were ordered to be brought before the Magistrates.
- 5 Nov 1871 **Guy Palmer** stole stamps and 4s from the **Prestbury** house of a distant relation of his, **Elizabeth Palmer**, widow, who kept the **Post Office** there. He broke in and raided the till while she was attending the **Congregational Chapel** in **Prestbury**.
- 13 Nov 1871 **Robert King, James Ursell** and **John Hall**, 3 little boys, were found guilty of **stealing** a pair of trousers, value 8s 11d, from **Mr Lenthall** at **2 Northwick Place, Bath Road**. **Hall**, who had been before the Bench on 2 previous occasions, was described as 'a very bad boy' and was committed to **Gloucester Gaol** for 14 days hard labour to be followed by 4 years at a **Reformatory**. The other two boys were sentenced to 10 days hard labour.
- Nov 1872 **R.J. Dixon**, a **rate-collector** and former master of the **Highbury Schools** and **British Schools**, disappeared following accusations of **misappropriation** of **funds**.
- Jul 1874 A bootmaker of the **Promenade**, named **Thomas Ryder**, was charged with **stealing** 150 pairs of boots and money.
- Oct 1875 **John Clutterbuck** was tried at the Quarter Sessions for **stealing** station property from the **Midland Railway**.
- Jan 1876 A magic lantern was **stolen** from the **Colonnade** premises of **Mr Moody Bell**.
- Sep 1880 The landlord of the **Waverley Temperance Hotel**, **Henry Holmes**, was charged with selling **sherry** without a licence. He also put an application for an alternative penalty after he had been fined for **stealing**.
- Mar 1886 **John Stanley**, a retired farmer, aged 70, was fined £5 with costs for **stealing** 2 crumpets and a muffin from **Thomas Simms'** shop at **325, High Street**. **Stanley** had stolen crumpets from the shop before, and when arrested he was found to have a considerable sum of money upon him. The only explanation offered was that he seemed to be suffering from 'a mania for **Simms'** crumpets'.
- Mar 1886 A little boy, **Henry Lines**, was charged with **stealing** 2s from the till of the **Victoria Coffee House, Bath Road**. He changed the money in the sweet shop, bought a coconut and some oranges, and gave some of the money to a boy named **Cosher**. His mother said **Henry** was nearly 11 and she was unable to control him. He would not go to school and she thought he earned the money selling papers in the street. He was ordered to receive 6 strokes of the birch.
- 10 Jun 1886 A well-known cricketer, **Walter Raleigh Gilbert** pleaded guilty to **stealing** money during a cricket match at the **Charlton Park** ground of the **East Glos. Cricket Club**. He had been caught with a specially marked sovereign that had been placed to trap the thief. He was sentenced to 28 days hard labour at **Gloucester Gaol**, after which he emigrated to Canada to avoid his disgrace locally. **Gilbert** was a cousin of the cricketer **W.G. Grace** and was married to a member of the **Lillywhite** family.
- Jan 1887 **Arthur Longley**, the bankrupt owner of shops in the **High Street** and **Great Norwood Street**, **absconded**.
- Jul 1888 **William Thomas**, late of **Burton Street**, was sentenced to 5 year's penal servitude for **stealing** swedes.
- Aug 1888 **Henry Hinder**, a bankrupt commercial traveller, was charged with **embezzlement**.
- Jan 1889 **Thomas Osborne**, a jockey of **Pittville Gates**, was sent to prison for the **theft** of a postal order.
- Feb 1889 **Ada Fitz** and **Isabella Hicks** were charged at **Gloucester Petty Sessions** with **stealing** gold rings.
- Jan 1891 **William Bond** of **Duke Street** was charged with **theft** and **illegal pawning**.
- May 1894 A printer named **John Murphy** was charged with **stealing** candles from **St Gregory's Church**.
- Jul 1894 A painter from Cheltenham, **Henry Clutterbuck**, was convicted of **picking pockets** in **Weston-Super-Mare**.
- Dec 1894 Nine-year-old **Lily Powell** was sent to **Industrial School** for **stealing** 6d from **Mr Attwood's** shop.
- Feb 1897 **Joseph Nicholls**, Post Office clerk, was sentenced for **embezzlement** at the sub-Post Office in **Charlton Kings**.
- Feb 1897 **Henry Harrison** and **Frederick Hind** were indicted for **theft** and escape from the **Workhouse**.
- Nov 1897 A bootmender, **John Barnett**, was found guilty of **stealing** from the **Workhouse** after 20 years of employment there.
- Mar 1898 **William Payton**, 11, **Richard Kettle**, 13, **Frederick Teronie**, 11, **John Smith**, 10, and **William Langston**, 12, were found guilty of **stealing** 3d-worth of hen's eggs from a shed on the allotment ground at **Starveall**, belonging to **Richard Ely**, market gardener. The 4 elder boys were sentenced to receive 6 strokes of the birch, and **Smith** was let off.

- Dec 1898 The **Rev. P. Hattersley-Smith** pleaded for leniency for the parlour maid who **stole** a pearl necklace from his wife.
- May 1899 **Joseph Brooks** was charged with breaking in to **St Andrew's Church** and **stealing** 6s.
- May 1900 Valuable lace was **stolen** from the altar cloth at **All Saints Church**.
- May 1901 A **thief** broke into the offices of the **Original Brewery** and **stole** £8 from the desks.
- May 1901 Jewellery was stolen in a **burglary** at **Garfield Villas** on **Gloucester Road**. The thieves were thought to have escaped by rail as the property was near **Lansdown Station**.
- Dec 1901 **Percy Surbey** was remanded in custody following an **armed raid** on the **Promenade** shop of **Norman May & Co.**, photographers, when £40 was **stolen**.
- Nov 1904 **William Henry Siddons** was imprisoned for **theft** from parcels while working at the **Post Office**.
- Apr 1905 **Francis Burge**, a professional boxer, and **William Green** were charged with **stealing** a pair of trousers from **Harry Singleton**.
- Nov 1906 **Nellie Owen**, a servant girl to **H.J. Gallop**, was found guilty of **stealing** £6.10s. Her behaviour suggested to the court that she was 'either an epileptic or an accomplished thief'.
- Dec 1906 **Lewis Parker Wade** was charged with breaking into the jeweller's in **Winchcombe Street** owned by **Thomas Elmes**.
- Feb 1946 12,000 **clothing coupons** were **stolen** from the local Employment Exchange.
- 22 Jan 1985 £6,000 worth of jewellery was **stolen** in the first **raid** on a shop in the new **Regent Arcade**.
- 24 Jul 1985 Whilst **stealing** £8,000, an **armed raider** fired a shotgun in both the main **Post Office** and in **Cavendish House** before being overpowered.
- 21 Apr 1988 A store detective claimed that gangs of **shoplifters** swooped on Cheltenham from all parts of the country as the town was considered a 'soft touch'.
- 16 Feb 1990 **Thieves** were caught on a spy camera at **Cavendish House** whilst **stealing** £35,000-worth of jewellery.
- 30 Jan 1990 Two security guards were seriously injured in a van **raid** outside **Lloyds Bank, Bath Road**.
- 8 Jun 1993 Police smashed their way into a suspected **robber's** house in **St George's Road**, only to discover their man was already in **Gloucester prison**.
- 10 Jul 1993 **Burglaries** in Cheltenham had almost doubled during the previous 6 months – an average of 10 houses per day being raided.
- 13 May 1997 A 19-year-old man from **Whaddon** was jailed for 4 years after confessing to 90 **burglaries** in 3 months.
- 2 May 1998 A bored teenager was sentenced to 6 months youth custody for **stealing** nearly 50 cars in 6 months.

CRIME – VANDALISM (Including Trespass)

- Dec 1528 **Walter Pate** was fined for breaking into the **mill** at **Sandford** and **damaging** the property of **Thomas Lynet**. The two men were joint tenants of the mill, but apparently it was a somewhat acrimonious partnership.
- 18 May 1809 'We cannot but animadvert on a custom we have long observed to prevail in this neighbourhood, of casting broken glass bottles into the streets and high roads. We are persuaded this practice is the effect of *extreme thoughtlessness*, but a moment's reflection will serve to show what serious consequences might ensue from it, and we trust prevent its recurrence.' *Cheltenham Chronicle*
- 7 May 1812 A reward of 5 guineas was offered for information on whoever cut the rope fixed to the engine on the **Lower Incline Plane, Leckhampton Hill**. The rope was cut in 3 different places, 'to the great injury of the Quarry Proprietors' and 'exposing the workmen's lives to eminent Danger'.
- 16 Feb 1816 'About one o'clock a gang commenced breaking Lamps, beginning near the Red Lion public-house, and proceeded in this mischievous destruction till they demolished not less than 32! Two of the fellows were pursued by **Wilson**, the lamp-lighter, who saw them from some distance begin their wicked career by striking the lamps with a stick as they ran along the High Street; he gained ground on them rapidly, when they turned up the **Rose & Crown passage**, and escaped, but not before he had obtained a sufficiently accurate description of their persons, to enable him to appear in evidence against them. Will the town any longer submit to such disgraceful scenes as are nightly practised in our streets.'
- Apr 1840 The statue of William IV was **vandalised** by 'young aristocracy' in **Montpellier Gardens**.
- Jan 1850 A lad named **Thomas Everiss** was fined 3s with 3/6d costs for breaking the windows of the **Railway Infant School** on **Gas Green**.
- Sep 1855 A reward of £2 was offered for information on the **vandalism** in the **parish churchyard**.

- Oct 1861 An engraved marble slab was destroyed in a deliberate **vandal** attack in **Montpellier Gardens**.
- Jun 1869 **Sir Cornwallis Ricketts** complained of **vandalism** in the grounds of his property, **The Elms**, carried out by inmates of the neighbouring **Workhouse**.
- 29 Jul 1871 Two respectable-looking young men, **John Skidmore** and **James White**, were fined 2s 6d, with 7s 6d expenses, for **causing damage** by walking through 4-500 yards of mowing grass belonging to **William Jordan**, near **Sandford Mill**.
- May 1905 The **Rev. T.H. Cave-Moyle**, vicar of **St Paul's Church**, thrashed a boy for causing **damage**. A **rowdy meeting** was held in **Hanover Street** in **protest**.
- Sep 1905 A **thief** broke into **Christ Church** and, finding the alms box empty, **vandalised** surplices and **flooded** the church.
- 27 May 1972 20 caravans of Irish **itinerants** camped on the former **St James' Station site**. In **June** they thanked Cheltenham for allowing them to stay long enough for an eloping couple to qualify and gain a **wedding licence** in order to marry.
- 10 Aug 1976 **Travellers** in 40 caravans left **Cheltenham College** playing fields after staying several weeks.
- 13 Apr 1978 Cheltenham suffered a night of destruction when shop windows and cars were seriously damaged in the town centre by **vandals**.
- 6 Jun 1978 **Vandals** smashed the newly-restored **Sandford Park fountain** and the **Royal Well** toilets, and destroyed flower beds.
- 18 Jul 1979 **Vandalism** in Cheltenham was costing the **Council** and ratepayers an estimated £1,000 a week.
- 18 Dec 1982 A **petrol bomb** gutted the offices of a Cheltenham **taxi firm**; a revenge attack was suspected.
- 1 Mar 1983 **Vandalism** at **GCHQ** caused concern and employees were urged to 'stamp out' the problem.
- 14 Sep 1983 A **patrol** was introduced in **Imperial Gardens** in a bid to stop **vandalism** and **rowdiness**.
- 21 Jun 1984 **Arsonists** destroyed the **Borough Council's beer tent** in the **Imperial Gardens**.
- 11 Jan 1986 **Arson** was suspected of causing £0.75M **damage** to a furniture store in **Winchcombe Street**.
- 30 May 1987 A massive hunt was launched for **arsonists** that had begun two separate fires in the town centre.
- 24 Jun 1987 **Vandals** wrecked floral displays in Cheltenham only days after they were installed.
- 13 Apr 1988 A £200,000 blaze swept through a **Bennington Street** warehouse – **arson** was suspected.
- 23 Mar 1989 **Computer hackers** broke into files of fellow students at **GlosCAT's** Pittville campus and destroyed their project work.

