



# Cheltenham Local History Society

Newsletter No. 66

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council  
Registered Charity No. 1056046  
<http://www.cheltlocalhist.btik.com>

March 2010

## LOCAL HISTORY AFTERNOON

**Sunday 18th July 2010, 2-5 pm**

**at St Andrews United Reformed Church  
Montpellier Street, Cheltenham**

**hosted by**

**Cheltenham Local History Society**

**Admission : adults £1, children /students 50p  
to include tea/coffee/squash and biscuits**

- 2.20 pm Talk by Dr Nick Barratt :  
'Family History and the Media'**  
**3.30 pm Walking tour of Cheltenham's  
decorative ironwork guided by  
Geoff & Elaine North**

There will also be many displays by local societies, a raffle and sales of new and second-hand publications. Tickets for Dr Barratt's talk (£2.00) will be on sale in advance at Society meetings and from the Treasurer, Miss Sue Brown (Tel. 01242 231837).

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### Calling all Members ! (see form enclosed)

This year we are holding our 4<sup>th</sup> Local History Afternoon and we would like you to **help** in a variety of ways. First, be sure to tell as many people as you can about it. Second, please bring contributions for our usual raffle either on the day or to the AGM. Last but not least, please offer some help on the day itself. With over 300 members it would be nice to give the usual "willing horses" some time to enjoy the event, so please let us know if you are willing to help for part of the afternoon. We shall need assistance in setting up or putting away displays, for preparing and serving drinks etc. You don't need to be a historian to do these things!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th April in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, at 7.30pm prompt. (SEE AGENDA & PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER – **Please bring these papers with you to the meeting.**) Councillor Lloyd Surgenor, as President of the Society, will chair the Meeting and give a short address.

### *Election of Officers and Committee 2010-11*

Officers and committee members (as listed in the 2009 AGM Minutes) will resign in accordance with the Society's constitution, although they can be re-elected if they so wish. Dorothy Seton-Smith and Brian Torode have decided not to stand for re-election. We thank them for the work they have done as committee members, and especial thanks go to Dorothy for acting as our Membership Secretary for several years. Nominations are invited for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and for committee members. If you would like to nominate someone or be nominated yourself, either for one of these posts or as a committee member, please contact the Secretary Heather Atkinson (tel. 01242 232740) for a nomination form.

After the AGM business has been completed, there will be an illustrated talk by **Aylwin Sampson** with the title "A Cheltenham Looker-On".

## SUMMER VISITS

You are invited to join the following events/visits with the Society. **IN ALL CASES PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SLIP ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR PAYMENT AND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. There will be a priority booking period for members only until 8th April and, as places are limited on these trips, you are advised to book early to be sure of getting a place.**

If you wish to bring a non-member as a guest, please indicate this on the slip when booking your own place. If there is any availability after 8th April, places will be offered to non-members in order of application. **If you find that you cannot attend a visit for which you have booked, please inform Susan Brown (231837) or another committee member of your cancellation. It could mean that someone else could have the opportunity to take your place.** If you don't let us know you can't attend, we shall expect you to pay the cost.

*Saturday 8th May at 2.30 pm*

### **Visit to Whittington Court, Andoversford**

Meet at Whittington Court at 2.30pm. After touring the house, tea will be provided. Donations for charity are invited for the tea. Directions: Follow the A40 out of Cheltenham towards Andoversford. Soon after reaching the top of the hill, turn left signed Whittington. The entrance to the house is on the left. Visit £4.00 per senior or £5.00 per adult.



Whittington Court

*Saturday 10th July at 3.00 pm*

### **Walking tour of Prestbury with Roger Beacham** *or, at 3.30 pm*

#### **Visit to Prestbury Church**

An opportunity to visit St. Mary's Church or explore the village. Last year's walk was oversubscribed so we are offering another chance to those who missed out.

#### **Walk**

Meet at **3.00pm** at Library Car Park, The Burgage, for a guided tour of Prestbury with Roger Beacham. Approximate duration 90 minutes. Parking available in the library car park or along the Burgage. Bus A stops at Seven Posts in Prestbury Road. Cross road & walk down Seven Posts Alley. Cross New Barn Lane to the library in the Burgage. Walk & tea £4.00.

#### **Church**

Meet at **3.30pm** at St. Mary's Church for a guided tour followed by tea. Parking near the church is difficult although you may find a space at the Kings Arms or in the small car park at the left turn by the war memorial. We suggest parking as for the walk and then going on foot along the main road or Mill Street to the church. Visit & tea £4.00.

*Tuesday 10th August at 2.00 pm*

### **Visit to Charlton Park (St. Edward's School)**

Meet at St. Edward's School, Cirencester Road, Charlton Kings at 2.00pm. for a tour of the grounds and the historic heart of the school building. As places will be very limited, if demand is high we will offer a second date on the 17th. Please advise if you prefer a certain date.

Directions: Follow the A435 out of Cheltenham along Cirencester Road. The school entrance is on the right before the traffic lights at Church of the Sacred Heart. The B bus stops in Moorend Road, beyond the lights. There will be a charge of £1.00 for the visit.

