

# Smoke Signal

Number 61, Spring 2009

Editor: Lorna Robson  
Tel: 01242 242996

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are nearing the end of our 16<sup>th</sup> season and can, I think, be pleased that our programme of talks and member's evenings have again attracted good and interested audiences. Indeed, John Loosley's talk, in January, on the history of allotments in Gloucestershire came close to attracting a bigger crowd than we were able to seat. Our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture at the Village Hall in October was also judged to be a success. The Member's Evenings of 'show and tell' have proved successful and time did not allow us to cover all of the material that was brought to the February meeting.

Despite a successful season, however, the future of the Society is still unclear, and will remain so, if we are unable to find members who are willing to help with the day-to-day running of the Society's affairs.

*LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*  
*Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council*

The Society has been managed for much of its life by a small band of long-serving members. They rightly feel that it is now time for a rest and for other members to take some responsibility. We are still without an Hon Sec and are short of committee members. None of these roles are onerous and none demand any great historical knowledge or experience. Anybody who would like to know more before making a commitment to a place on the committee should talk to me or any other current member. We would hope to fill the post of Hon Sec at the AGM in May. Please let me know (233449) if you would like to stand. In any case, we should spend some time at the AGM talking about the future of the Society. If we are not able to enlist help in running the Society, we might have to consider a merger with one of the other local societies.

Mike Rigby

### **YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!**

David, our membership secretary, notes that there are some unpaid subscriptions for the 2008/9 season.

Please contact David if you are not a paid up member, or are not sure whether you have previously paid (David keeps meticulous records).

Membership is just £5 for single membership and £7.50 for joint membership.

Please contact David if you no longer wish to be a member.

David can be contacted by telephone on 512 313, by email at [davidlyall52@hotmail.com](mailto:davidlyall52@hotmail.com)

or by post to David Lyall 52 Hall Road CHELTENHAM GL53 0HE.

### **LECKHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HISTORY AWARDS**

For the third year running the Society has awarded book tokens to eight Year 6 pupils at the Primary School for their History Projects. They had written about celebrated Victorians and Edwardians, such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Florence Nightingale, Charles Dickens, Gustav Holst and Captain Scott. Eric Miller presented the awards on behalf of the Society on 22nd January.

**MRS. DAPHNE WHEELER**, who for many years wrote the Leckhampton Voice section in the Gloucestershire Echo, explained why she was no longer writing it. She was being restricted to 250 words for her section and as Leckhampton is such a large area, she was totally unable to do justice for the needs of the area. This was due to her not having computer access and the fact that the Echo has no editorial facility for this part of the paper nowadays. We were advised that a Mr. Matthew Birch had taken over this section, but seemed to restrict his comments mainly to the Bath Road area. The Leglag secretary, knows Matt Birch and will be contacting him in future for any publicity for Leglag.

### **CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

All meetings take place in the Baptist Church, Church Street, Charlton Kings, starting at 7:30 pm. Visitors £2.00

21 <sup>st</sup> April	Michael Boyes	The Adventurous Life of Five Cotswold
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Brian Edwards	The Quedgeley Shell Filling Factory
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Paul Barnett	The Purton Hulks
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Aylwin Sampson	Literary Cheltenham
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Dr A Jones	Contexts for some Charlton Kings history
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Christmas Party
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Brian Torode and Heather Atkinson	Delancey - the End of an Era

**THE LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAMME FOR 2008/9** opened with the talk entitled "Exit the Albermarle, enter prefabs". Cyril Richardson had intended the title to puzzle us and so it did! The Albermarle was in fact, the Albermarle aircraft, which was built in Brockworth in 1938. After the war, homes were urgently needed. In the same buildings that had once been aircraft hangers, prefabs were coming off the assembly lines - one every twelve minutes! Once on site, a prefabricated home could be erected in two hours. There are still prefabs in Cheltenham in Cakebridge Road, Priors Road, Reddings Road and Union Road.

included an interesting piece of research from Mrs Houston about the previous occupants of her present home in Leckhampton Road. Another member was keen to know whether anyone knew anything about a relative of hers. He came to Cheltenham with John Wesley and later emigrated to Australia. Terry Moore-Scott spoke about a piece of embroidery, originally from Winchcombe Church, which is now in the church at Minsterworth. Eric spoke about some of the eminent people who are buried at St. Peters churchyard in Leckhampton.

by inviting Dr. Steven Blake to give his talk on George Rowe-. the 1840 guide. Members and visitors enjoyed refreshments and an opportunity to socialise afterwards.

**Professor Peter Simkins** gave a fascinating talk on events leading up to the end of the WW1. No one in the audience knew the names of any of the men who were instrumental in England's victory and Peter challenged our preconceptions about the leadership in the second half of WW1 and received thunderous applause.

Peter said that he was aware that his talk had little connection with Cheltenham, but had managed to find rather tenuous links with three men. One of the officers had retired to Stroud, the parents of one of the men had been married in St. Mary's Church and the third officer had been cremated in Bouncers Lane Cemetery!

In December, Carolyn Greet treated us her entertaining talk about **Charles Jessop-Victorian Nurseryman** These pleasure gardens covered twenty acres from Knapp Lane down to the River Chelt in 1840. The gardens were described as being "amongst the foremost of local attractions". and "an ornament for the town". Charles Jessop grew bananas and was the largest rose grower in Gloucestershire at this time.

Still on a garden theme, John Loosley spoke to a crowded room about the **History of Allotments in Gloucestershire**, at the January meeting. The first allotment scheme had been in Long Newton, near Tetbury in 1795. There were allotments in Stroud in 1820. John used images from Google Earth to show that allotments covering a quarter of an acre are still cultivated on the same site today! Allotments originally had been set up for agricultural workers and unemployed mill workers. John entertained us with old maps and photographs and aerial views of the same sites. There were allotments in the 1850's in Barnwood, two sites in Gloucester and several on the Cotswold escarpment. The talk ended with a present day aerial view of the allotments off Hall Road, Leckhampton.

Our third very popular **Show and Tell Evening** was held in February. Mike Rigby began by explaining his research into the now demolished Fairfield House, built by F E Jenkins. Its owners included men who had distinguished themselves in the wider world before settling in Cheltenham, such as Captain Robert Younghusband and Lt-Col John Gilbert Erskine Griffith. On the other hand, George Ward, a butler, bought the house for ten shillings from his former employer George Harvey - a handsome reward for faithful service.

