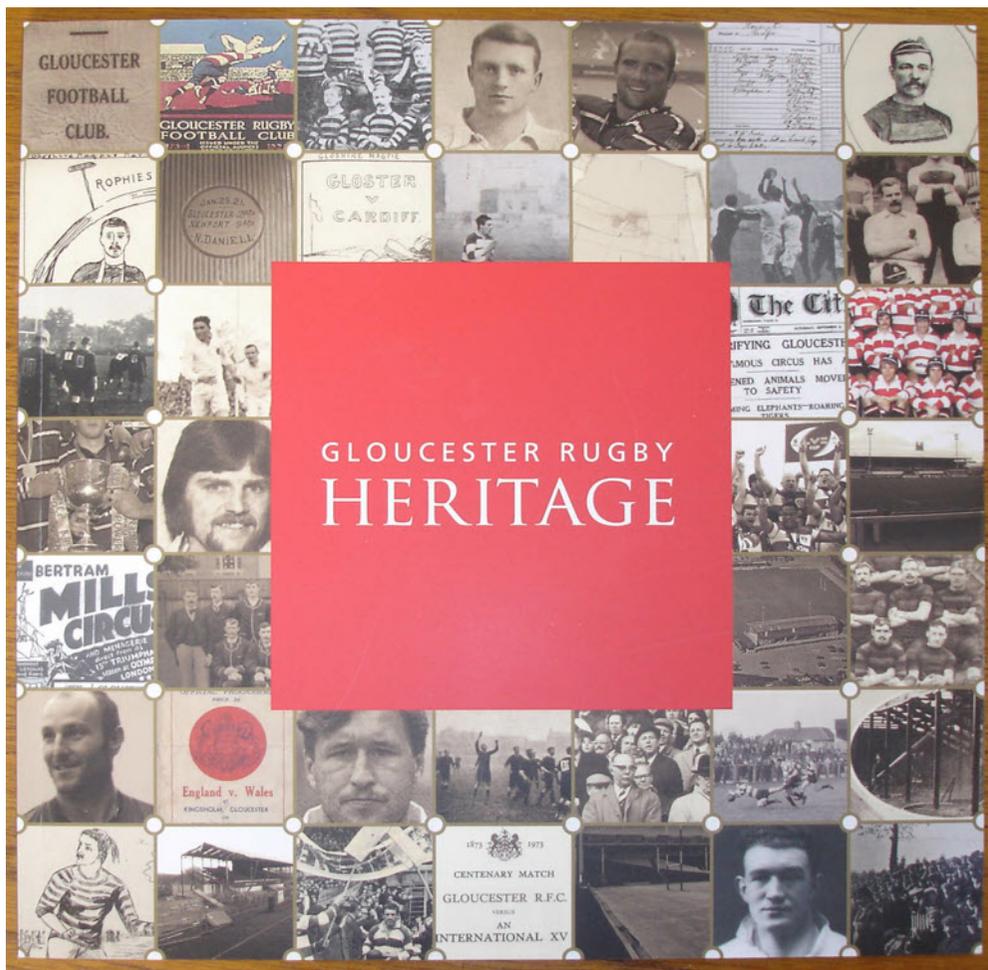




GLOSSARY

The Newsletter of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

Spring 2012



A copy of the front cover of the *Gloucester Rugby Heritage* book.

FoGA COMMITTEE

Chairman:	James Hodsdon, 49 Pittville Crescent Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 2RA
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Committee members can also be contacted via Gloucestershire Archives

or through the FoGA website:

www.foga.org.uk.

VCH Gloucestershire - Update

The new County Editor, John Chandler, has now drafted the first of the five parish articles required to complete Volume 13. His write-up of Ashleworth is with the central VCH staff in London for review, and we hope the draft will be up on the VCH website very soon. Next on the list is Maisemore. As many will know, David Smith, former county archivist, kindly offered to run palaeography and probate classes for volunteers interested in doing groundwork for future VCH parishes, and these sessions began in March. The Glos. County History Trust is discussing with CADHAS up in Chipping Campden how to progress work on the next VCH volume, to cover the Campden area.

Oh Yes! Oh Yes! Oh Yes!

