

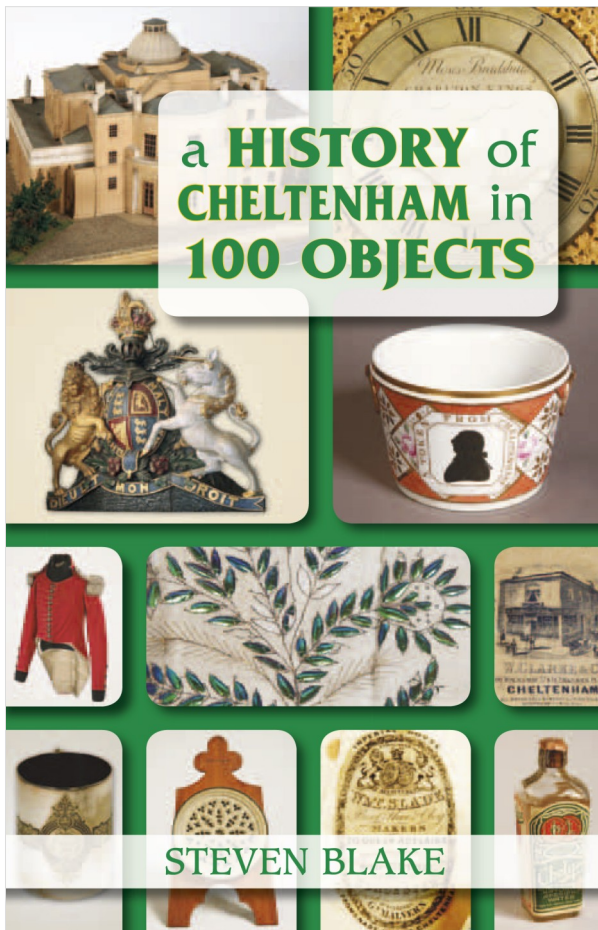


Cheltenham Local History Society

Newsletter No. 76

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council
Registered Charity No. 1056046
<http://www.cheltlocalhist.btck.co.uk>

July 2013



EDITORIAL

Here is another book on the Cheltenham history theme, but one with a difference. Steven Blake's new book, inspired by the BBC series 'A History of the World in 100 Objects', is one of several books planned by The History Press focussing on the history of specific towns and counties. Steven, who worked at the Museum for many years, was asked by the Museum staff to take the project on. He soon decided to limit his choice to objects in the Museum's collection and spent 18 months choosing and researching the items, trying to pick things that were interesting in themselves but also illustrated some aspect of the town's history. The result is an astonishingly rich and varied compendium no-one can fail to enjoy.

See page 15 for more.

Kath Boothman

July 2013

Cheltenham LHS

CONTENTS

Lecture programme 2013-4	2-5	Features	16-17, 22-23
For Your Diary	5-7	Local Library Displays	17
Reviews	7-11	Town Plan c.1800: comments	18-19
New Publications	11,15,17	Local News	20
AGM Report	12-13	Books for Sale	21
Society News	14-15	Can You Help? Next Issue	24

Note from the Editor:

Members may be surprised to find that the Newsletter has suddenly shrunk! The reason for this change, which was made reluctantly, is the cost of postage: the new smaller format requires only an ordinary second-class stamp, which saves us a lot of money. The content however is not reduced, and is arranged as far as possible in the same order as before.

EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2013-4

Tuesday 17th September:

Mr Malcolm Watkins—The Birdlip Grave Group, a 2000-year-old Mystery

The Birdlip Grave Group was discovered more than a century ago by a couple of workmen digging stone for road-mending. Three graves were uncovered, and the central burial was surrounded by treasures of bronze, amber and silver from about AD 50. At the heart of the find was the Birdlip Mirror - a rare and highly decorated celtic bronze mirror. The story of the Group is one of mystery and speculation, with the final answer about the owner a surprising example of how we must be wary about jumping to conclusions.

Tuesday 15th October:

Helen Brown and Ann-Rachael Harwood—Cheltenham Local History and the Role of the Museum

Ann-Rachael Harwood (Curator of Human History) and Helen Brown (Collections Manager) from Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum will talk about the kind of material the museum collects and how local historians can access this, the changing role of the local history curator, and the new combined archive display and store which is an important feature of the new museum development.

Tuesday 19th November:

Dr Nicholas Herbert—The Turnpikes and Improvement of the Roads in Georgian Gloucestershire

In Gloucestershire, as elsewhere in the country, the improvement of the roads was

one of the pre-requisites for the development of a modern industrial economy. The chosen instrument, the turnpike trust system, was slow to achieve results, hampered as it was by parochialism, administrative inexperience and dependency on the traditional wielders of local influence and authority. Gradually, however, from the old pattern of high exposed ridgeways, deeply-banked lanes through the clay Vales and narrow sunken ways in the Cotswold hillsides, with here and there a mile or so of roughly-pitched stone 'causeway', a professionally engineered road network emerged. That made possible the creation of an elaborate transport infrastructure of stagecoach services, carrier firms and posting-houses. By highlighting some of the gainers and losers from that process the talk will try to convey the importance of road transport for individuals and communities.

Tuesday 10th December:

Professor Gareth Williams—From Gloucestershire to the World: the Legacy of Edward Jenner

Vaccination is one of the greatest success stories in the history of medicine, and one that has its roots deep in Gloucestershire. The tale begins in 1798 with Edward Jenner, his gardener's son and a brown-and-white cow called Blossom, and ends in 1980 with the complete eradication of smallpox – so far the only human infection to be wiped out by mankind. Along the way, the plot has many unexpected twists and turns, and the characters reveal themselves to be more complicated than they appear at first sight. In particular, Jenner is far from perfect, with faults and prejudices that make him all the more human and fascinating.

