

A CHRONOLOGY OF CHELTENHAM'S LITERARY CONNECTIONS



Compiled by Jill Waller



*Cheltenham
Local History Society*

INTRODUCTION

Gloucestershire Poets and Writers was selected as the theme of this year's Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's County Local History Afternoon, to be held on 4 October 2008 at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Longlevens, Gloucester. This book was compiled to accompany a display put on by the Cheltenham Local History Society at this event.

Cheltenham has a wealth of literary connections that includes both 'home-grown' and visiting writers and poets. Many well-known literary figures were attracted to the town, and some of those took up residence here. This *Chronology* is an attempt to provide a list, by no means exhaustive, of some of those authors. Cheltenham is now internationally-known for its Festival of Literature, but there has been an interest in literary societies in various forms for nearly 200 years, as this book shows. A record of the town's libraries and booksellers, and an overview of the developments of the local press, has also been included. The newspapers in 19th-century Cheltenham contained so many references to publications by the local clergy that I felt they should have a separate section of their own. (This Victorian interest can perhaps be likened to the modern obsession with the media and celebrity.) Finally I took the opportunity in this book to mention some of the many local history publications that have been published over the years.

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. I apologise to any writers and poets who may have been omitted or poorly represented, but it is a huge topic to cover in one volume in limited time.

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(With apologies to those I may have omitted to mention.)

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Finally I am extremely grateful to Sue Rowbotham for her help with the layout and illustration of this chronology and to Geoff North for organising the printing.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF CHELTENHAM'S LITERARY CONNECTIONS

AUTHORS, POETS, &c

- 1080-86 **William the Conqueror** commissioned **Domesday Book** to determine property holdings in England for taxation purposes. The extract for Cheltenham reads:
'Terra Regis. King Edward held Cheltenham. There were eight hides and an half. Reinhaldt holds one hide and an half, which belongs to the church. There were three ploughs in demesne, and twenty villans and ten bordars, and seven serbi with eighteen ploughs. The priests [have] two ploughs. There are two mills rendering 11s.3d. King William's steward added to this manor two bordars and four villans, and three mills, of which two are the king's; the third is the steward's; and there is one plough more. In the time of King Edward it rendered £9 5s. and three thousand loaves for the hounds. Now it renders £20 and twenty cows, and twenty pigs, and 16s. for loaves.'
- 1580 The first schoolmaster of the new **Grammar School** in Cheltenham, **Christopher Ocland**, published a schoolbook, *Anglorum Praelia*. Written in Latin verse, it dealt with what **Ocland** considered to be the great events of English history from Edward III to the end of Queen Mary's reign. In **1582** he published *Elizabetha*, extolling the virtues of his Queen. According to the *Acts of the Privy Council*, these works were made compulsory reading in all schools in the country. An English edition of the second book, entitled *Elizabetha Queene* was published in **1585**.
- 1724-7 **Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)**, journalist and novelist, wrote in *A Tour Thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, 'A very eminent Physician is of the Opinion, that the Waters of Bath, Tunbridge, Cheltenham (or Scarborough, which partake of the same Qualities), and Bristol, make the general Kinds of most of the various Mineral Waters on the Globe; and that he therefore who understands these, cannot be much at a Loss to determine the Virtues and Efficacy of any new Kind.' His specific comment about Cheltenham was that 'The mineral waters lately discovered ... are what will make this place more and more remarkable, and frequented'.
- 1734 **William Shenstone (1714-63)**, pastoral poet, renowned landscape gardener and friend of **Samuel Johnson**, first visited Cheltenham. He paid a second visit in the summer of **1743**, and he fell in love with a young lady but felt he was not good enough for her. She was the inspiration for 'Phyllis' in his best-known work, *Pastoral Ballad*. Said to be 'perhaps the best of its kind in the language', it was published in **1755** and enigmatically dedicated to '**Miss C**', the object of his unrequited love in Cheltenham.
- 18 Aug 1746 Actor and dramatist **David Garrick (1717-79)** wrote to **Francis Hayman**, 'I came to this Place last Thursday, & a damn'd dull Place it is, ... I have drank the Waters and they agree very well with Me; but I have unfortunately got a Boil under the Wasteband of my Breeches, that greatly discomposes Me & perhaps my Wont of Relish for the Pleasures of Cheltenham may be chiefly owing to that.'
- 1749 **Dr Samuel Johnson** is known to have stayed in Cheltenham. In articles written for *The Rambler* he frequently referred to the scenery around the town, indicating subsequent visits, at least one of which occurred in **1751**.
- 1751 **William Whitehead (1715-85)**, poet and playwright who became Poet Laureate in **1757**, included the following reference to Cheltenham in *An Hymn to the Nymph of Bristol*:
'Thus Cheltenham sinks
Rural and calm amid the flowery vale,
Pleas'd with its pastoral scenes...'
- 1773 **Rev. William Winterbotham (1763-1829)**, Baptist minister, writer and political prisoner who was imprisoned for sedition, wrote to his son **Rayner**: 'Cheltenham previous to my leaving it was properly speaking little more than a good farming village tho' undoubtedly designated a market town. Its waters had indeed obtained considerable celebrity, but there was professedly only one lodging house for visitors.'
- 1780 *Cheltenham, a Fragment* was published. It was sold by **G. Robinson** and also by **Samuel Harward** at **Tewkesbury** and at his shops in **Gloucester** and **Cheltenham**.
- 27 Jun 1781 The **Hon. John Byng** left Cheltenham after a month's visit, writing in his travel journal 'I quit thee with pleasure, and hope never more to revisit thee! I believe I may aver and be agreed with, that Cheltenham is the dullest of public places; the look of the place is sombre, the lodgings dear and pitiful, and no inns or stabling fit for the reception of gentlemen or their horses'. He visited again and complained on **27 June 1784** 'I attended at the pump room this morning, but neither drank the water, nor embark'd in society, as it would only be a needless trouble. The scenery reminds me of time past, and most things appear at a later day with a worse aspect; the weather, indeed, is so bad as to put all nature out of spirits.'

- Jul-Aug 1788 Novelist, diarist and playwright **Fanny Burney (Madame d'Arblay** after marriage, **1752-1828**) visited with **George III's** royal party as lady-in-waiting to **Queen Charlotte**. She wrote an account of the 'Cheltenham episode' in her diary, which includes a description of their departure: 'All Cheltenham was drawn out into the High Street, the gentles on one side and the commons on the other, and a band playing "God Save the King" ...'
- 1792 **J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851)**, whose father lived in **Tewkesbury**, wrote in his *Diary of a Tour in Part of Wales*, 'Cheltenham is a clean small place... There is a formality in the whole scene that is not pleasant'.
- 1795 **Powell Snell** of **Guiting Grange**, a leading figure in the social life of Cheltenham at this period, raised the first volunteer troop of **The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars** at the **Plough Inn** in Cheltenham in this year. He was also known for writing poetry.
- 02 Sep 1795 A farce about life at a fashionable spa, *Three and One Deuce*, was performed at the **Haymarket, London**. It was the first dramatic work ever written about Cheltenham, penned by playwright and painter **Prince Hoare (1755-1834)**.
- Jun 1798 **Dr Edward Jenner (1749-1823)**, who lived for part of each year in Cheltenham (from **1795** until his wife's death in **1815**), published *An Inquiry Into Cause and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae*, price 7s 6d. This was a very factual document, written for scientists. In **1800** he wrote *The Origin of Vaccination* for the general public, a straightforward, readable account of how he discovered vaccination. Other publications of **Jenner's** included *Further Observations on the Variolae of Cow-Pox (5 April 1799)*, a paper entitled *An Herpetic State of the Skin (Aug 1805)* and a paper on *Distemper in Dogs (March 1809)*. **Jenner** also wrote poetry, usually humorous verses. He even catalogued his museum of fossils at Berkeley in verse:
- '... Hippopotamus' bones, and a great alligator,
And things most surprising thrown out of a crater;
All changed into flint are an elephant's jaws,
The mammoth's vast teeth, and the leopard's huge paws:
There are beautiful agates washed by the fountains,
And crabs that were found on the tops of the mountains ...'
- Summer 1801 Socialite **Mrs Byron** and her 13-year-old son, the future poet, came to stay in Cheltenham before he went to Harrow. Even at that early age **Byron** experienced feelings that he was later able to express in poetry; he would gaze with emotion across at the **Malverns** from **Bayshill** at sunset, reminded of his childhood time spent in Scotland. His favourite viewing point was a stile situated where the passage through **Lansdown Terrace** now commences in **Overton Road**. He visited Cheltenham again with his mother the following year. They stayed at the **Great House** during these early visits (site of **St Matthew's Church**).
- 1803 **Johanna Scopenhauer, née Trosiener (1766-1838)**, German author and mother of **Arthur Schopenhauer**, the philosopher, published her travel journal, *Reise durch England und Scotland (Travels in England and Scotland)*, which included a visit to Cheltenham.
- Aug 1807 The poet **Robert Bloomfield** spent three hours on a visit to **Edward Jenner** in Cheltenham. He wrote, 'Cheltenham appears to be an increasing town, full of dashing shops, and full of what is often called life, i.e., high life. I am not qualified to judge of high life, and may be laughed at for my strictures; but as I never feel happy in Bond Street, I see no reason that I should be here'.
- 1808 **Christopher Anstey (1724-1805)** was a poet who became widely known after satirising contemporary fashions in *The New Bath Guide (1766)*. His poem, *On the Recovery of a young Lady by the use of the Cheltenham Waters*, was included in an edition of his entire works collected by his son and published in **1808**. His last publication was in Latin, written at Cheltenham in the summer of **1803**.
- 1811 A celebrated early Victorian writer and poet, **Thomas Henry Sealy (1811-48)**, was born at **Alstone Lawn**, a mansion that was situated at the junction of **Gloucester Road** and **Alstone Lane**. His best-known works were *The Porcelain Tower* and a volume of poems entitled *The Old Man in the Wood*. Cheltenham historian **John Goding** likened **Sealy's** writings to those of **Goldsmith** and **Lamb**. As a young man **Sealy** travelled Europe before settling in **Bristol** where he founded the weekly *Great Western Advertiser*. Unfortunately this venture brought him financial ruin, which may have contributed to his early death in **1848** aged 37.
- 1811 **Robert Bloomfield** mentioned Cheltenham in *The Banks of Wye*:
- 'For Cheltenham mocks thy pilgrim crew;
And like a girl in beauty's power,
Flirts in the fairings of an hour.
- Aug 1812 Following the end of his passionate affair with **Lady Caroline Lamb**, **Byron** returned to Cheltenham.

- 10 Sep 1812 **Lord Byron** was staying in Cheltenham for 6 months, initially at **430 High Street** (now number **40**, near **Barratt's Mill Lane**). In a letter to his friend **Lord Holland** on this date, **Byron** wrote 'The waters have disordered me to my heart's content – and you *were* right, as you always are'. **Byron** moved from the 'sordid Inn' on the **High Street** to **Georgiana Cottage** on the corner of **Bath Street, Cambray**. 'By the waters of Cheltenham I sat down and drank when I remembered thee O **Georgiana Cottage**. As for harps we hanged them upon the willow that grew thereby.' (This was a play on the opening lines of *Psalm 137*).
- 26 Sep 1812 **Byron** wrote again to **Lord Holland** with the P.S. 'I am diluted to the throat with medicine for the stone; and **Boisragon** wants me to try a warm climate for the winter – but I won't.'
- 28 Sep 1812 In a letter to **William Bankes**, **Byron** reported 'I have been here some time drinking the waters, simply because there are waters to drink, and they are very medicinal, and sufficiently disgusting'. While staying at Cheltenham **Byron** was a frequent guest at **Berkeley Castle** with other great dramatists and literary figures of the day.
- 1813 **James Austen**, brother of novelist **Jane Austen**, visited Cheltenham for a month to take the waters. **Jane** mentioned the visit in a letter of that year – 'They travelled down to Cheltenham last Monday very safely & are certainly to be there a month ...'.
- 1816 Minerologist, shell collector & explorer **John Mawe (1764-1829)** opened Cheltenham's first geological museum with son-in-law **Anthony Tatlow** in **Montpellier** (site of **Montpellier Exchange**). Acknowledged expert **Mawe** published many reference works, including *Familiar Lessons on Mineralogy (1819)* and *The Linnean System of Conchology (1823)*. **Mawe's** books and the fine hand-coloured illustrations by **James Sowerby** are highly sought-after today.
- May-Jun 1816 **Jane Austen** had a three-week stay in Cheltenham in an attempt to cure her declining health, due to breast cancer. Her sister **Cassandra** accompanied her, but remained longer. **Jane's** only mention in her diary of her stay was 'The Duchess of Orleans, the paper says, drinks at my pump'. In September the same year **Jane** wrote to **Cassandra** via '**The Post Office**, Cheltenham' commenting 'But how very much Cheltenham is to be preferred in May!'. A few days later she wrote to **Cassandra** again: 'I am very glad you find so much to be satisfied with at Cheltenham. While the waters agree, everything else is trifling.' **Jane Austen** died only 10 months after her visit to the town.
- 1817 **Sir Nathaniel Wraxall** came to live in **Wraxall House** in **Brookway Lane, Charlton Kings** to be near 'the excellent society in Cheltenham'. Having risen through the ranks of the East India Company, in **1787 Wraxall** had distributed 17,000 copies of a pamphlet attacking the **Prince of Wales**. His *Historical Memoirs* were published in **1815**, selling out within a month, perhaps as the publication was subject to a libel action.
- Jan 1819 **Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-61)** visited her grandmother and aunt at Cheltenham. She stayed with her aunt **Arabella Graham-Clarke** in **Cambray Street**, writing *Lines Extempore on Taking My Last Farewell of the Statue of Nigeia at Cheltenham* while there. This poem was never published. She is known to have visited her family in Cheltenham again in **1824** and there may have been other occasions. **Miss Graham Clarke** later lived at **Oriel Lodge**, dying there in **1869**.
- 1823 *On The Importance of Educating the Infant Poor*, published by untrained London teacher **Samuel Wilderspin**, so impressed the **Rev. Francis Close** that he invited **Wilderspin** to establish Cheltenham's first infant school. Initially the school was at **Wilderspin's** home in **Alpha House (St George's Road)**, and from **Apr 1827** at a purpose-built school in **Alstone Lane**. After arguments over methods used at a second infant school in **St James's Square**, **Wilderspin** set up an **Infant School Depot** in **Alpha House** in competition, supplying books & equipment to schools across the country. **Wilderspin** had a number of his works published while he was living and working at **Alpha House**. His *Early Discipline – Illustrated* was printed by the publishers of the *Cheltenham Journal*.
- 1824 Following **Byron's** death, his friend and contemporary **Thomas Moore**, Ireland's national poet, received his memoirs. According to some sources **Moore** burned them, presumably to protect his friend's reputation. **Moore** visited Cheltenham many times, staying with a friend **James Corry**, partly to collect material for his two-volume biography *Letters and Journals of Lord Byron* that was published in **1830**.
- 1825 Novelist, poet, playwright and politician, **Edward Bulwer Lytton (1803-73)**, stayed in a house in **Montpellier Terrace** in Cheltenham. He visited on other occasions, including a stay at the **Belle Vue Hotel** in **1840**. His first novel *Pelham* was partly set in Cheltenham, a place which evidently made a favourable impression:
'Accordingly ... I set off for Cheltenham. I was greatly struck with the entrance to the town; it is to these watering places that a foreigner should be taken, in order to give him an adequate idea of the magnificent opulence and universal luxury of England.'

- 1825 While living in Cheltenham, **Robert Stephen Hawker** wrote the celebrated poem *The Song of the Western Men*, based on an old folk song, which included the immortal lines:
‘And shall Trelawney die?
Here’s twenty thousand Cornishmen
Will know the reason why!’
- Although born in Plymouth, **Hawker** attended Cheltenham **Grammar School**, and then gained a **Townsend scholarship** to **Pembroke College, Oxford** at the age of 19. To fund his education he married that year a rich spinster of 41 who was also his godmother. He became a parson and a poet – he wrote the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*. In **1834** he became the Vicar of **Morwenstowe, Cornwall**, where he spent the rest of his life. He remarried at the age of 60, to a Polish girl of 19 whose name ‘is not spellable by any human soul’ according to the *The Patesian* of **1904** (Pate’s school magazine).
- 11 Jul 1826 **Nathaniel Thomas Haynes Bayly**, author, poet and prolific songwriter, described as the ‘founder of a new style of English ballads’, married **Helena Becher Hayes** at Cheltenham **St Mary’s** parish church.
- Sep 1826 **William Cobbett** rode into Cheltenham and reported on it with contempt in his *Rural Rides*, describing the town as ‘... a place to which East India plunderers, West India floggers, English tax-gorgers, together with gluttons, drunkards and debauchees of all descriptions, female as well as male, resort, at the suggestion of silently laughing quacks, in the hope of getting rid of the bodily consequences of their manifold sins and iniquities’.
- 22 Nov 1826 **Sir Walter Scott** arrived to take a course of mineral waters. He paid a two-day visit to his sister-in-law at **Oxford Buildings** in the **Upper High Street**.
- 1828 **Mary Moulton Barrett** (née **Graham-Clarke**), the mother of **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**, died at Cheltenham.
- 1828 **Nathaniel Thomas Haynes Bayly** was living at **Oxford Villa, London Road** by this time. More of a lyricist than a poet, his works included such sentimental numbers as *The Mistletoe Bough* and *Oh No, We Never Mention Her*. The writer and poetry critic **W.M. Thackeray**, while a student at **Cambridge**, wrote a parody on **Haynes Bayly’s** popular *I’d Be a Butterfly*, entitled *I’d Be a Tadpole*. **Haynes Bayly** also wrote 36 plays and novels.
- 1829 **John Parry** published the *Diary of Dolly Dubbins*, a fictitious satirical ‘historical account of a trip to Cheltenham accompanied by Pa, Ma and Boxiana’.
- 1829 **Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864)**, an eminent literary man and profound original thinker, wrote in *Imaginary Conversations of Literary Men and Statesmen*, ‘The gout and stone be in him! Port wine and Cheltenham-water!’ He was known to have visited the town in **1840** and had family connections with the town – his niece, **Ellen Savage Landor**, was born in Cheltenham in **1853** and baptised at Swindon village.
- 1830 A loose collections of articles, *Jorrocks’ Jaunts & Jollities* by **Robert Smith Surtees**, appeared in serial form in *The New Sporting Magazine* (of which **Surtees** was editor and chief hunting correspondent) between **1831** and **1834**. They were published as a book in **1838**. The central character, cockney grocer **Jorrocks**, spent a week in Cheltenham but was not overly impressed:
‘It is nothing but a long street with shops . . . and a few streets branching off it, and as to the Prom-men-ard, as they calls it, aside the Spa, with its garden stuff, why I’m sure, to my mind, the gardens by Regents Park are just as good.’
The character does admit, however, that a short course of the spa waters had been so beneficial that he went out with the **Berkeley hounds** and enjoyed the hunt through **Queen Wood** and the slopes of **Cleeve Hill**.
- 28 Feb 1830 The novelist **James Payn (1830-98)** was born at Cheltenham. His most popular story, the thriller *Lost Sir Massingberd* was published in **1864** in Chambers’ *Journal*; he was editor at the time.
- Aug 1830 **John Ruskin** visited Cheltenham with his parents, lodging in the **High Street**.
- 1830-32 The poet **Robert Southey (1774-1843)** visited Cheltenham at some point during these years. He was the biographer and personal friend of **Dr Andrew Bell (1753-1832)**, the educationalist who pioneered the Madras (a monitorial) System of education. **Dr Bell** had retired to Cheltenham in **1830** and died in **1832**.
- 13 Oct 1831 A list of ‘Arrivals’ in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* included **Mr A. Tennyson**. He accompanied his sister **Emily** to Cheltenham that year following a breakdown in her health. In **Dec 1835** he stayed at **2 Priory Buildings**, and at the **George Hotel** when visiting in **May 1836**.
- Summer 1833 In her journal Scottish writer **Catherine Sinclair** described the new **Pittville** estate as a ‘scene of gorgeous magnificence’, and drew her readers’ attention to the variety of its houses, which were ‘of every size, shape and character – Grecian temples, Italian villas, and citizens’ boxes, so fresh and clean you would imagine they were all blown out at once like soap bubbles’.