“Oh Yes! Oh Yes! Oh Yes! All manner of persons, that do owe Suit and Service to this Court Leet and View of Frankpledge... now to be holden... draw near and give your Attendance and answer your names.” (D846/II/1)

It is with these words that a little book of instructions and forms of words used by a steward to remind him how to run a manorial court starts.

This is just one of over 6000 records which you can find through the newly completed Manorial Document Register for Gloucestershire. The records listed are located in over 50 different repositories, and are united in a fully searchable site for the first time. The project was made possible by funding from The National Archives and over 700 hours of voluntary work. Friends, researchers, visitors and neighbouring archivists gathered on 23 February to celebrate the completion of this project.

The tea party included talks from Nigel Saul, Nick Kingsley and Rebecca Shorter, covering both the types of records themselves and the meaning of manors, a review of The National Archives involvement and the work of the project and a demonstration of the website. As a fellow speaker I always find it difficult to concentrate on others' presentations before I “perform”, but I am delighted to say that I was able to forget all my nerves and immerse myself in the preceding talks and very much enjoyed this opportunity to share the results of my last two years work.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all Friends, both committee members who provided such delicious cakes and attendees for making the day a success.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the website:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr

Or come along to our workshop: 24 April 2012 – a Full Day workshop (10am-4pm), cost £10 (full details and booking form available on our website).

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/

Rebecca Shorter.

Lloyd George Survey of Land Values

Did you see the display about the survey in the coffee room at Gloucestershire Archives? Thanks to a band of volunteers, the project of putting the information collected in the survey made after Lloyd George's 'People's Budget', which introduced a tax on increments in the value of land, is proceeding with splendid energy. There are two main sources relating to the survey in the Gloucestershire Archives, the Valuation Books for the west of the county and form 37s sent to owners for their approval of the valuations (not always given) for the east.

Neither source is available locally for the Stroud area, but other volunteers have offered to go to the National Archives at Kew and transcribe or photograph the Field Books in which the surveyors recorded relevant information during their visit to and valuation of each site. As a result some CDs of Frocester Field Books or those for Edgeworth, Miserden and Winstone await a home transcriber to put the material onto a spreadsheet. One of the two will be tackled shortly.

By the end of January, more than 160 places will be available to search on the website set up by another volunteer for the purpose. This will be double the number currently available. Have you looked at www.glos1909survey.org.uk? All the volunteers are named, and there is much information about the background and method of the survey.

All sorts of insights are being obtained from the survey, about land or house or cottage ownership, about places, about institutions and churches, commons, allotments – the list is long. The Field Books add descriptions of the buildings. The method of estimating the value of Tewkesbury Abbey, for instance, is revealed; it was valued at nearly £300000, based it seems on its height and area, not its uniqueness or attractiveness.

The project is supported by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and by Gloucestershire Archives, to whom our thanks. Most importantly, our thanks to the volunteers. Well done all! We are happy to have more join the band. If you would like to join in, please contact either:

John Loosley

john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk

or Anthea Jones

anthea.evelyn@btinternet.com

or mention it to Vicky Thorpe at the Archives.

Anthea Jones

Little Rissington's Poor Rate Books

Part of FoGA's purpose is to help Gloucestershire Archives acquire important local records, and opportunities often crop up at short notice. In mid-January this year the National Archives' sales monitoring team let G.A. know that three Poor Rate books were coming up for auction at the end of the month. They were for the parish of Little Rissington and covered November 1857 - November 1858 (the rate being sixpence in the Pound) and November 1865 to August 1867 (four pence half-penny to ten pence half-penny in the Pound).

As luck would have it there was a FoGA Committee Meeting before the auction and we quickly agreed to bid, (but not against the Rissington Local History Society). G.A. found out for us that Rissington LHS were happy not to bid themselves (but did want to make a contribution), so we registered for the auction. It was the first time our rep. had done anything like this and he was surprised at the speed of the bidding. In fact, things happened so fast that he wasn't sure that our bid had been successful. But in the event it was, and the books were secured for the Archive.

But it wasn't just FoGA - Rissington came up trumps, in the form of generous support from the Local History Society and personally from Michael Boyes: FoGA and the Gloucestershire Archive would like to thank both for their contribution. A sample page is shown below.

