



Cheltenham Local History Society

Newsletter No. 70

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EDITORIAL

Little did we think, when we heard that Sue Newton had decided to resign as Chairman of the Society, that she would so soon be gone from us altogether. We knew she had to undergo treatment, but it seemed reasonable to hope that anyone so high-spirited and energetic—and indeed so relatively young—would surely come through it successfully. She was to have stayed on as a Committee member, so that all her considerable skills and knowledge would still have been at the service of the Society. Now we carry on without her. The Society has gone from strength to strength in the eight years of Sue's Chairmanship, and we have no doubt it will continue to thrive under our new Chairman David Scriven, who introduces himself on page 8. On the same page will be found some of the many tributes sent in by members following the announcement of Sue's death, together with a brief account of her life outside the Society.

Kath Boothman

EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2011-12

Meetings will be held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September to March, with a later Tuesday for the AGM in April. Visitors are welcome to attend at a charge of £1.00 per person per meeting.

Tuesday 20th September 2011:

(Note change from previously advertised programme)

Dr Anthea Jones—The Fun of the Chase: Searching for Information in the 1909 Survey of Land Values across Gloucestershire

Tuesday 18th October 2011:

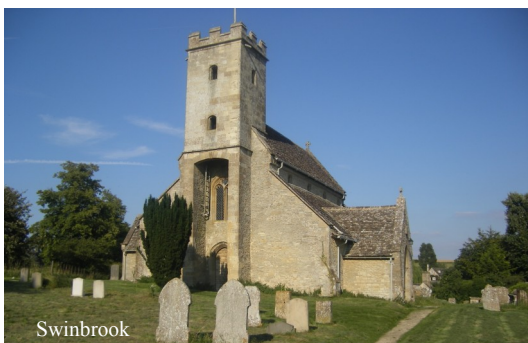
Dr Mark Curthoys—Town and Nation: Cheltenham in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

From its creation in the 1880s, the DNB has recorded noteworthy individuals in the British past. Its remit has always been 'national', but it can often shed unexpected light on its subjects' local connexions. This talk will explore some of the figures associated with Cheltenham and its vicinity, not only to pinpoint significant examples, but also to highlight some of the lesser-known residents included in the dictionary (which is now freely accessible online to public library ticket holders).

Tuesday 15th November 2011:

Revd John Thompstone—North Cotswold Churches

Why are the Cotswold churches there? Who built them and when? What styles of architecture do they represent? Can we imagine their medieval interiors and the impact wrought by the 16th century Reformation? What of the long 18th Century - and how did the Victorians not only restore them, but also introduce their own insights into how a Parish Church should appear? From the great 'Wool' churches, to the humble village ones, the Cotswolds provide rich and diverse examples of buildings that have contributed to, and been part of, the social as well as the religious life of the nation.



Tuesday 20th December 2011:

Mr David Aldred—Echoes of the GWR 1962-64

The influence of the Great Western Railway could still be seen in Gloucestershire in the early 1960s when steam still ruled the rails. This will be a light-hearted picture show for the Christmas season taking a nostalgic look at the trains which pulled out of St James and Malvern Road stations and the routes they served. It will bring back memories for some and show others what they have missed!

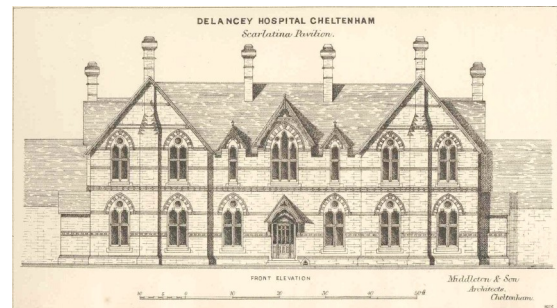
Tuesday 17th January 2012:

Research and Display Evening

Tuesday 21st February 2012:

Mr David Elder—Cheltenham's Good Doctor: the life of Edward Thomas Wilson (1832-1918)

Dr E T Wilson, father of Cheltenham's famous Antarctic explorer, Edward Adrian Wilson, was a highly respected medical practitioner who not only brought significant public health improvements to Cheltenham, but also instigated the foundation of several important institutions and societies for the town, among which are included the Museum, the Delancey Hospital and the Photographic Society. In this illustrated talk David Elder will share insights into this exceptional man's life and character whose epitaph on the family gravestone reads simply: 'He went about doing good.' The talk will be based on research undertaken for a biography to be published in January 2012.



Tuesday 20th March 2012:

Dr James Hodsdon—Cheltenham Manor Court records 1692-1803

James will outline the role of the manor court in the 1700s, beginning with an explanation of the extent of the manor (which included much of Charlton Kings) and its various tithings, and what the courts were for. Most of the surviving court records relate to copyhold land inheritance and sales, documenting the development of the town in the busy years after the spa waters were discovered. He will show how you can get local history, family history, place-name history, and more, from the court records.

Tuesday 24th April 2012:

AGM followed by Mrs Caroline Adams—Food from the Past

A whistle-stop tour of the history of food and food production! We'll explore the transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle during the Mesolithic period and how the emergence of agriculture, settlement and the domestication of plants and animals brought great change to the way people lived and ate in the Neolithic period. The different ways of transporting, cooking, storing and eating food will be discussed as well as the impact of trade routes, particularly in the Roman and Crusader period, where spices and herbs were frequently traded and used. We'll look at everyday food and sumptuous feasts, including some very inventive Roman and Medieval recipes! We'll then finish with more recent food history, including market gardens during the Edwardian period, rationing and 'production orientated' agriculture after the Second World War.

MORNING LECTURES 2011-12

Morning lectures will take place at St Luke's Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham. A donation of £1.00 from all those attending these lectures is appreciated. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served (no charge) from 10.00 am. Lectures start at 10.30 am. All welcome. Parking at the Hall is for disabled only—please contact Heather Atkinson (01242 232740) beforehand if you wish to reserve a space.

