

A CHRONOLOGY
OF
SICKNESS & HEALTH
IN
CHELTENHAM



Compiled by Jill Waller



*Cheltenham
Local History Society*

INTRODUCTION

The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council chose the theme 'In Sickness and In Health' for its County Local History Afternoon on 4 October 2003. This book was compiled to accompany a display put on by members of Cheltenham Local History Society at that event.

When the mineral springs were first discovered, early in the 18th century, Cheltenham was a small, straggling town, spread out along the High Street. The River Chelt ran down the main street, and the houses either side were built largely of wood, and most would have been thatched. The town was surrounded by agricultural land, and the inhabitants, although poor, were probably in fairly good health.

Ironically, the risk of disease developed in Cheltenham as the town became known as a health resort. The town experienced a rapid increase in population with no adequate services to meet this. Prior to the discovery of the saline waters, Cheltenham's population was estimated at around 1500 inhabitants. Rapid expansion followed the visit of George III in 1788. The first official population census, in 1801, showed there to be 4,157 souls in the Cheltenham hundred. This number had more than doubled by 1811, to 9,734, and had reached 15,522 by 1821. By the middle of the century the population had reached 40,495, after which the rate of growth began to slow.

Water supply was a constant problem during the early years of expansion, with the town almost entirely dependent on wells. Piped water, and a limited sewer, only became available to the wealthier occupants in the 1820s. For much of the 19th century the poorer inhabitants were packed into dense housing at the 'lower' end of town, reliant on shallow wells which were too close to the expanding sewerage system, which they themselves were not privileged to use. The river and brooks that ran through the town were little more than open sewers, and epidemics of disease were common. It was only when the Town Commissioners bought out the private Water and Sewer companies, in the latter part of the 19th century, that the health problems could be brought under control.

Cheltenham was fortunate that Edward Jenner chose the town for his summer residence, and many lives were saved locally from the ravages of smallpox, thanks to his promotion of vaccination in the area. Health care was available to the poor from 1813, with the founding of the Hospital & Dispensary, and this developed into the General Hospital of which Cheltenham can be proud today. Problems of pollution have been addressed over the last half-century, and re-cycling initiatives have recently been introduced. Today Cheltenham is a much healthier place to live.

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.

September 2003

Jill Waller

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CHALYBEATE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

G. E. Johnson 128. High St



ROYAL OLD WELL WALK & SPA, CHELTENHAM.

THE CHELTENHAM SPAS

- 1704 **William Mason**, a Cheltenham hosier, bought **Bayshill** field, in Alstone Tithing, from **Mr. Higgs** of Charlton Kings.
- 1716 Mineral waters were accidentally discovered in the field at Bayshill. The discovery is claimed to be due either to pigeons pecking at the salts around the spring, or to the miraculous recovery of a sick horse after drinking from the spring.
- 1718 Having purchased the adjoining land, **Mr. Mason** sank a well to collect the mineral water, and built a rustic 'Well House' over the original spring.
- 1720 The famous purging mineral waters of Cheltenham were advertised. A stay in Cheltenham was also claimed to be of benefit for rheumatism, sciatica, scurvy, stone and gravel, internal and external ulcers, and asthma.
- 1721 The mineral spring, the **Old Wells**, was leased to **Mr. Spencer** at an annual rental of £61. **Dr. Greville** of Gloucester and **Dr. Baird** of Worcester undertook the first analysis of the saline water, confirming it to be a mild chalybeate.
- 1730s The Cheltenham waters were first bottled and sold outside the town.
- 1731 **Mr. Mason's** daughter, **Elizabeth**, married **Capt. Henry Skillicorne**, a master mariner of Bristol. He developed the site of the mineral spring and is considered the real founder of **Cheltenham Spa**.
- 1738 **Capt. Skillicorne** retired from Bristol to Cheltenham. He built a modest **Pump Room** and the well was first called **Cheltenham Spa**.
- 1739-40 **Henry Skillicorne**, assisted by **Norborne Berkeley**, had the 900-yard **Old Well Walk** avenue of elms planted by the surveyor (to the Trustees of Pate's Charity), **Mr. Paul Andrews**. It incorporated the actual **Well, Skillicorne's** arched canopy and the lower slopes of Bayshill.
- 1740 **Dr. Short's** analysis of spa water found it to be 'superior to any in the country'.
- 1742 **Henry Skillicorne** deepened the well, laid out a paved court, and replaced the wooden shelter with a brick one. There were 667 subscribers to the well. **Skillicorne** also built 18 'little houses' near the well.
- 1743 Cheltenham waters could be bought at 9d per sealed bottle in Buckinghamshire.
- 1750s **Thomas Hughes** became keeper of the well, and sold **Cheltenham waters** and **mineral salts**, which were packed in bottles in the **Old Room** at the west end of the well. He appointed agents in London, Bristol, Gloucester, Bath, Oxford, and the West Midlands. By 1752 the water was being exported from Bristol.
- 1763 The first recording of a **cold bath** situated by the River Chelt, near the present St. James' Square. At that time it was kept by **Miss Stapleton**, who provided facilities for warm bathing. Traditionally said to be Roman in origin, it was disused by 1783.
- 12 Sep 1772 **Hannah Forty** was appointed Pumper at the **Old Wells**. She held this post for 43 years until 1 Jul 1816, shortly before her death.
- 1775 **Henry Skillicorne's** son **William** leased the well to a **Mr. Miller** of London, and built Cheltenham's first **Long Room**. The **Old Room** was converted into private dwellings.
- 1776 **Henry, 3rd Earl of Fauconberg**, visited Cheltenham, hoping to cure a facial sore, and was so taken with the town that he commissioned **William Skillicorne** to build him a house on **Bayshill**.
- 1780 The fame of the mineral waters having attracted 360 visitors, it was found necessary to elect a Master of Ceremonies – **Simon Moreau**.
- 24 Jun 1784 The **Lower Assembly Rooms**, designed by **Henry Holland** for **Thomas Hughes**, were opened in the High Street. In use until 1809, they were replaced by larger **Assembly Rooms** in 1810.
- 1787 **Mr. Freeman** opened the **Medicinal Baths** at 61, High Street, a suite of warm and tepid baths.
- 1788 The **King's Well** (or **Royal Spa**) was accidentally discovered whilst digging for a fresh water supply for Fauconberg House at the time of **George III's** visit. **Mr. Clerk**, an apothecary, was placed in charge. It had shut by 1809. (Overton Road)
- 12 Jul 1788 **George III**, Queen Charlotte and the royal princesses visited Cheltenham for five weeks to take the waters. They stayed in Bayshill at **Fauconberg House**, to which 17 rooms had to be added for the visit. The royal party left Cheltenham on 16 Aug.
- 22 Jul 1788 It was reported in the *Gentlemen's Magazine* that the **King**, who found the quarters cramped at **Fauconberg House**, spotted a neatly built **timber house**, at the end of the town. He suggested that it might be transported to the royal residence. **Mr. Ashton**, an ingenious mechanic and surveyor, organised this removal, although there was a small bridge to cross, and a climb of 50 feet. It took 20 or 30 men six days, much longer than the King had expected. The small wooden house, which had sash windows, remained on the spot for a few years after the royal visit.

- Apr 1789 The King and Queen, and six of their children, were given copies of a **commemorative medal**, which had been commissioned by **Simon Moreau** in honour of their Cheltenham visit.
- 1791 **Mr. Miller** opened the **Upper Assembly Rooms** in the High Street, opposite the new playhouse. These rooms were never as successful as the other assembly rooms in the town, and in 1809 they became **R. Crump's** Universal Auction Room.
- 1801 The 400 acres of land on which Montpellier and Lansdown now stand, were purchased by **Henry Thompson** from **John De La Bere** of Southam.
- 1801 The original **chalybeate well** was established by the miller, **William Humphris Barrett**, on the banks of the River Chelt near Cheltenham Mill. (Local people had already known about this spring for many years, drinking the water to cure weakness and diseases of the eyes.) Barrett laid out gravelled paths and built a large room for taking the waters. By the 1850s this had become a private house. A part of it still survives, and can be seen from College Road, in the corner of Sandford Park.
- 1803 **Dr. Thomas Jameson's** *A Treatise on the Cheltenham Waters and Bilious Diseases* was published.
- 1804 **Hygeia House** (renamed **Vittoria House** in 1813) was built by **Henry Thompson**, to serve as his home as well as a spa. (Vittoria Walk)
- 1804 **Dr. Jameson's Well** (known as **Lord Sherborne's Well**) was established at about this time. (site of the Gordon Lamp) It was closed by 1816 and succeeded by the **Sherborne Spa**.
- 1804 The eccentric **Col. John Riddell** discovered the waters of a well in Cambray were chalybeate, and bought the land around. This led to the development of the **Cambray Spa**.
- May 1805 The cure of **Sir Francis Burdett** made the reputation of the **Cambray Spring**.
- 1806-9 **Thompson's Baths** (Bath Road), built by **Henry Thompson**, opened with 14 warm baths and one large cold bath. (Later called the **Montpellier Baths**)
- 1806 The **Orchard Well** was established. (Royal Parade Mews)
- 1807 Another **chalybeate well** was established at **Fowler's Cottage**. (Rodney Road) This was replaced by the new **Cambray Spa** in 1834.
- May 1808 **Montpellier Wells** opened.
- 1809 A well was established at the **Octagon Turret**, Montpellier Field, probably opened by **Henry Thompson**. The same year he established and opened his **Montpellier Spa** with a wooden building, housing a pump room and a long-room.
- 1809 The **Essex Well** (1, Rotunda Terrace) and **Bescroft Meadow Well** (1, Lansdown Place) were established.
- 1809 The idea of a **winter season** was promoted in Cheltenham. Until now it had been a summer resort, with the season running from April until November.
- 10 Oct 1809 The **Alstone Mineral Spring** was first discovered by **Mr. Smith**, of **Alstone Villa**, who erected an octagonal pump room over it. (near Upper Alstone Mill) The pump room was at the rear of Alstone Villa, and **Jung & Schneider's Alstone Spa Nursery Gardens**. The last lessee was **Mr. Chambers** until the spa closed in 1834. The spa enjoyed a brief revival during the early 1900s.
- 1810 **Henry Thompson** manufactured the **Cheltenham Salts** from about this date. Several thousand feet of lead pipes brought spa water from over 70 wells in Montpellier and Lansdown to the **Montpellier Salts Manufactory**, established as part of the **Montpellier Baths**. (Bath Road)
- c.1815 **Cheltenham Salts** were produced by **Paytherus & Co.**, at the **Old Well**, and marketed by **Savory, Moore & Co.**, until about this time, when business slumped.
- c.1815 **Henry Thompson's** salts were sold at Bath, and through the sole agents, **Messrs. Butler**, chemist, of Cheapside, London, with outlets in Dublin and Edinburgh.
- 19 Jan 1818 The first stone of the **Sherborne Pump Room** was laid. In June the same year the **Promenade** was laid out as a drive to the **Sherborne Spa**.
- 1823 The **Sherborne Spa** was now known as the **Imperial Spa**. In 1837 it was re-sited in the **Promenade** to make way for the **Queen's Hotel**. It was demolished and replaced by the **Regal Cinema** in 1937. (Later the ABC Cinema, and then Royscot House)
- 1824 The spa waters were recommended for the following disorders – indigestion, hypochondriasis, bilious complaints, visceral obstructions, obstinately costive habits, nephritic diseases, feminine complaints, consumption, cutaneous eruptions, inflammatory diseases, scrofula, tumours and worms. (Williams's *New Guide to Cheltenham*)
- 1825/6 A domed rotunda was added by **John Papworth** to **Montpellier Spa**. Behind the lion at the **Rotunda**, and out of site of the ground, is carved a motto: 'Infirmo capiti fluit utilis utilis alvo.' (Our Waters cure aches of the head or stomach.)



W. Willis del. et. sc.

Cheltenham in the Olden Time.



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PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

G. P. Johnson, 138. High St.

- 1826 **Dr. John Fosbroke** published a medical history of the Cheltenham waters.
- c.1830 **Thornton's Baths** were opened in Tavistock Place (Rodney Road), particularly recommended for skin disorders.
- 20Jul 1830 **Pittville Spa Pump Room**, designed by **John Forbes** for **Joseph Pitt**, opened with a public breakfast.
- Oct 1834 **Cambray Spa** opened with an **Octagonal Pump Room** designed by **Thomas Fulljames**. It was bought in 1873 by **William Ruck** and became a **Turkish Baths**. (Corner of Oriel & Rodney Roads) In 1938 the **Turkish Baths** were demolished to make way for a car park.
- 1837 A mineral spring was discovered in the Park area. The **Park Spa** was established there in 1850. (Cornerways, The Park)
- 1842 The **Cheltenham Hydropathic Institution** was established, offering cold water cures. It closed c.1864. (Corner of Sherborne Place & Fairview Road – site now occupied by Bence's, 2003)
- 1842 **Sans Souci House**, (later **Morningside**), High Street, Prestbury, was opened as the **Prestbury Hydropathic Establishment** by **Richard Beamish**. It closed in 1845.
- 1848/9 Demolition of **Old Royal Well** buildings. They were replaced by a new **Pump Room & Theatre**, designed by **Samuel Onley**, and renamed the **Royal Well Music Hall**.
- 1850 **Messrs. Rowe & Onley**, proprietors of the **Old Well**, placed the waters of the **Well** at the service of the **General Hospital**.
- 1857 The **Lansdown Terrace Well** was opened. Also the **Chadnor Villa Well** (Well House) was established. (Well Place)
- 1876 The pump at **Montpellier Spa** was removed; the waters were dispensed in a **Lodge** in **Montpellier Gardens**.
- 1885 The **Fulshaw Lodge Well** was named in Christ Church Road. The **St. Florence Well**, in Eldorado Road, was possibly established at the same date.
- 7 Jul 1886 **Montpellier Spa** and **Waters** were promoted by the editor of *Health Magazine*.
- 1890 The **Ladies' College** bought the **Royal Well Music Hall**, and in 1895 it was demolished to make way for the Princess Hall.
- Mar 1898 The **Montpellier Baths** were bought by the Borough Council and converted into a public indoor swimming pool.
- 1903 A timbered shelter was built adjacent to the original **Alstone Spa** building. In c.1906 it was moved alongside the (then) new **Alstone Spa Villa**, while the spa enjoyed a brief revival. A modern house occupied the site during the 1990s, and the pump handle from the spa could be seen on the side wall of this house. The site has now been cleared to make way for the St. James' development and the River Chelt flood defence scheme. (2003)
- 20 Jun 1906 A new **Central Spa** was opened in the recently-built Town Hall. The waters of both **Montpellier** and **Pittville** spas were dispensed there by women in frilled aprons and caps. (Only the Pittville spa waters can still be taken, (2003), and you have to help yourselves with plastic cups from the pump which still remains in public use at the **Pittville Pump Room**.)
- 9 Jan 1915 The **United Chemists' Association Ltd. (UCAL)** chemistry works was established at **Priory Court**, for the evaporation and packing of the **Cheltenham Waters**. By June that year, the demand for the waters all over Britain exceeded supply. The firm expanded in Corpus Street, producing lozenges, tablets and liquid remedies, employing 300 staff. In 1972 **UCAL** was bought by **MacCarthy's Pharmaceuticals** and soon closed down.
- 13 Nov 1919 A new suite of **Medical Baths** was opened at the Montpellier Baths.
- 1923 The **Montpellier Baths** were renamed the **Cheltenham Spa Medical Baths**. In April 1945 the **Baths** were converted into the **Civic Playhouse**. The tall brick chimney which rose from the old salts factory boiler room was demolished in 1984.
- 16 Feb 1924 New treatments were made available at the **Cheltenham Spa Medical Baths**, including treatment of colitis, toxæmia, gout, obesity and insomnia.
- 5 Oct 1943 The Town Council's **Health & Holiday Resort Committee** decided to remove reference to the unpopular pro-Nazi French government by changing the name of the 'Vichy Douche' at the **Medical Baths**.
- Jun 1973 Cheltenham District Council dropped the word '**Spa**' from the town's name.
- 21 Jun 2000 The Borough Council agreed to re-establish '**Spa**' in the town's title on the new gateway signs.

