



Smoke Signal

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Leckhampton Local History Society's Newsletter

Leckhampton Local History Society *behind the scenes*

The Society does more than just hold the monthly meetings. Behind the scenes it conducts correspondence with people with family connections in Leckhampton. Some queries are addressed to the LLHS website, while others are forwarded to me from the St Peter's Parish Office or the Cheltenham LHS. Often the inquirer lives a long way off, typically in one of the Commonwealth countries. In most cases I am able to satisfy correspondents' curiosity, to their evident delight, and in return they can shed light on the lives of people who would otherwise be just names.

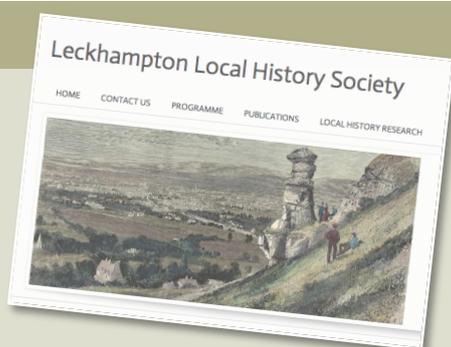


Photo: St Peter's Church, as originally built by Sir John Giffard. Lithograph by George Rowe, c.1840

It is a great help that in 1914 Leonard Barnard carried out a survey of the graveyard, marking on carefully drawn plans the location of each plot together with the appropriate name(s). Unfortunately, these charts haven't been kept up to date and it is often difficult to identify the graves of those who have died more recently. On the other hand, Julian Rawes, on behalf of the Gloucestershire Family History Society, has made a record of the inscriptions on some 1750 of the graves – about a third of the total, which includes most of the 'interesting' ones. In addition, photographs of many of the graves have been taken by members of the Society as well as parishioners.

By way of examples, I was able to email a photo of a certain grave to an Australian researcher who had read the inscriptions on the church website. It named a couple whose address was in Suffolk Square but who had evidently lived in Australia, as the grave also has memorials to several of their young children who had died out there. In another case, an Englishman living in Switzerland asked about his '2nd great-grandfather' buried at Leckhampton and wondered if there was a stone he could look at when next visiting. I was unable to identify one but as he shared a surname with someone I knew here, I put him in touch with her. It turned out that her late husband had been the inquirer's second cousin twice removed, and she knows exactly where it is!

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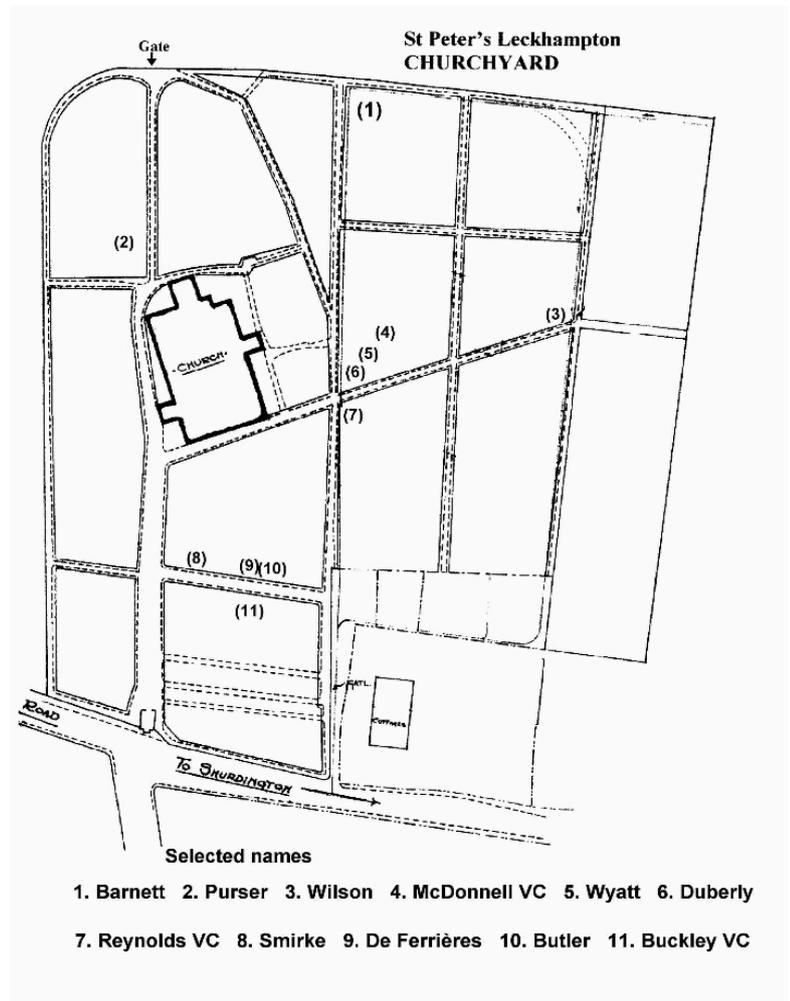
LLHS AGM – 18 May 2016

Notice is enclosed with this edition of Smoke Signal that the Society's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm at the Glebe Cottages next to St Peter's Church. Please do attend if you are able. As usual, we will be electing committee members for the next year, receiving accounts and reviewing the Society's previous and future activities as per the agenda enclosed.

