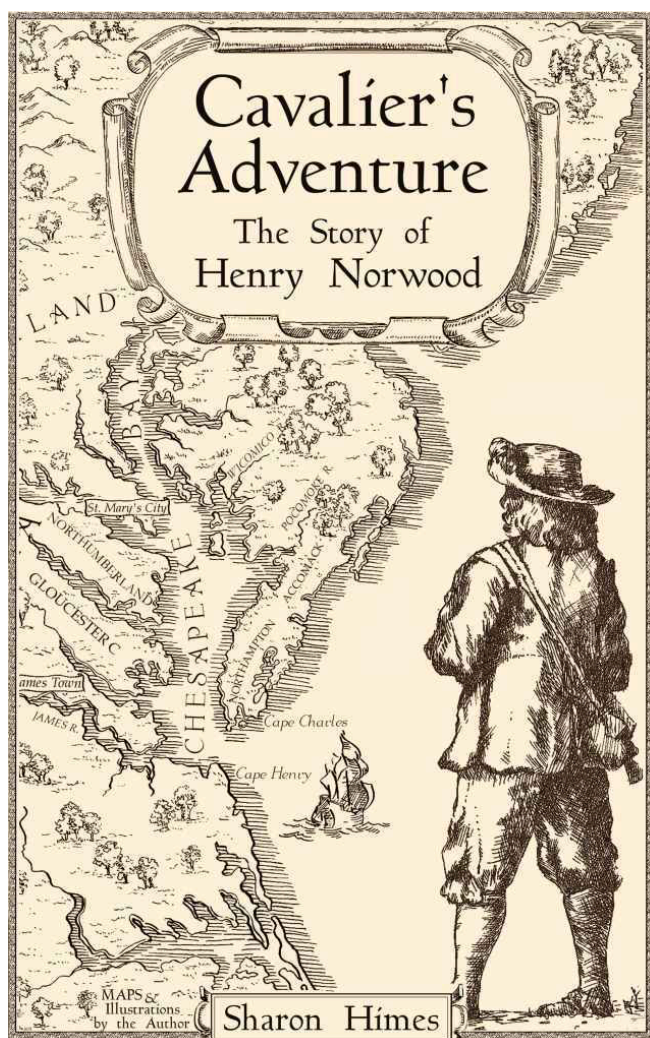




Smoke Signal

Affiliated to Cheltenham Arts Council

Leckhampton Local History Society's Newsletter



Cavalier's Adventure *The story of Henry Norwood*

Leckhampton native Henry Norwood, a young Cavalier in the service of the exiled King Charles II, left England sailing on a ship to Virginia. For months passengers barely survived storms and starvation. Finally close to land, Norwood joined a party going ashore for provisions, only to be left when the ship departed without them.

In the bitter cold of mid-January nineteen people found themselves on an uninhabited barrier island in the winter of 1650 with no shelter and little food. They chose Norwood as their leader.

Don't miss an extra special meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 May, when Sharon Himes, who will be visiting from the USA, will speak about the adventures of Colonel Henry Norwood, of Leckhampton Court, in New England. It will take place as usual in the Glebe Cottages, starting at 7.30 pm.

Cavalier's Adventure is a true story told through text, maps and illustrations by the author, interspersed with Norwood's original comments. While the castaways had little idea of their location, over 350 years later satellite imagery has made it possible to follow their probable travels and glimpse in imagination the landscape and peoples of an earlier time.

Sharon Himes is a professional artist and illustrator with a special interest in nature. She paints forest scenes and wildflowers of coastal Maryland and writes often about her subjects. It was her research into the pre-colonial past of the area that led her to learn about Colonel Henry Norwood's travels and read his adventures in what was then a very different environment. Come along on Tuesday 9 May to learn more!

