



GLOSSARY

The Newsletter of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives



Spring 2011

Annual General Meeting

To be held on

Thursday 19th May 2011

At

Gloucestershire Archives

Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW

Doors open at 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Nomination Papers can be downloaded from our website at:

www.foga.org.uk/Committee.html

FoGA Committee

- Chairman: Ann Bailey, Stocks Farm, Harescombe, Gloucester, GL4 OXD
- Secretary: Michael Swanwick
- Treasurer: James Hodsdon
- Membership Secretary: Hilary Haygarth, 27 Arden Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG
- Liaison Secretary: Maureen Anderson
- Programme Secretary: Fiona Mead
- County Archivist: Heather Forbes
- G.A. Representative: Rebecca Shorter
- Newsletter/Web Editor: Liz Jack. Email: foga@gloster.demon.co.uk

11 Old Cheltenham Road, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0as

Committee members can also be contacted via Gloucestershire Archives.

A Letter from the Chair

Your Committee is delighted to report that Dame Janet Trotter has consented to become our new President in succession to Sir Henry Elwes, who had announced his intention to retire when he ceased his term as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Dame Janet, now Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, has had a distinguished career in education, and when Principal of the College of St Paul & St Mary's was instrumental in their becoming the University of Gloucestershire. She is also the Chair of Gloucestershire Foundation Trust.

In 1989 Dame Janet chaired the Trotter report on information technology. Under Heather Forbes, our County Archivist, with the help of an army of volunteers, the digitalisation of archival records has become a major service tool for community researchers. Sir Henry was a great supporter of The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives, and I am sure that Dame Janet will be a worthy successor as we face new challenges in the political and digital worlds. I hope that we can have a good attendance at the A.G.M. to welcome Dame Janet as President of the Friends.

Since the Friends were founded there has been a great increase in the number of local history societies all of whom provide talks for their members. It has therefore become more difficult to choose a suitable evening that does not clash with other meetings, and attendance at our meetings has suffered as a result. With the winter problems of last year, we decided to slightly shorten our winter talk programme to avoid the potential inclement weather in the dark days of winter.

We need the help of members to express their views on how we should organise future activities. I was interested to learn that a neighbouring Friends Group had organised a "Latin for Historians" series for Friends and wondered if that would be of interest to Friends, Volunteers and a wider public. It would mean a fee, but we could consider a reduction for individual Friends. My introduction to Gloucestershire Archives was via the courses lead by Brian Smith & David Smith; these courses incurred a fee but were marvellous value.

Could I ask all Friends to endeavour, via their local history societies, personal friends and acquaintances, to encourage new members. If we are to continue to fulfil our constitutional aims of both voluntary work within the Archives and to provide financial support, it is essential that we maintain and increase our membership. One of our most important roles has been to provide the necessary evidence of financial community support to obtain grants for a variety of projects. Both Heather and Jill Shonk have very considerable expertise in obtaining such grants, but they need our support. Over the last two years we have also been able to help with search room equipment which benefits all users of Alvin Street.

I look forward to meeting you all at the A.G.M.

Ann Bailey

The Winter Programme

The FOGA winter season of talks has not been well supported by members. This is unfortunate as the topics were chosen to showcase material held at the Archives, which we thought would be appropriate and a major interest of the Friends. Yet those who came enjoyed three very interesting talks by knowledgeable speakers.

The season got under way with a talk by one of the archivists, Karen Cooke, who gave an insight into the work she is doing, cataloguing the important Hicks Beach archive. She concentrated on the personal life of the family and the tragedies that befell them, and obviously feels very close to them after all her reading of correspondence. We gradually got the hang of the Hicks Beaches and the Hicks Hicks Beaches and the Beach Hicks Beaches. Having set the scene, she is willing to give another talk in due course about the collection of political letters from Michael E Hicks Beach, the 1st Earl St Aldwyn, who was a Conservative Member of Parliament and occupied many government posts, including Chancellor of the Exchequer. These and the personal letters constitute an important historical record and Gloucestershire Archives is lucky to have acquired it.

In October, David Smith talked about the Codringtons of Dodington Park and had arranged a display of original archive material for us, including a fascinating document which was virtually a restraining order or ASBO on a former daughter-in-law! As always he gave a detailed and well-informed talk. Some of us had hoped for more information about the family's activities in the West Indies, but David rightly felt that he should concentrate on the Archives holding. All the West Indian papers, which used to be in Gloucester, are now in Antigua. Good excuse for a trip to the Caribbean if anyone feels very strongly about it!