Tuesday 25th October 2011:

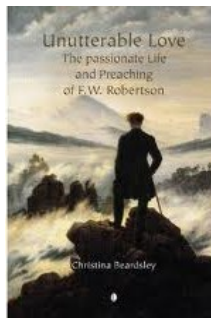
Mr Eric Williams—Lost Villages - Gloucestershire and Beyond

Villages have been lost in Britain since Roman times and are still being lost in the present day. Some were deserts resulting from disease and changing economic conditions, others were due to eviction for reservoirs, military training grounds and commercial development. Nature removed a few in cataclysmic events. The talk looks at examples in Gloucestershire and then goes further afield to consider the changing reasons for losses over the centuries. The talk is illustrated with maps and pictures.

Tuesday 10th April 2012:

Dr Christina Beardsley—Unutterable Love: the Passionate Life and Preaching of F W Robertson

The Victorian Romantic preacher Frederick William Robertson (1816-53) is often referred to as 'Robertson of Brighton', where his most famous sermons were delivered, but his creativity was nurtured during his curacy at Christ Church, Cheltenham (1842-44). As well as outlining Robertson's short life and extensive influence, the lecture will focus on the significance of the Cheltenham period during which he studied Italian, German literature and theology, and undertook his first visit to Ireland. A married man, Robertson became infatuated with another woman in Cheltenham, as he did later, and more seriously, in Brighton, where he was overwhelmed by 'unutterable love'.



FOR YOUR DIARY

Prestbury Local History Society

All meetings are held at the Library in the Burgage, Prestbury, starting at 7.30 pm. Non-members pay £2.50.

Monday 26th September:

Tony Noel—Prestbury in the Civil War

Monday 21st November:

Michael Cole—Lost Buildings of Prestbury

Leckhampton Local History Society

www.llhs.org.uk

Meetings are held at St Philip's & St James' Church House, Painswick Road, Cheltenham at 8.00 pm.

Thursday 15th September:

Ann Taylor—The Power of Objects

Thursday 17th November:

Eileen Fry—War Poets (with local emphasis)

Thursday 15th December:

Dr F Wilson-Coop—Symbolism in Christian Art

Charlton Kings Local History Society

Meetings take place in the Baptist Church, Church Street, Charlton Kings, starting at 7.30 pm. Guests welcome, £2.

Tuesday 27th September:

Mr Eric Williams—Lost Villages

Tuesday 25th October:

Dr Anthea Jones and members—The Lloyd George Land Survey of Charlton Kings

Tuesday 22nd November:

Dr Christine Seal—Domestic Servants in the 19th Century

Swindon Village Local History Society

Talks start at 7.45 pm at Swindon Village Hall.

Non-members pay £1.00.

Wednesday 21st September:

Dr Nicholas Herbert—Cotswold Villages in the Landscape

Wednesday 19th October:

Revd Brian Torode—Medieval Pilgrimages in Gloucestershire

Wednesday 16th November:

Carolyn Greet—A Bygone Age: Cheltenham 200 years Ago

Gotherington Local History Society

Meetings are held at Gotherington Village Hall starting at 8.00 pm. Visitors £1.00.

Tuesday 27th September:

Jeremy Bourne—The Story of the Blockley Silk Mills

Tuesday 25th October:

Canon John Evans—Chartism and Snigs End

Tuesday 29th November:

Philip Moss—The Spas of Gloucester

Holst Birthplace Museum

www.holstmuseum.org.uk

4 Clarence Road, Cheltenham

Friday 16th September at 7.15 pm :

Talk by Raymond Head—Some Little Known Music of Holst

Members £8, non-members £10 (including refreshment drink). Advance tickets only, available from Museum.

Saturday 24th September at 7.30 pm in All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Cheltenham:

Holst Birthday Concert—Concert of Baroque music by the Glevum Consort

Members £10, non-members £12. Tickets available from the Museum or on the door.

Sunday 6th November at 3.00 pm at Pittville Pump Room:

Songs Lyrics and Fairytales—Concert for viola and piano by Carol Allen and Alan McLean.

To include music by Holst, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Mendelssohn. Tickets £12, available from the Museum, the Town Hall box office or on the door.

MORE FOR YOUR DIARY

Cheltenham Civic Society

Meetings are held at Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, starting at 7.30 pm. Members £1, visitors £2.50 including refreshments.

Tuesday 13th September:

Dr Dennis Jackson —Geology and Building Stones of the North Cotswolds

Tuesday 8th November:

A Representative of the Cheltenham Development Task Force —The Civic Pride Report

Edward Jenner Museum, Berkeley

Talks begin at 7.30 pm in the Old Cyder House at the Museum. Tickets £10.

Thursday 15th September:

Sarah Parker, Director of Dr Jenner's House and former Lead Curator for Exhibitions at the Historic Royal Palaces — The Secret Life of Hampton Court Palace

The 2011 Deerhurst Lecture

*Saturday 17th September at 7.30 pm
in St Mary's Church, Deerhurst*

**Dr Martin Heale—
Deerhurst Priory in the
Later Middle Ages**

Tickets at the door, price
£4.50 (students £2.50)

Further details available at :
www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk



Exhibitions

Holst Birthplace Museum

To run from 14th May to 29th August:

Scores Revealed: Sheet Music from the Archives

To run from 6th September to 10th December:

School Days: A look at Holst's early years in Cheltenham, together with a display of creative work from local schools inspired by visits to the Museum.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS September 8th to 11th 2011

This annual event, always held on the second weekend in September, will be bigger than ever in 2011 with many more places in the town preparing to open. Newcomers to the scheme include the Eagle Tower, the New Club, the Parabola Arts Centre and a number of eco-friendly private houses where visitors will be shown how heritage buildings can adapt to 21st century standards. Other more familiar attractions such as Cheltenham College, The Cheltenham Ladies' College and the Civic Society's Parmoor House will be opening as usual.

St Mary's Church will be open each day from Thursday to Sunday and is offering a tour and talk at 3 pm on the Sunday. Prestbury Church will have a display 'People of Prestbury' with old parish registers on show.

A leaflet giving all details of properties open will be available in August from the Tourist Office and from Parmoor House and other outlets.

On the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the Heritage weekend the Civic Society and CLHS will be jointly running a stand, with displays, in the Regent Arcade. **Volunteers** are needed to help man it — please see p10 for further details.