CRIME – VICE
(including Drugs, Gambling and Prostitution)

- 28 Nov 1527 **Giles Westby** and **George Goderich** of **Charlton**, and **Henry Nedeham**, a chaplain of **Shipton Solers**, were charged with **corrupting** an 18-year-old lad named **William**. They enticed him to **gamble at cards and dice**, causing him to sell his tunic. '**Giles and George** took his money and sent him away naked in his shirt and hose.'
- May 1842 **Fanny Sargent** and **Caroline Mullins** were committed to **Northleach** for 3 months, for indecent behaviour at **Bays Hill**.
- Jul 1842 **Rosanna Brown** was charged by **William Page**, carpenter, with keeping a **house of ill-fame** at **11, St James Street**. After the offence had been proved by several witnesses, she was bound over for the sum of £45 to be of good behaviour for 6 months.
- Sep 1842 **John Richmond** was bound over to keep the peace for 6 months. He had created a disturbance in **Stanhope Street** by **burning an effigy**, causing a great crowd to collect. **Richmond** claimed it was done to shame his brother who had been estranged to live with a **prostitute**
- Jul 1845 **Elizabeth Partridge** was summoned for keeping a **house of ill fame** in **St James' Street**.
- Apr 1853 **Isaac Jones** and **Thomas Finnety** were charged with **gambling** with cards on the steeplechase ground. The case was dismissed as there was insufficient evidence.
- Jul 1855 **Mill Lane** was **alleged** to be the haunt of **loose women** from the town.
- Nov 1858 The landlady of the **Birmingham Beerhouse, Church Street, Mrs Elizabeth Shailes**, summoned **Ann Evans**, a prostitute, for **assault**. **Evans** asserted that the Beerhouse was an accommodation house for **prostitutes** and that **Mrs Shailes** was jealous of her husband. The Bench dismissed the case, remarking that they seemed to be a bad lot altogether.
- Dec 1866 **Henry Wyatt King** died, reportedly the keeper of a **house of ill fame** at **28 Grosvenor Street**.
- Mar 1870 The police were given greater powers to deal with **prostitutes** to prevent the spread of **contagious diseases**.
- May 1872 Police action was called for to address the **scandal** of **houses of ill-fame** in the **High Street**.
- Mar 1874 The **Servant's Home** in **Grosvenor Street** reported that girls were being lured to **prostitution** at a brothel at **16 Vernon Place**.



The Suffragette Movement



Christabel Pankhurst visited Cheltenham on April 27th, 1911.

Cheltenham Unemployed Demonstration outside the Workhouse, September 8th, 1921.



The General Strike in Cheltenham - Sunningend employees signed on to start work on old terms May 15th, 1926.

- 1876 **Selina Roberts** of **St James' Street**, who was well-known to the court, insisted that she 'earned her living by taking in **plain sewing**' and not in a **less reputable** manner.
- Jun 1887 **Annie Pound** of **New Street** was summoned by the '**Social Purity Society**' for permitting her home to be used for illegal purposes.
- Oct 1898 Police raided the **Ram Hotel** and arrested the landlord for **betting** on the premises.
- 1902 Pioneering social reformer, **Josephine Butler**, resident in Cheltenham from 1857-66, wrote 'There are low class **brothels** and **slums** which would be a disgrace to London or New York'.
- Nov 1905 **Alfred Blake**, bookmaker, and **Alfred Young** were fined for **illegal gaming** at the **Beehive Inn**.
- Jan 1906 A police raid at the **Beehive Inn** revealed **betting** was taking place.
- May 1906 The **Mountpleasant Inn** in **Winchcombe Street** was used for **gambling**. A fine of £8 was levied for 'one of the worst cases in this Court'.
- c.1934 A man was fined for running an illegal **betting shop** in **Normal Terrace**.
- 1940s A local woman spent 3 months in **prison** for harbouring **prostitutes** for **American soldiers** in the **Lower High Street** area.
- 1955 Appalled by reports of '**goings-on**' at public functions in the town, the **council** issued a decree. It was decided to outlaw '**sitting on knees or cuddling**' in the **Town Hall** corridors. Notices appeared on the walls and officials were appointed to patrol and, where necessary, prevent.
- 10 Nov 1960 Following a national court case, **Cheltenham Public Library** stocked unexpurgated copies of **D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover***.
- 14 Dec 1971 **Sunday Club** dances closed after it was discovered that the **Town Hall** was a venue for **drugs, pornography** and **vandalism**.
- 15 Jul 1972 The increase in **drug-taking** by 17-24-year-olds caused concern. In **June 1973** a **Cheltenham Youth Trust** survey of the town's 9,000 young people revealed that 20% took **drugs**.
- 19 Dec 1983 The local **National Union of Teachers** called for tough legislation after it was found that **sex, violence** and **horror** was freely available on **video** to Cheltenham children.
- 15 Jul 1983 **Drug addiction** in Cheltenham was claimed to be the worst for a town of its size in the country.
- 20 Nov 1985 An official investigation was launched into '**Council homes for sex**' allegations.
- 3 Aug 1990 A Cheltenham landlord was fined £9,000 for his part in an international **pornography** ring.
- 28 Sep 1994 A Cheltenham **GP** and former **adviser** to **Margaret Thatcher** was charged under the **Theft & Misuse of Drugs Act**.

... and CONFLICT

- 1760s The **Grammar School** was threatened by competition from a private academy run by **Samuel Wells**, a Nonconformist whose curriculum better prepared pupils for trade and business. **Chester**, Master of the **Grammar School**, attempted, unsuccessfully, to have the academy closed as **Wells**, described as a 'violent **Methodist**', did not have the necessary bishop's licence to teach.
- 1763 **Act of 1763** imposing an **excise duty** on **cider** proved extremely unpopular in Cheltenham. The Act was passed to raise revenue following war with France, but in Cheltenham the **proclamation of peace** was read by a youth dressed in mourning, reflecting the town's disgust at the **cider tax**.
- 6 Sep 1780 The *Morning Post* reported on the reluctance of Cheltenham's inhabitants to acknowledge their town's new spa status. 'They seem displeased that chance should ever have brought them to public notice, by their constant **opposition** to every improvement for the convenience and accommodation of those who visit them.'
- 7 Mar 1825 'On Thursday last a woman of the name of **Barnes** was exhibited **for sale** in this town; but being considered a 'bad lot', no purchaser was found for such a bargain and she was driven home, with other unsaleable stock (it being market day) unsold. A similar occurrence took place in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham a few weeks since when the enraged populace took the rope from around the woman's neck, and tying the husband to a sign-post pelted him well with rotten eggs &c. to the no small satisfaction of the rustics assembled upon the occasion.' *Cheltenham Chronicle*.
- 25 Mar 1830 'On Thursday last whilst the **corn market** was crowded with respectable farmers, a fellow dishonoured the name of civilised man by offering his **wife for sale**. We understand a sweep offered sixpence by way of a joke: but the purchase was not absolutely made as the woman, who had been inveigled into the market and a halter thrown round her neck before she was aware, fled from the scene of degradation, and her husband had some difficulty escaping the chastisement of the pump. The police, however, were speedily on the look out to prevent a recurrence of the ' (*Cheltenham Journal*)

- 1831 A **steam road carriage**, designed by **Sir Goldsworthy Gurney**, provided a Gloucester-Cheltenham service along the horse-drawn **tramway** that ran from **Alstone Wharf** to **Gloucester Docks**. It was abandoned after only 4 months as there was considerable **local opposition**, with heaps of stones frequently obstructing the route, and the noisy equipment damaged the roadway.
- Jul 1831 Nearly 800 people attended each of violinist **Nicolo Paganini's** two performances at the **Assembly Rooms**. He was persuaded to play a third concert, intended primarily for the 'lower orders', at the **Theatre Royal** for 200 guineas. However the nobility and gentry condemned the concert and few of the expensive seats (on which his fee depended) were sold. As a result **Paganini** refused to play. Angrily the audience marched to the **Plough** where it was announced that **Paganini** would play after all and his fee would be given to Cheltenham's poor. Some of the crowd returned to the theatre, greeting his performance enthusiastically, but he was later condemned for his 'paltry double-dealing and ingratitude' towards the townspeople.
- 1839 Ironically, **Francis Close**, a fierce opponent of the stage, inaugurated the **Church of England Reading Association** in the former **Sadler's Wells Puppet Theatre** building in **St George's Place**.
- 31 Jul 1839 A **protest meeting** was held at the **Plough Hotel** against the siting of the new railway station at **Alstone** by the **Great Western Union Railway**. (It opened on **24 Jun 1840** at **Lansdown**.)
- Mar 1840 A **Committee of Ratepayers** was formed to **protest** against **rating increases** and a **riot** took place at the **Fleece Hotel, High Street**, against the **Town Commissioners**.
- May 1843 1,600 inhabitants signed a **petition** for the **repeal** of the **Corn Laws**.
- 1845 The **Rev. Bellairs**, the first **School Inspector** in Gloucestershire, deplored the lack of support in funding the **Cheltenham schools**. He claimed that tenant farmers in particular feared that 'instead of a plodding, hard-working peasantry, who do their labour much as the animals they tend, we shall have an effeminate class of persons, averse to rough work, conceited and insubordinate'.
- Jan 1847 The local railway company, backed by **Brunel** and the **Great Western Railway**, favoured the use of a broad gauge track for the proposed line connecting Cheltenham with Oxford and London. However, the **Midland Railway** proposed **Stephenson's** narrow gauge track. Eventually the broad gauge prevailed even though one of its main opponents had been the **Rev. Francis Close**, who thought that the necessary deep railway cutting in the town would drain off all the water. The *Cheltenham Free Press* was pleased to announce that **Close's** suggestion was 'uninformed, slap-dash and irrelevant, for **Close** was no man of science and should not, as such, offer his opinion on such matters'.
- 1850 The '**Battle of Prestbury Park**' took place when villagers, led by the High Bailiff and churchwardens, filled in a ditch and destroyed fencing set across an ancient footpath.
- 16 Oct 1850 A **protest meeting** was held at the **Assembly Rooms**, against **Sunday excursion trains**, attended by the **Rev. Francis Close**.
- Mar 1851 The **dispute** over the **Prestbury Park footpath** was **settled** out of court.
- 1 May 1853 The **Grammar School** re-opened after a period of closure lasting from 1841-53 following a serious decline. This was largely due to **neglect** under the trusteeship of **Corpus Christi, Oxford**, as for many years they had not fully applied the endowment income to the school.
- 20 Sep 1855 A first attempt to establish a **Public Library** was defeated at a stormy meeting of **ratepayers**. (A second attempt was also defeated on 26 Sep 1856.)
- Dec 1856 A meeting was held in the **Town Hall** to **demonstrate** against increases in tax. The meeting was convened by the **High Bailiff, George Russell**.
- Feb 1857 A **petition** to the Government was signed by 700 ratepayers **protesting** against **income tax**.
- 1860 Nearly 1,000 people opposed a plan to turn the magnificent **Literary and Philosophical Institution** building into a Public Library, with a Corn Exchange and Town Hall behind. Instead, a tailor named **H.J. Stucke** relocated his premises to the site, building two shops and dwellings with workshops to the rear.
- May 1860 There was **disagreement** with the **railway company** over who had responsibility for the repair of **Queens Road**.
- Nov 1863 A **dispute** arose between the **Lord of the Manor of Cheltenham, Robert Sole Lingwood**, and the **copyhold tenants** of the Manor.
- Mar 1870 A meeting was held at the **Gas Green Chapel** to **protest** against the **Contagious Diseases Act**.
- 1871 Under the new **Vaccination Act** it was an offence to refuse to have one's child vaccinated.
- Nov 1871 The proposal to increase the number of **school terms** at **Cheltenham College** from 2 to 3 was met with **opposition** from parents.
- Jan 1873 Letters of **protest** appeared in the local press against the Bill for the retention of the **Gloucester Road Turnpike**.

