

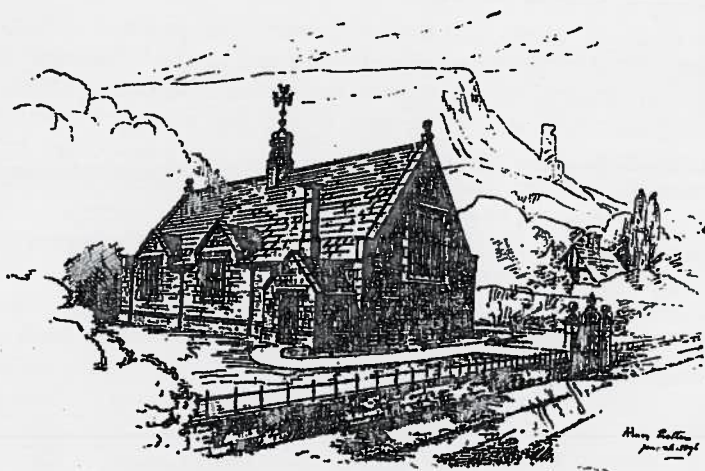
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smoke signal

No 30, February 2000

Editor: Eric Miller
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Leckhampton St. Peter's Parish Hall.

An impression by its architect, H A Prothero, 1896
(Further details are to be found in *Leckhampton Yesteryear*.)

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LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our meetings continue to be very well attended. As expected, John Milner's talk on The Park in December filled the room to capacity, and the numbers were not much less for Brian Torode's talk on Tivoli in January. In spite of a rival attraction at the Town Hall. In view of the publicity our meetings receive from the Cheltenham Arts Council and the media, it is impossible to prevent visitors from coming and discourteous to turn them away; nor would we wish to do so, particularly in the case of members of other local history societies who extend hospitality to us. The message to members must therefore be: come early to be sure of a seat!

This issue is going to press just after the research meeting on 10 February, about which those of you who expressed an interest in taking part in research projects will have received a letter from Eric Miller. Fourteen members attended and were able to browse among the maps, deeds, letters and other documents which Eric described and quoted from. I have high hopes for this new venture. It is essential to catalogue the material, and two or three have volunteered to do this. No special research experience is necessary, just a methodical mind. Offers of help are welcome for what could prove quite a social occasion, if people work in a team.

The editing and production of the book of photographs mentioned on page 5 will also entail a lot of work; Alan Gill and Eric Miller have already set about selecting the pictures and preparing captions.

Roger Richards

FUTURE PROGRAMME

(Nb Meetings are now normally on Thursdays once more.)

17 February - Alan Pilbeam: 'The Gloucestershire Way'

16 March - Eve Andrew: 'Visible History in Cheltenham'

20 April - Members' Evening

At this meeting we hope to present highlights from the 'Bendall' and 'Yeend' Archives (see page 4). In addition, we encourage any members who have made discoveries of their own to make them more widely known. If you have something to offer, please tell the Chairman in advance, so that he can organise the evening's programme.

18 May - Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk on the Restoration of Cheltenham Racecourse Station by Colonel Bob Stark, one of our own members.

Sunday 28 May - Millennium Walk. Members are invited to join the parishioners of St Peter's church for a 'Walking of the Bounds', taking a picnic lunch and finishing at the Church Cottages for tea. More details nearer the time.

REPORTS ON RECENT MEETINGS

The Park, from Zoo to College

At the December meeting, John Milner spoke to a capacity audience about the development of the Fullwood Park area, most of which is within the bounds of Leckhampton.

In 1833 Thomas Billings began laying out an area of 100 acres of domestic accommodation and parkland, surrounding a large mansion. In 1836 zoological gardens were planned for the site, with a lake for wildfowl and an elephant walk, but funds ran out, and the architect and builder Samuel Daukes bought the estate. Among the notable houses he designed were *Tudor Lodge* and the Italianate *Comerways*, and later *Brandon House*, *Casino* and *Fullwood House* itself (in 1847). Cricket, archery, bowls and athletics were also to be squeezed into the open space. In 1851 spa water was discovered (by none other than Samuel Bendall, the well-sinker mentioned in *Smoke Signal* No 29), but this was after the fashion for taking the waters had wained.

More recently in 1913 Fullwood House was used as a girls' school run by Ursuline nuns, and in 1931 it was bought by St Mary's College. In 1962 the college moved in its entirety to The Park, and some new buildings were erected, to be followed by others in the 1990s.

Tivoli

Following on appropriately from the previous talk, in January the Revd Brian Torode presented a slide tour of the Tivoli area, which is of considerable architectural and historical interest. The hamlet of Westall was much older, and Westall Green too survived from a larger open space. The growth of the fashionable residential district began in the 1830s after some of the land was sold by the Earl of Suffolk to the property developer Pearson Thompson. How it came to be called Tivoli is not known, except that the numerous ornamental lakes may have inspired comparisons with the water gardens of that name near Rome, much visited on the Grand Tour.

There were several very large houses, with extensive grounds, many of which survive, though often with changed use and rarely occupied by just one family. Hatherley Court was built for Pearson Thompson, and Hatherley Park was once just part of its gardens.

Poverty was only round the corner, however, and the narrower streets off Andover Road were rife with disease and squalor. The Tivoli Club was set up in 1860, as a temperance alternative to the pub, and a school followed in 1889, occupying St Stephen's church hall and encouraged by Miss Beale. Brian Torode had brought with him his book on Tivoli, proceeds of whose sale went towards the appeal fund for the church.

The Society is becoming more widely known as a refuge for potentially important and interesting historical records. As a result, your Editor for a time had the contents of two japanned metal deed boxes spread about his dining room!

Hard on the heels of the material inherited from Jean Bendall, we have had an opportunity of looking at some correspondence and minute books of the Leckhampton Vestry dating back to 1869; we had previously looked in vain for the latter in the Gloucester Record Office. The papers had formerly been in the possession of John Yeend, formerly both Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the PCC, and came to us via David Maughfling, the current Treasurer, who has found entries in them that shed light on the tenure and management of the Village Hall. We hope to publish some of this information in a later issue.

Other topics of interest relate to improvements and alterations to the church. The First and Second World War years are covered, enabling us to fill gaps left by the lack of available Parish Magazines (though the minutes make it plain that, contrary to previous belief, magazines were in fact produced). Throughout the Revd Eric Cordingly's absence as a POW in Japan the Revd Percy Unwin acted as Curate-in-Charge – for which he has not been given credit in earlier publications, though many older inhabitants may remember him.

We know that in 1913 the then organ was renovated and enlarged (see *The History of Leckhampton Church*), but it is now clear that prolonged discussion of how to improve the organ began as early as 1906, and various options were mooted.

Among various sites considered for the possible erection of a mission church was one 'at the corner of Leckhampton Road and Pilley Lane' (ie the one now occupied by John Wilkins Motors).

When the churchyard was extended in 1946, Mrs Elwes had been reluctant to sell the half-acre of Church Meadow for that purpose – indeed at one time it looked as though Mr Hicks might instead 'hand over' a piece of Moat Field. However, Eric Cordingly appears to have exercised his charm and persuaded Mrs Elwes to change her mind.

Mr Cordingly also had to negotiate with the army authorities who, it was alleged, had destroyed the lamppost outside Court Lodge. He asked them to replace it, since (not for the first time) it was complained that 'the darkness of the road to the church prevented many people from attending Evensong'.

SMOKE SIGNAL ON THE 'WEB'

The Society now has its very own Website, thanks to the good offices of Jeremy Davis, who kindly volunteered to set it up. It can be visited at www.geocities.com/llhsgl53/. If you aren't 'hooked up' to the Internet at home, book a (free) session at the Reference Library and browse. In addition to background information on the Society and its aims, there are extracts from our publications and links to other relevant sites, eg a complete list of the descendants of William Norwood, who emigrated to America in 1648, monumental inscriptions at St Philip and St James's church, and the names inscribed on the Leckhampton War Memorial. Jeremy is also beginning to include transcripts of the 800 or so inscriptions on gravestones in Leckhampton churchyard that have been recorded on behalf of the Gloucestershire Family History Society by Julian Rawes.

'LECKHAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS'

Alan Gill has now collected over 500 photographs and prints of the area as it once was. Who would have thought that this project, first proposed in the spring of 1997, would have been so successful? Alan and your Editor have shown the photographs to the publishers Alan Sutton, who have an excellent reputation in this field, and it is hoped to publish a selection, together with explanatory text, in a book to be put on sale before Christmas. This will be the Society's most ambitious undertaking to date and should have a wide appeal. We are now making the final selection of pictures, but there is still room for further contributions to the general archive. (The gaps to be filled have been mentioned in previous *Smoke Signals*.) If you think you can help, please contact Alan on Cheltenham 519248.

RECOMMENDED READING

Cheltenham Local History Society's *Journal 15* (price £3.99, available from the Cheltenham Museum bookshop, like our own Bulletin) contains an article on Cheltenham Literary and Philosophical Institution by Jean Lacock (Chairman of that Society and also a member of ours). Of more immediate interest to us in Leckhampton is one on the Follies of Cheltenham by Oliver Bradbury. These unusual structures include grottos at The Grotto itself in Moorend Road ('a house with grotto features', now demolished) and at Karenza (off Kew Place), as well as summer houses or gazebos at Tudor Lodge and at Painswick Lodge (now in the garden of 65 Shurdington Road). Terry Moore-Scott has also written about 'a possible portway into Cheltenham', passing through the northern part of Leckhampton and what is now The Park – and through Tivoli, as Brian Torode remarked in his talk.

SOME EARLY INHABITANTS OF LECKHAMPTON

We print the following information on some of the early inhabitants of Leckhampton; the first item has not been published previously.

Leckhampton's First Priests – Chaplains to the Lord of the Manor?

Leckhampton's first clerk in holy orders was probably a chaplain to the Lord of the Manor. An entry in the *Cartulary of Llantony Priory* (drawn to my attention by Terry Moore-Scott), shows that Simon Despenser, Lord of the Manor in about 1130, certified that 'all those portions of tithes of our demesne of Leckhampton ... which *Audomarus our chaplain* previously held by our gift' were to be granted to the canons of Llantony-by-Gloucester.

This entry for Audomarus predates by some thirty years what had previously been regarded as the first mention of a priest at Leckhampton. In that case, in 1162 a priest named Henry had been in dispute with the canons of another religious house, Cirencester Abbey, concerning payment of dues. The issue was evidently serious enough for him to be summoned before the Archbishop of Canterbury (Thomas à Beckett). Henry was found liable to pay 2 shillings yearly in respect of the chapel; (this was doubtless a simple rectangular building, a few traces of which may still survive).

Leckhampton Girl cured of Paralysis, 1232

The first mention of an ordinary person from Leckhampton - as opposed to a landowner or priest - is of an anonymous girl who was suffering from paralysis and was miraculously cured in the waters of a holy well at Tewkesbury. In the *Annals of the Monastery of Tewkesbury* (edited by H R Luard, 1857) among many miracles for the year 1232 it is recorded that 'a paralysed girl from Leckhampton received the power of walking and soundness in all her limbs'.

Home Guard Muster, 1608

In 1608 King James ordered a nation-wide inventory of able-bodied men. Twenty-seven were named in Leckhampton ('Leakhampton, whereof Will'm Norwood Esq and John Partridge gent are Lords'). Most were employed on the land and included nine servants, six husbandmen, two labourers and two yeoman. Among the tradesmen were a carpenter, a weaver, a tailor and a tanner. Some Leckhampton surnames will be recognised: Thomas Beillinger ('of middle stature, fit to be a musketeer'), James Byddel, John Crompe, Walter Cherington ('of the tallest stature and fit to be a pikeman') and Michael Pomphrey. There were two 'subsidy men', who paid for a substitute and were excused service. There was also a Thomas Jones, also known as Tucker. This is one of several local examples of the use of an alias; in another context, Glover alias Hasleham crops up more than once, with no obvious explanation. The village was also responsible for supplying munitions: one 'corselet' (jacket of mail) and one 'calyver' (culverin, a small cannon).