We were sorry that so few attended Averil Kear's talk on the Power of the Chapel in the Forest of Dean, but a cold night in November was probably to blame. She gave a well-illustrated and entertaining talk and gave us an insight into how non-conformism went from strength to strength in the area, even though in the early days, chapels looked like houses, so as not to be noticeable. In time, the Chapel came to have a profound influence in all aspects of people's lives.

We are very grateful to the speakers so far this season. However, it is evident that the majority of members do not turn out for evening events. We are therefore enclosing a questionnaire to find out how to tailor things more to members' tastes. We should be very grateful if you would complete it.

Fiona Mead

The Social Evening

The Annual Social, originally scheduled for January, had to be postponed until March. In a complete change from previous years, this time we went for a Quiz Night and Buffet, held at the Civil Service Sports Club in Cheltenham on March 8th. This year we invited members of the GFHS and Archive volunteers to join in our social, and are delighted that some took up the invitation. Forty of us gathered for what turned out to be a most enjoyable evening. We made up nine teams of four, with two quizmasters (quizmistresses?) and two markers. Questions were a mixture of easy and difficult, and varied - from the Glorious Glosters to Dr Who - including two very popular picture rounds, and seemed to have something for everyone.

There was a slight edge of competition which added to the fun and the final score brought a tie between two teams, with a third only one point behind. The tie-breaker question gave final victory to a team from the staff. Much of the behind the scenes work was done by Becky Shorter, the Archives staff representative on the FOGA Committee, and indeed staff support for this year's event was a major contributory factor in its success. During the evening, we were served an ample and varied buffet meal, which seemed to appeal to everyone. All in all, an excellent evening, and one which we hope to repeat.

Gloucestershire County History Trust

An Update

By the end of 2010, fundraising to relaunch the VCH in Gloucestershire had neared £10,000. This was dramatically enhanced in February when the Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society generously agreed to grant £12,500 for the year beginning October 2011, and a similar amount for the following year. This is very good news indeed, and has allowed GCHT to begin making plans to recruit a new editor this autumn (almost certainly part-time; terms and arrangements to be worked out over the course of the coming weeks). The focus will be on finishing the partly-completed Volume 13, covering a number of Severnside parishes. That said, the Trust still needs to raise a lot more money to secure a longer-term solution and eventually get back up to previous VCH production levels.

To help, please visit:

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/gloucestershire/support>

An Empty Diary, 1898

In 2010 an opportunity arose to acquire an 1898 Diary. Presented to FOGA by Councillor Skinner and expertly auctioned at the November meeting, its selling point was that it could be used for 2011, as the day of the month fell on the same day of the week in each year - and the diary was nearly empty. But in the front of a diary is usually a reference section, and what is included in that section can illuminate what it was like to live in that year.

In 1898, diary in hand, you would know a lot about exchanging information both inland and overseas. If the matter was not urgent, you might write a letter. For inland post, you would know that in London the last posting time for next day delivery via the Night Mails was generally 6 p.m.. But at St Martins-Le-Grand, for example, letters would be accepted up to 7.45 p.m. on payment of an additional ½d. There were also late fee boxes attached to the barriers at the London stations from which the morning and evening (and Sunday evening) Mail Trains departed – into which letters etc. for the provinces could be posted at the same fee. On Sundays, letters posted before 6 p.m. at the G.P.O., West Strand Telegraph Office, Chief District Offices and termini of the principal railways would be forwarded by Night Mails inland at the same fee (1d for the continent).

If your business was more urgent, you would know that a single letter not more than 4oz in weight could be sent by the next available train. The letter would have to be taken to a passenger station where the postage (1d) and a fee of 2d were due to the “railway servant” receiving the letter who would “affix and obliterate” a special label. The letter could be called for at the parcel office of the destination station or could be posted at the nearest post office for delivery by ordinary post.

If your business was overseas, you would know that after 6 p.m. a letter for foreign and commonwealth destinations (2½d every ½oz) would be accepted at St Martins-Le-Grand up to 7 p.m. (an additional 1d), 7.15 p.m. (2d) or 7.30 p.m. (3d). You would know that mail would take approximately 39 days to reach Queensland or New South Wales, only 31 to West Australia, 19 to India, a mere 9 days to Canada, 1¼ to Denmark, 1 to Berlin, ¾ to France and Austria Hungary and only ½ day to Belgium. You would also know that there was a daily service for Constantinople (3 days) and Bagdad (24 days), but only on alternate Wednesday mornings for the West Indies, Panama, Venezuela and others.