- Mar 1873 A meeting was held to **protest** about the location of the **central depot** at **St James' Square**.
- Apr 1875 A complaint was made to the **Town Commissioners** that the **Gun Club** near the **cemetery** in **Bouncer's Lane** was disturbing funerals.
- Feb 1878 **J.G. Freeman**, the Secretary of the **Anti-Vaccinationists**, commented upon false allegations made against the Mayor concerning **vaccination**.
- Jun 1887 A letter appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner* protesting about the ugly **hoarding** surrounding the **Winter Gardens**.
- Jun 1890 The **Lawn Tennis Tournament Committee** claimed that the **tennis courts** at **Montpellier Gardens** were **unfit** to use, and issued a **writ**.
- 26 Nov 1890 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published a letter of protest about the **cost** of the **flood protection** work proposed by the **Corporation**.
- 10 Jun 1891 A letter appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner* protesting about the introduction of an **omnibus service** on **Sunday afternoons**.
- Jul 1891 House owners objected to a **Council plan** to locate a **bandstand** in the **LongGardens** in the **Promenade**.
- Jun 1894 **Anti-Vaccinationists** held demonstrations to welcome **George Hilyer** and **W. Cleal** when they was released from prison. They had refused to allow their children to be vaccinated.
- 6 Mar 1895 A letter appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner* protesting at the use of the **rates** to **purchase** and **run** the **Winter Gardens**.
- Feb 1897 The **Gas Company** was in **dispute** with **Joseph Middlemiss** over a right of way to **Moors Gardens**.
- Aug 1899 **Objections** were raised that, under a **bye-law**, **lodging-house keepers** had to ask **tenants** which **sex** they were.
- Nov 1899 A **demonstration** was held by **Anti-Vaccination** supporters.
- Nov 1902 **Nurses** were **dismissed** from the **General Hospital** following a **dispute** over **pay**.
- Jun 1904 A meeting of **ratepayers** was held at the **Town Hall** to **protest** about the **excessive rates**.
- Aug 1904 It was proposed to build a new **elementary school** in **Keynsham Road**, but the nearby **Cheltenham College** objected because of the risk of **undesirable contact** with pupils, fearing it might 'spread diseases and meet with misunderstandings'.
- Mar 1905 A local **protest** claimed that if the new **Education Act** was strictly followed, the **number of teachers** would need to rise from 187 to 300.
- Dec 1905 A **protest meeting** was held **opposing** the **exclusion** of all '**under fives**' from schooling from **March 1906**.
- 1908 **School Medical Inspections** were started in Cheltenham. The first annual report stated that some **parents** had **objected** to having their children '**tampered with**', '**exposed**' or '**assaulted**'. 'No notice was taken of these objectors, and I believe that will be the shortest way of dealing with them', not a response that would be tolerated today.
- 4 Apr 1921 A demonstration by the **unemployed** was held outside the Municipal Offices.
- Sep 1952 There was **ill feeling** in the town as it was felt that the **Foreign Office housing** interfered with the town's own housing programme.
- 10 Aug 1953 1,200 **council tenants** signed a '**No Rent Rise**' plea.
- 24 Sep 1956 A strong town deputation went to Parliament over delays to Cheltenham's **school building programme**. In **July** the following year, a **petition** was submitted to the **Town Council** demanding improved school provision at **Hesters Way** and **Arle**.
- 1 Apr 1958 Proposals were submitted to the **Town Council** to ban **day-time parking** in the centre of Cheltenham to ease 'drastic' **traffic congestion**.
- 3 Apr 1958 The **Cheltenham Regency Society** urged that the town's architectural heritage be safeguarded. In **Nov 1964** an '**Act now**' plea was made by concerned groups wishing to save the **Regency** town. In **August 1965** the County Planning Officer reported that '**Cheltenham's architecture** has had its day; it is **worn out**'.
- 30 Jun 1958 The Rector of Cheltenham recommended that **St Matthew's Church** should be sold, and the **Parish Church** enlarged.
- Aug 1964 There was an acute **shortage of beds** at the Cheltenham **hospitals**, with 2,100 names on the **waiting-list**.
- Aug 1966 Cheltenham's **Central Area Re-Development Plan** was described as a 'fantastic piece of **vandalism**' at a Public Meeting organised by the Joint Town Plan Protest Committee. The scheme was abandoned following an Inquiry in **July 1967**.
- 16 Feb 1968 The **Town Council's** budget meeting called for early development of the **St James' Station site**.
- 21 May 1968 **London Road** was blocked during the rush-hour by parents protesting against the dangers for children of the **A40** whilst attending the **Infant department** of **Holy Apostles School**.

- 9 Jul 1968 Forty people stormed out in disgust over a composer's new work when it was performed at the **International Music Festival**.
- 26 Jan 1970 **Local farmers** drove over 100 vehicles slowly through Cheltenham, demonstrating in favour of better farming prices.
- 12 Jul 1971 The **Town Clerk** declared that the idea of a **ring road** round the central area of Cheltenham was 'pie in the sky'.
- 25 Mar 1972 A **rally** was held in Cheltenham against the Government's '**Fair Rents**' **Bill**.
- 11 May 1972 Students at the **Glos. College of Art & Design (Albert Road)** 'invaded' the principal's study in protest over the delay in their new building.
- 16 Mar 1974 Cheltenham **Housing Campaign** held a weekend **protest** at the **lack of accommodation** in the town.
- Apr 1975 The **County Council** rejected the **Borough Council's** plan for a **multi-storey car park** in **Rodney Road**, believing 'there is no great pressure on **parking** in Cheltenham'.
- 23 Oct 1975 600 **students** staged a **protest march** against **cuts in education**. Another **student rally** was held in **May 1976** over the worsening **employment** situation.
- Dec 1977 A 'Save Cheltenham **Grammar School**' petition was launched by the PTA. On **18 January 1978** the Governors of **Pate's Foundation** threatened to take **Shirley Williams**, Education Secretary of State, to court if the county's decision on **comprehensive** re-organisation led to the phasing out of the **Foundation**. In **April** 800 parents wrote to the Education Secretary protesting at the moves to make the **Grammar School** 'go **comprehensive**'. In **March 1979** the school submitted a plea to **Shirley Williams** regarding secondary re-organisation in Cheltenham. In **May 1982** the **County Council** voted to keep **grammar schools** in Cheltenham.
- 28 Feb 1978 The **Chamber of Commerce** urged for **adequate** parking, shopping and bus services if further **pedestrianisation** was introduced.
- 9 Jan 1979 The **Chamber of Commerce** criticised the **Borough Council's** proposed increase in **car parking charges** (to 20p).
- 24 Feb 1979 A serious **housing shortage** prompted potential buyers to spend all night outside the site office because the long waiting-list caused the **developers** to place houses on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 20 Jul 1979 The **Cheltenham Spa Campaign** appealed to the **Secretary of State for the Environment** to block proposals for shops and a multi-storey car park on the **Plough Yard** site.
- 3 Feb 1981 150 mothers marched to the **Municipal Offices** to present letters of protest over the **local educational cuts**.
- 6 Apr 1981 A controversial **draft plan** was released, which proposed almost quadrupling the size of **Cheltenham Borough**, taking in 15 parishes and increasing the population by 35%. In **June 1983** the **Borough Council** presented the 'Case for an Expanded Cheltenham' to include **Badgeworth, Up Hatherley, Shurdington, Prestbury and Swindon Village**.
- 28 Apr 1981 A **development company** sought permission to build more than 300 homes near **Swindon Village** on 'Green Belt' land.
- 30 Oct 1981 The **Borough Council** planning committee described a controversial plan for an **ultra-modern** office block to replace the **ABC Cinema** in the **Promenade** as a 'heap of garbage'.
- 25 Nov 1981 **GCHQ** rejected claims that secret **microwave beams** from its base were the cause of a mysterious outbreak of headaches and depression in the locality.
- 13 Oct 1982 A 4,000-signature **petition** was submitted by the Campaign to '**Save Sandford Open-air Swimming Pool**'.
- 14 May 1983 *Building Design* magazine accused **town councillors** of 'burying their heads' when rejecting new development designs in the town in favour of **Regency replicas**.
- 13 Nov 1984 The **Council's** District Development Committee was informed at an **emergency meeting** that half the **developers** had pulled out of the multi-million pound plans for the former **St James' site**.
- 16 May 1985 **Disabled** customers criticised the **lack of access** to the new **Montpellier Courtyard** shops. At the end of the month a campaign was launched by **disabled wheelchair-users** seeking better **access** to all shops, offices and public buildings.
- 29 May 1987 Great fears were expressed about possible town centre **trade loss** if a multi-million-pound **retail park** project on **Tewkesbury Road** was allowed to proceed.
- 9 Jul 1987 The Cheltenham and Tewkesbury **councils** blocked the building of 2 large **housing estates** in **Leckhampton** and declared that the land should remain for **agricultural use**.
- 1 Dec 1987 Cheltenham traders and businesses expressed concern at **poor parking** threatening the town's prosperity.
- 17 May 1993 Thousands marched through Cheltenham in **protest** at the **education cuts** that threatened 150 teaching jobs in the county.

- 29 Apr 1998 **HRH the Prince of Wales** caused indignation when he ranked **Hesters Way** alongside Toxteth and Tower Hamlets in a list of Britain's **urban blackspots**.
- 4 May 1998 **Eco-warriors** descended on Cheltenham and set up a 'Toytown' woodland camp in a bid to save the **Market Street** playing fields from being developed as part of the **St James' station site** plans. The camp was bulldozed by the **Borough Council** in **February 1999**.
- 11 Mar 1999 A '**Save Our Museums**' campaign was launched by The Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums.
- Sep 1999 Three gas-powered road trains, the **Spa Shuttles**, were **withdrawn** from service. Nicknamed '**Noddy-trains**', and with annual running costs of £250,000, they had been introduced in **April 1998** to provide **free transport** around the town centre. In **April 2000** they were sold to a German theme park for £217,000.
- 10 Nov 1999 **County Councillors** voted to integrate 16,000 children with **moderate learning difficulties** into **mainstream schools**; this included a proposal to shut **Belmont School** in Cheltenham.
- 24 May 2000 Itinerant **travellers** camped at Cheltenham's **Recreation Centre car park** in an attempt to obtain a **council house**.
- Sep 2001 A Victorian school in **Hatherley Lane** was **demolished** for a housing development despite a vigorous campaign by local residents, who were supported by the Poet Laureate **Andrew Motion**.
- Aug 2002 The redbrick, Edwardian **Christchurch Annexe** in **Gloucester Road** was demolished. Campaigners were unable to save the building as the developer was allowed to lump together a planning application for homes on the site with one for homes on the **Park** campus on the other side of town. To comply with **planning guidance** a proportion of the development had to include **affordable homes**. The **Park** site was given over exclusively to luxury homes, which meant that all the affordable homes had to go on the **Gloucester Road** site.
- Oct 2002 Controversy raged around proposals for possible **Art Gallery & Museum** alterations to be clad in **Corten steel**, a material that was specifically designed to weather, or 'rust'.
- Jan 2003 Residents of **Grange Walk, Charlton Kings**, won a 2-year battle with the **Borough Council** as to who was responsible for the repair of their road. The **Council** claimed that the road was recognised as a **public footpath** but had never been formally adopted as a **public highway**. A retired archivist, **Mary Paget**, supplied documents, including a 1600 map, which showed that the road was used as a **highway** before 1835. The **Borough Council** was ordered to pay the costs of the court case.
- Jan 2003 The **Borough Council** announced that an oak tree planted in **Princess Elizabeth Way** by the Queen (when she was Princess Elizabeth in 1951) was to be felled to make way for an entrance to the new **GCHQ 'Doughnut'** building. To appease protesters the **Borough Council** replaced the tree with another oak in **Hesters Way Park** in **December 2003**.
- Aug 2004 A firm of architects proposed building a block of apartments in its car park outside **Lauriston House, Montpellier Street**. A statement from **English Heritage** said 'The external expression appears discordant with the urbane formality and classical proportions of the various facades which address the adjacent space', i.e. it would look out of place!