GRCC GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY AFTERNOON

Saturday 1st October 2011 from 2.00 pm—5.00 pm (doors open at 1.15 pm)

at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester. Entry including tea £5 payable on the door

'Gloucestershire Communities in the Second World War'

Speakers: Virginia Adsett, former Education and Outreach Officer at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Nigel Cox, Curator of Gloucester Folk Museum

Alan Strickland, Chairman of Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology



This year the event will feature displays of original 1940s material from Gloucester Folk Museum, from Virginia Adsett's 'Fighting 40s' sessions (focusing on wartime civilian life) and from the Cirencester-based Living Memory Historical Association. Cheltenham Local History Society will be taking part as usual. Anyone who would like to be involved is invited to get in touch with Elaine North (01452 857803) who will be co-ordinating the Society's display. Both ideas and materials of all kinds are welcome: pictures, text, articles, ephemera. If you can offer anything that illustrates the impact of the war in Cheltenham, Elaine would be glad to hear from you.

REVIEWS

Spring Lectures February –April 2011

The first speaker of the year was **Alec Hamilton**, who on February 15th took the architect **Samuel Daukes** as his theme. He began by noting some interesting parallels between him and his near-contemporary Prince Albert. Daukes, born 1811, married his wife Caroline in 1836, while Albert, born 1819, married Queen Victoria in 1839, and each couple had five children in the first seven years of marriage. Daukes however came of humble stock. When he was 16 his family moved from London to Worcestershire, and in 1827 he was articled to an architect named Pritchett in York. The middle of the 19th century was a busy time in the building trade, and it seems Daukes had plenty of work and could turn his hand to anything—cottages, warehouses, schools, even engine-sheds (he was architect to the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway Company). Among his contemporaries were great architects such as Pugin and George Gilbert Scott, but unlike them Daukes never achieved fame. Working mainly in the provinces, he was a follower rather than a leader of fashion. Sometimes too cautious and sometimes over-ambitious, he also had an unfortunate tendency to fall out with his customers and get into difficulties. Many of his buildings have been lost, but Alec showed pictures of some that still survive wholly or in part. The most impressive is the Colney Heath Asylum at Friern Barnet, now converted into flats. He did a good deal of work in Cheltenham, where Lypiatt Terrace, St Peter's Church and Francis Close Hall testify to his versatility. He built the present railway station, which was actually converted from a half-built house. As Alec said in reply to a question at the end, Daukes was essentially a jobbing architect, willing to do whatever his customers wanted. Nevertheless, looking at the variety of his output one feels he deserves to be better known.

Our talk in March was by **John Heathcott**, a volunteer with the Woodland Trust, who told us about **Ancient Woodlands of Gloucestershire**. He first explained how precious and vulnerable ancient woodland is. Half of what existed in 1940 had been lost by 1980, displaced by urban development and conifer plantations, and even now 85% of what remains is not legally protected. Only 8% of England is wooded (less than most countries in Europe) and only 2% of that is ancient, which is defined as woodland dating back before 1600. We know what existed at that time because King James I, anxious about a growing scarcity of timber for shipbuilding, ordered a survey of English woodlands. Systematic tree planting then began, and new species were imported. John described how English woodlands had developed since the Ice Age, different species arriving at different times. Woodland management might be said to have begun with William the Conqueror, who reserved certain 'forests' (which could include much open land) for himself as hunting grounds. Unenclosed woodlands were used by the common people for various purposes including coppicing. This ancient practice, whereby trees are cut down to a stump or 'stool' at intervals, greatly extends the life of a tree. John showed pictures of stools many feet across and hundreds of years old. Gloucestershire is one of the more heavily wooded counties, mainly because it has the Forest of Dean and the Wye

Valley. The Forest of Dean was a royal hunting ground until the time of Henry VIII and the Wye Valley has ravine woodlands, which are particularly high in bio-diversity. John mentioned many of the birds, flowers and butterflies characteristic of these special habitats. Using a map, he pointed out the locations of many more woods across the county. Some of them have become mixed with conifers, but Lineover Wood, where he himself works and where there are beech trees 500-600 years old, is being put back to broadleaf by the Woodland Trust. If anyone in the audience needed an incentive to get out and enjoy the countryside, particularly the woods, this talk surely provided it.

Steven Blake's talk at St Luke's on April 12th '**In the Footsteps of George Rowe: Travels in the Australian Goldfields 1852-9 and 2010**' was based on a voyage of discovery he himself made in May last year, following the trail of the artist George Rowe, who is best known here for his beautifully illustrated 1845 guide to Cheltenham. Born and trained in Exeter, Rowe settled in Cheltenham with his wife and large family and ran a general printing business. He also owned the Examiner newspaper, and in partnership with Samuel Onley bought and rebuilt the Old Wells Theatre, which unfortunately landed him in severe financial difficulties. In 1852 news of the Australian gold rush prompted him to go and try to restore his fortunes in the goldfields. He sailed the same year, taking only his son George Curtis Rowe with him. They landed at Port Philip near Melbourne, travelled 100 miles north to the Mount Alexander goldfields and bought a licence to dig. A bout of dysentery left Rowe too weak for heavy work, but he made a living, first there and later at Bendigo, by running a refreshment tent with another prospector. Only when that business failed did he turn to his original trade as an artist. Then he found to his delight that he could make money as a pioneer artist of the goldfields, being one of the first to paint the diggings and the people there in documentary style. Many of these wonderfully evocative paintings, examples of which Steven showed, were sent back to England by successful prospectors. Steven had looked for the locations of some of them but, sadly, found them largely obscured by modern urban development. It seems that Rowe never made enough money to bring his family out, though two more sons joined him. In 1859 he returned to England and settled in Exeter. It is likely that many of his pictures, including some now in Australian galleries, were worked up after he came home. A series of watercolours of Australia won him a gold medal at the London International Exhibition in 1862. A portrait of that date shows him as an old man, and he was to die two years later. As Steven observed, he had had a remarkable career and was a prime example of an enterprising Victorian Cheltonian.