Tuesday 21st January 2014:

Research and Display Evening

Tuesday 18th February 2014:

Amber Patrick—A Malting Industry in Cheltenham?

In the 1960s the only working malthouse in Cheltenham, on Henrietta Street, closed. As a county Gloucestershire has more listed malthouses than some of the traditional malting counties of East Anglia. Was Henrietta Street just an exception, or the last of a long line of malthouses and maltsters in Cheltenham? Using published historical sources such as wills and probate inventories and the court books of the manor of Cheltenham this talk will look at the evidence for maltsters, malthouses and maltkilns in the town from the later 17th century onwards.

Tuesday 18th March 2014:

Neil Holbrook—Death and Burial in Roman Gloucestershire

The talk will focus on recent work at Cirencester and Gloucester, and in particular on the new light that has been shed by the recent excavations at the Bridges Motors site in Cirencester. Cirencester has some of the best cemeteries in Roman Britain, and analysis of the finds and skeletons provides vivid insights into the lives and beliefs of people living in the town almost 2,000 years ago. It is becoming clear that innovative scientific techniques can reveal aspects of past lives that

were simply unthinkable a couple of decades ago. The talk will be a lively investigation into the former inhabitants of Gloucestershire.

Tuesday 15th April 2014:

Roger Turner—The Victorian Architecture of Gloucestershire

No further information available at time of going to press.

Tuesday 20th May 2014:

AGM followed by Patrick Furley—The History of the Magic Lantern, with a show using original equipment and slides

No further information available at time of going to press.

MORNING LECTURES 2013-4

Morning lectures take place at St Luke's Hall, St Luke's Place, Cheltenham. A donation of £1 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 22nd October:

Mick Kippin—Naval Schoolie to Vicar of Winchcombe

The subject of this talk is the Reverend Robert Noble Jackson, RN, MA. The speaker's interest in him began with a photograph of a group of army officers in Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, and this talk is the result of his research into the photograph. Jackson was a chaplain and schoolmaster in the Royal Navy and took part in the war with Russia in the Baltic in 1854 and later in the Boxer rebellion in China. He received a medal for each campaign. After leaving the navy he became a priest in Gloucestershire, first at Gretton and then in Winchcombe, where he was appointed Parish Priest at St Peter's. He was also curate at Sudeley and had close links with the Dent family and Sudeley Castle. Jackson died in Winchcombe in 1920.



Tuesday 29th April 2014:

Geoff North—Gloucestershire's Voluntary Aid Hospitals 1914-1919

In 2014 there will be numerous events commemorating the centenary of the start of World War 1. This talk will focus on the special contribution made by the Voluntary Aid Hospitals in Gloucestershire between 1914 and 1919. By early October 1914 large numbers of casualties were being transported back to England and it became all too obvious that the military and civilian hospitals did not have the resources needed to cope. Frantic preparations to turn private houses

and schools into VAD hospitals began. Gloucestershire was ideally situated, being served by both GWR and Midland railways, and the Cheltenham hospitals in particular played a key role. The transportation and treatment of patients will be covered and the talk will be illustrated with photographs, many of which are from private collections, not previously shown.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Leckhampton Local History Society

www.llhs.org.uk

Meetings are held at St Philip's and St James' Church House, Painswick Road, Cheltenham at 8.00 pm. Admission £1 for visitors.

Thursday 19th September:

Iain Willox—The Story of the Bayeux Tapestry

Thursday 21st November:

Ian Hollingsbee—PoW Camps and Hostels 1939-1948

Prestbury Local History Society

www.prestburyhistory.btck.co.uk

Note: meetings are now held at Prestbury Women's Institute Hall (corner of Bouncer's Lane/Prestbury Road), starting at 7.30 pm. Non-members pay £2.50.

Monday 23rd September:

Elaine & Geoff North—A Prestbury Miscellany: Growing Up in Prestbury; Photos of Prestbury; an Introduction to Prestbury's Ornamental Ironwork

Monday 28th October:

Norman Baker and Marion & John Fisher—Home Farm and Lynworth Farm

Monday 25th November:

Tony Noel—Christmas in Prestbury 1289

Churchdown Local History Society

Meetings are held at the Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, starting at 7.30 pm. Non-members pay £2.

Thursday 12th September:

Roger Turner—A Potted History of Gardens

Thursday 10th October:

Philip Moss—Gloucester Castle and Prison

Thursday 14th November:

The Tudor Maydes—Tudor Entertainments

Swindon Village Society

Meetings are held at Swindon Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Non-members pay £1.

Wednesday 18th September:

John Dixon—Somewhere in England : Tewkesbury in World War II

Wednesday 16th October:

Cyril Smallwood—Bees and Beekeeping

Charlton Kings Local History Society

Meetings take place in the Baptist Church, Church St, Charlton Kings, at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 24th September:

Tim Hickson (NT Volunteer)—Croome Park

Tuesday 22nd October:

Geoff North—Ornamental Ironwork (special reference to Charlton Kings)

Tuesday 26th November:

John Bromley—An Introduction to Heraldry

Holst Birthplace Museum

www.holstmuseum.org.uk

4 Clarence Road, Cheltenham

Friday 6th September, 7.30 pm at the Museum:

Michael Short—Imogen Holst

Tickets £10 (£8 for members) to include a glass of wine.

Saturday 21st September, 7.30 pm at All Saints Church:

Holst Birthday Concert

With the Paulina choir and orchestra of St Paul's Girls' School and the Flowers Brass Band. Music by Holst, Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Bliss.

Members £12, students £5, others £15.