Stephen Haygarth

Form 1.		PARISH OF <i>Little Rissington</i>		RATE			
No.	ARREARS.		Name of Occupier.	Name of Owner.	Description of Property Rated.	Name or Situation of Property.	Estimated Extent.
	Due or if Exceed.	If Exceed write the word Exceed.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	s.	d.					A. R. P.
1			<i>John Bennett</i>	<i>John Bennett</i>	<i>New house Land & Building</i>	<i>Little Rissington</i>	<i>87 0 12</i>
2			<i>Chas Mace</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Land & Building</i>		<i>392</i>
3			<i>The Rect</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>76</i>
4			<i>Dennis Bartlett</i>		<i>Land & Mill</i>		<i>18</i>
5			<i>Joth Collett</i>		<i>Land</i>		<i>33</i>
6			<i>Henry Williams</i>		<i>Land & Building</i>		<i>49</i>
7			<i>The Hemming</i>		<i>Land</i>		<i>12</i>
8			<i>David Lamb</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>28</i>
9			<i>Edw Hemming</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>11</i>
10			<i>Will^m Lane</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>15</i>
11			<i>Edw Gundy</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>15 2 14</i>
12			<i>Sam^l Price</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>13</i>
13			<i>John Bennett</i>		<i>Orchard &c</i>		
14			<i>do</i>		<i>23 Cottages & garden to owner &c</i>		
							<i>777 2 28</i>

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Gloucester Cathedral Library

In January, a group of Friends gathered in Gloucester Cathedral amidst the clamour of BBC staff preparing the set for filming Henry V before climbing the stairs to the late 14th century room that held the library for St. Peter's Abbey. There we were given an excellent talk by Chris Jeens, describing the situation the library had been in when he arrived and what he was doing to sort, re-organise and catalogue the archives, with the help of various volunteers.

A series of manuscripts were on display for us to look at including the King's (College) School Register from 1685-1923, a late 14c. translation by Henry Daniel of Liber Uricrisarum, a grammatical work from 1511 showing William Caxton's printer's device, a deed of a gift of land to the Abbey from about 1140, a Bible with an embroidered cover, one of 3 surviving manuscripts of the late 14c of the history of the Abbey and a fine example of early 'church musick'.

Liz Jack

The Brett Family of Down Hatherley

Given the small numbers of members that attend evening talks it was decided to experiment with a talk on a Monday afternoon last October at the Archives. In the event only eleven members (five of those being committee members) attended.

Bill Welsh spoke about the Brett family who lived at Hatherley House in Down Hatherley (now the Hatherley Manor Hotel) for much of the 17th century. Although the Brett home has been extensively changed over the years, their house still forms the core of the eastern end of the hotel. Henry Brett (1587-1674) was the first of the family to be associated with the village of Down Hatherley. He became MP for Gloucester in 1640 and served in both the Short and Long Parliaments. Even though Gloucester was staunchly Parliamentarian, Brett remained a Royalist throughout the Civil War. Hatherley House and his other properties were sequestered by Parliament and he had to pay a fine of £873 13s 8d to recover his property.

After the Civil War, Henry's son George and his wife lived in the house. Their eldest son Henry (1657-1724), said to be a charming and witty man, was passionately fond of bell ringing and apparently frittered away a large part of his fortune on this interest and on house building. After a wild youth, he married an heiress, the divorced Lady Macclesfield, whose fortune helped to restore the family finances. He became an MP in 1701. Henry sold Hatherley House to the Gibbs family in 1704 and thus broke the family link to Down Hatherley.

Hilary Haygarth

A Different Age

I first recall the Gloucestershire Record Office in 1947. I had just been demobbed and had already planned to start exploring local history through local archives. And so to the County Record Office, known to me by name but nothing more. The CRO was based in the Shire Hall in Gloucester's Westgate Street. And it was well hidden! A steep staircase on one side of the great entrance-hall took me to three cramped rooms, each crammed with boxes. Presiding over all of this was Irvine Grey, who I think had probably just returned from the Services.

Grey was an avuncular and kindly man, who seemed to be slightly bemused by his surroundings and by the build-up of fresh packages continually arriving. Supporting him was Margaret Holmes as his deputy, who later became a county archivist elsewhere. With a hard working secretary-cum-typist and a Shire Hall porter to help occasionally with heavy boxes, this was the Record Office staff 1947.