Late letters for the continent could generally be posted at Cannon Street and Charing Cross Stations, and those for Holland, Germany and the north of Europe at Holburn Viaduct and Victoria Stations up to a short time before the departure of the train. A fee of 4d in stamps was required in addition to the postage. You would know that if you

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A New Look

Owing to budget cuts and a general desire to keep paper usage and postage costs to a minimum, we have re-designed the newsletter so that it will fit into an A5 envelope in future. The less we spend on postage, the more we can spend on archives. For the same reason, we would urge you all to make use of the facility to receive your notices from FoGA via email. If you can do so, please notify us at: foga@gloster.demon.co.uk.

Gloucester Rugby Community

Heritage Project

Progress Report

The 3-year period during which the project has enjoyed financial support from the Lottery Heritage Fund will come to an end in 6 months' time. After that time, the project will continue to be supported by the Friends, Gloucestershire Archives and Gloucester Rugby. In addition, Ecclesiastical Insurance has agreed to sponsor the project for the next 2 years, so the future of the project on a sound financial basis seems assured for the time being.

The project continues to benefit from the commitment of many willing volunteers – the number of hours they have devoted to the project now exceeds 7,000. The project has been put forward for a National Lottery Award, but we shall not hear whether it has been successful until much later in the year.

A number of volunteers, led by Chris Collier, ably supported by Craig Barney and Glenys Webb, are compiling a complete playing record of Gloucester Rugby from the first match in 1873 to the present day, listing details of every game played and every player's career.

The project website – www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk – masterminded by Dick Williams, has captured a lot of public interest. New content is continually being added, with programmes and player profiles proving the most popular sections. During the last quarter, 4049 visitors made 6431 visits, viewing 46,770 pages, an average of 73 visits a day.

Of the various elements of the project dependent upon HLF funding, the major piece of work outstanding is the educational packages, which are tied to the National Curriculum Key Stages 2/3/4. All of the lesson plans have been written by two local teachers, Stuart Allen and Andy Theedom, edited by Annette Chapman, and they are now being loaded onto the project website by Dick Williams.

A booklet on the history of Gloucester Rugby has been drafted by John Theyers and Malc King to accompany the educational packages – it will also be available for sale to the public in order to raise further funds for the project. This and a pack for teachers are currently with Air Design for professional design and production. The educational packages will be launched at an event for teachers at Kingsholm in good time for the school year beginning in September.

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Who was Teek?

Can you help solve the mystery? TEEK provided very detailed, perceptive and humorous Gloucester rugby cartoons for The Citizen Sports Edition from at least as early as 1922, right through to the end of 1929. However, the last cartoon in the collection of the Gloucester Rugby Community Heritage Project, dated 18 January 1930, was not drawn by TEEK, but by Wally Fellows.

Through studying the cartoons that have come our way, it becomes clear that TEEK routinely attended the matches at Kingsholm, whether it was the first team or Gloucester A team which was playing, but apparently he never went to away

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Through studying the cartoons that have come our way, it becomes clear that TEEK routinely attended the matches at Kingsholm, whether it was the first team or Gloucester A team which was playing, but apparently he never went to away matches. He had an excellent knowledge of the Gloucester teams and clearly enjoyed poking fun at individual team members - which might suggest that he was on good terms with them. He routinely lampooned the ref or the touch judges.

At matches, he took a seat in the Kingsholm Press Box, which implies that he was therein something of an official capacity, alongside Bill Bailey, The Citizen's famous "W.B." match reporter.

During the match, he must have made notes and preparatory sketches, and afterwards he hurried away to complete his cartoon, in order to "catch the post" - which clearly shows he didn't work in The Citizen offices, but far enough away to have to rely upon the post to get his work to them in time for publication.

On more than one occasion, he drew a caricature of himself which shows that he was perhaps middle-aged, had a thin moustache, a pointy nose, was right-handed, and smoked a pipe. In other sketches, he shows himself wearing a tweed suit, or a high-collared overcoat and trilby - hardly identifying characteristics.

He was very well acquainted with the visiting Welsh teams and knew the words of Sospan Fach, referring to a Mari-Ann, who features in the nonsense song, in one of his cartoons.

It's That Time of Year Again!

Just to remind you that your FoGA subscriptions are due on 1 April. The rates remain the same as last year: £10 for Individuals, £15 for families and £20 for Groups.