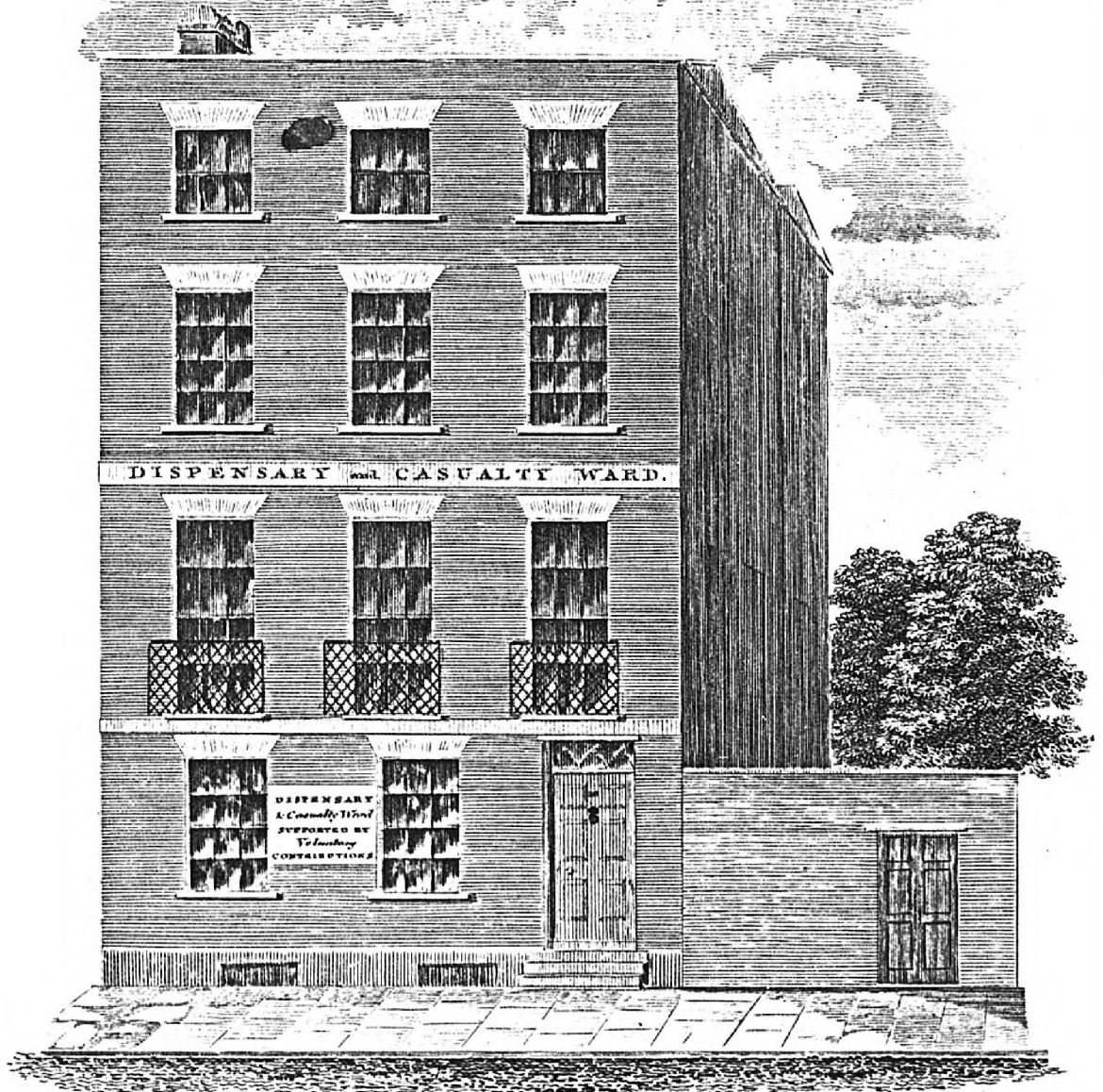
IN SICKNESS

- 1441 By an Act passed this year, the ‘lay people’ of the ‘towne’ of Cheltenham were released from the local taxes on account of the poverty of the place.
- 1721 The first recorded **traffic accident** in Cheltenham appeared as the epitaph of **Isaac Ballinger**:
 Reader! Pray covet not this world,
 Out of it you may soon be hurled,
 For as a wheel it turns about
 And it was a wheel that turned me out.
- Spring 1769 **Smallpox** claimed the lives of 170 people in Cheltenham.
- 1798 The **Rev. T.D. Fosbroke** described the Lower High Street: ‘towards the Gloucester end there was only a gravelled causeway, intersected at short intervals, by open yawning drains, - an inconvenience which rendered the path utterly unfit for gossiping or thoughtful promenade, because absence or occupation of the mind occasioned a fall into them.’
- 1808 Complaints were made that four ‘miserable **beggars**’ roamed between the churchyard and Well Walk every morning.
- 1812 **Lord Byron** wrote to **Lord Holland**, from Cheltenham: ‘I am disordered by the waters, and diluted to the throat with medicine (*sic*) for the stone by **Dr. Boisragon**.’
- 1817 Thirty deaths from **smallpox** were reported in the town.
- 1821 In *Rural Rides*, **William Cobbett** described Cheltenham’s inhabitants and visitors as ‘the lame and lazy, the gormandising and guzzling, the bilious and nervous.’
- 5 May 1831 **Dr. Boisragon**, physician to the **Dispensary**, recorded ‘That everlasting old Tuxbelly, Jossetti, brought his infamous fat friend to dine, a cleric with one leg, ... and drank six bottles.’
- Jul 1834 **Dr. Dickson** challenged **Mr. Richardson**, a Surgeon, to a duel, after the latter had accused **Dr. Dickson** of taking money from a deceased patient. The affair was taken to court, where it was amicably settled when it was realised a misunderstanding had occurred.
- Jan 1843 An inmate of the Workhouse, **Rosina Porlock**, fell into a copper of boiling water.
- Jun 1844 A child named **Bick** died after drinking oxalic acid.
- Sep 1848 Three workmen died, and two seriously injured, in an **accident** on the GWR near the Hatherley Bridge. Mown down by the train from Gloucester, they left three widows and 14 orphan children.
- Winter 1848 **Cholera** was reported in the town.
- Sep 1849 There were four deaths in Cheltenham from **cholera**.
- Feb 1850 The Board of Health received complaints about the nasty smell reaching half a mile from a candle manufactory.
- Mar 1851 A man died after falling in a lime kiln at St. Paul’s Cross. (near St. Paul’s Street North)
- 13 Jul 1852 The **Taylor** family suffered serious injuries when their cottage at **Rowenfield** was struck by **lightning**. The cottage was reduced to ruins, but the family escaped with concussion and burns.
- May 1854 Residents of Brunswick Street complained about the stench from **Mr. Bagg’s slaughterhouse**.
- Jan 1855 The following were summonsed for causing **smoke nuisance** – **J.T. Agg-Gardner**, for his **brewery** in Henrietta Street, **Samuel Attwood**, at **Barratt’s Mill**, and **John Blizard** at the **Albion Saw Mills**.
- 10 Jun 1857 Nuisance from **pig effluent** was noted in Hanover Street.
- 1858 There were 52 deaths in the town from **smallpox**.
- Jul 1859 A **slaughterhouse** nuisance was reported in the High Street near the **Shakespeare Inn**.
- Dec 1859 The Town Commissioners refused permission to erect a **slaughterhouse** in Tivoli Street.
- Jul 1860 An inquest was held after the death of **Charles Woodward** from an overdose of **laudanum**.
- 1861 There were 13 deaths from **smallpox** in Cheltenham, and 11 more the following year.
- 9 Apr 1862 Two men were injured in an accident at **Thackwell’s brickyard**. **Charles Luker** had his arm crushed in a machine, and **Mr. Colley** lost his fingers while trying to save him.
- Mar 1864 **Shackleford’s Wagon Works** was fined 1s for causing **smoke nuisance**.
- May 1864 **John Roberts Young**, a boy from Alstone, **drowned** while bathing in a clay-pit at the brickworks on the Gloucester Road.
- 1 Feb 1865 The *Cheltenham Examiner* banned ‘quack’ advertisements following the suicide of a young man. (Patent medicines had been available to buy from the *Examiner* office at 9, Clarence Street, e.g. in the 1840s)
- 29 May 1865 An entry in the Christ Church Infant School Log Book records ‘A girl admitted five weeks ago was sent home, it having been accidentally discovered that her father is just recovering from **smallpox**.’ (There were 28 deaths from **smallpox** in Cheltenham in 1865. The usual number annually varied between 0 and 1.)
- Mar 1866 Complaints were made about the state of the **piggeries** at the **Plough Hotel**.

- 1 Jan 1868 A preliminary meeting was held to form a local branch of the **Anti-compulsory Vaccination League**.
- Feb 1868 Residents complained about the **whistle** at the **Gas Works**, blown every morning at 5 a.m.
- 1869 There were 81 deaths from **scarlatina** in the town.
- Jan 1869 **James Townley**, Muffin & Crumpet maker of Gloucester Place, was knocked down and killed by a fly-driver.
- Mar 1869 The **Inspector of Nuisances** was accused of using **foul language**.
- Jul 1869 Two children **drowned** in a clay-pit in Swindon Lane.
- 27 Apr 1870 It was reported that **velocipedes** caused a great nuisance in the High Street (*Cheltenham Examiner*)
- 8 Feb 1871 The **Anti-Contagious Diseases Acts Association** held a meeting to press for a repeal of the Acts.
- Mar 1871 A **smallpox epidemic** was reported in the town.
- Jul 1871 A death in Stanhope Street was caused by the wretched conditions.
- 11 Dec 1872 A case of **smallpox** was reported in Stanhope Street.
- 1873 A **smallpox epidemic** broke out in the town.
- 7 Oct 1874 The first case in Cheltenham of a milkman being fined for supplying **adulterated milk**.
- Jun 1875 **Catherine Meade Watts** died tragically, following an accident under the wheels of an omnibus.
- May 1876 A **stray cow** belonging to **Mr. Page**, the High Street butcher, escaped while being herded along Lansdown from Gloucester. It chased two ladies, the **Misses Perry**, into **Waite & Kite**, the chemist at the top of Montpellier. Besides demolishing the counters and displays, the cow trampled on one **Miss Perry**, tearing off her left ear. It then ran out into the street again to rejoin the herd. [An early case of 'Mad Cow Disease'?]
- Jun 1876 The Medical Officer of Health reported on 40 **abattoirs** in the town.
- Sep 1876 Residents of the St. Mark's area complained of the nuisance caused by the **hooter** at **Letheren's Vulcan Ironworks**. Complaints were still being made in 1892, about the 6 a.m. **hooter**.
- Oct 1876 There was continuing debate about whether **pigs** should be kept within 30 yards of any dwelling.
- Jan 1877 The Public Health Committee reported on the nuisance of **pigs** being kept in Cheltenham.
- 9 May 1877 A public meeting at the old Town Hall condemned the Vaccination Acts as tyrannical and severe.
- Dec 1878 Proceedings were taken to remove the **pig nuisance** from the **Early Dawn** public house.
- Jan 1879 The Committee for the Relief of the **Unemployed Poor** provided bread and coal to 1,700 and gave employment to an average of 150 men daily during a period of very **severe frost**.
- Jul 1879 The Medical Officer of Health reported cases of **smallpox** in Cheltenham.
- Oct 1881 A **slaughterhouse** was reported in Brandon Terrace, Leckhampton.
- Nov 1882 **Slaughterhouses** were licensed in Whaddon Lane and Bath Road.
- 25 Jul 1883 A letter to the *Cheltenham Examiner* complained that there were too many **trees** in Cheltenham, causing damp, darkness and illness.
- Jan 1884 An inhabitant of Rutland Street, **Adam Jackson**, died of **starvation**.
- Jan 1884 A fatal **accident** occurred at the **Tho. Davis & Co.** bicycle and tricycle works in Sherborne Place. **Thomas Rudder Davis** was killed instantly when his solid stone emery wheel exploded while he was bevelling the rim of a wheel.
- Feb 1884 An inquest was held into the death of **Elizabeth Mary Rowley**, from **overwork at school**.
- Aug 1884 The landlord of the **Eight Bells** public house complained about the state of the **public conveniences** in Church Lane.
- 11 Mar 1885 A housemaid, **Jane Blandford**, died in a **gas explosion** as she was lighting the ceiling lamp at Fauconberg House, St. George's Road.
- Dec 1885 A child died at the **Workhouse**, having been refused medicine as the official was not on duty.
- 1886 The **Poor Sisters of Nazareth**, who had arrived in the town in 1874, ran a **soup kitchen** for the poor.
- 27 Jan 1886 At an inquest into the death of **Richard Ernest Smith**, the jury added the verdict that he had been **overtaxed at school**.
- 7 Apr 1886 A letter to the *Cheltenham Examiner* complained about **reckless drivers**, especially butcher boys, milkmen and fly-drivers.
- May 1886 Thirty passengers escaped unhurt from a **railway accident** at the Lansdown Junction.
- Nov 1886 Complaints were made about the **smoking chimney** at the **College Baths**.
- Jan 1887 A pharmacist was rebuked in court following the death of the infant son of **F.C. Dodwell** from **opium poisoning**.
- 14 Sep 1887 Sixteen local tradesmen put their names to a letter of protest about the **noise nuisance** caused by boys selling the *Echo*. (*Cheltenham Examiner*)
- Apr 1888 A student at the Training College, **William Burton**, died from injuries sustained during a **football match**.