I wanted to examine Cotswold archives — the area around Stow-on-the-Wold. 'Ah, ah' said Grey, 'that tea chest is full of unexamined papers for those villages.' So I started work, with instructions to report to him the substance of these papers: a first sift and sort! It was quite exciting, it had many surprises and -- it was very dusty.

There were few researchers in those years. I recall I was sometimes alone, but at other times found myself sharing the only table with Brian Frith or with Fullbrook Leggatt, both of whom were to be significant contributors to local history. In 1948 I made my delayed entry to University and was an absentee from Gloucester for a while. But in 1951 I commenced my research degree under Sir John Habakkuk and W G Hoskins, and renewed my regular links with the GRO when I needed to work on West Country agricultural and estate papers.

The same GRO team was still in residence, and at the same location. But most of the old boxes and packages had disappeared, and a Catalogue was well in place, albeit sometimes a little imprecise. I seem to recall there were now more rooms and more space, although still only a very small clientele. But by this time it was usually possible to track down documents without too much of a voyage of discovery first. In the 1960s/70s professional life meant only very occasional visits to the GRO, and it was not until more modern times that I became something of a regular again. But — looking back on those early days — any research then was an exciting adventure, when anything could turn up (and often did), to astonish both archivist and researcher.

1947 was my first visit to Gloucestershire Record Office. Now it is 2012 and I still return to Gloucestershire Archivesand still find surprises. *Robin Stayt*. Mar. 2012

Can You Help?

GlosCAT / Formerly the Technical College in Brunswick Road.

The foundation stone for the college was laid in 1939 and the college was abandoned in 2007 when the students moved to the new site at Llanthony by the Gloucester/Sharpness Canal.

I have been researching the site, the building, staff and pupils for several months and gleaned some newspaper stories with pictures. The quality of them is poor and therefore, I would be grateful if anyone has some real photographs they might allow me to copy.

This research project is being done under the auspices of the Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership (GCCCP), a group whose volunteers will be involved with an archaeological dig taking place during March. Viewing holes will be cut in the surrounding hoardings and information will be attached for passers-by to know what is going on behind the boards.

The college is due for demolition and the former tower block has already been demolished. Any information or pictures will be a great help. Thank you. Pam Daw. Email: P.D.Daw@btpopenworld.com

Subscription Time!

A reminder that your FoGA subscriptions were due on the 1st of April. The rates remain unaltered at £10 for individuals, £15 for family and £20 for Groups.

Please consider taking out a **Standing Order** – it saves having to remember to write that cheque!

If you have changed your e-mail address, please let me know – email me at membership@foga.org.uk

Hilary Haygarth, Membership Secretary

Hidden Lives of Barton and Tredworth

On 3 March 2011, the Hidden Lives project launched at The Picturedrome Theatre on Barton Street. The project, led by Gloucester Theatre Company in partnership with Gloucestershire Archives and the University of Gloucestershire, was funded by a £48,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's "Your Heritage" scheme. Its aim was to record and share people's memories of life, work, and places in Barton and Tredworth. For Gloucestershire Archives, the project represented an opportunity to develop its collections on an area whose history and that of its diverse populations are under-represented in its holdings.

The project set itself the target of collecting 20 oral history recordings and 20 Digital Stories from a diverse range of communities and presenting them in a number of creative ways, including a website and a piece of reminiscence theatre. Overcoming suspicions about why an Archive (an organization which many people had never heard of and with which they had never had any contact) should be asking so many questions about people's backgrounds and lives was an initial priority.

It was therefore decided to hold a "Memory Fair" in a neutral space in the heart of the communities, The Picturedrome Theatre. Members of the public were invited to drop in to see multimedia exhibitions on the area's history and to bring photographs and memorabilia of their own lives in the area to share with others. These, along with their spoken reminiscences, could then be recorded and preserved and they could see in action how they were literally making history on the day. The response from the community was overwhelming, with over 250 people attending the day. Leaders from eight different community organisations participated as speakers, breaking down barriers and bringing the communities together to learn about each other.