Finally, after the AGM on April 26th we had **Eric Miller's** talk entitled '**Serendipity**', which he defined as 'chances, coincidences and lucky finds in local history'. He gave examples. When the town-twinning scheme began in 1951, Göttingen was selected as Cheltenham's twin in Germany without anyone realising that both towns had statues of William IV who, it transpired, had been partly responsible for building a university in Göttingen. The statue of him in Cheltenham was put up by the town commissioner Thomas Henney. Eric and his wife, on holiday in Dartmouth, had come across a memorial in a church to Henney's

mother, who had lived at Longford House, Leckhampton. The Leckhampton Potteries, later called Cotswold Potteries, had used the clay on Leckhampton Hill to make everyday items such as flowerpots, stamped with their name; these can still be found. There are other Leckhamptons: Corpus Christi College in Cambridge has a graduate house of that name, built by one Frederick Myers, a Cheltonian. There is also a house called Leckhampton in Brisbane, named by a Grimsby trawler owner, Charles Snow, for his wife Lucy Garn whose ancestors had been teachers in Leckhampton. When researching the history of Leckhampton church Eric had been given a box of parish records by Jean Bendall, whose family had helped found the firm of Barnby Bendall. A Barnby Bendall advertising board had turned up in a job lot at a London auction, and Eric hopes to see it on display in the museum when it reopens. Finally, his own family history showed that his father taught at a language school called Sprachschule Bendall in Magdeburg in the 1920s, apparently founded by Bendalls from Cheltenham! We should all watch out for serendipity, he concluded, because one never knows where it may lead.

Summer Visit

Visit to The Cheltenham Ladies' College

On the 31st May, on a warm afternoon, 20 of us gathered at the Porter's Lodge door of the Ladies' College for a guided tour of the school conducted by Kath Boothman. Apart from the story of its inception under the first head Annie Procter at Cambray House, and its subsequent illustrious development from 1858 under Miss Dorothea Beale and a succession of highly motivated and inspiring head teachers, what struck me most was the quality of the ornamentation to which no state school could possibly aspire. There was an abundance of stained glass, much of it featuring natural subjects – the language of flowers was particularly prominent as a reminder to the pupils of worthwhile attributes; Arts and Crafts tiles, some attributed to William de Morgan, and furniture; also wooden panelling and diapered and banded brickwork and floor tiles – surroundings that must have helped to inspire and educate many hundreds of young people. It was a most enjoyable and enlightening tour.

Sally Self



FEATURE

Following the feature in the last issue, here is the story of a very different sundial:

THE HOOPER SUNDIAL AT DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL

The Hooper Sundial at Dean Close School, Cheltenham is named after Sir Leonard Hooper, KCMG, CBE, (1914–1994), a former deputy Secretary to the Cabinet who became Director of GCHQ, Cheltenham, 1965-1973. Sir Leonard became a School Governor in 1968, and was Chairman of its Executive Committee 1974-1984, when he was elected Vice-President of the School until his death. He was the founding Chairman of the Cheltenham Victim Support Scheme and later became its Life President. He also established the Cheltenham Area Civil Service Sports organization.



Sir Leonard Hooper

The Hooper Sundial was unveiled on 3rd September 1990 in the Hooper, formerly the Upper, Quadrangle at the School. It is on the wall above the arch at the back of the T H Clark Laboratories, opened in 1908. Commissioned by the then Headmaster of the School, Christopher Bacon, the sundial was designed by David Kindersley and his wife Lida Cardoza from their Cambridge workshop. The stone carving and engraving was undertaken by John Williams of St David's, Dyfed.

The sundial itself was based on some found at historic houses and Oxbridge Colleges. Often such sundials had hidden meanings and statements, and a similar approach was used for this sundial. Christopher Bacon wrote in the School magazine, *The Decanian*, in 1990, '...the overall design recalls the motif of Louis XIV of France – the Sun King. It is essentially a central orb with rays surrounding...' In the centre is the School Shield with its motto 'God's Word a Guiding Light' from Psalm 119 verse 105 connecting the observer to the School on the one hand and the sundial and its use of light on the other through to God the Creator and Source in both. Above the sundial are the words *Dies Creatorem Spectat* (The Day Shows Forth the Creator), DCS also being a play on Dean Close School. There are Hooper swans, too.

David Brown, head of Physics at Kingswood School and a member of the British Sundial Society, assisted John Williams with the precise measurement of the compass setting on the wall and the calculations of the equation of time so that both the angle of the gnomon and the markings on the table of deviation could be calculated. The sundial is 'set' at BST and has been proven to be of 'the highest accuracy'. On one side of the arch, at eye level, there is a small tablet engraved with variations in time created by the elliptical nature of the earth's orbit.

C.E. Whitney

Archivist, Dean Close School



For those members unable to attend the AGM on April 26th 2011, summarised reports are printed below. Full Minutes of the Meeting will be circulated prior to next year's AGM. If you did not have a copy of the accounts and would like one posted to you, please telephone the Treasurer Sue Brown on 01242 231837 or email suebrown@waitrose.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2011

The President of CLHS, the Mayor Councillor Anne Regan, chaired the Meeting.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected:

Chairman: David Scriven **Treasurer:** Sue Brown **Secretary:** Heather Atkinson

Committee: Jill Barlow, Kath Boothman, Joyce Cummings, Janet Mann, Neela Mann, Susan Newton, Sally Self

Chairman's Report (summarised)

As the retiring Chairman Mrs Susan Newton was not well enough to attend, her report was presented by the new Chairman Mr David Scriven. Membership had increased by 5% over the year and now stood at 355. The previous summer's outings had begun with a visit to Whittington Court at Andoversford, followed by a walk round Prestbury in July (repeating the 2009 event) and in August a visit to Charlton Park which proved so popular that it too is being repeated, twice, in 2011. The fourth biennial Local History Afternoon at St Andrew's church in July had as its star attraction a talk by Nick Barratt of the BBC series *'Who Do You Think You Are?'* Also in July the Society took a stall at the Montpellier Fiesta Day, in August it took part in the BBC History Festival in Gloucester, and in October it was involved as usual in the Local History Afternoon run by the GRCC. The year's lecture programme covered a wide range of topics and the meetings were very well attended. At the Research and Display Evening in January a good time was had by all and the raffle raised £135 for the Mayor's charities.

It was particularly pleasing to report that the British Association for Local History gave its 2010 award for the best Society Newsletter to the CLHS and selected for a Publication Award an article by Carolyn Greet in the Society's Journal.