LECKHAMPTON RIOTS

- 1894 **Henry Dale**, of the piano company **Dale & Forty** and owner of the quarry company, acquired **Leckhampton Hill** and refused to admit to any **rights of way**.
- Jan 1896 A letter in the *Cheltenham Examiner* alerted people to the threat made by the owner, **Mr Dale**, to deny public access to **Leckhampton Hill**.
- 1897 **Dale** built a house, **Tramway Cottage** for the quarry foreman, **William Cratchley**, at the foot of **Middle Incline** blocking the main footpath to the hill.
- 1899 **Dale** fenced off an area of 26 acres on the northern slopes of **Leckhampton Hill**.
- 5 Apr 1901 Good Friday. A protest march was held on **Leckhampton Hill**.
- Feb 1902 A crowded meeting of **Leckhampton** parishioners was held to protest against the **Quarries Co.** action to close paths claimed to be public rights of way. Action to secure rights to the hill were discussed.
- Mar 1902 Another crowded parish meeting was held to discuss rights of way relating to the **Quarries Co.** and **Dorothea Beale**, the Principal of the **Ladies' College**, instructed **Dale** to remove all his pianos from her school. She also complained to the **Town Clerk**, which prompted the first of various sub-committees to enquire into the affair.
- 8 Mar 1902 A march was held from the **Malvern Inn** to **Leckhampton Hill** where 10,000 people had gathered to protest at the removal of rights of way by **Mr Dale**. Fences were partly demolished.

- Mar 1902 The **Town Council** and the **Rural District Council** considered combining forces in defence of public rights of access to **Leckhampton Hill**.
- Apr 1902 A self-constituted committee of **Leckhampton** parishioners decided to take the law into their own hands, and a demonstration was held on the hill on **Good Friday**, creating further damage.
- 7 Jul 1902 Another gathering of protesters tore down the fences around **Cratchley's** cottage. Four ringleaders were in court charged with obstructing police. These men, who with others became known as the '**Leckhampton Stalwarts**', were **Walter Ballinger**, a clay digger at the **Pilley Brickworks**, **Charlie Burford**, a builder's labourer, **Leonard Luce**, a painter, and **John Price**, a tailor who worked in **Montpellier Street**.
- 15 Jul 1902 The **Leckhampton Stalwarts** were acquitted, and the same evening 2,000 people marched to **Leckhampton Hill**. An angry mob tore down **Tramway Cottage** and burnt the furniture. **Mr Cratchley** and his family had to flee to shelter at the house of **Mr and Mrs Dale** at **Daisybank**.
- Jul 1902 **Mr Dale** put in a claim for £360 compensation for the attacks on his property. The money for compensation would have to be raised from the police rate.
- 21 Oct 1902 Barriers were again demolished by **Ballinger** on **Leckhampton Hill** in the presence of **Mr Dale**.
- Nov 1902 There were further disputes over public rights of way on the hill. The **Rural District Council** was informed that the **Leckhampton Quarries Co.** intended to sue individual trespassers, and writs were served on 5 demonstrators – **Ballinger**, **Burford**, **Harding**, **George Townsend** and **William Sparrow**, a road sweeper. A defence fund was set up to help them by **G.B. Witts**, and the cases against 4 of the men were dropped, leaving **Ballinger's** as a test case.
- Dec 1902 The **Rural District Council** resolved to defend rights of access to the hill.
- Jan 1903 **Gloucestershire County Council** considered the compensation payment for **Tramway Cottage**.
- Apr 1903 The appeal of **Heaven** and **Ballinger**, v. **Cratchley** for the earlier fence damage, was dismissed.
- Apr 1903 Thousands peacefully asserted their right to roam on **Leckhampton Hill** at Easter.
- 4 May 1903 **Heavens** and **Ballinger** surrendered to the authorities. However were not allowed to become martyrs by 'doing time' over the **Leckhampton Hill** damage until later in the year.
- Nov 1903 Warrants were enforced against **Heavens** and **Ballinger** for causing wanton damage on the hill.
- Dec 1903 **Heavens**, **Ballinger** and a third man, **Townsend**, were released from **Gloucester Prison**.
- May 1904 A 12-day High Court hearing was held – the case of the **Leckhampton Quarries Co. v. Walter Ballinger** and **Leckhampton Rural District Council**. The High Court declared three of the paths on the hill to be public rights of way, and costs had to be borne by **Dale** and the **councils**. **Dale's** expenses so far had already exceeded the hill's value, but he persisted in further action.
- 25 May 1904 A large demonstration was held in the town in favour of public rights on **Leckhampton Hill**, where **Dale** had already rebuilt **Tramway Cottage** in its old position.
- Jun 1904 A demonstration to celebrate the partial victory in the High Court proceeded from the town to the foot of **Leckhampton Hill**.
- Oct 1904 **G.B. Witts** promised to bear the costs of the **Leckhampton Hill** litigation.
- Feb 1905 Cheltenham **Town Council** refused to sign a **Right of Way Agreement** with the **Quarries Co.**
- 21 Apr 1905 2,000 people took part in the **Good Friday march** along **Daisy Bank Road**, damaging **Tramway Cottage** in protest at the hill still being closed off to the public.
- Nov 1905 **Arthur Dale** and **William Cratchley** were accused of assault on **Charles Barnfield** for trespassing in the garden of **Tramway Cottage**.
- 13 Apr 1906 **Good Friday** demonstrations were held on **Leckhampton Hill**, causing serious damage. The **Riot Act** was read by **G.B. Witts**, although a supporter of their cause, and arrests were made.
- May 1906 Eight men appeared at the **Gloucester Assizes** accused of **riotous assembly** and partially dismantling a house [**Tramway Cottage**] on **Leckhampton Hill** during the **Good Friday riots**.
- Jul 1906 **W.H. Russell**, solicitor to the **Leckhampton Quarries Co.**, set out conditions for allowing public access to the hill.
- Jul 1906 Eight '**Leckhampton Stalwarts**' were found guilty of disturbance and the partial demolition of **Tramway Cottage**, and were given prison sentences of 4-6 months hard labour.
- Jul 1906 The prison sentences of the '**Leckhampton Stalwarts**' formed the subject of Questions in Parliament. The **Home Secretary**, Mr **Herbert Gladstone**, promised to give attention to any petition presented to him on the matter.
- Aug 1906 The **House of Lords** discussed the extent of the sentences passed relating to the **Leckhampton Hill Riots**. The **Home Secretary** announced that the prisoners were to be released early. Their sentences were reduced and one of the men, **William Barrett**, was released after only 6 weeks.
- 29 Oct 1906 The last 2 **Leckhampton Stalwarts**, **Heaven** and **Ballinger** were released from prison.
- Nov 1906 The bill for costs to the **Town Council** over the **Leckhampton Hill** case amounted to £3,310.
- 1929 The **Town Council** bought 3,000 acres of **Leckhampton Hill** for the people of **Cheltenham**.

POLICE

- Medieval 17th/18th cent. An unpaid **Parish Constable** or **Tythingman** was usually appointed by the **Manor Court**. With the decline of the Manor Courts Leet, **Constables** were appointed by the **Parish Vestry** or by **Justices of the Peace**.
- 24 Oct 1811 'In consequence of the atrocious acts which have been recently committed, it is determined to swear in 12 constables for the town of **Cheltenham** instead of the usual six, who will be required strictly to discharge their duty night and day.' (*Cheltenham Chronicle*)
- Early 19th cent. Policing was still solely in the hands of the **Parish Constables** and the **Watchman**. As late as 1828, Parliamentary Committees felt that it was impossible to establish any effective system of policing which did not interfere unduly with the liberty of the people.
- c.1825 The **Town Commissioners** set up a **night watch**, which was to develop into a town **police force**.
- 4 Nov 1830 The **Town Commissioners** instituted a town **police force**, consisting of 25 men and an Inspector, paid for by the rates. This was one of the earliest police forces in the country.
- 4 Nov 1839 Following the passing of the **County Police Act of 1839**, senior Magistrates held a meeting at Gloucester's Shire Hall to discuss setting up a **county police force** to be headed by a **Chief Constable**.
- 9 Dec 1839 The Secretary of State confirmed the appointment of Gloucestershire's first **Chief Constable**, **Anthony Lefroy**, a senior member of the Royal Irish Constabulary.
- 1839 The **County Police Force** was established with its **headquarters** sited at **1, Crescent Terrace**, where it remained for 82 years. Cheltenham failed in its request to retain its current independent police force and 45 men from the County Force were allocated to the town's **central police station** which was in **Crescent Place**.
- 1840 Under the provision of the County Police Force Act 1839, the **town police force** was disbanded, despite opposition from the **Town Commissioners** and local people.
- Jun 1845 **Deputy Chief Const. Charles Keilly** was charged with rape. The following month he was suspended from duty because of this charge, and was charged with immorality by his servant.
- Jan 1847 A policeman, **A Gibbins**, was dismissed from duty for **brutal conduct** with other staff.
- 21 Jun 1853 **Deputy Chief Const. Charles Keilly** absconded after cashing a cheque for £445.10.2d, which should have been used to pay the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury police constables, and was never brought to book. Further discrepancies were found after his disappearance and he was formally discharged from the force.
- 28 Nov 1853 Two constables were fined 20s each for **neglect of duty**. They were supposed to have been patrolling the **Tivoli** and **Park** districts on night duty, but their Sergeant had found them snoozing in a fly at the back of **Lansdown Crescent**. They claimed to have got inside the fly to protect it as it was left in an exposed situation. They were warned that if caught napping again they would be sent to walk up the 'wooden hill' (*i.e.* treadmill) at **Northleach**.
- Jan 1855 **PC Beard** was charged with being drunk and incapable.
- Jul 1855 **Deputy Chief Const. Edmund Wilkinson**, after only a year in post, was dismissed for taking improper liberties with the wife of **PC Alexander Gordon**. Following the **assault** on his wife, **Gordon** sought damages through the courts against his former **Dept. Chief Constable**.
- Jan 1857 Work, by **Broom & Sons**, began on converting the **Clarence Hotel** into a new **Police Station** for the town. Despite the stairs collapsing in **February 1858**, the work was completed by **June 1858** when the executives moved in.
- Feb 1857 **Richard Rawlings**, a recent recruit to the police force, was charged with being drunk while on duty.
- Nov 1858 A policeman was **stabbed** by a man named **Gapper**.
- May 1863 The town's **police force** was increased to 12 PCs plus a sergeant on light duties.
- Jul 1863 It was ruled that the **Inspector of Nuisances** could no longer be a member of the **police force** as hitherto.
- Nov 1867 **PC Kemmett** was **knifed** whilst arresting a man. An appeal fund was set up for him and he was presented with a testimonial for his bravery.
- Nov 1874 Six men charged with assaulting **Police Sgt. Byard** in **Bath Road** in October were sent to trial. In **June 1875** a subscription list was opened to support **Byard**, still disabled by his injuries.
- Jul 1876 **PC Cole** was awarded £5 for **gallantry** for overcoming a **violent burglar** in **Charlton Kings**.
- Apr 1890 Members of the **police force** qualified in **First Aid**, having been trained by the **St John's Ambulance Brigade**.
- Jul 1890 **PC James Hawker** received a presentation for **saving lives** in a fire.
- Aug 1890 The **Police Surgeon, T.J. Cottle**, retired after 50 years service.
- Jan 1894 An additional 3.5 **policemen** were needed as Cheltenham **Borough** increased in size.