## SUE NEWTON'S TRIPS

Sue Newton is planning a coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield on Tuesday 24th August. Booking will be on a first come, first served basis. The trip is open to all, not just members of the Society. Please contact Sue at meetings or telephone her on 01242 243049 for more information.

## EVENING LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010-11

Tuesday 21st September 2010 :

**Dr. Anthea Jones – Past into Present: Some Historic Influences on the Development of Cheltenham**

Tuesday 19th October 2010:

**Sir Henry Elwes, H.M. Lord Lieutenant – The Lord Lieutenancy of Gloucestershire, Past and Present**

Tuesday 16th November 2010:

**Mr. David Elder – Cheltenham on the Page**

Tuesday 21st December 2010 :

**Mrs Sue Rowbotham – Commemorative Plaques of Cheltenham: Celebrating People, Places and Events**

Tuesday 18th January 2011:

**Research and Display Evening**

Tuesday 15th February 2011:

**Mr. Alec Hamilton - Samuel Daukes and Prince Albert – a Cheltenham Architect in Royal Trouble**

Tuesday 15th March 2011:

**Mr. John Heathcott—Ancient Woodlands of Gloucestershire**

Tuesday 26th April 2011:

A.G.M. followed by **Mr. Eric Miller - Serendipity**

## MORNING LECTURES 2010-2011

Morning lectures will take place at St. Luke's Hall, St. Luke's Place, Cheltenham. A donation of £1.00 from all attending these lectures is appreciated. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served (no charge) from 10.00am. Lectures start at 10.30am. All welcome. Parking at the Hall is for disabled only – please contact Sue Newton (01242 243049) beforehand if you wish to reserve a space.

Wednesday 27th October 2010:

**Dr. Carrie Howse – Rural District Nursing in Gloucestershire 1880-1925**

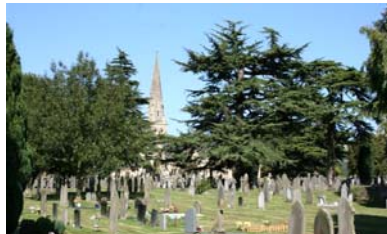
Tuesday 12th April 2011:

**Dr. Steven Blake – Title to be advised**

*Reminder ...*

### MORNING LECTURE

Thursday 15th April  
at 10.00 am for  
10.30 am at St  
Luke's Church Hall,  
St Luke's Place, Cheltenham:



**Rev. Brian Torode—The Bouncer's Lane Cemetery**

*The 2010 CLHS Journal will be available for collection at this meeting.*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### Leckhampton Local History Society

www.llhs.org.uk

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

Thursday 18th March :

**Steven Blake—John Bellamy: a Gloucestershire Victorian Showman**

Thursday 15th April:

**Cliff Burd—Alleyways of Tewkesbury**

### Charlton Kings Local History Society

Meetings take place in the Baptist Church, Church Street, Charlton Kings, starting at 7.30pm. Guests welcome—£2.00.

Tuesday 23rd March:

**Dr Carrie Howse—Rural District Nursing in Gloucestershire 1880-1925**

Tuesday 27th April:

**Eric Williams—Tom Pickernell and Adam Lindsay Gordon**

Tuesday 25th May:

**David O'Connor—150 Years of the Battledown Estate: Past, Present and Future**

### Holst Birthplace Museum

www.holstmuseum.org.uk

4 Clarence Road, Cheltenham

Friday 30th April, 6.00-8.00 pm:

**Drinks reception and private view of the St Ives Exhibition at Martin's Gallery.**

Tickets £10 from the Museum, to include wine and canapés.

Saturday 12th June at 7.30 pm in Cheltenham College chapel:

**Concert of sacred and secular music by the Oriel Singers.** Tickets £10 from the Museum or on the door.

### Gotherington Local History Society

Meetings are held at Gotherington Village Hall at 8pm. Visitors £1.00.

Thursday 18th March:

**David Smith—The Murder of Edward II at Berkeley Castle**

Thursday 15th April:

**Dr Nicholas Herbert—The Development of Georgian Gloucester**

### Tewkesbury Historical Society

Thursday 18th March at 7.45 pm in the Methodist Church at the Cross, Tewkesbury:

**Alex and Judy Bailey— The Chartist Colony of Snigs End, Staunton**

### Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

www.bgas.co.uk

Meetings are held at Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 17th March:

**Joan Tucker—Ferries of the Lower Severn**

## MORE FOR YOUR DIARY

### Swindon Village Local History Society

Talks start at 7.45 pm at Swindon Village Hall.

Non-members pay £1.00.

*Wednesday 17th March:*

**Norman Ellis—Prestbury (illustrated talk)**

*Saturday 17th April at 9.30 am:*

**Annual bird walk**, leaving from Village Hall car park. Probably to Brockhampton or Elmstone Hardwicke, depending on weather conditions.

*Wednesday 19th May:*

**Peter Petrie—Building a Medieval Cathedral**

### Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society

Meetings are normally held in the Ashcroft Centre, Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, at 7.30 pm. Guests pay £3.00.

*Wednesday 28th April:*

**Alix Booth—Punch and Judy**

### Edward Jenner Museum, Berkeley

Talks begin at 7.30 pm in the Old Cyder House at the Museum. Each costs £10, including a glass of wine.