The Chairman thanked all those members of the Society who gave their time and put a lot of hard work into making the Society so successful. Thanks were due particularly to Steven Blake and Gwyneth Rattle, who were standing down from the Committee after giving many years of service, to Jill Waller, Mike Grindley, Tom Maslin, Geoff and Elaine North, Vic Cole, Brian White, Aylwin Sampson, Mike Greet and Anne Dunn for all they had done for the Society this past year, and to Peter Lewis for serving as Independent Examiner of the Society's Accounts.

In conclusion Mr Scriven paid a special tribute to Mrs Susan Newton, who had done so much in recent years to make the Society what it was today. Her driving force and organisational skills would be sorely missed. Although she had retired as Chairman due to ill health, he was glad that she had agreed to stand for election to the Committee.

The Treasurer Miss Sue Brown then presented this year's Peter Smith Award to Jill Waller in recognition of her many and varied contributions to the Society's work, which included running the library, editing the Chronologies and being involved in several of the Society's projects. Her commitment and enthusiasm made her a very worthy winner of this year's award.

Treasurer's Report (summarised)

Miss Brown said that the Society had had a successful year and its finances were sound. Peter Lewis, the Independent Examiner, had examined the accounts and written his report. (*Copies of the accounts had been circulated.*) This year the Society had had an excess of income over expenditure of £379.63 after purchasing a new laptop computer and case for £847.36. Miss Brown then went through the accounts. The gift aid receipt of £572.99 represented one year's claim, whereas last year's had covered four years' claims. It would be less next year because the transitional arrangements had ended on April 5th, which meant that the amount the Society could claim would reduce from 28 pence in the pound to 25 pence. Nevertheless it was a valuable source of income, and she thanked all members who had signed gift aid declarations. Proceeds from Journals had been higher this year, partly due to the special offers for back numbers. A new Chronology on *A Fair Day's Pay for a Fair Day's Work* had been prepared, and *Sickness and Health* had been reprinted. Society publications continued to sell well.

Donations from sales had again amounted to over £400. This included sales of books donated or bequeathed to the Society and percentages of sales from authors and from Geoff and Elaine North and Mary Nelson. The very successful Local History Afternoon at St Andrew's church had contributed £151.02 to the funds. An Arts Council Grant had been applied for to help with two of the Society's projects. The cost of producing the Newsletter had gone up due to the increase in membership, but fees for speakers had hardly changed. Speakers had been very generous in not charging large fees. The biggest administration cost by far was postage. Fortunately Miss Brown was able to use her office's franking machine, which had saved the Society significant amounts. The Society was also fortunate that Geoff North could source photocopying and stationery at very reasonable rates. Other outgoings had included BALH insurance, subscriptions to Cheltenham Arts Council, Friends of Gloucestershire Archives and the GRCC, the purchase of software and the rent charged for the Montpellier event.

In conclusion she thanked the other members of the Committee, particularly Sue Newton, for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

Address by the Mayor, Councillor Anne Regan (summarised)

The Mayor said that the history of Cheltenham was etched into the very fabric of the town. Everyone should be aware of this, particularly young people. As she was taken around in the mayoral car she had noticed, for instance, the two stone pillars with sheep's heads on opposite the Eagle Star building. Could they be to do with the wool trade? Members of the Local History Society were lucky to have the chance to explore such questions. Of her three charities, the Sue Ryder Home, Dowty House and the Brizen Young People's Centre, she said the last was doing excellent work and, though now threatened by cuts, was well worth spending money on. She thanked the Society for inviting her and wished it well for the future.

SOCIETY NEWS

A Message from our new Chairman

Being a relatively new boy in the Society and unknown to many of you I thought it would be useful to introduce myself in this first Newsletter since I took over as Chairman.

I was born and brought up in Cheltenham in the 1950s and '60s. As a boy I was very interested in the history of Cheltenham and the surrounding area. The many interesting buildings, intriguing place names and wonderful relics of the past fascinated me. Finding out about Cheltenham's past was an exciting adventure.

For most of my adult life I have lived in London and Essex, pursuing a managerial career in the Post Office and subsequently working as a freelance accountant. However, in 2006 my wife, Louise, and I decided to move to Cheltenham. Before long we had joined CLHS and that former interest in local history was re-awakened. I have been a member of the Committee for two years and last year served as Membership Secretary. Much as I enjoyed that role, I was delighted to be asked to succeed Sue Newton as Chairman when she decided to stand down. Sue's death is a great loss to the Society. Her leadership will be much missed and she will be a hard act to follow. However, I hope that in the short time I knew her I may have learnt some valuable lessons from her.

Jill Barlow has kindly agreed to take over as Membership Secretary and I wish her well in that role.

Reminders about outstanding subscriptions for 2011-12 have been sent out with this Newsletter. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I am sure that Jill would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

David Scriven



New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following:

C.S. Gedge

Sir Henry Elwes

Richard Poplewell

Peter & Margaret Clifford

John & Linda Wood

And a warm welcome back to

Judy Dickie and Judie Hodsdon

Arts Council Grant for CLHS

We were fortunate again this year to be included amongst the local societies to receive a grant from the Cheltenham Arts Council. A cheque for £175, which will go towards the cost of digitally reproducing the Town Survey Map of 1855-57 and the parish records of St Mary's, was presented to Sally Self on behalf of the Society at the Arts Council AGM on 22nd June.



Welcome to our President the Worshipful the Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor Barbara Driver.

On Monday 16th May Joyce Cummings, Vic Cole and Kath Boothman represented the Society at the inauguration of the new Mayor in the

Town Hall. The ceremony was followed this year by an entertainment entitled *Young Cheltenham*, featuring song and dance performances by young people from the Gloucestershire Malayalee Association, Dunalley Primary School, Pittville School, the Star College, Cheltenham Borough Homes, Cheltenham Community Projects and the 41st Cheltenham Scouts. A collection was taken for the Mayor's charities.