Raising the profile and relevance of Gloucestershire Archives has gone hand in hand with this kind of direct engagement. Running and attending events in the community, such as the Heritage Open Day at The Picturedrome or Barton Community Fair, has helped to create and capture records of the area and to develop new audiences for these and other collections at Gloucestershire Archives.

The most recent event to have been held at The Picturedrome was a performance of reminiscence theatre the script of which was based on the memories of four individuals interviewed during the course of the project. Young actors from Gloucestershire were recruited to interview, transcribe, and script the piece with the help of Gloucester Theatre Company. During the course of their work they learnt much from the older generation and their experience of Barton and Tredworth, as well improving their confidence, communication skills, and their knowledge of local history.

The performances were enjoyed by over 200 people and allowed for collaboration between the project and another Lottery Funded oral history initiative, the Black South West Network's "Back to the Future" project. The collaboration not only led to a joint multimedia presentation on the day but also some amazing opportunities for the young people and outputs for the organizations involved. Through this partnership, the actors were able to work with a professional film crew to film excerpts of the show. Examples of their work can be seen on the project website (www.bartonandtredworth.org.uk) or Youtube channel, along with Digital Stories made with contributors and volunteers

(www.youtube.com/user/bartonandtredworth).

Commenting on the project's success, Richard Bellamy, the Heritage Lottery Fund's acting Head of South West said: "The 'Hidden Lives' project has really succeeded in engaging with local people in Barton and Tredworth, and helping them to tell the story of their own heritage; it is wonderful to see this work reaching such an exciting conclusion, and making links with another of our successful projects".

As the funding for the Hidden Lives Project comes to an end, its success can be judged not only from the number of interviews the project has managed to conduct (the number currently stands at least 60) but the engagement with individuals and communities in the area, either at events or through outreach. Communities, such as the Ukrainian one in the area, have been exceedingly welcoming in opening their doors to Archives' staff and inviting them to record their culture and memories of life in the area. They have also been active in translating documents held at Gloucestershire Archives that relate to their church into Ukrainian so that they are accessible to all members of their community. The recordings and other documents collected during the year will be stored as a permanent collection at Gloucestershire Archives and the website (www.bartonandtredworth.org.uk) will continue to grow with the help of contributors and volunteers.

Ollie Taylor, The National Archives, Skills for the Future Trainee

Dating Old Photographs

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had an abbreviated workshop session in March but it was nonetheless well worth the wait! Jayne Shrimpton, an expert photo detective, gave a chronological presentation beginning with the earliest photographs, discussing the different types of mounts and the occasions when people visited the studios to have their portraits taken. Using examples that had been provided by the audience, she dated the photographs, usually to within a few years, helping us to identify the subjects. What a shame she couldn't stay longer.

Liz Jack

Beating at Cheltenham College

I should like to reassure anyone who read the item on beating in the last Newsletter that it was not taken from the 2011 College magazine. It was written in the Prefects' book in 1927 as one of several responses to a suggestion by the Senior Prefect, Kit Tanner, that beating should be used only as a punishment for bullying. None of the prefects agreed with him, all being convinced that a good beating was the only way to maintain order among the 'fellows'.

The prefects' right to beat younger boys was abolished by the College Headmaster, Guy Elliott-Smith, in 1942. He explained his reasons in his report to Council in December 1946:

'First, because from time to time it is abused by a boy with a sadistic streak or the wrong people get beaten. ... Second, [because] it handicaps the teaching of leadership. ... Any ass can achieve the leadership which consists in making the other fellow do what you want if he can flourish a big stick, but he may well remain an ass and never become a real leader.'

Kit Tanner, who showed courage and humanity in voicing the unpopular belief that discipline did not have to be brutal, died as a naval chaplain saving his shipmates from drowning when HMS *Fiji* was sunk off Crete in 1941. He was awarded a posthumous Albert Medal and is commemorated in the rose garden outside College Chapel.

Jill Barlow

[My apologies for not making it clear in the last newsletter - Ed.]



Cheltenham College Prefects from the 1880s.

News from

Gloucestershire Family History Society

Our volunteers have been very busy helping visitors access the many records that we have at the Family History Centre adjacent to the Archives. If you have not visited the Centre yet, do go along and have a look. Many people are surprised at the amount of resources at the Centre for all over the country and around the world. The 1911 census for the whole of England and Wales together with surname indexes to parish registers for many places such as Bristol and Oxfordshire are very popular.