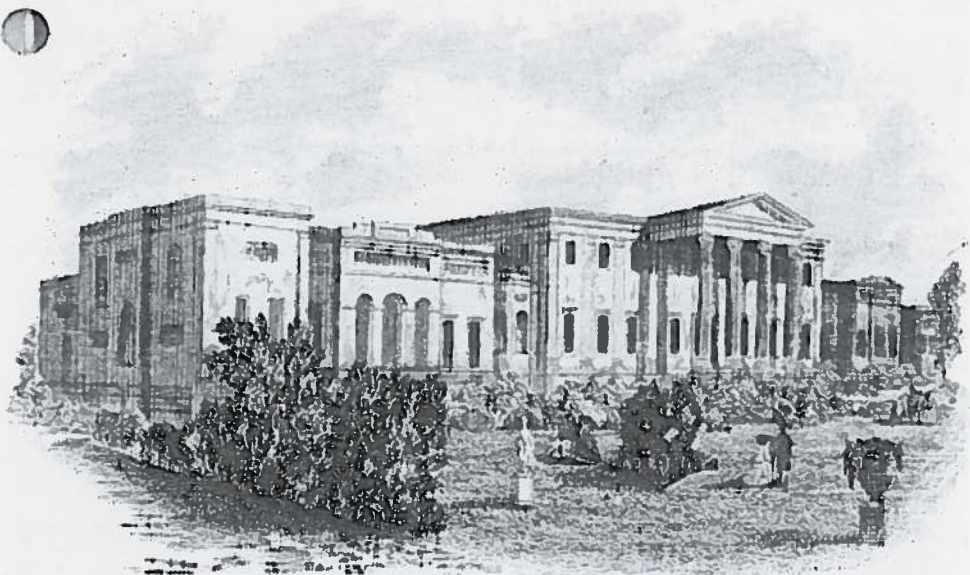
Terry Moore-Scott reported on the recent archaeological excavations around Brizen Farm. Nearly a hundred exploratory trenches had been dug, and many Romano-British artefacts had been discovered. It will be for the County Archaeological Service to decide whether to carry out a more intensive survey.

David Lyall, assisted by Tom, told us of their Scottish ancestors, experts in telecommunications. They displayed their father's medals (army in WW1, ARP in WW2). He arrived in Cheltenham in 1940, on a recce to find a safer location for his company's HQ, only to experience the bombing raid of 19 December! Finally Janet Harris spoke about a letter written to her father in connection with a general election in the 1920s, which raised some interesting side issues.

It was a pity more were not present to join in the discussions and questions raised by these topics



In March, David Smith gave a fascinating talk about the manuscript collector extraordinaire-Sir Thomas Phillipps 1792-1872. Just one of the amazing facts about Phillipps was that when he moved from his home in Chipping Camden to Thirlstaine House in 1863, it took eight months to move his collection. As odd as he was, modern historians are still grateful to him for his fastidious cataloguing of documents.



LORD NORTHWICK'S PICTURE GALLERY  
CHIPPING CAMDEN

**THE CHELTENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY** will shortly be announcing their programme for 2009/10. Check out their website [www.cheltlocalhist@btik.com](http://www.cheltlocalhist@btik.com) or telephone Dorothy Seton-Smith Membership Secretary Tel: 254807

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Back numbers of *Smoke Signal* are available for members to purchase and we also have a supply of *Research Bulletins* and other publications, which are usually on sale at monthly meetings or from the Research Coordinator.

The Society's website address is [www.llhs.org.uk](http://www.llhs.org.uk).

The Research Coordinator is Eric Miller, 20 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham GL53 0PB,

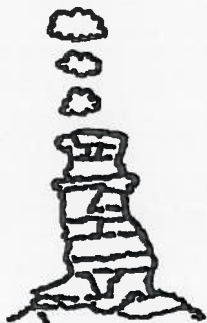
Tel 526461 [ehmiller@talktalk.net](mailto:ehmiller@talktalk.net)

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# Smoke Signal

Number 62 Autumn 200

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Another summer is almost over and the local history season is getting underway. The summer was not without some activity and the summer outin was, I think, a success. Leominster is a market town which has retained it individual character and Berrington Hall provide interest in its gardens landscape and interior. And it hardly rained at all!

We have, thanks to Amy Woolacott, a strong programme of speakers and events between September and May. The second meeting, in October, is to be a Members' Evening and will be in the 'show and tell' format that has proved successful over the last year or so. At the last such session, earlier this year, there were more presenters than could be accommodated in the available time. If you have an object, book, document or photograph - or just a story - that might be of interest to others, please bring it to the meeting. It doesn't have to be a local story.

My plea, at the AGM, for new members of our committee was successful and I am pleased to welcome Ken Stephens as our new Secretary. Further new faces would be welcomed, so let me know if you are interested.

**Mike Rigby**

*LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council*

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Spring 2011

## CENTRAL SCHOOL MAGAZINES

*Eric Miller*

I recently came by some copies of the Cheltenham Central School Magazine, including the very first one, brought out in 1925. They had been left by the late George Lewis, a former pupil at the school.

One is struck by the high standard of composition and the earnestness of the contributions, no doubt encouraged by the new Headmaster, Mr F H Lister, formerly of Maidstone Grammar School, who was said to be 'endeavouring in every way to lift [the school's] tone and standard'.

The titles of some of the articles written by the boys and girls give the flavour: 'The Tongue that would not Lie' (inspired by Thomas the Rhymer), 'An Original Fable,' 'The Meditations of Ohmed,' 'Winter in Canada,' 'A Very Little Man but a Giant' (about Franz Schubert), 'A Conversation among the Books in my Desk,' 'The Mother City of the Empire' and 'Some Central School Pets'. 'The Noble Tournament of the Oval Ball' was a report on an England v Wales rugby match, written in Middle English. There were poems that scanned and rhymed. Many of the articles were illustrated with woodcuts produced by the pupils, George Lewis supplying several of them. Several articles in French were no doubt spurred by the thriving Cercle Français. Some Old Boys also contributed, one describing a night on a herring drifter and another his first flight. A third reminisced about the impression made on him throughout his school career by a picture of a man ploughing, which had hung behind the Head's desk and which the boy had stolen back to see one more time after he had left, 'to receive [the ploughman's] good wishes'.

Outside school, pupils went to see 'As You Like It', performed by Sir Frank Benson's company, and Sir Frank himself came to give an 'inspiring address' at the school. Twenty boys

and girls attended a chamber music concert at The Ladies' College where, after a Beethoven string quartet they heard 'a quieter piece by Ravel, the modern French composer'. A visit to Bristol included the zoo but only after making a tour of St Mary Redcliffe, the cathedral and the university library. Visits were also made to the Cheltenham Gas Works and the GWR Works at Swindon.

George Lewis's name was among those who had passed the Oxford School Certificate examination in 1930. He later qualified as a quantity surveyor with the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. The issue of July 1930 contained an article by him, entitled 'Reading'. He clearly had a catholic taste in books and recommended a library to which he belonged – at a subscription of 'only one penny per annum'! Fittingly, the school magazines have been offered to Cheltenham Public Library's Local Studies Centre where they will be available to a wider readership. Also, a photocopy of the first issue has been presented to Bournside School, the Central School's heir.