*Thursday 25th March:*

**Dr Stuart Prior, Bristol University—Something Unexpected at the Bottom of Jenner's Garden: recent archaeological excavations**

*Thursday 24th June:*

**Professor Michael Worboys, Manchester University—Dogs, Rabbits and Rabies: Louis Pasteur and Vaccination**

### COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY ANNUAL LECTURE

*Wednesday 31st March at 7.30 pm  
Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester*

**Dr Tom Moore (Durham University)—The birth of a capital? Becoming Roman in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds**

Dr Moore will talk about late Iron Age societies with particular reference to recent fieldwork on the great earthworks at Bagendon near Cirencester, probable capital of the Dobunni tribe. **FREE LECTURE.**

### Historical Association, Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch

All meetings start at 7.30 pm. Gloucester meetings are held at the Friends' Meeting House, Greyfriars (off Southgate Street).

*Monday 22nd March in Gloucester:*

**Professor Neil Wynn—The Depression and the New Deal in America**

### Friends of All Saints' Church

*Wednesday June 23rd at 7.30 pm in the church, All Saints' Road, Cheltenham:*

**Dr Alan Munden—The Broad Way or the Narrow Way: Francis Close and the Railway Companies**

Visitors welcome, £3. Tea and biscuits.

### The 2010 Deerhurst Lecture

*Saturday 18th September at 7.30 pm  
in St Mary's Church, Deerhurst*

**Emily Howe - Painted Anglo-Saxon sculpture in St Mary's, Deerhurst: materials, techniques and context**

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

Further details available at :  
[www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk](http://www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk).



### *Exhibitions*

#### Holst Birthplace Museum

*To run from 14th May to 21st August:*

**Celebrating 35 Years of the Holst Birthplace Museum.**

*To run from 3rd September to 13th December:*

**Theodore von Holst: his Art and the pre-Raphaelites**

### Painswick Local History Society

GRCC LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE  
SUMMER MEETING  
*Sunday 13th June 2010*  
**Painswick Town Hall**

Doors open at 1.15 pm

Tickets £6.00

*For full details see flyer enclosed with this Newsletter*

### MONTPELLIER FIESTA DAY

*Saturday 10th July 2010*

*No further details available at time  
of going to press*

### 250 YEARS AGO....

Lost, on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March past, from Mrs. Dormer's, at Arle Court, near Cheltenham, a fine smooth-haired, WHITE SPANIEL BITCH, about Two Years old, with some small Light Liver-coloured Spots and Hairs about her Body, which are much thicker on her Nose, and the Inside of her Ears and round the Eyes also Liver-coloured; having on, when lost, a Brass Collar with this Inscription, *Mrs. Dormer, at Arle Court, near Cheltenham*: Whoever will bring her safe to Mrs. Dormer's, at Arle Court aforesaid, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble.

*Gloucester Journal, Tuesday 1 April 1760*

**... and we'll never know whether the dog was found!**

## Invitation to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will take place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Gambier Parry Hall, Highnam**, starting at 2.15pm. After the main business, tea will be available [*no charge, but donations are appreciated*] to be followed by an optional tour of nearby Highnam church with Tom Fenton. There will also be an exhibition for members to look at during the afternoon.

**Presidential address by Alan Saville, BA, FSA, MIFA— “Anatomizing an archaeological project: Hazleton re-visited”.**

CLHS Members are invited to attend the event and all visitors will be made most welcome.

Forest of Dean Local History Society  
**5TH ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY FAIR**  
*Sunday 23rd May 2010 from 10.00 am—4.00 pm*  
 Bells Hotel and Country Club, Coleford  
*All welcome.*

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OPEN DAY**  
*Saturday 17th April 2010 from 10.00 am--4.00 pm*  
 At the Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester  
 Entry and parking free. All welcome.

## 41st SOUTH WALES AND WEST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

*Saturday 17th April 2010 at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham*

The Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology is hosting the 2010 Conference, and the programme will include the following topics:

- Newcomen Pumping Engines in South Gloucestershire
- Fore & Aft, an illustrated journey through the Purton Hulks ships' graveyard
- PHEW - recording our civil engineering heritage
- Delving in Dean: Unrecorded Early Coal Mining in the Forest of Dean
- The Bromsgrove Nailers
- The Industry of Remembrance: Memorials to the Fallen

Immediately after the event GSIA members will lead short field visits in the area. One of these will be a tour of Cheltenham's ornamental ironwork led by Geoff and Elaine North.

The fee for bookings received by **27<sup>th</sup> March 2010** is £16, otherwise £17. This includes morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea. Without lunch the fees are £10 and £11, respectively. Telephone GSIA Chairman Alan Strickland (01285 538366) or GSIA Secretary Ray Wilson (01453 860595) if you have queries. (e-mail: [conference@gsia.org.uk](mailto:conference@gsia.org.uk)) Full information regarding the programme, field visits and booking forms may be found at [www.gsia.org.uk/conference](http://www.gsia.org.uk/conference)

## British Association for Local History (BALH)

### LOCAL HISTORY DAY Saturday 5th June 2010

*At the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London*

*Tickets £15 (CLHS members £12.50) to include coffee, packed lunch and tea after the meeting*

Programme includes:

**Open forum discussion on 'Local History & the Internet', led by Bamber Gascoigne and Jacqueline Fillmore**

**AGM of the Association**

**Presentation of 2010 BALH Awards**

**Annual lecture given by Dr Adam Longcroft, Senior Lecturer in Local & Regional studies, University of East Anglia, on 'New Insights into Vernacular Architecture: a View from the Flatlands of East Anglia'**

The lecture will draw on recent research into the surviving historic buildings in Norfolk's towns and villages.

