



# Smoke Signal

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Leckhampton Local History Society's Newsletter



*Above: The Wheatsheaf public house as it looked pre 1935.*

*Left: The Wheatsheaf after being completely rebuilt in 1935. The Society are arranging a new plaque for the pub—see Chairman's Message overleaf.*

## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 20 December, 7.30pm**  
**Glebe Cottages:** John Putley - Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in Gloucestershire

**Wednesday 17 January, 7.30pm**  
**Glebe Cottages:** Angela Panrucker – The Story of Sudeley Castle

**Wednesday 21 February, 7.30pm**  
**Glebe Cottages:** A Celebration of 25 years of Leckhampton's Local History Society (see over)

**Wednesday 21 March, 7.30pm**  
**Glebe Cottages:** Sarah Parker – The Life and Legacy of Dr Jenner

## Mary Paterson Reminisces

*writing from her new home, Faithfull House, Suffolk Square*

Cyril Richardson has recently been here for a short stay. As mentioned in *Smoke Signal* 80 (December 2016), his mother had been the recipient of a book given to her by my mother.

Mrs Richardson was a longstanding help to my mother. I remember her from my early childhood days, when we lived at "Taychreggan", 7 Tryes Road, and Mrs Richardson lived just a few doors along the Shurdington Road. Cyril remembers teenage work subduing the jungle of Taychreggan's garden, when my newly-wed parents took up residence there in 1937. (They had kept the unfamiliar name of the house, finding it was a place they had visited on their honeymoon in Scotland.)

Within a few years World War II broke out. The new baby at Taychreggan (me!) was seven months old to the day. Cyril found himself posted with the RAF to Nagpur in India, leaving behind his bride Grace. Meanwhile, Mrs Richardson senior provided a kindly pair of helping hands when called upon to give household assistance to the Paterson ménage. Bob Paterson, my father, was also called up, but spared overseas service on medical grounds: a severely cleft palate and hair lip created respiratory limitations. Sent at first for coastal watching at Felixstowe, he ended on War Office work in London.

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My father had always been a keen photographer, and managed to have a roll or two of film – a precious commodity in wartime! Some of his snaps were of Mrs Richardson's new grandson Colin, and were sent out to Nagpur for Cyril, the proud and absent father.

Time went on. The war ended and in due course the Patersons moved to Leckhampton Hill, first to the corner of Daisybank Lane (Ashmeade Lodge), and later on, to directly below the Devil's Chimney (Craigside Cottage). Both these houses had longstanding family connections. Mrs Richardson continued to lend a hand when needed. Widowed, she subsequently remarried; but we could never think of her as Mrs Fletcher! She was always our dear Mrs Richardson.

In 1960, Hope Hattersley, grand-daughter of Ashmeade Lodge's J W Hattersley, was over from Canada to look up relatives in England. A young man from the same city of Edmonton, Alberta, was also over looking up his relatives in Germany. To cut a long story short, they decided on a honeymoon at sea, crossing the Atlantic homewards after a wedding in England. And where better to wed than Leckhampton Church, with a reception in a modest marquee on the Craigside croquet lawn?

Mrs Richardson's help was invaluable, and she took the bride breakfast in bed. In 2010 Hope and Helmut celebrated their Golden Wedding, with three daughters, seven grandchildren – and happy memories of dear Mrs Richardson.

*by Mary Paterson*

## Chairman's Message

This year got off to a good start with Eric reminding us about people and places in Leckhampton. Angela France gave a different slant to the story of the riots on The Hill, by showing us the documentation which told the story.



Picture. Dr Henry Boisragon, Royal physician

The Members' evening was fascinating with a variety of topics. From Schools to Canals, to a walk around Leckhampton: the view from Leckhampton Hill from a painting to learning all about Dr Boisragon! Thank you so much to the members who shared their knowledge with us.

The December meeting will have some festive cheer before learning about being a pilgrim in Gloucestershire!

The committee has decided on the wording of the plaque commemorating The Riots, which will be erected at The Wheatsheaf in Old Bath Road. This has been funded by the publican and using a donation received from a past member. We will be in touch with members about when it will be unveiled in 2018.

So do come along to our next meeting! Have a rest from making mince pies and enjoy being on a pilgrimage around our lovely county.

*Sue Marlow, Chairman*

## 25 Years of the Society

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. Put the date in your diary!*



We will be celebrating 25 years of the society in the cottages at 7.30 on 21 February. There will be a little food and drink, visiting guests and remembering those who had lived in Leckhampton before us. Do come and join us!