- Sinclair** was less enamoured of the town itself: ‘Cheltenham has been called “the Castle of Indolence”, and I certainly never saw such resolute idlers as those grouped round two of the principal hotels. They had actually brought out chairs, and sat for hours on the porticoes and footpaths, some with newspapers and some without, but all evidently determined to see and be seen ...’. Her journal was published under the title *Hill and Valley* in **1838**.
- c1833 **Isaac Bell**, a gardener working in Cheltenham, published a book containing 140 rhymes ‘on various subjects’. He was employed as a gardener at **East Court, Charlton Kings**, by **Alexander Nicholson**, periodically from **1825** until c.**1833**. He was still living in Cheltenham in **1851**. His poems have variable literary merit, but are interesting for the light they throw on his view of the people and places he came across in his life. In his poems **Bell** used asterisks, dashes or initials to represent names. Some of the people he wrote about can be identified. For example, the poems entitled *Sent to Mr. J******, *requesting the loan of a Sovereign* and *On a Rock-Work in C.H.J.’s Nursery* refer to **Charles Hale Jessop** who had an extensive nursery garden in the area between **St James’s Square** and **Waitrose**. **Michael J. Greet** published an edition reproducing the text of Bell’s poems, with additional notes, in **July 1999**.
- 19 Oct 1833 **Adam Lindsay Gordon** was born in Charlton Kings. He attended Cheltenham College for a year in **1841**, one of the first intake, and enrolled again in **August 1851**. The family lived at **4 Pittville Villas**, (now **60 Prestbury Road**), from **1840-45**, and at **25** (now **28**) **Priory Street** from **1847-53**. His father, formerly a Captain in the Bengal Cavalry, became Hindustani master at the **College** in **1845**. **Lindsay** was very involved in local sports and wrote the poem *How we Beat the Favourite* after the **1847** Cheltenham Steeplechase held at **Noverton Farm, Prestbury**. Unable to settle to a military career, he left for Australia in **1853** where he was considered the national poet and ‘the best amateur steeplechase rider in the Colony’. **Lindsay** committed suicide on **24 Jun 1870** on **Brighton Beach, Melbourne**. One of his poems, *The Swimmer*, forms the libretto for the fifth movement of **Elgar’s** song cycle **Sea Pictures**. In **May 1934 Gordon’s** bust was placed in **Poet’s Corner, Westminster Abbey**, the only Australian poet to have this honour.
- 8 Jan 1834 **William Nicholson**, of **Southfield Farm, Charlton Kings**, died in his 70th year. In his early years he was a friend and associate of the poet **Robert Burns**.
- Mar 1835 The Irish poet, and biographer of **Byron**, **Thomas Moore (1779-1852)** paid one of his visits to Cheltenham, staying with a friend, **James Corry**, who lived at **7 Montpellier Spa Buildings**. Later the same year **Moore** was to be seen on the **Promenade** during another stay with his friend while on his way to Dublin. **Moore** visited again in **May 1847**. On one of his many visits to Cheltenham he was moved to tears when the **Montpellier Band** played a selection of ballads written by him, which probably included *The Last Rose of Summer*.
- 1836 Poet **Sydney Thompson Dobell (1824-74)** began working as a clerk in his father’s wine merchant’s business in the **Lower High Street**, at the age of 12, on his family’s arrival in Cheltenham. He was a bright boy, and a master of language, despite having never attended school or university. His first work, *The Roman*, published in **1850** proved to be very popular. His poetry was praised by **Tennyson** and **Dante Gabriel Rossetti**. **Dobell** was also well known in some circles as an early breeder of deerhounds.
- In **1848 Dobell** and his wife went to live in **Detmore, Charlton Kings** but not for long. Owing to poor health **Dobell** moved to many parts of Britain and Europe. He died at **Barton End House**, near **Nailsworth**, in **1874**. He called the house a ‘Poet’s Paradise’ and said that he had at last found a place in which to live and die. He is buried in **Painswick Cemetery**.
- 22 Apr 1839 **Nathaniel Thomas Haynes Bayly** died and was buried at the **New Burial Ground, Lower High Street**, (now **Churchill Gardens**). His mother erected a memorial to him in **St James’ Church**, bearing the inscription ‘Sacred to the memory of **Thomas Haynes Bayly Esq.**, who died in this town on the **22 April 1839**, aged 42 years. He was a kind parent, an affectionate husband, a popular author, and an accomplished gentleman. To commemorate the good qualities which she duly appreciated this tablet has been erected by his disconsolate mother’.
- Bayly** had spent the closing years of his life at **430 High Street** (the house in which **Byron** had lived when he first came to Cheltenham in **1812**, now number **40**).
- 8 Jun 1840 **Sarah Harriet Burney (1772-1844)**, the novelist, half-sister of the more famous **Fanny Burney**, wrote to her friend, **Anna Grosvenor**, commenting that ‘My present plan for the summer, is to pay my annual visit to Cheltenham, which has always done me good, and is quite as rural as I am now capable of. I like the morning Band at the **Montpelier Spa**, and the morning exhibitions, and Concerts, & all the Cockney doings - I endeavour to get a lodging in the **Promenade**, that I may see the folks, pedestrians, equestrians, carriageites [*sic*] &c.’ **Sarah** died on **8 February 1844**, aged 71, at **Belgrave House** on the **Promenade**. She is buried at **St Mary’s Cemetery** in Cheltenham (now the **Churchill Memorial Gardens** off the **Lower High Street**).

- 1841 **John Barnett**, cousin of the composer **Meyerbeer**, came to live in Cheltenham. A composer himself, he set up as a singing teacher. He also wrote books. In **1870** he bought a large house, **Cotteswold**, on **Leckhampton Hill** and lived there for 20 years.
- 1842 Poet and priest **Frederick William Robertson (1816-53)** began a five-year stint as curate of **Christ Church**, Cheltenham. He went on to become a celebrated preacher in his next post as minister of **Trinity Chapel, Brighton**. While in Cheltenham **Robertson** spoke at numerous public meetings, under the chairmanship of the **Rev. Francis Close**, on various topics including poetry. A biography, *Life and Letters of Frederick W. Robertson* by **Stopford Brooke**, was published in **1865**.
- Jun 1843 The Scottish poet **Thomas Campbell (1777-1844)** wrote to his niece, **Mary Campbell**, announcing his arrival at Cheltenham to drink the waters. He wrote a biography of actress **Sarah Siddons** who virtually began her career in Cheltenham.
- 1843-9 **Aaron Edwin Penley (1807-70)**, well known as a painter of landscapes in watercolour, lived in Cheltenham for six years. He worked as a drawing master, both privately and at **Cheltenham College**. His many books on the principles and practice of art were very popular; *A System of Water Colour Painting*, published by **Winsor & Newton**, ran to at least 37 editions. *The English School of Painting in Watercolours (1861)* was illustrated with 48 Chromolithographic prints, making it one of the very first art books with colour illustrations.
- Nov 1843 **Alfred Lord Tennyson** was persuaded to invest his family fortune, and the earnings from his poetry, in woodcarving machinery. Unfortunately the venture failed after only a few months and **Tennyson** was left penniless and suffering from severe hypochondria. He was recommended to take the Cheltenham waters to restore his health. He wrote of the town ‘Here is a handsome town of 35,000 inhabitants, a polka- parson-worshipping place of which the **Rev. Francis Close** is Pope’. **Tennyson** came to Cheltenham to join his mother, and lodged for six months with **Mrs Morris** of **Prestbury** while undergoing a hydropathic cure at a house called **Sans Souci** (later **Morningside**) in the village. **Tennyson** considered his treatment to be the worst of all the uncomfortable ways of living. His mother and sisters were then living at **6 Belle Vue Place**.
- 1844 **Mrs Tennyson** and her family moved from **Belle Vue Place** to a more spacious house at **10 St James’ Square**, and **Alfred** frequently stayed at the house prior to his marriage in **1850**. (A plaque affixed to the house in **St James’ Square** records ‘**Alfred Lord Tennyson** lived here **1846-1850**’. It is now the presbytery of **St Gregory’s Church**.) It is here he wrote much of *In Memoriam* and probably refers to the town in the lines:
‘There where the long street roars hath been
The silence of the central sea.’
- Members of **Tennyson’s** family lived at **10 St James’ Square** until **1868**.
- 1844 The American essayist **Washington Irving** took a cure at the Hydropathic Institution.
- Feb 1844 **Charles Dickens** arrived in Cheltenham to visit the **Weller** family.
- 9 May 1846 The *Cheltenham Looker-On* announced that two sons of the poet **Robert Burns** were about to visit Cheltenham and ‘it is highly probable will take up their permanent abode in the place. They were **Col William Nicol Burns** and **Major (later Lt Col) James Glencairn Burns**, both of the Hon. East India Company’s Service.
- The brothers lived at **4 Berkeley Street** with their families and soon became involved in the affairs of the town. **Major Burns** took part in local amateur dramatics – for example he played the character Sir Archy MacSarcasm, one of the principal characters in a comedy *Love a-la-mode*, in aid of the Building Fund of the **General Hospital**.
- The brothers also served on many local committees, including the Committee of Public Amusements. They subscribed to local charitable causes, e.g. the losses sustained when **Jessops Gardens** were largely swept away by the **River Chelt** in flood in **1855**, and to aid a family that had just had triplets (in addition to their other six children) in **1857**.
- The death of **Lt Col J.G. Burns**, aged 71, youngest son of the poet, was announced in the *Cheltenham Looker-On* on **25 Nov 1865**. His older brother **Col W.N. Burns** died at **4 Berkeley Street** on **21 Feb 1872** aged 80. The last surviving grandchild of **Robert Burns** was **Miss Annie Burns Burns**, who died at **7 Pittville Lawn** on **10 May 1925** aged 94. (see also **20 Jul 1995**)
- 1850 **Tennyson** and his bride **Emily** spent part of their honeymoon in Cheltenham. **Tennyson’s** epic poem *In Memoriam* was published, and he succeeded **Wordsworth** as Poet Laureate at the end of this same year.
- 21 Sep 1850 The *Cheltenham Looker-On* advertised a selection of ‘new and popular’ songs by **Alfred Tennyson** and **John Barnett**. It also advised that ‘**Mr Tennyson’s** latest song, set to music by **Mr Barnett**, called *Ask Me No More*’ would be published in a few days.



Cheltenham-born watchmaker J.N. Maskelyne, of 12 Montpellier Terrace, founded a dynasty of three generations of acclaimed illusionists, inventors and published authors.



Cecil Day Lewis, Poet Laureate, lived at Box Cottage, Charlton Kings from 1933-8.



Lillah McCarthy, Edwardian star of stage and screen, was born at 148 High Street. She wrote affectionately of her Cheltenham childhood.



Samuel Wilderspin (left) and Dr Edward Jenner published books that changed the course of history. Both men worked from Alpha House, St George's Road.



- 1851 *The History of the Last Trial by Jury for Atheism: A Fragment of Autobiography, Submitted for the Perusal of Her Majesty's Attorney-General and the British Clergy* by **George Jacob Holyoake** was published (re-published by The Lawbook Exchange Ltd. in 2006). **Holyoake** was a notable freethinking socialist lecturer and self-described 'agitator'. He was the last person in England indicted for blasphemy, based on remarks made during a debate with local preacher **Maitland** after a speaking engagement in Cheltenham on **24 May 1842**. He was brought before the Cheltenham Magistrates a few days later charged with, according to the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 'delivering atheistical and blasphemous sentiments at the **Mechanics Institution**'. Realising he would be unable to retain a Christian attorney, **Holyoake** defended himself at the Court of Assizes (**15 Aug 1842**). He advised friends caught in similar situations that "We do not want lawyers to defend our opinions, those opinions not being their own, but we want them to simply maintain our right to publish what are to us important convictions". During the trial **Holyoake** dramatically proclaimed "Christianity claims what she does not allow – each to have his own belief". Although convicted, he emerged the moral victor.
- 1851 The **1851** Census shows **Tennyson's** mother and siblings at **10 St James' Square**:
 Elizabeth Tennisson, Head, Widow, age 70
 Mary Tennisson, unmarried daughter, age 40
 Matilda Tennisson, unmarried daughter, age 34
 Horatio Tennisson, unmarried son, age 31
 Mary A. Tytike, unmarried sister, age 69
 Fanny Nicholson, unmarried cousin, age 36 + a housemaid, cook, parlour maid and lady's maid.
- 1852 **Tennyson** and his wife **Emily** spent two weeks with the poet's mother while expecting their second child. She was inordinately proud of her son and used to announce herself 'the mother of the Laureate'. While living in **St James' Square** she kept a pet monkey that was often to be seen in the garden perched on top of a pole.
- 1852 **W.E.H. Lecky** entered **Cheltenham College** as a pupil. He became a writer of books on British and European history.
- Dec 1852 **Anthony Trollope** lodged at **5 Paragon Buildings, Bath Road**, from **December 1852** until **April 1853**. More accurately he used it as a base while he travelled all over the **West Midlands** and **Wales** reorganising the postal services in his role as Deputy Surveyor in the Western District of the Post Office. He used the location of his family's lodgings in Cheltenham in several novels, where the town is often disguised as Littlebath. For example, in *The American Senator* one character refers to his education at **Cheltenham College**, which was made miserable by the Evangelical Rector of the town (a reference to **Francis Close**).
- Most of **Trollope's** Cheltenham settings in his novels also include fierce attacks upon the Evangelicals. For example, in *The Bertrams* they are referred to as 'strong, unctuous, moral, uncharitable people. The men never cease making money for themselves, nor the women making slippers for their clergymen'. (The **Rev. Francis Close** was said to have received 1,500 pairs of slippers from the devoted female members of his congregation.)
- 1852-3 Novelist **Mrs Craik (1826-87)**, formerly **Dinah Mulock**] was staying at **Detmore**, in **Charlton Kings**, when she began work on *John Halifax, Gentleman*. **Detmore** was the **Dobell** family home where poet **Sydney Dobell** and his wife stayed in **1848**. From **Detmore** **Mrs Craik** visited **Tewkesbury**, on which her fictional town of '**Norton Bury**' is based. **Detmore** itself became **Craik's** model for '**Longfield**', the country home where John Halifax (probably based on the owner of **Detmore**, wine merchant **John Dobell**) lived with his family during his wealthier days. In the book Cheltenham was thinly disguised as '**Coltham**', where John Halifax went to see **Mrs Siddons** at the theatre in **Coffee House Yard**. It was portrayed as growing into a fashionable town where the fine people promenaded in the **Well-Walk**.
- Mar 1853 Lectures by **Dr E.R. Humphreys**, headmaster of the **Grammar School**, were published. In **February 1855** he published a manual of Political Science. Unfortunately **Humphreys** was overly ambitious in his attempts to rival **Cheltenham College** in the esteem of the wealthier section of Cheltenham society. It was subsequently revealed that all the books and lectures given under his name from the beginning of **1855** were 'ghosted' by **Mr H. Owgam** of **Clifton** for a substantial fee. **Humphreys'** reputation was finally and completely shattered in the town in **June 1859** when he absconded with **Mrs Comyn**, the wife of one of the **Grammar School** Governors, leaving debts of over £26,000.
- Jan 1854 Local resident **M.C. Seymour**, of **Osborne Lodge** at **The Park**, had his book on the 'Eastern Question' (the situation leading to the Crimean War) published.
- 1855 **William Lisle Bowles (1762-1850)**, poet and clergyman, had his *Poetical Works* published. The collection included the poem *On Meeting Some Friends of Youth at Cheltenham*.

- 1855 Writer **John Morley** attended **Cheltenham College** for a year. He went on to write biographies of politicians and statesmen.
- 1856 Solicitor **Horace A. Ford** published *Archery: Its Theory and Practice*, printed by **Henry Davies Ford**, who lived in Cheltenham from **1855-65**, was National Champion 12 times from **1849-67**. He was considered by many to be the finest target archer of all time, and father of the modern Olympic sport. A **Civic Society** plaque in **Montpellier Gardens** commemorates his founding of the **Cheltenham Archers** in **1857**. His book, republished in **2006**, remains influential even today.
- 1856-1861 **F.H. Bradley** was a pupil at **Cheltenham College**, his family living at **19 Royal Parade**. He was a Shakespearian scholar and writer on philosophy, producing such gems as *Ethical Studies*.
- 26 Mar 1856 The *Cheltenham Examiner* reviewed a new book on philosophy by a resident, **Mr Horsley**.
- 4 Oct 1856 The first edition of *The National Magazine: an Illustrated Periodical of Literature, Art, Science, Social Progress and Family Life* (price 2d.) included literary contributions by **Professor Blackie**, **Wilkie Collins** and Cheltenham-born **Sydney Dobell**.
- 24 Dec 1856 The *Cheltenham Examiner* reviewed contributions to the *Cheltenham Literary Annual*.
- 1857 Local poet **J.J.C. Newton** brought out a small volume entitled *Arnold, a Dramatic History*, which contained an introduction by **Sydney Dobell**. **Newton** worked for the **Dobell** firm of wine merchants in Cheltenham. In **1867** he brought out *A Rhymer's Wallet*, a collection of his poems that had been published in various journals.
- 1857 *The Cheltenham Literary Annual. A Gift-Book and Remembrancer* was published at **Norman's Examiner Office**. It contains prose and poems by local contributors including **Sydney Dobell**, the **Rev. A. Morton Brown** and **William Byrne**. One essay, by **Thomas Karn**, rejoices in the title '*Desultory Thoughts on Time – Suggested by the Clock at Lily Brook, Charlton Kings*'.
- 6 May 1857 **William Makepiece Thackeray** gave two lectures on 'Sketches of Court & Town Life in the reigns of George III & George IV' at the **Assembly Rooms**. He had briefly mentioned Cheltenham in his novel *Vanity Fair*, published in **1848** – one of the characters escaped to Cheltenham where 'he drove his curricle; he drank his claret; he played his rubber; he told his Indian stories, and the Irish widow consoled and flattered him'.
- Aug 1859 The **Rev. J.E. Riddle MA** died. For many years the Incumbent of **St Philip's Church**, he was the author of several historical books and manuals, and of *Riddle's Latin & English Dictionary*.
- 27 Oct 1859 **Charles Dickens** read from some of his works at the **Music Hall, Royal Old Wells**. He said of the town to his friend **Macready** 'rarely have I seen such a place that so attracted my fancy'.
- 1860 The celebrated Shakespearian actor **William Charles Macready** retired to settle in Cheltenham, living at **6 Wellington Square**. He wrote of the town: 'I do not think there is a town in England, or out of it, laid out with so much taste, such a continual intermixture of garden, villa, street and avenue . . . that with the shops and clubs and various institutions, gives the promise of a residence answering all the demands of the most fastidious.'
- Macready's** close friend **Charles Dickens** always included the town on his reading tours of provincial theatres, giving readings in Cheltenham on at least five occasions between **1859** and **1869**, staying with his friend **Macready** on each visit.
- Mar 1861 Cheltenham resident **Captain Boyd RN** had extracts from his memoirs published in **Dublin**.
- 1862 **Charles Dickens** gave his first reading at the **Assembly Rooms**. He gave further readings at this venue on **23 March 1866**, on **6-7 April 1867**, and 'farewell readings' on **22 January 1869**.
- 1863 **Charles Sturt** (explorer in Australia) lived at **19 Clarence Square** dying there on **16 June 1869**.
- 4 Apr 1863 The **Rev. Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)** arrived in Cheltenham to stay at the **Belle Vue Hotel (High Street)**. He came to the town primarily on business at the **Ladies' College** but found time to visit the **Rev. and Mrs Henry Liddell** at **Hetton Lawn, Cudnall Street, Charlton Kings**. **Alice Liddell**, staying there with her grandparents at the time, inspired **Carroll** to write *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, published in **1865**. He wrote in his diary on **4 April 1863** 'I found **Alice** waiting with [governess] **Miss Prickett** at the station, and walked with them to **Charlton Kings**'. **Carroll** later confessed that he thought of the Red Queen character while picnicking on **Leckhampton Hill**, basing her on **Miss Prickett** who was 'the quintessence of all governesses'.

Fascinated by puzzles and illusions, **Carroll** noted, in his diary, seeing a performance by conjurer **Herr Dobler** while in Cheltenham, and this was possibly echoed in his writing. That week at the **Assembly Rooms**, **Dobler** performed an illusion called 'Pepper's Ghost', (named after his mentor, illusionist **Professor Pepper**). After his Cheltenham visit **Carroll** added the 'Pig and Pepper' chapter to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, which included a description that has strong parallels with Pepper's illusion - the Cheshire Cat 'vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin'. It is said that a mirror at **Hetton Lawn**, and still in existence there, inspired **Carroll's** second book *Through the Looking Glass*.