NAUNTON PARK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(More from the 'Bendall Archive')

Alfred Bendall played Rugby for Gloucestershire and was President of the Leckhampton Sports Club. His father had supported Naunton Park Football Club, of which he was Honorary Treasurer, as can be seen from the pages of the fixture card for 1909 - 1910, which is among the Bendall archive. There is a long and august list of Vice-Presidents, including:

Lord Duncannon, J E Sears, MP, J T Agg-Gardner, Mayor of Cheltenham, Alderman J B Winterbotham, the Revd R Waterfield, Principal of Cheltenham College, the Revd F L'Estrange Fawcett, Rector of Cheltenham, Dr Lloyd Davies and several other councillors, solicitors and clerical gentlemen.

Their willingness to be involved suggests that the club must have been a force to be reckoned with. Out of 21 matches, it lost only two and drew two. Teams against which they played included the Gordon League, Moseley Harlequins, the RA (Royal Agricultural?) College, Bath 'A', Swindon Engineering College, Bristol Imperial and Newport Extras.

Club colours were green and black hoops.

IS OUR LECKHAMPTON UNIQUE?

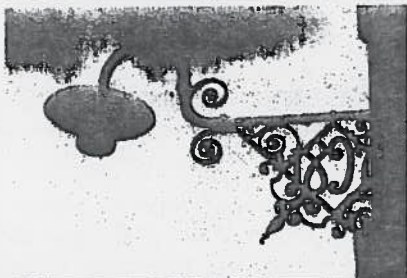
In the last issue, thinking it would be surprising if nowhere else in the English-speaking world had been named after our village, we asked whether anyone knew of another place called Leckhampton?

Thanks to the 'Yeend' archive, we can say with confidence that there is no such place as Leckhampton in the United States. For this we can quote the authority of the Librarian of the US Embassy in London, writing to an official of the St Peter's PCC in 1963.

Jeremy Davis, using the resources of the Internet, has drawn a blank as far as New Zealand is concerned, though there is an apartment block with Leckhampton in its name. John Randall too has been told of some apartments called Leckhampton Court in Capetown, South Africa. Nearer to home, of course, there is Leckhampton Hall, a graduate hall of residence at Trinity College, Cambridge; see *Smoke Signal* No 8 for an explanation of how it got its name.

This may not be the whole story, however. Can anyone else add to the debate?

WHERE IN LECKHAMPTON IS THIS?



The answer will be printed in the next issue. No prizes offered – just the fun of figuring it out!

The picture in Issue No 29 was of a turret on the gable of the former St Philip and St James's School in Leckhampton Road (now used as a dance studio).

FROM THE EDITOR

New Members. We welcome Mr M Plant, who joined the Society in January.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Honorary Treasurer, Tom Hewlett (tel: 238617), has the necessary application forms.

We are still offering earlier back numbers of *Smoke Signal* to members at 25 pence; more recent ones (November 1998 onwards) cost 50 pence. We also have a supply of local books, which are usually available at the monthly meetings or from the Hon Sec, Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566

Copy for the May 2000 issue should be sent to the Editor by 30 April. Members' articles, illustrations and comments are always welcome.

Eric Miller

e-mail: 'miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk'

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No 31, May 2000

Editor: Eric Miller
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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As usual we end the year's programme with the Annual General Meeting on 18th May, the notice and agenda for which are enclosed with this issue. I hope you will support it as well as you have the meetings with outside speakers; it is your opportunity to make your own comments and suggestions about the way the Committee conducts the day-to-day business of the Society.

As stated on the agenda paper, Tom Hewlett, who has been the Hon. Treasurer since the beginning, is standing down, and Amy Woolacott, another founder member of the Committee and a past Chairman, would like to be relieved of the duties of Secretary which she has been performing in an acting capacity. So we are looking for some new blood!

With reference to the agenda item about charitable status, you will find it helpful to bring your copy of the constitution with you: all will be explained at the meeting.

If proof were needed of the success of our meetings, it would be in the plea on page 3 for members to come early, before we admit visitors. You will find the draft programme for the 2000-2001 season on the reverse of the agenda paper; the usual card will be sent out with the August Smoke Signal. In the mean time we have two summer events to look forward to: the Millennium Walk on 28 May (see page 3), and the joint outing with Chariton Kings LHS on 26 July, for which a notice and reply slip is enclosed.

Roger Richards

INSIDE: Reports on previous meetings,

Future Programme,

Leckhampton in Old Photographs - progress report,

New members,

Index to Issues 1 - 30 ... The Society's Website

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

REPORTS ON RECENT MEETINGS

On 16 March Roger Box gave a lively and enthralling talk on the archaeological excavation of the Roman villa complex at Turkdean by Channel 4's 'Time Team'. It was he who had discovered the complex during a helicopter trip, though its existence had originally been noticed by the farmer who owned the land during the drought of 1974. The site was particularly well preserved because it had always been pasture land and had never been ploughed. Three days' filming by nine camera crews was condensed into two programmes. The chief finds were Roman plaster and a horse's skull and, after much excavating, a water-course running down from the buildings on higher ground. It was believed that more artefacts would be found if they dug deep at a later date. Roger's enthusiasm and detailed knowledge made this one of the best evenings we have had.

(With acknowledgements to Daphne Wheeler)

At the Members' Evening on 20 April John Randall brought us up to date on his research into the three stages of development of Leckhampton Road, with slides showing 'then and now' views of the buildings. He was also able to tell us of the problems in maintaining continuity on the names of the houses themselves and their occupants (who at one point included as many as 17 clergymen). Eric Miller followed by showing and describing a few of the contents of the 'Bendall Archive': a unique map of the Golf Course (1910) was of particular interest, together with documents relating to the land transfer. By coincidence, a map included with deeds pertaining to Fairfield House shed further light on a point made earlier by John Randall. Finally Roger Richards spoke about the evolving rôle of the Parish Vestry, which originally had both religious and secular responsibilities but which after an Act of 1894 gradually handed over responsibility for secular matters to the Local Board and later the Borough Council. To illustrate this transition, Roger quoted from the Vestry Minutes Book covering 1879 - 1921, part of the 'Yiend Archive'.

NB The 'Leckhampton Hill Papers' from the Bendall Archive have been deposited in the County Record Office, and some books have been donated to the County Library. Before we pass on any other material, however, we ought to catalogue it; if anyone would like to help in this task (which is not very onerous and will offer an insight into some of the fascinating documents) please let me know - Eric Miller.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday 18 May, 8 pm - Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Bob Stark on the restoration of Cheltenham Racecourse Station.

Sunday 28 May - Millennium Walk

To celebrate the Millennium, members are invited to join the parishioners of St Peter's church for a 'Walking of the Bounds'. Meet outside the church at 2 pm and finish at the Church Cottages for tea.

Wednesday 26 July - Summer Outing to the Black Country Museum - see enclosed notice

OVERCROWDING AT MEETINGS. How should we deal with our growing attendances? A diplomatic solution, similar to that practised by other societies, would be to ask visitors if they would mind waiting until 7.20 before entering the room, thus giving members priority. Therefore, would members please try to arrive before that time, in order to be sure of a good seat! (We have not actually had to turn anyone away yet, though common sense and regard for the safety of those present could require us to do this - as it does at a theatre if there are no seats left.)

'LECKHAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS' - PROGRESS REPORT

The Contract for the project has now been signed and Alan Gill and your Editor have already handed some 220 photographs to the publishers Alan Sutton for processing. The illustrations include many that have not previously been seen by the general public. Work is underway on preparing the explanatory text, in time for the deadline of 31 July. The book is expected to be on sale well in time for Christmas, at a cover price of £9.99. However, there will be an opportunity for members and local residents to place an advance order at the special price of £7.99. An application form will be included with the next issue of *Smoke Signal*.

LECKHAMPTON HALL, CAMBRIDGE - CORRECTION

Many thanks to Chris Trye for pointing out that in last issue's item 'Is our Leckhampton Unique?' Leckhampton Hall was stated to be part of Trinity College. This should of course read 'Corpus Christi'. The mistake arose because Frederick Myers, who had the house built, was a Fellow of Trinity. The correct details are set out in the original reference (No 8 page 3).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Mrs Heather Cole, Mr Matthew Corkern (from the USA, a descendant of William Norwood) and Miss M Seaton.

FROM THE EDITOR

The lamp bracket shown in the last **Where in Leckhampton?** feature is over the porch on the Village Hall.

... or should it be 'Parish Hall'? David Maughfling has written an article about the process of transition from one to the other. Because of pressure on space this has been left over until the next issue, as has the latest 'puzzle'. Other articles in future issues will cover: 'The Norwoods of Leckhampton and the USA,' 'Listed buildings in Leckhampton,' and 'Kidnappers Lane - was it the press gangs? Copy for the August 2000 issue should be sent to the Editor by 31 July. Members' articles, illustrations and comments are always welcome.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Honorary Treasurer, Tom Hewlett (tel: 238617), has the necessary application forms.

There are only four pages in this issue because of the number of inserts. In addition to the AGM notice and notice and application form for the Summer Outing, you will find the Index to Issues 1 - 30. We have Roger Richards to thank for this work, which should be of great assistance to members who want to find out what the Society has already published about the area. Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of the Research Bulletin and local books, which are usually on sale at the monthly meetings or from the Hon Sec, Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566

The Society's Website. Some members have reported experiencing difficulty in accessing the Society's Website <<http://www.geocities.com/LLHSG53>>. Jeremy Davis, who has kindly set it up and is keeping it up to date, recommends that the letters LLHS should be in capitals, just in case the system thinks they might be an 'i' or a '1'. If anyone still has a problem, he suggests they e-mail him at <JeremyDavis@GL53.freemove.co.uk> with an exact copy of the address they are using (preferably pasted and copied into the e-mail) and the name and version of their browser, eg Internet Explorer Version .0, Netscape Version 4.5, etc.

Eric Miller: tel; 526461, e-mail: 'miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk'

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No 32, August 2000

Editor: Eric Miller
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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new season of talks and other events. I would particularly commend the 'other events' mentioned overleaf as proof of our membership of the wider local history community. This message is shorter than usual as my report to the AGM virtually says it all. Since then we have had a most enjoyable and informative visit to the Black Country Museum, organised by Charlton Kings LHS to whom we are most grateful. It will be our turn next year, so I am open to suggestions.

Your committee met on 9 August and again co-opted Tom Lyall, as we already had the number authorised by the constitution. We also considered the charitable status issue. The Charity Commissioners have recently issued new guidelines which will take a little time to absorb, and we do not expect a dramatic rise in our income in the next year or so. We therefore decided to wait until the next AGM before bringing forward any new proposals.

Roger Richards

'LECKHAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS'

At last the draft has been delivered to the publishers and we expect that the book will be out in good time for Christmas. Its format will be the same as that for *Charlton Kings in Old Photographs*, which was brought out last year to great acclaim. Enclosed is an order form enabling members to make advance purchases at a good discount on the normal price. Copies will be available at meetings and – it is hoped – also at the special event in the Village Hall (mentioned overleaf) on 1 November, when some of the illustrations will be displayed.

INSIDE: Forthcoming events

Report on Annual General Meeting

The Parish Hall

The Norwoods of Leckhampton and the USA

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Hon. Treasurer's Report. Tom Hewlett reported a very satisfactory result. Profits amounted to £1032-16p, as compared with £57-92p for the previous year, largely due to continuing high sales of *Leckhampton in the Second World War*. The increase in subscriptions in September had resulted in a more satisfactory balance in the Working Account.

During the year we had received a £100 grant from Cheltenham Arts Council towards the cost of publishing *Bulletin No 1*. One of our members, the late Geoff Capper, had left some papers and a video of Cheltenham to the Society, plus a legacy of £100. The amount of £2071-63p in the Publications Account was necessary to finance future publications. We continued to hold our Reserve Account at the Chelsea Building Society, ever hopeful of a windfall from any take-over. Terry Moore-Scott suggested that the legacy from Geoff Capper should be used for something specific, such as an overhead projector.

Election of Officers and Committee. The following were elected:

Chairman: Roger Richards, *Vice-Chairman:* David Lyall,
Acting Hon. Secretary: Amy Woolacott, *Hon. Treasurer:* Jeremy Davis, *Committee Members:* Eric Miller, Alan Gill, Marilyn West, and Ron Walker.

Annual Subscription. It was agreed that the subscription should remain at £5 per individual and £7-50 per couple

David Williams was happy to continue as Honorary Auditor.

On the proposal that the Society be registered as a Charity, it appeared that there would be certain benefits, which would also bring us into line with other similar Societies. After general discussion, the Committee agreed to consider the changes to the Constitution that would be necessary if we were to apply for registration, and to report back to members.