We arranged a coach to the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' family history fair in London for the first time this year. It was a most successful trip and may be repeated next year. Our next trip to the National Archives in Kew will be on Thursday, 13th September 2012, with pick-ups in Gloucester, Hucclecote and Cirencester. The cost of the trip is £17 per person including the driver's gratuity. Ask at the Family History Centre if you are interested in joining us.

The GFHS Open Day is on Saturday April 14th at the Crypt School as usual from 10am to 4pm with free entry and car parking. The annual event is always very popular and we expect hundreds of people, some of whom arrange their holidays to Gloucestershire to coincide with our Open Day. Our speaker again this year is Nick Barrett from the TV show and we will have the usual Help and Advice Desks, Local Books and CD indexes on sale as well as a new guide to Gloucestershire family history research. Do come along. More details can be found on our website:

www.gfhs.org.uk

Sue Stafford, Volunteer GFHS

Friends' Social and Quiz Night

For the second year running, a group of Friends, staff and guests gathered in Cheltenham for an evening's fun and food. Between courses, our brains and memories were severely tested by a series of questions, some seemingly easy, though not always so, and some definitely more difficult. Our thanks and admiration goes to the quiz setters, Becky and Fiona, for an excellent social evening. Please join in next year, you are assured of a great evening.

Liz Jack

Gloucester R.F.C. Community Heritage Project

The full amount of the Heritage Lottery funding of the project - £49,900 – has now been paid, and spent within the three year period agreed for this first phase of the project. All the initial objectives set for the project have been met, and in some cases exceeded. The project has benefitted also from funding and expert assistance from the other project partners, Gloucester Rugby Club, Gloucestershire Archives and the Friends of the Archives, under whose auspices the project has been managed. The project will always be grateful for the huge impetus given to the project by the Lottery funding, which has allowed a much more ambitious project than would otherwise have been possible. But now that this phase is over, and the project is well established, it has been agreed amongst the project partners that it should now stand in its own right rather than as a part of the Friends. The project will therefore be applying to become a separate charitable trust, known as the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Trust. The future funding of the project has been greatly enhanced with an injection of £15,000 from sponsors, Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Much of the material placed in the Archives by the Rugby Club has been fully catalogued, as have some 60 collections donated by members of the public, and most notably by former players. Indeed the project generated so much interest amongst former players, that the Club decided to organise a Former Players' Association, which is now flourishing in its own right.

The project reached two major milestones in December with the launch of the educational resources and of a book entitled "Gloucester Rugby Heritage". Both were launched at events held at Kingsholm, and 19 schools have so far signed up to use the educational resources, which have been designed for both primary and secondary schools. They consist of more than 100 lesson plans and supporting material across a wide range of subjects, and tie in with Key Stages 2, 3 & 4 of the National Curriculum. They have been made available to teachers in soft copy in order to make them more accessible, and in order to facilitate updating. They can be viewed on the project website – www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk. These teaching resources will be supplemented by visits to Kingsholm and the Archives, for which the project is offering financial support to schools to cover the costs of travel.

The book is a glossy, large format, 40-page production, full of illustrations, which seeks to give the flavour of the rich heritage of the Club since its formation in 1873. It does not seek to be a comprehensive history of the Club, but presents many of the most interesting and amusing facts, figures and images which the project has so far unearthed. The book retails at £8-99, and can be purchased from the Club shop at Kingsholm, or on-line from the project website. Some 900 copies have been sold so

far, and complimentary copies have been given to local libraries. All the money from these sales is being ploughed back into the project.

The website, masterminded by Dick Williams, continues to grow, and now boasts a substantial content. It has proved a very popular part of the project, and much of the effort of the volunteers has been devoted to building up this digital archive. Overall the volunteers have now given over 10,000 hours of their time and effort to the project.