- 1864 Whilst staying with her uncle, **Henry Polydore**, at **Chester Villa, Painswick Road**, the poet **Christina Rossetti (1830-94)** wrote ‘Cheltenham proper is still, as it was last year, not to my taste, but the environs afford charming drives, and some of the finest views I know’. She paid her uncle several visits at Cheltenham and Gloucester before his death in **1885** at **8 St James’s Parade** (now **Suffolk Parade**).
- 1868 **Jane Ellen Harrison**, classical scholar and writer, entered **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She went on to become the first woman to be granted an honorary degree – LL D Aberdeen, 1895.
- Mar 1868 *Reminiscences of Cheltenham College* by Old Cheltonian **Paul Ward** was published, to much criticism in the local press.
- May 1868 Cheltenham resident **Mr Cradock Newton** had one of his poems set to music by the **Rev. Cyril Thornton**.
- Dec 1868 The lecturer and authoress **Mrs Balfour** lectured to the local **YMCA**.
- Jan 1869 **Dickens** gave his farewell performance in Cheltenham. His friend **Macready** did not see him again as **Dickens** died 18 months later.
- May 1871 Editorial comment in the *Cheltenham Examiner* on a pamphlet on army reform published by **Sir William Russell of Charlton Park**.
- Jul 1871 **William Byrne** published verses on the legends of **Cheltenham** and **Gloucester**.
- 13 Sep 1871 Two poems by **Adam Lindsay Gordon** appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Oct 1871 *Eleven Years in a Lunatic Asylum* by local resident **H.J. Field** was published.
- 1872 Novelist **George Eliot’s (Mary Ann Evans, 1819-80) Middlemarch** was published. **George Eliot** had visited Cheltenham and referred to the church establishment there in *Middlemarch*:
 “We will make a journey to Cheltenham in the course of a month or two” Bulstrode said to his wife Harriet. “There are great spiritual advantages to be had in that town, along with the air and the waters, and six weeks there will be very refreshing for us.”
- 6 Mar 1872 A poem by **Adam Lindsay Gordon**, deceased, was printed in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- 16 Apr 1873 The *Cheltenham Examiner* reviewed **J.J. Nunn’s** book, which took a satirical look at Cheltenham, *Mrs. Montague Jones’ Dinner Party*. **J.J. Nunn M.A.** also had a book entitled *Portraits of the People* published in **May 1893**.
- 27 Apr 1873 Death of the tragedian **William Charles Macready** at **Wellington Square**.
- 20 Sep 1875 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published **Adam Lindsay Gordon’s** poem on the Charge of the Light Brigade, with comments.
- 14 Apr 1875 **Miss Dorothea Beale**, Principal of the **Ladies’ College**, was lauded in the *Cheltenham Examiner* as a teacher, Principal and writer. She published many articles on educating women over the next 20 years, partly to supplement her income but also because she was passionate about the subject. She often presented papers she had written, for example to the Teachers’ Guild in **July 1884**, which were subsequently issued as pamphlets. Books published include *The School Hymnal* in **December 1888** and *Literary Studies of Poems, New and Old* in **November 1902**.
- 1877 **Beatrice Harraden**, novelist and campaigner for female suffrage, was a pupil at **Cheltenham Ladies’ College** from this time. As an ex-pupil she wrote in to the school magazine in **October 1901** about her correspondence as author of *Ships that Pass in the Night*.
- 1877 Historian, author and co-editor of *The Cambridge History of English Literature* **Alice Greenwood** began her education at **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. Other pupils that year were the gardening historian and writer **Eleanour Sinclair Rhode** and the children’s writer and educational reformer **Margaret Bertha Synge**.
- Feb 1880 **Mrs Allnatt**, wife of **Dr R.H. Allnatt**, published ‘another novelette’.
- 1881 The **Rev. W.S. Symonds**, author, geologist and antiquary, published his medieval romance, **Malvern Chase**. In it he wrote, ‘Cheltenham is but a poor village, nevertheless there are two hostelries, as people are apt to frequent them for the drinking, not good wine but strong waters, that is to say, waters which are unsavoury to the palate but strong to drive away meagrim, the cholic, and podagra’. **Symonds** died in **September 1887**.
- 1882 **Margaret Winifred Vowles**, an author on science, was born in **Gloucester**. She studied at **Cheltenham Ladies’ College** before taking a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of London. She published one book and a number of articles on science with her husband **Hugh Pembroke Vowles**. A keen golfer, she played for both **Gloucestershire** and Glamorganshire.
- 1882 A writer of novels and short stories for children, **Marion Russell Harker (née Watson)** entered **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She was a protégée of **John Ruskin** and was the reason for his interest in the school. (See **Libraries, Booksellers, &c, Mar 1887**)
- May 1882 Local resident **T.G. Mellersh** compiled a book on the English colony in Iowa and Minnesota.
- 23 Aug 1882 The *Cheltenham Examiner* carried a review of a published essay on Aesthetics by local resident **Henry Shirley Bunbury**.

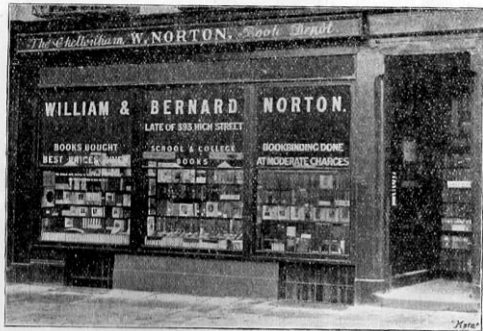
- Sep 1882 Death of **Selina Bunbury**, author and former resident of Cheltenham. Irish by birth, she was a prolific author, writing nearly 100 volumes between **1821** and **1869**.
- 3 Jan 1883 The *Cheltenham Examiner* reviewed a ‘temperance’ novel by local resident **Major R.D. Gibney**.
- Jul 1883 A pamphlet was issued following the death of **Frances Mary Owen**, philanthropist and benefactor to the town, in memory of her work.
- Sep 1883 An inquest was held into the ‘tragic death’ of **Miss Tenna Smith**, described in the *Cheltenham Examiner* as ‘a young lady of considerable literary promise’.
- 1884 *The Golden Decade of a Favored Town*, which included biographical sketches of some of Cheltenham’s more erudite residents, was published. It was written by the **Rev. Richard Glover** under the pseudonym ‘**Contem Ignotus**’.
- Mar 1884 **Oscar Wilde** delivered two lectures on ‘Aestheticism’ at the **Assembly Rooms**.
- Apr 1884 **Sarah Ann Stowe**, a poetess formerly of Cheltenham, had some of her poems accepted by **Queen Victoria**. Another poem was accepted in **September 1887**.
- 1886 A biography of the **Rev. Frederick W. Robertson**, *Robertson of Brighton* by **Frederick Arnold**, was published. **Arnold**, who lived near **Brighton**, was born in Cheltenham, where his father had been a curate to **Francis Close** from **1831-33**.
- 1886 Poet, novelist and playwright **James Elroy Flecker (1884-1915)** came to Cheltenham at the age of two, when his father was appointed the first headmaster of **Dean Close School**. He was born in London and baptised **Herman Elroy Flecker**, but later chose the first name **James**. Known as ‘**Roy**’ to his family, his earliest memories were of shopping in **The Promenade** with his mother, and the view of the Cotswolds from his nursery window. At the age of six he was sent to **Miss Beale’s** (of the **Ladies’ College**) mixed kindergarten, followed by attendance at **Dean Close School**, before going on to Trinity College, Oxford.
- A prolific writer, many of **Flecker’s** poems recalled his Cheltenham childhood. His health was always poor and he died of tuberculosis in **Davos, Switzerland**, on **3 January 1915** at the age of 30. His body was returned to Cheltenham for burial. A contemporary described his death as ‘unquestionably the greatest premature loss that English literature has suffered since the death of Keats’. His most widely known poem is ‘To a poet a thousand years hence’. Another of his poems, published in **1915** after his death, was *November Eves*, which was inspired by his childhood view from the nursery window. It begins:
- ‘November Evenings! Damp and still
They used to cloak Leckhampton Hill,
And lie down close on the grey plain,
And dim the dripping window-pane ...’
- 1887 Cheltenham is mentioned in **Thomas Hardy’s** *The Woodlanders*, published this year: ‘Grace sighed. “Shall I tell you all about **Brighton** or Cheltenham, or places on the Continent that I visited last summer?” she said.
- 1887 *Morality and Utility, a Natural Science of Ethics* by **George Payne Best** was published.
- 19 Jan 1887 A report of a successful Haymarket play, *Jim the Penman*, by Old Cheltonian **Sir Charles Young** appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Sep 1887 Local resident **Edward Healy Thompson** had his book on the Gunpowder Plot published.
- 22 Mar 1889 A 14-year-old lad, **Walter Brown**, attempted suicide by taking a quantity of chloroform at **Christ Church Boys’ School**. He appeared at the **Cheltenham Police Court** later that week, where the **Rev. C.V. Childe** spoke on his behalf, describing **Brown** as one of the most brilliant and clever boys of **Christ Church Schools**. **Childe** reported that the lad had been getting into bad company, being one of a small gang who had ‘got their heads filled with the cheap trash and **pernicious literature**, and their minds impressed with the sensational pictures, which were now doing such incalculable mischief to the young of our country ...’.
- 17 Jul 1889 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published a lengthy obituary of **Dr Francis Day** of **Kenilworth House, Pittville**, with details of his career and publications. He was a natural history expert who had been extensively published. He was president of the local Natural Science Society and his collection of specimens was presented to the Natural History Museum.
- Jan 1890 **W. West** of **12 Royal Parade** was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.
- 1 Jan 1890 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published an obituary of **John Astle**, a former local journalist and friend of **Charles Dickens**.
- Feb 1890 **Charles Dickens (jun)** read from his father’s works (*Pickwick Papers & David Copperfield*) at **Montpellier Rotunda**.
- Mar 1890 **Dr E.T. Wilson** contributed an article, *Cheltenham as a Health Resort*, to a book on inland spas.
- 1892-7 Writer **T.R. St Johnston** was a pupil at **Cheltenham College**. He produced novels as well as non-fiction books, such as reflections on his career as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

- 13 Jul 1892 **Kinard Baghot De La Bere** had his book *Country Thoughts for Young Readers* reviewed in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Apr 1893 Lawyer's clerk and local Liberal agent **Charles Jones** published a highly praised reference book *The Business Man's County Court Guide*. He produced another useful handbook in **Mar 1895**, *The Solicitor's Clerk*. Many editions of this latest work were produced over the next few years. In **June 1912** his latest pamphlet, *Good for Trade*, was reviewed in the local press.
- Oct 1893 Local man **Thomas Malvern** published a book on *Sanitary Dwellings*.
- Dec 1894 **Jerome K. Jerome** spoke at the **Assembly Rooms** on 'Humour Old & New'.
- Sep 1895 A portrait of the **College Principal's** wife, **Mrs De Courcy Laffan**, appeared in the *Gazette* with an extract from her latest military novel. She wrote under the name of **Mrs Leith Adams** (from an earlier marriage) and was first published in **1876**. Her work was accepted for **Charles Dickens'** weekly literary magazine *All the Year Round*. She wrote many popular novels and collaborated with her husband on a few of them – he interspersed the work with poems that he had written. Husband **Rev. R.S. De Courcy Laffan** also had his sermons published.
- Mar 1899 Popular children's author **Miss Elmslie of Lansdown Crescent** was married at **Christ Church**.
- Jun 1899 Death of **A.J. Mott**. He was the head of **Dobell's**, the wine merchant firm established by the family to which poet **Sydney Dobell** belonged. He was also known as an established novelist.
- Aug 1899 **H.Y. Jones of Pittville** had an article about his experiences in the Klondyke published in the *Daily Colonist*.
- 1901 **Beatrix Potter** wrote *The Tailor of Gloucester*. The story was based on a Gloucester tailor, **John Pritchard**, whose assistants finished his work while he was away. **Pritchard** died in **1934** and is buried in **Charlton Kings** churchyard.
- Mar 1901 **Major Barnard** published a pamphlet on the **Leckhampton** parish registers, dating from **1682**.
- 1902 The parents of **P.G. Wodehouse** moved to Cheltenham, living at **3 Wolseley Terrace**, until **1915**. While visiting them on one occasion, he got the name '**Jeeves**' from watching a Warwickshire cricketer of that name play at Cheltenham.
- 1902 Aged 13, **Richard St Barbe Baker (1889-1982)** was sent as a boarder to **Dean Close School**. He went on to become a forester, environmental activist and **author** who contributed greatly to worldwide reforestation efforts. He founded the **Men of the Trees** (now the **International Tree Foundation**), responsible for planting an estimated 26 trillion trees internationally.
- 1902-05 Author **H.C. McNeile** was a pupil at **Cheltenham College**. He wrote under the pen name '**Sapper**' and his principal character was **Bulldog Drummond**.
- 5 Feb 1902 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published the obituary of former resident and well-known journalist and writer **Lewis Sergeant**.
- 28 May 1902 The obituary appeared in the *Cheltenham Examiner* of **General E.F. Burton**, a local author of books on sport in India and trout fishing in Norway.
- 2 Dec 1903 The *Cheltenham Examiner* carried a review of the novel *A Labourer*, written by **D.F. Walters**, a resident of Cheltenham and former **Ladies' College** student.
- 1 Jun 1904 Local naturalist and solicitor **Charles A. Witchell** had his latest book *Nature's Story of the Year* reviewed in the *Cheltenham Examiner*. In **1906** selections from this book were published in English for German Schools. **Witchell** was a regular contributor of articles to the *Examiner* and among his published papers was one he had presented to the Natural Science Society on the 'voice-languages' of birds. Sadly he took his own life in **March 1907**.
- Jul 1904 An American authoress known simply as '**Rita**' wrote an article on Cheltenham bearing the title 'In Student town' in the magazine *Chic*.
- May 1905 The writer and artist **Freda Derrick** joined **Pate's Grammar School for Girls** as one of its earliest pupils. While there she was the first editor of the Girls' School Magazine. On leaving school in **1910**, **Derrick** pursued a career as a writer and artist of the Cotswolds and of Somerset. She specialised in writing about, and illustrating, the farms, countryside and craftsmen of the region. Her books include *Cotswold Stone*, published in **1974**, *Cotswold Craftsmen* and *A Trinity of Craftsmen*. She died in **1969**. An exhibition of her work was held in Cheltenham in **1995**.
- Apr 1906 A memorial was to be placed in the **Cheltenham College Chapel** to **Frederick Myers**, the poet, essayist and psychical investigator. He died in **January 1901**. The memorial, an ornately carved wooden doorway, was dedicated in **November 1907**.
- Jun 1906 Famous author and archaeologist **Dr E.A. Wallis Budge** lectured on Ancient Egypt at the **Cheltenham Ladies' College**.
- Sep 1906 **Dr Garrett's** book *The Idyllic Avon* was reviewed in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Nov 1906 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published a critique on *The Awakening of Women*, a book on suffrage for women by local resident **Mrs Rosa Frances Swiney**, wife of **General Swiney**. Later that month, in the same newspaper, the author defended the views expressed in her book.

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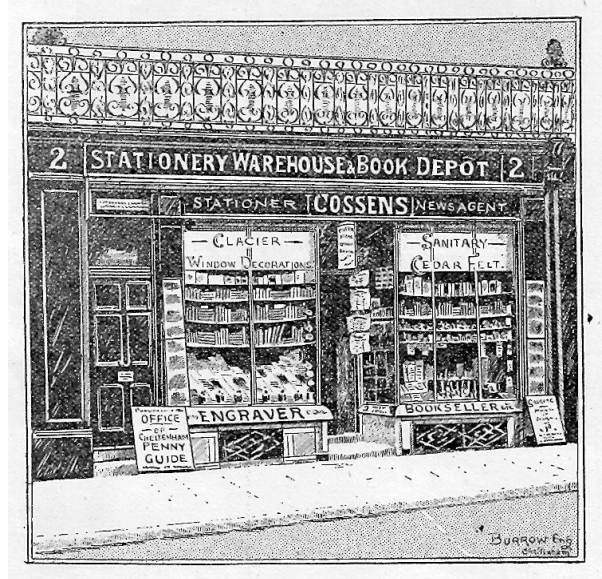


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W.T. Cossens' premises at 2 Clarence St, where *The Penny Illustrated Pocket Guide to Cheltenham* was published from the 1890s.



- Rowe & Norman published the *Cheltenham Examiner* from 1839-1913. George Norman (right), son of the co-founder, was editor & publisher of the *Cheltenham Examiner* and *The Cheltenham Free Press*. He also lived at Alpha House.



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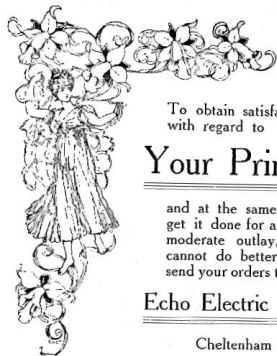
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A very pretty advert for the Echo print works, published in the *Chronicle & Graphic* in 1907



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LOTS OF LOCAL PICTURES AND OTHER FEATURES

Advert for the *Chronicle* which appeared in the *Gloucestershire Echo* on 8 Dec 1966

- 1907 Poet **W.H. Davies (1871-1940)**, who frequently travelled to Cheltenham, had his *Autobiography of a Super Tramp* published, which contained a case of mistaken identity in connection with a murderous ‘affair at Cheltenham’. **W.H. Davies** was living at **Glendower Cottage, Nailsworth**, when he died in **1940** and was cremated in Cheltenham.
- 23 Jul 1908 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published aspects of the life of the **Rev. James Albert Owen**, a schoolmaster, preacher and ‘institution’ at **Cheltenham College**. They were taken from a book written by his son, **A.S. Owen**.
- Dec 1908 A granddaughter of **Charles Dickens** addressed a **Town Hall** meeting called to decide whether a branch of the Anti-Suffrage League should be formed in Cheltenham.
- 1909 Publication of *Josephine E. Butler: An Autobiographical Memoir*, an account of the life and work of the great social reformer who lived in Cheltenham from **1857-65**. **Butler’s** husband was Vice-Principal of **Cheltenham College** during this time.
- 4 Feb 1909 According to the *Cheltenham Examiner*, **Ford Madox Huffer** made a libellous reference to Cheltenham’s spa waters in his novel *Mr. Appleton*.
- May 1909 **Dr Ward-Humphreys** reprinted, in booklet form, an article he had contributed to the *British Medical Journal* on Cheltenham and its mineral waters.
- Jul 1909 Death of **Sarah Eliza Burns Hutchinson** at her residence in **Pittville Lawn**, granddaughter of the poet **Robert Burns**.
- Sep 1909 The **Union of Women Workers** published a *Handbook of Social Assets of Cheltenham*.
- 25 Nov 1909 The *Cheltenham Examiner* carried an extract from *Punch* praising the essays of Cheltenham solicitor **James B. Winterbotham** in his book *Moretum Alterum*.
- Dec 1909 The *Spectator* favourably reviewed a book by local author **Miss Jennie Beckingsale**, *The Story of a Chinese Schoolgirl*.
- 1910 **C.M. Bowra** entered **Cheltenham College** as a pupil. He had a distinguished career at **Oxford University** becoming Professor of Poetry in 1946 and Vice-Chancellor of the University in **1851**. He was also knighted that year. He wrote books on his specialist subject, Greek poetry.
- Mar 1911 **Henry Fielding Dickens**, son of **Charles Dickens**, was engaged to defend local MP **Richard Mathias** against an election petition in Cheltenham.
- 8 Jan 1913 **J.R.R. Tolkien**, author of *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, caught a train to Cheltenham where he was met on the platform by **Edith Bratt**. At that time **Tolkien** was reading classics at Exeter College, Oxford. Hoping to marry **Edith**, he had just learned that she had become engaged to someone else. **Edith** was staying at the home of well-known Cheltenham solicitor, **C.H. Jessop**. **Tolkien** managed to persuade her to give up her fiancée, **George Field**, and marry him instead.
- 1916 **Cyril William Winterbotham (1887-1916)**, one of the lesser-known poets from the First World War, mentioned Cheltenham in his poem *Cross of Wood*. It was first published in **1916** in the *Fifth Gloucester Gazette*. He attended **Cheltenham College** from **1901-06**. He was killed in action on **27 August 1916**, and his name is recorded on the **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing** in Northern France.
- 1916 **Phyllis Hartnoll** entered **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She went on to become a poet, musicologist, theatre historian and publisher.
- 1919-22 **Gloucester-born Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)**, poet and composer, wrote the poem **Leckhampton Chimney Has Fallen Down** at this time.
- May 1919 **Mrs Edith Alice Maitland of 1 Chatsworth Villas**, Cheltenham, died. A child friend of **Lewis Carroll**, she was a member of the Society of Women Journalists, an associate member of the Institute of Journalists, a member of the School of Industrial Art & Technical Design for Women, New York, and a member of the Women’s Suffrage Society. She wrote poems, essays, historical articles, character sketches, stories, etc., contributing to publications such as *Belgravia*.
- 16 May 1919 Barrister, novelist and journalist **Robert Edward Francillon (1841-1919)** died in **London**, aged 78. He was an Old Cheltonian, having attended the **College** from **1854-9**. **Francillon** was on the staff of *The Globe* from **1872-94**, and went on to write popular light fiction. In **1872** he married **Rosamund Liszt Marie Barnett**, daughter of opera composer **John Barnett**. **Francillon’s** father had lived for many years at **Ryeworth House, Charlton Kings**.
- 1920 **Janet Adam Smith**, writer, journalist and mountaineer, attended **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She was Literary editor of the *New Statesman* from 1952-60.
- 1920s **Flora Annie Steel**, a writer who set her historical novels in India, retired to Cheltenham to live. She had lived in the Punjab working as an Inspector of Education.
- 22 Nov 1920 The Housing Committee resolved that the estate roads of the first major **Cheltenham Borough Council** housing development at **St Mark’s**, begun in **April** that year, should be named after English poets. The first of these roads was **Tennyson Road**, in which the first 10 houses were ready for occupation on **24 January 1921**. Other ‘poet’ roads on the estate are **Byron Road**,