Under other business, Terry Moore-Scott spoke about the Arts Council's Millennium project to place sundial mosaics in the town, including one in Leckhampton. The Parish Council could not support one in the school playground, as it was not in the parish. The most favoured site was on the grassy bank opposite the entrance to the Court. The support of the Society would be welcomed. Roger Richards reminded members that we now have a web site, set up by Jeremy Davis.

After the AGM Bob Stark gave an illustrated talk about the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway and the restoration of Cheltenham Racecourse station. Great progress had been made since the preservation group was formed in 1976, taking over a ruinous and overgrown site. The first public service was run from Toddington in 1984 and the line has since been extended from Gotherington towards Cheltenham at the rate of half a mile a year. With the aid of sponsorship, stations and facilities were being brought to immaculate condition, though it was sad to see the damage done by vandals. The members were encouraged to help by buying shares in the GWR and to take an excursion trip on the line.

THE PARISH HALL – CHURCH OR VILLAGE HALL?

We are grateful to David Maughyfling, Honorary Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee, for writing this article. It is based on facts gleaned from minutes books in the 'Teend Archive'.

The status of the Hall has often caused confusion. Readers of Eric Miller's *Leckhampton Yesteryear* will know how the Hall came into existence and that the Trust Deed of 1905 vested the legal ownership in the Gloucester Diocesan Trust, with a local Committee of Managers consisting of the Rector, the Churchwardens and four male communicants. It is probable that if the Parochial Church Council had been in existence it would have been mentioned in the deed, but the document seems in keeping with the spirit of the time when there were fewer distinctions between the religious and civil life of a parish (and the status of women in public life was rather different!).

It is therefore not surprising that were many occasions when members of the Church Council spoke as if they had the duty of running the Hall only to be reminded that this was not so. As early as September 1912 an unfortunate precedent was set. The then Hall Treasurer, Mr. Thompson, resigned and tried to hand over his responsibilities to the Churchwardens who declined to accept. No one knew if a deed had ever been executed, and a Warden commented on the "vague, hazy tenure upon which the Parish held possession of the Hall". It was decided to refer to the Parish Chest. This oracle produced the desired result because in November the Wardens agreed to act as Treasurer and Secretary. Again in July 1917 a Church Council debate was adjourned because no one could remember the terms of the Trust Deed. By March 1918 the Council agreed that they had "no veto or voice" and the control rested with the Management Committee.

In May 1929 a PCC meeting "appointed" four Parish Hall Managers but at the very next meeting Mr. Packman, Parish Hall Treasurer, claimed that the appointment was invalid. As later revealed he may not have been right. In January 1935 L. W. Barnard stated that the PCC was "entirely responsible for everything connected with the building". There must have been some dissent because the Rector, Archdeacon Sears, promised to clarify the position by the next meeting. He duly wrote to the Church Assembly Legal Board and received an interesting if not entirely satisfactory reply from the Secretary, W. S. Wigglesworth. In his opinion the Hall must continue to be run by the Rector, Churchwardens and three (*sic*) parishioners mentioned in the Trust Deed. If the control of the Hall had been "vested in the Vestry" (ie the Annual Church Meeting) prior to the creation of PCCs by the Powers Measure 1921 then a transfer of control to the PCC would have occurred. However the Measure did give the PCC the right to appoint additional members to the governing body not exceeding the number laid down by the Charity Commissioners. The Managers had to submit the Hall accounts to the PCC but these did not have to be presented at the Annual Church Meeting. (In fact, it was the practice for the Treasurer to give a brief verbal report to the Meeting).

Where is this?



Where is this memorial?
Who was the young man?
How did he die?

The answer will appear in the next issue.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death of Mr A Newcombe, of Asquith Road, a founder member of the Society.

FROM THE EDITOR

Copy for the November 2000 issue should be sent to the Editor by 31 October. Members' articles, illustrations and comments are always welcome.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of the Research Bulletin and local books, which are usually on sale at the monthly meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566

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Eric Miller, tel: 526461, e-mail: <miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk>

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Issued free to members – otherwise 50 pence



smoke signal

No 33, November 2000

Editor: Eric Miller
20 Collum End Rise
Tel: 01242 526461

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

First of all, I am sure you all would wish to join me in congratulating Alan Gill and Eric Miller on the excellence of the publication, 'Leckhampton in Old Photographs'. The arrangement of the material in thematic chapters and Eric's full and informative captions make the book more like a short history of the village than a mere photo album. The photographs selected are but a fraction of the archive painstakingly collected and copied by Alan, and this will be a valuable resource for future publications.

I am writing this in the week following Remembrance Sunday. As I listened to the names of the dead from the two World Wars being read out in St Peter's Church, it occurred to me that those who have died on active service since then deserve to be commemorated. I am thinking particularly of the Korean War, in which The Gloucestershire Regiment – 'The Glorious Glosters' – so distinguished itself. To obtain the necessary information, specific to Leckhampton, from official sources may not be easy, so I would ask any of you who know of friends or relatives who have died as a result of the many conflicts in the past fifty years – for example, Malaya, Cyprus, Kenya, Aden, Northern Ireland, The Falklands, The Gulf and the former Yugoslavia – to let me have the details. If I can compile a reasonably comprehensive list, I will make it available to the churches.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and the best of good fortune for 2001, when our main project will be the publication of Research Bulletin No 2. I should also remind you that from January onwards our evening meetings in Church House will not begin until 7.45 pm.

Roger Richards

***In this issue: Forthcoming Events, Reports on recent meetings,
The Norwoods of Texas, Recommended reading,
Kidnappers Lane and other 'names to conjure with',
Leckhampton Court mortgage 1782,
How well do you know your Leckhampton?***

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

LECKHAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Thank you to members for their advance purchases of the new book. This support has helped in its successful launch, and it is in great demand from the public at large. It will remain available to members at the concessionary price of £8 until the end of the year. So there is still time to buy another copy (or more) to give as a Christmas present! Sales at other venues have enabled the Society to donate £86 to Village Hall Funds and (so far) £32 to the St Peter's Organ Fund.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Society meetings held in Church House, Painswick Road
(Please note that these will start at 7.45 pm until further notice)

Thursday 7 December

Malcolm Beeson – 'Edward Jenner and Charles Brandon Trye'

Thursday 18 January

John Jurica – 'The Study of Leckhampton Parish for the Victoria County History'

Thursday 15 February

Ray Wilson – 'The Industrial Heritage of Gloucestershire'

Other events of interest to members

Wednesday 6 December at 8 pm in Highbury Church Hall - Admission £1.50

Talk: 'The Flowers of Leckhampton Hill' (Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society).

From 9 December onwards there will be displays in the Foyer of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, one illustrating Leckhampton and the other devoted to Dr Edward Wilson of the Antarctic. Coinciding with this

Tuesday 12 December at 7.30 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices

Talk on Dr Wilson by one of his descendants. Visitors' admission £1.

Tuesday 13 February at 7.30 pm in the Everyman Theatre Studio

Local History evening: displays of photographs and memorabilia and an illustrated talk by Eric Miller on 'Leckhampton 100 years ago' (another opportunity to hear it in case you missed the first performance at the Village Hall: it will not be an exact repeat!). (The Charlton Kings and Cheltenham Local History Societies will be holding similar events on Tuesday 6 and 27 February.)

Tuesday 20 February at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices: Cheltenham Local History Society

The Reverend Brian Torode – 'John Middleton, Provincial Architect'.

(Members will recall Brian's talk to our Society on the Tivoli area. John Middleton designed St Philip and St James's church and was responsible for the enlargement of St Peter's church, Leckhampton.)

REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

For the first meeting of the new season in **September** we welcomed back **Arthur Price** (he first spoke to us in January 1994) whose subject was 'Underground Quarries'. He described the types of stone to be found in the Stroud area, namely *Weatherstone*, which came from open quarries on Minchinhampton Common, and *Freestone*, which is found at a lower level and came from the underground quarries, or stone mines as they were otherwise known, to the west of Nailsworth. As its name implies, the weatherstone is harder and is used for surfaces exposed to the weather, whereas freestone can be carved and is often used for interior work, particularly in churches, including Gloucester Cathedral. The Cathedral now has to obtain such stone from elsewhere, since the workings in the Stroud area, both above and below ground, have long been closed.

Some of the tools used are now displayed in the Stroud Museum. The talk was illustrated with some remarkable photographs taken underground by Arthur Price. One could only wonder at the skill of the stone miners who were able to extract large blocks of stone with only the aid of levers and tackle operated by hand and in primitive light. Mr Price is about to publish a book on the provenance of the stone used in buildings in Cheltenham. We were a bit disappointed to learn that almost none of it came from Leckhampton Hill. Our stone was used mainly for road surfaces and the production of lime.

Roger Richards

At the **October** meeting **June Hamblett** spoke about the development of **Cavendish House**, which originated in London as Clark and Debenham's (later Debenham and Freebody), on the corner of Wigmore Street and **Cavendish Square** (hence the name). They opened a branch in the 'brisk and animated town' of Cheltenham in 1826, at No 3, Promenade, gradually extending as the business prospered, advertising 'silks, cashmeres, muslins ... and fancy articles of English and foreign manufacture' as well as 'family mourning, funerals conducted in the most careful manner, at moderate prices'.

A striking fact was the number of employees who were obliged to live on the premises. The 1881 Census returns show over a hundred of them, some of whom occupied the building which survives today at the end of the Regent Arcade car park block. There were strict rules of the house, just one night a week being permitted for courting, for example. The hours of work were also demanding (in the days before the Early Closing Act): opening hours were 6 am to 9 pm.

These glimpses of the past contrasted with the present-day establishment in its modern building, under the ownership of the House of Fraser.

Eric Miller

In November Gordon Ottewell (another return visitor) spoke about 'The History of Hedgerows'. These are part of the texture of the English landscape, but since the last war they have been reduced from three-quarters of a million miles to only 400,000. Some might have had pre-historic origins as defences, but the majority date from the Parliamentary Enclosures of 1740 - 1880. They marked boundaries and kept stock under control, but the wood that grew in them and the herbs beneath also had their uses. We were shown the different means of setting a hedge, and the various regional styles of bill-hook. We were reminded of Max Hooper's means of dating a hedge (from the number of varieties of woody species to be found in any 30 yards' length), though there are important caveats to that simplistic rule. One questioner asked about the significance of ditches; Gordon agreed that these were probably the real boundaries, and that the ancient hedges would have grown from seed blown on to the mounds on either side.

Eric Miller

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT PARK CAMPUS, 16 SEPTEMBER

I was able to attend the morning sessions and the latter part of the afternoon Forum/Discussion. One or two societies had displays, Cheltenham LHS put on an excellent display of their work programme. There were numerous books on sale by individuals, societies and Tucker's Bookshop of Stroud.

The first speaker was Prof. Christopher Elrington who has been editor of a number of Gloucestershire Victoria County History volumes. Four years ago he undertook a 1200-mile 'Hike for History' through Britain to highlight the value of historical records. He identified the value of local history societies' work and publications as sources for the various volumes. He urged societies to collect and publish books of photographs.

The other speaker was Dr. Spencer Jordan from the University of Bristol on 'History and Information/Communication Technology' and the implication for local historians. The underlying message was that much information which has been committed to electronic media is now 'ripe' for systematic analysis. He showed how census records may be used by 'search engines'.

The Forum Panel consisted of officials of Association, Peter Bloomfield (David Smith's successor), Nicholas Herbert, another Victoria County History editor, and the main speakers. Several interesting points arose:- eg how are good speakers found for meetings? BALH will look into ways of disseminating information. Also, ideas for funding publications, where wealthy benefactors should not be overlooked.

Amy Woolacott, GRCC Local History Committee representative for Leckhampton.

CHEL TENHAM ARTS COUNCIL AWARD

Congratulations Leckhampton LHS member Ann Hausscherr, who has been presented with a Cheltenham Arts Council Award, as a member of the Cheltenham Mineral and Geological Society.