*As CLHS is an affiliated member of BALH, Society members are welcome to join in any of BALH's activities. For booking form and further information see the Association's website, [www.balh.co.uk](http://www.balh.co.uk)*

## REVIEWS

### Winter lectures

Mild sunny weather on the morning of 29th October may have helped to ensure that a good crowd turned up at St Luke's for **Neil Holbrook's** talk entitled '**Where'er You Walk**'. Once there, though, they soon formed a rapt audience for this fascinating illustrated lecture on the hidden history under familiar places in Gloucestershire. Who knew that Kingsholm rugby ground is the site of a Roman fortress? Or that there was probably a Roman farm where Waitrose now stands? Bishops Cleeve, already known for its Anglo-Saxon history, turns out to have had iron age and Roman settlements as well. Neil explained how geology influenced people's use of the land: lias clay, common in Gloucestershire, is not ideal for arable farming, whereas the sandy and gravelly soils in the Cheltenham area are easy to work and therefore attracted early settlers. This knowledge helps archaeologists decide where to dig. Chance discoveries can play a part too: a Roman mosaic found by metal detectorists in a field near Bishops Cleeve was investigated by the BBC's *Time Team* and turned out to be part of a large villa. As Neil said in conclusion, archaeology really is all around you, wherever you go.



On November 17th Sir Henry Elwes was to have talked to the Society about the Lord Lieutenancy, but as he was not well enough to attend **David Smith** nobly took his place. (Sir Henry's talk has been re-scheduled for November this year.) David's theme was '**Victorian Victims and Villains**' and he drew his material from a variety of court records—petty sessions, quarter sessions and the now-defunct consistory court run by the church – from 1820 onwards. There were many intriguing and thought-provoking stories. In the 1830s the Quintons of Wotton-under-Edge, a family of incorrigible petty thieves, were treated with surprising leniency by the courts for years before one of them was finally transported, thus demonstrating that Victorian justice was not always so harsh as is generally thought. Later in the century George Roberts, another thief, learned to take advantage of the railway as the network expanded, skipping from one police jurisdiction to another to escape justice. Then there was the murky tale of the schoolmaster of Bourton-on-the-Water with the unfaithful wife, and the even more disgraceful story from 1841 of the man who landed in court because he had avenged himself on an old enemy by peeing into his grave at his funeral! It was all highly entertaining and much appreciated by the audience.

There was a full house for **Eric Williams' talk on 'Up Hatherley's Past'** on December 15th. Eric explained that Up Hatherley had always been Cheltenham's 'poor relation' and little had been written about it, though a book was to be published soon. In fact it had a long history, as his very thoroughly researched and well illustrated talk went on to show. The discovery of 200 Roman coins and other artefacts near Shurdington Road proved the existence of an early settlement there, but Up Hatherley appeared by name in the records only in the 13th century, when it had a chapel belonging to Badgeworth church. It was evidently a very small hamlet, but it probably already had a manor. (There is still a Manor Farm.) At the Reformation the chapel of Up Hatherley was deconsecrated and sold, later passing through the hands of the Norwoods and the Lygons. In 1609 a military survey was undertaken to identify all men capable of bearing and/or supplying arms, and it seems that in Up Hatherley there were only 3 men, 2 of them suitable to be pikemen. The village remained small as late as 1890, though the map of that date shows a number of large villas, some of which, such as Arle Court, still exist. Eric brought his story up to date by referring to the impact of the railways, wartime events and the expansion of housing in the 1950s. Now, thanks to boundary changes, Up Hatherley is actually the third most populous ward in Cheltenham. What a surprising amount there is to find out about one small place if you dig deep enough!

### Research and Display Evening

The annual members' evening took place on January 19th. Attendance was down a little on last year, no doubt due to the wintry weather, but as usual everyone enjoyed the gathering and conversation flowed along with the drinks and snacks. (It was noticed, however, that on this occasion soft drinks were more popular than wine.) Vic Cole and his helpers served the refreshments, and the Examiner Index and the Millennium Map were available to be consulted on laptops in the Council Room. The themes of the numerous displays to be seen there and in the other rooms included Cheltenham Workhouses, Railway Mania, the Charlton Kings Poorhouse, Public Houses, Cheltenham and the Victoria Cross and the St Paul's Practising School Memorial Board. There was a book-signing for David Aldred's new book on Bishop's Cleeve, and a large raffle which raised a total of £124 for the Mayor's charities.