- Cowper Road, Goldsmith Road, Kingsley Gardens, Kipling Road, Milton Avenue, Milton Road, Shakespeare Road, Shelley Avenue, Shelley Road, Spenser Avenue, Spenser Road, and Wordsworth Avenue.** Another 'poet' road in Cheltenham, but in **Benhall** rather than **St Mark's**, is **Robert Burns Avenue**, named following a request in **1958** from the president of the **Cheltenham Scottish Society** for a commemoration somewhere in the town of that poet's local connections to coincide with the bicentenary of his birth in **January 1959**.
- 1922 The book *The Abbey Girls Go Back to School*, written for girls by **Elsie J. Oxenham (1880-1960)**, was published. The main plot of the story involves schoolgirls participating in Morris and Country Dancing, inspired by **Oxenham's** attendance at an English Folk Dance Society summer school in Cheltenham in the early **1920s**. The story contains descriptions of the hall of the 'boy's college' and tram trips up **Leckhampton Hill**.
- 1924 *Days That Are Gone, Being the Recollections of some Seventy Years of the Life of a very ordinary Gentleman and his Friends in Three Reigns* by **Col B. de Sales La Terrière** was published. **La Terrière** had grown up at **Alstone Lawn** (a mansion on the site of **Pates Avenue**) and his 'Recollections' included many personal observations that would be considered quite offensive in the present day. For example, 'There were not many nice people living at Cheltenham when I first remember it, as by that time the villa residents and the little people from India had crept in in shoals to get their families educated on the cheap; thus people who had settled there as a pleasure and hunting centre had been swamped out'.
- 1924 The autobiography of **Lilian Mary Faithfull (1865-1952)**, *In the House of My Pilgrimage*, was published. It included her experience as headmistress at **Cheltenham Ladies College**. In **1946** she founded the Lilian Faithfull homes for elderly people in Cheltenham.
- Sep 1925 **Patrick Victor Martindale White** was sent to **Cheltenham College** to begin what he later described as 'a four-year prison sentence'. He was an Australian author, short-story writer, playwright, poet and essayist who was widely regarded as a major English-language novelist of the 20th century. He published 12 novels, two collections of short stories and eight plays. In **1973** he was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Literature**.
- 14 Oct 1926 A bronze tablet was unveiled at **10 St James' Square** to commemorate the stay of **Alfred Lord Tennyson** in the **1840s**.
- 15 Mar 1927 A bronze plaque to **William Charles Macready**, erected by the **Public Libraries** Committee, was unveiled by his son **Sir Neville Macready** in **Wellington Square**.
- 1928 *At Cheltenham Spa; or Georgians in a Georgian Town* by **Edith M. Humphris** and **E.C. Willoughby**, was published, containing reminiscences about the town in the 19th century. **Edith** was a descendant of local architect **D.J. Humphris**, responsible for the **Cheltenham College** chapel of **1858** and **Cheltenham General Hospital** among other buildings. She also published biographies of such local heroes as poet **Adam Lindsay Gordon** and jockey **Fred Archer**.
- Apr 1930 **Cecil Day Lewis (1902-1972)**, poet and writer, became an English master at **Cheltenham College Junior School**. He lived first at **Belmore House, 96 Bath Road** before moving to **Box Cottage in Bafford Lane, Charlton Kings** in **1931**. He wrote detective stories under the pseudonym **Nicholas Blake** to supplement his income and help pay for repairs to the roof of **Box Cottage**. The first, *A Question of Proof*, was in the thinly disguised setting of the **College** and revolved around an affair between two people at the school. The story was looked on disapprovingly by **College** authorities and **Day Lewis** resigned in **1938**.
- Police records from **1933** reveal that **Day Lewis** had been under surveillance by Gloucestershire police because of suspected communist sympathies, but was later cleared of the charge by MI5, despite being a leading member of the local Communist Party from **1936-8**. He is remembered by ex-**College Junior** pupils for always wearing a red tie and for his deadly aim with the blackboard rubber. He was considered Bohemian at the school for wearing corduroy trousers and suede shoes. **Day Lewis** went on to become Professor of Poetry at Oxford in **1951** and Poet Laureate in **1968**.
- 1932 **Annabel Huth Jackson (née Grant Duff)** wrote about her schooldays at **Cheltenham Ladies' College** in *A Victorian Childhood (1932)*, having been sent there from India by her father who was Governor of Madras. She was not impressed by the architecture of the College, which she described as 'a frightful building, perhaps the ugliest in Europe', but greatly admired **Miss Beale** whom she considered the 'only person of her generation whose dignity was greater than Queen Victoria'.
- 1933 **Lillah McCarthy (1875-1960)**, one of the foremost British classical actresses of the late 19th to early 20th century, was born on site of **148 High Street** (now Burger King) on **22 September 1875**. She was the seventh of eight children of **Jonadab McCarthy**, a Cheltenham antique dealer, and his wife **Emma**. She was educated at home by her doting if eccentric father, who at one time

was manager of the **Plough Hotel** next door. In her autobiography *Myself and My Friends* (1933), **Lillah** recalled that her childhood hero was the cricketer **Gilbert Jessop** and that she was present when **Lillie Langtry** had opened the **Theatre and Opera House** in Cheltenham (now the **Everyman Theatre**) in 1891. **Lillah** was ‘discovered’ by **George Bernard Shaw** when she was performing as Lady Macbeth in an amateur Shakespearean Society production, and she made her name in **Shaw’s** plays.

- 1933 **Joan Llewelyn Owens**, journalist and author, entered **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She became an expert in the field of careers guidance.
- 1936 **Jasper Maskelyne** published *White Magic*, a history of the **Maskelyne** family, an internationally famous dynasty of stage illusionists founded by his Cheltenham-born grandfather **John Nevil Maskelyne (1839-1917)**. ‘J.N’, who was also a watchmaker and inventor, published many books, as well as newspaper and magazine articles on illusion, card-sharps’ sleight-of hand and the exposure of fraudulent spiritualists. **J.N. Maskelyne’s** son **Nevil** and grandsons **Jasper** and **John Nevil** were also illusionists and published authors.
- 1936 **Rosemary Sisson**, historical novelist and television scriptwriter, attended the **Ladies’ College**.
- 1936 *The ABC Murders* by **Agatha Christie (1890-1976)** was published, in which Cheltenham was referred to. **Christie** remains the world’s best-known mystery writer and the most widely published author of all time in any language. Cheltenham is mentioned in another of **Christie’s** books, *Elephants can remember* (1972). Both books feature the detective, Hercule Poirot.
- 1936-44 **Sylvia Clayton (née Dye)** attended **Pate’s Grammar School for Girls**. She pursued a career in journalism and became the first woman scriptwriter on the Television Newsreel Unit. She was also a novelist and her literary reputation was established with her third novel *Top C*, published in 1968. In 1975 her *Friends and Romans* won *The Guardian’s* prizewinner for the best novel of the year. Some critics compared her wit and talent for social commentary to that of **Evelyn Waugh**. She also wrote plays and documentaries for the BBC. She died in 1994.
- 1938 Author **Lady Cicely Mayhew (née Ludlam)** entered **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**. She served in Naval Intelligence at **Bletchley Park** during the Second World War. She was only the second woman to be admitted to the Diplomatic Service.
- 1938 **Imogen Holst (1907-84)**, composer, conductor, and writer, was the only child of Cheltenham-born composer **Gustav Holst**. Her work includes *Gustav Holst: a biography* (1938) and *The Music of Gustav Holst* (1951).
- 1940 A poem on Cheltenham by **John Betjeman (1906-84)** was published in *Old Lights for New Chancels*, a collection of some of his poetry. Originally published in *The Listener*, it begins:
Floruit, floret, floreat!
Cheltonia’s children cry.
- And ends:
- Floruit.* Yes the Empire Map
Cheltonia’s sons have starred.
Floret. Still the stream goes on
Of soldier, brusher and bard.
Floreat. While behind the limes
Lengthens the Promenade.
- Betjeman** also wrote about Cheltenham in *English Cities and Small Towns*, published in 1943.
- 1940 Cheltenham resident **Guy Pocock**, with colleague **M.M. Bozman**, edited *A Nosegay of Contemporary Wit*, a collection of humorous verse.
- 1941-2 **Harold George Goodwin (1895-1974)** wrote and illustrated the song, *Down Cheltenham Way* (previously unpublished) when he worked at the **War Office** in Cheltenham in 1941-2.
- 1943 The novelist and detective storywriter **Anthea Fraser (née Roby)** was a pupil at **Cheltenham Ladies’ College**.
- 1945 The Director of the Coal Board’s Fuel Research Centre at **Stoke Orchard**, **Jacob Bronowski** came to live at **The Square House** on **Cleeve Hill**. Born in **Poland**, he was educated at **Cambridge** and became an author of books on science. He also wrote radio plays, became an authority on **William Blake**, and made many appearances on the BBC TV Brains Trust. He is best-remembered for his epic television series *The Ascent of Man*.
- 1946 The popular writer **May (or Mary) Sinclair** (pseudonym of **Mary Amelia St Clair, 1863-1946**) died. She attended **Cheltenham Ladies’ College** in 1881 but had to leave after only one year to look after four of her five brothers, all of whom suffered from a fatal congenital heart disease. She was known for two dozen novels, short stories and poetry. She was an active suffragist and member of the Woman Writers’ Suffrage League. She was also a writer on philosophy and a significant critic; the term **stream of consciousness**, in its literary sense, is attributed to her.

- 1947 **Lady Margaret Sackville (1881-1963)**, a poet and children's author, lived in Cheltenham during her later years. Her poems include *How the Trees came to Cheltenham*, published in 1947.
- 1948 **(Mary) Hermione Hobhouse** entered **Cheltenham Ladies' College**. She became an urban historian, writer and conservationist. She was General Editor of the Survey of London (1983-94).
- 1950 Cookery writer and broadcaster **Anne Willan** attended the **Ladies' College**.
- 7 Feb 1950 Death of **Dorothy Kathleen Broster (1877-1950)**, novelist and short story writer. Born in **Garston**, Liverpool, she was educated at the **Ladies' College** (entered 1894) and **St Hilda's College, Oxford** (one of its first students). She produced her best-seller, *The Flight of the Heron* in 1925. She wrote several other successful historical novels, much reprinted in their day, although the **Jacobite Trilogy**, featuring dashing hero Ewen Cameron, remains the best known.
- 1951 Author **Susan Treggiari** (née **Franklin**) entered the **Ladies' College**. She went on to become Emeritus Professor of Classics at Stanford University, USA.
- 1954 Significant poet, **U.A. Fanthorpe (1929-)** joined the staff at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**, becoming Head of English in 1963. She left in 1970 for a job as a secretary, receptionist and hospital clerk in **Bristol**, having also trained as a counsellor. This experience inspired her to write poetry and her first volume of poems, *Side Effects*, was published in 1978. In 1994 she became the first woman in 315 years to be nominated for the post of Oxford Professor of Poetry. **U.A. Fanthorpe** often gives readings around the country. Many of her poems are for two voices, and in her readings the other voice is that of her partner, academic and teacher **R.V. (Rosie) Bailey**. **Fanthorpe** was made CBE in 2001 for services to poetry, and in 2003 she received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. She still lives in **Gloucestershire**.
- 1954 **Caroline Bingham** (née **Wordsell**) entered the **Ladies' College** as a pupil, before pursuing a career as historian and biographer with a special interest in Scottish history.
- 1954 British Show Jumper **Pat Smythe** published her autobiography *Jump for Joy*. She had attended **Pate's Grammar School for Girls** early in the Second World War. **Smythe** went on to write another 23 books, following her autobiography. She was awarded the OBE in 1956, having been voted British Sportswoman of the Year three years in succession. She died in 1996 aged 67.
- 24 Sep 1954 Scholar, writer and feminist **Janet Elizabeth Courtney (1865-1954)** died in **London**. After gaining a first class degree in philosophy at **Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford**, she taught part-time at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**. She later became the first superintendent of women clerks of the Bank of England, was the Librarian of *The Times* Book Club and worked on the editorial staff of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, to which she contributed 700 short biographies.
- 1955 Writer and broadcaster, and Professor of English (Queen Mary and Westfield College), **Lisa Jardine** (née **Bronowski**), entered the **Ladies' College**.
- 1956 **Arthur Constance** published *The Glazier*, a biography of his father, **Henry Constance**. **Arthur** described **Henry** as 'the only man with a leaded glass business' in Cheltenham This unsuccessful business was run from 1895-c1912 at six locations, including the shop at the junction of **St Margaret's Road** and **Bennington Street**. **Arthur Constance** became a well-known writer and broadcaster on UFOs in the 1950s-60s, his books including *The Inexplicable Sky* (1957). He was a regular contributor to *The Flying Saucer Review*. His Fortean UFO archive, which included over 3 million newspaper clippings, was lost when he died. **Arthur Constance** was also one of the early DJs on **Radio Luxembourg** in the 1950s with science fiction author **Brian Aldiss**.
- 1957-64 Writer **Sue Limb** attended **Pate's Grammar School for Girls**. Her first book, published in 1982, was a biography of **Captain Oates**, written jointly with **Patrick Cordingley**. Her interest in **Oates** was inspired by a lecture she heard while at **Pate's**. She went on to write several novels, including the comedy *Up The Garden Path* that was adapted for television, and an autobiography, *Love Forty*. **Limb** has also written a regular column in *The (Saturday) Guardian* called *Dulcie Domum's Bad Housekeeping*. Other work includes scripts and contributions for **BBC Radio 4**.
Limb recalls **Pate's** during her time there at the **Pittville** site – 'Food and warmth are important survival requirements, and we used to rush in to classrooms in order to try to grab a seat next to the radiator. Then throughout the lesson, the lucky *radiatorista* would embrace the hot, hard, unyielding beloved – a fairly useful rehearsal for future encounters with the male sex.'
- 1958 **Jennifer Sheila Uglow** (née **Crowther**), biographer, critic and publisher, attended **Cheltenham Ladies' College** from 1958-64. Her critically acclaimed biographies include those of **Elizabeth Gaskell**, **William Hogarth**, **Thomas Bewick** and the **Lunar Society**. She has also compiled a dictionary of women's biographies. Her works have twice been short-listed for the **Whitbread Prize**. As of 2008 **Uglow** lives at **Canterbury, Kent**.
- 1958 Novelist **Helen Ashton (1891-1958)** published *Return to Cheltenham*, which tells the story of an early Victorian elopement by Alicia Brendan, a doctor's daughter, to an Irishman. The story is set in Cheltenham and Ireland.

- 1959 Writer and broadcaster **Valerie Yorke** (née **Cox**) entered the **Ladies' College**. She later became known as a Middle East analyst.
- 1963 Broadcaster and former editor of the *Independent* and the *Express*, **Rosie Boycott**, was a pupil at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**.
- 10 Aug 1963 British novelist **Katharine Burdekin** died. Born **Katharine Penelope Cade**, she was the sister of **Rowena Cade**, creator of the **Minack Theatre, Cornwall**. Born in **Derbyshire**, **Burdekin** was educated by governess at home and later at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**. She wrote speculative fiction dealing with political, social and spiritual issues. She also wrote under the name **Kay Burdekin** and under the pseudonym **Murray Constantine**.
- 31 Jul 1967 Novelist and playwright **Margaret Kennedy (1896-1967)** died. Born in London, she attended **Cheltenham Ladies' College** from **1912** prior to reading history at **Somerville College, Oxford**. Her most popular novel was *The Constant Nymph*, published in **1924**. Her adaptation of this novel was a hugely successful West End play, which opened at the **New Theatre** with **Noel Coward** and **Edna Best**. **Noel Coward** had a nervous breakdown during the run and was replaced by **John Gielgud**. Adapted for the screen in **1928**, the film starred **Ivor Novello**.
- 1969 Novelist **Percy Howard Newby**, known as **Howard Newby**, became the first winner of the **Booker Prize**, for his novel *Something to Answer For*. In his youth he had been a student at **St Paul's Teacher Training College** in Cheltenham.
- 1971 **John Appleby**, published *38 Priory Street (and All that Jazz)*, which describes the music scene in Cheltenham in the **1950s** and early **1960s**.
- 1977 Death of **Phyllis Bentley, OBE (1894-1977)**, novelist, broadcaster and authority on the Brontë sisters. Born in Halifax, **Phyllis** was educated at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**, entering in **1910**. In **1949** she was awarded an honorary D Lit from Leeds University. In **1958** she became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and in **1970** was awarded an OBE.
- 1980 **Kate Reardon**, fashion journalist, began her education at the **Ladies' College**. She became the youngest ever fashion editor with the *Tatler*.
- 20 Jun 1980 Death of **Amy Key Clarke (1892-1980)**, an English mystical poet. She was educated at **Cheltenham Ladies' College** as a student at the seniors' **St Hilda's House** from **1905-6**. After reading Classics at Newnham College, Cambridge, **Clarke** returned to teach at the **Ladies' College** in **1924** as Senior Classical Mistress, becoming successively Head of Classics, Head of Upper College, and Director of University Entrants. She was away from **1939-47**, returning as House Mistress of **St Hilda's House** at the **Ladies' College** until **1948**. She finally retired in **1953**, the year in which a history of the **Ladies' College** that she had written for the centenary of the school was published – *A History of the Cheltenham Ladies' College, 1853-1953*.
- 6 Jan 1984 Bookshops in Cheltenham sold out of **George Orwell's** novel *1984*.
- 1985 **G. Wilson Knight (1897-1985)** died. **George Richard Wilson Knight**, an English literary critic and academic, was educated at **Dean Close School**. He was known particularly for his essays, *The Wheel of Fire*, on **Shakespeare's** drama, and for his interpretation of mythic content in literature. He was also an actor and theatrical director, and considered an outstanding lecturer.
- 1986 **Elizabeth Longford**, née **Harman (1906-2002)**, **Countess Longford** was a biographer and committed socialist. Her memoirs, *The Pebbled Shore (1986)*, include an account of her (unsuccessful) stand as a parliamentary Labour candidate for Cheltenham in **1935**.
- Jan 1987 The 45 foot high **Wishing Fish Clock**, costing £80,000, was unveiled in the **Regent Arcade**. Thought to be the world's tallest mechanical clock, the three-ton clock features mice, a snake, which pop out of a box, and a giant white duck, which lays a stream of golden eggs. A sun revolves around the clock face, which is painted with animals. An articulated fish, suspended below the clock, wiggles its tail, plays a tune and blows bubbles on the hour. The clock was designed by Gloucestershire-based artist **Kit Williams**, the author of the enigmatic book *Masquerade*.
- 1989 In *A Vision of Britain: A Personal View of Architecture* HRH The Prince of Wales commented that 'Towns such as Cheltenham and Bath exemplify the virtues of architectural harmony not only in their layout but in their organisation of the smaller architectural elements'.
- 1989 The thriller *Straight* by **Dick Francis** was published. It is one of several thrillers in which the author mentions **Cheltenham racecourse**. *Straight* describes the adventures of a steeplechase jockey who fell badly at the last fence at Cheltenham.