THE NORWOODS OF TEXAS

Among the visitors to St Peter's Church on 9th September, the day of the organ appeal gift day, were some representatives of the Norwoods who now live in Texas. They had come on a family pilgrimage to their ancestral home and were taking some rubbings of the memorials in the church. I introduced myself as chairman of the Local History Society and one of them, Steve Norwood of Sugarland, Texas, kindly gave me a copy of a history of his branch of the family written by his aunt, Maureen Norwood, and entitled 'Francis Norwood, Immigrant to Massachusetts and His Descendants, 1635 - 1987', which I accepted on behalf of the Society.

The Francis Norwood from whom they trace their descent was not the most senior emigrant, since he left this country in 1657 with his father, Captain Thomas Norwood, who had supported Cromwell and had reason to fear what might happen to him at the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II. Thomas was the youngest son of Richard Norwood (1574-1630) and a grandson of William Norwood (1545-1632), who did so much to renovate Leckhampton Court. Two of Thomas's brothers, William and Richard, had preceded him to the New World, but to Virginia. Thomas went to the Bahamas and it appears that only his son Francis settled in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1663, where he died in 1709.

Francis had ten children and it is through the fourth son, Joshua (1683-1762), that the line of descent leads eventually to Texas. Families of this size were common in the early days, as was the longevity of the paterfamilias. One Hiram Adelbert Norwood lived from 1845 to 1932. The family stayed in Massachusetts until 1790, when Isaac Norwood (1746-1837) moved to Camden, Maine. It was Hiram who started the move away from the East Coast; on his marriage in 1864 he settled in Illinois where his wife came from, and after her death in 1901 he lived with his daughters in Kansas. Meanwhile his son, Francis Marion Norwood (1865-1922), had moved from Illinois to Arkansas, and the move to Texas, via Oklahoma, was completed in the next generation. Burford Norman Norwood, husband of the author of the book, founded a house-building firm and several family members have worked in the business. We wish them well and hope to keep in touch.

Roger Richards

RECOMMENDED READING

American Lady of the Manor, Bredon's Norton by Owen Stinchcombe. Price £8, post free, from the author at Grassington, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham GL52 4HR. The book describes the later life of Victoria Woodhull Martin, who settled down in England with difficulty, having previously led a colourful and adventurous life in the USA. The story is soon to be filmed, with Nicole Kidman in the title rôle.

Owen Stinchcombe is well known as a leading member of the Gotherington Local History Society. He has kindly supplied us with some notes on the Leckhampton Working Men's Club and the Local Board, which will feature in the next *Research Bulletin*.

Eric Miller

KIDNAPPERS LANE - WAS IT THE PRESS GANGS ?

There are some pointers to a theory that Kidnappers Lane got its name from the activity of Press Gangs during the Napoleonic Wars in the early part of the 19th century:

a. In 1964 a very old resident of Church Road (name not known) told me that he believed that it was so called because of the Press Gangs.

b. In the 'Examiner' of 7 July 1904 there is an article entitled 'Leckhampton: Notes and Memories' in which it states that 'Kidnappers Lane was so called before the memory of the oldest inhabitant, probably after some attempt at kidnapping in the Press Gang days'.

c. Samuel Bendall, great-great-grandfather of the late Jean Bendall, had been a sailor involved with the slave trade with the West Indies. He was captured by the French, imprisoned, but managed to escape and make his way back home to Cheltenham, where he lived in St. James Street. Some time later he was caught by a Press Gang while hiding in a haystack, and conscripted into the Navy. It is not known where this was, but presumably in the local area. He fought at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Eventually he returned to Cheltenham, residing in Clare Street, and working as a well sinker.

Press Gang activity reached its height during the Napoleonic Wars when the Navy was short of manpower. About half of the manpower was pressed into service. Seafaring men and former sailors were prime targets of the Press Gangs. The system fell into disuse towards the end of these wars in 1815. Although nothing is proven, this is the best theory I am aware of as to how Kidnappers Lane got its name.

Alan Gill

MORE NAMES TO CONJURE WITH

The recurring interest in how Kidnappers Lane acquired its name goes to show that among local historians the names of local places, streets and houses are a constant source of fascination. We may or may not have heard the last of Kidnappers Lane, but there are plenty of other local names to conjure with, some in the same area as Kidnappers Lane.

Take Cummins Row for example. It no longer exists but the 1884 O.S. map shows it by name as a small row of cottages on the east side of Farm Lane not far from the present-day house 'Little Vatch' (the site is also listed in the 1891 Census - but as 'Cummings Row'). Interestingly, Croome's 1835 map annotates Kidnappers Lane as a 'green lane from Cummins'. The description looks like a personal name, perhaps of an early Leckhampton family, and presumably there is a connection with the old field named 'Cummins Hill Ground' situated on the hill at the edge of the parish below Blackhedge and first recorded in 1835. But who Cummins was and how the name came to be associated with Leckhampton remains an enigma.

Perhaps more intriguing is the quaintly-named 'Sheeps Head Row' which, from at least the late 18th century, stood on a site just west of Kidnappers Lane to the north of Moat Cottage. Here a modern house has replaced the original row of four tumbledown cottages which were certainly there at the time of the enclosures in 1778. But why 'Sheeps Head'? I had previously toyed with the idea that perhaps the name originated from 'sheep shed' (not an unusual feature in this sheep rearing area of the Cotswolds) but a book I recently read on the history of Torfaen in South Wales has provided what may be an alternative, quite different, explanation. At Garn-Yr-Erw, near Blaenavon, once stood a row of cottages built by the local steel company for their workers; they were called 'The Black Ranks' because they were coated with pitch, but another name for them was 'Sheepshead Row'. This name came about because each cottage had a stable door in its front porch where 'the heads of people sitting on chairs watching the world go by would often be seen'. Now I am not saying that this rather picturesque account has to be the explanation for Leckhampton's Sheeps Head Row, but can anyone come up with a better one?!

Terry Moore-Scott

LECKHAMPTON COURT MORTGAGE DEED FOR 1782

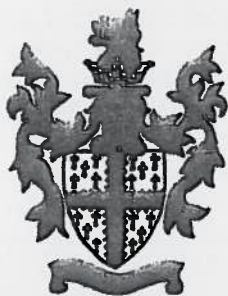
During the summer Mary Paget of the Charlton Kings LHS kindly sent me the catalogue of a Bristol antiquarian bookseller. One of the items listed was an attested copy of a deed relating to the mortgaging of the Manor House of Leckhampton and 400 acres of land to Henry Norwood Trye in 1782 for £2867.8.3d. It apparently listed all the pastures, closes, orchards and tenements belonging to the manor, with measurements and names of tenants.

I immediately got in touch with the dealer, but alas! I had been beaten to it by an anonymous purchaser. I wrote to him (or her) care of the dealer, explaining my research interest on behalf of the Society and asking if I might just see the document and/or perhaps obtain a photocopy. In due course I received a reply to the effect that it was 'not available' to me.

To say the least, this seems a great pity and means that society at large is deprived of the knowledge of what on the face of it is unique information. I have discussed the question with others who might have an opinion on the subject. John Jurica of the County Record Office commented that such mortgages were (and remain) a not unusual means of raising capital. He agreed with a suggestion by John Milner that the purpose could have been related to the working of the quarries (though H N Trye did not begin to exploit them until several years later, as David Bick confirms). John Randall persuasively suggested that H N Trye was raising money to buy up land in connection with the Enclosure Act for Leckhampton, which had been passed in 1778. It would nevertheless have been highly desirable to have a sight of the deed in question.

Eric Miller

How well do you know your Leckhampton?



Whose coat of arms was this? What is the motto (and what does it mean)?
The answer will appear in the next issue.

Answer to the previous puzzle: The young man was William Joseph Gale. His memorial in St Peter's church states that 'he fell among robbers' and died near Nazareth on September 14th 1877, aged 19. (For further details see my article in St Peter's Parish Magazine for March 1998.)

FROM THE EDITOR

Copy for the February 2001 issue should be sent to the Editor by 15 January. Members' articles, illustrations and comments are always welcome.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of the Research Bulletin and local books, which are usually on sale at the monthly meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566

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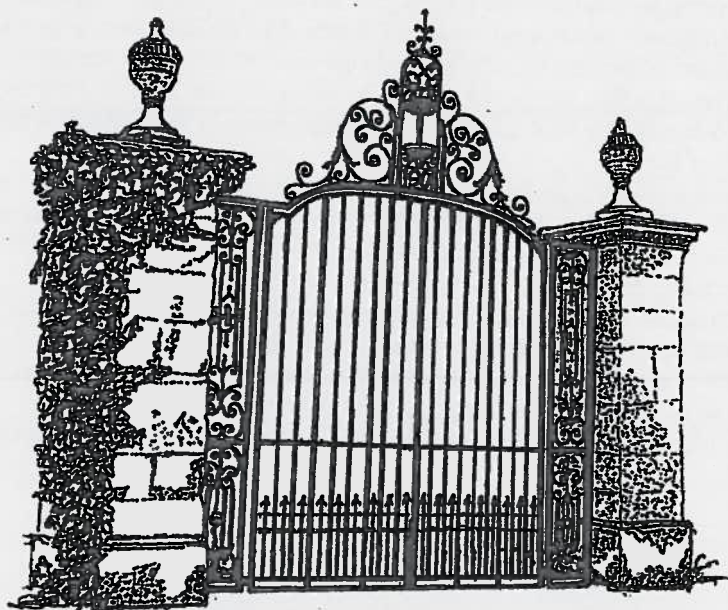
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No 34, February 2001

Editor: Eric Miller
20 Collum End Rise
Tel: 01242 526461



Leckhampton Village Hall Gates, drawn by Amy Woolacott
The Hall was completed in 1897, but the centenary of the gates is celebrated this March, as explained in *Leckhampton Yesteryear*

***In this issue: Chairman's Message, Forthcoming Events and Outings,
Reports of Recent Meetings, News from around the County,
Recent Books, The Norwood Coat of Arms, From the Editor***

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

How time flies! It does not seem three months since we last went to press: in fact it isn't, since the November issue of *Smoke* signal was a bit late – hence the reversion to a four-page issue this time. What with Christmas and New Year festivities, there is not much to report on the local history front. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that we have been given some photographs formerly owned by Arthur Cook, the late headmaster of Leckhampton School, showing school scenes and personalities of the 1950s and 1960s. And don't forget the Members' Evening on 15 March, when we shall be keen to hear about recent research, observations or questions. If you have anything to offer, it would be helpful to let me know beforehand.

Arrangements are well in hand for the joint summer outing with Charlton Kings LHS to Frampton on Severn on Tuesday 17th July. As I am sure most of you know, our local contact Rose Spence, who works in the estate office, is the daughter of our member, Tom Hewlett, and is the author of *Frampton on Severn: Portrait of a Victorian Village*, based on a collection of sketches drawn in the 1860s by a member of the Clifford family.

The visit starts with a guided tour of the village by Rose; we shall then visit the Manor House and garden, the home of Mrs Janie Clifford. Then, after lunch, we visit Frampton Court and gardens, the home of Mrs Henriette Clifford. We shall depart after tea in the village hall. It promises to be a very interesting day.

Preparations are well advanced for our next publication *Research Bulletin No 2*, and Eric Miller, our Co-ordinator of Research, is already thinking about the next book, which is to be a history of Leckhampton Court. In order to be able to devote more time to these projects, he would like to be relieved of the editorship of *Smoke Signal*; so, if anyone is able and willing to take this on, he would be most grateful.

Roger Richards

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Society meetings held in Church House, Painswick Road, at 7.45 pm.

15 February: Ray Wilson – 'The Industrial Heritage of Gloucestershire'

15 March – Members' Evening (the Chairman welcomes offers of contributions)

19 April: Terry Moore-Scott – 'The Archaeology of Leckhampton'

17 May: Annual General Meeting, followed by talk by Marilyn West on 'The Bath Road Shops'

Outings

Tuesday 17 July: Summer Outing to Frampton-on-Severn (see Chairman's Message for more details)

The Regional Local History event will be hosted by the Forest of Dean LHS on Saturday 30 June. Further details in due course.

REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

At the December meeting **Malcolm Beeson**, Manager of the Jenner Museum at Berkeley, spoke about the life of **Edward Jenner (1749-1823)**. Not only was he famous for introducing vaccination against smallpox, but he studied animals' hibernation, birds' migration and the habits of the cuckoo and discussed fossil remains and the disappearance of species with **Charles Darwin's** grandfather **Erasmus**. In 1784 he launched a balloon from Berkeley – the very one which landed at Birdlip and from which the inn there derives its name. (Apart from mentioning Jenner's periodic residences in Cheltenham, this was the only 'local' connection that the speaker referred to: more remains to be learnt about Jenner's important professional relationship with **C B Trye** of Leckhampton Court.)