### **Date for your diary**

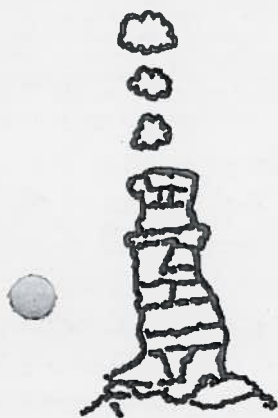
Eric will be the speaker at the Cheltenham Local History Society meeting in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and the title is 'Serendipity'.

### **Obituary**

The Committee were sorry to learn of the death of Mary Barker in November 2010.

If members have any items for publication in **Smoke Signal**, please let me have them during August ,(paper copy or via e-mail.)

I hope you'll be able to join us on the summer outing. It promises to be a very enjoyable a very enjoyable afternoon.



# Smoke Signal

Number 64, Autumn 2010

Editor: Lorna Robson

Tel: 01242 242996

## FROM THE CHAIR

Here we are at the end of another summer and the beginning of a new season of local history. I hope that you like the look of the programme that Amy's hard work has provided for us. Cheese rolling, poetry and fairies - a very varied fare to stimulate our interests. I am pleased that Jean Jeffries is now fit and able to talk to us.

The subject of domestic servants is of particular interest and of relevance to the Cheltenham area. Until the middle of the last century there were two intersecting but separate worlds in the town - middle-class families and those who served them. My own house was built in the 1930s and is not so large, but it still has the remains of a bell push and alert board system.

**LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

*Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council*

We are lucky that our area has been covered by a steady flow of well-written local histories over the years. This year brings another good batch. We have a fourth volume of our own *Research Bulletin* and there are new titles by Anthea Jones - *Cheltenham: a new history* and David Hanks - *Cheltenham Past & Present*. The history of Cheltenham is often presented as a story of the rise and fall of the spa but the town has always had a wider economic base and has reinvented itself several times since the decline of the spa in the middle of the nineteenth century. Anthea's study promises to consider all of the factors which have lead to the town's growth and continuing prosperity. The published price of the book is £24.99 - excellent value for 416 pages including 280 illustrations - but there will be a £5 discount available to our members on copies bought at a meeting.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

I have asked the speakers of talks arranged for September, November and December, for a précis of their talks. I hope you will find this information helpful.

### **16<sup>th</sup> September: Cheese Rolling in Gloucestershire**

Jean Jefferies

Discover the history behind this annual event and why so many adults are keen to hurl themselves down a perilous slope. Jean provides the answers! Come and enjoy this informative and illustrated talk. Jean brings the cheeses that are rolled down Coopers Hill and her book.

### **18<sup>th</sup> November: Domestic Servants**

Dr. Christine Seal

"*Domestic Servants in the Nineteenth Century*" will look at the role of individual servants, servant accommodation and wages, and will draw on examples from various country houses around England. Reference will also be made to a Masters research study of servant keeping in the houses of the aristocracy and industrialists in the Midlands between 1870 and 1900. Research material is drawn from various documents held in family archives, record offices and census.



## 16<sup>th</sup> December: Tetbury boyhood of Frank Peters (1905-2000).

John Peters.

"A boy in Tetbury" is the memoir of a Cotswold boyhood by a man who was always glad to be known as a journeyman baker. Frank wrote the book in his last few years to inform his great grandchildren what life had been like in the past. In his own words, "It was another world."

When he was a little boy he saw his first aeroplane; at the age of 11, in 1917, he had to drive a car that was being used in a harvest field as a tractor; he had a child's-eye view of the Australian Air Force in the Cotswolds during the First World War.

Tetbury was 'a poor, shabby sort of place in those days'. Frank grew up as one of 'the poor', an object of charity. His mother was the gate-opener at Highgrove House, and his father, a blacksmith, rode to work in Tetbury on a wooden bicycle. Frank left Tetbury National School just about able to read and write; he was redundant on his first Monday at work and took a variety of jobs in Tetbury up to the end of the twenties, when he was working for what is now Hobbs House Bakery; from very early in 'my career' he called himself a baker.

Part of his job was to deliver bread daily in Tetbury and once a week to people who lived in what were then remote areas of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, from Ozleworth to Oaksey. There is a blow by blow account of every shop and house on his delivery round, with an anecdote for most of them, and a ripe collection of well-observed eccentrics.

## REVIEWS OF PAST MEETINGS

### The Oldest Showman in England

In March, Steven Blake gave a fascinating account of a Gloucestershire-born Victorian travelling showman and model-maker. John Bellamy (1808-1893) Bellamy discovered a talent for making and selling models of local buildings and gaining commissions from the local gentry. In 1831-2 he achieved a major success when he was

encouraged to build a model of the former residence of King William IV. During his lifetime he covered thousands of miles and exhibited in almost every sizeable town in England, Wales and Scotland. The most ambitious of his models was of Windsor Castle, which took him ten years to build. The model that he made of the Pittville Pump Room is displayed in Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum. Members were astonished by photographs of surviving models, several are in Gloucestershire. Mr. Blake's talk gave us a vivid insight into a way of life now long disappeared.

In April, Cliff Burd gave us an illustrated and very detailed tour of Tewkesbury. Tewkesbury has one of extensive medieval streetscapes in England. Boxed in by the rivers Avon and Severn, the medieval town grew into a web of tightly-packed narrow alleyways running between half-timbered houses, many at least three stories high. Of the original 90 alleys, 30 remain, most branching out from the high street. These were once rubbish dumps and open drains combined, and disease was endemic. Today, these dark dank passages give visitors an insight into life in medieval England.

Our final talk of the season followed a short AGM meeting and members were in for a real treat! What a shame the room wasn't full, for Patrick Furley had not only brought some of his magnificent magic lanterns, but entertained us with a pre television show from his extensive collection of glass slides. Patrick showed us pictures of old Gloucester and surrounds, the Royal Family and advertisements of the time, many of the goods, such as Pears soap, are still around. There were slides for every season and some of the earliest 'moving' pictures.

The talk prompted Eric Miller to recall that among the Society's 'Bendall Archive' is a box of black and white slides of Leckhampton Church taken by or for Alf Bendall. They are of no particular interest except for one, which is unique and of some importance as it shows the Giffard effigies positioned against the wall of the Lady Chapel, where they used to lie before being moved to the back of the south aisle.

## SUMMER OUTING TO RODMARTON MANOR

This year's Summer Outing, arranged by CKLHS, was to Rodmarton Manor, which is only a few miles beyond Cirencester towards Tetbury and was therefore an afternoon only event. The Manor House is one of the very last great buildings erected in the traditional Cotswold style, and took ten years before completion in 1926, with a short interruption for the First World War.