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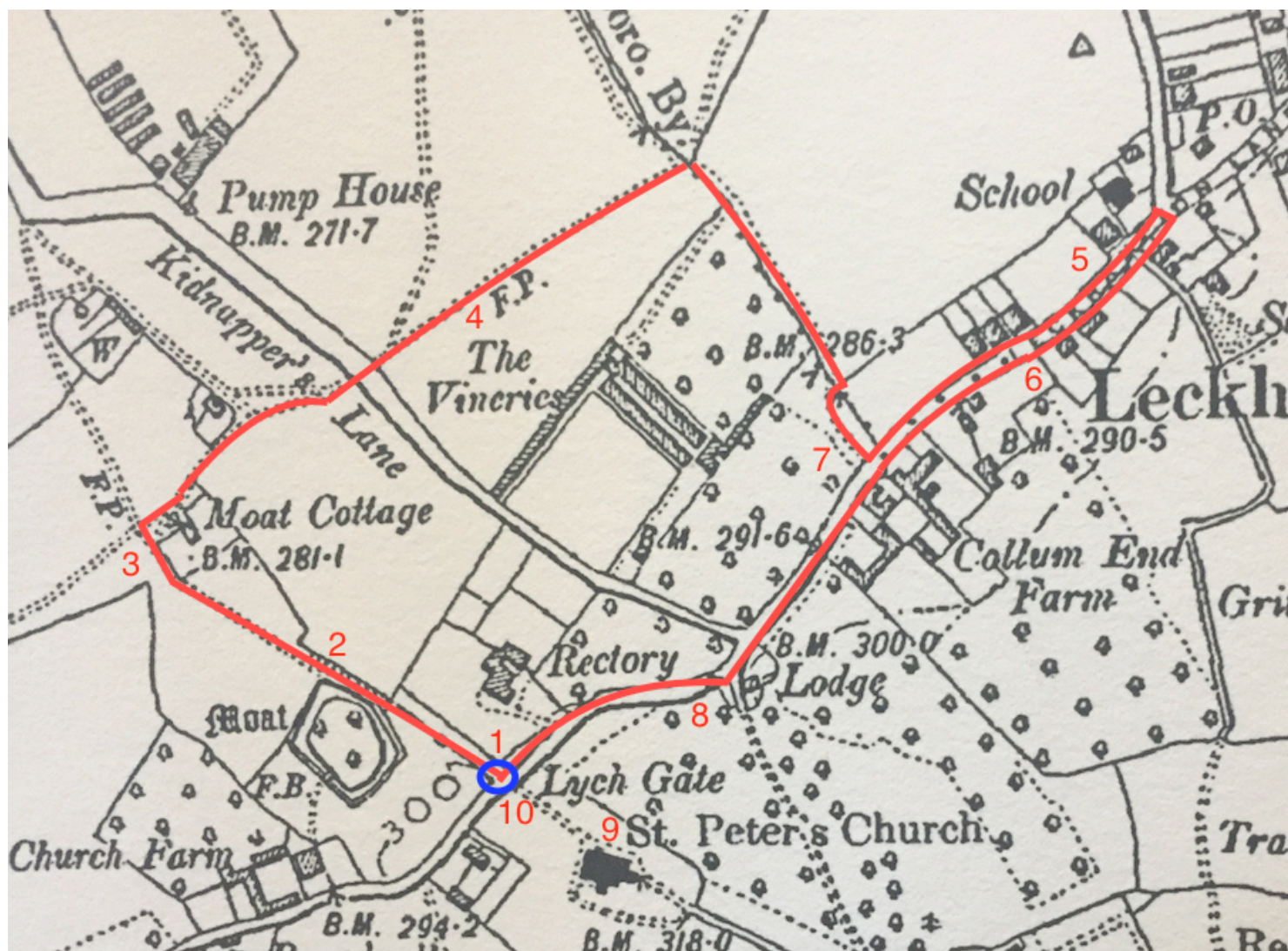
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# Old Leckhampton – a Short Walk Back in Time

by Paul McGowan



1. Start at the small car park opposite St Peter's Church and take time to note its previous importance. This little lane was once much more important and in fact was an ancient major thoroughfare. Look at the line that heads straight through the lych gate, through the manor and on up the hollow way onto Leckhampton Hill. In the other direction it appears to disappear but in fact carries on - you will come upon this again later in the walk. This was also the site of the Parish Pound, where stray cattle would have been kept overnight and, while that appears on early maps, nothing now remains of it.