OBITUARY

SUSAN NEWTON 1946-2011

Chairman of Cheltenham Local History Society 2003-2011

When Sue Newton's death was announced early in June tributes poured in. There was a general reaction of shock and sadness, and a tremendous sense of loss. As one writer said, her going will leave an awful gap in the Society. She was 'the perfect Chairman' and her 'exuberant presentation of Society events', her 'wonderful organising ability' and her enthusiasm and hard work were remembered with warm appreciation. A member who had been to Shugborough Hall on Sue's last trip praised her bravery in carrying on as normal even when she was clearly unwell. Another said that, though she knew few people to speak to at meetings, she found Sue always approachable and interested in her research. Elaine North, who knew Sue well, says every member was important to her. She also recalls that the History Afternoons at St Andrew's, which now feature regularly in the Society's calendar, were Sue's creation: she had the vision, we have the legacy. Brian White, our 'meeter and greeter' had been surprised to learn of the extent of her involvement in other organisations. Not only did she have a busy working life as a tour guide with Stita Group Travel (which explained her skill in organising outings for the Society) but she was a Heart of England Blue Badge Tourist Guide, Chairman of the Cheltenham Italian Society and a keen member of the University of the Third Age. She was also an Associate Member of the Gloucestershire Branch of the Aden Veterans' Association, which provided the Guard of Honour at her funeral. And always behind her in all these activities was her husband David ('my Dave') and her family, who of course will miss her and treasure her memory even more than we do.

Kath Boothman



The Guard of Honour at Sue's funeral: Ron Prewer, Roy Scott and Mick Kippin

FEATURE

Mrs Catherine Hayne, now living in Wiltshire, thought we might be interested to hear about her experiences as an evacuee in Cheltenham during the war years. This is the first part of her story:

A CHELTENHAM CHILDHOOD IN WORLD WAR II

It often seems to me that my childhood was a place, and that place was Cheltenham.

The first three years of my life were spent in a Birmingham suburb, but I lived in Cheltenham from 1939 to 1947. The memory of that time, and of the area around my home (relatively small, I realise now) has become crystallised. Now, on a visit, I look at each tree-lined street and the neat grey/yellow flat-topped houses, traceried iron balconies and pillared porches and I see the appeal with which I first fell in love. And I recognise and re-live their 1940s identity in the twenty-first century.

It is 1939. My father is science master at Moseley Grammar School in Birmingham. At the beginning of the second World War the school is evacuated to share with Pate's Grammar School in Cheltenham. Having fought in the first war, he is not called up but, as billeting officer, he finds accommodation not only for the schoolboys but also for his wife and me, his three-year old daughter. My brother John is with us sometimes, having gone with his school to Derbyshire. He is eleven years older than me - more of an adult than a childhood sibling.

The first months we spend as lodgers in Keynsham Road, in a gabled house half-way down the east side. A scrap of cine-film shows us in the garden here: my parents talk and smoke, I ride on my brother's shoulders, I cycle down the garden path; we all, with Aunt Winifred from Oxford, play ring-a-ring-a-roses on the lawn.

Then we move to 89 Bath Road, to Devonshire House, a shabby Regency building on the corner of Montpellier Drive. The house belongs to the Wilkins family, ruled over by matriarchal Mrs Wilkins, who takes in lodgers. There are two high-ceilinged rooms on the first floor, part of a *piéd-à-terre* belonging to a country land-owner, Colonel Lloyd-Baker. He retains his south-facing balconied drawing room, and we live in his library: leather-bound books from floor to ceiling. In it now there are big grey armchairs, a chenille-covered dining table, a double bed, and heavy green-red brocade curtains to pull across the black-out sticky-taped window. The other smaller room, my bedroom, is called the ante-room, and has an interior servants' staircase leading to the kitchen. (My bed is tucked in an alcove, where I can study the pagodas on the dark turquoise wallpaper.) These spiral steps wind narrowly from my bedroom down to the Wilkins' part of the house, in the basement. The kitchen window is partly below the garden and I sit and slide on the slippery black horsehair settee there, looking up on to a patch of lawn and the hens scratching in their run. A long dresser, with pine-tree patterned plates, stands opposite the range, with the big table between. Leading from the kitchen is a passage to the scullery, the pantry, and to the cellar which is under Bath Road. This is where the whole household gathers when the air-raid siren sounds. We stay in Devonshire House for four years, although the school, with my father, has returned to Birmingham by November 1940, where of course they experience far worse enemy action. Postcards sent to me say: 'Did you have a nice picnic in the park? Love from DADDY xxx' with the real news scribbled underneath: 'dark journey and distant fire', 'some bombs on the school', 'Birmingham has heavy raid.'

The house is full of boarders. Thin Mr. Frampton, a bachelor on the top floor, puts his milk jug on the window sill under a frilly cover. There are a number of single ladies. One, very elderly and in old-fashioned dress, is described as 'having come down in the world'. She thinks my father is the footman, and appears from her ground floor flat demanding that he do up her button boots. Another lady boarder knocks over her electric fire one night and I am carried out of the house through the smoke. The firemen refuse to go back in, and Mother rushes to the top floor to rescue my brother, who is now in the Navy and on leave, and has not woken to the clamour and the bells. Next morning we see the bed-sittingroom: there is a hole through to the cellar, everything is a terrible ash-grey, and there is a sickly acrid smell I will remember for ever.

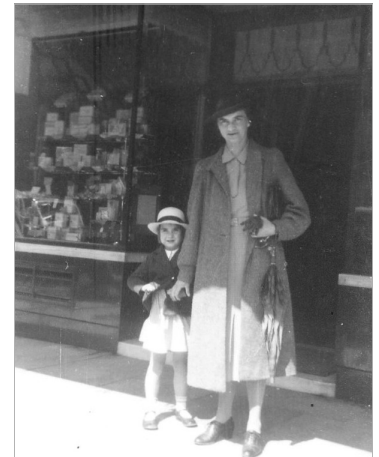
My mother acquires a Baby Belling cooker, which is wedged between the bed and the fireplace. There is a bucket of eggs being preserved in ising-glass. I enjoy lentil soup, and scrambled eggs (made with dried powder). I have no memory of any food tastier, and am not really aware of the difficulties or the deprivations the war causes.

I sit on the landing window sill, legs over the porch roof, looking down Bath Road to St. Luke's School playground. One day the road seems much noisier; I see speeding vehicles - and, consequently, two dead dogs. The Americans have arrived! Some lodge in Devonshire House. Mother has not locked her door one night, and a drunken soldier stands at the end of her bed. She keeps him talking and eventually his colonel comes to remove him. Of course I shall not learn about this incident until years later.