In January **John Jurica** spoke about **The Victoria County History** and how in due course it would deal with Leckhampton (together with the other settlements surrounding Cheltenham). He gave a comprehensive survey of the salient events affecting Leckhampton and the people involved and also mentioned the sources that would be used (now enhanced by computerised search). It was encouraging to hear that the work of local history societies was regarded as an invaluable input to the project. It was especially gratifying to be able to point out that our Society had come by a unique map of the erstwhile local golf course (thanks to the late **Jean Bendall's** collection: the map and certain other documents will eventually be passed to the County Record Office).

Eric Miller

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY ... AND BEYOND

A Gloucestershire Local History Website <www.gloshistory.org.uk> has been opened. It will in due course include book reviews and a list of speakers.

A number of manuscripts which have till now formed part of the Gloucestershire Collection will gradually be moved to new homes, eg the Brunswick Road Library and the Gloucestershire Record Office (where there is a charge for access). The Hockaday Collection of ecclesiastical records has already been moved to the GRO.

A visitor to Adelaide, Australia, has found a place called Norwood. He presumes it had London connections, but someone might like to explore the possibility of a link with Leckhampton?

At Highbury Church Hall in December **Rosemary Westgate** gave a talk on **Flowers of Leckhampton Hill**. Hundreds of species were shown on beautifully produced slides. This is clearly a subject of local interest, and we shall invite her to speak to the Society soon.

Amy Woolacott

Recent Books

Leckhampton in Old Photographs has sold phenomenally well. We have a few copies left, which members can still purchase at the discount price of £8. Otherwise copies may still be had from Leckhampton PO and the main bookshops in town.

A Chronology of Cheltenham, 200 BC - 2000 AD, compiled by Stephen Osmond, contains an extensive list of events for the area (including Leckhampton), together with an index. Available to members at the discounted price of £7.

A Brief History of Leckhampton Scout Group by Tony Clifford. Available from the author, who has also presented a copy to the Society. He asks for a photograph of the 1953 Coronation Bonfire on Leckhampton Hill. Can any member oblige?

How well do you know your Leckhampton? The Coat of Arms shown in the last issue was that of the Norwoods. *The shield: ermine, a cross engrailed gules; the crest: on waves of the sea, a lion sejant holding between the paws an anchor, flukes upward; the mantling: gules and ermine doubled; the motto: 'Sub Cruce Vincas' ('Under the Cross you will Conquer').*

New members. We welcome Mrs R and Ms T Czyzewicz, Miss Mandy Gibbs, Mr Dan Goldberg (Maryland, USA), Miss Sue Marlow and Mr and Mrs D E Malvern.

FROM THE EDITOR

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No 35, May 2001

Editor: Eric Miller
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Tel: 01242 526461

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As usual we end the year's programme with the Annual General Meeting on 17th May, the notice and agenda for which are enclosed with this issue. I hope you will support it as well as you have the meetings with outside speakers; it is your opportunity to make your own comments and suggestions about the way the Committee conducts the day-to-day business of the Society. The minutes of last year's meeting are summarised in *Smoke Signal* No 37, for August 2000. Also enclosed is the notice and reply slip for our joint summer outing with Charlton Kings LHS to Frampton on Severn on 17 July, and you will find a brief note on the village overleaf.

I will say nothing about our recent activities here, so as not to anticipate my report to the AGM. However, I would draw your attention to several events organised by other bodies which are listed under Forthcoming Events.

Finally, I have not had any response to my request in the last issue for some one to relieve Eric Miller of the task of editing *Smoke Signal*. He has many other commitments at present, including pursuing his research into the potteries and brickworks of Leckhampton, preparing booklets on the stained glass windows and memorials in St Peter's church and on celebrated people buried in the churchyard, writing, editing and typesetting articles for the next Research Bulletin, and, most important of all, preparing the book on Leckhampton Court. Along with other pursuits, these will occupy him fully over the next twelve months or more and a relief editor must be found. Eric is willing to give advice to anyone prepared to take up the challenge.

Roger Richards

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 17 May, 7.45 at St Philip and St James's Church House: Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Marilyn West on 'The Bath Road Shops'.

(Continued overleaf)

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Tuesday 5 June, at 7 pm. Visit to the County Record Office in Alvin Street, Gloucester. Would members who have signed up for it please make their own way there, or contact Amy Woolacott in advance if they require a lift.

Sunday 17 June, at 2 pm. Local History Regional Meeting at Newnham on Severn. Meeting begins with talk at the Armoury Hall, followed by a guided walk and tea (charge £4). Application forms available from Amy Woolacott.

Summer Outing to FRAMPTON ON SEVERN on 17 July (see enclosed leaflet). Frampton is an outstanding example of a beautifully preserved village, much of it dating from medieval times. This is in large part due to the Manor having been in the ownership of the same family, the Cliffords, since 1086. The Manor House, the main part of which dates from the 15th century, is now the home of Rollo and Janie Clifford and their four children. It is a Grade 1 listed building, as is the timber-framed wool barn in the farmyard. The other big house which we shall visit is Frampton Court, completed in 1733 and the home of Mrs Henriette Clifford, Rollo's mother. The main attractions are the antique furniture and ornaments in the house, and the 18th-century Orangery in the grounds.

The 22-acre village green, reputed to be the longest in England, is called Rosamond's Green, after "Fair Rosamund", daughter of Walter de Clifford and mistress of Henry II (1133-1189). Continuing on from the green is The Street, which boasts a wealth of different architectural styles in its housing, ranging from the 14th century to the present day. Many of the cottages and houses are built of Frampton brick, reminding us of a time when there were brickyards in the village. Most of the houses and cottages sketched by probably Mary Anne Clifford in 1865, the subject of Rose Spence's book, survive and look very much as they did 135 years ago.

Roger Richards

REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

In February Dr Ray Wilson spoke about The industrial heritage of Gloucestershire: mineral exploitation in the Forest of Dean, manufacturing and agriculture in the Vale, and sheep-farming and cloth mills in the Cotswolds. Slides showed Cannup Ponds (a power source for Park End Colliery) and a notice at one of the remaining mines: 'Vandals will not be prosecuted - next of kin will be informed'!

The Devil's Chimney and the Cheltenham and Gloucester Tramroad were local examples of the county's industrial heritage. This also included the canals, with docks, tunnels and lock-keeper's cottages, and roads with tollhouses and bridges. Several mills and warehouses had acquired a new rôle, eg Ebley Mill as the Stroud Council offices. More unusual industries were walking stick manufacture at Chalford, skittles and Erinoid casein buttons, piano keys, dominoes and fountain pen barrels. A surprising export was the Pin Mill from Woodchester, which had been re-erected at Bodnant in North Wales.

'LECKHAMPTON IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS'

As a result of sales of the book at special events we have been able to make donations amounting to some £300, divided more or less equally between the Cobalt Unit, the Village Hall Fund, St Peter's Organ Appeal and the Sue Ryder Care Home at Leckhampton Court.

The authors thank readers who have offered comments. Members might like to make the following few corrections and additions to their copies:

Page 52, lower photograph. The motif on the bench supports is in fact 'GWR'.

Page 96, Domenico Barnett. The title of his forgotten work is '*A Mountain Sylph*'.

Page 103, The youth with the tennis racket is Edward Wilson's brother Bernard, not Bernard Rendall who married Edward's sister Lilian.

Philip Newcombe has sent the following comments:

Page 41, Rogationtide Procession. On Reg Read's right is his brother Fred and on his left is Philip's brother Douglas. Behind the boys is the organist Mr Barradell and next but one to him is Mr Wilf Turner.

Regarding page 124, Home Guard, both Philip Newcombe and Michael Launchbury comment that H Cook in the back row is Horace Cook who taught at the Grammar School (not Leckhampton School). He also taught Michael's father.

Michael Launchbury has supplied this fascinating observation on the VJ Day photo on page 126; make sure you read to the very end!

"The lady standing centre left in a spotted dress with large white buttons is Mrs Eva Hobbs who was married to Tom Hobbs who is seated to the right with his arm raised and wearing a hat with a black band. Mr Hobbs outlived his wife who died in her 80s (when he was 100 years old) and he lived to be 102. They lived at 14 Pilford Rd and when I was about 4 or 5 years old we were best friends, he being in his 80s at the time. We used to go for long walks around the village almost daily so that I knew every footpath intimately. He put his longevity down to an abstemious life and washing daily in the rainwater barrel by his back door. He has occasionally revisited No. 14 since his death but I do not know whether the current owners know of him."

CHELTENHAM LHS JOURNAL

Our (elder) sister society in Cheltenham has just brought out its Journal No 17. Among the research articles are three by members of our Society. Carolyn Greet has described the occupation of Cheltenham High Street in the early 19th century, showing exact correlations between the 1802, 1808, 1820 and present-day numbers. Her husband Michael has written about some medieval aspects of Cheltenham; and your Editor has put in a short item, illustrated with a drawing found in the National Buildings Record Centre, on abortive plans for a 'Kursaal' next to the Winter Garden in 1896. Journal No 17 is available at the Art Gallery and Museums Shop, Price £5.

THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

A few members have met to catalogue the Bendall Archive. They were mainly committee members but also included Terry Moore-Scott, Tom Hewlett and David Cox. They have dealt with publications, maps, local government papers, church matters, 'miscellaneous' and legal documents. The last-mentioned – mostly house deeds – remain to be completed. The Society's existing archive of publications, newspaper cuttings, papers and articles also requires attention. If anyone would like to join us at a future session, especially if he or she would be willing to transfer the indexes to computer, please get in touch with the Editor. Some books, maps and other documents not immediately relevant to the Society's interests have been lodged with the County Record Office (whence we can retrieve them, if needed) or the County Library. In due course we shall draw up a list of potential subjects for research: members are encouraged to come forward and help.

FROM THE EDITOR

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Back numbers of Smoke Signal are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of the Research Bulletin and local books. The few remaining copies of *Leckhampton in old Photographs* are offered at the reduced price of £7, and *Research Bulletin No 1* at £2.50. These are usually on sale at meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566.

Does anyone have a spare copy of *1894: the End of an Era*, which is out of print? If so, the Society would offer to buy it back for resale to new members.

The Society's Website. The address is <<http://www.geocities.com/LLHSG53>>, and the address of our Webmaster, is <JeremyDavis@GL53.freemove.co.uk>.

Editor: Eric Miller, tel: 526461, e-mail: <miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk>

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Issued free to members – otherwise 50 pence



smoke signal

No 36, August 2001

Editor: John Randall
202 Leckhampton Road
Tel: 01242 527904

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This is another slim issue, principally designed to get the new season under way. To that end you will find the programme card for 2001 -2002 and the form for renewing subscriptions enclosed. There is also a summary of the minutes of the AGM, along the same lines as the report produced in August last year.

One piece of great news, which I was not at liberty to announce at the AGM (although I knew about it), is that Alan Gill and Eric Miller have received an award from Cheltenham Arts Council for their work as joint authors of 'Leckhampton in Old Photographs'. The presentation ceremony is on September 12th in the Pillar Room in the Town Hall at 6.00 p.m. and the presentation is to be made by Tim Brooke-Taylor. Anyone wishing to attend should contact me regarding arrangements.

Amy Woolacott has written reports on various events that have occurred during the summer, including the visit to Frampton on Severn. Those of you who missed it, or would like to go again, might like to know that Frampton Country Fair is being held in the Park, Frampton Court on Sunday 9th September, 10.30am - 5.30pm. The theme is the Living Working Countryside, and there are all sorts of displays. Admission is £6 adult (£5 in advance from Estate Office: 01452 740698) and £1 child.

We are indebted to John Randall for agreeing to take on the editorship of Smoke Signal, initially on a trial basis. We know that Eric's typesetting at 'The Collum Press' is a hard act to follow (and he has agreed to print the master copy on this occasion), but I am sure you will agree that John has produced a very commendable effort. Eric is well on the way to publishing Research Bulletin No 2, which should be out in time to go on sale at the Gloucestershire Local History afternoon on Saturday 6 October. I wish those of you going on holiday an enjoyable time with good weather, and look forward to seeing you all again when we resume our monthly meetings on 20 September.