If you would prefer to pay by Standing Order, please fill in the form sent out with this newsletter. If you haven't done so already, and you are a UK taxpayer, please consider filling in the Gift Aid form also enclosed with this mailing. Gift Aid increases the value of donations to charity and allows FoGA to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift.

All cheques, standing order forms and Gift Aid forms should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Hilary Haygarth, at 27 Arden Road, Cheltenham, Glos., GL53 0HG.

A Community Project is Underway

Whether you are interested in a person, a family, a street, an area, a place or the whole county, there is interesting material being gathered in Gloucestershire Archives from the survey of land values carried out following the 'People's Budget' of 1909.

A team of volunteers is working on the very large collection of documents in Gloucestershire Archives relating to this survey, and more volunteers are welcome to join those already at work.

The survey was designed to establish the value of every piece of property, whether open land or the site of any sort of building; houses, pubs, shops, stables and so on are all included. An owner's property was given an identification number, address and location were recorded, the names of occupiers and owners as at 30 April 1909, and the area and valuation as established by a surveyor. The intention was to tax the increment in value which would occur in future as a result of any sort of development, or rising prices.

The surveyors continued their work in Gloucestershire until 1915, when the exigencies of the First World War brought the project to a stop. After the war it was decided to repeal the tax for all except the owners of coal mines. However, for that part of the county coming within the Cheltenham Inland Revenue area, which was the eastern half, the forms which have survived also carry a record of later sales and transfers affecting each particular property into the 1940s. This has proved to be an unexpected mine of information on deaths, estate duty valuations and transfers of property.

Volunteers are transcribing onto computer spreadsheets the information in the Cheltenham office forms, and for the western half of the county, covered by the Gloucester Inland Revenue Office, in the record books created during the process of the survey. Unfortunately the material surviving from the two offices was generated at different stages in the survey, and that for the Stroud area is missing. Nonetheless, thousands of names and addresses in most of the parishes in the county survive, and it is also possible to add further detail from the records held by The National Archives at Kew.

So far a number of parishes have been completed. The first trial was carried out by volunteers from Charlton Kings Local History Society, and was completed last year. The very big task of transcribing Cheltenham's data is well underway, and other parishes are also being tackled. People can choose to join others meeting on the same day in the Archives, or work independently. Coordinators of the project, which is sponsored by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and is being handsomely supported by the staff in the Archives Office, are Anthea Jones (email address: anthea.evelyn@btinternet.com) and John Loosley (email address: john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk). Vicky Thorpe in the Archives office will also help anyone interested in the project. John and Anthea are happy to come and talk about the project to a local group or society.

Anthea Jones

News from the Archives

As you will be aware we are in difficult financial times. The main impact on Gloucestershire Archives has been the cancellation of our project to build new strongrooms to house archives of the future, so we are working on ingenious ways to squeeze more records into our existing space so we can postpone the date when we have to raise funds to store records off-site.

Hidden Lives

In March a community history project, called Hidden Lives, was launched at the Picturedrome Theatre in Barton Street, Gloucester. It is a lottery-funded creative oral history project led by a partnership made up of Gloucester Theatre Company, Gloucestershire Archives and the University of Gloucestershire. The aim of the project is to promote the telling and sharing of people's stories from across the community of Barton and Tredworth, and to have those stories interpreted and recorded as reminiscence theatre or digital storytelling, and made accessible via a purpose-built community website. An additional member of staff, funded by a different lottery funded project co-ordinated by The National Archives, will be coming to support the project for the next twelve months whilst developing community involvement and collections development skills. Please contact Paul Evans for more information (paul.evans@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Move of the closed civil registration registers

At the time of writing, the registration service is moving all the closed registers of births, marriages and deaths from register offices around the county into Alvin Street; this move will be completed by the beginning of April. Copy certificates will continue to be produced throughout the changeover period and from the beginning of April all the copies will be produced through the Archives. The staff who produce copy certificates will be joining our team from April. Local Registrars will continue to register births, marriages and deaths as normal.

We are a top Four-Star service!

Finally, I am delighted to report that The National Archives has confirmed that we remain a top four-star service, and that our score improved by 3%.

Heather Forbes, County & Diocesan Archivist

What's happening to our building?

This is essential work to maintain the integrity of the building and we'd originally planned to incorporate some of this into the larger scheme to provide a new strongroom block. The larger scheme will not now go ahead as part of the County Council's plan to reduce its costs but it is necessary for us to complete the essential work to maintain the building. Work on-site could continue into the late spring and we apologize for all the extra noise and disruption this will cause – it will all be worth it! Please let us know if you'd like extra help entering or leaving the building!