Claud and Margaret Biddulph decided what kind of house they wanted and engaged some of the Arts & Crafts Movement members at Sapperton nearby. These craftsmen put all their skill and artistry into creating a stone-built house filled with Arts & Crafts furnishings. Many pieces of furniture represent an era of fine quality and minimal fussiness; solid, honest furniture for a well loved home. That said, any details here would be inadequate, and Rodmarton must be visited to be truly appreciated. A recent remark by an Arts & Crafts specialist was that he had not seen so many quality items all under one roof. Our guide through the house gave snippets of information beyond what is in the excellent guidebook.

Outside there are extensive gardens; some formal with clipped shrubs and colourful borders; other parts are wilder in nature, and beyond the boundary are long views to the Marlborough Downs. Teas with delicious homemade cakes were served in the forecourt near the stable block. Earlier hints of rain never materialised, and everyone found that the afternoon had been a resounding success.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY FUNDRAISING NEWS

In May, Amy asked members to support the Gloucestershire County History Trust by Sponsoring David Smith to walk the Cheltenham Circular Challenge 2010. David was the county archivist between 1980 and 2000 working on the famous 'Red Books'.

These books contain the definitive parish-by-parish history of our county and work has been going on for over fifty years. Over half the county has now been covered, but unfortunately, the current partnership agreement governing the work in Gloucestershire lapses in October 2010. One of the new trust's tasks is to ensure that fresh funding is found to enable the research and writing of accounts of the remaining parishes.



After a full days walking, David raised £2500, (excluding Gift Aided money).

## **TERRY ENOCH, 31 AUGUST 1932 - 1 APRIL 2010**

With the death of Terry Enoch, the Society has lost a staunch member, who always put a smile on people's faces. His heart was in Leckhampton, where he was born and spent most of his life, and he loved to tell people about its past, in particular the war years. Members of the WI and schoolchildren especially enjoyed his talks, illustrated with artefacts from his collection, and he would go to great lengths to try and find out their origin and use. The children's favourites were the Victorian toilet, and the hand grenade found in his garden.

The collection of curios was started by his father, a builder, in whose footsteps Terry followed, becoming apprentice of the year as a 20 year-old carpenter. The renovation of the tithe barn at Bishops Cleeve was one of his later achievements. More recently, his posts as school caretaker, first at Richard Pate's and then at Leckhampton Primary enabled him to exercise his skills as handyman.

He was a keen sportsman and supported Gloucester Rugby Club for many years, watching its matches from 'The Shed'. He played tennis and badminton until he was 70, and for ten years was an umpire for the Cheltenham Rounders League.

Above all, Terry enjoyed talking to people, with infectious enthusiasm and a great sense of humour. This latter sustained him in his long battle with cancer, and we offer his widow Pam and family our deepest sympathy.



*Eric Miller*

**BULLETIN No 4.** The latest Research Bulletin will be ready for collection at the September meeting. No member should be without one! Please use the order form enclosed with this newsletter and send it with your membership renewal. The price is still a modest £3, and cheques should be made out to "Leckhampton Local History Society".



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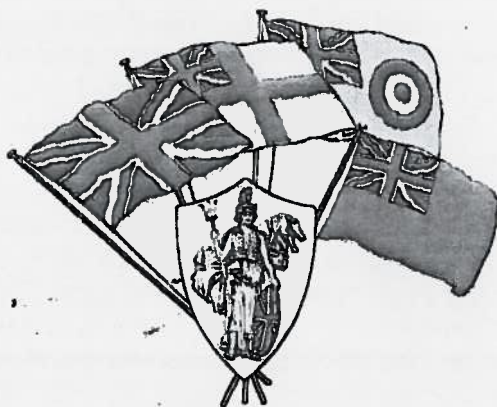
Tel 526461 [ehmiller@talktalk.net](mailto:ehmiller@talktalk.net)

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**CORONATION 1953**

# **LECKHAMPTON CELEBRATIONS**

★

===== **JUNE 2** =====  
**BONFIRE ON LECKHAMPTON HILL**

===== **JUNE 6** =====  
**SPORTS AND FANCY DRESS PARADE**  
**LECKHAMPTON SPORTS GROUND at 2.30 p.m.**

===== **JUNE 10** =====  
**OLD PEOPLE'S FILM SHOW AND TEA**

Front cover of the 1953 Souvenir Programme  
**LIGHT THE BEACON! – LECKHAMPTON'S CORONATION  
CELEBRATIONS, 1953**

Leckhampton laid on a 'right royal' celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in June 1953, with fun and games for young and old and a huge beacon erected on the Hill. The festivities were organised by the Parish Council under its Chairman, Mr Alfred Bendall, and the sports were overseen by Mr Harold Poulton, the Primary School Headmaster. People from the 'Alma Road estate', then newly developed, also took part.

The beacon, to be lit on the night of the coronation (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June) was billed as being 'even bigger than any undertaken on similar occasions in the past'. It was built by the local (24<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham) Scouts, under the direction of Alfred Bendall. Major Hicks-Beach, the Cheltenham MP, had given permission for the boys to cut beech and ash trees from Witcombe Woods. 96 trees were felled and four lorry-loads of brushwood also contributed to the pile, cleared from alongside the track that at that time ran down from Tower Lodge.

Tony Clifford, who was then at the start of a 40-year career as the Scout leader, recalls that it took three weeks to collect the material and a further three weeks to build the beacon, located towards the western perimeter of the old Iron Age fort. The structure was hollow, like a chimney, and an oil-soaked rope hung down its centre, like a wick, intended to carry the flame up to the topmost twigs, all of which were impregnated with old gear-box oil, dirty paraffin and cellulose thinners. (Alfred Bendall will have applied his builder's know-how to the task, and he will also have known how the beacon had been constructed for the coronation of King George V. In the souvenir programme he commented that 'it is reputed that Leckhampton Hill has been the site of beacons dating back to the Armada'. That seems very likely, if impossible to prove. Certainly, beacons were lit there for both of Queen Victoria's Jubilees, and for the coronation and Silver Jubilee of King George V.)

For four days in advance the Scouts mounted a guard ('Be Prepared!') and as a consequence were able to deter three intruders who had it in mind to light the beacon a day early.

It is well known that Coronation Day itself was wet and stormy. Nevertheless, about 150 people were present for the lighting of the beacon, and despite the elements it was reported that the flames shot up

to a great height and the beacon could be seen from as far away as Tewkesbury and Gloucester.

Although there are photographs of earlier beacons, in their intact state before being set alight, no official record of the one erected in 1953 seems to have survived. Tony Clifford recalls a night-time photograph taken by the *Echo*, but this was evidently not good enough to have been published, and the negatives were lost when the newspaper office's archives were flooded. (If any reader knows of a copy, or of any other photograph, please let me know.) This year's Golden Jubilee beacon was erected on Whistley Hill, in Charlton Kings.