- Aug 1888 The daughter of **J. Riste**, of the **York Hotel**, received **ptomaine poisoning** from potted lobster.
- 24 Oct 1888 A letter in the *Cheltenham Examiner* complained of the danger to people and horses from children trundling **hoops** in the streets of the town.
- Nov 1888 The residents of Clarence Parade petitioned for the removal of **paperboys** causing a nuisance.
- Jan 1889 A **slaughterhouse** nuisance was reported in Russell Place.
- Nov 1889 **Edward Parsons**, a signalman from Queen's Retreat, died when his **paraffin lamp exploded**.
- Dec 1889 The **blacksmith's forge** in Waterloo Street was found to be causing a nuisance.
- 1890s Residents were annoyed by the noisy entertainments, such as steam fairs and circuses, held at **Hampton's Gardens**, Albion Street.
- Jun 1891 The residents of Lansdown complained about the noise made by captive **peacocks**.
- Jul 1891 **Edwin Augustus Barnfield** was found **drowned** in the brick pits at Leckhampton.
- Sep 1891 A 5-year old child **drowned** in the millpond at **Barrett's Mill**.
- Oct 1891 **Maria Dolores Jones** was the second of two reclusive sisters to **starve to death** in Raymond Terrace.
- 21 Oct 1891 A correspondent to the *Cheltenham Examiner*, who had been attacked by a **bull** in the London Road, complained about the **animals** roaming the streets of Cheltenham.
- Aug 1893 Complaints were made about the danger to pedestrians from the excessive speed of **cyclists**.
- Apr 1894 **William J.R. Chetwynd** was fined 40s for exposing the public to **scarlet fever**, by being on the streets.
- Aug 1894 A local woman died from **food poisoning** after eating putrid meat.
- Dec 1894 A Marsh Lane (St. Paul's) resident was summonsed for failing to report **scarlet fever**. The **Baker Street Schools** had to be closed that month because of the **scarlet fever outbreak**.
- Feb 1895 A labourer, named **Thomas Anderson**, died having **eaten coins and needles**.
- 16 Dec 1895 **John Pugh** died in a fatal accident in the **electricity** substation under the footway at the junction of the Colonnade and the High Street.
- Jan 1896 Five cases of **smallpox** were reported in the town.
- Mar 1896 **John Bird** died during an **explosion** at the **Gas Works**.
- Jan 1897 **Josiah Lance** was prosecuted because of the nuisance caused by his **sawmill** in Henrietta Street.
- Jan 1897 A new chimney stack was built at the **Original Brewery** to solve the **smoke nuisance**.
- May 1898 A youth named **Fred Pryer** was sucked into the outlet pipe and **drowned** at the **Alstone Baths**.
- Jul 1898 A 2 year old child died from **ptomaine poisoning**. [A popular term for **food poisoning**.]
- Jul 1898 A blacksmith, **John Harewell**, died from eating a surfeit of cow-heel.
- Sep 1898 **Smoke pollution** from the **Hatherley Steam Laundry** caused complaints from nearby residents.
- Jan 1899 **Daniel Midwinter** died by falling from a cart while lighting his pipe. [Tobacco CAN kill!]
- Jul 1899 Six people were struck by **lightning** while sheltering under trees in Pittville Park.
- Nov 1900 **Edward Richards** was fatally **electrocuted** at the electricity substation in Manchester Street. (Clarence Street)
- Feb 1901 **Henry Smith** and **William Kingdom** were fined for accidentally **shooting** a youth, **F. Bunce**, at Arle.
- Jul 1901 An epidemic of **mumps** was reported in Cheltenham.
- Jul 1901 Two days before Cheltenham's new tram system was due to open, a **tramcar** descending Cleeve Hill on a trial run went out of control. It overturned at the Southam curve, killing two workmen.
- Dec 1901 The death of a six-year old child from **burns** led to the Coroner stressing the need for proper fire guards in homes.
- 1902 **Josephine Butler**, the pioneering social reformer, wrote of Cheltenham: 'There are low class **brothels** and **slums** which would be a disgrace to London or New York.'
- Jun 1903 A motorist was fined £2 for **reckless driving** along the Bath Road, at 20 m.p.h.
- 15 Sep 1904 A **gas explosion** occurred at the Winchcombe Street shop of **Mr. Challice**, a taxidermist. A woman was injured by part of a bear, and animal remains were discovered over a wide area.
- 1912 The annual report of the **School Medical Inspectors** gave the following instructions for cleansing children – 'Vermin in the head and their eggs (nits) can be got rid of by thoroughly soaking the hair and scalp in common lamp paraffin for a couple of hours.'
- 1914 The **School Medical Inspectors** found that about 90% of the children examined 'demonstrated the absence of the use of the toothbrush.' 'Only 3% of all children examined presented absolutely sound teeth.'
- Autumn 1930 The **School Medical Inspectors** felt that an increase in **skin diseases** among school children was due to the return of a number of them from hop picking. 'It is unfortunate that overcrowding and lack of cleanliness should mar the effect of a holiday which ought to prove beneficial to the health of the children.'

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL.



North View of the
CHEL TENHAM DISPENSARY.

S. Y. Griffith & Co. Copper Plate Printers.

- 17 Apr 1941 Five children were killed, and three seriously injured, while playing with a **bomb** in Worcester Street. They had found it during a Good Friday trip, and were trying to open it as they had been unable to set it off.
- 5 Jul 1950 During an epidemic, 500 local children were suffering from **measles**.
- 11 Aug 1950 Fifteen cases of **poliomyelitis** (infantile paralysis) were recorded in the town.
- 1 Jan 1954 The Town Council investigated **smog** in the St. Peter's district, caused by the Gas Works.
- 13 Oct 1954 Thirteen cases of **poliomyelitis** were reported in Cheltenham.
- 18 Nov 1954 Cheltenham's worst **fog** to date produced traffic chaos in the town.
- 6 Mar 1957 The County Medical Officer called for an enquiry into the persistently high rate of infant deaths, and the high number of premature births, in the borough.
- 3 Oct 1957 During an **influenza** epidemic in the town, St. Mary's College closed, and 50 - 85% of the pupils were affected at Cheltenham College and Dean Close School.
- 16 Jan 1958 **Fog** trapped 500 birds in the town centre chimneys.
- 25 Nov 1958 A blanket of **fog** hit Cheltenham, causing traffic problems.
- 31 Aug 1960 Eleven people were killed in 10 separate accidents around the town during the previous week.
- 8 Dec 1963 **Fog** suspended most taxi and bus services across the town.
- 9 Feb 1967 The Cheltenham Licensing Judges expressed concern over **drinking** amongst young people.
- 15 Jul 1972 The increase in **drug-taking** by local 17-24 year olds caused concern.
- Apr 1973 Cheltenham was described as the 'worst town in Gloucestershire for **pedestrian casualties**'. (GCC Highways)
- 1 Jun 1973 A survey of Cheltenham's 9,000 young people, carried out for the Cheltenham Youth Trust, revealed that 20% took **drugs**.
- 19 Jul 1975 A vaccine shortage was announced in Cheltenham as fears grew over a **typhoid** outbreak in Bristol.
- 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.
- 25 Aug 1982 A **whooping cough** epidemic hit the Cheltenham area.
- 14 Jul 1983 Residents in Alstone complained of being forced to close windows in sweltering heat due to the **smell** from the nearby **skinyard**.
- 15 Jul 1983 **Drug addiction** in Cheltenham was claimed to be the worst for a town of its size in the country.
- 21 Apr 1984 A massive **gas-burst** created a dangerous cloud over Arle, threatening nearby housing and low-flying aircraft.
- 11 Sep 1984 A Cheltenham boy underwent a 10-hour operation to sew his **severed hand** back on.
- 31 Dec 1984 During the previous five years, 85 people had been injured (30 of them pedestrians) as a result of accidents on major Cheltenham roads within the **Inner Ring** road system.
- 19 Apr 1985 Experts were drafted in to remove cancer-causing **blue asbestos** from a former High Street shop.
- 12 Jun 1985 A report on Cheltenham's housing showed that 3,500 out of 36,000 homes had **dangerous electrical wiring**.
- 19 Jan 1987 A Cheltenham man became the first person in the county to die from **AIDS**.
- 17 Jun 1987 A Social Services report showed Cheltenham had the most cases of reported **child abuse** anywhere in the county.
- 28 Sep 1989 St. George's Place was sealed off after a World War II cache of **firearms** and **ammunition** was discovered.
- 5 Feb 1990 **Legionnaires' Disease** bacteria were discovered at a sports centre in Swindon Village.
- 13 Aug 1991 The local environmental department received hundreds of calls from people complaining about **fleas** and **wasps** due to the hot humid weather.
- 27 Sep 1991 Four Cheltenham Ladies' College pupils were taken to hospital after a bolt of **lightning** struck the pitch while they were playing hockey.
- 6 Jan 1992 An epidemic of **Beijing 'flu'** hit Cheltenham and the county. Festive kisses were blamed for spreading the infection.
- 28 Oct 1992 A 15-year old boy died from sniffing gas while in council care in Cheltenham. His death inspired a county-wide campaign against **solvent abuse**.
- 28 Sep 1994 A Cheltenham GP, and former adviser to Margaret Thatcher, was charged under the Theft & Misuse of **Drugs** Act.
- 7 Dec 1995 Beef was banned from the menu at Dean Close School due to the **BSE** scare.
- 2 Aug 1996 A town crane operator working on the Echo Office redevelopment site suffered **sunstroke** and had to be helped down.
- Sep 2003 Cheltenham Borough Council received 400 complaints about **uneven pavements** over the previous year.

..... AND IN HEALTH

- 1781 'In the neighbourhood of Cheltenham the air is soft and mild and even in the wintry season not ungenial to its long-lived inhabitants.' – *Journey to Cheltenham Spa*.
- 1798 **Mr. J. Abraham, Optician**, from Bath, opened his shop at 65, High Street. He later moved to a shop adjoining the Montpellier Pump Room, and offered spectacles, ground from the best Brazilian pebbles, and a huge variety of optical instruments. Apparently the Duke of Wellington took great delight in looking round the shop on his visits to the town. **J. Abraham** opened his shop in Cheltenham, on a seasonal basis, until the early 1840s, when he was succeeded by his son, **M. Abraham**. (The 'season' in Cheltenham lasted from April to November.)
- 1804 **Col. John Riddell**, a notable eccentric and medical quack, took up residence in Cheltenham, on discovering the **chalybeate spring** on land he had bought in **Cambray**. Col. Riddell wrote frequently to the local press promoting smallpox inoculation over **Jenner's** vaccination. He invented some 'Life-restoring powders', and the 'Riddellian system of extraordinary cures in cases of fever, performed at Cheltenham'. He also claimed to have a remedy for typhoid, but none of these miracle cures were recognised by the medical profession.
- c.1807 **W. Thornton, Cupper** to HRH the Duke of Gloucester and His Grace the Duke of Wellington, began a long career in the town. His wife began her career as a professional **cupper, leecher** and **corn extractor** in c.1817. (Cupping was a form of blood-letting, believed to cure many ills.)
- 1807 **Dr. Henry Charles Boisragon** arrived in Cheltenham, initially residing in Winchcombe Street. He moved to No.11, Royal Crescent when building had been completed in 1811. Dr. Boisragon was a co-founder of the first Cheltenham **Literary & Philosophical Society** with **Jenner**.
- 1814 **Dr. H.C. Boisragon** was appointed by The Prince of Wales to be one of his HRH's Physicians Extraordinaire. In 1817 he became the first **Worshipful Master** of the town's **masonic lodge**.
- 24 May 1816 The Cheltenham **Vaccination Convention** opened.
- c.1821 **Mr. I. Alex, Surgeon Dentist**, began practice in Cheltenham. In the 1820s he offered his 'celebrated **Mineral Teeth**'. In the 1830s he offered his 'celebrated **Incorrodable Terro-Metallic Mineral Teeth**', and used his newly-invented **Anodyne Metallic Cement** to fill teeth. In the 1840s he introduced the highly recommended and much admired **Sea Pebble Teeth**. In the 1850s, a relative, **Mr. Montague Alex**, had 'secured the exclusive privilege to use the new system of adapting Artificial Teeth, by means of the chemically prepared **White** and **Gum-coloured India Rubber**, as a lining to the Gold or Bone Frame now in ordinary use.'
- 17 May 1821 **Parker's Swimming and Bathing Place** was 'newly built'. (at the west end of the present Exmouth Arms garden) Established by **Arthur Parker**, a builder of Bath Terrace, it was still being advertised in the 1830 Cheltenham Directory.
- 1823 The Surgeon to the **Cheltenham Casualty Hospital**, **Charles Averill**, published a book – *Operative Surgery* – which was used internationally and translated into several languages.
- 1825 **Richard Lily** died, having attained the great age of **106** years.
- Aug 1827 **Mr. James Lewis**, of 87, Winchcombe Street, was appointed **Surgeon Dentist in Ordinary** to His Majesty the King.
- 1832 While a **cholera** epidemic raged in the neighbouring towns of Gloucester and Tewkesbury, not a single inhabitant of Cheltenham died from the disease. The townspeople held a Thanksgiving Day on 14 Nov 1832 following their fortunate escape.
- Jul 1837 The **Provincial Medical & Surgical Association** held their Annual Meeting in Cheltenham, attending lectures and discussions at the **Literary & Philosophical Institution**.
- 1840 **Mr. Cullis, Surgeon Dentist**, introduced **coral teeth** and **palates**, fitted without springs or ligatures, which 'for elegance and matching the natural ones stand superior to anything yet introduced.'
- 1842 The **Truss & Bandage Manufactory** of **Moody Bell & Son** was established at 4, Colonnade – surgical suppliers and instrument makers.
- 3 Feb 1843 **Dr. Brookes** performed the first operation under **ether** in Cheltenham. **Dr. Logan** performed the first dental surgery under ether the same day.
- Sept 1843 A man called **Mountjoy** walked 60 miles a day for six successive days. He started from the **York Hotel** in the High Street, and walked to a mile beyond Northleach and back again, twice each day.
- 1 Jul 1844 The exhibition of **Signor Sarti's Florentine Anatomical 'Venus & Adonis' models** opened at 7, Promenade Villas, for 2 months. Ladies-Only days were Tue. and Fri., and they were urged to attend, as an improved knowledge of anatomy would discourage 'that absurd barbarism of wearing stays.' (It was claimed that 31,090 English women died in one year from the effects of tight lacing.)