Since its launch in December the website has been accessed 50,000 times by 24,000 visitors from 110 countries, who have viewed 386,000 pages. The most popular feature has been the player profiles, most of which have been written by John Theyers. The audio interviews recorded by Malc King and John Theyers also attract a good deal of interest, and the first video clips have recently been added by Dave Smith. Dick Williams has scanned a huge number of match programmes onto the site, and the details of almost every match played by the Club has now been recorded by the project statistician, Chris Collier. The minutes and financial ledgers, of both the Club and the Ground Company which owned Kingsholm, and some reports of matches, have either been transcribed or summarised in soft copy by John Cowen and Malc King. There is also now a very good library of photographs, many of them digitised and edited by Martin Bailey.

Much of Kingsholm has now been covered in displays and exhibits, which many people see on match days, but which can also be viewed on special tours. There is also a touch screen terminal in the foyer at Kingsholm, on which any visitor can access the website. Some 18,000 schoolchildren have so far done the Kingsholm tour taking in these sights. Before long we shall need the Club to build a new stand to house our growing collection!

Malc King



An early picture of Kingsholm Rugby Ground.

Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

Summer Programme

The Winter Programme has gone well this year. Many thanks to all who attended the various events, some of which are described elsewhere. Encouraged by the turnout for most of the events, I have drawn up a summer programme which I hope will appeal to many of you.

Thursday, 3rd May 2012, 7pm for 7:30pm

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Frith Centre, followed by "Researching Gloucestershire Folk Music" - a presentation by Gwilym and Carol Davies. Doors will be open at 7:00pm in time for the meeting which begins at 7:30pm. Tea and coffee will be served before the meeting.

Monday, 25th June 2012, 2:00pm.

First we have a visit to **Frampton Court** and gardens, with tea and cakes afterwards in the Wool Barn. *From its website:* "The architectural splendour of Frampton Court is complemented by an outstanding collection of contemporary 18th century furniture and furnishings and lovely paintings by the Clifford ladies. The interiors are described by Pevsner as 'lavish... with joinery of the highest quality.'" One of our members, Pat Bennett, is the Archivist at the Court and has generously offered to show us the Archives while we are there. So there will be plenty to enjoy.

Cost £17.50 a head. I'm sorry that this is a bit pricier than usual, but I feel sure it will be worth the money. It is only recently that the Court has been able to receive visits from organised groups, so it is a really good opportunity to see round a very interesting house.

Wednesday, 18th July 2012, 11am.

In July, we will be taken on a **historical walk round mediaeval Gloucester**. This will be led by Lisa Donel, former Gloucester Heritage Officer and a real enthusiast about the city. Lisa has suggested that a morning walk would be a nice change, meeting at 11 am for a walk of about an hour or so, then perhaps adjourn to a local hostelry for a drink or lunch. £5 a head (food or drink not included!).

Monday, 13th August 2012, 6:00pm.

In August, we will visit the **Regency Synagogue in Cheltenham**. Michael Webber will give a talk which will touch on the history of the Congregation and the building itself, and the Jewish form of worship. Also shown and discussed will be the ritual objects that are to be found in a Synagogue, why they are there and how they are used. Most of the Congregation's archives now reside at Gloucestershire Archives. Mr Webber suggested an early evening visit, mainly because there would be free parking, but in fact Cheltenham now charges for parking up to 8 pm! However, an early evening meeting might be more convenient for some, and it will still be daylight so it is planned for 6:00pm. £5 a head

Wednesday, 19th September 2012, 2:00pm

A visit to **Birtsmorton Court** (about 7 miles from Tewkesbury). *Quoted from its website:* "Birtsmorton Court is a fine example of a moated grange, much of which was built in the 15th Century..... The Court consists of an Elizabethan Banqueting Hall, a Medieval Great Hall, Council Chamber and a 17th century dining roomThe oldest structure is the main gate which dates back to the 13th century." It also has a rare double moat.

The Court is not open to the public, and you can usually only see it if you are attending a wedding there. However, the owner, Mrs Rosalie Dawes, has generously agreed to show us the Court, the gardens and the Church, and round off the afternoon with tea and biscuits.

We need to take a minimum of 18 people with us, so please make sure this is a priority on your summer calendar. If you want to come, return the booking form as soon as possible so that we can get some idea of numbers. £15 a head.

A Booking Form sheet is enclosed with this newsletter. Please make sure you have given me a contact number or email address, so that I can notify full details/any changes. I hope to see many of you at these events.

Fiona Mead (events@foga.org.uk)

* Join the Friends! *