2. Follow the path west, as it narrows, through the kissing gate, and rise up onto the moat of what is now a designated ancient monument. This was the site of the second manor of Leckhampton. Not much is known about it. There was a stone and timber building in the middle dating from around the 13th/14th century. The crossing was around where you are standing now. Older residents can recall there being ice-skating on the moat! To our right stood one of Leckhampton's early farms known as Manor Farm, or Mr Nurse's Farmhouse, which dates from 17th to mid 19th century.

3. You are now in the heart of the oldest part of the village. This meadow was known as The House Ground. If you look back to the hill this is a great spot to see the quarries that led to so much of the wealth of the manor of Leckhampton Court for the Norwoods and Tryes. Just ahead of you lies Moat Cottage, the oldest surviving house in Leckhampton. It is of true cruck construction, suggesting 16th century. As you pass Moat Cottage look west and you'll see the hollow way that is the continuation of the ancient lane seen from the parish pound.

4. Continuing towards Kidnappers Lane you will pass another of the old village's early homes - Field Cottage. This house is a little later than Moat Cottage, probably the 17th century. Crossing Kidnappers Lane (nobody knows why it's called that!) you enter what is now known as Lotts Meadow. A little further and you reach one of the two main streams that pass through the parish, the Moorend Brook. Beyond it is Burrow's Field, provided as a recreational ground for the staff of Ed.J.Burrows publishing company in Cheltenham (1930).

5. As you follow the footpath alongside Moorend Brook towards Church Road, you're walking along an old borough boundary of Cheltenham. On reaching Church Road, turn north and head towards the War Memorial. The memorial sits where the old village well was located. The village Post Office was on the opposite corner of Hall Road. The original village school dating from around 1840 is next to it. On the other side of Church Road, opposite where the Post Office lay, stood Cromwell Cottage; sadly demolished in 1962. There was some action in the civil war around here, but no one is sure of the origin of the name.

6. Returning back along Church Road, you will pass Norwood cottages, formerly two dwellings that date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century linked by name to the famous Norwood family, lords of the manor. Also on your left is 'Old Farthings' dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century - it was sadly neglected up until the 1970's when a successful restoration took place. Formerly a working men's club, it had a rifle range, including a women's section. The next thatched cottage and Box Cottage just beyond date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. You also pass Collum End Farmhouse (16<sup>th</sup> century – see photo), possibly the oldest farm in Leckhampton, and which was certainly central to village life.



Photo: Collum End Farmhouse, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century

7. Across the road from Collum End Farm sits 'Homeland'. Built by Alf Bendall, his daughter Jean lived there until quite recently. The ironwork veranda was taken from Trowscoed Lodge on the Leckhampton Road. Further along on your right is 'Home Orchard' which was built by Alf Bendall's

## Beating the Bounds

Beating the Bounds was a ceremony to 'perambulate the parish' and mark out the parish boundaries that used to be regularly performed in Leckhampton as it was throughout the country. A circuit of the boundaries of the parish would be walked out by parish inhabitants in order that all interested parties could attend and object if they had cause. Properly surveyed maps eventually made the practice unnecessary. Further details can be found in *Smoke Signal* No 11 (1995) available on the Society's website.

father, the builder John D. Bendall, sometime Mayor of Cheltenham. He built the new school back in 1906. Inside Home Orchard, the grand staircase also originated from Trowscoed House. Across Church Road from Home Orchard sits 'Old Lodge'. This is one of three lodges to Leckhampton Court and dates from the circa 1800. The driveway beyond the Old Lodge leads to Leckhampton Court, owned by three main families from the 1300's - the Giffards, the Norwoods and the Tryes.

8. You now pass The Old Rectory, built in about 1830 by the Rev'd Charles Brandon Trye, rector and son of Charles Brandon Trye (a contemporary and friend of Edward Jenner). Across from The Old Rectory in the field, you'll see large concrete plinths and the odd step. These are the remains of the German prisoner of war camp. The small stone structure is all that remains of an ornamental garden the prisoners created with a water fountain at its centre.

9. St. Peter's Church itself dates back to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The adjacent Church Cottages are constructed from stone from an older set of dwellings that were in the middle of the churchyard. The church lych gate is also worth noting, being designed by Leonard Barnard.

10. You are now back at the Parish Pound, the journey having taken you from Leckhampton in the Dark Ages to the present day.

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