## SOCIETY NEWS

### New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following:

*David Broad*

*Richard Bryant*

*Jean Croasdale*

*Nora and Maurice Harbridge*

*David Johnson*

*Diana Killen*

*Roger Langley*

*Helen McDonnell*

*Jennifer Wilce*

And a warm welcome back to *S P and D Ryley*

### Membership e-mail database

To facilitate the dissemination of information to members, particularly when time is short, the Society has compiled a database of members' e-mail addresses. These will only ever be used for communication within the Society and will not be released to any external body. We already have e-mail addresses for about half of the membership but would like to make the list as comprehensive as possible. If you would like to receive information from the Society by e-mail but haven't yet given your address to the Membership Secretary, or if you have recently changed your e-mail address, please contact Dorothy Seton-Smith at [seton-smith@talktalk.net](mailto:seton-smith@talktalk.net)

### The Victoria County History

Founded in 1899 and originally dedicated to Queen Victoria, the VCH is an encyclopaedic record of England's places and people from earliest times to the present day. Based at the Institute of Historical Research in the University of London since 1933, the VCH is written by historians working in counties across England. Most counties now have at least one volume, and more than 240 volumes have been published in total, providing an invaluable resource for everyone interested in local history.

The Gloucestershire series, Volume 12 of which will be published this year, has been funded in recent years by the University of London, the University of Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire County Council. Unfortunately the second of these is withdrawing funding after October 2010 and the third after March 2011; however, VCH in London is willing to continue publishing the Gloucestershire VCH, and a charitable trust, to be known as the **Gloucestershire County History Trust**, is being formed to raise funds to allow the work to go on. A Gloucestershire Community History Project will be launched to enable local historians and societies to participate in research under the guidance of experienced historians and Archives staff. The venture was discussed at an open meeting at Gloucestershire Archives on 15th March.

Any members interested in taking part in this project are asked to contact Sue Newton (01242 243049).

### Rededication of the St Paul's Practising School Memorial Board

CLHS member Ron Prewer was one of the last pupils at St Paul's Practising School, which from 1847 to 1951 was part of St Paul's College, Cheltenham's teacher training college for men. Ron's grandfather, who died in World War I, had also been a pupil at the school, and Ron discovered that his name was inscribed with many others on a memorial board in the college archives. The board was in poor condition and Ron launched a successful appeal to have it restored. It was rededicated at a service on December 12th last year. (see photo on back cover). Ron tells the full story in an article in this year's CLHS Journal.

### Journal Matters

Sally Self is now working hard on assembling the Journal from the many excellent and wide ranging contributions she has received this year: once again we will be able to afford some colour pages. Sadly one or two articles will not make it into the Journal but will be held over to 2011. The Journal will be distributed at the St Luke's morning meeting on 15th April and at the AGM on 27th April.

### Best wishes to Judy!

A familiar face has been missing at our meetings since the autumn - Judy Smith. Judy was taken ill at the end of August last year and has not felt well enough to join us in recent months. On behalf of the Society I should like to take this opportunity to say, "Get Well Soon, Judy - we miss you".

*Kath Boothman*



### MORE HELP WANTED

In addition to the July event, we need assistance from members on occasional Wednesdays when the Society has a display on in the Local Studies Section of Cheltenham Library. From 10.00 am – 4.00 pm we like to have somebody on hand to talk to anyone who shows an interest in the display and tell them about the Society. All you have to do is to sit somewhere near the display and you can read a book or carry on with your own research if you wish (although please not with the computers, which are too far away from the display). If you could offer about 90 minutes occasionally, we would love to hear from you, and, if you don't want to do it on your own, come along with a partner or a friend. **Please contact Sue Newton 01242 243049.**

### And here's an offer:

Jill Waller has indexed the Old Town Survey map of 1855-57 and is willing to look up any Cheltenham property on the map and print out the relevant section in colour at a charge of £1 per copy. The charge is to cover costs and for Society funds. (NB print-outs are not for reproduction, being copyright of CLHS and Gloucestershire Archives.) Interested? If so, please contact Jill on 01242 522485.

## FEATURE

## HOW AN OLD CHELTONIAN SAVED THE IRISH WOLFHOUND

Being closely involved with the Friends of St. Mary's, Cheltenham's ancient Parish Church, has many interesting sidelines. Recently we were asked if we could help a Dr Nicholas Wilkes from Northumberland to find the inscription on the grave of Col. Charles Graham, who died in 1858, and whose funeral took place at St. Mary's. It transpired that he had been buried in Cheltenham's New Burial Ground (now the Winston Churchill Memorial Garden). There are lists of people buried there in the Family History Library but his name was not among them and nearly all the gravestones were removed in the 1960s. These were probably used, I was told, as settings for railway sleepers or the cycle path. However I had seen a copy of his burial register entry so knew that he should have been included on the list.

There followed another trip to the library and the inspection of more lists but none was helpful, although much hard work had obviously gone into them many years ago. As I was leaving I told the librarian, Rebecca Standbridge, the whole story and that I was very depressed at my lack of progress. She was most concerned! She said she would see what she could find and would contact me if she had any luck. I returned home to find my son on the doorstep saying that I must go back to the library immediately as Rebecca had found something relevant. She had looked in 'Gloucestershire Notes and Queries' Vol.4 page 313 and found the complete inscription. How fortunate that someone went to the trouble of copying out inscriptions so long ago, not knowing that around 100 years later the stones would be removed and these would probably be the only records.