- 1995 Death of **William Murray**, who had lived in Leckhampton for 40 years. He was the writer of the **Ladybird books** featuring Peter and Jane, considered an innovative reading scheme when introduced in the early **1960s**. **Murray** was headmaster of two Cheltenham schools catering for children with learning difficulties – **Thirlestaine Court** and **Westlands** – and he worked on the books with educational psychologist **Joe McNally**. The controlled vocabulary of the books was based on research that had identified the 200 words that make up nearly three-quarters of everyday reading matter. The books, featuring a white, middle-class, nuclear family, were considered out-dated by the 1990s, but **Murray** continued modernising the texts until his death.
- 1995 **John Hudson (1946-)**, freelance writer and journalist, editor of **Gloucestershire and Avon Life**, published *A Year in the Cotswolds*, which includes references to Cheltenham.
- 20 Jul 1995 The *Gloucestershire Echo* announced that poet **Robert Burns** would be celebrated in Cheltenham to mark the 200th anniversary of his death. Councillor **Pat Thornton** was to join members of the town's **Scottish Society** at a ceremony at **St Mary's Church, Charlton Kings** – two of **Burns'** granddaughters and a great-granddaughter are buried there. A rose (for England) and some heather (for Scotland) were to be put on each of the graves. (see **9 May 1846**)
- 1996 Teacher **Jane Bailey**, educated at **Pate's Grammar School for Girls**, published *Promising*, a 'fast and funny first novel' about an older woman /younger boy romance set in a flagging boys' boarding school. The *Daily Mail* reported that she used 'short sharp observations coupled with an original outlook on life to great effect' and her comic novel was 'a joy to read'.
- 2000 Author and publisher, **Stephen Chalke (1948-)** published *One More Run*, which included a chapter on *Cricket at Cheltenham*. He co-wrote this book with cricketer **Bryan 'Bomber' Wells**.
- 2002 *Out of the Shadows* was published, describing the first 25 years of the life of **Richard Johnson (1977-)**, jump jockey who won his first Gold Cup in **2000**.
- 2004 **Jennie Powell**, who settled in Cheltenham for her retirement, published a book of her poetry, *The Grain in the Wood*.
- 2005 American writer **Bill Barich (1943-)** had his book *A Fine Place to Daydream* published, which included a description of the **Cheltenham Races**.
- 25 Feb 2005 **Phoebe Rayner Hesketh (1909-2005)** died. She was a poet, famed for her poems depicting nature, journalist and lecturer. Born in **Preston**, Lancashire, she was educated at **Cheltenham Ladies' College** from **1924**, but left at the age of 17 to care for her ill mother. She lived most of her life in Lancashire, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in **1956**.
- 2 Mar 2006 Raw footage of a previously unseen BBC documentary, made in **1970** for *The Late Show* but never aired, was shown at the **Green Dragon Inn, Elkstone**. The film was about writer, poet, magazine founder and free spirit, **Ben Howard**. Bohemian **Howard** bought a printing press in the **1960s** and set up a magazine, *The Cotswold Rooster*. Copies of this were sold, until the early **1980s**, in various Cotswold pubs, including **The Green Dragon** and **The Highwayman**, as well as in Cheltenham outlets such as **The Cotswold** and **Alan Hancox Books**. The magazine was packed with stories and poetry as well as gossip and even scandal. **Howard** was often to be seen in Cheltenham giving poetry-readings at venues including **Northlands** in **Pittville Circus**.
William Wilfred Howard (1922-98), known as **Ben**, grew up in **Northern Ireland**, got a classics degree, came over to England, got married and 'dropped out'. He had articles published in *The Guardian* and *The Irish Post* describing his travels. He spent some of his time busking and 'played a mean piano accordion'. His landlord at **Sparrowthorne Farm, Elkstone** was poet **P.J. Kavanagh**, and he was a friend of **Laurie Lee**. **Ben** died of cancer in **1998**.
- Jun 2006 Poet **U.A. Fanthorpe** gave her collection of her draft poems, letters, articles and even details of her *Desert Island Discs* selections to the archives of **Gloucestershire University**. To mark the gift the university's **Cyder Press** reprinted a selection of her poems, entitled *Homing In: Selected Local Poems*, chosen by the poet and illustrated by her partner **Dr Rosie Bailey**.
- 10 Oct 2006 **Francis Berry (1915-2006)**, British academic, poet, critic and translator, died. Born in **Ipoh, Malaya**, he was educated at **Dean Close School**. **Berry** also wrote radio plays and a novel.
- 2007 Writer **Fiona Sampson**, whose parents still live in Cheltenham, was short listed for the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry. She has published 15 books, including poetry, philosophy of language and studies of writing process. In **1992**, while at Oxford University, she won the Newdigate Prize with her poem *Green Thought*, and in **2006** was short-listed for the Forward Prize for best single poem. She was Director of the Stephen Spender Memorial Trust from **1998-2000**. Internationally recognised for her pioneering residencies in health care, she contributes to the *Guardian*, the *Irish Times* and other publications. She is the editor of *Poetry Review*.
- 2007 *Special Delivery* by novelist **Zoe Barnes** was published. She lives in Cheltenham and most of her novels are set in the town. They include *Bumps (1997)*, *Hitched (1998)*, *Bouncing Back (2000)*, *Love Bug (2002)*, *Just Married (2003)*, *Be My Baby (2005)* and *Wedding Belles (2006)*.

Aug 2008 Cheltenham-born author and therapist **Jane Allen** published a self-help book, *The Secret Disease of Addiction*, which came with a DVD.

LIBRARIES, BOOKSELLERS, &c

- 1735 **Thomas Price**, a **Gloucester** publisher and bookseller, was the first recorded bookseller in Cheltenham, with premises at the **New Inn** on the **High Street**.
- 1791 **Samuel Harward**, Printer & Bookseller, is listed in the entry for Cheltenham in the *Universal British Directory*. His library in Cheltenham closed in **1814** with 'near 30,000 volumes'.
- 1803 *The History of Cheltenham, and an Account of its Environs* by **T.F. Dibdin, S. Moreau & H. Ruff**, lists three **Circulating Libraries** in the town: **Mr Harward's** in the **Colonnade** (with a separate shop on the **High Street** selling 'modern books'), **Mr Selden's** and **Mrs Jones's**, both on the **High Street** (one of the town's oldest established libraries), facing the **Colonnade**.
Referring to **Harward's Library**, the guide felt the need to comment on 'the irregular method in which this valuable collection is arranged' – 'It is grievous to find . . . the majesty of Lord Bacon in quarto dress insulted by the last duodecimi edition of a modern novel.' The book observed that some of the libraries hired out musical instruments. Also **Mr Entwistle** of **The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane**, had opened a **Musical Warehouse & Library** in Cheltenham.
- May 1805 **Humphrey Ruff** established **Ruff's New English & French Circulating Library**.
- 30 Apr 1810 **Thomas Henney** opened a circulating library in the **High Street** adjacent to the **Plough Hotel**. It ran until **1831** (which see). The book business must have been fairly lucrative as, together with another librarian **Samuel Harward**, **Henney** was responsible for developing a large part of the **Promenade** and **Imperial Square**.
- 6 Sep 1810 **Ruff's** library became known as the **Cheltenham Library & Music Room**.
- Mar 1815 **A.C. William** purchased **Liddell's Library** and established **William's Library** the following year, occupying the east side of the new **Assembly Rooms**. It became the town's foremost circulating (subscription) library and bookshop, continuing in business until **1896**.
- 1816 **Samuel Preston**, Bookseller & Stationer of Cheltenham, died.
- Mar 1816 **Samuel Bettison** took over the large **Cheltenham Library**, which had an 80-foot-long reading-room and over 100 London, Irish and provincial newspapers were taken weekly. The same month another library, run by **C. Campbell**, opened at a new shop on the **High Street**, created out of the old **Lower Assembly Rooms** that had become redundant in **1809**.
- Jun 1816 **Robert Hincks**, advertising as 'Librarian to **HRH Duke of Gloucester**', opened his large library. He had taken over an established library and expanded it into neighbouring premises.
- 1822 **Duffield & Weller's Literary Saloon** opened in the **High Street** (at the former **Upper Assembly Rooms** of **1784**). It closed in **1837**.
- 1829 The **Rev. Francis Close** opened a lending library of religious books to 'encourage a taste for profitable reading amongst the humble classes'.
- 5 Oct 1829 **Watt's Theological Literature & Circulating Library** opened in the **High Street**. By **1839** it had moved to the **Promenade** and was known at the **Imperial Library**. In **August 1848** a sale of stock was held due to the bankruptcy of **Mr Lovesy**. In **1872**, when **J. Lovesy** died, **Dean Francis Close** took it upon himself to raise support for the bookseller's destitute widow.
- 1830 There were 8 'Booksellers & Stationers' and 5 (subscription/circulating) libraries listed in *Pigot's Directory*. The libraries were **Samuel Bettison's Cheltenham Library**, **Henry Davies'** at **Montpellier Spa**, **Elizabeth Roberts' Clarence Library** in the **Colonnade**, **Oliver Watt's** at **128 High Street** (now **197**), **Thos. E. Weller's Literary Saloon** on the **High Street** and **George Arthur William's Library** at **393 High Street** (the **Assembly Rooms**, site of **Lloyds Bank**, now **130 High Street**).
- 1830 By this date the **Montpellier Circulating Library & Reading Room** had been established.
- 24 Jan 1831 **John Lee** purchased **Henney's Library** (**384 High Street**, now **152**). On **11 Mar 1839** he was appointed 'Bookseller & Stationer in Ordinary to his Majesty for the Town of Cheltenham' and thereafter his library was known as **Lee's Royal Library**. In **June 1848 M.G. Henriques** took over the business. In **February 1856** the business was handed over to **Mr Shipton**, although **John Lee** was still known as proprietor of the library until his death in **October 1859**. **The Royal Library** finally closed in **August 1864**.
- 1834 **Wight's Theological Library** opened at **30 The Promenade** and ran until **May 1866** when ill-health of the proprietor led to its closure. The building, complete with ornate balcony and two urns on its parapet (albeit replicas of the originals), is now **Jones'** shoe shop.
- Jul 1839 **Mr J. Rees** became the new owner of the **Colonnade Library**.

- 1843 **Mr Lyford** established a bookselling business in the town. It became known as a principal engraving depot in the county. The business was taken over by **Mr W.T. Cossens** and developed further to include bookbinding, stationery and photographs. By the **1890s** *The Penny Illustrated Pocket Guide* was published by the company, at their premises, **2 Clarence Street**.
- Feb 1844 **4 Lansdown Villas** was for sale – the list of contents included 10,000 books.
- Apr 1844 A meeting was held at the **Literary & Philosophical Institute** to discuss establishing a **Reference Library** in the town. By **November** differences of opinion about it between the Council and the Committee were still being reported and the scheme was abandoned.
- Feb 1847 In order to help pay off his creditors, the library of the **Rev. Thomas Jenkin** of **Huntley Lodge** (corner of **Suffolk Road** and **Montpellier Grove**) was disposed of.
- 1 Nov 1848 Nurseryman **W. Hopwood** appealed in the local press for donations of books for a proposed new **Gardeners' Society**.
- 7 Sep 1855 At a meeting of the **Town Commissioners**, the Finance and Memorial Committee voted in favour of adopting the **Public Libraries Act** to set up a free library. (This **1850 Act**, to provide for a system of libraries freely open to the public, was opposed by some Conservatives as it might encourage the working class to challenge their betters. It took a long time for many towns to adopt the Act as they had to raise a local rate to pay for the library service. It took Cheltenham nearly **34 years**.) This first attempt to establish a **Public Library** in the town was defeated at a stormy meeting of ratepayers.
- Mar 1856 The library at **Montpellier Spa** was for sale.
- 26 Sep 1856 A second attempt to establish a **Public Library** was defeated.
- 1858/9 There were 30 Booksellers & Stationers and 12 Libraries & Reading Rooms listed in *Slater's Commercial Directory*.
- 1861 **William Norton** established a bookshop in the town, a business that was still operative into the 20th century, mainly carried on at **16 Clarence Street**. By the early twentieth century the shop was called the **Cheltenham Book Depot** and their stock of new and second-hand books was claimed to be 'the largest in the West of England'.
- Feb 1861 A **Letter Carrier's Library** was inaugurated following the donation of many books in response to requests by the library's instigator, **Mr Leach**.
- Mar 1863 A **Permanent Subscription Library** (also known as the **Cheltenham Library**) was proposed for the town. A subscription list was started in **April** and it was announced that entry would be 'free' if the sum of two guineas was subscribed. **Stamford House** (bottom of **Regent Street**) was proposed as a site for the new library in **June**, although a property in **Clarence Street** was actually chosen as the venue. It had sufficient accommodation to house, for example, the **Parish Church Young Men's Society**, who must have benefited from the access to books. The new library was 'open and busy' by **October 1863** but retaining a permanent librarian proved a challenge in its early years. From **15 May 1867** the **Permanent Library** was housed at **5 Royal Crescent** until its closure in **1905** (which see).
- Nov 1866 The **Association of Naturalists** was formed in connection with the **Permanent Library**.
- Sep 1869 An antique bookcase was given to the **Permanent Library** by **William Dalton MD**.
- 6 Feb 1872 Death of **Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart**, antiquary and book collector who amassed the largest collection of manuscript material in the 19th century. Born in Manchester in **1792**, the illegitimate son of a textile magnate, his obsession began while he was at **Rugby School** where he spent all his pocket money on any manuscripts he could find. **Phillipps** inherited a substantial estate, which he spent almost entirely on manuscripts, putting his family into debt. In **1863** he moved his massive library from **Broadway** to the recently-purchased **Thirlestaine House** on the **Bath Road**. This operation took 103 wagons drawn by 230 horses in the charge of 160 men.
Phillipps also maintained a private printing press so that he could print catalogues of his collection, which amounted to over 60,000 manuscripts and over 100,000 books at his death. After his death the dispersal of the collection took over 100 years.
- 7 Feb 1872 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published a letter from **Edward T. Wilson** in support of a medical library at **Cheltenham General Hospital**.
- Mar 1872 Booksellers in Cheltenham agreed to close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in line with the **Early Closing Movement**.
- Jul 1872 The Will of **Sir Thomas Phillipps** stipulated that his books and manuscripts should remain intact at **Thirlestaine House**, that no bookseller or stranger should rearrange them and that no Roman Catholic should be permitted to view them. In **1885** the Court of Chancery declared this too restrictive, thus making possible the sale of the library. **Phillipps** grandson **Thomas FitzRoy Fenwick** supervised this sale for the next 50 years. Much of the European material was sold to national collections on the continent. In **May 1908** 272 invaluable documents on French history,

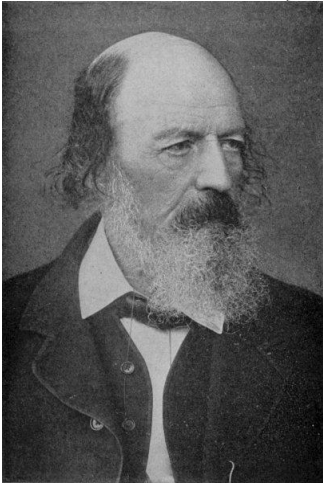
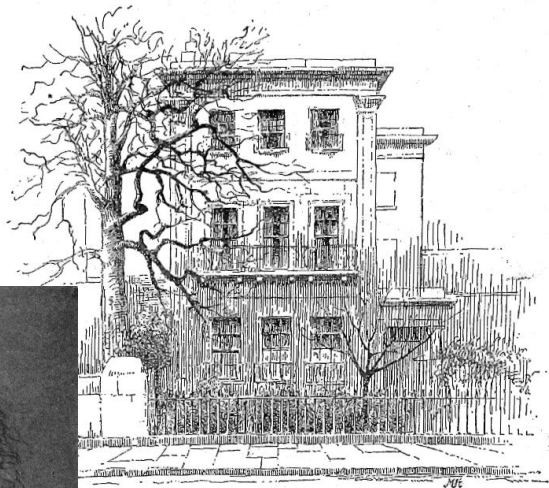
known as ‘**The Philipps Collection**’, were supplied to the **French National Library**. Purchasers included **Windsor Castle**, who bought some books in **May 1911**.

By **1946** the residue was sold to London booksellers **Phillip** and **Lionel Robinson** for £100,000, although it was uncatalogued and unexamined. The final portion of the collection was sold in **1977** to New York bookseller **H.P. Kraus**. A five-volume history of the collection and its dispersal, *Phillipps Studies*, by **A.N.L. Munby** was published between **1951** and **1960**.

- 14 May 1873 The *Cheltenham Examiner* announced that the **Permanent (Subscription) Library** was flourishing with a stock of 8,162 books.
- 16 Jul 1873 Following the death of **William Charles Macready**, actor and tragedian, the *Cheltenham Examiner* announced that his library would be sold in London. The library contained autographed works of his friend **Charles Dickens**.
- May 1875 Damaged letters from the wreck of *RMS Schiller* were received at **Williams’ Library**.
- Oct 1876 The **YMCA** opened a reading room and library, which was also available to the general public.
- Dec 1876 The treasurer of the **Post Office Library** appealed for spare books. In **Nov 1882** the chief clerk, **R.H. Butler**, appealed for stock replenishment at the library.
- Sep 1877 **George Arthur Williams** retired from his library and reading room at the **Assembly Rooms**.
- 20 Feb 1878 An **Artizans’ Lending Library** opened in the **Students’ Library** at the **Whitworth School of Science, High Street**. By the time of the first annual report in **February 1879** the new library had 481 members with 4,481 borrowed over the year. In **January 1883** the **Artizans’ Library** moved to **York House, Grosvenor Terrace**.
- 20 Feb 1878 The opening of the **Artizans’ Lending Library** led to a resurgence of interest in the idea of establishing a free **Public Library** in the town. The *Cheltenham Examiner* of **22 May 1878** carried a long letter from **H.G. Tuke** explaining how a one penny rate could finance a free library. A poll was held in **October** that year and yet again the free library proposal failed – results: 703 for, 1,030 against.
- Feb 1880 **John F. Banks** of the **Imperial Library** on the **Promenade** bought the business of **J. Williams** of **2 North Place**.
- Mar 1882 The **Permanent (Subscription) Library** at **5 Royal Crescent** housed 12,000 volumes, newspapers and magazines.
- Mar 1883 A meeting was held at the **Corn Exchange** to consider adoption of the **Free Libraries Act**.
- May 1883 **J. Lea** of **Suffolk Lawn** offered to donate **£200** if a new **school of art** was to be combined with a proposed **free library**. (He was well-known in the town as President of the **Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society**.)
- Jul 1883 A series of polls resulted in the adoption of the **Free Libraries Act** in Cheltenham. The **Town Council** opted to set up a **public library service**.
- Aug 1883 **Miss Stokes** of **Tyndale House** donated over 100 books to the new **Public Library**.
- Oct 1883 The **theological library** of the late **Rev. Dr Andrew Morton Brown**, long-serving pastor of the **Congregational Church** in Cheltenham, was to be auctioned.
- Feb 1884 The first **Chief Librarian** of the new **Free Public Library** was appointed – **William Jones**. One of his tasks was to produce a catalogue of books held (price 2d in **1885**). He also gave lectures, for example to the **Highbury Literary Society** on ‘Books and their Users’ in **February 1891**. In **January 1893**, the latest catalogue compiled by **William Jones** was exhibited at the **Chicago Exhibition**. He was in the news again in **July 1898** when he saved a young lady from drowning at **Bridlington**.
- Jul 1884 Gifts of books were requested by the **Delancey Fever Hospital** to alleviate the boredom of long-stay patients.
- Aug 1884 The new **Public Library** had 2,700 volumes.
- Oct 1884 The Committee of the new, free **Public Library** appealed for donations of books. The first (temporary) home of the library was in property in **Liverpool Place**, which also housed **The Magneticon** (medical apparatus using magnetism). The property was put up for sale by auction in this month, but failed to sell.
- 13 Oct 1884 The **Public Library** opened to readers in **Liverpool Place** (opposite Rodney Road), although the accommodation was far from adequate for the visitors who were averaging an attendance of 1,000 per day.
- Dec 1884 There was strong support for the proposal that a **school of art** should be combined on a site with the **Public Library**. **Alderman Wilson** donated £500 to the **School of Art** funding and £500 towards the purchase of a site for the **Free Library**.
- Mar 1885 Books from a sale of a **Cirencester library** were purchased for the **Public Library**.
- Dec 1885 The **Public Library** received a donation from **Her Majesty’s Stationery Office** of 248 volumes, valued at £150. A donation from the **British Museum** was also received.