- 1845 **J. Matthews** offered ‘**Medical Galvanism**’ to cure indigestion, nervous and bilious affections, asthma, rheumatism, paralysis, spinal complaints, etc. – ‘...may be advantageously employed in every disease which has obtained a name.’ (This was a treatment involving the application of electricity to the tissues.)
- 1847 **Sarah Bradstock** died at the age of **105**, another example of longevity in Cheltenham.
- Feb 1850 A description of a **machine for washing clothes**, invented by **Mr. Jearrad**, the architect, formerly of Westal, Cheltenham, was published in the *Illustrated Historic Times*. One of his machines had been successfully trialled in the Workhouse of St. George, Hanover Square, London. It was found to be excellent for **sterilising** the clothes of persons affected by **cholera** and other contagious diseases. It was also economic, and could wash six dozen towels in as little as four minutes.
- 27 Jun 1851 **James Hastings**, known locally as ‘**Hunting Jim**’, died at Cheltenham. Jim used to follow **Lord Fitzhardinge’s** Hunt, but always on foot. He would regularly walk the 25 miles from Cheltenham to Berkeley, follow the hounds all day, and return to Cheltenham the same night. On one occasion, when the meet was at Broadway, he covered 84 miles in one day, taking in a badger hunt at Queen’s Wood, Cleeve Hill on the way home.
- Dec 1859 **Mr. Byrn** gave a display at his **Gymnasium** in Regent Street. (He also taught gymnastics at Cheltenham College.)
- c.1860 **Dr. Edward Wilson** began to practise in the town. He did much work compiling statistics showing the good result of smallpox vaccination. He formed the **Glos. Sanitary Association**, which examined houses and issued certificates of sanitary fitness 20 years before there was a Corporation Public Health Dept. He was the Hon. Sec. of the **Delancey Hospital** from its foundation, and was the founder and President of the **District Nursing Association**. (He was the father of the Antarctic explorer, **Edward Adrian Wilson**.)
- Mar 1860 The first **public drinking fountain** in the town was erected at the High Street end of White Hart Row. A second fountain was established at the rear of the Market Place later that year, financed by **Miss Carrington**. Both these fountains were designed by the borough surveyor, **Henry Dangerfield**. Within a few years, the drinking fountains were considered a great nuisance. The removal of the Market Place fountain was proposed as early as 1862, and it was transported to Crystal Palace in 1868. The fountain at White Hart Row had fallen into disrepair by the late 1880s.
- 16 Oct 1868 **Richard Purser**, the oldest man in Gloucestershire, possibly England, was buried in Leckhampton churchyard, allegedly aged **111** years.
- Sep 1871 **Miss Elizabeth Baillie**, of Tivoli, offered to erect a **public drinking fountain** in the open space where Lansdown meets Montpellier. (**Gordon Lamp** roundabout.) However, the Town Commissioners proposed that her fountain should be placed in **Clarence Street**, replacing a cab stand which they were planning to move further from the Promenade. This led to a dispute, with Miss Baillie’s proposed fountain being blamed for the cab stand removal. Evidently exasperated with the whole business, Miss Baillie donated £110 to the **hospital** instead, in Jan 1872.
- Nov 1871 Health statistics showed that Cheltenham had the lowest death rate in the country.
- Jul 1873 A new and patented improvement in **butcher’s carts** was produced at **Messrs. Dredge Carriage Works**, Bath Road. It was invented by **Capt. J.E. Acklam**, and ‘applied the refrigerating power of moist felt and zinc’ to the chamber that carried the meat.
- May 1876 A **public recreation ground** opened as **The Elms Gardens**, thanks to the money and effort of the owner, **Mr. Chesshyre**. (Swindon Road) **The Elms** was later used by the Board of Guardians to house sick children, and bought by them in 1882 for an extension to the Workhouse, after several years of debate and haggling with **Mr. Chesshyre**.
- Nov 1879 The **Cheltenham Gymnasium Club** occupied the Town Hall, under the management of **Mr. J. Maxfield**. **Capt. St. Clair Ford** presided over the opening of the **Gymnasium**.
- 1880 The **Cheltenham College Baths** opened, thought to be the oldest purpose-built Victorian swimming pool in the country surviving intact. (It was recently leased by the General Hospital for storage of health records, before opening as a Maggie’s Cancer Care Centre on 10 Oct 2010.)
- 1882 The **Montpellier Baths** were converted to a **gymnasium** for the winter season, and used by the **Cheltenham Gymnasium Club** for many years.
- Jul 1882 The **British Dental Association** held their annual meeting in Cheltenham.
- Jan 1887 **Dr. Roch**, Medical Officer of Health, advocated the building of a common **abattoir** for the town. (This advice was not carried into practice for another five years.)
- Jun 1887 A letter in the *London Standard* reported that **Cheltenham Spa** was a better health resort than those of Germany.

- 21 Jun 1887 **Alstone Baths**, the town's first **municipal swimming baths**, were opened on the site of Alstone Mill. (Great Western Road) They were closed in 1971, when the **Pittville pools** were opened, and for a time were used as an indoor market and a launderette, and a DIY store. The buildings were finally demolished in Oct 1984.
- Aug 1887 The annual **Athletic Sports** meeting, held in Montpellier Gardens, had possibly the largest attendance in England that year.
- Jun 1888 The **Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground** was formally opened at Pittville. **Mr. Agg-Gardner** had donated the land, which was laid out by the Town Council.
- Jul 1889 The Mayor presided at the dedication of a **public drinking fountain** at the **Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground**.
- 1891 A **drinking fountain** was placed at Westal Green, donated by the three **Misses Whish** to celebrate their 50 years living in Cheltenham. It was designed by the sculptor, **A.B. Wall**. In 1929 it was moved to its present site in Sandford Park. (Keynsham Road)
- 1891 **Cheltine Foods** was established in the town. In 1901 the firm moved to the former **Worth's Food Works**, in Chester Walk behind the library. **Cheltine Foods** specialised in food for invalids, diabetics and children. One product was the Chelax digestive biscuit, which included **spa water** in the recipe. The company, which had traded as **T.E. Whitaker & Co.**, ceased production in 1973.
- 1892 The **Delancey** Committee of Management reported that there had been no cases of **smallpox** for four years.
- Jul 1892 The public **Abattoir** on Gloucester Road was ready for occupation, with the hope that it would replace all the private slaughterhouses in Cheltenham. It was extended in May 1900.
- Jan 1893 Charlton Kings welcomed its first District Nurse.
- 6 Jul 1893 **Naunton Park recreation ground** was officially opened by the Mayor, to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince George to Princess Mary of Teck.
- 25 Apr 1894 **Pittville Park** was formally opened to the public, a few years after the Borough Council had bought the Pittville estate.
- 6 Oct 1894 A **drinking fountain**, donated by **Capt. St. Clair Ford**, was unveiled in **Naunton Park** by the Mayor. Designed by the Borough Surveyor, **Joseph Hall**, it was a 20-foot high brick pillar, faced in Doulton tiles and topped by a terracotta cornice and vase.
- Dec 1896 The Town Council proposed leasing **Hampton's Gardens**, Albion Street, for use as an **Athletic Ground**. It was purchased some years later, and re-opened with a new track in 1902. (St. John's Avenue)
- Jun 1897 **J.R.C. Taunton** donated £100 to build a drinking fountain in Leckhampton Road. Installed opposite the Malvern Inn for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, it was removed in 1949.
- Mar 1898 The **Montpellier Baths** were bought by the Borough Council and converted into a public indoor swimming pool.
- 12 Mar 1898 Open Day at the newly-built **Victoria Jubilee Gymnasium** and three **baths** to the rear of the **Working Men's Institute** at Charlton Kings.
- May 1898 A **Ladies' Bicycle Gymkhana** was held in Montpellier Gardens.
- 1899 **Dr. Grace Billings**, one of Cheltenham's first female physicians, set up her one-woman surgery at 3 Pittville Parade (now 6 Evesham Road). She took her first partner, **Dr. Gwendolen Brown**, in 1927, and the practice remained all-female until 1974, apart from a brief spell with **Dr. Geoffrey B. Matthews** in 1947-51. Grace Billings retired in 1936, but the practice continued to develop, moving to the present site in **Overton Park Road** in 1991.
- 30 Jul 1901 At the Town Hall, the opening took place of the four-day annual meeting of the **British Medical Association**.
- 25 May 1903 Described as a 'cinderella' among recreation grounds, the **Whaddon Lane Ground** was officially opened.
- Feb 1904 The Medical Officer of Health reported a record low death rate in Cheltenham.
- 1913 Tables compiled by the **School Medical Inspectors** showed that the tallest and heaviest children came from **Christ Church, Hatherley Lane** and **Leckhampton Schools**. 'The two last mentioned are situated further away from the centre of the town where the surroundings partake more of the nature of a rural district. As to **Christ Church School**, this has always been a school of selection. Of old time some small private payment was exacted for boys attending here, and in consequence the children who attended came from houses where the means were better and the effects of poverty less felt.'
- May 1914 The **National Vegetarian Society** held meetings in Cheltenham.
- 10 Oct 1914 The **Drew** fountain, a statue of Edward VII which was also a public drinking fountain, was unveiled on a site opposite the Montpellier Rotunda.

GORE,
Plumber, Glazier,
and Painter,
Saint Georges Place
CHELTENHAM.

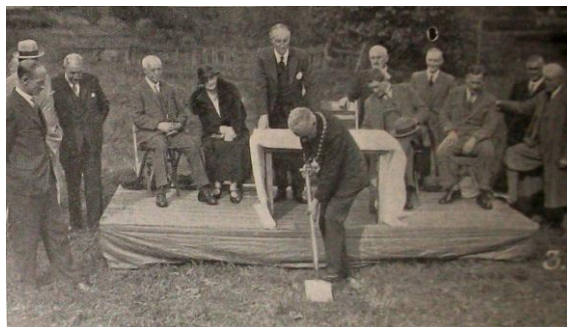
Water Closets, Lift Pumps,
AND
Beer Machines
 on the most Approvd Principle.
NB. Air Traps for Drains.

Very early advertisement from *Griffiths' Guide to Cheltenham* dated 1818



Drinking fountain at Westal Green, donated by the Misses Whish in 1891

- 23 Jul 1928 The **British Pharmaceutical Society** opened its annual conference in Cheltenham.
- 8 Sep 1928 **Sandford Park** was officially opened by the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.
- 1932 The **Gloucestershire Dairy Co.** became the first dairy outside London to pasteurise its milk.
- Aug 1934 A 'Health, Dancing, Elocution, Theorhythm Summer School' was held at Pittville.
- 8 Oct 1934 Work began on a new open-air bathing pool in **Sandford Park**, on a former allotments site. It opened on 25 May 1935 as the **Sandford Lido**. The café was opened the following year, on 23 May, by the Mayor. The children's pool was opened by the Mayor in Jan 1938.
- 12 Jun 1938 Cheltenham **Fitness Week** began, organised by the Somerset & Gloucestershire National Fitness Committee.
- 1948 The **National Health Service** was introduced in Britain.
- 30 Sep 1948 **Hugh Gaitskill**, Minister of Fuel & Power, praised smoke-free Cheltenham as 'one of the cleanest towns in the country.'
- 1 Jun 1951 A Cheltenham spinster died aged **107** years, believed to be the oldest woman in England at the time. She had 50 great-nephews and nieces, and more than 40 great great-nephews and nieces.
- 16 Jun 1953 The conference of the **Association of Health & Pleasure Resorts** was held at the Town Hall.
- 1 Oct 1962 Hesters Way became a **Smokeless Zone**.
- 12 Mar 1963 The Town Council refused to have **fluoride** added to the local water. They rejected the idea again on 13 Dec 1965.
- 23 Sep 1968 The Cheltenham Health Committee recommended the introduction of **fluoridation** of water supplies. The scheme was rejected in Jun 1976.
- 4 May 1971 H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother officially opened the new £650,000 **Pittville swimming pools**, which replaced the **Alstone Baths** of 1887.
- 28 Jul 1975 A nationally conducted survey showed that Cheltenham girls had the **longest legs** in the country.
- 19 Mar 1976 **Henry Cooper**, the former British & European Heavyweight Champion, officially opened the **Leisureland Centre** at Kingsditch.
- 2 Sep 1981 The **Prince of Wales Stadium** opened with a floodlit cricket match, *Glos. v. Australia*. It became home for the **Cheltenham Harriers Athletic Club** and the **Cheltenham Rugby Club**.
- 13 Sep 1981 Cheltenham's biggest athletic event to date took place when 1,300 runners took part in a 'Crack Cancer' **half-marathon**.
- 29 Apr 1982 HRH Princess Anne officially opened a **riding centre for the disabled** at Prestbury racecourse.
- 13 Oct 1982 A 4,000-signature petition was submitted by the Campaign to Save **Sandford Open-air Swimming Pool**.
- 31 May 1985 Disabled wheelchair users began a campaign seeking better **access** to all shops, offices and public buildings.
- 1992 The Sports Hall was opened at the **Prince of Wales Stadium**.
- 27 Nov 1992 The '**Shopmobility**' wheelchair loan scheme for the disabled was launched.
- 19 Apr 1996 The environmentalist, **Jonathan Porritt**, switched on the country's first power station to be fuelled by rotting waste, at Stoke Orchard.
- 5 Aug 1996 The Gloucestershire Health Authority agreed to pay for a Cheltenham man's sex change operation on the NHS.
- 18 Sep 1996 A 60-year old retired Cheltenham engineer was still playing **rugby** for the Cheltenham Saracens.
- 20 Oct 1997 Teenager, **Kevin Staight**, from Fairview, saw **colour** for the first time in his life thanks to a 'miracle' pair of **contact lenses**.
- 2 Jan 1999 Former Cheltenham College pupil, **Nick Bourne**, became the first person in the world to run the length of Africa. He trained for the 6,800-mile marathon by running up Cleeve Hill.



The Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor E.L. Ward cutting the first sod for the new open-air bathing pool.
Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic Oct. 13, 1934

EDWARD JENNER AND CHELTENHAM

- 17 May 1749 **Edward Jenner** was born at Berkeley, the son of the **Rev. Stephen Jenner** and **Sarah**, his wife. **Edward**, who was the youngest of five surviving children, was orphaned in 1754 when both his parents died. He was raised by his sisters, and sent away to school.
- 1762 Aged 13, **Jenner** was apprenticed to **Mr. John Ludlow**, a surgeon-teacher of Chipping Sodbury. He remained there for six years.
- 1770 **Edward Jenner** formally enrolled as a student at St. Georges Hospital, London.
- 1773 Having qualified as a surgeon, **Jenner** returned to Berkeley to practise. St. Andrews University, conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on **Edward Jenner**, Surgeon, on 7 Jul 1792.
- 6 Mar 1788 **Edward Jenner** married **Catherine**, daughter of **Robert Fitzhardinge Kingscote, Esq.**, of Kingscote.
- Mar 1795 **Dr. Edward Jenner** and his family moved into lodgings opposite a druggist's shop in the Lower High Street, at that time considered quite a respectable area prior to the expansion of the town.
- 14 May 1796 At Berkeley, **Jenner** performed the experiment, by inoculating **James Phipps** with cowpox lymph, which convinced him that vaccination would prevent smallpox.
- 14 Jul 1798 **Jenner** returned to Cheltenham from London after unsuccessfully launching the publication of his tract on cowpox vaccination.
- 9 Jun 1799 **Jenner** began vaccinating against smallpox in Cheltenham.
- 1800 **Jenner** offered free vaccination to the poor. **Alpha House** (St. George's Road) was used for this gratuitous vaccination, and was referred to as the 'pest house' by the local inhabitants. Known as **Alstone Green** at that time, the farmhouse belonged to a surgeon, **Thomas Cother**. **Jenner** vaccinated up to 300 people a day at times, using lymph from cows kept at Queen's Wood on Cleeve Hill. He later wrote 'I permitted persons of all descriptions to come to me weekly. The smallpox was at their heels. I was literally mobbed, driven into a corner with: "The man shall do me next!", "No, he shan't – he shall do me."'
- 1800 Individual families in Cheltenham could apply to **Jenner** for vaccination. Parish officers often sent along willing groups. One parish had held back until the summer of 1800, when smallpox had ravished their area. The cost of paupers' coffins became so burdensome to the parish that the churchwardens 'compelled the people to avail themselves of **Dr. Jenner's** kind offer.'
- Dec 1800 Recognition of **Jenner's** vaccination was established, and practised in four continents. **Jenner** was listed as 'resident' physician in Shenton's *Cheltenham Directory* for 1800.
- 4 Sep 1801 **Jenner** attended the Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, with his friend **Henry Hicks**, for a performance in honour of the Prince of Wales.
- 12 Jun 1802 **Jenner** was awarded £10,000 by parliament for his discovery of an effective smallpox vaccination.
- 14 Aug 1803 The **Jenner** family returned to Cheltenham from a spell in London, where they had a house in New Bond Street. (They lived above a shop and warehouse of the chemists, **Savory & Moore**. There may be an extra link with Cheltenham here, as **Cheltenham Salts**, manufactured at the **Old Well**, were marketed by **Savory Moore & Co**. Also, one of **Jenner's** friends and colleagues was **Thomas Paytherus**, a surgeon of Ross, and the **Salts** were produced at the **Old Well** by **Paytherus & Co.**) **Jenner** had just sold his London practice, in Hertford Street, which had failed to thrive, and now set about developing his Cheltenham practice.
- Sep 1803 The portrait painter, **John Hoppner**, was a Cheltenham patient of **Jenner's**, who recommended that he rub in mercury for his liver complaint.
- 24 Nov 1804 After leasing **No. 8, St. George's Place** since 1796, **Jenner**, bought the house as his Cheltenham residence. The house was one of a row built by **Mr. Lambert**, the proprietor of an adjacent livery stables, who then leased the entire terrace to a Cheltenham practitioner, **Dr. Minster**. **Jenner** bought **No. 8** from **Col. John Riddell**, a famous medical quack, and eccentric of the day. (**Col. Riddell** was later to prove one of **Jenner's** local opponents of vaccination.)
- 1805 **Col. John Riddell** sold a large area of land to **Jenner**, opposite **No. 8, St. George's Place**, to use as a garden and a place to turn his carriage. This area is now called **Jenner Walk** (2003).
- Feb 1805 **Jenner** wrote to his friend the **Rev. Robert Ferryman**, who built the rustic Temple of Vaccinia at Chantry Cottage in Berkeley: 'So great has been the scramble for Houses in this favourite haunt of the great & opulent, that I have been obliged to be a buyer in order to secure a place to hide my little Head in'. (Robert Ferryman may have been related to the **Ferryman** family who owned land around Francis Street in Cheltenham. A cottage *orné*, [in an ornamented, thatched cottage style], known as **Ferryman's Cottage**, is marked on the 1825 map of Leckhampton parish bounds, beside the Bath Road on the site of Hermitage Street.)

- 1805+ For a time **St. George's Place** was the 'Harley Street' of Cheltenham. **Dr. Newell** lived at **No. 5**, **Dr. Fowler** at **No. 6**, **Dr. Minster** at **No. 7**, and **Dr. Edward Jenner** at **No. 8**. Farther up the road the wealthy **Dr. Hooper** lived at the **Great House** (site of St. Matthew's Church), and **Dr. Pope** lived down a short lane on the opposite side. (By the middle of the century **Cambray** had become the area most inhabited by Doctors, with at least 15 listed there.)
- Oct 1805 **Jenner** wrote to a friend that 'Cheltenham is much improved since you saw it. It is too gay for me. I still like my rustic haunt, old Berkeley, best, where we are all going in about a fortnight's time.'
- 27 Dec 1805 Anti-vaccinists had been gaining strength. In defence of vaccination, **Jenner** wrote from Cheltenham: 'This growing mischief may speedily be put an end to, by collecting into one clear point of view that Mass of evidence in favor of vaccination which this Town of **Cheltenham** & neighbourhood can readily produce. ... My first inoculations commenced here so long since as the 9th of June 1799, & from that time to the present, they have gone on in annual succession, so that since the period of its commencement, many thousands have been vaccinated, of all ages from the earliest Infancy to 80 years – of all Constitutions – in all kinds of weather the Climate affords – In sickness as well as in health – Women in every stage of pregnancy – the Mechanic and the Husbandman, in the midst of their busiest employments, neither rarely finding any hindrance even for an hour during its progress ... No new diseases of any sort or kind has been seen or heard of. No Ox-faced boys or mangy Girls. ... And what is far beyond all considerations, great numbers of these persons have been repeatedly exposed to the contagion of the smallpox in its most malignant stages, without effect, in any one instance.'
- 1806 **Jenner** was appointed one of the **Town Commissioners** under the Cheltenham Paving Act of 1806. He is only on record twice as having spoken at the Commissioner's meetings. The first occasion was in 1806, when he asked permission to open a drain from his house in St. George's Place into the public sewer there. (This was the only sewer in Cheltenham at that time.)
- 1808 On the second occasion that **Jenner** spoke at a **Town Commissioners'** meeting, he put forward a proposal that a common sewer should be made to serve the whole town. (Nothing further was done until a private sewers company was formed in 1834.)
- Jul 1809 The *Medical Journal* printed a letter from **James Freeman**, surgeon and apothecary of Cheltenham, which called attention to five cases of smallpox, in Cheltenham, occurring after vaccinations, four of which had been performed by **Jenner**. In a letter to **Dr. Morgan**, **Jenner** complained that he had ordered one of the children to be revaccinated because of an irregular pustule, but the mother had disregarded his advice. 'Between 3 & 4000 persons have been vaccinated there & in the circumjacent Villages who remain'd in the midst of the Epidemic untouch'd. This trifling circumstance these worthy Gentlemen did not think worth their while to mention.'
- 22 Aug 1809 The family with the failed vaccinations had been under the care of **Dr. Thomas Jameson**. He wrote a letter to the *Cheltenham Journal*, agreeing with the results of an investigation which found there were only three children, not four, and they had been vaccinated about four years earlier. Two had very mild cases of smallpox, but the third, whose vaccination **Jenner** had doubted, suffered severely. However, in his letter, Jameson added that the mother denied she had been told to return with one of the children. **James Freeman** also now added, to his original testimony, that there were five more failures in one family vaccinated by **Jenner**.
- 1 Oct 1809 **Jenner** wrote to his friend **Thomas Paytherus**: 'I have seen **Walker** the Printer of the [Cheltenham] *Journal* & had a long conference with him at **Ruff's** – all present agreed that the Resident Physician alluded to was myself.' It seems **Walker** had stirred trouble by referring to the group of vaccination failures affecting Cheltenham children.
- Mar 1810 In a letter to **Thomas Pruen**, who was handling **Jenner's** affairs in Cheltenham, **Jenner** wrote : 'I can say nothing at present about coming to Cheltenham – I mean as to when. I don't fear a Man, but I detest a Viper; and in Cheltenham this noxious Reptile is supported.' 'Could you find out **Walker's** motives for this kind of conduct?' Evidently the controversy stirred by **Walker** the previous year was still rumbling on.
- Apr 1810 Following letters of support in the Gloucester newspaper, in reply to the *Cheltenham Journal*, **Jenner** wrote to **Thomas Pruen**: 'It would have been a much better thing if nothing had been said about Cheltenham, as it was sure to rouse from their slumbers the spirits of the antivaccinists.'
- May 1810 **Jenner** purchased **Thomas Newell's** stables and coach house. **Newell** was his neighbour, at **No. 7 St. George's Place**, and was one of Cheltenham's leading surgeons. He was also one of the pro-vaccinists.

EDWARD JENNER (1749-1823)



Alpha House St. Georges Road Cheltenham ('The Pest House')
where Jenner carried out his vaccinations
[Site now Jenner Court and Sandfields Care Home, 2015, formerly Spirax Sarco]

- 23 Sep 1810 **Jenner** wrote to his sister, **Mrs. Black**, ‘Cheltenham is still full of good company, and the usual round of dissipations are going forwards, such as Plays, Balls, Routs, Public Breakfasts, Concerts, etc., but these things have lost their relish with me. However my professional calls keep both my mind & Body in activity & I find myself the better for being forc’d to rouse myself.’
- c.1810 One of **Jenner’s** supporters was the **Rev. Rowland Hill**, who regularly announced, after his sermons at the **Cheltenham Chapel**, that he was ready to vaccinate any children the following morning.
- 1810 An advertisement announced **Dr. Jenner** as one of 12 gentlemen who had guaranteed to advance £100 to the governing body to enable it to avoid a rate increase due to the cost of civic improvements in the town. He had previously initiated a skeleton sewerage system.
- 5 Jan 1811 **Jenner** recommended that a Bristol patient of his, **Miss Wait**, would benefit from a change of air in Cheltenham. ‘Our Springs too might prove salubrious. In days of old you know, we could reckon but on one, now we boast of eleven. Our Chalybeate Spring rivals that of Tunbridge, and our Sulphurated Spa, the famous Water of the North. It is really a very extraordinary Fact, that all the Medicinal Waters of any celebrity in the Island are to be found concentrated in this little Spot, Bath excepted, & to this I attach no more value than that which flows from my Tea Kettle.’
- 25 Apr 1811 At a meeting of the Gloucestershire Vaccine Association in Cheltenham, **Jenner** offered to give a piece of ground in the town and erect a building for the purpose of a Vaccination Institute.
- Nov 1811 **Jenner** wrote to **Dr. Baron** from Cheltenham: ‘Two persons dead of Smallpox here! One thro’ the inattention of **Mr. Freeman** who is spreading the disease from a total indifference about the Parish Poor over whom he presides as a Doctor.’
- Oct 1812 **Jenner** told his friend **Thomas Pruen**, ‘I have no longer a relish for Cheltenham – on the contrary I nauseate it. At the instigation of a man who is under considerable obligations to me, a building has been erected on the corner of **Pacey’s** Garden, close to my front door on St. G. Place. It bears all the appearance of a necessary House [a public lavatory], though used as a Tailor’s Shop. Not a Creature could step forward & tell me anything about it till it was finish’d; but when they want Money to expend on the improvement of the Town, then I can hear from them fast enough.’
- Jan 1813 In a list of **Jenner’s** annual contributions and subscriptions, the following local recipients are named: the Cheltenham Chapel, (reflecting **Mrs. Jenner’s** interest in the Methodists), the Cheltenham Dispensary, the Cheltenham Club, the Philanthropic Society, and two pubs, the Plough and the Fleece (who presumably received contributions for the social functions they performed.)
- 25 Feb 1813 Still seemingly depressed with Cheltenham, **Jenner** wrote again to **Pruen**: ‘Cheltenham does look uncommonly dull & gloomy. Its Physiognomy is totally chang’d. Every man you meet looks as if he were going to be hang’d.’
- 15 Jun 1813 **Jenner** seemed less annoyed with Cheltenham, and wrote to **Pruen**: ‘In about a month we think of going there for good. The place looked very different from what I found it in February. The visitors appeared gay & the Shopkeepers merry at the thoughts of easing them of any encumbering Cash.’
- c.1814 Preliminary meetings were held at **Jenner’s** house to establish a Literary and Philosophical Institution in Cheltenham. (Back in 1805, he had complained to **Thomas Frognall Dibdin** that there was ‘a great dearth of mind’ in Cheltenham.) On 3 Feb 1814 he chaired a public meeting at the Assembly Rooms, held to promote the idea, and was formally elected President. However, there was insufficient support, and following his retirement to Berkeley after his wife’s death, the venture failed.
- 16 Aug 1814 **Jenner’s** signature occurs at the foot of the record of a meeting of the Town Commissioners, held at the Town Hall in Cheltenham.
- 1815 An outbreak of smallpox occurred in one of the lanes leading out of the High Street, and **Jenner** noted (writing in 1817) that none of the children who had been vaccinated caught the disease. He was puzzled by the case of one adult who was attacked after vaccination, but realised that even smallpox itself did not always give immunity from a recurrence of the disease.
- 13 Sep 1815 **Dr. Jenner’s** wife, **Catherine**, died. Heart-broken, **Jenner** wrote to **Pruen**, on 23 Oct 1815: ‘Poor dear Soul, but little more than a fortnight before, we walk’d together about the streets of Cheltenham & took a ramble in **Mrs. Williams’s** Garden. Never sufficiently attentive to herself, tho’ ever mindful of the wants of others, she was inadvertently exposed to a cold current of air from the North, which brought on inflammation of the Lungs, too violent for her tender frame to sustain.’ After her death, **Jenner** returned to live permanently at Chantry Cottage in Berkeley, although he did pay further visits to Cheltenham.

- Apr 1816 **Jenner** spent a few days in Cheltenham. He may have gone to see patients worried by an epidemic of smallpox in the town, which had disappeared by September, and to attend a **Vaccination Convention**.
- Dec 1817 **Jenner** was made an honorary member of the new Cheltenham **Masonic Lodge**, but never seems to have been active.
- 1818 **Jenner** met the resident practitioners in Cheltenham after an outbreak of smallpox.
- 1819 **Edward's** son, **Robert Jenner**, was sworn in as a Magistrate. He also qualified as Commissioner for Turnpikes of the Berkeley & Dursley division. Robert had caused his father some anxiety by running up debts, and absenting himself from college, so Edward must have felt some relief at these signs of his son settling down.
- Dec 1819 However, there was a reason for **Robert** to settle in Berkeley. **Edward Jenner** wrote to **Nigel Kingscote**: 'He is unfortunately so attach'd to a neighbour of mine that I see but little of him – I shall forbear going into this matter now, but I dare say you know enough to excite pity for Your old & affectionate Friend, **Edw. Jenner**. Robert never married, but later, in the 1840s, he became involved with the wife of a local tailor, **Mary Perrington**, who subsequently became his housekeeper. In his will, dated 16 Apr 1853, Robert left her £160 per annum, plus the right to live in or receive rents from the Chantry and his house at **7, Portland Street**, Cheltenham. After Mary Perrington's death, the rents were to go to her daughter, **Emily Allen Perrington**. Meanwhile, Emily received a legacy of £50 and income from Robert's estate to pay for her 'maintenance, education and advancement in the world.' It seems likely that Emily was Robert's illegitimate daughter.
- 1821 **Dr. Jenner** was one of the original Commissioners named in the Cheltenham Improvement Act of 1821, although he had left Cheltenham by this time. He was also a local Justice of the Peace.
- 23 Mar 1821 **Jenner** made his will, which ran to 46 pages, dividing most of his estate equally between his daughter **Catherine** and his son **Robert**. He intended to leave cash, stocks and government securities to Catherine, and property to Robert, but he did not trust Robert. With the exception of the **Portland Street** house in Cheltenham, and some land at Berkeley, all other property was willed to Robert in trust for his children, or, if he did not marry, for Catherine and her children.
- 26 Jan 1823 **Dr. Jenner** died, aged 74, and was buried at Berkeley church.
- 1824 A marble statue, to the memory of **Dr. Jenner**, was erected in Gloucester Cathedral, at the west end of the nave.
- 1832 **Dr. John Baron**, who was a former student, friend and biographer of **Edward Jenner**, moved from Gloucester to live in Cheltenham. He retired to **No.1, St. Margaret's Terrace**, and died there on 2 Oct 1851.
- Feb 1834 The furniture and other effects belonging to the late **Dr. Jenner**, who had died 11 years previously, were sold by auction at his house, **No. 8, St. George's Place**. **Jenner** had bequeathed the house to his son **Robert**.
- 1838 **John Baron's** biography of **Edward Jenner** was published.
- 1873 **George Arthur Cardew** arrived in Cheltenham as a medical student, and rose to become 2nd House Surgeon at Cheltenham General Hospital. Later, in his *Echoes and Reminiscences*, he recalled that, as a medical student, he was shown the original copper basin fixed to the wall of what had been **Jenner's** surgery at **Alpha House**. (St. George's Road)
- 17 May 1949 A plaque was unveiled commemorating **Dr. Edward Jenner's** residence at **Alpha House**, St. George's Road. (He is known to have carried out vaccinations here, but there is no evidence that he ever lived in the house. The plaque remained uncorrected.)
- 23 Dec 1966 **Jenner House** in **St. George's Place** was listed as a building of historic importance.
- 1969 After a three-year debate, **Jenner's** house in **St. George's Place** was demolished. It had been allowed to become derelict during the period of debate. The site remained under threat throughout the 1970s because of a proposed Town Development Plan.
- 1994 **Jenner House** was rebuilt on the original site, with a replica façade, and re-numbered **22, St. George's Place**.
- 20 Apr 1995 A **Civic Society** blue commemorative **plaque** was unveiled on **22, St. George's Place**, the reproduction of **Jenner's** original house on the site of **No. 8**.



HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SERVICES

- 1722 **Dr. Smith**, from Oxford, resided in Cheltenham during the ‘season’ and is entered in the Poor Rate Books as the sole resident medical man for many years.
- 6 Mar 1813 First official meeting of the ‘**Cheltenham Dispensary** for Administering to the Sick Poor, Advice and Medicine Gratis; and for Promoting of Vaccination.’ Until now, medical help for the poor was only available at the County Infirmary in Gloucester, too distant for many emergencies.
- 6 May 1813 The **Cheltenham Medical Dispensary & Casualty Ward** opened in **Winchcombe Street**. The first Physicians were **Drs. Jameson** and **Parry**, and the first Surgeons, **Messrs. Seager** and **Newell**. **Dr. Jameson** was the author of the first local *Treatise on the Waters*, and an opponent of **Dr. Jenner** on the question of vaccination.
- 7 Oct 1813 Only four of the 272 patients attending the **Cheltenham Dispensary** since its opening had died.
- 19 Nov 1817 The **Cheltenham Cobourg Society** for the Relief of Poor Lying-in Married Women was established.
- 1818 The **Cheltenham Dispensary** had moved to **North Street** by this time.
- 1822 The **Cheltenham Dispensary** expanded to include a **Casualty Ward**, which was promoted to hospital status four years later.
- 1823 The **Medical Dispensary & Casualty Ward** moved to 318, High Street. (east of St. George’s Square)
- Jul 1826 The medical men of the **Casualty Hospital** established a museum of anatomical specimens, and of objects of natural history, accessible to ‘respectable members of the profession.’ The first curators were the surgeons, **Charles Averill** and **Charles Fowler**.
- 1827 Over 3,000 people received medical relief at the **Dispensary & Casualty Hospital**.
- 12 Apr 1831 A **Board of Health** was established in the town.
- 1832 Proposals to set up a **General** hospital, to replace the **Dispensary & Casualty Hospital**, were met with a mixed response in the town. One gentleman held that a General Hospital would afford no benefit to the poor, citing the case of a labourer who ignored the instruction to avoid hard labour until a wound to his arm had healed – he proceeded to work, the wound opened, he caught gangrene and died. Supporters were able to point out that, had there been a General Hospital, the labourer would have been admitted to a ward and kept until his wound had sufficiently healed.
- 17 Apr 1834 The *Cheltenham Chronicle* reported that nearly £6,000 had been raised towards establishing a **General Hospital**, but commented on a subscription from **Signor Pedrotti**, Professor of Italian and Guitar: ‘We trust his generous example will be followed by other professors, who are similarly situated, and who owe much, perhaps *all* their wealth and respectability, to English liberality.’
- May 1834 Three sites were considered for building the proposed **General Hospital**. These were the Cherry Orchard, opposite the Gas Works, belonging to **Mr. Weale**, **Mr. Gardner’s** Ground in front of St. Paul’s Church, and **Mr. Wood’s** Ground in **Sandford Field**. Owing to shortage of funds, conversion of a private house in the Lower High Street was opted for instead. However, the charity did purchase Mr. Wood’s Ground in Sandford Field for future use.
- 1835 A **Dispensary for Curing Diseases of the Eye**, supported by voluntary contributions, existed at 125, High Street, opposite the Arched Buildings, High Street.
- Jan 1837 Cheltenham’s first general hospital, the **General Hospital & Dispensary**, opened at **Segrave House** in the Lower High Street, facing St. George’s Square. Built as a private house in 1813, it was now purchased from **Robert Capper, Esq.**, and altered to accommodate the **Dispensary** part of the establishment, including the anatomical museum. (Robert Capper was President of the Board of Governors of the hospital.) Adjoining land with two cottages was bought, from the Trustees of Pate’s Charity, as a site for the hospital extension.
- Apr 1837 The building used by the **Dispensary & Casualty Hospital**, which adjoined St. George’s Square on the south side of the High Street, was advertised for sale.
- Jan 1839 The hospital ‘tower’ extension was added to **Segrave House**, designed by **R.W. Jearrad**, (architect of the Queen’s Hotel, Christ Church, etc.) with wards for 40 patients and operating theatres on the attic floor. **Jearrad** provided the plans, giving his time without charge, and the building work was contracted to **Messrs. Haines & Son**. (**Segrave House** was later known as Idmiston House, and now Normandy House, 2003)
- 25 Jan 1848 The **Right Hon. Lord Dunalley** laid the foundation stone of a new **General Hospital**, in Sandford Field. The need to build a new hospital was precipitated by plans for a railway on the site of **Segrave House**, which was purchased by the **Cheltenham & Oxford Railway**. The hospital trustees still owned the land in Sandford, which they had bought in 1834 and been unable to re-sell at a reasonable price. (This railway plan never materialised.)

- 4 Jan 1849 The new **General Hospital**, designed by **D.J. Humphris**, opened in Sandford Road. This replaced **Segrave House**, which, for the next few years, was used for officers invalided in the Crimean War. The patients were transferred to the new General Hospital on 19 Apr 1849.
- 1849 Following the opening of the new **General Hospital & Dispensary** in Sandford Field, a **Branch Dispensary** was established in **Oxford House, Oxford Passage**, leased from the **Rev. R. Quarrel**, for the convenience of the poor in the town.
- 1849 The 'ordinary diet' for **hospital** in-patients consisted of: Breakfast – 1pt Gruel, 4oz. Bread; Dinner – ½pt Broth, 4oz. Meat, 4oz. Potatoes, 6oz. Bread, ½pt Beer; Supper – 4oz. Bread, 1oz. Cheese, ½pt Beer. Extras available, only when ordered by the medical officers, included ale, porter, wines, spirits, beef steaks, chops, soup, tea, coffee, eggs and cocoa. (Vegetables were not included in the diet until 1880.)
- 1849 One of the rules for in-patients at the **General Hospital** stated: 'Such patients as are considered able by their Medical officers, shall assist the nurses and servants in nursing the other patients, ironing the linen, and in doing such other business as the House Surgeon and Matron may direct.'
- 1850 In a pamphlet published by **Sir George Ballinghall, M.D., F.R.S.E.**, Regius Professor of Military Surgery, University of Edinburgh, and Consulting Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, the new **Cheltenham General Hospital** was described as an excellent example. 'First, because it is one of the neatest, most commodious, and compact little Hospitals with which I am acquainted; and, secondly, because I consider it a good example of how much may be done in the way of Hospital Building with a very moderate sum.'
- 1851 £16 4s 6d was spent on leeches at the **General Hospital** and **Dispensary** during the year.
- 1851 Statistics for the **General Hospital** over the year showed 421 in-patients had been received, of whom 271 had been discharged cured, 21 had died, and the rest had been discharged as incurable. The average daily number of in-patients was 45. 4,027 outpatients attended, of whom 1,372 had been cured and 78 had died.
- 1853 A group of statuary of the **Good Samaritan** was presented to the **General Hospital**. It was sculpted by **Holme Cardwell**. Although he was living at Rome at the time, it is said that he completed the work while staying with **Charles Fowler** at **Fauconberg House**. (corner of Bayshill Road and St. George's Road) Charles Fowler, Senior Surgeon to the hospital, was responsible for raising funds towards the expense of the statuary. It was placed in the hall of the hospital, on a marble pedestal made locally for it by **Mr. Bowd**. On Charles Fowler's retirement in 1854, he was given a rosewood casket surmounted with a facsimile of the Good Samaritan worked in silver.
- 1856 A **Homeopathic Dispensary** was established in Rodney Terrace. **Dr. Hugh Hastings** was the Honorary Physician and Surgeon until 1866, despite a letter printed in the *Examiner* in 1853, from St. Andrew's University, refuting **Mr. Hugh Hastings'** claim to be MD, BA. The Homeopathic Dispensary later moved to 1, Promenade Place. In Jan 1869, at the 11th AGM, 431 patients were reported to have received treatment over the previous year.
- Sept 1857 At a meeting of the Subscribers to the **Cheltenham General Hospital**, it was proposed to relinquish the **Branch Dispensary**. Since the **General Hospital** had opened, the **Dispensary** had been maintained in Oxford Passage for the convenience of the poor, but it was thought that many might be unaware of its existence in such an obscure location. After due consideration, the Hospital Board bought the Dispensary building from **Mr. Quarrel** for £550. (The **Oxford Passage Dispensary** was still in use in the 1870s.)
- 27 Nov 1857 A new **casualty ward** building, designed by D.J. Humphris, was added to the **General Hospital**.
- 1861 A **Chapel** was built at the **General Hospital**, with a convalescent ward in the basement below it. The formal opening took place on 24 Dec 1862. Prior to this, Ward 5 had been used as a chapel, but was now free for conversion to accommodate 12 more patients. A **Medical Library** was also established at the hospital the same year.
- Oct 1861 An **Ophthalmic Infirmary**, for the treatment of eye diseases, was opened at Bournemouth House, St. George's Place, under **Dr. Thomas Colledge**, physician, and **Walter Jessop**, surgeon. In Mar 1862 it was reported that, since its opening, 200 patients had undergone treatment, which included two successful cataract operations. It closed in Dec 1882 owing to lack of funds.
- Apr 1866 **Miss Susan Delancey** bequeathed £5000 towards the establishment of a town fever hospital.
- Oct 1866 **Miss Yerbury** bequeathed £1000 to the **General Hospital** in order to establish a ward 'where the homeopathic system may be fairly and fully carried out.' The hospital declined this handsome bequest, on the grounds that the Board of Governors could not comply with these specific conditions.
- 1867 The annual '**Hospital Sunday**' was adopted, whereby churches in the town donated their collections for that day to the **Hospital**.

DENTISTRY.

MR. CUNNINGHAM, SURGEON-DENTIST,

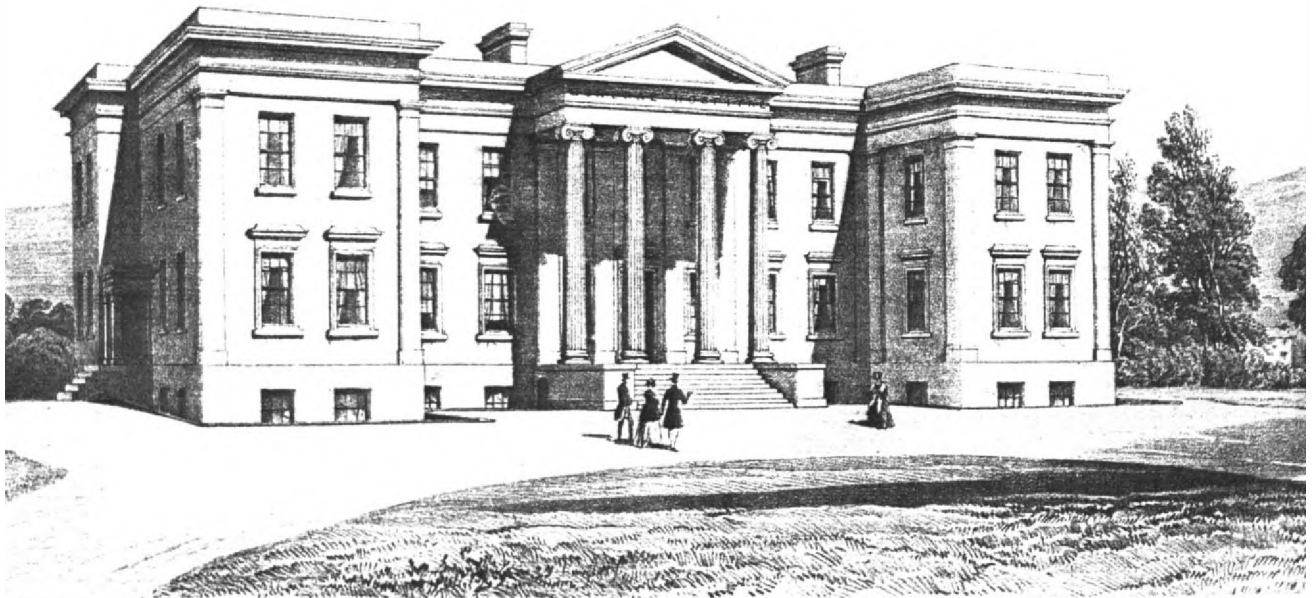
Late Assistant to Mr. Tibbs,

May be consulted on all cases relative to his profession, from Ten to Four daily, 13A, PROMENADE.

Mr. C. would wish to call the attention of parties wearing artificial teeth to an improvement lately introduced at the Great Exhibition of Paris, whereby the solidity of SETS is greatly increased, the long unsightly fangs hitherto so objectionable, entirely done away with, and a beautifully tinted gum of a nature equally indestructible with the teeth themselves substituted.

Mr. C. avails himself of this opportunity to acknowledge the very flattering confidence which has been placed in his skill, by all classes since his commencement in business; and to assure the public that it will ever be his aim by moderation in charge, and strict attention to merit a continuance of it.

2, WINCHCOMB PLACE,
Near PITTVILLE GATES, CHELTENHAM.