Having solved this problem I contacted Nicholas Wilkes to give him the news and asked why he was so interested. This led to the discovery that his main interest was in fact a son of Col. Charles Graham - a Captain George Graham, who was at Cheltenham College as a boy, and later, after retiring from the Bengal Army, married, and moved from Cheltenham to Dursley and set about a task, which took 40 years, to SAVE the Irish Wolfhound from extinction.

I learned that the International Irish Wolfhound Community had decided to contribute money so that Captain George Graham's grave, which was in a sorry state, could be refurbished, in thanksgiving for the huge pleasure they get out of their association with Irish Wolfhounds, and that there was to be a service exactly 100 years after his funeral on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 to commemorate this. Money had been contributed from Sweden, Norway, Ireland, USA, France, Slovenia, Australia, the Cayman Islands, Scotland, Guernsey, France, and England.



Six representatives of The Friends of St. Mary's decided to go to the service at St. Mark's, Dursley, because of Captain George Graham's many connections with Cheltenham and our unexpected involvement in the family story. Many members of the Irish Wolfhound Community attended the service and brought their dogs, the majority of which seemed to know exactly when to stand and sit and all behaved perfectly. The Vicar, the Revd. Janet Bromley, officiated and a great grandson of George Graham, Rory Webster, gave the address. Nicholas Wilkes, who together with Dursley resident and local historian Andrew Barton, had done so much to organise the day, read Psalm 90. The Mayor of Dursley, Cheltenham-born Jane Ball, also attended the service, which was a copy of the funeral service held 100 years before with a few added prayers. We then processed to the refurbished grave, where wreaths were laid. Next we followed the Crucifer and Vicar to St. James Church, Dursley, in procession and accompanied by the police, to look at the Graham memorials. Afterwards a minibus was waiting to take us to Dursley Community Centre for lunch.

In the afternoon we attended Assembly at Rednock School. This is built on the land where Captain Graham's house had stood. He renamed his house Rednock because of his Scottish connections and the school now bears that name. It was, as the Headmaster, Mr. David Alexander, said "an Assembly with a difference". Nicholas Wilkes was on the platform with one of his Irish Wolfhounds and he, Andrew Barton and Rory Webster told the students all about the history of the Irish Wolfhound and Captain Graham's family and the connection with their school. They saw photos of the original Rednock house and garden, the dogs and a family tree explaining how all Irish Wolfhounds are descended from Captain Graham's dogs. A poetry competition had been organised about the Captain and his dogs and the top three students read their poems. A plaque was unveiled in the hall to commemorate the day and later a second plaque, which will be put up outside when a new building is completed. A school Governor, Mr. John Cox, kindly told our group about the school. At special moments throughout Archibald McIntyre, Gentleman Piper to the High Council of Clan Donald, and a friend of the Graham family, played for us. Altogether a very memorable day.

*Christine and Peter Ormerod*



## OBITUARY

## MARY PAGET, 1912-2010

Mary Paget, widely known for many years as Life President of the Charlton Kings Local History Society, died peacefully at home on February 8th, aged 97.

Mary Cornelia Hill was born at Glynrosa in Charlton Kings on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1912, the daughter of Philip Rowland and Alice May Hill. After attending the Cheltenham Ladies' College from 1923 to 1931, Mary read History at the Royal Holloway College, where she met her life-long friend Joan Paget. After her BA studies Mary won a Christie Research Scholarship to study Medieval History at London University and gained an MA with distinction for her research on medieval kings' messengers, which work was later published by Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd under the title *The Kings' Messengers 1199-1377*.

After her studies Mary taught History, including a year at the Ladies' College from 1943-4, but working with archives was her real love and soon she was able to take up the post of Assistant Archivist to Roland Austin who was responsible for setting up the Gloucestershire Record Office. This experience in the very early days of county record offices stood her in good stead when the job of County Archivist for Shropshire became available in 1946. Mary was duly appointed and remained in the post at Shrewsbury until her retirement in 1974. During this period Mary met and married Joan Paget's widowed father, William, who died in 1968 at the age of 98.

On retirement Mary and Joan set up home together in a newly-built house on part of the site of her parents' former home, Glynrosa, in Charlton Kings. It was from here that Mary used her extensive knowledge and experience of working with archives to research the history of Charlton Kings and to be the driving force behind the Charlton Kings Local History Society, which was set up in 1978 and was one of the first in the County. Mary wrote articles and books, gave lectures, put on displays, and edited forty-seven editions of the Society's Bulletin. It was not until 2002, at the age of 90, that she decided, reluctantly, that it was time to hand over this job. One of her main interests was the architectural history of the old houses in Charlton Kings and she took every opportunity to examine and photograph any houses that were being restored. Mary's detailed knowledge of the houses and families of Charlton Kings was encyclopaedic and her memory phenomenal. When asked a question about a particular place or event she would often reply 'look it up, you'll find it in Bulletin 12 (or whatever)'.

Mary will be remembered with respect and affection by many in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham, and in particular by members of the Society she founded. As a mark of appreciation for her inspiring work, in November 2002 she was made the first Life President of the Society.