- May 1886 The **Public Library** was left a legacy gift of 1,700 volumes and 250 pamphlets by **Miss Carrington of Sandford Place**.
- Jun 1886 The Board of Guardians accepted a donation of religious books from **Miss Barnett** for the workhouse.
- Feb 1887 **Mr Cregoe Colmore** donated £200 towards completion of a new **Public Library** building on the current **Clarence Street** site. The following month **Messrs Billings** were given the contract to build it according to plans by architect **W.H. Knight** that had been approved in **January 1887**. In **October 1888** the local press reported some opposition to the way in which **Messrs Billings** had the contract for the supply of fittings to the new building.
- Mar 1887 **Mrs Blagdon** made a gift of her late husband's paintings to the **Public Library** for display when the **School of Art** was housed there too.
- Mar 1887 **Cheltenham Ladies' College** received a gift of about 60 valuable books from **John Ruskin**, including some topographical and architectural books that were magnificent examples of fine 18th and 19th-century printing and binding. **Ruskin** chose the books for the quality of their contents and for the beauty of their bindings and illustrations. The most valuable books he sent were a 10th-century Greek manuscript of the Gospels and a 13th-century illuminated breviary made for an Augustinian Abbey in northern France.
- May 1887 It was proposed that the new **Public Library** building should have a tower as a Jubilee Memorial.
- 21 Jun 1887 Part of the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee included laying the corner stone of the **Public Library** and **Schools of Art & Science** at the current **Clarence Street** site, on the site of part of a Regency terrace called **Bedford Buildings**.
- 1888 The poet **Beatrice Irwin** entered **Cheltenham Ladies' College**. She was also a colour specialist and expert in lighting effects.
- Feb 1888 **Lucy Stokes** of **Trinity Terrace** made a gift of books to the **Public Library**.
- Mar 1888 **Mr Moody Bell** donated an aneroid barometer to the new **Public Library**.
- Apr 1889 **Messrs Martin & Co.** offered a large clock for the vestibule of the new **Public Library**.
- 24 Apr 1889 **Sir Michael Hicks Beach MP**, President of the Board of Trade, formally opened the **Public Library** and **Schools of Art & Science** (designed by **Knight & Chatters**). (The **Schools of Art** and of **Science & Technology** moved to new buildings in **St Margaret's Road** in **April 1905**.)
- May 1889 **Baron de Ferrières** presented a painting of the interior of the **Parish Church** to be hung in the new **Public Library** building.
- Jun 1889 The Council were asked to consider keeping the **Public Library** open after 9 o'clock at night.
- Dec 1889 The **Misses Day** donated the library of Natural History books, collected by their father, the late **Dr Francis Day**, to the **Public Library**. It was a fairly extensive collection and took until the middle of the following month to complete the cataloguing of the books.
- Aug 1890 **Mr Agg-Gardner** donated £50 to purchase books for the **Public Library**.
- Sep 1890 A new **Public Library** catalogue was published, price 1/6, a large price increase compared to the 2d for the first catalogue in 1885. This probably reflects the increased size of the catalogue as more books were procured for the library.
- Jan 1881 A large thermometer was presented to the **Public Library** by **Mr Moody Bell** for display in the **Reading Room**.
- Apr 1891 **Mr Reay** gave his services gratuitously to decorate the vestibule of the **Public Library**.
- Jan 1892 A Supper Meeting was held to celebrate the opening of the **Bishops Cleeve Reading Room & Library**.
- Sep 1892 **H.G. Tuke** died. He was a supporter of the Education Movement and also campaigned vigorously and tirelessly to get a **Public Library** established in the town.
- Dec 1893 The **Cheltenham (Subscription) Library** in **Royal Crescent** received medical books from the Medical Committee of the **General Hospital**.
- 1894 The **Ladies' College Library Wing**, designed by **Henry Prothero**, was completed. The ironwork balcony in the library was produced by **Letheren & Son**, the local firm of prize-winning art metalworkers.
- May 1894 A bequest of £500 was left to the **Public Library** by **Miss Grace Isabella Buchanan** deceased; she had always taken a great interest in the free library. Her bequest resulted in about 1,000 books being added to the shelves in **March 1898**.
- May 1894 **Col W.A. Hill, JP**, of **Maidstone**, formerly of Cheltenham, donated a pair of silver medals to the **Public Library**.
- 7 May 1894 **Leckhampton Branch Reading Room** was opened in **Moorend Road**.
- Apr 1895 **Baron de Ferrières** agreed to fund the electric light in the **Public Library** entrance hall and offered an 'electrolier' (electric light fitting resembling a chandelier) for the vestibule. In **July 1895** this piece of apparatus went on display at **Messrs R.E. & C. Marshall's** establishment.

- Jun 1895 Both the **Reference** and the **Lending Departments** of the **Public Library** were closed for the day to allow staff to go on the Corporation outing. This closure for the annual outing became a regular occurrence for many years.
- Aug 1895 The **Public Library** became one of the first public buildings in Cheltenham to be illuminated by electricity. The lights were switched on by **Miss Feeney** and council officials. By the following month it was reported that the **Reading Room** was much cooler than when lit by gas.
- Apr 1896 At the annual meeting of the **Permanent Library in Royal Crescent**, chaired by **Dr E.T. Wilson**, a small attendance heard that the membership stood at 290 and the library contained 19,000 volumes.
- 19 Oct 1896 A six-day closing-down sale was held at **William's Library** when between 200,000 and 300,000 volumes were sold. The stock was still being cleared at the end of the year. **Mr G.B. Williams** had chosen to retire and his lease on the property at the **Assembly Rooms** had run out.
- 1898 **Boots Library** opened as a subscription library. Known as **Boots Booklovers' Library**, it ran until the mid-**1960s**. It specialised in popular fiction and seemed to have a special relationship with Mills & Boon. Subscriptions were available as first-class (30 shillings p.a., with access to all the latest publications, sent from **Nottingham**) or second-class (at 15 shillings p.a.). Subscriptions could be suspended, for example if a customer was away on holiday. Huge queues often formed at the popular library, particularly before a Bank Holiday. In **1935** 35 million books were issued. During the Second World War subscribers nationally numbered over 1 million and **Boots** were expected to purchase 1.25 million new books.
- Every library book had a small eyelet in the spine into which the member's token was inserted at every exchange. The procedure for exchanging books was complex and staff members were expected to take an examination in use of the system. A small book request pad was kept at the library for members to update their list of titles. The service was quite personal and staff members were often familiar with their customers' preferences. One ex-staff member recalls 'We often felt slightly guilty, having recommended a certain novel to prim and staid Miss X, only to discover she had been shocked to the core upon reading it. Strangely though, she always managed to read it to the very end!' The last **Boots Library** in the country closed in **February 1966**.
- Nov 1898 *The Times* praised the **Cheltenham Public Library Committee** for popularising the **Reference Department** among the working classes.
- Nov 1899 On the closure of **Pink's Library** in **Pittville Street**, 120,000 volumes were put up for sale.
- Aug 1900 The new **Cheltenham Art Gallery** building encroached upon the **Public Library**, to which compensation was paid.
- Nov 1900 The **Chief Librarian** of the **Public Library** produced a catalogue for the neighbouring **Art Gallery's** exhibition of decorative work. The exhibition included specimens of ironwork, etc. from local firms.
- 25 Nov 1903 The *Cheltenham Examiner* published the obituary of **G.B. Williams**, founder of the long-running library that had been housed at the **Assembly Rooms** for much of the century.
- Jun 1905 The **Permanent Library** at **Royal Crescent** prepared to hand its stock to the **Public Library** on certain conditions. The terms of the handover led to some deliberation and it was not until **January 1908** that it was announced the **Permanent Library** would close. It finally closed in **August 1908**, with all the books being transferred to the **Public Library**.
- Jul 1905 By a small majority the Committee decided to 'black' betting news in the daily papers in the **Reading Room** of the **Public Library**.
- Jan 1906 A bust of **Lord James** by local sculptor **Mr J.E. Hyett** was bought for the **Public Library**.
- 13 Jun 1906 The *Cheltenham Examiner* carried the obituary of **John Darter**, **Librarian** of **Cheltenham College**, one-time conductor of the **Cheltenham Temperance Choral Society**.
- Oct 1906 The **Council** decided to discontinue using the room over the library for meetings. The **Education Committee**, however, adopted it as their venue for meetings the following year in **March 1907**.
- May 1907 **William Witchell** of **Clanfield, St Mark's**, died. For 35 years he was the owner of the **Clarence Street** bible and tract bookshop (at **4 Clarence Street**)
- Jan 1908 The Cheltenham **Permanent Library** closed. Its books were gifted to the **Public Library**.
- Jan 1908 Free Church ministers protested when the practice of blacking-out betting news from newspapers at the **Public Library** was discontinued.
- Mar 1908 Even the bookselling business has its hazards – a pony and trap belonging to a **Mrs Asquith** broke the window of **Gastrell's bookshop** at the **Montpellier Exchange**.
- Apr 1908 **Mr Eede Marshall** bequeathed his entire collection of approximately 2,000 books on Italian art to the **Public Library**.
- Dec 1908 The **Public Library Committee** recommended to the **Town Council** that Sunday opening NOT be sanctioned.



Alfred Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate, stayed with his mother and sisters at 10 St James Square on various occasions between 1843-50. He is said to have written his poem *In Memoriam* there.



Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, boxer and jockey, lived at 28 Priory Street. He is regarded by many as the National Poet of Australia.



Charles Dickens (right) stayed with his friend, William MacReady the renowned Victorian actor, at 6 Wellington Square on at least 5 occasions from 1859-69.



Celebrated poet Christina Rossetti visited her uncle Henry Polydore several times at Chester Villa, Painswick Road.



- Jun 1909 **R.L. Boulton & Sons** presented a plaster cast of **the Cheltenham South African War Memorial** to the **Public Library**. The statue was placed on a pediment in **May 1911**.
- Oct 1909 **Lord Duncannon** formally opened a **Library** at the **Conservative Club** in **Albion Street**.
- 1912 Printer and bookseller **William Clee** died. He ran his business firstly in **Clarence Street** and then the **High Street**.
- 1917 The **County Library Service** began circulating boxes of books around the neighbouring Cheltenham parishes and villages.
- Jan 1918 The **Reference Library** was established at the Cheltenham's **Free (Public) Library**.
- 9 Sep 1930 The new **Junior Library** was opened by the Mayor of Cheltenham.
- Aug 1931 The **54th Library Association Conference** was held at the Town Hall.
- 1 Apr 1935 The inhabitants of **Leckhampton** were allowed to use the **Cheltenham Public Library** for the first time. (Leckhampton parish had just been included in the extension of Cheltenham Borough under the County of Gloucester Review Order.)
- 1 Dec 1941 A **WEA (Workers' Educational Association) library** opened at **Whaddon Mixed School**.
- 30 Mar 1942 A **WEA library** opened in **St Mark's** district.
- 5 Mar 1948 A new library was opened at **St Mark's**.
- 10 Nov 1960 Following the national court case, **Cheltenham Public Library** stocked unexpurgated copies of **D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover***.
- 1961 The **Lending Libraries** at **W.H. Smith shops** were closed and the stock acquired by **Boots** for their libraries.
- 27 Oct 1962 The new **Branch Library** at **Hester's Way** opened.
- 27 Feb 1971 The **mobile library** officially opened.
- Feb 1972 The **Cheltenham Record Library** opened.
- 4 Jun 1984 The Borough Council offered £0.25M to the county to provide much-needed new library facilities in the town centre (an offer that was turned down).
- 1 Feb 1989 A major bookseller in Cheltenham defied Sunday trading laws and opened its doors to the public.
- Oct 1989 Up Hatherley library officially opened.
- 6 Aug 2008 **Cheltenham Library**, the busiest in **Gloucestershire** with 423,000 visits during 2007-08, held an open day to unveil its new look following a £190,000 refurbishment. It now included a teenage lounge area with computer games and comfortable seating. The 'quick choice' and adult lending areas had also been extended to offer a greater choice of books, CDs and DVDs. The Local Studies department was moved to an upper floor above the Children's Library.

LITERARY SOCIETIES, FESTIVALS, &c

- 3 Feb 1814 **Edward Jenner** chaired the first public meeting of the **Cheltenham Philosophical & Literary Society** at the **Assembly Rooms**. Preliminary meetings had been held at **Edward Jenner's** house in **St George's Place** to establish a **Literary and Philosophical Institution** in Cheltenham. (In **1805 Jenner** had complained to **Thomas Frognall Dibdin** that there was 'a great dearth of mind' in the town.) At the public meeting **Jenner** was formally elected President. Another leading figure in the society was **Henry Charles Boisragon**, the doctor who had treated **Byron**. Despite a membership of 30-50, there was insufficient support and, following **Jenner's** retirement to **Berkeley** after his wife's death, the venture failed. **Dr Boisragon** was involved in a later, more successful attempt at establishing such an **Institution** in the town in the **1830s**.
- 23 Jan 1833 **Henry Davies** of the **Montpellier Library** addressed a meeting, held at the **Imperial Pump Room**, on the advantages of literary and philosophical institutions. The **Literary & Philosophical Institution** was formed shortly afterwards, holding its first general meeting on **21 February**. Making the inaugural address was the **Institution's** first President, **Dr Henry Charles Boisragon**, who had attempted a similar venture in **1814** with **Edward Jenner**.
- 30 Aug 1836 The **Literary & Philosophical Institution** moved into a fine, new building with a portico modelled on the Temple of Theseus at Athens. Designed by **R.W. Jeppard**, the premises at **Promenade Villas**, which included a library and reading-room for subscribers, were formally opened on this date.
- 1839 The Evangelical Rector of Cheltenham, **Francis Close**, had remained coldly aloof from the new **Literary & Philosophical Institution**. In **1839** he inaugurated his own Institution, the **Church of England Reading Association**. The **Theatre Royal** was burned to the ground this year and, fittingly, **Close's** new establishment took over the premises of the now defunct **Sadler's Wells Puppet Theatre** in **St George's Place**, so that the town was without a theatre of any kind for the next generation or more.

- 9 Aug 1841 The **Literary & Philosophical Institution** put on an exhibition of Works of Art & Science, which was attended by 12,289 during its 11-week opening.
- 1855 **Alfred Lord Tennyson** is thought to have founded the first **Poetry Society of Cheltenham** during his visits to stay with his family at **10 St James's Square**. Among early visitors to the society was **Robert Browning**. This first society ran until **1914**.
- 13 May 1857 The **Charlton Kings Reading Association** was inaugurated.
- 24 Jun 1857 The progress of the local branch of the **Great Western Railway Literary Society** was reported in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Sep 1860 The **Literary & Philosophical Institution** was disbanded at a meeting chaired by **R. Beamish**.
- Sep 1869 The **Cheltenham Athenaeum**, on the **Promenade**, established as a Young Men's Mental Improvement Society, inaugurated its literary session.
- 6 Sep 1876 The demise of the **Literary Institution** in the town was deplored in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Apr 1882 The **Rev. J.M. Blackie** chaired a crowded meeting of the **Highbury Literary Society** – many of the Nonconformist churches in Cheltenham at this time had their own literary societies.
- Mar 1887 The inaugural meeting of the **St. Andrew's Church Literary Association** was held at the **Montpellier Rotunda**. Literary Societies were extremely popular during the last quarter of the 19th century, often connected to the Nonconformist churches. **Societies** in Cheltenham included the **Highbury Literary Society**, the **Salem Literary Association**, the **Bayshell (or Unitarian) Literary & Social Union** (which met in the **Unitarian Church** schoolroom) and the **Cambray Literary Society** (associated with the **Cambray Baptist Chapel**, holding weekly meetings).
- Oct 1888 The 10th session of the **Highbury Literary Society** opened with a lecture by **Dr Allport**.
- Oct 1912 A local branch of the **Dickens Fellowship** was formed.
- 16 Jun 1922 A two-day **National Conference** of the **Dickens Fellowship** was held in Cheltenham.
- 1925 The **Poetry Society of Cheltenham** was re-established, running until **1939**.
- 13 Apr 1949 The first mention of a Cheltenham festival dedicated to literature was made in the minutes of the **Town Improvement & Spa Committee**. It was reported that the speakers would include **Compton Mackenzie** and **C. Day Lewis**. The idea of a festival was the brainchild of the Spa manager, **George Wilkinson** together with its first Director, author **John Moore**. (**Moore** was especially known for his **Brensham trilogy** based on **Tewkesbury**.) **Moore** was apparently daunted by the task of planning and organising the event as it was to be the first purely literary festival in Britain. The first festival programme consisted of nine events spanning **Monday 3 to Friday 7 October** later that same year.
- 3 Aug 1961 Cheltenham **Literary Festival** was cancelled.
- Jan 1967 The present **Poetry Society of Cheltenham** was established by **Wilfred Appleby**, who as a very young boy had met **Tennyson**. **Appleby** was Chairman of the **Society** until **1976**. Poet Laureate **John Betjeman** was the first President of the new **Society**, from **1967-84**. After that **Stephen Pettit** was President until his death in **2002**. Among those who attended the present **Poetry Society** in its early years were **Cecil Day Lewis**, **Laurie Lee** and **Leonard Clark**.
- 1976-90 **Desmond Badham-Thornhill** was chairman of the **Poetry Society of Cheltenham**. He was followed by **Michael Henry** for two years, then **Michael Newman** of nine years. For many years the society met in the home of **Enid Barraclough**, a Regency house overlooking **Pittville Lawn**. Members recall that the faded grandeur of her front room created an unforgettable atmosphere. She was a published poet herself, for example *Something Special: Poems for Children*.
- 1986 The **New Poetry Workshop** started informally when a new member of the **Poetry Society** suggested that a writing group be formed. After meeting for a year at a member's **Brockworth** home, the group became the independent **New Poetry Workshop**. The first chairman was **Sheena Henderson**, followed by **Brian Holley**. The group met firstly at **Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace** (home of the **Cheltenham Civic Society**), then at the Japanese **Skukutoku College** at **Dorset Villa** in **Pittville**, and then returned to **Parmoor House** in the early **1990s**.
The **New Poetry Workshop** was really a forum providing in-depth and knowledgeable criticism of members' poems. The group has given poetry readings and taken part in festivals and concerts. Some members are published poets and some have won competitions. All appreciate the honest and good-humoured criticism of their work at the meetings.
- 8 Oct 1993 Guests at the **International Festival of Literature** included former Beirut hostage **Terry Waite**.
- 8 Oct 1999 The **Cheltenham Festival of Literature** celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- Dec 2001 The **Poetry Society of Cheltenham** merged with the **New Poetry Workshop**. This was fortuitous, as falling membership numbers in the late **1990s** had threatened the **Society's** existence. **Pamela Cox** became Chairman of the **Society** following the merger. The current Chairman (**2008**) is **Roger Turner**. Recently a wider range of activities has been revived and the society is flourishing with a successful second meeting every month.

- Jul 2007 The **Cheltenham Writers' Circle** marked the occasion of its 30 years in existence by producing an anthology of work, *A Celebration of 30 Years of Cheltenham Writers' Circle 1977-2007*. The group, which started in **Prestbury**, was set up to provide a friendly and informal centre where writers at all levels could come together to encourage and assist one another with their writing. Current members include both those who write for their own pleasure and published authors. At least two members from the group went on to work fulltime as writers. Crime writer **Betty Rowlands** was a member when she had her first short story read on **BBC Radio 4**, and **Rosemary Aiken** had similar success. The group meets at **Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace** on the first and third Monday of every month.
- 2008 **Buzzwords**, Cheltenham's **Poetry Café**, meets on the first Sunday of every month at the **Exmouth Arms** pub, **Bath Road**. It features writing workshops, guest poets and open mic readings. It was first set up in **2004** by **Angela France**, herself a published poet, who still runs it, and was the first regular live poetry event in Cheltenham outside of the **Literature Festival**.
- 5 Sep 2008 **Alexander Waugh**, grandson of author **Evelyn Waugh**, was in Cheltenham to launch the Big Read event, put on as part of the **Cheltenham Literature Festival**. The event invited people to read **Evelyn Waugh's** classic twentieth-century novel *Brideshead Revisited*, to be discussed at the festival's book club on **19 October**. **Alexander**, himself a renowned author, was at **Waterstone's** bookshop signing books and talking to fans.
- 10 Oct 2008 The **Cheltenham Festival of Literature** opened for its 10-day run. Guests include **Jilly Cooper**, **Esther Rantzen**, **Vanessa Redgrave**, **Julie Walters**, and artist **Jack Vettriano**.