Roger Richards

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Church House on May 17th 2001 and was attended by the Chairman and 35 members plus 4 visitors. In addition, apologies were received from 15 members.

The first item for discussion was the proposal by the Committee to amend the Society's Constitution to allow donations to be made to local charitable or amenity causes. The proposal was explained by Eric Miller who said that as the Constitution stands, we are not permitted to make donations outside a specific list of causes and we cannot, say, make a donation of part of the profits of our books to a charitable cause, such as the Sue Ryder Home. After general discussion the proposal to amend Clause 10(b) was approved.

Roger Richards presented his Chairman's Report and said that the Society had had another successful year even though membership and attendances at meetings had shown a slight decline (somewhat of a blessing in disguise because it meant that overcrowding at meetings had eased).

He congratulated Alan Gill and Eric Miller, the co-authors of our latest book "Leckhampton in Old Photographs" which had been a great success and said that we are greatly indebted to them for all of their hard work.

Turning to the next season, which will be our tenth, we are inviting some of our earlier guest speakers to return and you will see from the Programme which is enclosed that three of them are doing so.

Roger mentioned the summer outing to the Black Country Museum, organised by Charlton Kings LHS., and expressed his thanks to them for a great day.

Turning to Committee matters, Roger said that because of pressure of work, Eric Miller wished to relinquish the post of Editor of "Smoke Signal" and unless someone was prepared to take over, in future it might be bi-annual and of restricted format. Roger then paid tribute to, and thanked, the various committee members for all of their hard work during the year.

Eric Miller, as Research Coordinator, reported on developments and work that had taken place during the year and outlined on-going research projects, in particular, the proposed publication of Research Bulletin No.2 in the Autumn. We had also held several afternoon research meetings at the Church cottages, cataloguing archive material but there has been no interest in holding "ordinary" afternoon meetings. Jeremy Davis presented his Treasurers report, saying that the Society's assets had increased substantially, mainly because of the success of our latest publications. He proposed that the Annual subscriptions should remain at £5 single and £7.50 for a couple living at the same address. His report was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers. Lacking any other nominations and as all of the current committee members were prepared to continue for another year, they were all re-elected.

REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

June 5th. Visit to the Gloucestershire Record Office. 14 members were welcomed by Mr Evans, one of the Archivists. After a short video about the Records Office activities, we were shown some of the documents pertaining to Leckhampton. Not only were these extremely interesting, some were recently acquired and it transpired that they were relevant to the Quarries on Leckhampton Hill and to the V.A.D. Hospital at Leckhampton Court in 1914-1919. We were also shown how to use the Search Room finding aids and also saw the storage rooms and the repair/conservation laboratory

June 17th. The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Regional Meeting, held at Newnham on Severn, took the form of an urban walk through this attractive village. At one time it was a very important West Gloucestershire town bustling with activities, many connected with the river, such as ship building, transport of goods and rope making. This was a main route into South Wales. In the years that regular markets were held, the town met the traders' needs with numerous public houses, some of which brewed their own beers.

July 17th. Joint Outing with Charlton Kings LHS to Frampton on Severn. On arrival, Rose Spence, who is estate secretary to the Clifford family of Frampton Court, welcomed us. In the morning there was a guided walk around the village, and Rose regaled us with the history of the buildings and their occupants, especially in the 1800s. Although the village seems a backwater, it is by no means stagnant. At Manor Farm, we were able to watch some of the on-going restoration work on the ancient barn. The WI put on a splendid luncheon in the Village Hall while others called at local hostleries or took packed lunches. In the afternoon, we had a guided tour of Frampton Court with Mrs Clifford, who told us much about the house and the family who first held land in the county shortly after the Norman Conquest. Everyone considered it to be a good day out.

PUBLICATIONS NOTES.

● LLHS Research Bulletin No.2, due out this autumn. The contents will include:-

- "Pottery and Brickmaking at Leckhampton c.1840-1912 by Eric Miller
- "The North Gloucestershire Golf Club" by Eric Miller and Peter Smith.
- "Leckhampton Court Foxhounds" by Amy Woolacott.
- "The Old Roads and Tracks of Leckhampton" by Terry Moore-Scott.
- "The Working Men's Club and the Free Reading Room" by Owen Stinchcombe.

Price probably about £4 but with a concessionary rate for Society members

Cheltenham's Upper Bath Road. This book has been re-printed and can be obtained direct from Marilyn West at 69, Kingscote Road West, Hatherley, GL51 6JP for £5.50 (plus £1 p&p) by cheque made payable to Mrs M.A.West or at our meetings. All profits are donated to Emmanuel Church, Cheltenham and the Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Sept 20th Aspects of Gloucestershires History Russell Howes.
Oct 18th Members' Evening.
Nov 15th Visible History of Leckhampton Eve Andrew.
Held at Church House, Painswick Rd. on Thursday evenings- 7.45 p.m.,

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Local History afternoon; To be held at Thomas's Rich's School, Gloucester on Saturday Oct. 6th when the Theme will be "Education"

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS. Since the last edition of "Smoke Signal", the following members have joined the Society and we extend a warm welcome to them. Mrs G.M.Barlow: Mrs P. Corbett, Mr G.North and Mrs E.Heasman. At the date of writing the total membership stands at 138.

FROM THE EDITOR

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

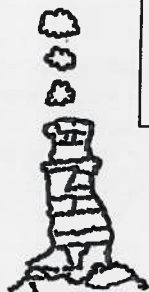
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The Society's Website. The address is <<http://www.geocities.com/LLHSGL53>>, and the address of our Webmaster, is <Jeremy.Davis@GL53.freemove.co.uk> Research Coordinator's address: Eric Miller, tel: 526461, e-mail: <miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk>

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No 37, November 2001

Editor: John Randall
202 Leckhampton Road
Tel: 01242 527904

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The highlight of the past quarter has to be the publication of Research Bulletin No 2, which has so far sold over half of the print run of 300, either to members or to the local shops. Once again our thanks are principally due to Eric Miller for editing it and for his major contribution to the contents, notably the substantial piece of research into Pottery and Brickmaking in Leckhampton. But we must also acknowledge the contributions of Terry Moore-Scott, Owen Stinchcombe and Amy Woolacott. We are still offering the Bulletin to members at the concessionary price of £3, and an order form is enclosed with this issue.

Our meetings are going well and are not too overcrowded. I thought we had a very good range of topics for the Members' Evening on 18 October. It is not too soon to start thinking about contributions to the next one in April 2002, or, for those with greater ambitions, for the next Research Bulletin. Eric Miller or John Randall would be happy to make some of our archive material available for study, or to point you in the direction of material available elsewhere. We should like to receive contributions from a wider spectrum of the membership.

There is to be a national Local History Week, 4-12 May 2002. Two major events are taking place in London: a Family History Fair on 4 & 5 May, and a "Keynote Event" to round off the week on Saturday 11 May, at which a wide range of current issues in local history will be presented. Further details, including venues, are contained in a brochure which will be on display at our next few meetings.

Locally, there will be a joint meeting of the history societies affiliated to the Arts Council with a prominent speaker. This will probably be in the Sacred Hearts Church hall, Charlton Kings, which has bar facilities, and will be an opportunity for us all to get together socially.

The next Smoke Signal will not appear until February, so I will take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Roger Richards

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN RANDALL

As you will know, I have taken over the Editorship, initially for a trial period, so that we can maintain it's publication on the current quarterly basis. When we launched the Society, (which will reach it's tenth birthday on 1st October 2002), the Editor was the late Bruce Stait and the policy behind it's publication was for it to be the Society's "news" letter covering events, past and future, membership information and as a forum where the various Research Groups, which we had hoped to set up, would be able to publish the results of their researches.

Unfortunately, those groups did not come to fruition and the bulk of the research for the Society has, in the past few years, depended on the efforts of too few members, working individually or sometimes with one or two others. The results of their researches have, for the most, either appeared as very successful Society publications or as erudite articles in the Research Bulletins.

I intend to carry on the policy as originally intended by including not only the usual "news" and short research articles of, say, up to two pages but also, where appropriate, news from other Local History Societies and a new feature, called "Questions and Answers", where members can ask for information or help on any subject relevant to the history of Leckhampton.

Just to start the ball rolling, I have a query. In the 1861 Census for Leckhampton Road, there is a reference to the building named "Churchdown Cottage", situated near the Malvern Inn. I have failed to identify this building but if anyone knows anything about it, please give me a ring.

ITALIAN POWS AT LECKHAMPTON COURT?

Were there or were there not any Italian Prisoners-of-War at Leckhampton Court? Some people who lived in the village during the war say that there were, but others deny it. In Leckhampton in the Second World War we say that 'there is no evidence there were ever any Italians at the POW Camp, despite their being in the district mostly engaged in agricultural work'. The Public Record Office, which has plenty of information on the German camp here, contains nothing on any Italians (though that does not mean that there were none). Two former Italian POWs, now living in this area, tell me that their camps were further afield, but neither is aware of any of their compatriots being at Leckhampton. I keep an open mind on the matter, but if there really were Italians here, can anyone give me chapter and verse, such as names, home town and dates? On this last matter, I note that the great majority of the Italian POWs were brought to Britain in the summer of 1943: the Americans were at the Court between July 1942 and September 1944, and it was said to be empty when the Germans arrived in September 1945.

Eric Miller

REPORTS ON RECENT NEWS.

September 20th. Aspects of Gloucestershires History.

This talk, given by Russell Howes, was an in-depth study of the life and times of King Edward 2nd., dealing with Court intrigues, the mystery and myths concerning his incarceration and gruesome death at Berkley Castle and his connections with Gloucester Cathedral and Leckhampton.

October 6th. Gloucestershire Rural Community Local History afternoon.

This event, held at Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester, had a theme of Education in Gloucestershire called "Happiest Days of their Lives?" The two speakers were Professor Nicholas Orme of Exeter University, whose talk was "Medieval Literacy and Education in Gloucestershire" and James Turtle from the County Archives, who spoke about "The Development" of Village Schools up to World War 1". About 100 people attended and many of the Local History Societies put on displays, adopting the afternoon's theme.

October 18th Members Evening.

John Randall gave a short slide show of some of his Leckhampton postcards intended to illustrate how history of the times, social or otherwise, can be deduced from the messages written on the cards.

Eric Miller gave the meeting information about a new list to be compiled by the Parish Council of important buildings, sites etc within the parish, to run in parallel with the National listing of "Graded" buildings. More information on this new list will be given shortly.

Mike Rigby who owns a house on the site of the long gone Trowscoed House, talked about his researches into the site's history since 1726. By the use of legal documents, deeds etc. concerning the purchase and subsequent sales of the land and buildings thereon, he has accumulated substantial amounts of information and he handed out copies of the notes he has produced.

LATIN FOR LOCAL HISTORIANS

The University of Bristol advertised this course, to be held this autumn, and your Committee thought it would be a good idea to sponsor a member to attend it. As there was no response to the invitation made by the Chairman at the September meeting, Margaret Miller volunteered and in return offers to pass on what she has learned to anyone who is interested. The course so far has been concerned mainly with tombstone inscriptions and documents relating to property holdings. Margaret can be contacted on Cheltenham 526 461.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dec | 6 th | Liddington Lake | John Milner |
| Jan | 17 th | History of the Whiteway Colony | Joy Thacker |
| Feb | 21 st | The Flowers of Leckhampton | Rosemary Westgate |

Held at Church House, Painswick Rd. on Thursday evenings – 7.45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The following members have joined the Society and we extend a warm welcome to them. Mr J Hughes: Miss M Smith-Moore: Mr R Brown: Mr & Mrs D J Houston and Mrs L Robson.

Members are reminded that Annual subscriptions were due as at 1st. September last. If you have not yet paid but intend to continue your membership, please send your payment to David Lyall as soon as possible. If, however, you are not renewing membership, we shall be obliged, as a matter of courtesy, if you will let David know.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal, are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of Research Bulletin No 2 and local books, which are usually on sale at the monthly meetings or from Amy Woolcott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566.