LLHS 'behind the scenes' continued

There have also been two unexpected gifts to the archive. A descendant of John Hoare, an early inhabitant of Leckhampton, recently emailed some 30 documents dating from the 15th to the 17th century – wills, grants of land and court cases, all conveniently transcribed. If anyone is interested in seeing them, I can email a sample. Of wider interest is an account of the Kidnappers Lane market gardens, of which there were once as many as six. The author, Dr Keith Noyes, was brought up on one of them and he looks at the subject from a number of angles. Today it is topical, in view of the threat of houses being built over the area. The article will be an ideal candidate for a future *Research Bulletin*, which we hope to bring out next year – more contributions are invited.

Eric Miller, Co-ordinator of Research



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20 April, 7.30pm Glebe Cottages: Aylwin Sampson will be speaking about the Roman Cotswolds.

Wednesday 18 May, 7.30pm Glebe Cottages: The LLHS AGM followed by a talk by Adrian Barlow on Cheltenham's Victorian Architecture.

Tuesday 5 July, Charlton Kings and Leckhampton History Societies Summer Outing to the Back-to-Backs: Please see the booking form and further details enclosed.

8 – 11 September, Heritage Open Days: Flyers will be published in due course.

LLHS meetings will resume in September.

The Leckhampton Girl Cured of Paralysis

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 an anonymous girl from Leckhampton who was suffering from paralysis was miraculously cured in the waters of a holy well at Tewkesbury when she "received the power of walking and soundness in all her limbs". This is the first recorded mention of an inhabitant of Leckhampton other than a landowner or priest.

Obituary

We were very sad to learn of the death of Ruth Moore-Scott on 17 March. She had struggled bravely with ill health during the last few months but remained active and cheerful. She and Terry were loyal supporters of the Society when they lived in Old Bath Road and retained their interest after they had moved to Minsterworth. We offer Terry our deepest sympathy.

Chairman's Message

As I am writing this, the frogs have arrived in my pond and are enjoying playing around with their heads dancing on the surface facing the lovely sunshine.

To get us here ... since the last edition of Smoke Signal we have enjoyed a fantastic Christmas quiz, getting us into the Christmas spirit with mulled wine and mincepies. The questions really tested our local knowledge and I feel daunted that there is so much to know about our locality. We have included an extract from the quiz below – how much can you remember? There is a rumour that we may have one next year so watch this space!

A fascinating talk was given in January with a multitude of information given about researching family history in Gloucestershire. This was followed in February by a varied Members' Evening - from the history of a house in Leckhampton, a memorable Cheltonian, to The Great War. The clay pipes produced by Bill Jehan were surprising as they had such a variety of carvings on them - they are brought to life in Eric and Alan's book "Leckhampton in Old Photographs" where three men are enjoying a game of cards, a drink of cider and smoking their clay pipes. Eric also showed and spoke about the LLHS display on 'Immigration', which spanned the years from Colonel Henry Norwood's return from New England in 1669 to the arrival in 1913 of the infant son of Elsie Holt, after she died at sea during a voyage from Argentina. We were privileged to have Neela Mann talking about The Great War in Cheltenham, seeing old photographs of places we know so well with amazing events happening there. Please come forward next year if you have something of interest to share at the next member's evening.

Do consider going to Birmingham with the CKLHS. The Back to Backs (National Trust) are fascinating. I could not believe that families lived there in those conditions. They are brought to life with oral accounts from those who actually lived there.

The AGM is not far away so please put May 18th in your diary to meet your committee. Afterwards Adrian Barlow will be talking about Cheltenham's Victorian Architecture. Thank you all for your ongoing support over the year and I look forward to an interesting and varied programme next year!

Sue Marlow, Chairman



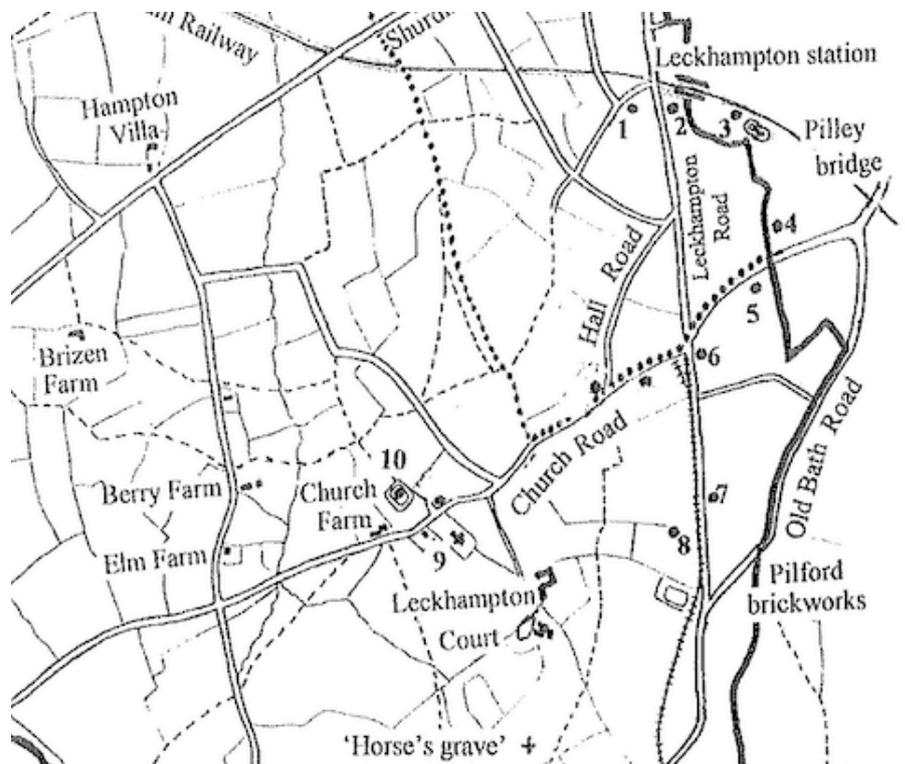
Photo: Leckhampton residents smoking clay pipes. Taken from Leckhampton in Old Photos by Eric Miller and Alan Gill