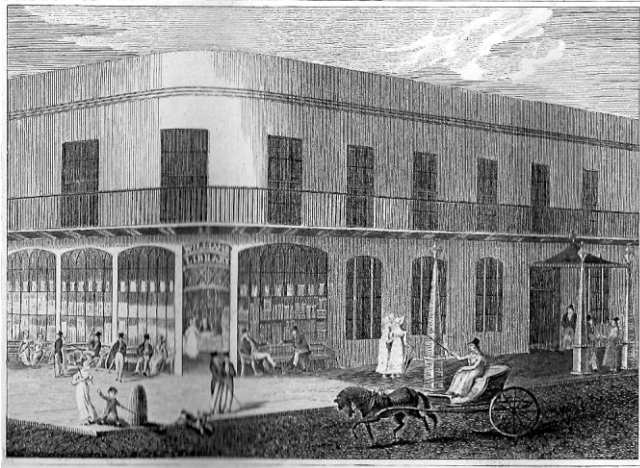
LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION

- 1535-43 **John Leland (1506-52)**, the antiquarian whom King Henry VIII commissioned to search for records of antiquity in England, mentions Cheltenham in *The Itinerary*: 'To Chilttenham, a longe toune havynge a market, a 4 or 5 miles. It longid to the abbay of Tewkesbury, now to the kyng. A broke in the southe syd of the towne.' ('Broke' here refers to the **River Chelt**.)F
- 1692-8 **John Prinn**, steward of Cheltenham Manor wrote in the records for the **Cheltenham Manor Court Book**, 'Cheltenham, alias Chilteham, alias Chiltham is a towne scituate on the north side of a small purling silver streame or rivulet called Chilt, from which rivulet the Saxons gave it the name of Chiltham, the word ham with them being the same as the word town is amongst us.'
- 1781 It is thought that Cheltenham's Master of the Ceremonies, **Simon Moreau**, sponsored the first guide to Cheltenham, published in London. It was entitled *The Cheltenham Guide: or, useful companion, in a journey of health and pleasure to the Cheltenham Spa*.
- 1781 *The Cheltenham Guide, or Memoirs of the B-n-r-d Family continued* was published. Written in verse, it ran through five editions in its first year.
- 1788 *Royal Recollections on A Tour To Cheltenham, Gloucester, Worcester and Places Adjacent in the Year 1788* by **Dr. J. Wolcot** was published. It 'purports to be a diary kept by **George III**'.
- 1803 *The Historical & Local New Cheltenham Guide* was printed and sold by **J. Browne of Bath**.
- 1803 *Ruff's Beauties of Cheltenham* guidebook was published, written by **Thomas Frogna! Dibdin**.
- 11 Oct 1806 A plan of Cheltenham was produced by **Edward Mitchell**.
- 1809 **David Trinder** produced a plan of the town showing the **mineral wells** of Cheltenham.
- 1819 **Samuel Bettison** produced his plan of Cheltenham.
- 1820 **E. Cossens' Post Office Map** of Cheltenham was published.
- 1821 **Bettison's New Guide to Cheltenham** was published.
- 1824 *Williams's New Guide to Cheltenham: Being a Complete History and Description of that celebrated Watering Place ...* was printed for **G.A. Williams'** subscription library.
- 14 Jul 1824 **Henry Merrett's** map of Cheltenham was published.
- 1825 A map of Cheltenham was produced by **J. Tovey**.
- 1826 *Griffith's New Historical Description of Cheltenham And Its Vicinity* was printed and published by **S.Y. Griffith & Co.** at the **Chronicle Office** in Cheltenham. The work contains 'nearly 100 Highly finished Engravings from Drawings by the first Masters'.
- 1826 **S.C. Harper**, founder of the *Cheltenham Free Press* newspaper in **1834**, published *A Picturesque and Topographical Account of Cheltenham and its Vicinity* by the **Rev. T.D. Fosbroke**.
- 1832 The first edition appeared of *The Strangers Guide Through Cheltenham; Containing and Account of its Mineral Waters; with Descriptions of the Various Pump Rooms, Public Institutions, and Places of Fashionable Amusement; Also Notices of the Principal Objects of Curiosity in the Surrounding Country* by **Henry Davies** of the **Montpellier Library**. It was also available for sale at the libraries of **G.A. Williams, J. Lee, Ebers & Co.**, and **J. Lovesey**.

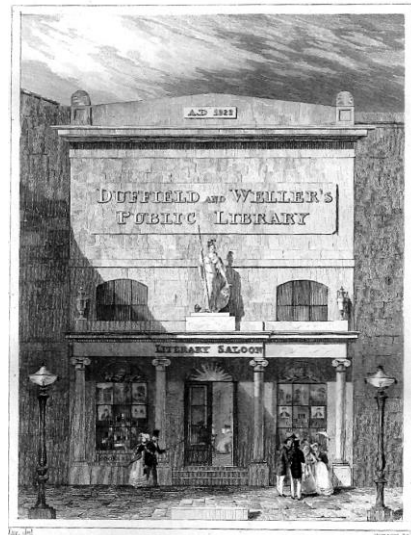
- 1832-52 Artist and publisher **George Rowe**, a native of **Devon**, lived in Cheltenham. Here he established a lithographic printing business and became involved in many aspects of the town's life. He was a member of the Town Commissioners, High Bailiff and an overseer of the poor, co-proprietor of one of the town newspapers, and was in partnership running the **Royal Old Wells** spa and theatre. In **1845** he produced his *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide*.
- 1834 *Outline of the Geology of the Neighbourhood of Cheltenham* by **Roderick Impey Murchison** was published.
- 1837 The first *Cheltenham Annuaire*, a local directory and diary, was published.
- 1843 **Henry Davies'** plan of the town of Cheltenham was published.
- 1844 *A Botanical Guide to the Environs of Cheltenham* by **James Buckman** was published.
- 12 Feb 1845 **George Rowe's** *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide* was first published. A reprint in paperback was published in **1981** and a facsimile of the **1850** edition was published in **1969**, priced 2 Guineas.
- 1846 *Johnson's New Historical and Pictorial Cheltenham and County of Gloucester Guide; Designed as a Visiter's (sic) Companion* was published and sold by **G. P. Johnson, High Street** engraver.
- 1851 *Cheltenham and its Resources: Mineral Waters, Climate, &c Considered chiefly in a Sanative Point of View* by **Edwin Lee**. The book, which contains 76 pages of advertisements, was the prize-winning essay in a competition run in Cheltenham.
- 1851 *Antiquated Spots Around Cheltenham* by **W.T. Newenham**, containing three woodcut illustrations, was published.
- 1853 **John Goding's** extensive *Norman's History of Cheltenham* was published, with an enlarged edition produced in **1863**. A grocer by trade, **Goding** was an Assistant Overseer of the Poor, a member of the parish Vestry and a keen amateur historian.
- 1854 *Norman's Pictorial Hand-book of Cheltenham* was printed by **G. Norman** at the *Examiner Office* in Cheltenham.
- 1857 The large-scale **Old Town Survey**, showing the layout of drains and sewers, was completed. It was initiated by the Sewerage & Drainage Committee of the **Town Improvement Commissioners** and the Borough Surveyor **Henry Dangerfield** led the project. In his report of **1854** **Dangerfield** commented 'The plan will constantly be referred to and will be useful for various purposes and it will remain after these works are completed a map of reference, all additions and alterations being made to it as they actually occur'. Because of its immense detail, with over 50 large sheets covering the main part of Cheltenham, the plan has proved to be an immeasurably useful resource for local historians.
- 1864 **Dangerfield's** *Plan of the Town of Cheltenham & its vicinity* was published.
- 1870 *A Plan of Cheltenham* was produced by **D.J. Humphris**.
- 1871 *The Legends of Cheltenham and Gloucestershire* by **William Byrne** was published.
- 1877 The **Rev. Beaver H. Blacker MA** transcribed and published *Monumental Inscriptions in the Parish Church of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire*, a useful resource for local historians as many of the memorials and gravestones have disappeared, are illegible or are covered over.
- Apr 1889 Taxidermist and former verger of **St Luke's Church**, **Henry White** published his autobiography, *A Record of My Life*, which included reminiscences of his days in Cheltenham.
- 1892 *Pictorial History of Cheltenham and District* was printed and published by a **Hove** firm, **Walser & Grist**. The book contains sketches by **Ed. J. Burrow** and photographs by Cheltenham photographer **J. Joyner**.
- 1897 A plan of Cheltenham was published by **Norman Sawyer**.
- 1898 *Memoirs of Old Charlton Kings. A Series of Short Papers Written for the Charlton Kings Parish Magazine* by **Clarence M. Dobell** was published, illustrated with '6 actual mounted photographs'.
- 1900 The publishing firm of **Ed. J. Burrow & Co. Ltd.** was established at **St John's Lodge**, Hewlett Road. **Ed Burrow's** first commission was for a guidebook to Cheltenham. In **November 1901** he published *A Souvenir of Cheltenham and Cheltenham Country*. His guidebook *The Way About Cheltenham*, published in **July 1908**, was priced 6d. **Burrow** went on to produce guidebooks covering the whole country, including the *Dunlop Guides*. In **1974** the firm was moved to London by its controlling group, **Pyramid Publishers**.
- The name of **Burrow** lives on in Cheltenham. In **1927** he presented the organ in the **Town Hall** to mark the borough's civic jubilee, and **Burrow's** sports ground in **Moorend Grove**, opened in **1930**, is still in use.
- c1900 *Echoes & Reminiscences of Medical Practitioners in Cheltenham of the Nineteenth Century* by **G. Arthur Cardew, OBE, CD, MRCS** was published by **Burrows**.
- c1900 Publication of *Norman May's Guide to Cheltenham and its Vicinity*, illustrated with woodcuts and photo-etchings. **Norman May & Co.** was based in London, Cheltenham and Malvern.

- 1901 *Cheltenham: The Garden Town* was published by **Burrows**.
- Aug 1901 **Dr J.H. Garrett** had his local guidebook, *The Garden Town of England*, reviewed in *Topical Times*.
- 1903 Cheltenham-born Chartist, Radical and Tyneside newspaper editor **W.E. Adams (1832-1906)** published his autobiographical *Memoirs of a Social Atom*. It included his life from 1832 to the early 1860s at home in **Lower Dockem (Lower High Street)**, at school at **Gardner's Academy** (the former **Sadler's Wells Puppet Theatre** in **St George's Place**) and his seven-year apprenticeship on the *Cheltenham Journal*. **Adams'** autobiography was reprinted in the USA in 1968. A biography of **Adams**, *W.E. Adams, Chartist and Republican in Victorian England* by **Owen R. Ashton**, was published in 1999, giving an account of **Adams'** career, including information on his formative years in Cheltenham.
- May 1903 **John Sawyer's** book about **Cheltenham Parish Church** was published.
- 1904 *A Handbook to the Geology of Cheltenham and Neighbourhood* by **L. Richardson** was published, containing a large folding map in a pocket at the rear of the book.
- Mar 1905 The **Rev. John Evans** had his paper on Gloucestershire and Ancient British history published. He had presented it at a recent Natural Science Society meeting.
- 1911 *Who's Who in Cheltenham* edited by **Alfred S.** and **Reginald Williams** was published. In the introduction the editors suggested 'The biographical details of the men and women who are helping in various ways to enhance the status of Cheltenham cannot fail to be of lasting value, and may also serve as some incentive to the succeeding generation'. The book also contained a summary of the history of the town.
- Jun 1912 *The Origin & Progress of Methodism in the Cheltenham Circuit 1739-1912* was published, including many sketches and photographs of local Methodist ministers and places of worship.
- 1913 *A Cheltenham Bi-Centenary 1713-1913. The Parish Church Boys' School for 200 Years*, a history of the school compiled by 'Old Boys', was published.
- c1922 *About & Around Cheltenham. The Guide for Visitors* was published by **Ed. J. Burrow & Co. Ltd.** It included a comprehensive description of the town and a summary of its history.
- 1931 An illustrated collection of reminiscences of the **Ladies' College**, *In the Days of Miss Beale. A Study of her Work and Influence* by **F. Cecily Steadman**, was published by **Ed. J. Burrow**. The same year the **Burrow** also published the *Illustrated Guide to the Cheltenham Ladies' College*, containing many photographs of the school's sumptuous architectural details.
- Jun 1932 *Cheltenham Masonic Hall. Its Building and History* by Cheltenham architect **L.W. Barnard, IPM, Foundation Lodge 82**, was published.
- c1950 *Prestbury. The History of a Cotswold Village* by **N.K. Cossens** was published.
- Aug 1950 A history of the **Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society**, *What Lasts a Century Can Have No Flaw* by **Walter Ansell** was published.
- 1952 As part of **Batsford's** 'British Cities' series, *Cheltenham* by **Bryan Little** was published. **Little** was educated at **Cheltenham College** where he gained an appreciation of the classics and of Greek architecture, essential for the proper understanding of Cheltenham's buildings. His second book on the town, *Cheltenham in Pictures*, was published in 1967.
- 1964 *Cheltenham's Trams & Buses 1890-1963* by **John B. Appleby** and **Fred Lloyd** was published, inspired by a successful 'History of Local Transport' Exhibition held in **February 1962** at the **Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum**.
- 1965 *History of Cheltenham* by **Gwen Hart (1897-1986)** was published. It remains the most significant history of the town since **Goding's** publication of 1853. A review written on publication states 'This is a work of scholarship, but unlike many scholarly works, it is eminently readable ... **Mrs Hart** has been very successful in combining accuracy of historic narrative with those vivid incidents and personalities which bring history to life'. A second edition was produced in 1981, containing corrections by the author and mainly re-illustrated by **Dr Steven Blake**.
- 1966 *A History of Dean Close School* compiled by the **Rev. R.F. McNeile**, who attended the school from 1886-95. His grandfather, **James Inskip**, had been one of the school's founders.
- 1968 *Cheltenham Settlement Examinations 1815-1826* edited by **Irvine Gray** was published for the Records Section of the **Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society**.
- 1968 The **Cheltonian Society** published *Cheltenham College. The First Hundred Years* by **M.C. Morgan**, a former senior history master at the **College**.
- 1968 **Margaret E. Popham**, Principal of **Cheltenham Ladies' College** for 17 years from 1936, published her memoirs, *Boring – Never!*
- 1969 *The Gloucester & Cheltenham Tramroad and the Leckhampton Quarry Lines* by **David Bick** was published. A second enlarged edition was produced in 1987. **Bick** also produced an enlarged edition of his *Old Leckhampton. Quarries – Railways – Riots – Devil's Chimney* in 1994.

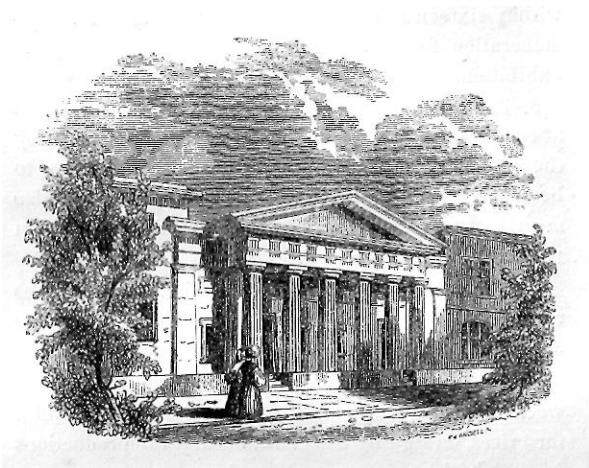
- 1971 *Cheltenham. A Biography* by **Simona Pakenham** was published. **Pakenham** had freewheeled into Cheltenham 25 years previously, while on a **Cotswold** holiday, and became a frequent visitor to the town from then on.
- 1974 *Tudor Foundation. A Sketch of the History of Richard Pate's Foundation in Cheltenham* by retired **Pate's** headmaster **Arthur Bell** was published. In **1981** he produced *Pleasure Town. Cheltenham 1830-1860*, a collection of essays about the town at that time. **Dr Bell** was married to **Lucille**, widow of Tewkesbury novelist **John Moore**.
- 1974 *Cheltenham's Ornamental Ironwork. A Guide and History* by **Amina Chatwin** was published, a comprehensive look at this important aspect of Cheltenham's Regency and Victorian architecture.
- 1976 The well-illustrated and highly informative *Cheltenham As It Was ... a Pictorial Presentation* by **Roger Beacham** was published. **Roger Beacham** became a familiar face to many local and family history researchers from **1968** when he began working in the **Local Studies Department** of the **Cheltenham Reference Library**.
- 1982 The **Cheltenham Local History Society** was formed, the brainchild of **Dr Steven Blake**, then Keeper of Social History at **Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum**, and **Michael Greet**. The **Society** was set up to encourage independent local history research and to provide a place for this to be published, in the form of an annual *Journal*. The **Society** has flourished over the years and the evening meetings, held each month in the **Council Chamber** at the **Municipal Offices** from September to May, are always well-attended. *Books on Cheltenham are available for members to borrow from the Society's own library*. In the last two years morning meetings, held in **St Luke's Parish Hall**, have also proved popular, as have the many visits and walks that the **Society** has arranged. Many **Society** members are published local history authors.
- 1985 The extensively researched and illustrated *The Best: a History of H.H. Martyn & Co.* by **John Whitaker**, a grandson of **H.H. Martyn**, was published.
- 1985 *Cheltenham Racecourse* by **Alan Lee** was published.
- 1986 *Cheltenham in Old Photographs* by **Roger Whiting** was published. **Dr Whiting** compiled a second selection of photographs of the town in **1988**.
- 1986 *The First 100 Years. Dean Close School 1886-1986* was published. This was presented as a book of memoirs, edited by **M.A. Girling** and **Sir Leonard Hooper**, with an introduction on the foundation of the school by **R.J.W. Evans**.
- 1986 *Hatherley & Reddings Cricket Club 1885-1985* was published, sponsored by a number of local companies.
- 1988 Local books published this year included *A History of Charlton Kings* by **Mary Paget**, *Pittville 1824-1860: a Scene of Gorgeous Magnificence* by **Steven Blake** and *A Portrait of Prestbury* by **F. Jackson**.
- 1989 *The Organs of Cheltenham 1791-1989* by **R. Williamson** was published.
- 1990 *The English Spa 1560-1815* by **Phyllis Hembry** was published. **Dr Hembry** wrote this book in her retirement, having been Head of History at the **Ladies' College**. A second volume, *British Spas form 1815 to the Present. A Social History* followed after her death (in **1992**), published in **1997** from her research notes and drafts that were edited and revised by **Dr** and **Mrs. Cowie**.
- 1990 A history of **Pate's Grammar School for Girls, P.G.S.G. A History 1905-1946. Cheltenham's other girls' school** by **B. King** was published.
- 1990 *Smith's Industries at Cheltenham* by **C. Ellis** was published by the company.
- 1991 *A conflict of loyalties, GCHQ 1984-1991* by **H. Lanning** and **R. Norton-Taylor** was published.
- 1991 A book of old Cheltenham photographs, *Cheltenham Camera* by **G. Kilminster**, was published.
- 1992 *Battledown: the Story of a Victorian Estate* by **David O'Connor**, a history of Cheltenham's most prestigious housing development, was published. **O'Connor** also published *The Hole in the Ground. The Story of the Battledown Brickworks* in **2002**. This was an illustrated account of brickmaking in Cheltenham since the earliest times, focusing particularly on **Webb Brothers'** brickworks at **Battledown**. In **2007** an account by **O'Connor** of the life and work of a Baptist minister at **Charlton Kings (1838-1908)**, *John Burgh Rochfort. Preacher Extraordinary*, was published.
- 1992 Two books on the history of teacher-training were produced by **C. More** – '*A Splendid College': An Illustrated History of Teacher Training in Cheltenham 1847-1990* and *The Training of Teachers 1847-1947: A History of Church Colleges in Cheltenham*. In **1998 Sue Southern** compiled an illustrated outline history of the colleges and ex-students' memories, *The Way It Was. Memories of St Paul's and St Mary's*.
- 1992 The **Charlton Kings Local History Society** published *Reminiscences of My Life* by **John Bowen**, a memoir written in **1912** when the author was aged 76. The book contains an introduction by **Mary Paget**.



Williams's Library, High Street.
Today the site of Lloyds Bank.



Duffield & Weller's Literary Saloon was situated in the High Street from 1822-37.



The Literary & Philosophical Institution, founded in 1833, opened in a splendid new building on the Promenade in 1836.



Ladies' College Library. Many pupils and staff at the school have become published authors.



Thirlestaine House, now part of Cheltenham College, once housed one of the most significant collections of books and manuscripts on Gloucestershire anywhere in the world.