- Oct 1895 The **Lloyd Police Home** in Cheltenham was opened in **Stanley Road, Harp Hill**, due to the generous gift of a house by the **Rev. J.E. Walker**. Built opposite his own house, it was let to **Gloucestershire Police Pensioners** at a nominal rent, and was in use until **December 1962**. Owing to lack of funds, the Trustees sold the property and invested the proceeds to support the **Gloucestershire Constabulary Benevolent Fund**, which periodically makes grants to the **Police Widows of Gloucestershire**.
- 1896 The **police force** was mobilised with the issue of **bicycles**.
- Feb 1896 The low crime rate in **Charlton Kings** meant that 3 **policemen** were considered sufficient for the district.
- Jul 1896 At the annual inspection the Cheltenham **police force** consisted of 2 Superintendents, 2 Inspectors, 7 Sergeants and 61 Police Constables.
- Apr 1900 A new **police station** was proposed for the **Lower High Street**.
- Jan 1901 It was announced that **Prestbury** would have its own **police constable**.
- Aug 1902 A case was brought against **Sgt G.W. Locker** for being involved in a **drunken brawl**.
- Jan 1904 **Frank Ballinger** and **George Gilder** of **Bishops Cleeve** were committed to the quarter sessions for beating **PC Daniel Jones**.
- 1917 Prior to this time, **Women Patrols** were periodically sent to Cheltenham and Gloucester, both of which places were at that time receiving a great number of soldiers – mainly patients in the hospitals. Requests were probably made to the **Auxiliary Police Service** which had been formed in London and Bristol under the respective commands of **Miss Damer Dawson** and **Miss Peto**, for the services of women police to patrol the streets.
- May 1918 The first **woman** was appointed to the county police force, serving at the county headquarters in Cheltenham and at Gloucester. A further 10 women were recruited to the force during the year. **WP Sgt Ethel E. Gale**, who transferred from Bath City Police to Cheltenham, was the first **Woman Police Sergeant** to be appointed in the **County Force**.
- Jun 1918 **Daniel Lapper** received an ex-gratia payment of £75 as compensation after being kicked on the knee when **assisting police** to arrest a violent drunk. He had been incapacitated for many weeks.
- 1919 **Special Constables** were introduced, although mainly consisting of a list of names of those who could be called upon.
- 1919 The **County police force HQ** moved to temporary accommodation at **New Court, Lansdown Road**.
- 1 Oct 1920 **No.1 Crescent Terrace**, the **Chief Constable's** office, was sold.
- 19 Oct 1920 The **Chief Constable** authorised the purchase of **electric pocket lamps** to be tested by officers.
- 28 Jun 1921 The **County Police Force** moved to **Holland House, Lansdown Road**. This building was later rebuilt following heavy damage in an air raid in **Dec 1940**.
- 21 Oct 1921 Cheltenham was able to retain its **women police constables** whilst the **county force** discontinued employing them.
- 10 Apr 1923 The **Chief Constable** arranged for all ranks of the Force be **vaccinated**. This was in view of an outbreak of **smallpox** in Cheltenham and the fact that a large number of Police had come from all parts of the county to due duty at the Races in March.
- 11 Jul 1923 The first **Police Promotion** exams were held at the **Grammar School**. They were held here for over 30 years until Apr 1952, when they were held at the **Technical College** in Brunswick Road, Gloucester.
- 1926 The imminence of the General Strike produced a burst of recruiting of **Special Constables**, but the danger passed without the need to call the men out for duty.
- 1 May 1928 **Inspector Arthur Fluck**, aged 53, died Cheltenham's Central Police Station after completing 29 years service. He left a widow and one son.
- 1931 A **motor patrol department** had been formed with a new fleet of five cars and six side-car equipped motorcycles.
- Nov 1936 **Ford '10'** cars were supplied to the police force by the **Victory Motor Company**.
- 1939 Cheltenham's police, aided by **Special Constables**, acquired greatly increased responsibilities as the town acquired a new face during the **Second World War**. In contrast to its pre-war residential character, Cheltenham became a considerable administrative and military headquarters, developed large war-time industries, and sheltered great numbers of evacuees, acquiring a cosmopolitan atmosphere strange to its dignified Regency thoroughfares.
- Jun 1939 The Cheltenham mobile police took possession of 6 new **Ford V8** cars.
- 1947 A **Police Station** was established on the **Lynworth Estate** at **Prestbury**, to police that estate and the adjoining **Whaddon Estate**. The **Chief Constable** had accepted the offer of the **Town Council** to rent one of the semi-permanent houses on the **Lynworth Estate**, and also **73 Humber Road**, which could be used as a Police Station until a permanent one could be provided [*in 1949*].

- 1948 Communications and mobility in the county police force received a massive boost with the introduction of 16 powerful new 2.5 litre **Riley** patrol cars linked to HQ by **radio**. A wireless mast had been erected at Police HQ, and work was begun at the **Cleeve Common Wireless Station**, completed by Sep 1949.
- 1949 A centralised information room was opened in police HQ where all ‘**999**’ calls were routed – so greatly speeding up response by allowing the nearest patrol car to be sent to the scene, whereas previously calls had been directed to the nearest police station.
- 20 Sep 1949 The **Chief Constable** was granted permission to purchase a **petrol pump** for use at **Police HQ**, Cheltenham. The price of this, including installation costs, was £91.1.0d
- 1952 A **Police Station** was built at **Charlton Kings**.
- 18 Sep 1956 The adaptation of **Malvern Hill House**, as a **Police Hostel**, and the cottage as a residence for the caretaker, was completed. Accommodation for unmarried police officers had been in short supply in Cheltenham. The hostel opened on **12 Nov 1956**.
- Jun 1957 The **Chief Constable** had to report to the **Police Authority** that the hand carpet sweeper which was in use at Police HQ, which was purchased over 25 years ago, was worn out. With the Chairman’s approval he had purchased an electric vacuum cleaner at a net cost of £27.8.4d.
- 6 Oct 1960 The police started **radar speed checks** in the Cheltenham area.
- 1964 A new **Cheltenham Police Divisional HQ** was constructed next to **Holland House** in **Lansdown Road**.
- 10 May 1965 Cheltenham inaugurated a national **Disc-parking** scheme in the central area of town, supervised by the town’s first four **traffic wardens**. In **December 1966** the **Town Council** voted against **traffic wardens**, describing them as ‘little dictators and yellow-banded pirates’. The Disc-Parking scheme was discontinued in **November 1978**.
- 1967 Six area **police stations** in Cheltenham were closed.
- Aug 1967 **Judith Ball** of **Leckhampton** became the first **woman police cadet** in the county.
- 16 Nov 1967 A new **Police Station** was opened at **St. Marks**, replacing the sub-standard **Gloucester Road Police Station**.
- 25 Mar 1968 **Unit Beat Policing**, made possible by the use of 11 **Panda cars** in conjunction with personal radio sets, was introduced in **Cheltenham**. After a decade of this system of policing, the general public insisted in wanting the ‘Bobby’ back on the beat.
- May 1968 The **Magistrate Courts** and **Police Enquiry Office** were completed in **St. George’s Road**.
- 1969 As a result of an incident which occurred at a house in Cheltenham, when a mentally deranged man was found standing on a window ledge on the third floor and threatening to jump off, **Police Sgt. William H. Abbott** and **Police Sgt. Charles T. Critchley** both received a **Commendation for Bravery**, after getting the man back into the house, despite being attacked with axe and hammer.
- 1970 Seventeen **traffic wardens** were authorised to patrol in Cheltenham.
- 1970 The new **Police Station** at **Prestbury**, which replaced sub-standard property, was completed.
- 22 Jun 1970 A new multi-storey **Force HQ** was opened on the original **Holland House** site in **Lansdown Road**. The adjacent premises reverted to their original purpose of being the **Divisional HQ** for Cheltenham, named **Talbot House** and becoming operational **4 Sep 1970**.
- 1972 A **Dog Warden** was appointed for Cheltenham.
- Nov 1976 The first **Crime Prevention Panel** in the county was formed at **Cheltenham** and its initial task was to consider measures to assist the elderly against criminal exploitation.
- 5 Nov 1979 **Area police stations** in Cheltenham re-opened for a 6-month trial to re-establish the ‘**neighbourhood copper**’.
- 1980 The Cheltenham **Crime Prevention Panel** put forward an idea of a ‘Teaching Pack’ for Junior School children to a national competition organised by the Home Office, and were successful in winning a prize of £300 to finance their scheme. In more practical terms, their efforts to prevent bicycle thefts saw the second **Cheltenham Cycle Week**, with an increased number of children participating in a poster competition.
- 1980 A film aimed at preventing the elderly from being the **victims of crime**, made by and for **Age Concern** and financed by the National Westminster Bank, came about as the result of an idea from the Cheltenham Crime Prevention Panel.
- 11 Nov 1987 A **woman police officer** risked her life to talk a potential **suicide** victim down off the roof of the **Municipal Offices**.

Motor Patrol outside Holland House,
Cheltenham Headquarters, 1932



Members of the Gloucestershire Special
Constabulary, Prestbury Section, who
served during the War, 1939 - 1945.

GCHQ Union Ban



First Anniversary Rally January 25th, 1985



The Spa-Shuttle, pictured in front of the Millennium
Restaurant, in 2000.

Victorian school in Hatherley Lane
demolished in 2001 despite vigorous
protests.



