



Smoke Signal

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Leckhampton Local History Society's Newsletter



The Cavalry Officer's Sword

by Mary Oliver

In the churchyard of St. Peter's is a stone cross with a beautifully carved Cavalry sword. The inscription reads:

General Sir Richard Campbell Stewart K.C.B. Late Madras Army, Colonel 30th. Lancers, (Gordon's Horse). Dangerously wounded in Indian Mutiny and served in Burma Campaign 1885-1892. Born August 5th 1836. Died December 14th 1904 from an accident when returning from the hunting field. Also his wife, Lady Mona Gough Campbell Stewart. Born 29th November 1844. Died 22nd March 1920.

Richard Campbell Stewart was born in Ireland in 1836. He was commissioned into the service of the Madras Army in 1853 and rose through the ranks, serving with distinction, until he became a General in 1900.

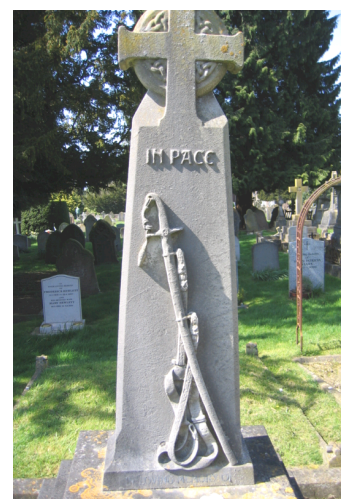
In 1904 he came to Cheltenham for the hunting season, staying in the Promenade Terrace with his wife and two of his daughters.

Above: picture of Gen. R Campbell Stewart as published in 'The Graphic', 1895.

On November 30th he attended the meet at the Foston's Ash. While returning from the hunt, as he passed the College in the Bath Road, his horse stumbled and fell to its knees throwing the Colonel who suffered fatal head injuries. He died on December 14th.

A military funeral was arranged for December 19th. His body, dressed in full dress uniform, lay in the hospital chapel until the day of his funeral, on the coffin were his plumed hat, his sword and two lances. On the day of the funeral a long procession formed, with various troops of soldiers including a firing party, a band and the gun carriage of the Battery of the Royal Field Artillery, as requested by the War Office. Carriages carrying the mourners followed and the bugle party brought up the rear.

continued on next page



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 16 September, 3.30pm Leckhampton Court:
Heritage Open Day – see back page for more details

Wednesday 19 September, 7.30pm Glebe Cottages:
Amy Woolacott – Footpaths through hedges

Sunday 30 September, 2.30pm Wheatsheaf Inn:
Unveiling of new plaque - see Chairman's message

Wednesday 17 October, 7.30pm Glebe Cottages:
Don Sherwell – St. Mary's Church, Charlton Kings

continued from front page

The procession wound its way up College Lawn and Naunton Lane into Leckhampton Road, the Bath Road being closed for work on the tram lines. The way was lined with spectators. Only accredited mourners were allowed into the churchyard, police kept others outside where they lined the walls. After the service the firing party fired three volleys interspersed with verses from the Funeral March. The Last Post was sounded and the coffin was lowered into the grave with the Union Jack and his plumed hat. The lances were crossed over the head of the grave. The soldiery marched back to their base led by the band playing lively music.

If you wish to see the carving follow the path up the right hand side of the church, turn right onto the path level with the East end and the grave is on the right hand side.



Obituaries

Joan Millington, a long-standing member, died on 27th May in the Sue Ryder Hospice at Leckhampton Court. We tender our sympathy to John and their family. Joan and John appeared in a photograph reproduced in issue No 81, from a visit by HRH Prince Charles to the hospice.

We also regret to report the death of John Randall on 30th July. John had been the Society's first chairman, and together with Bruce Stait he oversaw its founding and inspired its early development. He was a co-editor of *Leckhampton in the Second World War* and also edited *Smoke Signal* from 2001 to 2004. He had a particular interest in early photographs of Leckhampton, which helped towards the Society's pictorial archive. We offer our condolences to Kathleen and their family

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our new programme full of a variety of topics. Just think what you have in your loft and archives to show and talk about on February 20th. Members' evenings are always interesting.

Recordings are available of the play which we performed at our anniversary celebrations in February and also of the programme that was broadcast on Radio Gloucestershire. If you'd like to borrow a copy, just have a word with me or one of the Committee to enjoy listening in the comfort of your own home.

On a hot July 1st over thirty of us enjoyed a tour around St Peter's churchyard and church. Many interesting facts came to light and we have some famous people remembered in and around our church in Leckhampton. Many thanks to Paul and Eric for sharing their knowledge with us.