Cheltenham General Hospital, erected 1848

- Jan 1870 **Christ Church** initiated a **Nursing Institution**.
- 1871 The **Delancey Fever Hospital Trust** was established.
- 23 May 1873 A temporary fever hospital was completed on land leased by the **Delancey Trustees**. It was built by the Town Commissioners in response to an outbreak of smallpox in the town.
- 1874 A **Home for Sick Children** was established at **Belmont House**, Winchcombe Street.
- 15 June 1874 The **Delancey Fever Hospital**, designed by **John Middleton**, was formally opened.
- 1877 The **Gabell** block was opened at the **Delancey Hospital**, for cases of scarlet fever.
- Aug 1879 The **Provident Dispensary** opened in Regent Street, to enable the working classes to obtain medical assistance and medicines. By the mid-1880s the Provident Dispensary had moved to St. George's Place, but often struggled from a lack of fund-raising support.
- Nov 1879 A new **West Wing** was completed at the **General Hospital**, which included accommodation for a **School** for training and maintaining nurses.
- May 1880 The **Charity Organisation Society** resolved to provide **District Nurses** for the sick poor, and set up a **District Nursing Branch**.
- 1881 **Hospital Sunday** collections were augmented by collections of 'Workpeople' on the same day. The several hundred men employed by **Messrs. Vernon & Ewens**, at the **Central Iron Works**, gave a generous contribution this year.
- Mar 1881 The Board of Guardians was told by a **Mr. Butt** that the accommodation at the **Delancey Fever Hospital** seemed too good for paupers.
- 1882 The Board of Guardians acquired **The Elms**, next to the workhouse, as a home for poor children. (Pope's Close)
- 1886 A **Certified Midwife** was added to the staff of the **District Nursing Association**.
- 1887 The **Union Workhouse**, Swindon Road, was enlarged to include an **infirmary** for the poor.
- 21 Jun 1887 The **District Nursing Association** was established at the **Victoria Nursing Home** in St. George's Place. In 1891 the Home moved to larger premises in St. James' Square, with expansion into the neighbouring house in 1897.
- 1889 The **Ear, Eye & Throat Infirmary** was established at 2, North Place, founded by **Dr. F.A. Smith** as a public, charitable institution for the 'gratuitous relief of really indigent persons suffering from diseases of the eye, ear, throat and nose'. Patients, nominated by the subscribers to the hospital, came from as far afield as Monmouth and Malmesbury. In 1899 it moved to Edmonstone House, (next to Livorno Lodge and almost opposite the original hospital of 1889.) In 1902 it became a 'Free Hospital' rather than one with voucher admissions only, and a new wing was opened on 27 Nov 1908.
- 1890 A special block was erected at the **Delancey Hospital**, providing 14 beds for the use of **Cheltenham College**.
- 25 May 1892 A public meeting was held at Victoria House (St. James' Square) to establish the **Cotswold Convalescent Home** on Cleeve Hill.
- Jul 1892 The **Spa Medical Society** was established.
- Jul 1892 The **Free Cotswold Convalescent Home** opened on Cleeve Hill, closely connected with **Cheltenham General Hospital**.
- Nov 1892 A meeting was held at **Mr. Probyn Dighton's** office to consider Cleeve Hill as a health resort.
- Jul 1895 The **Wilson Block**, for cases of scarlet fever and enteric fever, was opened at the **Delancey Hospital**, paid for by the generosity of **Mr. Charles Wilson**.
- Mar 1896 The **Delancey Fever Hospital** was praised by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for saving the town from a smallpox epidemic. (Smallpox had been rife in Gloucester at the time.)
- 1898 Separate wards were built at the **Delancey Hospital**, for **diphtheria** patients.
- 24 May 1899 The foundation stone was laid to 12 cottages at Naunton Park for the aged poor. They were completed as **The Hay Memorial Cottage Homes** on 9 July 1904.
- 1900 Statistics showed that 871 in-patients and 4,332 outpatients were treated at the **General Hospital**. The **Branch Dispensary** dealt with 3,602 out-cases.
- 1900 The **District Nursing Association** treated 955 patients, with 24,944 visits being paid by the nurses. 8,455 maternity cases were attended of whom 33 were nursed at the **Victoria Home**.
- 1901 The **British Medical Association** held its annual conference in Cheltenham.
- Jul 1901 The foundation stone of the new **Home for Sick Children** was laid at Battledown by **Mrs. Hay**. She had assisted in the purchase of the land at Harp Hill. The **Battledown Home for Sick Children** was officially opened on 10 Oct 1902.
- 17 Feb 1906 A hand ambulance litter was presented to the town.
- 9 Feb 1907 Birmingham City Council purchased **Salterley Grange**, Leckhampton, for use as a sanatorium for consumptives.

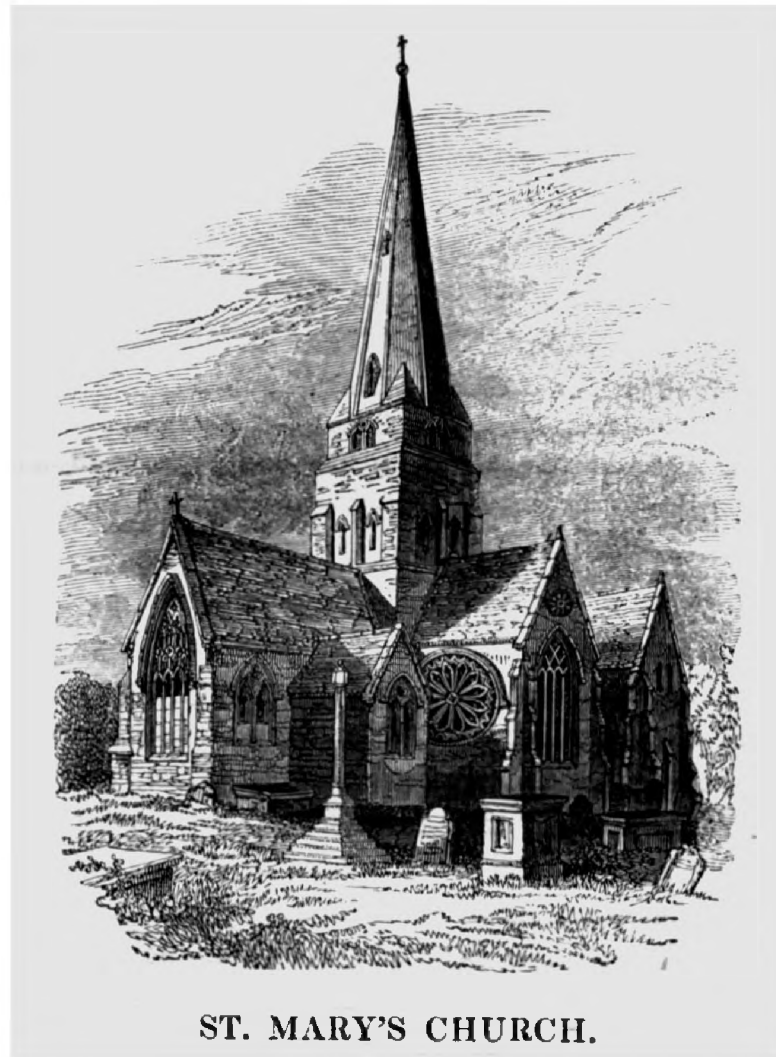
- 1908 **School Medical Inspections** were begun in Cheltenham. In the first annual report, in 1909, it was stated that some parents had kept their children at home, or had sent letters of objection, ‘not one of which ever contained anything more valid than that the writer objected to have the child “tampered with” or “exposed”, or “assaulted”, or something equally silly. ... No notice was taken of these objectors, and I believe that will be the shortest way of dealing with them.’
- May 1909 The Cheltenham division of the **St. John Ambulance Brigade** was established.
- Feb 1910 An extension to the **Cheltenham General Hospital** was opened.
- 15 Oct 1910 The first inspection of the Cheltenham Corps of the **St. John Ambulance Brigade** took place at their HQ in North Street.
- 1912 A **School Clinic and Cleansing Station** was established in Bennington Street. In 1915 it moved to premises in the basement of the Municipal Offices. Children were referred here by the School Medical Inspectors and teachers, for further examination and treatment.
- 21 Oct 1914 The first **Red Cross Voluntary Aid Hospital** opened at **New Court** (Lansdown Road) with 12 hours notice, to receive Belgian wounded. It closed over four years later on 18 Dec 1918.
- 28 Oct 1914 The second **Red Cross VA Hospital**, which was established at the **racecourse**, received its first Belgian wounded. The hospital closed on 28 Feb 1919.
- Nov 1914 **Moorend Park** (Charlton Kings) was established as the third **Red Cross VA Hospital**. On 18 Sep 1915 it was transferred to **The Abbots** (All Saints Road), before being moved again in Oct 1916 to **The Priory** in London Road. It closed on 9 Jan 1919.
- 1915 The Town Council became responsible for maternity and child welfare in Cheltenham.**
- 27 Feb 1915 The fourth **Red Cross VA Hospital** opened at **Leckhampton Court**. It closed in Mar 1919.
- 12 Jun 1915 **Naunton Park Council Schools** had been converted to open as the fifth **Red Cross VA Hospital** with 170 beds. The hospital was closed, and the school reinstated, on 29 Dec 1918.
- 23 Jun 1915 The sixth **Red Cross VA Hospital**, named **St. Martin’s**, opened at **Eversleigh House** (Parabola Road), manned by Ladies’ College pupils, former pupils and staff. In Sep 1918 the hospital was moved to **Lisle House** in Clarence Square, and closed the following year on 7 Mar.
- 30 Jun 1915 The seventh **Red Cross VA Hospital**, named **St. John**, opened at **Gloucester Road Council School**. The school was reinstated when the hospital closed on 31 Jan 1919.
- 9 Dec 1916 An eighth **Red Cross VA Hospital** was opened at **Suffolk Hall**. It closed on 29 Mar 1919, to re-open as **St. Dunstan’s** for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors on 15 Jul 1920.
- 17 Mar 1917 A new **Infant Welfare Centre** opened at the **Baker Street Institute**, under the auspices of the **Cheltenham Voluntary Health Society**.
- 29 Mar 1919 **St. Martin’s Home** for paralysed ex-servicemen opened, closing six years later, in Aug 1925.
- 25 Sep 1920 The **Red Cross** and **St. John Ambulance** opened a joint HQ in the High Street.
- 20 Sep 1922 A new **Orthopaedic Department** was opened at **Cheltenham General Hospital**.
- 1924 The Governors of the **General Hospital** adopted a system of payment by patients.
- 10 Jul 1924 The **Jesse Mary Chambers** Almshouses were officially opened in Tennyson Road.
- Apr 1928 The **Queen Alexandra Memorial Wing** of the **Victoria Nursing Home** was opened. (St. James’ Square)
- 27 Jul 1929 **Sir Frederick Cripps**, chairman of Gloucestershire County Council opened a new extension to the **General Hospital**. It had new and extended wards, and a new patients’ lift.
- Mar 1934 The supply of $\frac{1}{3}$ pint of milk a day to Cheltenham schoolchildren was introduced.
- 14 Jun 1934 Cheltenham’s annual **hospital carnival** opened, an important fund-raising event.
- 3 Jun 1935 A **Voluntary Child Guidance Clinic** was established.
- 6 Apr 1937 A new **Eye, Ear & Throat Department** was opened at the **General Hospital** by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester.
- 28 Aug 1937 A new **Ambulance HQ (St. John Ambulance Brigade & British Red Cross Society)** was officially opened at **The Shrubberies**. (Gloucester Road)
- 13 Dec 1940 During heavy bombing raids over Cheltenham, operations at the **General Hospital** were performed by the light of hurricane lamps.
- 1948 The **Delancey Hospital** became a **Geriatric Hospital**.
- 1948 The whole site of the former **Union Workhouse** was converted into **St. Paul’s Hospital**. It opened as the Cheltenham **Maternity Hospital** in 1954.
- 3 May 1955 A **Health Centre** was opened in **Hesters Way** by **Iain MacLeod**, Minister of Health. It was one of the first six health centres in the country.
- 12 Sep 1960 The **Leonard Cheshire Home** opened in Overton Road.
- 13 Jul 1963 **Princess Margaret** inspected 3,000 **St. John Ambulance & Nursing** cadets at Prestbury Park.
- 7 Aug 1963 Smoking by patients was to be limited in Cheltenham hospitals.
- 4 Oct 1963 A new **Child Welfare Centre** was opened in Windermere Road.
- 28 Oct 1963 A telephone **Samaritan Service** was inaugurated in Cheltenham.