The Society's Website. The address is <<http://www.geocities.com/LLHSG53> and the address of our Webmaster, is <Jeremy.Davis@GL53.freemove.co.uk> Research Co-ordinator's address: Eric Miller, tel: 526461, e-mail miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk

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Issued free to members – otherwise 50 pence



smoke signal

Editor: John Randall
202 Leckhampton Road
Tel: 01242 527904

No 38, February 2002

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This issue sees our new editor, John Randall, getting into his stride and restoring the eight pages we last had in November 2000. Whether he can keep that up will depend, of course, on the contributions he receives. He has included in this issue details of information held in the Gloucestershire Records Office, as well as the public libraries in Cheltenham and Gloucester, including the relevant web-site addresses. This should enable those with Internet access to do their research in the comfort of their own home - so let's have you! May I also remind you that we have the second scheduled Members' Evening on 18th April, another opportunity for you to tell us about anything interesting that has come your way.

We have recently taken out a subscription to the Local History magazine. At present the publications we receive, which include those of The British Association for Local History, are circulated amongst the members of the Committee and end up with Eric Miller as the Society's archivist. He would be pleased to lend copies to any interested member.

Work on the history of Leckhampton Court is progressing well. Eric has amassed a great deal of material, including photographs, not all of which can be included in the book. The target date for publication is the Autumn Fair at the Court on 14th September.

Roger Richards

In this issue:

Chairman's Message, The 1901 Census, Our Tenth Anniversary, Addenda, Echos From the Past, Notes from the GRO, The Hockaday Abstracts, Reports of Recent Meetings, Forthcoming Events, Membership Matters.

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

THE 1901 CENSUS

When sketching out the list of items to be included in this edition of *Smoke Signal*, this first item was going to give brief details as to the availability locally of the Census from 2nd January 2002 and how to access the information you might require.

However, as you will all know by now, it was decided "on high" that the National Index should be put on the Internet and that subscribers could obtain detailed information by paying various levels of fees. No one could have foreseen the massive amount of interest that would be generated, so that within only a few days of 2nd January, the Website set up by BT to handle it, was completely swamped by requests, and had to be suspended to allow time to sort the problems out. At the time of writing, there are still many problems unsolved and long delays are being experienced, even if you are able to access the Index.

Locally, the Cheltenham Reference Library holds a microfilm covering the town and the surrounding villages (such as Leckhampton and Charlton Kings) and it is a simple matter to book a viewer and the requisite film.

To search locations in Gloucester County, the appropriate microfilms are held at the Local Studies Dept. at the main Library in Brunswick Road, Gloucester. They suggest that you should ring them first (01452 426979) to book a viewer and to ensure the film you want will be available.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On 1st October 2002, we shall reach the 10th Anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Society held at the Glebe Cottages in Church Road and attended by 18 members. The Committee, at its last meeting, discussed various ideas as to how we should celebrate the event. No final plans were then made other than to decide that the Members Evening meeting, penned in for October 17th 2002, will be in the form of Social event, with refreshments etc. Full details will be given as soon as possible.

ADDENDA

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find 2 addenda, the first to cover the alteration made to the Society's Constitution on 1st September 2001 and the second, as requested by members at the last Annual General Meeting, corrections to our publication *Leckhampton in Old Photographs*.

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

The following items are a selection of "snippets" supplied by Alan Gill derived from several Cheltenham newspapers of the 1930's.

THE NEW WHEATSHEAF INN

The new Wheatsheaf Inn, Pilley, has been built by Messrs W.J.B. Halls Ltd., of Gloucester to the order of the Cheltenham Original Brewery Company, on the site of the old "Wheatsheaf" on old Bath Road.

It is a handsome building in Cotswold stone, comprising, on the ground floor, a well appointed smoke-room and a lounge, joined by a spacious bar, with domestic accommodation above for the tenant, Mr E.G.Orviss. A skittle alley is being erected alongside.

During the demolition of the old "Wheatsheaf", a stone bearing the date of 1801, was uncovered. In 1836, the property passed by the will of James Gardner, founder of the Cheltenham Original Brewery, to his son James Tynte Agg Gardner, by whom it was conveyed to the Cheltenham Original Brewery Co. Ltd., by an indenture dated 28 August 1888.

Cheltenham Circular January 1935.

LECKHAMPTON HILL

30 trees have been planted in the enclosure immediately under the Devil's Chimney, so that in the event of its falling, as has been reported as being likely from time to time, the risk of damage will be reduced. It is proposed to plant a few creepers and other plants in the crevices of the Chimney to give it an even more picturesque appearance.

Cheltenham Circular January 1936.

JOLLI WOGS DANCE

An excellent evening was spent in Leckhampton Parish Hall on Wednesday on the occasion of the Jolli Wogs dance. The decorations of the Hall were most tastefully carried out in purple and yellow, the Jolli Wogs colours. The White Serenaders Orchestra provided a bright selection of snappy tunes.

Cheltenham Chronicle April 1930.

(Can anyone tell me who, or what, the "Jolli Wogs" were and also any information about the White Serenaders Orchestra ? Ed..)

NOTES FROM THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE

As you will remember, a group of members went on an evening visit to the Gloucestershire Records Office in June last year and had a very interesting and informative time, including a visit to the new storage rooms which had recently been added to the building.

One of the big surprises was our first glimpse of some of the deposit of papers, books and photographs made by David Bick, author of the books "Old Leckhampton" and "The Gloucester and Cheltenham Railway" (which features the Leckhampton Quarry Tramway). Part of this deposit is now available for viewing under GRO ref. D 8831.

GRO Newsletter for Autumn 2001, gives the information that the GRO has been involved in a 12 month project to begin the task of making available its catalogues on the Internet. The Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire Parish records and a summary description of the entire holdings, were entered on a Database. The Web based version of the database was launched on 20th June 2001 and is available on the GRO web site – <http://archives.gloscc.gov.UK>

The GRO is also taking part in a National programme, co-ordinated by the Public Records Office, to mount archival catalogues on a national database. This programme is called "Archives-to-Archives" or "A 2 A" for short and the GRO is heading a group of Record Offices in the South West, aiming to commit the catalogues of church and education records in Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. These Catalogues will be available in 2002 on the web site – <http://www.a2a.pro.gov.UK>

A 2 A is only one part of the National Archival Network which will allow a researcher to visit one web site and be able to search all of the catalogues and archives in the country.

THE HOCKADAY ABSTRACTS

One other event which was noted in that GRO Newsletter was that the "Hockaday Abstracts" have been transferred to the GRO from the "Gloucestershire Collection". These Abstracts are the result of the life's work of Frank Step Hockaday, an antiquarian and historian who was working at or about the turn of the 19/20th centuries.

(cont)

However, it was in the period of 16 years 1908-1924 that he worked ceaselessly in compiling the Abstracts which were culled from the mass of parochial records, Diocesan records for Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, the Consistory Court records and some from the Public Records Office, which he was allowed to remove from the Probate Registry to his residence at Lydney, for study purposes, by the Bishop of Gloucester.

The references he extracted, for every hamlet, village, town and city in the County of Gloucester, amounted, when bound, to a staggering 453 volumes of information, with a volume for each constituent community, of which Leckhampton is one (and is fairly thin in comparison with others). They are, in reality, an index to the items which Mr Hockaday notated and is somewhat aggravating that often when an intriguing entry is found, there is only a reference to its source and no qualifying information. Quoted below are four items which fall into that category:-

- 1375 "Indictment of Thos Wolrych of Lecampton before the King's Justices, for burglary at the house of Thomas Dounton, in Lecampton".
- 1543 "Names of the Church Wardens and the amount collected for Defence against the Turks" !!
- 1549 "Sir Rhes Jones, chaplain, having sworn to renounce allegiance to Rome and to lawful obedience to the Bishop of Gloucester. Instituted to the Rectorship of Lekchampton, vacant by the death of the incumbent.
Sir Rhes Jones paid £100 as a Bond to the Bishop of Glos".
- 1666 "Collection for the late sad fire within the City of London"

One interesting theme running through the early years though is the "changing name" of our Village as recorded in the Abstracts. Below are listed nine different versions of the name, showing the year when seen.

| | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| 1375 a d | Lecampton | 1380 | Lechamton | 1509 | Leghampton |
| 1545 | Lekyngton | 1546 | Lechamptune | 1549 | Lekchampton |
| 1560 | Leakehampton | 1570 | Lekehampton | 1587 | Leckhampton |
| | * | * | * | * | |

DO YOU KNOW?

Does anyone know why there is no house numbered "30" in Church Road.

REPORTS ON RECENT SOCIETY MEETINGS

November 15th. Extra Members' Evening

Unfortunately, at the last moment, Eve Andrew was unable to give us this talk and, at short notice, three of our members filled in.

Terry Moore-Scott talked about the very interesting small Herefordshire church, St Mary's and St David's, at Kilpeck, built in the Norman period in 1143 and possibly on the site of a much earlier church. It is built of red sandstone and incorporates different styles of architecture with beautiful carvings around the doors and windows, and gargoyles on the higher levels. Internally there is a semi-circular apse.

Eric Miller gave brief details of the plans by Cheltenham Borough Council to produce a listing of local important buildings. The Society has decided to contribute to this list and Terry Moore-Scott will represent us through the Parish Council.

Amy Woolacott talked about the Brass Rubbings she has made in various churches. She has found that the styles of these pieces, fall into different categories such as the clergy, military and the family.

December 6th. Liddington Lake by John Milner.

This was a return visit by John and it was quite a surprise to look back and find that it was in October 1993 that he gave us the original talk – how time flies!! This time his talk followed the same general lines with some updating of information and some new slides.

January 17th History of the Whiteway Colony by Joy Thacker

This was, by general consent, one of the most interesting talks we have received lately. It covered the formative years of the Colony, run initially on truly "communistic" principles; its pioneers, why it was formed and how it evolved throughout its lifetime. The slides showed some of the people who came to settle there, including conscientious objectors in the First World War; the houses and community buildings they built and the successful Cotswold Handicraft Guild. The number of questions addressed to the speaker at the end of the talk illustrated the interest she had created in the audience.

DIARY of FORTHCOMING EVENTS. 2002.

For this edition of "Smoke Signal", there is quite a list of forthcoming events and attractions in which you may be interested.

Until Mar 2nd An Exhibition, being held at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, in Clarence St, entitled "Discovering Nature; the Nature Notebooks of Dr Edward Wilson", the Polar explorer and naturalist, who lived in The Crippetts, Leckhampton.

Timed to coincide with the Centenary of Captain Scott's Discovery Expedition 1901-4 of which Dr Wilson was a member.

March 12th The British Association for Local History (BALH) is organising a guided tour of the "new" BRITISH LIBRARY in London. If anyone is interested in being included in the trip, please contact Amy Woolacott on 522566.

April 9th Eric Miller is giving a talk entitled "HISTORY OF LECKHAMPTON - CHURCH, PARISH AND VILLAGE" in St Peters Church at 7.30 pm.

May 4th-12th A National "LOCAL HISTORY WEEK" organised by the Historical Association in conjunction with BBC History Magazine. Various local events are being organised but the list is not yet complete.

May 18th Local History Computer Seminar/Workshop to be held at the University of Gloucestershire, hosted by Mr John Moore.

June 29th The Regional Meeting of Local History Societies will be held at Wootton-under-Edge, centred on the Civic Centre with guided town walks and refreshments. Full details will be notified shortly.

Oct 6th The annual Local History meeting of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council will be held at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester from 2-5pm. The Society will have a stand and display on view and hope that members will give their support on the day.

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Feb 21 st | The Flowers of Leckhampton Hill | Rosemary Westgate |
| Mar 21 st | The Lost Villages of the Cotswold | David Aldred |
| Apr 18 th | Members Evening | |

Held at Church House, Painswick Road on Thursday evenings – 7.45 pm.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS OBITUARY

Members may have seen a tribute to Austin Nicholls in the *Gloucestershire Echo* of 26th May. He contributed reminiscences to *Leckhampton in the Second World War* and was mentioned in *Leckhampton in Old Photographs*, in connection with his father's Leckhampton Road garage and also in *Smoke Signal No 9*. He was a member of the British Guild of Craftsmen having taught metalwork and, until more recently, worked a forge in Lower Swell.

Another contributor to *Leckhampton in the Second World War* was Vincent Manzelli, a former US serviceman who had vivid memories of life in the camp at Leckhampton Court and who spoke of the friendly and welcoming attitude of the Leckhampton residents. It was announced in the *Echo* of 15th September that he had died suddenly in Naples, Florida.

As always, quests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (tel 512313) has the necessary application forms.