Paul has produced leaflets describing three local walks and has placed them behind one of the gate posts of the church car park. He has also prepared a fourth leaflet, which should be ready by the time you read this. Enjoy strolling around Leckhampton and taking in its history.



An extra date for your diary! The plaque commemorating the campaign to reinstate the right to roam on Leckhampton Hill (see photo) will be unveiled at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Old Bath Road (opposite Everest Road) on Sunday 30th September at 14.30. Light refreshments will be available afterwards, and all are welcome.

With the hot weather still with us as I write, I hope it will have cooled down by the time of Amy's talk on September 19th at 7.30, when I look forward to seeing you all. Do bring a friend - all are welcome!

Sue Marlow, Chairman

The End of Another Era

Leckhampton Convenience Store

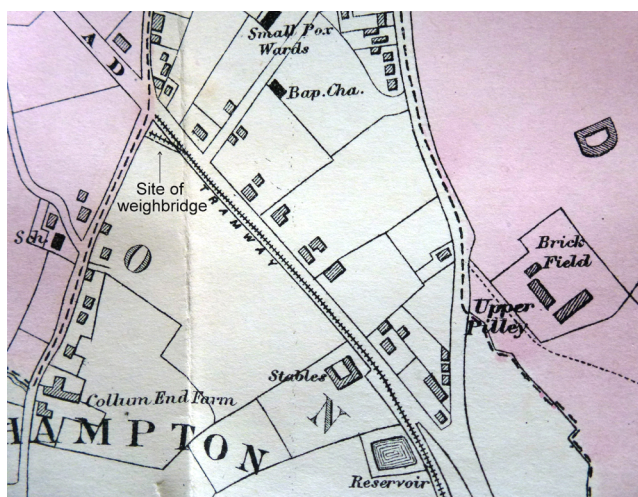


Many people will have been sorry to see the Leckhampton Convenience Store close at the beginning of June. Those with longer memories will recall the time when there were two shops – a grocer's (Carlo's) next to the Post Office.

The above photo appeared on a postcard published in about 1910 by Frank Webley, a keen photographer who ran the sweet shop and tobacconists next door to the Post Office. Of particular interest is the combined drinking fountain and horse trough on the street corner, described when it was installed in 1897 as 'a boon to wayfarers, both four-legged and two'. The fountain and lamp were removed in 1949.

The shops were built around 1900 after the removal of a weighbridge and loading wharf, which were the remnants of the historic tramroad leading down from the quarries. The site is marked on this extract from an earlier map, which also shows some other interesting features that have since disappeared, such as the stables for the tramroad horses, the Delancey Fever Hospital's smallpox wards and the Pilley Brickworks.

by Eric Miller



Map: Shows the site used as a weighbridge at the foot of the tramroad prior to the shops construction



Photo: Kindly supplied by a descendant of Mr Hurcombe. Note the house to the left of the shop which must have been demolished to build Carlo's Grocers as shown in top photo.

Heritage Open Day, 16 September

Leckhampton Court will be taking part in the Heritage Open Days scheme for the first time this year. During the afternoon of Sunday 16 September there will be talks on the history of the Court, its service as a hospital during the First World War and its role today as a Sue Ryder Hospice.

The talks will begin in the Chapel at 2 o'clock and 3.30. Each will be followed by an external tour of the building and refreshments in the Day Centre (free, but a donation to the hospice is invited). The maximum number per tour is 20, and it is essential to book in advance from the Tourist Information Centre, tel 01242 387488.



A Roman Day Out Summer Outing 2018

On 10th July five members of the Society joined the Charlton Kings LHS for the summer outing to Chedworth Villa and Cirencester Museum. In recent years the facilities at Chedworth have been greatly extended, with an air-conditioned cover over the mosaic floors, which can be viewed from above. We were given a conducted tour by an expert guide and we spoke with members of a team of archaeologists who were painstakingly uncovering another mosaic pavement, which was due to be photographed and recorded before reverting to its previous state.

The Museum at Cirencester has an outstanding collection of artefacts and monuments and a reconstructed interior of a sumptuous villa, whose dining room mosaic is one of the finest in the country.

It will be our society's turn to organise the outing next year and we are planning a trip with Charlton Kings LHS for July 2019.

Eric Miller

Sue Ryder Autumn Fayre

The Society will have a stand at the upcoming Autumn Fayre at Leckhampton Court on Saturday 8 September. We are hoping to display the histories of the Court and Church as well as encourage new members to the Society. Please do come and visit our stand.

We have a new Secretary

We are delighted that Anne Gale has agreed to act as the Society's new Secretary following the stepping down of Heather Smith this year. Many of you will already know Anne who is a longstanding Governor of Leckhampton School. We are very grateful to Heather for her work as Hon. Secretary over the last three years and to Anne for stepping into the role.

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