- 1993 **Steven Blake** and **Aylwin Sampson** worked together to produce *A Cheltenham Companion*, containing illustrations by **Sampson**.
- 1994 A collection of photographs, *Cheltenham at War in old photographs* by **Peter Gill**, was published. **Gill** produced several other books on aspects of Cheltenham's history, including *Cheltenham in the 1950s* (1996), *Cheltenham Races* (1997), *Cheltenham's Racing Heroes* (1998) and *Cheltenham's Music* (2007).
- 1994 Local history publications included *The History of the Cheltenham Silver Band 1837-1989* by **M.I. Kippin**, *Steam Routes around Cheltenham* by **S. Mourton**, *Cambray Baptist Church 1843-1993* by **S. Pierce** and *Leckhampton 1894. The end of an era* edited by **B. Stait**.
- 1995 *Cheltenham Betrayed* by **Timothy Mowl** was published, an account of modern developments within the town since the Second World War, focusing on regretted demolitions and inappropriate building schemes within the town.
- 1995 *Electricity Comes to Cheltenham: A Hundred Years of Light and Power* by **Reginald Acock** was published to coincide with the centenary of the arrival of electricity in Cheltenham in **May 1895**.
- 1996 An historical summary of Cheltenham, *Cheltenham: A Pictorial History* by **Steven Blake**, Keeper of the Collections at the **Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum**, was published. The 180 illustrations include numerous old prints of the town as well as photographs.
- 1996 The beautifully illustrated history and guide, *Cheltenham College Chapel* by **Nicholas Lowton**, was published by **The Cheltonian Society**.
- 1996 *Leckhampton Yesteryear. Village Life 1888-1939* by **Eric Miller** was published, just one of several books on Leckhampton produced by this author, including *Leckhampton Court. From Manor House to Hospice* (2002) and *The History of Leckhampton Church and its Parish* (2006). **Miller** also co-edited, with **John Randall** and **Amy Woolacott**, *Leckhampton in the Second World War* (1998), and *Leckhampton* (Britain in Old Photographs series) with **Alan Gill** (2000).
- 1997 *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* by **James Hodsdon** was published as part of the Bristol & Glos Archaeological Society Record Series. It is a comprehensive gazetteer of both past and present Cheltenham place names, including all named streets, terraces and some individual houses. Full size reproductions of Cheltenham maps dated **1820**, **1834** and **1897** were included.
- 1997 An illustrated booklet looking at the social and economic history of the **Lower High Street** area was published. This was *The other side of Regency Cheltenham. A History of the Lower High Street area* by **Heather Atkinson**, and was based on the author's college dissertation, published as part of the Borough Council's Lower High Street Neighbourhood Renewal Area Initiative.
- 1997 *Leaving All That was Dear. Cheltenham and the Great War* by **Joe Devereux** and **Graham Sacker** was published, a comprehensive collection of some 1,600 biographies of all those from the Cheltenham neighbourhood who died on active service. This book was followed in a similar vein by *Held in Honour. Cheltenham and the Second World War* by **Graham Sacker** in **2000**.
- 1997 *Six Years 1856-1861. The Diaries of Edward Welch of Arle* by **Carolyn Greet** was published. It is an account of **Welch's** war service in the **Crimea** and **India**, plus service in **Canada** and life around Cheltenham.
- 1997 Two books on the Evangelical **Rev. Francis Close** were published. These were *The Rev. Francis Close and the Foundation of the Training Institution at Cheltenham 1845-78* by **Robert Trafford** and *A Cheltenham Gamaliel. Dean Close of Cheltenham* by **Alan Munden**, author of several books on religious aspects of the town, including *Wearing the Giant's Armour. Edward Walker (1823-1872). The First Rector of Cheltenham* (1993) and *A History of St. Luke's Church, Cheltenham 1854-2004* (2004).
- 1997 The first in a series of articles by various authors of the **Swindon Village Society**, *Swindon Village Collection 1*, was published.
- 1998 Author and artist **Aylwin Sampson** began over a decade of conducting **Literary Walks** for the Cheltenham Literature Festival. His books on Cricket Grounds (1981) and Racecourses (1984) included those at Cheltenham, both receiving acclamatory reviews: 'admirable' – *Times Literary Supplement*, 'felicitous and indeed beguiling' – **John Arlott** in the *Guardian*. **Aylwin** was also a founder member of the **Cheltenham Local History Society** and editor of the **Society Journal** from 1990-96. He has written and illustrated a number of books on Cheltenham local history.
- 1998 *Cheltenham* (Images of England Series) by **Elaine Heasman** was published, a collection of over 250 photographs, including sections on **Leckhampton**, **Charlton Kings**, **Prestbury** and **Cleeve Hill**. **Elaine** produced a second Cheltenham volume for the series in **2003**. An ex-pupil of **Pate's Grammar School for Girls**, she has other publications on Cheltenham's history to her credit.
- 1998 *Victorian Legacy* by **Stanley Rudman** was published. The book describes the memorial tablets in **Christ Church**, with notes on those commemorated and including many details on the history of the church and its surrounding area.

- 1998 Cheltenham's **U3A** (University of the Third Age) published *The Chelt. A Survey*, an account of the historical references to the **River Chelt** and a survey of its condition in **1998**.
- 1999 An illustrated account, *Speaking Volumes: A History of the Cheltenham Festival of Literature* by **Nicola Bennett**, a former Festival Director, was published to mark its 50th anniversary.
- 1999 *The Gas Green Story 1849-1999* by **Colin Dymock** and **Kerry Birch** was published, an historical account of the **Gas Green Baptist Church**.
- 1999 *Charlton Kings* (Britain in Old Photographs Series) was published, compiled by **Susanne Fletcher** for the **Charlton Kings Local History Society**.
- 1999 *The History of Hesters Way Volume 1*, produced by members of the **Hesters Way History Group** and edited by **Chris Green**, was the first of three volumes to be published on the early history of the area. The books include some personal recollections and a chronology of the area.
- 1999 *Cheltenham Probate Inventories 1660-1740* by **A.J.H. Sale** was published as part of the Bristol & Glos Archaeological Society Record Series. It includes transcriptions of more than 500 documents covering Cheltenham and its neighbouring parishes.
- 1999 The **Roman Road History Group** published *A Short History of Roman Road, Cheltenham, for the Millennium*, giving an account of the road and its immediate surroundings.
- 2000 *Images of Cheltenham* was published, a collection of evocative black and white photographs of the town, taken between **1937** and **1953**, with captions by their photographer, **Eric Franks**.
- 2000 *Cheltenham in Antarctica. The Life of Edward Wilson* by **David B. Elder** and **David M. Wilson** was published, an account of the life of the Cheltenham-born Antarctic explorer. **David Wilson** also produced, along with **Christopher Wilson**, *Edward Wilson's Nature Notebooks* in **2004**, a lavishly illustrated account of the explorers work as artist and naturalist.
- 2000 **Marilyn West** published her *Cheltenham's Upper Bath Road*, a detailed survey of the road, its shops and traders during the **1900s**.
- 2000 **Holy Apostles Church, Charlton Kings**, published an illustrated account of the church's history, *The Church at the Crossroads. The Holy Apostles Millennium Celebration* by **P. Clifford et al.**
- Jul 2000 *A Chronology of Cheltenham, 200BC – 2000AD (The Town's History at a Glance)* compiled by **Stephen E. Osmond** was published. His inspiration was **John Goding's Norman's History of Cheltenham (1853)**, in the back of which **Goding** had compiled a chronological list of major events in the history of the town.
- 2001 *A Century of Cheltenham. Events, People and Places over the last 100 years* by **Robin Brooks** was published, containing around 200 photographs. **Brooks** produced several other books concerning Cheltenham's history including *The Story of Cheltenham (2003)*.
- 2001 *Cheltenham People and Places 1960s to 1980s*, by well-known locally-based professional photographer **Michael Charity**, was published.
- 2001 The **Friends of St. Mary's Church** published *The Stained Glass Windows of the Parish Church of St. Mary, Cheltenham* by **Guy Fothergill**.
- 2001 *Cheltenham's Trams & Early Buses* by **Colin Martin** was published
- 2001 The **Friends of Naunton Park** published *A Brief History of Naunton Park* by **Ann Gibson**.
- 2001 Cheltenham Borough Council Community & Project Services published *The History of Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors, Volume 1*, edited by **John Webster** from research by **Sarah Grimes**.
- 2001 *Foundation Stone. The Influences and Shaping of Brian Jones – Founder of the Rolling Stones* by **Graham Ride** was published. It is an account of **Brian Jones'** Cheltenham years, by his best friend at that time, including a tour of places in the town connected with **Brian Jones**.
- 2002 *How GCHQ Came to Cheltenham* by **Peter Freeman** was published to coincide with GCHQ's 'Our Secret Neighbour' exhibition at the **Art Gallery & Museum**.
- 2002 *Cheltenham Town. The Rise of the Robins* by **Peter Matthews** and **Mark Halliwell** was published, giving an account of the recent successes of Cheltenham's football team.
- 2002 *Poole's Myriorama! A Story of Travelling Panorama Showmen* by **Hudson John Powell** was published, telling the story of 19th-century travelling panorama showmen, including many Cheltenham references.
- 2002 *The Great British Torso Mystery* by **Richard Whittington-Egan** was published, the story of the **1938 'Haw Bridge murder'**, containing many references to **Leckhampton** and Cheltenham.
- Sep 2002 The **Cheltenham Local History Society** published *A Chronology of Trade and Industry in Cheltenham* compiled by **Jill Waller**, with contributions from **Society** members. Extending the idea established by **John Goding** and, later, **Stephen Osmond** (see **Jul 2000**), it was the first in a series of *Chronologies* published in line with the theme of the annual **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's Local History Afternoon**. Other *Chronology* topics include *Sickness & Health (2003)*, *Crime & Conflict (2004)*, *Sport (2006)*, *Nonconformity & Dissent (2007)* and this current publication, *Literary Connections (2008)*.

- 2003 *Cheltenham Ladies. A History of The Cheltenham Ladies' College* by **Gillian Avery** was published.
- 2003 *The Junior Rugby Clubs of Cheltenham, District and Combination* by **J.P. Hughes** was published.
- 2003 *Festival Gold. Forty Years of Cheltenham Racing* by **Stewart Peters** was published.
- 2004 **Oliver Bradbury's** well-illustrated, comprehensive survey of the town's lost buildings, *Cheltenham's Lost Heritage*, was published.
- 2004 *Physical Education & Sport at St Paul's College, Cheltenham 1937-1979* by **Geoffrey Corlett** and **David Gaunt** was published.
- 2004 *Lillywhite's Legacy. A History of the Cheltenham Cricket Festival* by cricket specialist **Grenville Simons** was published, giving a detailed history of the festival from its 19th-century origins to the present day.
- 2004 *Everyman. The Story of a Theatre* by **Philip Wilkinson** was published, a well-illustrated history of the theatre that was designed by **Frank Matcham**.
- Oct 2004 *Cheltenham: A History* by **Sue Rowbotham** and **Jill Waller** was published. Previous histories of the town had tended to focus on the development of the spas and the more distinguished residents and visitors. In this book, spanning prehistory to the present day, the authors looked at all levels of society and also paid attention to the importance of craftsmanship, innovation and industry in the making of modern Cheltenham.
- 2005 The Cheltenham YMCA published *Tales of the Red Triangle. A Social and Pictorial History of Cheltenham YMCA 1855-2005* by **Peter Worsley**.
- 2005 *Coachmaker. The Life and Times of Philip Godsall 1747-1826* by **John Ford** was published, a biography of a leading **London** coachmaker who settled in Cheltenham in **1814** and developed land and houses at **Montpellier**.
- 2005 *Walk around historic Cheltenham* by **Elaine Heasman** was published by the Francis Frith Collection for Ottaker's Bookshops.
- 2006 aspects of the history of the **Alstone** area of Cheltenham, *Discovering Alstone. Volume 1*, was published, researched and compiled by **Margery Hyett, David Edgar** and **Jill Waller**, and edited by **Chris Green**. A second volume was published in **2008**.
- 2007 *Cheltenham Stone. The Whittington Quarries* by **Arthur Price** was published, a comprehensive account of the quarries that had supplied much of the stone used to dress many of Cheltenham's buildings.
- 2007 The **Lido Trust** published *Sandford Parks Lido Swimming Pool. Our history and community* by **Iain Barton**, with contributions from **Julie Sargent** and **Jeremy Lake**, to mark the pool's refurbishment.
- Sep 2008 *John Middleton. Victorian, Provincial Architect* by **Brian E. Torode** was published, a comprehensive account of the life of the architect responsible for five of Cheltenham's Anglican churches, among other prestigious buildings. Other publications by **Brian Torode** include *The Hebrew Community of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud* (**1989**, revised edition **1999**) and *The Story of Tivoli 'near this town'* (**1998**).

NEWSPAPERS

- 4 May 1809 **Henry Ruff** established the first local newspaper, the *Cheltenham Chronicle*. Supporting the Conservative party, it was one of the earliest evening publications in the West of England.
- 8 Nov 1823 The *Cheltenham Journal* newspaper first appeared, claiming to be 'an account of all important matters which may transpire up to the hour of going to press'. By **1851** it had 'become noted for the lateness and correctness of its information, and the truthfulness of its reports. It [had] consequently added to its circulation, and [formed] a most desirable advertising medium'. Politically a Conservative paper, it was discontinued in **July 1868**.
- 4 May 1833 The *Cheltenham Looker-On* newspaper was established. A Conservative paper describing itself as 'A Note-book of Fashionable Sayings and Doings', it ran until **1920**.
- 6 Jul 1833 The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* was first published.
- 1 Nov 1834 The first issue of the *Cheltenham Free Press* newspaper was published, founded by **Samuel Harper**. 'Circulates extensively among the nobility, gentry, professional men and tradesmen of Cheltenham and the neighbouring towns. It is an excellent family newspaper and is distinguished for the fullness and accuracy of its reports of local proceedings.' Politically it supported the Radical Cause. It ceased publication in **June 1908**.
- 3 May 1836 The first edition of the *Cheltenham Magazine* was published.

- 17 Jul 1839 The first number of the *Cheltenham Examiner* newspaper was published, founded by **George Norman**. Supporting the Liberal party, the last edition was published in **December 1913**.
- 1840 The short-lived *Cheltenham Parish Register* newspaper was established. It ran until **1849**.
- Aug 1855 The *Cheltenham Mercury* newspaper was first published, founded by **Samuel Harper**. Politically it supported the Radical Cause. It ceased publication in **1889**.
- 7 Nov 1855 The *Cheltenham Examiner* was first printed using steam power.
- 19 Sep 1859 The *Musical Record* was first published, amalgamating with the *Cheltenham Times* on **4 January 1861**.
- 1866 The *Cheltenham Express*, a bi-weekly Conservative newspaper, was first published, established by journalist **S.H. Brookes**. The *Express* ceased publication in **1875**.
- 3 Mar 1874 The first edition of the 4-day local evening paper, the *Express Telegram*, was established, founded by **S.H. Brookes** and published from the *Express* office. It was later retitled the *Evening Telegraph*, and finally became the *Gloucestershire Echo*.
- 29 Dec 1882 The last issue of the *Evening Telegraph* was published. Its successor, the *Gloucestershire Echo*, appeared the following week on **9 Jan 1883**, published at **3 Promenade Place**.
- 1886 The *Gloucestershire Echo* and the *Cheltenham Chronicle* were bought by the **Gloucester & Cheltenham Conservative Press Ltd**. Both newspapers ‘espoused somewhat extreme Conservative principles’ with ‘rather more ardour than financial success’.
- 1888 The *Gloucestershire Echo* moved to **Clarence Parade** and took over **Promenade House** in **1891**.
- 2 Apr 1894 The *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Gloucestershire Echo* were purchased by small group of working journalists. Their aim was ‘impartially to record in as crisp and as interesting manner as possible the doings and aspirations of the varied interests within an extensive and important district ...’.
- Sep 1896 Increasing circulation of the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Gloucestershire Echo* led to the installation of a large rotary printing and folding machine, and both newspapers were enlarged.
- Dec 1899 Four of the latest Linotype duplex printing machines and a powerful electric motor were installed at the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Gloucestershire Echo*. Gas engine power increased.
- 1901 The *Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic*, an illustrated ‘Art and Literary Supplement’ to the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, was first published. Separate editions were subsequently launched for the **Cotswold** and **Severn Vale** districts.
- Jul 1906 The *Chronicle & Graphic* boasted one of the largest circulations among weekly newspapers in the Midlands and the West. It continued until **18 April 1942**.
- 1929 The *Gloucestershire Echo* was bought by **Northcliffe Newspapers**, which established the **Cheltenham Newspaper Co. Ltd**.
- Late 1932 The *Cheltenham Circular* magazine was produced, edited, compiled and published by **Ray Bennett** in **North Place**. It ceased production in **1940**.
- 1939 The *Gloucestershire Echo*’s sister paper, the *Cheltenham Chronicle*, ceased publication temporarily due to a paper shortage.
- 1 May 1959 The *Cheltenham Chronicle* celebrated its 100th birthday – the Queen sent a congratulatory message.
- 7 Mar 1974 The *Cheltenham Chronicle* became the *Gloucestershire Chronicle*. Publication ceased in **1984**.
- Apr 1980 The *Cheltenham News*, issued free to Cheltenham residents, made its debut, published by the **Cheltenham Newspaper Co. Ltd**.
- 29 Apr 1980 To counter industrial action by the **National Graphical Association**, the *Echo* produced an ‘Emergency Edition’ each day until **12th May**.
- 1985 The *Gloucestershire Echo* changed its format from broadsheet to tabloid.
- 2 Jul 1988 The printing of the *Gloucestershire Echo* moved to the new £35M **Northcliffe** print centre at **Staverton**.
- 1990 The *Echo*’s new editor was the first woman to edit a daily newspaper in Britain.

RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS

- 1842 *Fifty-two sketches of sermons* by the charismatic Evangelical incumbent of Cheltenham, The **Rev. Francis Close (1797-1882)**, was published. Many of his sermons were published, a large proportion of showing his opposition to Roman Catholicism (he preached antipapal sermons annually on Guy Fawkes Day), the theatre, *The Evil Consequences of Attending the Race Course* (he had preached an annual sermon against the races from **1827**), use of the railway on Sundays, and Chartism. In *A Sermon addressed to the Chartists of Cheltenham, Sunday 18 August 1839* **Close** declared that ‘Socialism is *rebellion against God*, and Chartism is *rebellion against man*’.
- May 1848 A series of religious essays by the **Rev. John Bloomfield** was published.

- Mar 1845 The **Rev. W.F. Wilkinson**, theological tutor at **Cheltenham College**, had a book published. In February the following year he produced a pamphlet on the religious teaching at the **College**, and in March that year a review of his sermons was published.
- Apr 1850 The **Rev. Alexander Watson**, curate of **St John's Church** wrote a publication on the *Book of Common Prayer*.
- 25 Dec 1850 Not in keeping with the Christmas spirit, a list of new anti-Catholic publications by the **Rev. Francis Close** was published in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- Nov 1854 The **Rev. Andrew Morton Brown**, minister at the **Highbury Congregational Church** in **Winchcombe Street**, had his book *Evenings with the Prophets* published, price 8 shillings. He published other books including one about covenants, *Peden the Prophet*, in **April 1874**.
- May 1857 A pamphlet of two sermons, price 3d, was published by the **Rev. C.H. Spurgeon** of **Cambray Chapel**.
- Oct 1859 **Mr Cochrane**, bookseller of the **Colonnade**, published a sermon containing significant errors - deliberately misrepresenting a sermon by the **Rev. Boyd** - according to the local press.
- 1861 *Eighty Sketches of Sermons; together with an Introductory Essay* by **Francis Close, D.D., Dean of Carlisle**, was published.
- Sep 1861 The **Rev. C.H. Bromby MA** published parts 1 and 2 of the Book of Common Prayer.
- 19 Mar 1863 *The Times* ran an advertisement for *The Greek Testament, with Notes Grammatical and Exegetical*, co-authored by **William Francis Wilkinson MA**, Vicar of **St Werburgh's, Derby**, and formerly Theological Tutor at **Cheltenham College**.
- Jun 1870 The **Rev. Henry Joy Browne** published a book of sermons: *Gleams from the Lamp of Life*.
- Oct 1872 The Rector of Cheltenham, the **Rev. Canon C.D. Bell** had his book *Night Scenes of the Bible* published. His writing was quite prolific and he went on to publish sermons, religious questions and also poems and hymns up until his death in **November 1898**, at a rate of about one volume per year. In **June 1889** an appreciative notice of his poetical works was reproduced in *Popular Poets of the Period*. The following year he was mentioned in the *Globe* newspaper as a minor poet and author of *Reminiscences of Boyhood*. In **May 1891** a second edition of his *Angelic Beings, Their Nature and Ministry* was published. In **Jun 1893** his *Poems Old and New* was referred to in the *Star* newspaper. **Feb 1894** saw him introducing a new hymn book compiled by himself and **Mr Fox of Durham**. His last publication was a book of 20 sermons in **May 1897**.
- Jun 1877 A sermon on cruelty to animals by the **Rev. J.E. Walker** was issued in pamphlet form to aid the funds of the **Ladies' Society for the Protection of Animals**.
- Jan 1878 A Roman Catholic resident, **Edward Healy Thompson**, published a book on the sufferings of the church during the French Revolution, which was reviewed in the local press.
- 23 Jun 1878 The **Rev. J.F. Fenn** preached a sermon at **Christ Church** to celebrate the anniversary of **Queen Victoria's** accession to the throne. It was subsequently published.
- 1882 *Reminiscences, Chiefly of Oriel, and the Oxford Movement* by the **Rev. Thomas Mozley**. He was a clergyman and writer associated with the Oxford Movement who, in **1844**, had begun writing leading articles for *The Times*, continuing to do so for many years. He retired to Cheltenham for the last 13 years of his life, to **7 Lansdown Terrace** in **Malvern Road**. When he died in **1893** he was described as 'an acute thinker in a desultory sort of way, a man of vast information and versatility and a very delightful writer'.
- Oct 1883 An extract from the biography of the **Rev. Canon Barry**, a former Principal of **Cheltenham College**, was published in *The Family Churchman*.
- Feb 1887 A collection of the Addresses of the late **Canon Fenn** of **Christ Church** was published.
- Apr 1903 The **Rev. Hugh Alexander Hore**, an author of books on church history, died at his home in **Lansdown Terrace**.
- Nov 1906 The **Rev. Richard Glover**, author of the Cheltenham book *The Golden Decade of a Favoured Town*, wrote a booklet of religious verse.
- Jul 1910 The **Rev. W.H. Flecker**, Principal of **Dean Close School**, published a complete sermon written in memory of the **Rev. Griffiths**, late vicar of **St Mark's**.
- 28 Dec 1911 **Dr W. Harvey-Jellie**, minister of **St Andrew's Church**, had his book, *The Wisdom of God and the Word of God*, reviewed in the *Cheltenham Examiner*.
- 1939 **Lady Helen Oppenheimer** (née **Lucas-Tooth**), philosopher and writer on moral theology, began her education at **Cheltenham Ladies' College**.

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