In the evenings we play cards, word games and Ludo, or listen to the wireless. From this I learn that Hitler is a 'bad man'. Friday is fish pie, and I stay up when my father arrives.

Devonshire House is home. Aged seven, I shed tears and say 'good-bye' to my bed the night before we move down the road.

To be continued



Catherine and her mother, 1941

LOCAL NEWS

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As mentioned on page 4, the Civic Society and CLHS plan to have a stand in the Regent Arcade from Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th September to publicise the Heritage Open Days, hand out leaflets and provide information to the public about the various properties that are going to be open. Alongside the stand there will be displays, one prepared by Geoff and Elaine North illustrating the history of the old Plough Hotel site and the building of the Arcade, the other by the Civic Society. The CLHS display will include old photographs: if anyone has anything relevant that they could lend, Geoff and Elaine would be very pleased to hear from them (tel. 01452 857803).



The Plough Hotel
in the 1960s

Each Society will need to provide a number of **volunteers** to help man the stand during shopping hours. Any members who would be willing to give up an hour or two to help with this are asked to contact the co-ordinator, Stephen Clarke of the Civic Society (01242 581340 or email shclarke@f2s.com)

ST MARY'S CHELTENHAM PARISH RECORDS PROJECT

The good news is that as a result of the appeal in the CLHS Newsletter, we now have an incredible nine microfiche readers! That is one for each member of the group and even some spares should we need them. The CLHS Newsletter appeal was noticed by Dr Alan Crosby, editor of *The Local Historian*, and he wrote an article featuring our work and the need for fiche readers in the magazine *Who do you think you are?* We had local responses from individuals and the Minchinhampton LHS and nationally one from as far afield as Kent. The latest acquisitions came from the Bristol area. Our grateful thanks to you all for responding in such an impressive way. We now have no more excuses for dawdling but hope to make steady progress towards our goal of publishing the records.

Meanwhile, here is a request for help from one of our benefactors:

Jenny George - who very kindly drove all the way from Kent to donate a fiche reader - would be very grateful if anyone in the CLHS ever goes to the Bristol Archives and might consider helping Jenny research the history of Mary Ann Ellis and her family. If anyone can help by looking up information on the Ellises when doing their own research at the BA, please email jengeorge@blueyonder.co.uk or contact me on the number below.

Sally Self (01242 243714)

'LLOYD GEORGE' SURVEY OF LAND VALUES

Our Cheltenham volunteers have finished transcribing onto Excel spreadsheets the Cheltenham material in Gloucestershire Archives relating to the survey of land values set in train by Lloyd George in 1909. A CD containing the data will shortly be available to members who may wish to have a copy. Please let either Anthea Jones (anthea.evelyn@btinternet.com) or Jill Waller (jill.waller@virginmedia.com) know if you might want one. The volunteers are now recording the material for surrounding parishes. A list will be published in the next Newsletter, and can also be made available on CD.

Altogether there are 3796 rows or lines of Cheltenham data. The basic lists for the survey were compiled from the Poor Rate books, and in 1891, which is the latest date for which these books survive, there were 8227 numbers. However, many numbers related to parts of a property, like a house, a garden, a coach house, a stable and so on, and these items were all amalgamated at the next stage of the Lloyd George survey. Moreover, many owners chose to have a group of houses or cottages which they owned all valued together. So taking these things into account, we have a good representation of Cheltenham properties. Five of the original six Poor Rate books for 1891 survive but there is a complete run for 1881, and these would be very useful if transcribed, and could be linked with the 1881 census.

Here is just one example of what might be asked of this material. Twelve forms relate to churches or chapels, eight in Cheltenham North and four in Cheltenham South (the two tax areas in the town). St James' in Suffolk Square was valued at £5840, St Stephen's in St Stephen's Road at £13,855, St Peter's in Tewkesbury Road at £9315 and St Paul's at £8500. At the other end of the scale, Gas Green Baptist Chapel in Russell Street (occupied by the Salem Baptist Chapel Trustees) was valued at only £760 and the Wesleyan Chapel, Swindon Road at £660. Long lists of the trustees of these chapels are recorded and have also been transcribed.

Typical of the miscellaneous information on these forms is the note of Highbury Congregational Church being sold to Provincial Cinematograph Theatres in 1932; this was the first national cinema chain to emerge in the UK and had been founded in 1909. The United Methodist Chapel in Royal Well was sold to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for £5500 in 1932. The market garden of an acre which went with St Peter's church was sold to Shell-Mex in 1923 for £250; it was transferred to Shell-Mex & BP in 1932. St Peter's Vicarage was acquired by Cheltenham Corporation in 1939 for road improvement!

There is material here for much detailed work and many contributions to the CLHS Newsletters and Journals.

Anthea Jones



BOOKS FOR SALE



As members will know, good quality local history books priced between £2 and £10 are regularly offered for sale at meetings. In addition the Society has a quantity of more valuable and/or less easily obtainable books, surplus to the needs of the library, and the Committee has decided that these too should be offered for sale to members. They include the following:

The Golden Minster (St Oswald, Gloucester) Highway and Bryant - now £15

Crickley Hill : The Hillfort Defences, P Dixon - now £20

Withington : A Cotswold Village History, Withington WI - now £15

Naunton 2000, David Hanks (inscribed and signed by the author) - now £20

There are various volumes of the **BGAS Record Series**, now for sale at **only £5 each**, as follows:

(Vol 6) The Military Survey of Gloucestershire, 1522 (3 copies)

(Vol 7) Tewkesbury Churchwardens' Accounts 1563-1624 (2 copies)

(Vol 11) Original Acta of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester c 1122-1263

(Vol 13) The Bishop Benson's Survey of the Diocese of Gloucester 1735-1750 (2 copies)

(Vol 14) A Calendar of the Registers of Apprentices of the City of Gloucester 1595-1700

(Vol 15) A Calendar of the Registers of the priory of Llanthony by Gloucester 1457-1466, 1501-1525