30th Annual Deerhurst Lecture

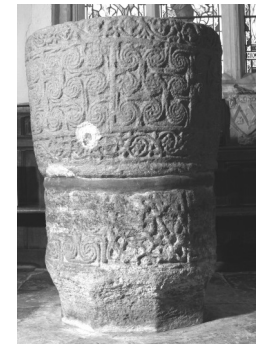
*Saturday 7th September 2013 at 7.30 pm
in St Mary's Church, Deerhurst*

**Dr Paul Barnwell (University of Oxford)—
Locating Baptism in Anglo-Saxon
and Norman Churches**

Tickets at the door, price £5
(students £3)

Further details are available at

www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk



The illustration shows the Saxon font in Deerhurst church.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS September 12th to 15th 2013

As usual many places not usually accessible to the public will be open, some offering guided tours. The Society's contribution to the event this year is twofold. First, information sheets will be made available at the Tourist Information Office from early September, each giving a route for a short walk with points of historical interest in various parts of the town, and secondly, there will be guided walks on the Saturday and Sunday of Heritage Weekend led by members of the Society: Heather Atkinson on 'The History of the General Hospital and its Buildings' and Geoff and Elaine North on 'The Iron-work of Montpellier'. Further information will be available from the Tourist Information Office in August.

REVIEWS

On March 19th **Alan Pilbeam** attracted a 'full house' with his talk entitled **Gloucestershire 300 Years Ago**, the main theme of which was Robert Atkyns' celebrated book *The Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire*. The Atkyns family were wealthy lawyers and owned several manors including Lower Swell, Sapperton, South Cerney and Daglingworth. Robert himself, born in 1647, trained as a lawyer, became an MP and retired at 41 to work on his great book, which runs to 859 folio pages and contains 42 amazingly detailed engravings, mostly by Jan Kip, of grand country houses all over the county. The first part of the book is a compendium of information in which he surveys Gloucestershire parish by parish. For each parish he gives its location, the origin of its name (not always accurately) its entry in the Domesday Book, any monastic connections, the ownership of manors, land use, local industries, population, dates of fairs and market days and much else. Most of the rest of the book is devoted to the engravings, some of which Alan showed. He also showed a picture of Atkyns' lifesize effigy in Sapperton church, where he is buried, and of various houses and estates associated with the Atkyns family, followed by many more historic and modern images from all parts of the county. There were some interesting comparisons between modern pictures of particular places and Atkyns' views of them. The importance and interest of the book derives largely from its originality: nothing like it had been attempted before since the Domesday Book, and the next comparable work was Samuel Rudder's book of the late 18th century. Atkyns himself unfortunately died in 1711, the year before his work was published. It was written for the benefit of the gentry of his day and did not have a big impact at the time, but after listening to Alan's wide-ranging commentary on it the audience could well understand why it is much more widely appreciated now.

On April 16th **Barry Simon** took as his theme **The History of Aviation in Gloucestershire**. Flying began, he said, with the Montgolfier brothers' first balloon ascent in 1783. The following year a flight by Parry, a friend of Edward Jenner, landed at the Air Balloon. In 1825 a Mr Sadler brought a dirigible to Tramway Wharf in Cheltenham, filled it with gas from the gasworks and launched it with his 16-year-old son aboard. It flew as far as Chipping Norton.

More manned flights followed, one of which carried a small extra basket containing a monkey, which was dropped by parachute. Cheltenham's earliest link with aircraft came with the birth here in 1865 of Frederick Handley Page, whose company later built aeroplanes used in World War I. During the war the RFC had a school of aeronautics in Cheltenham with a training field



Gloster Gladiator

at Rendcomb, and in 1917 H H Martyn, in partnership with Airco of Hendon, founded the Gloster Aircraft Company. Private flying became popular in the 1920s, and in the 1930s there were many air shows, one of which took place at Kayte Farm near Bishops Cleeve. After Hawker Aircraft took over Gloster Aircraft in 1934 production expanded enormously: 750 Gloster Gladiators were built at their factory at Hucclecote, with Rotol making the propellers. A flying school was started at Staverton, only to be requisitioned by the War Office in 1939. The first air attack on Gloucestershire came in June 1940, when a Heinkel bombed Filton, and on December 11th 1940 100 bombs were dropped on Cheltenham, hitting Martyns' Sunningend works among other things. Besides Hucclecote the Gloster Aircraft Company had several other sites in the county. There was a glider training school at Stoke Orchard and an airfield at Chedworth. Unsurprisingly, accidents occurred: in July 1944, for instance, a Rotol test pilot was killed in a crash at Boddington. Barry had several other stories to tell of crashes, forced landings and other wartime incidents. The test aircraft for Frank Whittle's new jet engine was built in Cheltenham, where the Regent Arcade now stands, and the jet-powered Gloster Meteor became the first radar-equipped night fighter. It was 1952 before Staverton was returned to civil use. Many aircraft manufacturers amalgamated in the 1960s and sites closed, but he showed pictures of several old airfields where there is still something to see. There is gliding at Ashton Down near Minchinhampton, for example, and microlights fly from Long Marston. Although Barry had said at the beginning that there was so much aviation history in the county that he couldn't cover all of it, by the end he had discussed so many aspects of the subject and shown so many evocative images that the audience must have learned a lot as well as being very well entertained.