POLITICAL CONFLICT

- 18 Aug 1839 **Chartists** entered the **Parish Church** intent on intimidating the preacher. There was no serious disturbance as they left when the National Anthem was played.
- 9 Sep 1839 About 3,000 assembled at a **Chartist meeting** in Cheltenham to hear **John Frost** and **Feargus O'Connor**. A large number of **special constables** were sworn in to police the event.
- 1840s One notable **Whig** in Cheltenham was **Col. William Fitzhardinge Berkeley**. When the **Conservative** *Cheltenham Journal* implied criticism of **Col. Berkeley's** private life, the **Colonel** enlisted the help of two friends and horsewhipped the **editor** in his own home in **Northfield Place**. Berkeley subsequently had to pay the editor £500 **damages**, but some years later brought a successful libel action against another **Conservative** newspaper, the *Cheltenham Chronicle*.
- Apr 1841 A **riot** took place during an election meeting at the **Fleece Hotel**, known as the **Fleece Parliament**, and those involved were tried at **Gloucester**. The following month a dinner, attended by **Mr Strickland**, was given for **J. Bidmead** following his **imprisonment** over the **riot** case.
- Apr 1842 **Richard Davis** was charged by **Mr Snelling**, plumber, with allowing a board, advertising a **Chartist's** meeting, to hang on the wall of his house so far as to obstruct the thoroughfare. Although **Davis** pointed out that the board was 9 feet from the ground and only projected one foot from the wall, he was fined 6d and expenses.
- Sep 1847 A crowd of 8,000 attended an **election gala** at **Pittville**. The return of **Sir Willoughby Jones**, who defeated the **Liberals** at the election, was to be **contested**.
- Dec 1847 A **petition** against **Sir Willoughby Jones** was rendered **null**.
- 10 Jan 1848 A **Chartist** procession passed through the 'sickly town of Cheltenham' on its way to the new **Chartist** estate at **Snigs End** (Corse/Staunton); 'invalids peeped out of their mufflers to see'.
- Mar 1848 Over 1,000 Liberal voters met to sign a **petition** against the Conservative, **Sir Willoughby Jones**.
- May 1848 The case against the **Conservatives** of **corruptive practice** during the last election was proved and the **election** declared **void**.
- May 1848 The Cheltenham **Chartists** held a meeting in support of **electoral reform**.
- 28 Jun 1848 **Craven Berkeley** was re-elected as the **Liberal** M.P. for Cheltenham, but the following month a petition was drawn up against his return, in charges of **bribery**.
- 24 Aug 1848 A petition by the **Conservatives**, claiming that **Craven Berkeley** and his agents had used **bribery** and **corruption**, was upheld and the election result declared null and void.
- Sep 1848 **Richard Wilson** brought an action against **Benjamin Haywood** for **assault** at the polling booth.
- 2 Sep 1848 **Grenville Berkeley**, (**Craven's** cousin) was elected **Liberal M.P.** for Cheltenham. The **Conservative** party banners were torn to shreds by the **Liberals** after the election.
- Jul 1850 **Joseph Lovegrove** refuted **allegations** of **irregularity** made by **Septimus Pruen** over the election of a **Coroner**. **Pruen** was voted in as **Coroner**, but the election result was disputed. In **November** a meeting of freeholders were held in support of the rival candidate, **Lovegrove**, and contesting the validity of the election result. A new election was called for and in **September 1851** **Joseph Lovegrove** was elected **Coroner** as sole candidate.
- 1852 A **Chartist** meeting in **Montpellier Gardens** attracted 2,000 people, and **Chartist** pamphlets and ballads, published by Cheltenham printer **Thomas Willey**, were widely circulated. An alarmed resident declared that the **Chartists** were 'making politicians of the agricultural labourers', but **W.E. Adams**, a central figure in the local movement, described local supporters as 'earnest and reputable people' rather than violent radicals.
- Jul 1852 **Sir Willoughby Jones** complained bitterly of annoyances against his person when electioneering.
- Nov 1854 **J. Bubb** considered that he was defeated in the election of **Town Commissioners** by a **trick**.
- Dec 1856 **Bills of Indictment** were preferred by the **Town Commissioners** following **rioting** in the **North Ward**.
- Jan 1857 A number of people appeared at the Police Office, charged with **rioting** at the recent election of **Town Commissioners**.
- Apr 1857 Offenders were brought to trial at the Gloucester Assizes following **election riots** in Cheltenham.
- Aug 1859 A **petition** against **Col. Berkeley** was withdrawn.
- Apr 1865 There were accusations of **Tory wire-pulling** at the **Board of Guardians** elections.
- Jul 1865 The election result was thought to be due to **misinformation** during the **poll**.
- Apr 1866 **Mr Humphries** chaired a **disorderly** meeting for the election of **Overseers of the Poor**.
- Sep 1866 An inquiry was held into **alleged malpractice** in the recent **Board of Guardians** elections in the **North** and **South Wards** on **3 September**. The election was declared **void** in **October**, and a new election was held on **20 November 1866**.
- Sep 1868 **Violence** and **riotous behaviour** occurred at the **Conservative** election meeting.

- Dec 1868 The Magistrates' Court held an investigation into **alleged irregularities** at the recent election. An **inquiry** was ordered for **February 1869**, when the judges decided that the seat had been **honestly won** by **Henry B. Samuelson**.
- Dec 1868 **Thomas Groom** was charged with causing **grievous bodily harm** (near-fatal) to **Samuel Onley** on the fringe of a **Tory election meeting**.
- Nov 1870 The **Poor Law Inspector, A.D. Longe**, held an **inquiry** at the **Workhouse** into the **April** election of Guardians.
- Jul 1871 An inquiry was ordered following an incident during the election of **Guardians** for the **South Ward**. It appeared that a signature had been **forged** on a notice announcing the withdrawal of one of the candidates, with the result that the candidate was left off the list and could not stand for the election. In **August** the election was declared **null and void**, and **William Heath** then offered himself as a candidate.
- 23 Oct 1873 Town shops were shut in anticipation of disturbances by torchlit processions of political parties.
- 3 Feb 1874 The Fire Brigade was called to put out a **fire** at the **Queens Hotel** caused by 'a rocket thrown by someone in the **Conservative Procession** while passing'.
- Nov 1876 The **Conservative** agent, **Frederick Stroud**, was removed from a **Liberal** meeting by the police.
- Nov 1876 A very **rowdy** meeting was held in support of **William Nash Skillicorne**, who was elected Cheltenham's **first mayor**. The **Rev. Canon Bell** refused to allow the **parish church bells** to be rung to celebrate the election result.
- Jul 1877 An **inquiry** was held a **dispute** over the **re-election** of a **Guardian** for the parish of **Swindon**.
- Oct 1877 The **Liberals** were accused of objecting to **ladies** on the **Municipal voters** list.
- 17 Nov 1868 The **Christ Church Infants' School** logbook entry read 'A very small School in the afternoon, very many being taken by their friends to the **Election**, and some afraid to come out'.
- Apr 1881 Suggestions of **malpractice** at the recent **Board of Guardians** elections resulted in cases being brought before the Magistrates. **Messrs Maule** and **Henderson** were **imprisoned** for the majority of prosecutions brought by the **Conservative** party.
- Aug 1881 Cases were brought before the court of alleged **illegal practices** in the election of the **Board of Guardians**.
- Nov 1882 The **Temperance Union** condemned the practice of issuing **free beer** at **municipal elections**. **Mr Agg-Gardner** denied that there were any cases of **drunkenness**.
- Apr 1883 The **Liberals** refused to take part in the **Board of Guardians** elections.
- Jun 1886 A **Liberal 200** meeting was called to discuss **alleged illegal practices** in the **1885** election.
- Sep 1886 **John Weston** was charged with a **stabbing** at a **Conservative fete** at **Pittville Gardens** but the case was dismissed in November.
- Feb 1894 **George Norman** was elected **Alderman** to the **Town Council** in place of **Sir Alexander Ramsay**, who was **disqualified** through **bankruptcy**.
- Feb 1898 An editorial in the *Cheltenham Examiner* called for **local agreement** on the **disposal of seats** to avoid **conflict**.
- Jan 1906 Women were **ejected** from the election meetings for raising the subject of **women's suffrage**.
- May 1906 A meeting of the **Female Suffrage Movement** was held at the **Town Hall**. **Demonstrators** numbered barely 50 to hear strong speeches.
- 31 Mar 1911 A court case found the agents of newly-elected **Liberal M.P. Mr Richard Mathias** guilty of **malpractice** and declared the seat void.
- 21 Dec 1913 **Alstone Lawn**, a mansion of the corner of **Alstone Lane** and **Gloucester Road**, was the target of an **arson** attack by 2 **suffragettes** who had arrived in Cheltenham that day off the Birmingham train. Smelling of paraffin, they were arrested on the **Tewkesbury Road** and taken into custody, where they proved unco-operative. A **remand** was requested for the prisoners in Court, and when asked if they had any objection, one replied 'Only that we don't approve of this court at all. We don't see why **men** should try us'. One 'Hear, hear!' was heard somewhere at the back of the Court. The women were subsequently taken to **Worcester Gaol** to await trial, where they were reported to be on a hunger strike.
- 13 Oct 1956 Cheltenham's **bus drivers** held a one-day token **strike**.
- 20 Sep 1961 The **National Association of Schoolmasters** held a **strike** and 300 local children had a 'holiday'. Further teachers' strikes occurred during the next two decades.
- Jul 1964 A two-week **postal strike** was held in Cheltenham. There was a 6-week postal strike in **1971**. Many more strikes were to affect the town throughout the 1960s, including the bakers' union strike in 1965 and the **engineering** unions' strikes in 1968-69. Further strikes occurred in the 1970s, following the new **Industrial Relations Bill** of **1971**, and in the 1980s.
- 28 May 1972 **National Front** members attended an anti-Communist demonstration organised by the **Free Ukrainian** in Cheltenham.

- 1 Apr 1974 Cheltenham **Borough Council** was formed with the merging of **Cheltenham Municipal Borough** and **Charlton Kings Urban District Council**, one of whose councillors claimed it had been ‘dragged as an unwilling bride to a shotgun wedding’.
- 23 Feb 1979 About 200 civil servants at **GCHQ** went on a one-day national **strike**.
- 29 Apr 1980 To counter **industrial action** by the **National Graphical Association**, the *Echo* produced an ‘**Emergency Edition**’ each day until the **12th May**.
- 4 May 1981 350 banner-waving **trade unionists** and supporters marched through Cheltenham in one of the largest **May Day rallies** for years.
- 1 Oct 1982 **Geoffrey Prime**, a former **GCHQ** employee, appeared for committal for trial at the **Old Bailey** charged under the Official Secrets Act. In **November** he was **jailed** for 38 years having been found guilty of **spying** on behalf of the **Russians** for a period of 14 years. In **December** the Director of **GCHQ** took the unprecedented move to publicly comment on the **deaths** of two staff following the **spy scandal** and claimed there was no link with the unmasking of **Geoffrey Prime**.
- 25 Jan 1984 All **GCHQ** staff were threatened with **dismissal** if they did not leave their **unions** by **1st March**. The next day over 1,000 attended a **protest meeting** at **Pittville Pump Room**, followed by another mass meeting on **28 February**. The **union ban** was imposed on **1st March** and 130 members of staff refused to comply. The **GCHQ Trade Unions’** was formed and an annual political march and rally was held annually until **1994**.
- The first 4 **sackings** at **GCHQ** occurred in **November 1988** and 10 more occurred in the following months. In **July 1989** a banned **GCHQ** trade unionist claimed he was illegally **spied** on by security services. Later that month sacked **GCHQ** trade unionists travelled to **Strasbourg** to present a **petition** to the **European Parliament**. On **26 January 1994** **GCHQ** called for the lifting of the 10-year **ban** on **Trade Unions**. On **9 September 1997** the first of the sacked trade unionists returned to work at **GCHQ**, and in January **1999** the 14 sacked staff won another victory when it was announced that they would get **compensation** for lost pension rights.
- 2 May 1985 The **Conservatives** lost control of the **County Council** for the first time since political local elections began.
- 31 Mar 1990 1,500 marchers held a peaceful **anti-poll tax demonstration** on the eve of the introduction of the **Community Charge**. 200 attempted to storm the **Tory Conference** at the **Town Hall**. The **anti-poll tax** protesters demonstrated again on **24 August** at the **Magistrates’ Court**.
- Dec 1990 There was controversy over the election of a **non-local, black** barrister as **Conservative** candidate for the next General Election.
- 26 Jan 1999 The **District Auditor** criticised **Cheltenham Borough Council** over mishandling a £22M **borrowing scheme**, failing to take legal advice. The scheme’s legality was questioned.
- 28 Jan 2000 County Councillor **Andrew Pennington** was killed and **Nigel Jones, MP**, was wounded during a constituency surgery.
- Jun 2004 The managing director of the **Borough Council** was suspended pending investigation into her dispute with the leader of the **council**, who was cleared of allegations of misconduct in an interim report from the **Standards Board**.
- Mar 2004 The **Borough Council** proposed replacing the borough **coat of arms** with a new **daisy logo**, spending £2,600 on the design. The idea was dropped after considerable opposition.