On the Saturday following the coronation, a crowd of 1200, including 550 children, attended the celebrations on the former Leckhampton Sports Club ground (now the school field). There were 130 entrants for a fancy dress parade, and prizes were awarded for the best manufactured, most original, prettiest and funniest dresses, as well as for a decorated pram or bicycle and a tableau or group. A long programme of sports and novelty events for children caused great amusement: flat races, and monkey, potato, sack, wheelbarrow and three-legged races. Contests for the adults included an 'umbrella and ball race', for 6 men and 6 women. Children under the age of five could be left at a children's corner in the pavilion, in the care of members of the Infant Welfare Centre. After all that, the children were given 'a good tea' and later in the evening ice creams were distributed. The day was brought to an end with dancing on the field.

The committee planned to give children under school age a coronation spoon, since only those at school were entitled to receive the souvenir (a mug?) presented by the Local Education Authority. (Did this happen, and are any still in circulation?)

On 16<sup>th</sup> June about 130 older people were taken by coach to the Gaumont Cinema for a matinee performance of the film 'A Queen is Crowned', and this was followed by tea and entertainment in the Parish Hall.

Coronation souvenirs were presented to several worthy citizens, including the mother with the largest family (Mrs Hart, with 16). Those present joined in community singing, Mr Bendall recited a poem on 'Leckhampton' which he had received at the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, members of the Women's Institute staged a cavalcade entitled 'A Tribute to the Queen', and all sang the National Anthem.

That series of festivities was probably the last occasion when Leckhampton's inhabitants truly came together as a community. Though prompted by the Parish Council, the actual work was carried out by other organisations: the Mothers' Union, Child Welfare Committee, Pilley Sisterhood, Young Wives' Group, Women's Institute, and the Leckhampton Players. These were mainly women's groups, and most of them no longer exist.

*Eric Miller*

#### Sources:

Tony Clifford's recollections and *Brief History of the Leckhampton Scout Group*, *Gloucestershire Echo* 4 and 8 June 1953, *Chronicle and Graphic* 20 June 1953, Souvenir Programme

#### Postscript

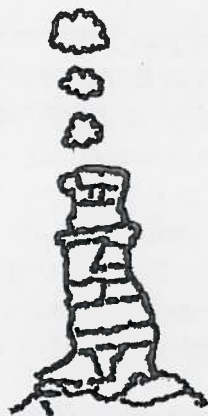
TONY DRAKE, R.I.P.

Tony Drake's death is recorded elsewhere in *Smoke Signal*. By coincidence, on the same page of the *Chronicle and Graphic* that reported the older residents' outing, his name appears in an account of Messrs Drake and Co's annual staff outing. First he led a tour of some of the university buildings at Oxford. The party then travelled to Abingdon for lunch, followed by a visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor, before taking a three-hour trip to Marlow by private steamer. Such treatment must have inspired great loyalty among the employees of that old-established family firm of drapers, furnishers and upholsters. Its store, in Winchcombe Street, closed in 1978.

# Smoke Signal

Number 66 Autumn 2011

Editor: Lorna Robson  
Tel. 01242242996



## FROM THE CHAIR

Here we are at the end of another Summer and the beginning of a new season of local history. I hope that you like the look of the programme that Amy's hard work has provided for us. From poets to highwaymen – a very varied fare to stimulate our interests.

We also hope to use our Members' Evenings during the year to look back on some of the earlier research done by members of the Society. Many of you are long-term members, but some, like me, would welcome a reminder of the general outline of Leckhampton history.

At our first meeting, on 15<sup>th</sup> September, there will be tea or coffee and biscuits to help welcome in the new season.

Mike Rigby

**LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
*Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council*

## VISIT TO ASTON HALL

This year's summer visit was to Aston Hall, a hidden gem in an unlikely part of Birmingham. This palatial Jacobean mansion presents a fairy-tale skyline and has sumptuous interiors, including a magnificent long gallery with wood-panelling and a moulded plaster ceiling. There is a wealth of antique furniture, paintings, tapestries, suits of armour and curios. The servants' quarters and kitchens offer a complementary view of life at the Hall. Today Aston Villa football stadium occupies part of the extensive grounds that once surrounded the Hall, but some well-tended ornamental gardens remain.

A full coachload of members from Leckhampton and Charlton Kings enjoyed expert guided tours. We learned that the Hall was built by a local squire, Sir Thomas Holte, who supported the Royalist cause during the Civil War. King Charles I paid a visit in 1642, at the beginning of the Civil War, and the sturdy and elaborately carved oak staircase still bears the marks of the damage caused during an ensuing attack by parliamentary forces. The estate was later leased to the eldest son of James Watt, the inventor, and after his death in the property was sold to the Corporation of Birmingham, which has refurbished the interior, maintaining its essentially Jacobean character.

## Leckhampton Court – Manor House to Hospice

The first edition of *Leckhampton Court – Manor House to Hospice* has been out of print for some time. Its author has decided to give it a thorough revision, including lots of new material and this new edition should be available from mid-September (price £5). All proceeds go to the Sue Ryder Hospice at Leckhampton Court – a very worthy charity right on our doorstep. Members can order copies using the enclosed form.



The speaker will to show lots of images and look at, for instance, why the ass and the ox appear next to the Child in Nativity scenes; why in those scenes does Joseph look fed up and why does Mary wear blue. In the Crucifixion, why does Christ's head always fall to his right; what does the skull at the foot of the cross actually mean? She will be reading the

### **Cheltenham Local History Society**

Evening Lectures and meetings are held in the Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 9SA (generally the Council Chamber) from 7.30 till 9:00 p.m. normally on the third Tuesday of each month from September to April. All are welcome at these meetings, although a charge of £1.00 is made to non-members and 50p to under 18s and students.

**Tuesday 20th September 2011:**

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

**Tuesday 18th October 2011**

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

**Tuesday 15th November 2011**

Rev John Thompstone      North Cotswold Churches

**Tuesday 20th December 2011**

Dr David Aldred      Echoes of the GWR 1962-64

### **Charlton kings Local History Society**

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

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Mr Eric Williams      Lost Villages

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Dr Christine Seal      Domestic Servants in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Back numbers of *Smoke Signal* are available for members to purchase and we also have a supply of *Research Bulletins* and other publications, which are usually on sale at monthly meetings or from the Research Coordinator.

The Society's website address is [www.llhs.org.uk](http://www.llhs.org.uk).

The Research Coordinator is Eric Miller, 20 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham GL53 0PB,

Tel 526461 [ehmiller@talktalk.net](mailto:ehmiller@talktalk.net)

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## Heritage Open Days

Cheltenham 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September

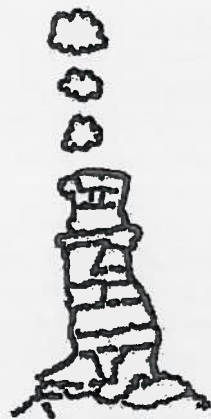
Free to Explore

A leaflet giving all details of properties open is available from the Tourist Office in the Promenade. New buildings to the scheme include the Eagle Tower, the New Club and the Parabola Art Centre. Geoff and Elaine North, (CHS) are putting on a display illustrating the history of the old Plough Hotel site in the Regent's Arcade. If anyone has anything they could lend, please phone Elaine (tel. 01452 857803).