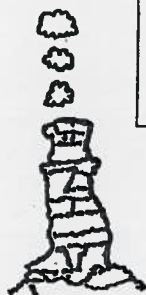
Earlier back numbers of *Smoke Signal*, are available to members to purchase and we also have a supply of Research Bulletin No 2 and local books, which are usually on sale at the monthly meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0HG. (Tel 522566.

The Society's Website. The address is <<http://www.geocities.com/LLHSGL53>> and the address of our Webmaster, is <JeremyDavis@GL53.freemove.co.uk> Research Co-ordinator's address: Eric Miller, tel: 526461, e-mail miller@leckhampton53.freemove.co.uk

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Issued free to members – otherwise 50 pence



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Editor: John Randall
202 Leckhampton Road
Tel: 01242 527904

No 39, May 2002

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

With this issue is enclosed the agenda for our tenth Annual General Meeting, which is being held five months before our tenth anniversary in October. This is because we had a 'short' year in 1994/95, when we moved the AGM from October to June, then to May two years later. This AGM will mark the completion of my three-year term as chairman, when I trust that our vice-chairman, David Lyall, will be elected chairman in my place. Our treasurer, Jeremy Davis, has indicated that he too wishes to retire after three years, which means that he will have one more year to serve. I mention this now in order to give plenty of time for a replacement to 'emerge'. Jeremy has the accounts firmly established on a data base, so anyone with the necessary technology and computer skills should not find this an onerous task.

As usual, we are printing the provisional programme for 2002/03 on the reverse of the agenda paper, and the final version, on card, will be enclosed with the August Smoke Signal. Before the new season starts we have the summer outing to look forward to, organised this year by Charlton Kings LHS. It will be to Basingstoke on Tuesday 13th August. In the morning we shall visit The Wyne, a National Trust property at Sherborne St John. The house was built in the early 16th century for Lord Sandys, Henry VIII's Lord Chamberlain, and contains a Tudor chapel with Renaissance glass and a wealth of old panelling and fine furniture. The grounds feature herbaceous borders and a wild garden, with lawns, lakes and woodland walks.

After lunch, which you may order or take with you, we shall visit Milestones, Hampshire's living history museum. It contains replicas of old shop fronts and a collection of historic vehicles, including the AA's collection of motoring memorabilia. There is also, on loan, the old Charlton Kings Fire Brigade Bell. Administrative details are on the booking form enclosed, which should be returned to me by 22nd July.

Roger Richards

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

REPORTS ON RECENT SOCIETY MEETINGS.

February 21st. The Flowers of Leckhampton Hill.

Rosemary Westgate gave us a very interesting and highly coloured talk on the varied Flora to be found on and around the Hill. She introduced us to its importance as a natural resource and its diversity of habitats. The seasons of the year were reflected by the wealth of flowers, some very rare, which can be found, varying from a few in winter to an abundance in Summer. Her superb photography brought the Hill to life.

March 21st. The Lost Villages of the Cotswolds.

This was a return visit by David Aldred who originally came to speak to us in February 1995. He explained why and how many Cotswold farms and hamlets are the last echoes of once thriving villages and how those lost villages can be recognised. He explained what caused their desertion or shrinkage. Most examples he showed were from the Winchcombe area.

April 18th. Members Evening.

Roger Richards showed a map of Cheltenham on which were marked the revised Council ward boundaries which will come into effect on May 2nd 2002, plus the revised Parish boundaries which are under discussion at present. He also spoke briefly about the proposals to change the Parliamentary boundaries which would see an enlarged Cheltenham divided into two constituencies.

Amy Woolacott talked about the work she has been doing in tracing buildings, walls etc. in Leckhampton made of stone, and trying to relate such structures to the varying types of stone quarried on the Hill. Her map showed the bulk of these buildings clustered around Church Road and the lower parts on Leckhampton Road.

Eric Miller updated us with the progress he has made in preparing for the completion of his new book, on the history of Leckhampton Court, which he hopes to have ready for publication in mid September 2002.

John Randall related the story of a very interesting and eventful outing by train to Bournemouth in 1894 by the St Steven's Church choir, which culminated in being involved in a slow speed railway accident at Templecombe on the return journey. Fortunately no one was injured but they did not reach Cheltenham until 6.00 a.m. the following morning.

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. 2002.

List of forthcoming local history events and attractions in which you may be interested.

May 9th to 11th Wiltshire Local History Fair to be held at STEAM Museum of the Great Western Railway, Kemble Drive Swindon.

May 18th Local History Computer Seminar/Workshop to be held at the University of Glo'shire, hosted by Mr John Moore.

June 29th The Regional Meeting of Local History Societies will be held at Wootton-under-Edge, centred on the Civic Centre, from 2 to 5 p.m. The programme will commence with an illustrated talk, followed by a guided walk around Wootton, ending with a visit to the heritage Centre. There will be a charge of £5 per person. Teas will be served back at the Civic centre.

If you wish to attend, please contact Amy Woolacott on 01242 522566 before 25th May 2002.

Aug 13th The joint outing with Charlton Kings L.H.S. to visit two sites in Basingstoke. (See notes elsewhere).

Oct 6th The annual Local History meeting of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council will be held at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester from 2-5 p.m. The Society will have a stand and display on view and hope that members will give their support on the day.

* * * * *

WHERE OH WHERE HAS No. 30 GONE?

Further to my question, in SS38, as to why there is currently no house No. 30 in Church Road, the plot thickens, as Hercule Poirot might have said. Roger Richards tells me that at one time, his house (No. 28) was numbered 30!! So has anyone else got any other thoughts or explanation?

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

May 16th Annual General Meeting

Sep 19th "The Birdlip Lady" Mrs Pat Thomas.

Held at Church House, Painswick Rd. on Thursday evenings – 7.45pm.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Our warmest congratulations go to Eric Miller who has been short-listed for a research award by the British Association for Local History, (BALH) for his article "Potteries, Tiles and Brickmaking in Leckhampton" which appeared in Research Bulletin No. 2. The award ceremony will take place at the British Library on June 1st. In addition, his editorial in the same Bulletin, on the nature of local history, will be reproduced in the BALH's journal "The Local Historian" in May.

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (Tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal, are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of Research Bulletin No 2 and local books, which are usually on sale at monthly meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566.

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Editor: John Randall
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No. 40, August 2002

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This is my first opportunity as Chairman to welcome members of the Society to another season of meetings. I have been on the Committee for the last three years, and since taking over the membership administration and "Smoke Signal" distribution from Tom Hewlett I have got to know quite a number of our members either by name or by sight. (If I occasionally fail to match up names and faces please accept my apologies in advance and put it down to advancing years, and introduce yourself!)

Having lived in the same house in Hall Road since 1945 I almost feel like part of the history of the village - or suburb - myself; having seen many changes in the past half century. The work done by many of our members will ensure that we have a valuable historical record of the changing face of Leckhampton going back much further than that, as well as encouraging the interest of current residents in their neighbourhood.

This year we celebrate our tenth anniversary - it hardly seems that long ago since the inaugural meeting in the school dining hall! Details of our Anniversary Members' Evening on 17th October will be found in this newsletter: for reasons of space and catering we have to limit it to members only, and we need to know the numbers by our 19th September meeting.

The most exciting development on the publications front is Eric Miller's book on the history of Leckhampton Court. The proofs look splendid, and we are eagerly awaiting the launch in September.

The fixture card for the forthcoming season is enclosed, and I think you will agree that once again an interesting programme of speakers has been devised: our thanks to Ron Walker once again for making all the arrangements.

Wearing my "other hat" as membership secretary, may I draw your attention to the subscription reminder enclosed with this issue. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings during the coming months.

David Lyall

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Church House on May 16th 2002 and was attended by the Chairman and 21 members plus 1 visitor. In addition, apologies were received from 10 members.

Chairman's Report. Roger Richards reported yet another successful year, with the membership back to the level of two years ago and with attendance's at meetings about the same.

"Research Bulletin No. 2" had been the year's main publishing event, in which the article by Eric Miller, on The Cottswold Potteries, had gained him a nomination for an award by the British Association for Local History. This was in addition to the joint award to Eric and Alan Gill by Cheltenham Arts Council for "Leckhampton in Old Photographs"

Roger reported the purchase of a set of display boards for Society use. Geoff Cappers' legacy was put towards their cost with the balance coming from the "Publications Account".

As he was coming to the end of his 3 year stint as Chairman, Roger took the opportunity of thanking all those members of the committee and the Society who had supported him during his tenure of office.

Research Co-ordinators' Report Eric Miller reported on the past year, particularly the publication of Research Bulletin No. 2 and the work done on the Bendall Archive index. Eric said he had plans to update his history of Leckhampton Church in due course and gave notice that his new publication, "The History of Leckhampton Court" would be published in September this year. Full details will be given shortly.

Treasurers Report Jeremy Davis presented his annual report and Audited Accounts, saying that they showed the Society was in a very healthy state with Cash balances roughly on a par with last years. He therefore recommended that Subscriptions should remain at £5.00 single and £7.50 for a couple living at the same address.

Election of Officers There being no other nominations and as all current committee members were prepared to continue for another year, they were re-elected unanimously, with David Lyall taking over as Chairman, while Roger Richards reverted to Vice Chairman. Jeremy Davis gave notice that he would not be standing for re-election next year, so that a replacement could be found for him in plenty of time.

SUMMER OUTING - 13 AUGUST

Thirteen of our members joined the visit to Basingstoke organised by the Charlton Kings Local History Society. For once, the weather was kind to us and we had a day of contrasts: in the morning a Tudor country house and grounds, and in the afternoon a brand new museum, but filled with fascinating objects from the past.

The house, called The Vyne, dates from 1520 and was in the ownership of only two families, the Sandys and the Chute's, until it was given to the National Trust in 1957 on the death of the last Chute. It has a wealth of old furniture, pictures, tapestries, books and china, and is well worth a visit, especially if you are a National Trust member.

After lunch in the old brewhouse, or a picnic in the grounds, our coach took us to the Basingstoke Leisure Park and *Milestones*, Hampshire's Living History Museum, as the publicity says. It is housed in a large purpose-built building which was opened less than two years ago. It is largely devoted to engineering, the core collections being from the Tasker iron works and the Thornycroft commercial vehicle factory, both from the local area, but a large selection of everyday objects from the 19th and 20th centuries is on display, many in replicas of the shops that sold them. The visit is enhanced by an audio guide spoken by Rory Bremner.

Roger Richards

CONNECTIONS

By Eric Miller

More or less wherever you go, it is not long before you can find a connection with somewhere else that is familiar. Margaret and I found this recently when we were at Powis Castle, near Welshpool. The building (which is well worth a visit, not least for its terraced gardens) was renovated in the 19th century by Sir Robert Smirke, who happens to be buried in Leckhampton churchyard. He was the architect of the British Museum, Shire Hall Gloucester and Eastnor Castle, to name but a few of his achievements.

However, the reason for our being at Powis was to join up with a group of Americans who were tracing the roots of Celtic Christianity under the leadership of the Reverend Matthew Corkern. Matthew, now attached to a church on the outskirts of Washington DC, is a member of our Society and – more to the point – a descendant of William Norwood, who in the 17th century went out to colonise Virginia. He is interested in his family's history and in Leckhampton, which he has visited twice. He has encouraged me over the writing of the book on Leckhampton Court and after a meal attended by his fellow pilgrims he presented me with a generous cheque, payable to Sue Ryder Care, to help with its production.

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|---------------------|
| Sep | 19 th | "The Birdlip Lady" | Mrs Patricia Thomas |
| Oct | 17 th | The Society's 10 th Anniversary Members Meeting. (For details - see enclosed Notes). | |
| Nov | 21 st | John Middleton, Architect | Brian Torrode |

Held at Church House, Painswick Road on Thursday evenings 7.45pm

OTHER MEETINGS

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| Oct | 6 th | The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Meeting at St. Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester From 2-5pm. |
|-----|-----------------|--|

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The current membership stands at 135 plus 2 Honorary members (and now includes 3 overseas members).

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join, say, after attending two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, David Lyall (Tel 512313), has the necessary application forms.

Earlier back numbers of Smoke Signal, are available to members to purchase, and we also have a supply of Research Bulletin No 2 and local books, which are usually on sale at monthly meetings or from Amy Woolacott, 15 Arden Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG, Tel 522566.

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