PRISON and PUNISHMENT

- 1200s A **gallows** was privately erected by the **Bishop of Hereford**, who owned the **Manor of Prestbury**, probably in the present **Hales Road** area.
- 9 Oct 1528 The tithing of **Charlton** was ordered to make a pair of **stocks** to punish felons, transgressors and disturbers of the peace. (Cheltenham Manor Court Roll.)
- 1690 The **Lord of the Manor** was allowed to erect ‘**gallows, pillories** and a **tumbril** for the punishment and judgement of malefactors’. The **tumbril** was a **ducking-stool** for the cure of scolding women.
- Mar 1763 The present **stocks** at **Charlton Kings** were made at a cost of 17s and sited at the south porch of the church.
- 1770 A **whipping-post** existed in **Alstone Lane**.
- 1788 The former town **lock-up**, known as the Blind House, was demolished. It was a round, stone, two-roomed building with the words ‘Do well and fear not’ carved on the wall and a set of **stocks** alongside. It was replaced by a small gaol in **Fleece Lane** (Henrietta Street).
- 1813 The **Fleece Lane gaol** was replaced by a larger one on the corner of **New Street**, in use until **1840**. The **stocks** which stood in the police yard here can now be seen in the **Parish Church**.

Sep 1842 The Board of Guardians ordered an investigation following complaints, by former prisoners, of ill-treatment while in **Northleach** and other prisons, leaving them disabled from harsh treatment on the **treadmill** and lack of food. Because of the serious injury sustained, they were left unfit for work and had to apply for parish relief.

Oct 1851 An article in *The Times* commented on the allegations made by the Cheltenham **Board of Guardians** against the **Magistrates** responsible for conditions in **Northleach House of Correction**. *The Times* agreed that ‘with an excess of labour, especially upon the **treadmill**, and with a deficiency of food, no other result can be expected from those who enter prison in a robust state of health should leave it emaciated, diseased, and unfit for labour’.

1851 The following offenders were being held in the **Police Station at Chester House** in Cheltenham on Census night.

Name	Marital		Occupation
	Status	Age	
William ADDIS	U	20	Shoemaker
George CLEEVELY	U	17	Brick labourer
Susan COLE	U	20	Prostitute
William JENKINS	U	23	Gardener
Edward WARDE	U	17	Brick labourer

1851 The following Cheltenham-born prisoners were held in **Northleach Prison** on the night of the Census:

Name	Marital		Occupation
	Status	Age	
James BINGLE	U	14	Errand Boy
John BRYAN	M	23	Hawker
Thomas CLARKE		12	Errand Boy
William DOBBIN	U	16	Errand Boy
John EAST	M	55	Agricultural Labourer
John FENNELL		10	Errand Boy
Benjamin GREEN	U	16	Errand Boy
William HARVARD		12	Errand Boy
George MERRIMAN	U	17	Errand Boy
Charles PATIENCE	U	17	Boot Closer
Charles PEARCE	U	16	Plasterer
James SAMUEL	U	20	Baker
Abel TWYING	U	23	Agricultural Labourer
Mary PIKE		6	Scholar [The youngest inmate, but her age may be given incorrectly. The following had appeared in the Cheltenham Examiner on 9 Feb 1850:]

‘**Mary Pike** of **5 Sandford Street**, Cheltenham, a little girl aged 9, was charged with picking the pocket of **Mary Ford**, in **Winchcombe Street**, of a purse containing 1s 9d. ... The prisoner said ... she had recently taken home two sovereigns, which she took from the pocket of a female in **Pittville Street**. She had treated a little boy to a sight of the play at the **Roebuck Inn**. ... She was committed to **Northleach Prison** for three months.’

1870 The following people from Cheltenham were prisoners in **Gloucester Gaol** at some time during the year:- [w = week, d = day, m = month, y = year]

Name	Marital	Age	Occupation	Crime	Sentence
Walter BOND (Charlton Kings)		16	Labourer	Stealing fowls	3 m hard labour
Annie BROOKS		13	Labourer	Stealing money	14 d hard labour
George CLUTTERBUCK		57	Labourer	Stealing coal	1 m hard labour
John COLLINGBOURNE		24	Servant	Stealing coats	3 m hard labour
Alfred COOKE	M	27	Labourer	Stealing fowls	6 m hard labour
Annie CRITCHLEY		14	Servant	Cheat	10 d hard labour
Elizabeth CROWDER		14	Servant	Stealing purse, &c	7 d hard labour
Sarah CUMMINGS	M	37	Cook	Stealing meat, flour	14 d hard labour
Edward DAVIS		16	Labourer	Stealing wearing apparel	1 y hard labour
John DAVIS		57	Painter	Unlawful wounding	9 m hard labour
Francis DEAL	M	34	Sawyer	Stealing saws	6 w hard labour
Caroline DYKE		19	Unempl.	Stealing bread	7 d hard labour
Emma DYKE		19	Unempl.	Stealing money	6 m hard labour + 7 y police supervision
Emma FOUNTAIN	M	24	Unempl.	Obt. goods by false p.	3 m hard labour
Joseph GINGELL	M	35	Gardener	Stealing artichokes	7 d hard labour
Ellen GRIFFIN		18	Servant	Stealing ribbon	6 w hard labour
Jane GRIFFIN		18	Servant	Stealing linsey	1 m hard labour

Thomas HAINES	M	24	Labourer	Stealing a kettle	2 m hard labour
Thomas HAINES	M	24	Labourer	Stealing moleskins	1 m hard labour
Benjamin HATHAWAY		19	Labourer	Stealing a banknote	6 m hard labour + 7 y police supervision
John HIGGS	M	24	Tailor	Stealing a workbox	18 m hard labour
Elizabeth HILL	M	42	Charwoman	Stealing bed linen	6 m hard labour + 2 y police supervision
Thomas HILL		18	Baker	Embezzlement	1 m hard labour
Harriet HOLDER	M	40	Unempl.	Stealing a bag	1 y hard labour
Henry HOWARD	U	40	Groom	Stealing wrapper	4 m hard labour
James HYDE	M	34	Labourer	Stealing pigs cheeks	7 y penal servitude in Pentonville + 7 y police supervision
Sarah JORDAN		12	Servant	Cheat	6 w hard labour + 5 y Reformatory
Andrew LOVE	M	40	Blacksmith	Stealing horseshoes	6 w hard labour
James LOVESEY		13	Errand boy	Stealing tobacco	10 d hard labour
Daniel MARTIN	M	37	Plasterer	Stealing money	1 y hard labour
Mary MAY	M	45	Unempl.	Stealing a coat	6 w hard labour
Mary MAY	M	45	Unempl.	Stealing a dress	21 d hard labour
Elizabeth MERRIMAN	U	36	Pauper	Stealing soap	14 d hard labour
Emily MOLE	U	20	Servant	Stealing money	1 m hard labour
Alfred MORGAN	M	39	Painter	Stealing 9 knives	6 m hard labour + 1 y penal servitude
Ann MOTT	U	19	Charwoman	Stealing a pair boots	14 d hard labour
Catherine Ann MOTT	U	17	Charwoman	Stealing meat	2 m hard labour
George OTTON	M	26	Labourer	Stealing ferrets	6 w hard labour
Thomas PATES	M	44	Gardener	Stealing scythe & billhook	1 m hard labour
Sarah PINCHIN	U	19	Servant	Stealing wearing apparel	12 w hard labour
William PRICE	U	18	Clerk	Burglary	6 m hard labour
George RAYNER	U	43	Groom	Stealing money	12 m hard labour
James ROACH	M	30	Painter	Stealing carriage lining	2 m hard labour
Mary Ann ROBERTS	U	15	Chargirl	Stealing a blanket	14 d hard labour
William SARGEANT	U	23	Tailor	Housebreaking	1 y hard labour
Charles SAUNDERS	M	33	Labourer	Stealing lead	2 m hard labour
Susan SELICK	U	26	Servant	Stealing a shawl	2 m hard labour
Jane SHELLARD	W	54	Laundress	Stealing bedding	18 m hard labour
Mary SHIELD	M	21	Tramp	Stealing a slop	14 d hard labour
John SMITH (of Leckhampton)	U	18	Wheelwright	Burglary	6 m hard labour
Hannah SPENCER	U	22	Pauper	Stealing soap	7 d hard labour
Solomon STANTON	U	18	Gardener	Stealing fowls	2 m hard labour
Sarah STEPHENS	U	15	Mendicant	Stealing wearing apparel	14 d hard labour + R
William STEPHENS	U	17	Labourer	Stealing a duck	10 d hard labour
Ephraim TAYLOR	U	18	Labourer	Stealing a duck	1 m hard labour
Mary TILLING	U	32	Servant	Stealing wearing apparel	2 m hard labour
Joseph WAINE	U	17	Labourer	Stealing a duck	1 m hard labour
Alfred John WALKER		18	Labourer	Stealing a duck	10 d hard labour
Kate WHEELER		16	Unempl.	Stealing a blanket	3 m hard labour
Samuel WHITE	M	26	Labourer	Stealing lead	2 m hard labour
Mary WILKES	M	34	Field Worker	Stealing bacon	14 d hard labour

1881 The following Cheltenham-born prisoners were being held in **Gloucester Gaol** on the night of the Census:

Name	Marital Status	Age	Occupation
Albert BEDWELL	U	14	Agricultural Labourer
James BOWMER	M	39	Hawker
John J. PEARCE	U	20	Chimney Sweeper
Nora PEARCE		8mths	(daughter of Rhoda PEARCE, Hawker, prisoner)
Charles PROBERT	U	15	Carpenter
Ellen SHERWIN	W	59	no occupation given
George SMITH	U	23	Bricklayer's labourer
John SULLIVAN	M	30	Agricultural labourer
Frank TUSTIN	U	18	Agricultural labourer

1881 The following Cheltenham-born boys were resident in **Hardwicke Reformatory** on the night of the Census:

Name	Marital Status	Age	Occupation
George DAVIES	U	11	Inmate / scholar
Edward FITTS	U	11	Inmate / scholar
Jesse HEWER	U	13	Inmate / scholar
Alfred W. PHILLIPS	U	14	Inmate / scholar

1881 **Albert Pearson**, aged 16, was resident in the **Kingswood Reformatory**, in **Oldland, Gloucester** on Census night.

1900 **John Holloway**, aged 55, a gardener from **Leckhampton**, spent 5 months with hard labour in **Gloucester Gaol**.

1901 **Annie Brown**, aged 28, a Cheltenham **prostitute**, served 5 months with hard labour in **Gloucester Gaol** for stealing 2s 6d.

1902 The following people from Cheltenham were prisoners in **Gloucester Gaol** at some time during the year:- [w = week, d = day, m = month, y = year]

Name	Age	Occupation	Crime	Sentence
William ILES	27	Soldier	Stealing plates, knives, &c	3 m hard labour
George KEAR	23	Painter	Forgery	4 m hard labour
George NASH alias HARPER	30	Labourer	Indecent assault	3 m hard labour
Albert PAYTON	18	Labourer	Shop-breaking/stealing £1 12s 1d	6 w hard lab.
John SANDERS	37	Labourer	Stealing hair-clipper	13 d 3 rd Div or pay £1 8s
Nelson Daniel SHORT	18	Gardener	Stealing £1	1 m hard labour
Frederick SMITH	32	Labourer	Stealing 3 pairs trousers	18 m hard labour
John SMITH	18	Labourer	Shop-breaking/stealing £1 12s 1d	6 w hard lab.
William TAYLOR (Prestbury)	38	Labourer	Stealing a mare, dog, rug, &c	4 m hard labour

1903 The following people from Cheltenham were prisoners in **Gloucester Gaol** at some time during the year:- [w = week, d = day, m = month, y = year]

Name	Age	Occupation	Crime	Sentence
Walter MITCHELL	17	Labourer	Breaking into school & stealing 9s 6d	3 m hard labour
David O'HAGAN	---	---	Absconding from workhouse/sleeping out	----

1904 The following people from Cheltenham were prisoners in **Gloucester Gaol** at some time during the year:- [w = week, d = day, m = month, y = year]

Name	Age	Occupation	Crime	Sentence
Edward George ANDREWS	25	Fishmonger	Stealing timber, tools &c	6 m hard labour
Frederick Charles COX	30	Labourer	Stealing lead	6 w hard labour
Frederick SARONEY	18	Labourer	Housebreaking	2 m hard labour
Walter James WOOD	18	Labourer	Housebreaking	3 m hard labour

10 Sep 1998 A teenager was banished from his family home by the **Borough Council** after a 2-year reign of terror. Over the next few years **Anti-Social Behavioural Orders (ASBOs)** became a regular form of punishment and **crime control** in Cheltenham.