The speaker at the morning meeting at St Luke's on April 23rd was **Michael Cole**, and his subject was **Prestbury's Lost Buildings and their Legacy**. He said he had taken the *Examiner* Index as his starting point. There he found a reference in 1849 to an auction sale of the contents of Prestbury Lodge, home of Colonel Jeremiah Taylor (who had moved to Hampshire), comprising among other things a very fine piano and a library of 1300 books. In 1869 this 10-bedroom house was to let, complete with a cottage, kitchen gardens and 10 acres of land. It was obviously a grand house, yet few local people have even heard of it now. He showed the oldest picture of Prestbury he had been able to find, a view down the main street towards Cheltenham. The church and a handful of other buildings are still recognisable, though generally much altered. Ruff's guide to Cheltenham of 1803 offered a tour to Prestbury via Winchcomb Street, crossing Wyman's Brook where there was once a bridge called Cakebridge. A little further on was Cakebridge Farm, which dated back at least to the 17th century and was passed down on the female side, rather unusually, through several generations of the Attwood family, whose graves are all in Prestbury churchyard. It then passed to the Hollidays, who eventually sold it to developers in 1936. At that time most of the farm buildings were still standing, including an old mule-powered cider mill, which was offered to South Kensington Museum but unfortunately burned down before it could be salvaged. Showing more early pictures, Michael pointed out a thatched cottage in Bouncer's Lane, now demolished, where a tollkeeper once lived. A half-timbered farm in a photo of 1841 was Lower Noverton Farm, of which only the house, heavily restored, survives. In Shaw Green Lane was Prestbury Park, a moated manor house with a hunting park, formerly the home of a bishop. After the big house was demolished the property became a 260-acre dairy farm until the 1960s, but now with its oak trees felled and hedges removed it is part of the racecourse. Another big house, behind a wall on Prestbury Green corner, was called Morningside and was at one time a hydropathic resort. The grounds have been built over but part of the house still stands. Another completely lost house was Prestbury Lodge, near the mini-roundabout at Prestbury Green. The Reverend Christopher Capel, who was born at Prestbury House in 1781, built it when he married in 1820. After he sold it in 1835 it changed hands a number of times, one of the owners being the Revd Price Owen who had married the daughter of Samuel Darby of Ironbridge fame. A photo of 1881 showed the house with the name Prestbury Court, but after Henry Ripley of Cheltenham bought it in 1921 it was often called Ripley's. Ripley sold the property to developers in 1938, though it was requisitioned during the war and not built on until later. Finally, the land once belonging to Marle Hill House (long since demolished) had been bought by Cheltenham Borough Council and was now part of Pittville Park. It seemed surprising and rather sad that so many great houses had been lost from one village, but to judge from the comments and questions at the end the audience had enjoyed hearing about them and very much shared Michael Cole's interest in the story.

After the AGM on May 21st a novel entertainment was provided in the shape of the silent black and white film **Cheltenham and the Glorious Cotswolds: the Carlsbad of England**, introduced and commented by **Steven Blake**. Steven explained that the film we were about to see, which ran for 40 minutes, was made up of the surviving parts of a promotional film commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce in 1920. It had been copied from the original nitrate film probably in the 1980s and was now on DVD. Though obviously incomplete, it was interesting in that it showed Cheltenham trying to re-establish itself as an inland spa. (The town's population had shrunk by 1,000 between 1900 and 1920 and the economy was flagging.) In 1919 new facilities had been installed in the old Montpellier Baths, now the Playhouse, and one scene in the film showed a garden party for the Society of Balneology, described in the captions as a memorable day in the history of the Spa. The comparison with Carlsbad, one of the most successful spas in Europe, was probably first suggested by Edward Burrow, who had written a guidebook to the town and was on the Chamber of Commerce's advertising committee. The material relating to the commissioning of the film is missing from the archives, but there are references to it in the newspapers. The *Looker-On* for January 24th 1920 noted that cameras were to be in the town in March and expressed the hope that people would be on their best behaviour! The idea of a promotional film had first come up in 1919, when Pathé wanted to make one, but the Chamber of Commerce had decided to approach Gaumont instead, allocating £100 to the project and asking hotels and businesses to contribute. It had also drawn up a list of topics to be covered—schools, sports, health, the joys of motor-ing in the Cotswolds and much more—not all of which appear in the surviving film. Filming began on 13th March with a meeting of hounds at Andoversford, and finished on 25th June. The film was shown in Cheltenham the following year, then efforts seem to have been made to market it more widely but with little success. The Canadian Pacific shipping line took it, and even wanted extra copies, but other steamship lines declined to show it. After that nothing is known about it until it came to light in the 1980s. Steven invited the audience, as they watched the film, to look out for features of the town that no longer exist, such as the Winter Gardens and the Sebastopol cannon. Judging from the murmured comments and occasional chuckles that could be heard as the film played, people found much to amuse them in it as well as many things and places they recognised.

Summer Visit

Guided walk around Swindon Village, 18th June

The visit began at Swindon Village's most distinctive building, St Lawrence's church, where Barry Simon briefly outlined its early history. The manor is on record in the Domesday Book but the church is not mentioned there. Its almost unique hexagonal tower was built around 1100 and the building was complete by about 1300, though it subsequently received a 'make-over' from the Victorians. Two groups, one led by Barry and the other by Eileen Allen, then set off round

the village. The heart of the village is the conservation area, which includes the church itself, the thatched 17th century cottage where the verger once lived and many of the older houses. 'Homestead' was the village post office, the former rectory stood in a big garden which included the site of the old village pond, and the Queen Anne cottage on the green was the dower house for Swindon Hall.



The Hall, which belonged in the 19th century to the wealthy John Surman, a considerable benefactor to the village, was requisitioned by the army in World War II. Like the other big houses, it is now divided into flats. We next saw The Grange with its stable yard and the former Swindon Hall Farm, both in the mysteriously named Quat Goose Lane. Passing the little school built by John Surman in 1846 we came to Swindon Manor, the history of which goes back to the 13th century. Part of it is Tudor, with several wings added later, and the owners were lords of the manor until the 1960s. Back at the church once more, where the tower glowed in the evening sun, tea and biscuits were served to round off a very enjoyable walk and warm thanks were offered to our extremely knowledgeable guides.