(Vol 16) Abstract of feet of Fines relating to Gloucestershire 1199-1299

(Vol 19) Notes on the Diocese of Gloucester by Chancellor Richard Parsons c1700 (2 copies)

(Vol 20) Abstract of feet of Fines relating to Gloucestershire 1300-1359

(Vol 21) Gloucester Cathedral Chapter Act Book 1616-1687)

Also Vols 17 & 18) A Catalogue of the Medieval Muniments at Berkeley Castle - 2 volume set £8

The Society is always grateful for donations of suitable books in either the lower or the higher price range. If you have anything to donate, or if you are interested in buying any of the books listed above, please contact Heather Atkinson on 01242 230740 or e-mail heatherbell71@hotmail.com

OBITUARIES

NORMAN BAILEY (1913-2011)



Norman was the husband of Eva Bailey, who until her death two years ago was an active member of the Society. Norman would accompany Eva to CLHS lectures and other events until Alzheimer's made it difficult for him in his later years. A

lecturer in chemistry and physics by profession, Norman taught at various Colleges around the country before settling in Cheltenham in 1962, when he became Senior Lecturer in charge of chemistry at St Mary's College, lecturing at both St Mary's and St Paul's Colleges. He also studied for the Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music as a piano performer, registered as a professional musician, and taught and gave many recitals all over the country. He also performed in Cheltenham Town Hall. In his retirement, Norman gave talks illustrated with piano playing, while remaining an organist on the team at the church in Southam, where the Baileys lived for a number of years. Norman had a long life, spanning nearly 100 years, that included four monarchs and two world wars.

Heather Atkinson



PETER LEVY (1935-2011)

Born and educated in London, Peter joined the Civil Service in 1951 and moved to Cheltenham in 1953 when GCHQ was set up here. National Service came next, which in his case meant two years with the RAF as a radar operator. Peter evidently

appreciated this experience, since he remained a member of the RAF Association for the rest of his life and served as a standard bearer as long as he was able to do it. Meanwhile his work at GCHQ, to which he returned in 1956—it was to last 43 years in total — gave him the chance to see something of the world. He was posted to Hong Kong for 3 years and did two tours of duty in Australia, which he and his wife Jean very much enjoyed. His interests were many, with an emphasis on sport. As a young man he played golf, but later tennis was his speciality: he and his partner were 4 times winners of the National Parks Doubles. He also played skittles, and in the summer spent much time at the Lido. Peter was involved with the Civil Service Fellowship and was a long-standing member and former Committee Member of CLHS. Everyone remembers him turning up (on his bike!) at St Luke's to help prepare the Hall for the morning meetings. Always public-spirited, he was a volunteer driver for the Community Car Service until the last three weeks of his life. Peter's untimely death is a sorrow to all who knew him, and he will be much missed. A bench is to be placed in Montpellier Gardens in his memory.

Kath Boothman

JANE SALE

We have to report with much regret that Jane Sale, a long-standing member of our Society and of Charlton Kings Local History Society, whose 80th birthday we recorded last year, died peacefully on June 15th. We hope to publish an obituary in the November issue.

**MUSIC
IN HATHERLEY PARK**



The Cheltenham Silver Band will play in Hatherley Park on **Saturday 3rd September at 1.30 pm.** Bring a picnic and enjoy! Donations are requested to pay for the hire of the band. *Friends of Hatherley Park*

CAN YOU HELP?

Linden Cottage, Prestbury

The present occupant of this house, which is in the Burgage, opposite the Library and next to The Lindens and Linden Tower, is anxious to track down old photographs of the house. He would particularly like images of the black and white wall shown in this photo.



1940s choral event

An enquirer wishes to identify a choral event involving Naunton Park Secondary School that took place in the Town Hall in 1945, 1946 or 1947. It was believed to be a 'Three Choirs' event, but a search through 'Three Choirs' programmes for the 1940s has shown that the event was held in Cheltenham only once during those years, and there is no mention of Naunton Park School. Can anyone throw any light on this?

Richard Lowe, photographer

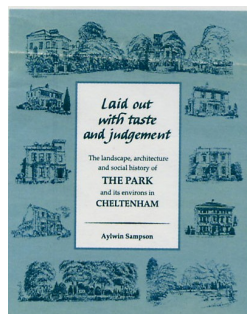
A researcher in Germany, writing a book on early daguerreotype photographers, seeks information on American-born Richard Lowe who had a studio in the Promenade, Cheltenham from 1850 to 1856. In 1854 he took part in a photographic exhibition in London. Two years later he left Cheltenham abruptly after getting into financial difficulties. Does anyone know any more about him or the people he did business with?

If you can help with any of the above queries please contact Joyce Cummings on 01242 527299 or e-mail : joyce@cyberwebspace.net

PUBLICATION

Laid Out With Taste and Judgement

The landscape, architecture and social history of The Park and its environs in Cheltenham by **Aylwin Sampson**



Was there a zoo in The Park?

Which famous actor was born in Tivoli Road ?

The answers to these and many other intriguing questions are to be found in Aylwin's book, which is available at £10 from Daphne Comfort at the University of Gloucestershire (01242 714331 or email dcomfort@glos.ac.uk)

**CHEL TENHAM
FILM FESTIVAL
4TH - 6TH
NOVEMBER 2011**

Cheltenham Film Festival is back, and it's bigger and better! We have a fantastic range of events, including interviews with some true screen legends of British cinema, a celebration of silent film with live music performances, and several local history events that celebrate both Cheltenham and some of its notable heroes. We are still sourcing historical footage of Cheltenham to include in our film reel, so if you have anything - whether old cine-film, or an extract from a home movie on VHS - we would like to hear from you. The festival programme is soon to be announced and our new website launched shortly, so please register your interest at www.cheltenhamfilmfestival.com

For all inquiries please contact Adam Clarke (Creative Director) via E-mail: adam.cheltenhamfilmfestival@live.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE

Please forward items for inclusion in the **NOVEMBER 2011** Newsletter by

Monday 10th October 2011

to the Editor: Kath Boothman
35 The Park
Cheltenham
GL50 2SD

Tel: 01242 230125
E-mail: kbooth@dircon.co.uk

The Committee is happy to consider requests to place advertisements in the Newsletter and/or include flyers for circulation to members.