Quiz

Places of interest

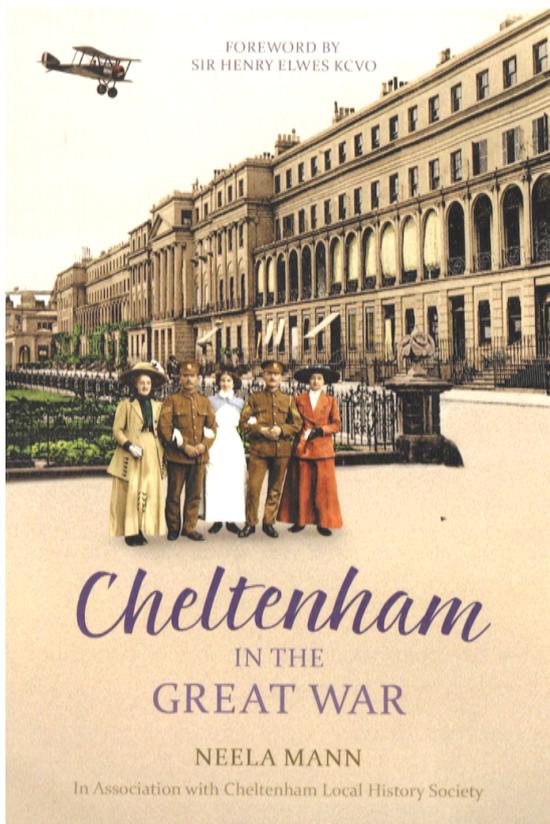
Can you match the following 10 places to the points marked 1 to 10 on the map?

- The Tramway stables
- The Moat
- Delancey Hospital
- St. Peter's Church
- The Reading Room
- Liddington Lake
- The Malvern Inn
- Cheltenham Potteries
- Emmanuel Vicarage
- CLC Sanatorium



The Great War story of Cheltenham

Neela Mann's book now available



Cheltenham in the Great War, LLHS member Neela Mann's book, is the first to portray the town, its people and the impact of the 'war to end all wars' from the declaration of war in 1914 to Armistice Day in 1918.

Almost 1,000 Cheltenham women left by train every day for munitions work, hundreds made airplanes in the Winter Gardens, many were nurses and most former suffragettes joined the WVR. Why did two schools do double shifts and for what did the townspeople raise £186,000 in one week in 1918? How did Cheltenham cope with 7,250 soldiers billeted in the town and 'khaki fever'? This book gives an insight into the lives of different social classes in Cheltenham – including stories of remarkable women – and how their war was fought on the Home Front. The Great War story of Cheltenham is told through considerable new research and is vividly illustrated throughout with evocative, informative images, many of which have not been published previously.

Order your copy by sending a cheque for £10 plus £2.50 postage to Neela Mann at Orchard House, 338 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 9AF. Cheques payable to Cheltenham Local History Society – all proceeds will go to CLHS.

Summer Outing Tuesday 5 July

The Birmingham Back-to-Backs

with Charlton Kings Local History Society

On Tuesday 5 July our two societies have organised a visit to the National Trust Birmingham Back-to-Backs, the last survivals of a type of housing that was widespread in the industrial cities of Britain in the 19th century.

These four houses were built in 1802 and were in residential use until 1966. They became listed buildings in 1988 and after restoration by the Birmingham Conservation Trust they were opened to the public in 2004. Each house is decorated in a different style - 1840's - 1870's - 1930's - 1970's. Visits are by guided tour only in groups of 8 and the guide introduces visitors to the lives of the families that lived in each house. There is also a traditional sweet shop and an exhibition.

We will be leaving from Leckhampton at 10.10am, leaving to return about 3.30pm. The price of the trip will be £17 plus £7.85 entrance fee for non NT members. Members wishing to join the visit should return the booking form enclosed with this edition of Smoke Signal. Cheques should be made payable to Charlton Kings Local History Society. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



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