# Smoke Signal

Number 67 Spring 2012

Editor: Lorna Robson  
Tel.01242242996



## FROM THE EDITOR

### David Lyall Retires

David Lyall, a long-standing committee member, with his brother Tom will later this year be leaving Leckhampton, their home since boyhood. We shall be very sorry to see them go, but they promise to return on the odd occasion.

There is a consequent vacancy for a Membership Secretary from September 2012

The job involves:

- maintaining and up-dating records of members' names and addresses and their subscription status,
- producing address labels (not vital),
- dealing with applications for membership,
- collecting renewal/new subscriptions.

Please speak to David at the AGM or one of the committee members if you can help your Society.

**LECKHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
*Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council*

## **PRAISE FOR LECKHAMPTON COURT - MANOR HOUSE TO HOSPICE**

In the latest issue of *Local History News*, the magazine of the British Association for Local History, its editor selected this book for special review, along with two others. She describes them as 'examples of ... contrasting ways in which local history research can be shared beyond the immediate area or group of people most closely involved with its production. They each serve their purpose well, and would provide valuable starting points for anyone thinking along the same lines and planning a similar project ... Eric Miller is coordinator of research for Leckhampton Local History Society and members of the society have made considerable contributions with extensive revisions, new discoveries and recent developments at the Court.' She gives an outline of the book's contents and highlights such sources as the *Souvenir* booklet of the First World War Red Cross Hospital and patients' scrapbooks. Several of the photographs are reproduced. She concludes: 'This is a thorough work of local history in a very deserving cause' (ie Sue Ryder Care).

Editor's Note: It is good to see the Society and its members receiving such publicity. Copies of the book are still available at £5 each.

## **CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Leckhampton Churchyard contains many tombstones of interest because of the detail of their carving or the person(s) buried beneath them. A project is under way to photograph some of the more important ones. A few volunteers have already come forward from the church, but if any member of the society would like to take part too, please contact me, and I will give the necessary guidance. Ideally, the photos should be digital, enabling them to be downloaded on to a computer in the Parish Office.

The inscriptions on many of the gravestones have been recorded and can be accessed on both the St Peter's and Society websites, but there are still several areas that have not yet been surveyed. This is an intriguing pursuit, and if when the weather improves any member would like to continue this valuable work, again please contact me.

*Eric Miller, 526461*

## **SUMMER OUTING - ADVANCE NOTICE**

This year's outing, arranged by Charlton Kings LHS, will be to the National Trust property, Dyrham Park in Wiltshire on Tuesday afternoon 17th July. Booking forms, giving full details, should be available at the AGM.

## IN PRAISE OF EDWARD WILSON

In Cheltenham, 2012 is rightly the year for the celebration of Edward Adrian Wilson. He has always sprung to mind when I am asked about Cheltenham's most famous residents but, as far as my knowledge of him is concerned, I have not looked much beyond the Boy's Own Paper story of Captain Scott's expedition that I heard as a schoolboy. There was, of course, a reaction to that version of the story and much was written about the amateurism and disorganisation of the venture that 'lost the race' to the South Pole.

What I have seen and heard in the last few months has provided a necessary balance to my understanding of the expedition. There was real scientific purpose and real success and the race element was of more interest to the press at home than it was to the participants. I now know more of story of Dr Wilson. He was a knowledgeable and experienced physical and natural scientist and doctor as well as a very talented artist, whose watercolours recorded many scenes of scientific interest and great beauty. He was also a strong and selfless personality who, with his colleagues, showed real bravery. Robert Scott said of him:

"Words must always fail me when I talk of Bill Wilson. I believe he really is the finest character I ever met."

Cheltenham can be proud of him but it pleases me to think that his love of science, his artistic technique and, perhaps, his self-reliance began to develop as he roamed the countryside around Leckhampton during his time at The Crippetts.

Mike Rigby

## OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Phil Newcombe, a loyal and long-standing member, and offer our condolences to Brenda and her family. During his working life he had been an architect with the Gloucestershire County Council, a subject that had long interested him, as evidenced by his youthful sketches of local buildings. E.M.

Collum End Farm (from the Society's archive)





## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

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

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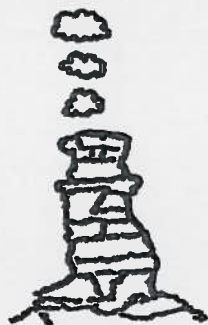
Tel 526461 [ehmiller@talktalk.net](mailto:ehmiller@talktalk.net)

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# Smoke Signal

Number 68 Autumn 2012

Editor: Lorna Robson

Tel: 01242 242996

## Chairman's Message

The Society celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. Some of you may recall the photo overleaf, taken from *Blackhampton 1894 - the End of an Era*. Since its foundation our members have produced or contributed to four books and to articles in four Research Bulletins and we have enjoyed a rich and varied programme of talks and outings.

Newer members may have joined too late to hear some of the earlier talks on subjects that are fundamental to the area, such as the Quarries, the Tram-road, Liddington Lake, the Batteries and the Golf Course, not to mention the Church, the manors and the Court. We have been asked to revisit such topics, and Amy Woolacott has included some of them in the forthcoming programme. (Older members may be glad to have their memories refreshed too!)



An early meeting of the Society in 1992.  
Do you recognise any of these faces?

There have been some changes to the composition of our committee since the elections at the AGM. Mike Rigby, having completed three years as Chairman, and wishing to devote some of his free time to academic research, is now Vice-Chairman. Ken Stephens and Jim Breddy continue as Hon. Sec and Hon. Treasurer respectively, Amy is both Programme Secretary and Membership Secretary and Lor Robson continues as Editor of this newsletter. Professor Peter Simkins (now recovering well from a serious operation) continues as an ordinary committee member and has been newly joined by Barbara Wills and Richard Popplewell (co-opted by the committee on 16 July).

### **13 December Trevor Radway - Illustrated talk on GB Letter boxes**

An invitation to appreciate the humble red letter box. We'll see a wide range of fascinating designs, some of which related to location, some to purpose and others to a particular period of time. Many are now very rare and unusual. In Cheltenham there are six unusual Victorian boxes, all listed buildings. Some splendid Edward VII and George V boxes have also survived.