*Jane Sale*



Mary Paget on November 26th 2002 when she was made Life President. With her are David Smith, former County Archivist, who presented the award, and Mary Southerton, the then Chairman of Charlton Kings LHS.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY AFTERNOON

*Saturday 2nd October 2010 from 2.00 pm—5.00 pm (doors open at 1.15 pm)*

*At Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester. Entry including tea £6 payable on the door*

### 'A Fair day's Wage for a Fair Day's Work: the Workers' Movements in Gloucestershire'

Speakers: Professor Adrian Randall of Birmingham University

Jill Chambers, author of books on the Captain

Swing Riots of 1830/1



Cheltenham Local History Society will be participating as usual in this event. Anyone who would like to be involved is invited to contact **Elaine North** (01452 857803) who will be co-ordinating the Society's display. Ideas are needed as to how we could approach the subject, and contributions in the form of text and/or photographs would be very welcome.

It is also hoped to produce a *Chronology* on this theme. **Jill Waller** (01242 522485) is working on it, with help from Mike Grindley, and would be glad to hear from any members who may have contributions and/or suggestions to offer.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Edward Wilson of the Antarctic

At the September 2009 meeting of the Society members generously contributed towards the purchase of a quantity of Edward Wilson memorabilia by Dr David Wilson, great-nephew of the explorer. We are very pleased that these items have now been added to the Museum collection. Sue Newton says that Edward Wilson's penultimate letter to his wife is especially poignant. Selections from the Wilson Family Archive are to be displayed in the new Open Archive planned as part of the Museum's development scheme *Building for a New Future*.



Sue Newton holding the Wilson family scrapbook with Dr David Wilson, Jane Lillystone and Philippa Foster Back, Chairman of the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust

One of the items in the new acquisition is a massive scrapbook compiled by Edward's sister, and the Museum is looking for volunteers to index it. If you are able to help, please get in touch with Ann-Rachael Harwood at the Museum.

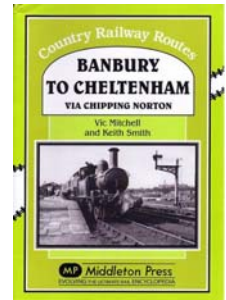
**Reminder** : If you want to see any particular item in the Museum collections, you are advised to visit before mid summer when packing up for closure will commence. You may not get another chance to view for quite some time while the new extension is being built.

*Sue Newton*

### New Publication

#### Banbury to Cheltenham via Chipping Norton by Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith

Just published by Middleton Press is a further book in their country railway routes series. This one covers the Banbury to Cheltenham line via Chipping Norton, and includes numerous photos for each station. Over 20 are devoted to the stations between Andoversford and Cheltenham, with good coverage of St James and Malvern Road. The publishers claim nearly all the photos are not previously published, and there is a lot of interesting detail, even if you're not a railway buff. The hardback version is available at £15.95 from [www.middletonpress.co.uk](http://www.middletonpress.co.uk) or via Vic Mitchell, one of the co-authors (01730 813169).



## OBITUARY

### CONSTANCE (CONNIE) FISHER , 1923 – 2009

Though not a member of the Society, Connie Fisher was a benefactor: after her death in July last year a quantity of her books came to us, through her business partner Pat Brown, to be sold for Society funds. We are most grateful for this gift.

Connie was born in Cheltenham on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1923. Her parents had a Sweet & Tobacconist shop in Bath Road and she began her schooling at Naunton Park School, where her musical interests were stimulated. Connie said that she became proficient, aged 4, on the triangle and on something she had insisted on calling 'the Tangerine'. All schools at that time sang in the Town Hall at the Annual Competitive Festival, organised by Imogen Holst, who set a high standard of performance. Connie had a good voice but sadly her family could not afford voice training lessons. She won a scholarship to Pate's Grammar School and then went to Bristol University, gaining a degree in English and French.

Her first teaching job was in Kenilworth and in later years she taught sixth forms at independent grammar schools, mainly in the Ealing area. She became head of department at the Phillippa Fawcett College of Education in Tooting but was made redundant when the college, like many others in the 1970s, was closed down. She then opened a bookshop in Dorking, and subsequently moved to Stow-on-the-Wold where she ran another shop, 'Bookbox' with Pat Brown until her final illness. She enjoyed both customers and books. She also delighted in her old cottage and its lovely garden at Icomb.

I first got to know Connie at Bookbox. She readily communicated her knowledge and enjoyment of books to like-minded people, though she could on occasions be both trenchant and fierce. For many years she gave WEA lectures on Literary Appreciation in the library at Stow, and her lectures are remembered with considerable admiration and affection.

The pleasure Connie took in architecture, music and literature was clear. Though she spent much of her life away from Cheltenham, she was proud to be a Cheltonian and used to say that she was lucky to have been born in such a richly architectural town. She died quoting from her favourite play (*Hamlet*) 'that it should come to this', and music from her favourite opera *Orfeo* accompanied her at the end.