Kath Boothman

NEW PUBLICATION

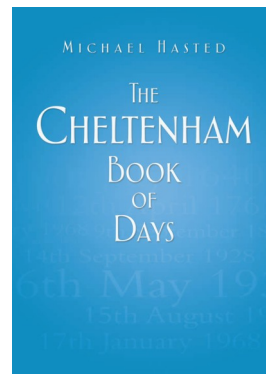
The Cheltenham Book of Days by Michael Hasted

A novel, quirky and fascinating event for every day of the year

Take a stroll through Cheltenham's rich history with this perfect 'dip-into' book, a light-hearted collection of entertaining stories and facts covering each day of the year. Using previously unpublished sources and unique interviews it offers a highly original exploration of the town's history. You may be aware that Cheltenham's famous son Edward Wilson reached the south pole on January 17th 1912, but did you know that on September 15th 1904 the premises of Mr Challice the taxidermist all but disappeared in a spectacular gas explosion in Winchcomb Street?

The author Michael Hasted began his working life at the Everyman and has been an actor, photographer and writer. He contributes regularly to local magazines.

Published in hardback in March 2013 by The History Press, price £9.99.



For those members who were unable to attend the AGM on 21st May, summary 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 on 01242 231827, or else e-mail suebrown@waitrose.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2013

The Chairman, David Scriven, welcomed the Mayor, Cllr Wendy Flynn, who had agreed to be President of the Society for her term of Office and to chair the Meeting.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected:

Chairman: David Scriven **Treasurer:** Sue Brown **Secretary:** Chris Conoley
Committee: Heather Atkinson, Jill Barlow, Kath Boothman, Joyce Cummings, David Ford, Neela Mann, Gwyneth Rattle, Sue Robbins, Sally Self.

Chairman's Report (summarised): David Scriven reported that CLHS has 357 members, and was pleased that our interesting and varied lecture programme and events attract sizeable audiences. Last year's Summer Visits had proved so popular that further dates had to be arranged. In July, the biennial CLHS Local History Afternoon, *Consulting Local History Sources*, provided a variety of excellent displays. Jacquelené Filmore of BALH gave a talk on internet research, and there was a choice of two local guided walks. This event was also open to the general public. Throughout the year, on behalf of the Society, Geoff and Elaine North regularly produce excellent displays in the Local Studies Library on a range of local topics to interest and inform the public. CLHS is involved in the Heritage Open Days events held every September, both in general organization and in providing two of the guided walks in the town. This April CLHS co-hosted the BALH weekend Conference on a theme of how communities change over time, held at Cheltenham Racecourse. The Society was involved with planning the programme, making local arrangements and preparing some of the displays. In the last few months the Society has published *Cheltenham Revealed: The Town and Tithing Plan of c.1800*. This map, discovered by Carolyn Greet, has been reproduced and annotated in a user-friendly format by Carolyn in collaboration with James Hodsdon. The Society is also currently involved with several projects which aim to make original records more accessible to researchers. These include the St Mary's Cheltenham Parish Records Project, which is transcribing the parish records from 1558 to 1804; the Latin Group, who are translating and transcribing 16th and 17th century Cheltenham manorial records (results on the VCH website); the Probate Records Transcription Group, assisting the County History Trust and the VCH Gloucestershire (also on the VCH website); the Lloyd George Land Valuation Survey in Gloucestershire Project, transcribing

The next Journal: Number 30—A Volunteer Wanted

The next Journal will be the 30th the Society has produced and I hope to make it a really good edition. Those 30 years have seen many developments, from a few black and white pages produced on a photocopier and hand-stapled to the present 72-page coloured publication produced by a commercial printer. One enduring link has been the drawings of Aylwin Sampson, who has had a hand in every issue from 1982 to 2013—a wonderful record. Also, amazingly, it is already the eighth with which I have been involved, having first been ‘inveigled’ into helping by Sue Rowbotham in 2007. In fairness to Sue I should say that I did volunteer and a very enjoyable experience it has been, learning new skills, getting to know the authors and learning a great deal about the history of the town.

Now in my turn I am appealing for a volunteer, initially to help me and eventually to take over the running of the Journal. The skills needed are not complicated: it is mostly an ability to use a computer, and most of us can do that these days. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch by e-mailing me at journal.clhs@btinternet.com

Sally Self

NEW PUBLICATION

A History of Cheltenham in 100 Objects by Steven Blake

The objects in this book, two of which are shown here, cover nearly 2,000 years of local history, from Romano-British wall plaster found in Charlton Kings, through Anglo-Saxon pottery and medieval roof tiles, to a memento of George III’s visit and a World War I scrap-book. All, including the duelling pistol by local gunsmith William Hollis (c1830) and the celebrated Dowdeswell Pike, caught in 1873, come from the collection in Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, but many have been stored rather than out on display until now and information about them is published here for the first time.



Images courtesy of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

In many cases there are stories to tell, which makes the book a very ‘good read’ as well as a fascinating assembly of images and a glimpse behind the scenes at the Museum.

Published by the History Press in paperback at £12.99.
ISBN 978-7524-6119-9

FEATURE

Calling All Writers – Are You Claiming Secondary Royalties?

Have you ever published a book or article? If so you are automatically the copyright owner for that work, and have certain entitlements. If you have published your book through a reputable publisher then you will probably receive royalties on sales. This is usually about 10% of the purchase price, a small sum for all your hard work when you consider that national retailers, such as W.H. Smiths and Waterstones, get about 50%.

As a writer you are also entitled to ‘secondary royalties’ for use of your published work by other people. This includes books, TV or radio scripts, magazine or journal articles, poems, chapters and essays. Most writers that I know are unaware of this type of royalty. Secondary royalties are especially important for non-fiction writers, such as local historians, whose work may be used in educational or academic research around the world.

The Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society

The ALCS is a not-for-profit membership organisation which:

Collects secondary royalties due to members for use of their work, including photocopying, cable retransmission in the UK and overseas, digital reproduction and educational recording.

Makes payments in February and August each year to members owed money for secondary uses of their work.

Campaigns on behalf of writers both nationally and internationally.