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

A.D. 803 A dispute was settled at the **Council of Cloveshoe** between the **Bishops of Worcester** and **Hereford** over which of them should receive the profits of **church lands** at **Cheltenham**. It was stated that the **Bishop of Worcester** had drawn these revenues for the previous 30 years.

1378 The **Bishop of Worcester** dismissed **Nicholas Fairforde**, the keeper of **Cheltenham Parish Church**, for **scandalous conduct**.

24 Mar 1556 During the reign of **Queen Mary**, a religious **heretic** from Cheltenham, **John Coberley**, was **burned at the stake** in **Salisbury**. It was noted that he took a particularly long time to die, his body still moving after the flesh had shrunk from his bones.

1610 The **Bishop of Gloucester** tried unsuccessfully to persuade **Mrs Elizabeth Baghott**, the lessee of the **Cheltenham rectory**, to honour her obligations to pay reasonable salaries to the **ministers** of **Charlton Kings** and **Cheltenham**. Although the annual income of the **rectory** was £400, she paid the two ministers only £10 annually, and the lay deacons less than £2 each. The problem continued, despite petitions to the **King**. After her death in **1622** her sons, **John** and **Thomas Higgs**, still refused to pay reasonable stipends until finally compelled by a **lawsuit** of **1625**.

1643 The Cheltenham minister, **John English, DD**, was **imprisoned** by the **Puritans** for 18 weeks. A **Parish Church** monument records that the trauma of this caused the death of his wife, **Jane**.

- 1662 The **Rev. John Cooper** was dismissed as **perpetual curate** of **Cheltenham Parish Church**, for espousing **Unitarian** beliefs. He was immediately elected minister of the **Unitarian congregation** in Cheltenham, serving in that capacity until his death in **1682**.
- 1682 A number of **Cheltenham Friends (Quakers)** were **fined** or **imprisoned** for attending **Quaker** meetings. Until the **Toleration Act of 1689**, it was illegal to hold **Nonconformist** religious meetings of more than 4 people. One of those imprisoned was **Elizabeth Sandford**, who granted land to trustees in **October 1701** on which to build Cheltenham's first **Quaker Meeting House**.
- 1716 **Mr Welles** of **Prestbury**, a clergyman and magistrate, recorded in his diary '**Mary Careless** committed to quarter sessions for saying twice **King George** was a **Papist Dog**. **Mary Hill** likewise committed for saying, No, he was a **Presbyterian**'.
- 17 Apr 1739 The founder of the **Methodist** movement, **John Wesley**, preached to a crowd of nearly 2,000 on a bowling green near the **Plough**, having been refused permission to use the **Parish Church**.
- 1781 **Lady Huntingdon** withdrew her interest in setting up a **chapel** in Cheltenham, following the non-compliance of one of her **Methodist** students in the town, a **Mr Shenstone**. He then established a small **Baptist** congregation in Cheltenham.
- 1819 **Robert Capper** presented the **Portland Chapel** (North Street) to the trustees of **Lady Huntingdon's Connection**. **Capper** had built the chapel at his own expense in 1816, but his appointed minister, **Thomas Snow**, had adopted strict **Baptist** views and excluded **Capper** from his own chapel by only giving Communion to those who had been baptised there.
- 1829 Under the rule of the **Evangelical Francis Close**, there was much opposition in Cheltenham to the **Catholic Emancipation Bill of 1829**. A placard appeared outside the **Roman Catholic Chapel** (site of **St. Gregory's**) calling for 'all true Protestants' to meet and demolish the 'heap of Rubbish that stands in this town near the **Baptist Chapel**'. The moment passed without incident, although **Francis Close** preached a sermon against the **Roman Catholic Church** annually on 5 November from 1839-54.
- Jun 1841 The **Rev. Alexander Watson** defended his **alleged** Popist views.
- Apr 1842 **Edmund Hathaway** was fined 10s with expenses for using threatening language towards **Stephen Pope**, who had been employed to keep the boys from disturbing the **Mormonites** at worship the previous Sunday.
- Sep 1844 **Montague Alex**, dentist, fearing a disturbance, applied to have a person sworn as a special constable for the **Cheltenham synagogue**. The Bench said they had no power to do this; if there was a disturbance, the offender should be held until the police arrived.
- Dec 1845 The **Rev. Jenkin Thomas** chaired a meeting of **Anti-Church Rate** demonstrators.
- Feb 1847 The costs of the **Rev. Disney Robinson's** conviction for **libel** were shared amongst the Cheltenham **chapels**.
- 17 Oct 1847 Following rumours that a man was to perform a **public penance** in a white sheet for gossiping about his neighbours, several hundred people gathered at the Parish Church to witness the spectacle. They were disappointed, however, as the culprit merely had to read a recantation in the privacy of the vestry.
- May 1849 A **protest** meeting was held at the **Town Hall** after the imprisonment of the **Rev. James Shore**.
- 5 Nov 1850 The **Town Commissioners** summoned a public meeting about the restoration of the **Roman Catholic** hierarchy in England and Wales.
- 11 Nov 1850 A second public meeting, known as '**The Great Meeting**' took place at the **Town Hall, Regent Street**, when a protest was recorded against the Pope of Rome, and a **riot** occurred outside the **Catholic Chapel**. Following the **anti-Catholic riots**, the following spoke on the subject – the chairman of the **Unitarian Congregation**, **W.P. Price, Esq., J.P.**, the **Rev. Glassbrook** at the **Catholic Chapel**, the **Rev. Kennedy** at the **Highbury Chapel**, the **Rev. Bromby** at **St Paul's**, the **Rev. Lewis** at **Salem Chapel**.
- 21 Nov 1850 An attempt to **burn effigies** of the Pope and Cardinals was stopped by the police.
- 6 Sep 1854 **George Thatcher**, 'one of the roughest order of preachers', of **15 Townsend Street**, cloth worker, applied for a licence to preach under certain Acts of Parliament. **Thatcher** was a member of the **Latter Day Saints** (Mormons). He declared he was a Protestant Dissenter, but the Chairman of the Bench told him 'Your doctrines are very peculiar. Come back on Monday.' At this time there had been correspondence in the *Cheltenham Examiner* making unfavourable revelations about the practices and doctrines of the Monmonites and condemning Mormonism as an evil doctrine.
- Mar 1855 A member of the congregation was **assaulted** on leaving the **Latter Day Saints Chapel in Clare Street**.
- May 1860 The **Rev. George Roberts**, minister of **St John's Church**, refuted allegations that he had **seceded to Rome**.

- Jul 1873 The **Church Association** held a meeting at the **Town Hall** to **protest** about **Romish practices**.
- Apr 1874 The vicar of **Prestbury**, the **Rev. John Edwards**, was charged with **ritualism**.
- May 1874 The **Court of Arches** heard accusations of **ritualistic practices** against the **Rev. John Edwards**.
- Nov 1875 **H. Wilkins** of the **Baptist Church** disassociated himself from a **protest** at **St Gregory's Church**.
- Jun 1876 The Cheltenham **Church Association** was accused of the **persecution** of the **Prestbury** clergy.
- May 1878 **Thomas Voile**, a local coal merchant, refuted allegations that his workmen led a **disturbance** at **Prestbury Church**.
- Jan 1881 The vicar of **Prestbury**, the **Rev. John Baghot de la Bere** (formerly **Edwards**) appealed against his **sentence of Deprivation** for practising **ritualism**. Letters of support and sympathy written by members of the congregation appeared in the local press.
- Aug 1882 **Dean Francis Close** entered a '**warm protest**' against the **Salvation Army**.
- Apr 1884 Letters appeared in the press from **Charles Combe** to the **Bishop of Gloucester** claiming that the **Vicar of Prestbury** was holding his title illegally.
- Nov 1888 **Miss Stirling**, a former local **salvationist**, was imprisoned in Switzerland for promoting the cause of the **Salvation Army**, seen as 'heresy' by her accusers.
- May 1899 Both **Baptist Chapels** and the **North Place Church** sent letters of **protest** about the **sale of newspapers on Sundays**.
- May 1902 A meeting, chaired by the **Rev. A.B. Phillips** of the **Free Church Council**, was held at **Rodney Hall** against the **Government Education Bill**. Further meetings were held through the year.
- May 1903 The **Rev. W. Harvey Jellie** preached at **St Andrew's Church** that religion is invaded by politics in terms of the **Education Act** and that **Passive Resistance** was needed.
- Jun 1903 There was local **Passive Resistance** to a **rate increase** of 3d for the new **Education Act**.
- Jul 1903 A **Passive Resistance Union** was formed.
- Sep 1903 Poor-rate defaulters, or **Passive Resisters**, appeared in court. They had the support of the local non-conformist clergy.
- Feb 1904 The **Passive Resistance Movement** held a public meeting to discuss the injustice of the **Education Act**.
- Apr 1904 **Passive Resisters**, who refused to pay the portion of their rates levied for 'sectarian education', appeared in court.
- Jun 1904 The bailiffs visited those who had not paid the **education** portion of their **rates**, but legal difficulties were encountered.
- Sep 1904 A sale of the goods of **Passive Resisters** was held at the **Victoria Rooms**.
- Mar 1905 The goods of **Passive Resisters** were auctioned off, confiscated for 'withholding portions of the poor-rate levied for the purposes, as they allege, of sectarian education'.
- 4 Sep 1905 The goods of 42 **Passive Resisters** were seized.
- Mar 1906 The seized goods of **Passive Resisters** were auctioned off.
- May 1906 The **Free Church Council** sent letters of protest at the resolution for **secular education**.
- Jun 1906 A **demonstration** was held in the **Town Hall** in defence of **religious education**.
- Jun 1906 Wycliffe preachers attended a service at **St Mary's Church, Prestbury**, and protested at the **High Church ritual**.
- Sep 1906 **Passive Resisters** appeared in court. Some paid their rates, but others were issued with **distress warrants**. Their distrained goods were sold in a room in **North Street** the following month.
- 17 Jul 1913 A great church demonstration was held in Cheltenham against the **Welsh dis-establishment**. Over 5,000 people processed from the **Gordon Lamp, Montpellier**, to the **St Paul's College** playing-field.
- 27 Jan 1922 **Passive Resisters** to the educational rates appeared before the Cheltenham Court for the 40th time.
- 1932 There was uproar in Cheltenham over the idea of replacing **Highbury Congregational Church, Winchcombe Street**, with a cinema. Despite this, the **Gaumont Palace** (now the **Odeon**) opened on the site on **6 March 1933**.
- 16 Apr 1962 There were protests at the **cancellation** of the annual Good Friday **religious film** and **services** held at the **Gaumont Cinema**. On 20 April cinemas opened on **Good Friday** in Cheltenham for the first time.
- 7 Oct 1980 Concern by the leaders of the established **churches** in Cheltenham about the **Moonie's sect** led to 33 of Cheltenham's churches being issued with a **warning leaflet**.
- 11 May 1995 A **Sacred Hearts Roman Catholic** priest caused outrage by asking the congregation to pray for **Adolf Hitler**.

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