Eric Miller

Summer Outing to Berkeley Castle and the Jenner Museum

On Sunday 9 July our Society, with Charlton Kings Local History Society, has organised a visit to Berkeley Castle and the Jenner Museum. The price of the trip will be £23 to include transport, entry and tour costs for the castle and museum. Members wishing to join the visit should return the booking form enclosed with this edition of Smoke Signal. Cheques should be made payable to Leckhampton Local History Society. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



Chairman's Message

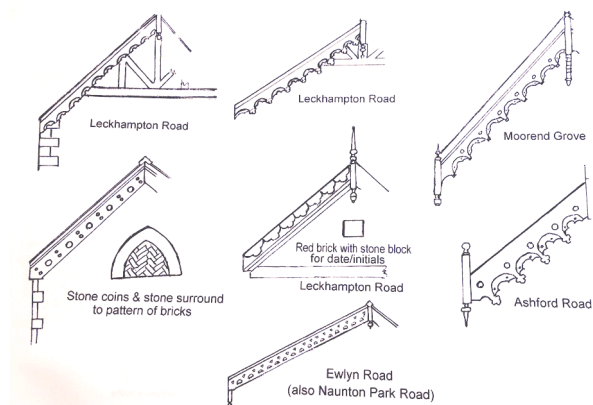
Imagine my surprise when looking through a Research Bulletin (No 4 Summer 2010) I saw a sketch of my family home! Amy Woolacott had written an article called Bargeboards on Houses in Leckhampton. She had sketched two views of bargeboards on my home in Moorend Grove. I did not think I had been living in a house with such fame! After reading this, I studied the houses in Leckhampton Road whilst I was sitting on the bus, later that week. What I have learnt that you only have to look up to learn so much about the place where we live.

I am busy planning the trip to Berkeley Castle and Jenner Museum on Sunday July 9th with Charlton Kings Local History Society. This visit should prove interesting. With a tour of the Castle in the morning and a chance to explore the Museum in the afternoon, including an informative video, it should prove an interesting day. There is a café and a shop! More details are enclosed in Smoke Signal. Please bring a friend!

Eric Miller and I spent a very instructive afternoon at Stroud Museum entitled Know Your Place. Old Maps have been scanned in to the computer making it possible to enter pictures and information about our area. The web address is www.kypwest.org.uk. It opens with Bristol, but searching for "Cheltenham" takes you to familiar territory. This will be our Summer Project and will tell you more when we have started to add our details.

We also met with some of the committee members of FOLK after they came to our meeting and told of the work they do in preserving Leckhampton Hill, to see if we could work together promoting Leckhampton and the Hill. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM on May 17th after a very varied and enlightening year of talks. After the main business of the evening, we will enjoy hearing about The Life of Gustav Holst.

Sue Marlow, Chairman



Picture: examples of local bargeboards on houses, illustrated by Amy Woolacott from Research Bulletin No.3



Eric Miller shows Prince Charles his photo from 30 years ago. John and Joan Millington are standing next to him

HRH The Prince of Wales Visits Leckhampton

On 22 December 2016 HRH Prince Charles paid a visit to Leckhampton Court, celebrating 30 years as patron of the Sue Ryder Hospice. The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant and High Sheriff of the county were present as well as the Bishop of Gloucester and the MP for Cheltenham. The Prince spoke with patients and staff and finally met a number of invited volunteers and supporters in the chapel. Among these was Eric Miller (see photo) who took the opportunity of drawing the Prince's attention to a picture of his first visit together with Lady Ryder in 1986.

Eric adds that the Prince may have had at the back of his mind the local belief that his great-great-grandfather (later King Edward VII) may have been a visitor when John Hargreaves owned the Court. No visitors' book survives from those days, however, and the Royal Archives confirm that there is no mention of Leckhampton Court in any of the Prince's diaries. Moreover the bearded John Hargreaves when seen travelling in a coach at night could perhaps have been mistaken for him. It is a good story, though, which the hospice has perpetuated by naming the wing which John Hargreaves built in 1895 as 'the King's Wing'. More details are to be found in Eric's history of the Court and *Research Bulletin* No 3.

Collum End Farm

Securing its future

On a very wet Sunday afternoon in July 2016 when parts of Cheltenham were flooded, we were in our sitting room when water started to pour in through the top of one of our windows. Church Road was flooded and impassable. Thinking we had rotten windows, we contacted our builder, Mr Phil Pembridge, who specialises in repairing old properties. He discovered that the main beam that holds up the roof at the back of the house had completely disintegrated. Since the beam was rotten he investigated the beams at the front of the house, only to discover significant rot.

Collum End Farm has been part of Leckhampton since 1570. It was part of the estate of Leckhampton Court, so it was held by tenant farmers. It is part Cotswold stone, part timber framed building, infilled with lath and plaster.

The house is listed so like must be replaced with like. Seasoned English oak had to be used to replace the rot and many people were interested to watch the carpenter shape and fit the new



Collum End Farm from an original pen drawing by Eric Miller.