Keeps members aware of any issues that may affect them as writers, such as the latest EU copyright legislation or Google’s mammoth digitisation project.

The ALCS, which is run by writers for writers, currently has about 85,000 members. In 2012 the Society paid out over £26 million to more than 60,000 authors.

How to claim Secondary Royalties

I registered on-line with the ALCS about 12 months ago. Membership costs a single life-time fee of £25, which is only payable once you have earned that amount. Where a book is co-written each author receives an appropriate proportion of the royalties collected. I was delighted when I received my first half-year payment this February, which covered two books and my article *Cheltenham’s Olympic Connections* (CLHS Journal 2012). I received over £50, which was more than I had received in sales royalties from the books’ national publishers throughout 2012 and paid for my membership. Astonishingly all the payments came from outside the UK. I have now registered *Cheltenham Then & Now* (2012) and a second article, *Carroll’s Adventures in Cheltenham* (CLHS Journal 2013). I await the outcome with interest.

I strongly recommend that you register your published work with the ALCS. It is worth noting that you can also claim secondary royalties if you have inherited the copyright for a published work. For more information go to www.alcs.co.uk. Let me know how you get on.

Sue Rowbotham

NEW PUBLICATION

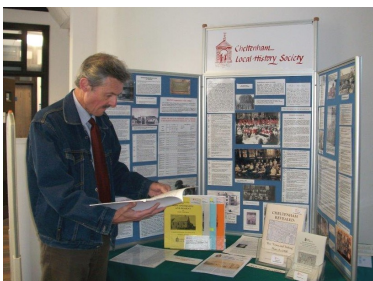
St Peter's Church, Leckhampton The Stained Glass Windows by Eric Miller

There are 18 stained glass windows in the church of St Peter, Leckhampton, almost all installed after the church was enlarged in 1866. Having been commissioned individually by their donors from different well-known makers, they vary in style and colouring and follow no consistent theme. Sometimes the choice of subject befits the person in whose memory the window was given: the Good Samaritan for a kindly doctor, for example. This thoroughly researched and richly illustrated book also celebrates the lives of the people commemorated in the windows, from soldiers and lords of the manor to young children, and, where possible, indicates where they are buried in the churchyard.



Copies (price £3.50 plus £1.50 postage) may be obtained from the author at 20 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham GL50 0PB. Please make out cheques to 'Leckhampton LHS'.

CLHS DISPLAYS IN LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY



Tuesday 6th to Saturday 24th August :
Cheltenham's Ornamental Ironwork
Thursday 5th to Thursday 26th September:
Imperial Gardens
Tuesday 1st to Tuesday 22nd October :
Cheltenham in Verse
Tuesday 5th to Saturday 23rd November:
**Cheltenham's Voluntary Aid Detachment
Hospitals 1914-1919**

Any contributions to these displays will be welcome. Please contact Elaine North, tel. 01452 857803 or email: elaine-north@hotmail.com

Cheltenham revealed: the town and tithing plan of c. 1800 by Carolyn Greet & James Hodsdon

It is enterprising of the Cheltenham Local History Society to offer a study and reproduction of a map of Cheltenham dating from the early 19th century, which is in Gloucestershire Archives (D2025). The decision to publish substantial enlargements of small sections of the map does mean that it is not easy to envisage parts of the town as a whole, though it is understandable because the intention was to reveal the detail of the markings on the fields. In the Introduction the challenge is given to elucidate further the date and possible origins of the map, and this is the aim of this note, at the same time also to enlarge on the historical account.

Cheltenham parish, and in the 19th century the borough, was made up of six tithings, which were ancient and major divisions of the countryside into agricultural units with their individual field systems and customary regulations of agricultural practice. Cheltenham tithing was one of the six. Arle and Alstone were large tithings, and Westal, Naunton and Sandford were for administrative purposes grouped together, although their field systems were distinct and in the 18th and 19th centuries they had different histories. Alstone and Arle were not inclosed until 1830-35. The tithings were not displaced as administrative units for Poor Law purposes until 1851, when the Poor Law Commission introduced the division into five wards. Income and property taxes were still being collected by tithing in 1860.

The act which enabled the inclosure of Cheltenham tithing was passed in 1801 (it is given as 1803 on page 4 point F). Joseph Pitt was the instigator, as he had purchased Cheltenham Rectory tithes at the auction of the Rectory estate in 1799, together with some of the Rectory land; he had recognised the possibility of gaining a substantial amount of land in compensation for his tithe holding if Cheltenham tithing were to be inclosed. He started to build Royal Crescent on one of the meadows he acquired then, south of the High Street but north of the river Chelt (mistakenly said to be south of the Chelt in point D on page 4). It took six years for the inclosure commissioner to draw up his award, and then a process of exchanges of allotments took place between owners keen to consolidate their lands into larger blocks. Once these had been approved, it was then the duty of each owner to fence his allotments. Some planted quickset hedges, some put up post and rail fences, some failed to fence their holdings for a considerable time.

The map published by the Cheltenham Local History Society can be compared with one showing the allotments at inclosure (also D2025), and it is apparent from this comparison that this map generally shows allotment boundaries, not the original open fields. The close-together lines on the map suggest arable cultivation but do not show the original strips in the open fields. They may be compared with the very clear map of strips in part of Sandford open field of 1765, recopied in 1822 (see *Cheltenham A New History* page 317 for a section of the map), or with the more typical size of

strips evident in the orchards and gardens behind the High Street. The indication of buildings is approximate, not exact as the final map reveals, and some of the detail of the fields had still to be filled in. Large areas of the former open fields were allotted to Joseph Pitt and so do preserve some indications of where these fields were, but in the north-east most of the land was already inclosed and not affected by the act. When I was researching for *Cheltenham A New History*, I fell on this map with excitement thinking that it would reveal the old open field system, but reluctantly came to the conclusion that it did not do this. Maps of the open fields are not very common. To meet the challenge, therefore, of the date and purpose of the map: it seems most likely that it was a draft inclosure map following the commissioners' initial allotting of land. It was found amongst the papers deposited by Ticehurst, Wyatt & Co of Cheltenham, solicitors, which cover the years 1546 to 1945. One of the firm's clients was the Agg-Gardner family, and they had many lines of interest in Cheltenham, including being allotted land at inclosure and in 1845 buying the title of lord of the manor; much of the lord's interests in the once large manor of Cheltenham had been disposed of in previous centuries, and the title by that date related mainly to the transmission of copyhold property. A more carefully drawn map of Cheltenham post-inclosure is also amongst the Ticehurst papers.