- 6 Aug 1964 There was an acute **bed shortage** at the Cheltenham hospitals, with 2,100 names on the waiting-list.
- 31 Oct 1964 The **Poor Sisters of Nazareth Home** for the elderly and orphans moved from the Bath Road (opposite the College) to **Springfield House**, London Road.
- 19 Jul 1965 Work was started on building the new **Cobalt Unit** at the **General Hospital**.
- Jan 1970 **Red Cross & St. John Ambulance Brigade** volunteers helped at the **General Hospital** where 25% of nurses were ill due to a **'flu' epidemic**.
- 4 Aug 1971 **Smoking** was banned in all Cheltenham's local hospitals.
- 28 Apr 1972 The radio-isotope scanner installed in the **Cobalt Unit** at the **General Hospital** was formally handed over.
- 1973 The **Cotswold Nuffield** (private) 28-bed hospital opened in Talbot Road.
- 1977 The **Sue Ryder Foundation** acquired **Leckhampton Court**, and opened it in 1980 as a hospice.
- 18 Sep 1979 HRH Princess Anne officially presented a £100,000 3D X-ray body scanner to the **Cobalt Unit** at the **General Hospital**.
- 21 Apr 1980 The Dedication was made of a new £1M development at the **Delancey Geriatric Hospital**.
- Jun 1982 Phase I of a multi-million pound redevelopment of **Cheltenham General Hospital** began.
- 14 Jul 1982 The **Glos. Area Health Authority** was strongly against proposals by the Health Dept. to divide the county into two health districts. Despite this the **Cheltenham District Health Authority** officially came into operation on 1 April 1982.
- 4 Dec 1984 A new £2.8M mortuary and pathology laboratory block was opened at the **General Hospital**.
- 9 Aug 1985 The Government gave the go-ahead for a £10M redevelopment of **Cheltenham General Hospital**.
- 15 Apr 1987 The Cheltenham laboratory opened the first nationwide **postal AIDS screening centre** in Europe.
- 17 Jun 1989 The **Battledown Children's Hospital** closed, with the opening of a new paediatric ward at the **General Hospital**. The site was bought by the County Council and became an Education Advice Centre.
- 27 Sep 1989 Two pensioners who shared the same **General Hospital** ward discovered they were brother and sister, and were reunited after 40 years.
- 28 May 1992 Residents of the **Leonard Cheshire Home** (Overton Road) moved to their new purpose-built premises in Charlton Lane, where 36 residents could be accommodated. The Home was officially opened by Prince Michael of Kent on 6 Nov 1992.
- 14 Aug 1992 Nurses at the **Cotswold Nuffield Hospital** were put on alert to treat Bosnian casualties.
- 10 Nov 1992 The new **St. John Ambulance HQ** (St. George's Place) was opened by the Duke of Gloucester.
- 18 Dec 1992 HRH Prince Charles visited the **Sue Ryder Home** to open a new Day Care Centre.
- 1 Jan 1993 The **Cobalt Unit** took delivery of a £1.5M magnetic resonance body scanner.
- 2 Apr 1994 The **Sue Ryder Home** at Leckhampton received a £2M lifeline from the Glos. Health Authority to save cutbacks on staff and beds.
- Jul 1994 The **Good Samaritan statue** was traced to a warehouse of the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, and restored to a site in **Cheltenham General Hospital**. (The statue stood in the hall of the hospital for over 150 years, until it was removed in the 1960s to make room for expansion within the hospital.)
- Jun 1996 The former **St. Paul's Maternity Hospital** was closed with the opening of a new £6M maternity unit at the **General Hospital**.
- 16 Apr 1999 The **St. Paul's Medical Centre** opened in Swindon Lane, on the site of the old **St. Paul's Maternity Hospital**, to cater for 46,000 patients – half the population of Cheltenham.
- 6 Dec 1999 The **General Hospital** recruited 27 nurses from the Philippines to combat a staffing shortage.
- 11 Jan 2000 HRH the Prince of Wales officially opened the **Oncology Centre** at the **General Hospital**.
- 29 Apr 2000 Re-organisation occurred to centralise hospital surgery. The **Ear, Nose & Throat** surgery unit at the **General Hospital** closed after 67 years, with relocation at Gloucester Royal Hospital. However, **Cheltenham General Hospital**, gained a growing reputation as a centre of excellence for **eye surgery**, after the service was centralised there.
- Apr 2002 The East Gloucestershire NHS Trust merged with the Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust to form the **Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust**, to run the hospitals. Other health services, such as community health services, were divided between a number of **Primary Care Trusts**.
- 2003 The **Sue Ryder Home** at **Leckhampton Court** announced the closure of a third of the beds in the Tudor Wing due to lack of funds.
- Jul 2003 It was announced that the **Cheltenham General Hospital** and the **Gloucestershire Royal Hospital** had gained the maximum three stars in the NHS Performance Indicators.
- Sep 2003 Building work began on a new £1.7M **ambulance** superbase for Cheltenham and Gloucester, located at the Ashville Business Park, Staverton.

SANITATION

- 1784 A first attempt was made to stop the **River Chelt** running down the centre of the High Street.
- 1786 Until ‘these few years the water ran through the middle of the street and in a scarcity, stagnated and was offensive.’ (*Cheltenham Guide*) ‘Now there is an excellent road through the town, with a channel on each side for the water. (*Longman’s Guide to Watering Places*)
- 1808 **Dr. Edward Jenner**, as one of the Town Commissioners, proposed building a town sewer.
- 1822 Work was started on enlarging the old sewer in **St. George’s Place**. In the years following, the Commissioners held meetings to consider making a common sewer under the High Street. At one stage they paid **Papworth** £52 to take levels and prepare estimates. Eventually a sewer was constructed which ran from the Montpellier area down Old Well Lane into the **Chelt**.
- 1824 The first **reservoir** was built near the **Hewletts**, holding 413,000 gallons, storing water obtained from the adjacent hills of Northfield, Charlton and Dowdeswell. Until this time the town had been supplied only by wells sunk into the sand beds.
- 17 Jun 1824 Under the **Cheltenham Water Act 1824**, a private **Water Co.** was formed, with the reservoir near the Hewletts, and a water supply was piped to those who were willing to pay in the town.
- 1834 The Town Commissioners having failed to provide adequate sewerage, a private **Sewerage Co.** was established, which built a sewer in the High Street. Ancient ‘stepping-stones’ were discovered across the High Street during the digging of this sewer. The outfall was into the **River Chelt** at **Lower Alstone Mill**.
- 1839 A second **Hewlett reservoir** was opened which held 2M gallons. A third was opened in 1847, holding 14.8M gallons. A fourth opened in 1857, holding 16M gallons, followed by a fifth in 1859 which held 14M gallons.
- 1846 The Town Commissioners produced a report on the state of sewerage and drainage in the town. They described atrocious conditions. For example, Coltham Lane (Hales Road) was ‘made use of as a common drain’ – it was several feet deeper than the surrounding land, and received all the ‘muck and filth’ from Charlton Kings parish. Raw sewage was discharged into the Chelt, and although the Commissioners were prepared to contribute towards the cost of arching over the river between St. George’s Place and the Cold Baths, ‘greater nuisance arises between these and **Alston Mill**, where the Commissioners have no jurisdiction – as it runs between private property.’
- Sep 1849 The **Sanitary Committee** complained to the **Sewers Co.** about **effluence** in the River Chelt. (There were four deaths from **cholera** in the town that same month.)
- Apr 1851 **Mr. Stratford**, the owner of the mill on **Wyman’s Brook**, complained that the sewage from the Pittville estate was fouling the brook. In Sep 1853 **Wyman’s Brook** was described as the sewer for Pittville District.
- 1857 With powers gained under the Improvement Act of 1852, the Town Commissioners bought the **Sewers Co.** and its sewers for £9,000.
- Jun 1858 Sewer construction drained wells near New Street, causing distress to the residents.
- Sep 1863 It was reported that the **Hatherley Brook** was fouled by sewage. It was still heavily polluted by the end of the century.
- 1865 The water supply in Cheltenham was inadequate for those dependent on the **Water Co.**, with an intermittent service. The **Water Co.** attempted to supplement its supply with water from the polluted Severn six miles away. This was vigorously opposed by the Town Commissioners. Severn water was finally given the all-clear in 1894.
- Jun 1869 Three deaths from **diphtheria** were caused by polluted water.
- Jul 1870 The official inauguration of the **Hayden Sewage Farm** took place.
- May 1871 Prestbury agreed to divert its sewage to the Cheltenham sewer to avoid fouling **Wyman’s Brook**. It was still being polluted by Prestbury sewage four years later, and was reported as heavily polluted in Aug 1899.
- Sep 1872 It was concluded that the conjunction of wells to sewers was leading to disease in parts of the town. The highest mortality rate occurred in Sherborne Street, Fairview Street, St. Paul’s Street North, and Rutland Street.
- May 1875 The Board of Guardians agreed to the erection of five **earth closets** at the **Union Workhouse**, to improve ‘morality and health’.
- 27 Jul 1878 The Cheltenham Corporation Bill acquiring the **Waterworks** was passed. The formal transfer of the works took place in Jan 1879.
- Sep 1881 The **foul stench** from the **River Chelt** was thought, by the Medical Officer of Health, to be a danger to health.
- Nov 1881 A case of **typhoid fever** in The Park was traced to the well water.

- 19 Oct 1886 **Dowdeswell Reservoir** was opened.
- 1888 A case of **typhoid** in Queen Street was thought to be due to the poor water quality.
- Sep 1893 An outbreak of **typhoid** abated in Stanhope Street.
- Oct 1893 An outbreak of **enteric fever** in town was thought by the Council to be due to **shallow wells**.
- Jun 1894 The main was completed for pumping water from the **River Severn** at Tewkesbury to the **Hewlett Reservoirs**.
- Jan 1896 It was reported that all **shallow wells** were gradually being closed in the town, to eradicate one of the main causes of disease.
- Aug 1900 Complaints were made about the terrible smells from the **Hayden Sewage Farm**, and surprise was expressed that any man who worked there was still alive.
- Jun 1902 The Town Council complained to Upton and Worcester about pollution of the River Severn, the source of Cheltenham's piped water, by sewage disposal.
- Jun 1919 The Town Council bought 115 acres off Gloucester Road for £10,500 for its first major building development under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.
- Mar 1920 The first contracts were made with 2 builders to build 10 houses each at the Libertus Road end of the **estate** at St. Mark's. The Mayor cut the first sod to the **estate** on 22 Apr 1820. The Cheltenham 'Garden Suburb' of **St. Mark's** was officially opened on 18 Jan 1921, when the first 10 houses were ready for occupation.
- Jan 1924 The Town Council set up a **Slum Area Clearance Committee**.
- Oct 1929 The first phase of the development at the **Whaddon Farm estate** was begun.
- 1933 The **Pate's Avenue** development was begun to house displaced families affected by the slum clearance at streets and courts off the Swindon Road. **Swindon Place** was one such street, consisting of 28 houses sharing three earth closet privies between them.
- 1934 A **Slum Clearance** programme was carried out in Grove Street and Exmouth Street, as well as St. Paul's where 20 houses were built. 160 houses were also built on the **Moors estate** (St. Peter's) to replace slum clearance.
- May 1955 The Council approved the first, post-war, **slum clearance** programme.
- 30 Sep 1955 Urgent schemes were needed for sewerage works and drainage, due to the rapid growth of the town.
- Oct 1956 The Borough Council purchased land at **Green Farm, Up Hatherley**, partly to replace the slums off the Tewkesbury Road.
- 13 Jan 1959 It was announced that 122 properties were to be demolished in the Tewkesbury Road and Swindon Road area (Mauds Elm estate), and the district re-developed.
- 2 Dec 1971 After a long-running battle, a **skin merchant** company was fined for causing poisonous, noxious and polluting matter to enter the River Chelt.
- 23 Mar 1976 Nine tons of concentrated **bleach** were discharged into the River Chelt in Athelney Avenue.
- 28 Jun 1976 The **Severn Trent Water Authority** warned that it was only just coping with the demand for water. A hose-pipe ban for household use was introduced on 3 July. A two-inch deluge of rain on 28 Aug ended the drought.
- 9 Dec 1981 The **River Chelt** was described by **Severn Trent** as the only river 'blackspot' in Gloucestershire.
- Apr 1982 The **Severn Trent Water Authority** introduced optional water-metering in the Cheltenham district.
- 24 Jan 1983 Cheltenham homes were urged to save water to combat a strike by **Severn Trent** water & sewerage workers. Some schools had to close because of the dispute, and clean linen for the hospitals was threatened. The strike ended on 23 Feb 1983.
- 28 Jul 1984 A hose-pipe and sprinkler ban was imposed in Cheltenham to prevent a serious shortage later in the year.
- 3 Jun 1985 Pollution experts toured the Kingsditch Lane factories after fish were found poisoned by dumped **toxic industrial waste**.
- 19 Jul 1990 Water levels in Cheltenham's two reservoirs reached a critical low.
- 21 Sep 1994 An outbreak of toxic **blue-green algae** attacked lakes and rivers all over Cheltenham.
- 2003 Plans were announced to dredge the Upper Lake at Pittville, depositing the silt at Hunting Butts Farm, near Swindon Village.
- Sep 2003 The Environment Agency announced a plan to dig a 24-foot deep crater in **Cox's Meadow**, Old Bath Road, as part of Cheltenham's flood defence scheme.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH.



NEW BURIAL GROUND.

FINAL RESTING PLACES

- Neolithic It is thought that the **barrow** which once existed in St. James' Square was probably a **long barrow** dating from this time. (4000-2000 BC.) It was opened in 1832, and destroyed by railway construction in 1846.
- A.D.803 Some sort of religious establishment is known to have existed in Cheltenham, traditionally located in Cambray. (Council of Cloveshoe)
- 1011 The Parish church of **St. Mary** was founded.
- c.1703 The **Quakers** acquired land in **Grove Street**, for use as a burial ground.
- 1806 The parish bought the burial ground around **St. Mary's Parish Church** for £100. Until then it had been private property, held by the lay impropiator, **Joseph Pitt, Esq.**
- 31 Aug 1812 A Vestry meeting sanctioned the purchase of a piece of land in Chester Walk, for £700, for the expansion of the **parish churchyard**.
- 9 Aug 1814 **Sarah Humphris** was buried at a crossroads leading to Swindon village. She had committed **suicide** by drinking **vitriol**, and this was the last known instance of such a crossroad burial in the Cheltenham area.
- 30 Nov 1824 The **Jewish** congregation acquired land in **Elm Street** for a burial ground.
- 1826 **Holy Trinity Church** in Portland Street became the first site outside the **Parish Church** for interment according to Church of England rites.
- 1830 The Parish Vestry acquired a small orchard in the Lower High Street for use as a **new burial ground**. It was consecrated and opened on 19 Sep 1831. (Churchill Gardens)
- 1844 The **Jewish** congregation purchased Worcester Cottages and adjoining land in **Elm Street**, to enlarge their **burial ground**. Additional land was bought in 1860, and a final piece of land in 1892. In 1959 the Borough Council agreed to increase the size of the **Elm Street Burial Ground** still further, in exchange for some cottage garden land owned by the synagogue. The **Burial Ground** is still in use today, although space is becoming very limited. (2003)
- Apr 1854 The **Parish Churchyard** was described as a rendezvous for down-and-outs.
- Sep 1855 A reward of £2 was offered for information about vandalism in the **Parish Churchyard**.
- 1861 The Improvement Commissioners purchased an 18 acre plot of land near Prestbury as a new **cemetery** for the town. (Bouncers Lane / Priors Road)
- 9 Jul 1862 The Town Commissioners accepted **William Hill Knight's** designs for the buildings of the new cemetery, from over 20 competitors.
- Sep 1864 The present **Cemetery** (Bouncers Lane) was established, replacing the one in the Lower High Street. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester on 19 Nov 1864.
- Jun 1887 The **Quaker Burial Ground** in **Grove Street** was converted into a garden by the **Kyrle Society**.
- May 1890 The **Kyrle Society** suggested opening part of the **Old Cemetery** (Churchill Gardens) as a quiet open area for the use of the neighbourhood.
- Apr 1892 Part of the **Old Cemetery** was secured by the **Kyrle Society**, to be opened as public gardens during the summer. In May 1966 the burial ground, which had been cleared of gravestones, was re-opened as the **Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Garden**.
- Jul 1892 The Cross in the **Parish Churchyard** was restored by **Messrs. Boulton** in an appropriate 14th century style.
- 9 Oct 1900 **Cheltenham Cemetery** was enlarged.
- 27 Apr 1924 A Cross of Sacrifice was dedicated at Cheltenham **Cemetery** on ANZAC Day.
- 10 May 1924 Wooden crosses from European battlefields were erected on oak rails in Cheltenham **Cemetery**.
- 27 Jul 1926 The Bishop of Gloucester consecrated a new extension to the **Cemetery**.
- Jan 1938 The **Crematorium** at the **Cemetery** was officially opened by the Mayor.
- 13 Oct 1960 Many of the gravestones in the **Parish Churchyard** were removed and replaced by lawns. One from 1825 which remains, although very difficult to read now, is:-

Here lies **John Higgs**
 A famous man for killing pigs,
 For killing pigs was his delight
 Both morning, afternoon and night.
 Both heats and cold he could endure
 Which no physician could e'er cure.
 His knife is laid, his work is done
 I hope to heaven his soul is gone.

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