Photo: showing the extent of flooding on Church Road after heavy rain in July 2016.

beams and then peg them into place with oak pegs. As the plaster was stripped away, we found ourselves looking at exposed timbers and laths that has not been seen since it was first built. While all this was happening, the front of the house had to be held in place by metal supports to take the weight of the roof.

Our builder and his men did a marvelous job, so we hope we have secured the future of the oldest farm house in Leckhampton for another 300 years.

Averil Murray

Obituary

We were very sorry to learn that Fred Lea had died on Boxing Day last year. A man of many talents, he had been a supporter of the society from its early days. His artistic skill was demonstrated in the drawings of Leckhampton Court and Leckhampton Station, which he prepared for the book 'Leckhampton 1894 - the End of an Era'. We offer Liz and the family our condolences.

We also mourn the loss of Douglas Houston, who died in January. He had a keen interest in the history and archaeology of the area and although he had been ailing for some months and rarely went out of an evening, he made an exception for the meetings of our society. We offer our sympathy to Sheila and Kate.

Parish Walk

On Sunday 25 June, Paul McGowan, assisted by Eric Miller, will lead a walk round some of the hidden corners of



the old parish. Please do join us – we will meet at the car park opposite the church (at the Parish Pound!) at 2pm. Sturdy footwear is recommended. The route will not be strenuous but may involve climbing the odd stile. The walk will end at Glebe Cottages where tea and cake will be available.

Mary Paterson

By Eric Miller

Mary Paterson has now moved to a residential home. Her roots are in Leckhampton and she has been a staunch supporter of the Society and we still hope to see her here from time to time.

I learned more about Mary's family when she asked me for help in depositing some of her heirlooms in The Wilson museum. These included a large oil portrait of her grandfather John Hattersley, who in 1925 led the final campaign to curb the operations of the Leckhampton Quarries Company, as a consequence of which the Borough Council purchased the Hill and made it available for public use. Thanks to Mary, a copy of the writ issued by 'Hattersley and others' against the Quarries Company is now in the possession of the Society. It would be an interesting task for someone to write a short article describing its contents in the next Research Bulletin – any volunteers?

Another painting was of Pittville Pump Room in its derelict state after the War – Mary's father had been the architect responsible for its renovation. The artist was Reginald Dent, the Principal of Cheltenham School of Art. Robert Paterson was no mean artist himself, as exemplified by some exquisite wood engravings used as bookplates or greetings cards. The original wood blocks, and the engraving tools required for this most demanding of mediums, are significant additions to The Wilson's collection.

The prize exhibit, however, was a tiny ceramic figurine of "The Architect", created by Percy Braisby, who once had a studio in Barratt's Mill (see illustration). This unique gift of his to Robert Paterson speaks for itself.



*The Architect, ceramic by Percy Braisby.
Courtesy of Mary Paterson*

Friends of Leckhampton and Charlton Kings Common (FOLK)

As mentioned in Sue's Chairman's Message, John Harvey, Chairman of FOLK came to one of our meetings and described the activities of his society and its dealings with other organisations, such as the Borough Council, the Woodland Trust and heritage bodies.

In response to a question about how LLHS might collaborate, he commented that there were conflicting accounts of the role of the wartime military structure on the top of Leckhampton Hill: a radar station, perhaps, or related to communications? Please let Eric know if you would like to take up the challenge. A short article on the subject would be an ideal contribution to the next Research Bulletin.



water, butter or lard and a little sugar. Mrs Beaton used 1 quart of water, 2oz of yeast, 4oz of potato, ½ oz salt, 2lb of flour. The cooked, sieved potato was used as a yeast enhancer and this is probably the most authentic recipe. The dough when mixed and kneaded was left to rise all night. Interestingly, the muffins are not baked, but when risen, are cooked on a griddle or heavy frying pan until they are light brown on each side. This is the state in which the muffin men sold the muffins. To serve, they were split and toasted and liberally buttered. If anyone would like to have a go at making them, please ask me for an up to date recipe.

Muffins

After our very interesting talk in January on the Muffin Man someone asked what muffins were, and were they the same as muffins bought in shops today. There is a difference between English muffins and American muffins which are full of sugar and are really cakes.

I found three recipes for muffins of the old English variety in Mrs Beaton, Constance Spry and one on the internet. Basically they are a yeast mixture of flour, salt, yeast, milk and

Averil Murray

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