Anthea Jones

Response from the authors:

Anthea's careful commentary is much appreciated. We agree that given the likely date of the map, some link with Inclosure is very plausible. However, we are not yet convinced this is the sole explanation. We still find it puzzling that so much urban detail, with every appearance of having been carefully surveyed and drafted yet which is not obviously relevant to the Inclosure process, should be included on the map. The presence of this urban detail supports the inference that the map had more than one purpose, perhaps serving the needs of a family or solicitors/agents having diverse interests in the town, though perhaps not the Agg-Gardners if the date of c.1800 is accepted. Although, as Anthea suggests, it could be an interim or draft map, it is carefully done, and if it were a draft one might have expected more in the way of manuscript annotations or alterations than are actually present. If only the person who spent all that time surveying the area and drafting the map had taken a further five minutes to add a little box explaining its purpose and sponsor, not to mention signing and dating it! – but then we would have nothing to puzzle over. We can but hope that some as-yet uncatalogued document will turn up to shed light on the matter. Meanwhile, there is a very enticing project waiting for anyone familiar with modern digital mapping technology, and that is to place ALL the available pre-Ordnance Survey maps and plans of Cheltenham on a common base, so that we can see exactly how old features do (or don't) relate to existing ones. This would be really handy for forthcoming VCH research, so if you know about GIS mapping techniques, please step forward!

James Hodsdon and Carolyn Greet

LOCAL NEWS

Pittville Gates

Phase one of the restoration of Pittville Gates is nearing completion. The six new Forest of Dean stone pillars have been rebuilt and the surviving ironwork renovated, strengthened as necessary and put back in place. This includes the central wrought iron over-throw which needed a lot of repair, a new shield carrying the borough coat of arms and a new 'globe' and pigeon at the top. The surrounding area has been repaved, with a design, including the original cobbled pathway across the front of the gateway, picked out in granite setts. The next steps are to reinstate the railings along Prestbury Road (to the original design) and put back the lanterns on the four outer pillars.

Friends of Pittville are now fundraising for the next phase which will replace the six missing cast iron gate leaves, plant a garden and hedging adjacent to the gateway (to help re-create the leafy appearance of the gateway in old prints) and put back a horse trough in front of the Gates.

Judie Hodsdon



Dedication of St Paul's Practising School WWII Memorial Board

In CLHS Journal 26 (2010) we published an article by Ron Prewer about the refurbishment of the St Paul's Practising School Memorial Board for former pupils who lost their lives during WWI. Ron, with the support of the newly reformed Old Boys' Association, had spearheaded this project, which culminated with a re-dedication service in December 2009 (see Newsletter 66, March 2010) and the re-erection of the memorial at Francis Close Hall.

This achievement led to the launch of a new project, again led by Ron, to create a memorial to the Old Boys who died in WWII. Sadly, Ron passed away in August 2012 and did not live to see its completion. However the Old Boys' Association and the University ensured that the project was completed, and on 13 June 2013 the new memorial board (see photo) was dedicated during a service of remembrance held at the University Chapel on the Francis Close Hall campus. CLHS was represented at the service by our chairman, David Scriven, and other members of the Society.





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. Most of these books are in new or 'as new' condition, and others are priced accordingly. They include the following:

The New Club by Neil Parrack— new, special price £8.50 (several copies, some signed and kindly donated by the author)
 A Grand City: Bristol in the 18th & 19th Centuries, ed. M J Crossley Evans—£7.50
 History of Cirencester by Beecham— £25
 Miniatures by Dudley Heath (1905)—£20
 Mee—The King's England series: Monmouthshire (1st edition, 1951)—£15; Worcestershire—£8.50; Warwickshire—£4; Somerset—£4
 Pevsner County Series: Wiltshire (revised Cherry)— £12; Oxfordshire (with Sherwood)—£10; Suffolk (revised Radcliffe)— £10; NE Norfolk & Norwich—£10; Herefordshire—£10; N Somerset & Bristol—£10; Worcestershire—£8.50; Cumberland & Westmorland (some loose pages)— £5; S & SW Somerset—£8.50
 Stow on the Wold: A History of a Cotswold Town by Johnson—£10
 Medieval and Post-Medieval Development within Bristol's Inner Suburbs, ed. Watts—£10

Volumes of the **BGAS Record Series**, now for sale at **only £5 each**, as follows:
 (Vol 7) Tewkesbury Churchwardens' Accounts 1563-1624 (2 copies)
 (Vol 15) A Calendar of the Registers of the Priory of Llanthony by Gloucester 1457-1466, 1501-1525
 (Vol 20) Abstract of Feet of Fines relating to Gloucestershire 1300-1359
 Also Vols 17 & 18 A Catalogue of the Medieval Muniments at Berkeley Castle - set of 2 books, 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 232740 or e-mail heatherbell71@hotmail.com

FEATURE

Decorative Stones in Cheltenham Part 1: Churches

Stones that take a polish and have an attractive appearance are called decorative stones and are used to decorate both interiors and exteriors of churches as well as shop fronts and public monuments. The use of stone for ornamental purposes dates back three thousand years and the names are a mixture of terms given by the *scalpellini* of Rome, geologists and the stone trade. Geologically speaking, they can be formed from molten magma, sediments on the sea floor or from chemical precipitates in hot springs that have been deeply buried and from the alteration of pre-existing rocks.