*Anthea Jones*

## FEATURE

## THE NEW PUBLIC ART REGISTER AND TRAILS

In December 2008, Rob Wilson gave a talk to the Society on Cheltenham's Public Art. In the discussion which followed, it was suggested that it was time to revise the excellent trail produced by Aylwin Sampson in the early 1990s – at which point I intervened (in my capacity as Chairman of the Cheltenham Arts Council) to say that the Arts Council had a new trail in hand, although I later discovered that it might still be some way off. Consequently, I decided that one of my last acts as the Arts Council's retiring Chairman would be to take up the co-ordination of the work that needed to be done. Now, a little over a year later, we have compiled a Register of no less than 67 pieces of Public Art and Sculpture (it is sometimes hard to distinguish between the two), and very shortly this will be accessible through a dedicated website ([www.cheltenhampublicart.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhampublicart.co.uk)).



Drinking fountain at Holy Apostles church

The Register contains brief details of each piece of Art or Sculpture, accompanied by thumbnail photographs taken by members of the Cheltenham Camera Club. It also includes three walking trails, covering north, south and central Cheltenham, which take in as many of the Register items as possible. In addition to the Camera Club members, the project has also received tremendous support from Brian Carvell, the new Chairman of the Cheltenham Arts Council, and from Jenny and Douglas Ogle (who walked and timed the proposed trails for us), Steven Blake, Paul McKee, Aylwin Sampson and our young IT wizard, Darren Crossley.

One thing that we would also like to do is to collect more detailed historical information about each of the 67 items in the Register, both as an on-going resource, and as a means of strengthening the detail in the actual Register entries. Perhaps one or more Local History

Society members might be prepared to help with this, taking a certain number of entries, checking the current Register information for accuracy and then using the resources of the Library, Museum and Archives to collect further information? If anyone is prepared to help, they should contact Steven Blake, who has agreed to co-ordinate this on-going work, either by telephone on 01242 510926 or by his email, which is [steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com](mailto:steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com)

*Chris Lammiman*



The Minotaur and the Hare in the Promenade

## MEMBERS' REQUESTS

**Jill Barlow** asks whether anyone can throw any light on these three photos, part of a batch of pictures found in the Design Department at Cheltenham College. They do not have any obvious connection with the College. They appear to have been taken in February and March 1981 by photographers with the initials JB and FS. If you think you can help please telephone Jill (01242 233421).



And a query from **Geoff North**:

My research into Voluntary Aid Hospitals has prompted another line of enquiry. What happened to the school children when their schools were being used as VAD Hospitals? If anyone has specific information, especially family recollections, please contact me.

Geoff North tel. 01452 857803 or email: [geoffreynorth@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:geoffreynorth@blueyonder.co.uk)

## CAN YOU HELP?

### Charles Underwood

An enquirer urgently seeks information about this Cheltenham-born artist (1791-1883), who designed the Arnos Vale cemetery in Bristol. Would particularly like photos/portraits of him.

### 'Lagarie', Eldorado Road

From 1908-11 this house was occupied by **Edward Pierce**. Is it still there? It may have been re-named '**Walanda**' in the 1930s, but possibly has a number now.

### Lost letters

In the 1970s the Cheltenham historian Gwen Hart was studying the letters of :

#### **Edmund Thomas Browne of Winchcombe**

#### **Dr Fowler of Cheltenham**

#### **Samuel Sadler, solicitor**

#### **Dr Hogg (1820s)**

An enquirer who was in touch with her at the time wishes to trace these letters. Does anyone know where they may be? Gloucestershire Archives have no knowledge of them.

### Thomas Allan-Burns

In the 1911 census he gave his occupation as 'spa manager'. Does anyone know what his job might have entailed? He is thought to have been a hotel proprietor too. He lived at '**Glengyle**', London Road. Is this house now no.30, one of the terrace of 12 with fine ironwork, set back from the road? Any information on Thomas and his family would be welcomed.

### The Red House, Lansdowne Road

Has this house had any connection with the National Star Centre?

*If you can help with any of the above please contact Joyce Cummings on 01242 527299 or e-mail [joyce.cummings@tesco.net](mailto:joyce.cummings@tesco.net)*

## EDITORIAL

Here's an interesting fragment of local history that came my way the other day. It seems that at the start of World War II Gloucestershire County Council took over a wing of Postlip Hall, Cleeve Hill, for use as a maternity home for women from London and Birmingham, to allow them to escape the bombings. For a few weeks before the birth they stayed in lodgings in Cheltenham and Winchcombe. We can't know, of course, how many mothers and babies went home afterwards only to be bombed after all...

On a more cheerful note, the contents of this Newsletter show a busy summer of local history events to look forward to, with themes to appeal to all tastes. We hope our own event at St Andrew's with its celebrity speaker from *Who Do You Think You Are?* will appeal to everyone. So even if you don't get to all of them, do come to that one!

*Kath Boothman*



CLHS member Ron Prewer (on the right) and Major-General Joe Hinke, Royal Canadian Air Force, with the restored World War I honours board from St Paul's Practising School (see story on p7)  
*Photo: Gloucestershire Echo*

## NEXT ISSUE

Please forward items for inclusion in the  
JULY 2010 Newsletter by

**MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2010**

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

Tel: 01242 230125  
E-mail: [kbooth@dircon.co.uk](mailto: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.*