### **Annual Outing**

A handful of members joined Charlton Kings LHS for their outing to Dyrham Park. On what was the first warm sunny day of the summer, it was exhilarating to stride over the downs and come upon the house in the valley below, with its carefully tended garden. There was plenty to occupy us indoors too, with the collections of Dutch paintings and furniture by Gillow and Linnell. Your Chairman was tempted to play a tune on the Bechstein grand piano in the great hall before adjourning to the tea-room, and the afternoon came to an end too soon.

### **Obituary**

Tony Drake died in March, aged 89. He was a scion of the well-known family firm but was recognised more widely as a champion of the countryside. In 2001 he was awarded the MBE for over 50 years' services to ramblers. The Cotswold Way is said to have been his idea, and he mapped many rights of way on common land, including stiles and bridges, and encouraged their upkeep and maintenance.

**Cheltenham Local History Society**

**Display in the Local Studies Library**

**(Behind the main library building)**

**Clarence Street Cheltenham**

**September 4<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> The Naunton Park & Bath Road Area of Cheltenham**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Shopping in Cheltenham - Retailers and Traders, Past and Present**

**November 6<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham and the Napoleonic Wars**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> - January 5<sup>th</sup> 'On a Seasonal Theme'**

**Cheltenham Heritage Open Days 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**An opportunity to visit some buildings that are not open to the public.**

**Where there are guided tours, these must be booked in advance. Leaflets are available from the Tourist Information Office in the Promenade.**

**22 venues and 8 guided walks. The walks include Spas of Cheltenham with Roger Woodley, Medical History in Cheltenham with Heather Atkinson and Cheltenham's Ornamental Ironwork with Geoff and Elaine north. (All CLHS members)**

**<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/town/cheltenham>**



# Smoke Signal

Number 69 Spring 2013

Editor: Lorna Robson

Tel: 01242 242996

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Society's programme is drawing to a close, at the end of its 21<sup>st</sup> year of existence. The topics for the talks have attracted good audiences, and wider publicity has brought in visitors and a few new members. We have made a point of returning to some of the core aspects of Leckhampton - the quarries, Liddington Lake, the brickworks and potteries, the golf course, and the manors.

The website has been revamped and has received an increasing number of visits; the address is [leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com/](http://leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com/) but [www.llhs.org.uk](http://www.llhs.org.uk) will still find it. Its album of photos is growing, with images taken from the Society's archive, but members are encouraged to offer their own photos as well. We shall also be adding extracts from our own publications, especially those now out of print. *Smoke Signal* itself can be downloaded, and I encourage everyone who has a broadband connection (about half the membership) and would be happy to receive it by email to tell the editor ([lorna.jrobson@btinternet.com](mailto:lorna.jrobson@btinternet.com)). This will save the Society the cost of printing and postage and will reduce the numbers to be hand-delivered.



Details of the summer outing to Lydiard Park (see enclosed booking form) have also been posted on the Society's website, with links to the Park's own site where more information can be found. As usual, we are joining up with Charlton Kings LHS. There are always more of them than us, so on this occasion, do swell our numbers. It should be a good day out, to a little-known venue, where I'm sure we shall be treated as special guests.

In June there will be an additional event, linked to the launch of another publication financed by the Society - the culmination of many days' work on my part. Come and hear the talk, to be given in Leckhampton Church, a beautiful setting for a summer's evening, with refreshments to follow! See below for more details.

Nevertheless, as I stated in my recent circular, these positive achievements are on a shaky foundation unless volunteers come forward to take over from the present committee. So far there has been no response. Therefore I urge you to come to the AGM, which on this occasion will be far from routine. It is, after all, *your* society. We seek your opinions on its future, which the committee will debate before informing you of the next steps.

In spite of all this, you will see from the enclosure that the programme for 2013-2014 is up to the usual standard, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the coming year. And in the meantime, we hope to see a good representation on the outing and for the talk.

*Eric Miller*





## **The Stained-Glass Windows & Memorials of St Peter's Church Leckhampton**

**An illustrated talk by Eric Miller followed by book launch.**

**Admission £5 - includes refreshments.**

**Proceeds towards church funds.**

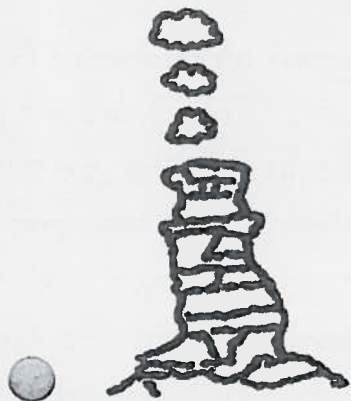
**7.30 pm Thursday 13 June at St Peter's Church, Leckhampton**

## NEWS FROM LECKHAMPTON POW CAMP

At the end of the meeting on 15 November John Randall spoke about a remarkable letter which he had bought at a sale. It had been sent in August 1946, under the auspices of the Red Cross, by a German soldier held at the POW camp at Leckhampton Court. He wrote to his girlfriend that he was incensed at having left 'sunny Jersey' and being 'forced into captivity'. He complained that he was unlikely to be released that year, while 'other comrades were already at home and could pursue their former work'. Like most others, he was put to work on a farm, consoled by the words that he would be 'working not for England but for Germany'. In fact, the camp did not close until May 1948. Other inmates were much more positive about their confinement, regarding their stay in Leckhampton as the happiest days of their life. (This is related in the Society's book *Leckhampton in the Second World War*, now out of print - if anyone comes across a copy, please snap it up!) By a strange coincidence, John recognised the recipient's address in Germany - Ahlden near Hannover - which was where he himself had been posted during his own military service. John has presented the letter to the Society as an interesting addition to its archive: and so, the letter has returned to its place of origin.

## OBITUARY

We were sorry to learn of the death of Betty Wiggins-Jones, who died last November aged 89. She had been a stalwart Girl Guide leader, and a memorial service at St Paul's church, Shurdington, was attended by many former members of that movement. She came of an old Leckhampton Family and made contributions to the Society's early books. Her mother, Mollie Clarke, was herself a fount of local knowledge and edited an unpublished history of Leckhampton for the Women's Institute.



# Smoke Signal

Number 70 Autumn 2013

Editor: Lorna Robson

Tel: 01242 242996

## LECKHAMPTON LHS 1992-2014: NOT THE END OF AN ERA?

This year the Society has celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its founding, and it is fitting that the summer outing to Lydiard Tregoze was such an enjoyable and well supported occasion. During the past year too our meetings have attracted increasing attendances. However, this is largely thanks to the interest shown by visitors, few of whom have become members, and our own numbers have been falling steadily, to 80 from 120 in our heyday. It is clear that, beneath the Society's apparent prosperity, the foundations are shaky.

One day someone will write a thesis on 'The Rise and Fall of Organised Associations, 1880 - 2020'. The dates are open to debate, but the facts are clear. Fewer people are coming forward to help run societies such as ours. This is not

surprising, as many of our members joined on or soon after the society's foundation and at this stage of their lives are no longer willing to take on new responsibilities. The existing committee members have been in post for far too long and it was made clear at the last AGM that they did not wish to serve beyond next May. Without a team to fulfil the core rôles of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Programme Organiser or Newsletter Editor, the Society would be unable to function.