More News from the Archives

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On May Hill

As always, I enjoyed reading the latest issue of the Newsletter and I was particularly interested to see Maureen Anderson's piece on the walk to May Hill. I have always been fascinated by the clump of trees on the summit of the hill and by the story that they were planted for Victoria's Jubilee. I don't doubt that they were, but I was reminded of a small historical snippet I put into the local Minsterworth "Villager" newsletter back in 2004, as follows:

From a Diary of a Cotswold Parson, Rev. F E Witts (1783-1854), on passing through this area en route from Gloucester to Ross in 1820:

The country is very fertile and rich, partly meadow and partly corn land. The view of Gloucester Cathedral and the eminences skirting the vale and forming the ascent of the Cotswold country is very beautiful in front May Hill, a conspicuous round topped hill distinguished by a plantation on the summit."

Seemingly there was an earlier clump of trees on the hill as far back as 1820 - but perhaps Roger Cox also told you this!

Terry Moore-Scott

News from the Gloucestershire Family History Society

We have now settled into our new home adjacent to the Archives and welcome more and more visitors each week. Quite often, visitors to the Family History Centre are surprised when they find out that we receive no funding from the Council. We are all volunteers and the recent 'cuts' in Council spending will not effect GFHS. If you have not visited GFHS Family History Centre, please come along and look at the wealth of information that we have for the whole of England and Wales, not just Gloucestershire. The Centre is open from Monday to Friday (this is very convenient as the Archives are closed to the public on Monday). We are also open on some Saturday mornings, please see our website for exact times and any planned closure dates.

The Centre will not be open on Saturday April 16th as we will all be at the Crypt School in Gloucester for our annual Family History Open Day. This year Nick Barratt is coming to tell us about the TV programme 'Who Do you Think You Are?'. There will be over 50 stalls including a GFHS 'Help Desk' with family and local history related items on sale. Refreshments will be available all day, there is a large free car park on site and entry to this event is free. There will, however, be a small charge for Nick's talk. More details can be found on our website at: www.gfhs.org.uk.

Gloucestershire Archives

Programme of Events

A selection of events to be held at Gloucestershire Archives. Further details can be obtained from the Archives.

Wednesday, 13 April 2011, 10:00 till 16:00

House History - Beginner's Day.

A follow-up to the House History workshop. Visit the Searchroom for some extra help investigating the history of your house.

Monday, 9 May 2011, 10:00 till 16:00

A workshop session, especially for members of Local History Societies; details to be agreed

Saturday, 27 August 2011

BBC History Day

The day will include a number of speakers and displays by local history societies.

Saturday, 10 September 2011

Heritage Open Day

Celebrate Gloucestershire's fantastic heritage and discover hidden archival

Exhibitions to be held at the Archives

- Mar - Apr: History of Woodchester Mansion
- May - Jun: The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives
- July- Aug: The Land Values Survey Group
- Sep - Oct: St. Aldwyn Archive Project
- Nov - Dec: Time slot available! Contact the Archives to book this space.

Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

Summer Programme

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2011

Led by our new President, Lord Lieutenant, Dame Janet Trotter. To be held in Gloucestershire Archives. Doors open at 7:00pm for 7:30pm

A visit to All Saints' Church, Newland

Wednesday 8th Jun 2011

We will have a guided tour of All Saints' Church, Newland, known as the Cathedral of the Forest, led by Averil Kear, followed by tea and cakes. Meet at the church at 2:00pm. **£6.50 per head.**

A visit to Saul Junction Heritage Centre

Wednesday 20th July 2011

A visit to Saul Junction Heritage Centre, including a talk on the history of the canals by Hugh Conway-Jones, with a one-hour boat trip on the Perseverance. Refreshments will be supplied. There is a £1 parking fee, exemption passes from the Centre. **£10 per head.**

Meet at the Heritage Centre at 1:30pm.

A visit to Cheltenham College Archives

Week beginning 22 August, 2011 (Date to be confirmed)

We are very pleased that the Assistant Archivist, Jill Barlow, has agreed to welcome Friends to the archive and show us some relevant documents, reflecting Friends' interests. It is hoped to round off the afternoon with tea and cakes locally. Numbers limited to 15. Please note that access to the College Archive area involves 60 stairs - and there is no lift. **£7.50 per head.**