During the Victorian period, Cheltenham's population increased rapidly because of its growing reputation as a fashionable spa town, its prominence in education and the building programme instigated by Joseph Pitt and others. This expansion was accompanied by extensive church building, so that between 1824 and 1882 eleven churches were built on budgets ranging from £2,800, as in the case of St Mark's, to £18,000 for Christ Church in affluent Lansdown. As one might expect, there is a connection between church building costs and the amount of ornamental stone used in Victorian churches. The lack of such decoration in medieval St Mary's is probably due to the fact that it was built before marbles became fashionable in England.

John Middleton (1820-1885) was the most important of the Victorian architects in Cheltenham, and his love of marble decoration might stem from his visit to Europe in the mid -1850s. Little is known about his Grand Tour other than the fact that one of his folders in Gloucester Archives (GA D 2970 1/246/1-40) contains undated sketches of patterns he had seen in the Vatican, Verona and Milan. Prior to his arrival in Cheltenham in 1859, Middleton had trained under J B Pritchett in York. His first commission in Cheltenham was St Mark's (1860) and during the next two decades he designed Holy Apostles, All Saints, St Stephen's and St Philip's & St James'. His practice also undertook restoration work on churches as far east as London, west to Aberystwyth and north to Dinnington in Northumbria (see Brian Torode's book). In these churches we find decorative stone used for floor tiles, balustrades, reredos, piscinas, statuary, steps up to the altar and pulpit, wall panels, columns supporting arches in the nave, fonts, pulpits and wall memorials. These stones comprise alabaster, limestone and marble from England, Ireland, Italy, France and Sweden and granites from Scotland (see the Price & Jackson article). Some of Middleton's churches are also rich in red sandstone from the Midlands as well as blue Forest stone from the Forest of Dean. At All Saints blue Forest stone alternates with pale cream Bath stone to give a polychromatic effect.

Although the Grand Tour undoubtedly left its influence on Middleton there was another important factor. The prolific use of polished stone from continental Europe owes much to events in France, especially the building of the Palace of Versailles during the 17th century and the construction of the Palais Garnier in Paris between 1861 and 1875. It is probably no coincidence that the richest decoration of Victorian churches dates from around this time.

Christ Church (see illustration on the back cover) is also a Victorian church, built in 1847 by the Jearrad brothers. The sanctuary floor is tiled with white Carrara marble from Italy and black marble from Belgium; the reredos is emblazoned with reddish panels of *breche Saint-Maximin* limestone from France, separated by narrow green strips of the Italian serpentinite *verde di Genoa*. Behind the altar are small panels of Irish green from Connemara and red *rouge griotte* from France. The blue lapis lazuli in the altar cross is possibly from Afghanistan. The communion rail with sixteen balusters of Petitor marbles from Devon is a reminder of a forgotten industry in the 19th century that was centred on the Torquay area.

The screen that separates the nave from the choir has a top surface of red Cornish serpentinite, panels of grey alabaster of unknown provenance, yellow *giallo di Siena* from Italy and pinkish brown *encarnado* from Portugal. The church is especially well-endowed with wall memorials especially for the period 1850 - 1880, probably because it had no cemetery. Such tablets are usually in white marble on a backing of dark limestone or serpentinite.

Finally, the Fenn Pulpit is a remarkable sampler of classic European marbles available in 1880. The staircase to the pulpit has sixteen balusters of marble from various quarries in Belgium, France and Italy, the pulpit has panels of Italian marble and the whole edifice stands on columns of Ashburton marble from Devon.

Although there are about 30 different stones in Christ Church I have mentioned only some of the highlights. All Saints is equally decorative and similar treasures can be found in Holy Apostles, St Stephen's, St Philip's & St James' and St Gregory's.

Dennis Jackson

Acknowledgement

I am indebted to Monica Price, Assistant Curator, Oxford Museum of Natural History for introducing me to Cheltenham's decorative stones and for most of the identifications used in this article.

References

Price, M. T. 2007— *The sourcebook of Decorative Stone: an illustrated identification guide*. Firefly Books, USA., 288 pp.

Price, M. T. & Jackson, D.E. 2013—*Decorative stones of Cheltenham. Part 1: Churches*. Proceedings of Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club XLVI, Part 1.

Torode, B. E. 2006—*John Middleton: Victorian Provincial Architect*. Accent, Zagreb, 175 pp.



NEXT ISSUE

Please forward articles for inclusion in the November 2013 Newsletter by

Monday 7th October 2013

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

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

Left: The Sanctuary at Christ Church, Lansdown.
(See Dennis Jackson's article on the previous page.)

CAN YOU HELP?

Mr and Mrs Selwyn Oxley
The Guild of St John of Beverley (patron saint of deaf people) was founded in 1895 in Yorkshire. From about 1915 until his death in 1951 it was run almost single-handedly by Selwyn Oxley, whose wife Kate was profoundly deaf. In about 1939 they came to Cheltenham from Ealing, living at 'Southlands,' 59 Queen's Road. He died in Cheltenham. It seems their home also held a cat museum. Has anyone any information about this museum, or about Mr and Mrs Oxley?

RAF Eventon
An enquirer is trying to discover what became of the huts from this former military station north of Inverness, which closed in 1955 and was sold by the Admiralty in 1957. Some of the buildings were bought by Gordonstoun School and the rest, with all their internal fittings, by a Cheltenham company called Smiths Sections, who sold them on. The enquirer seeks any records showing who bought them. Does any company paperwork survive?

If you can help with either of these queries please contact Joyce Cummings on 01242 527299 or e-mail joyce@cyberwebpace.net