At the AGM the consensus was that in such circumstances the Society should be wound up and its assets transferred to the Cheltenham LHS. During the summer we have met with its Chairman to discuss how to go about this.

I had originally prepared a notice calling a Special General Meeting in October to vote on winding up the Society after the end of the current programme. However, at this eleventh hour, I happen to have met several young people, who have recently moved into the Leckhampton and who are keen to find out more about the area's past. They were sad to think that the Society might close and have volunteered to fill the crucial posts after this season in order to prevent this happening. Sue Marlow, who first introduced me to the newcomers, is also willing to help. You will meet them soon. This is all very encouraging and augurs well for the future.

I need hardly say that, as a founder member, having devoted my efforts during the past twenty-one years to the Society's development and prosperity, I am as keen as anyone to prevent the Society from folding. I have been putting out feelers in other directions too in the hope of attracting new members, but I also urge each one of you to do some recruiting yourselves from among your acquaintances (and their children). With the injection of more new blood, I hope that the Society will enjoy a new lease of life.

*Eric Miller*

### LECKHAMPTON LHS WEBSITE

Mike Rigby reassures us that he will continue to run the website, which attracts over 100 visits a month, including some from overseas. He has made some improvements and has plans to add further material. He has introduced a page for queries and is compiling a 'Picture Book' of Leckhampton. These illustrations are mostly taken from the Society's archive, but if any members have other photos to offer he would be glad to hear from you. Contact him via the website

<http://leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com/>

## LECKHAMPTON LHS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Society's reserves, currently about £2,500, have been built up through the sale of publications, mainly to local people. (Subscriptions and donations now barely cover running expenses, such as hire of hall, speakers' fees and insurance.) The Committee considers it only right that some of those funds should be returned to the community. Donations to local causes have been made in the past, for example towards History studies at both Naunton Park and Leckhampton Primary Schools. The Committee will seek to identify any further appropriate beneficiaries. The Village Hall Improvement Appeal Fund is one candidate, and members are invited to make other suggestions.

## LECKHAMPTON'S STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

If you couldn't get to Eric's talk on the stained-glass windows and memorials at Leckhampton Church, you will find copies of his book on sale at the September meeting. It will also be the subject of one of Pete Wilson's forthcoming Sunday morning programmes to be broadcast on BBC Radio Gloucestershire.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**19<sup>th</sup> September Iain Willox**

### **The Story of the Bayeux Tapestry**

**21<sup>st</sup> November An illustrated talk on 'The Prisoner of War Camps and Hostels in Gloucestershire. 1939 - 1948**

Ian Hollingsbee's talk is the culmination of over three years' research and provides a fascinating insight into our local WW2 history. Little has been written about the many thousands of Italian, German and other Axis Prisoners of War held in Britain, USA and the Commonwealth. What was it like to be a POW in Gloucestershire, knowing of the defeat of your country, the Russian occupation and the whereabouts and welfare of your loved ones? There were 14 POW camps throughout the county with Leckhampton Camp 263 being the last one to close in May 1948. These camps administered over 20 POW Hostels not to mention the billeting of many on local farms.

**19th December. Individuality & Integration: Leckhampton & Cheltenham**

Dr Anthea Jones is the author of an authoritative history of Cheltenham and director of a current project to study the 1909 Lloyd-George Survey of Gloucestershire.

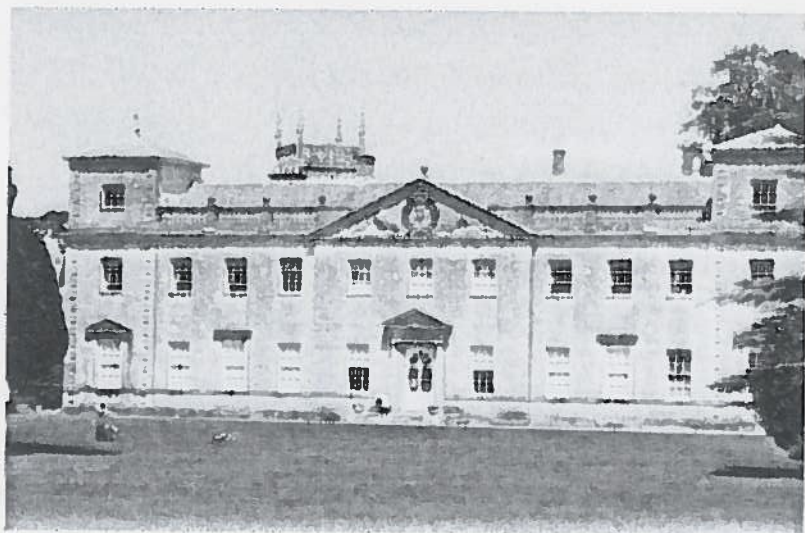
## Joint Outing of LLHS & CKLHS - 9<sup>th</sup> July

Lydiard House & Park, and Lydiard Tregoze Church

Our coach arrived on time as Leckhampton-ites waited in the shade. The day's weather was remarkable, giving us a whole day of sunny and rather warm weather. The CKLHS party joined us making a full coach for the journey to Lydiard Park & House (purchased some time ago by Swindon Corporation to save it from decay). We arrived through the outskirts of Swindon and Lydiard parkland. The mansion was considerably altered over the centuries, and now has a fine neo-classical façade overlooking the Park and lake. For the Lydiard House guided tour, we split in two groups and heard the history of various St John family members, whilst going through the ground-floor state rooms - some with excellent Georgian plasterwork; seeing also an unusual 17<sup>th</sup> century painted window.

Close by the House is the Church of St Mary, reached by an ancient stone slab path. There is a 17<sup>th</sup> century pulpit, and some exceptional St John family tombs. One monument has doors painted with an heraldic genealogical tree; the doors when opened reveal an elaborate painted family triptych, circa 1600. Another monument set beneath a canopy is a gilded Cavalier, who died in the 1600s. The parkland has attractively set specimen trees amid grassland sloping down to the lake, also woodlands walks, an ice-house and a walled garden.

# Photographs of Lydiard House & church from the park



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As always, guests and prospective members are very welcome at our meetings. However, we do expect residents in the area to join after attending, say, two or three meetings as a visitor. The Membership Secretary, Amy Woolacot, Tel 522566 for membership forms.

Back numbers of *Smoke Signal* are available for members to purchase and we also have a supply of *Research Bulletins* and other publications, which are usually on sale at monthly meetings or from the Research Coordinator.

The Research Coordinator is Eric Miller, 20 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham GL53 OPB,  
Tel 526461 [ehmiller@talktalk.net](mailto:ehmiller@talktalk.net)

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