



# GLOSSARY

The Newsletter of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

Spring 2013



**John Taylor (1578 - 1653)**

**Water Poet**

## FoGA Committee

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or through the FoGA website:

[www.foga.org.uk](http://www.foga.org.uk).

## Leaving the Committee

This year, we are losing two excellent members who have served on the committee for a number of years and we thank them for their stalwart service. ***Fiona Mead*** has produced a scintillating programme of talks and visits for us in her role as event secretary. The next events secretary will find her a hard act to follow! ***Maureen Anderson*** has been on the committee for the best part of twenty years and has served in several different roles. Her efforts on behalf of the Friends have been awesome! Who will ever forget the annual themed socials, the Queen Henrietta supper and the Brunel evening to mention a couple.

We thank them both for their hard work and trust we will still see them at our meetings.

## Obituaries

We begin with sad news. In the past few months, since our last newsletter, the Friends have lost two important members; Derek Shorthouse and Joan Tucker. Our sympathies go to both their families.

**Derek Shorthouse** died suddenly at his home in Highnam in November 2012, aged 80. He was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read Latin and Greek. Derek worked as a Chartered Secretary for most of his life, apart from a few years as Treasurer and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. Eventually, he settled in Gloucestershire and, whilst there, played a big part in local life. It is Derek we have to thank for starting our society.

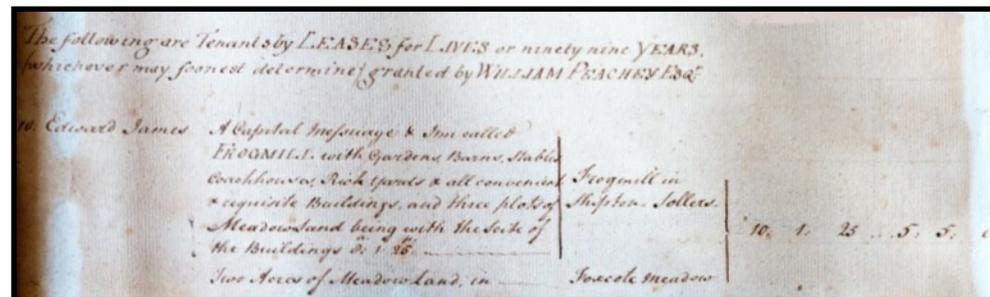
In 1992, Derek arranged a general meeting to discuss the formation of a support group for Gloucestershire Record Office, as it was then called. The group was named the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives (FoGA for short). At the meeting, a number of people volunteered to join a committee and in April 1993 the first AGM was held and Derek was elected chairman. Derek immediately started to organise fund raising for the archives and the committee under his chairmanship produced a series of events for those joining the Friends. He relinquished the chairmanship after 3 years but continued to take a great interest in the Society.

**Joan Tucker** died in January 2013 and there have been several obituaries in local historical journals to mark her sad death. Her books, *Stroud as it Was*, *The Stroudwater Navigation*, and *Ferries of Gloucestershire* among them, were always the result of serious research and will be her lasting legacy to the county. Joan trained as a teacher and thus began her passion for children's literature. When Joan and Alan opened their bookshop in Stroud it included a large children's department. It became the ideal place for a young teacher to get advice about equipping their school library or inspiring their pupils with poetry. She would take books into schools and advise parents on suitable reading material, too. There is still a good children's bookshop in Stroud and that will be part of Joan's lasting legacy to the 5 Valleys.

## Records given by the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

In October 2012, the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives purchased a collection of documents that appear to have been owned by the Bayley family of 27 Promenade, Cheltenham. The collection, D12931, consists of:

- Apprenticeship indenture of Giles Tray of Cold Aston [Aston Blank] to Robert Fletcher of Nanton [Naunton], joiner and carpenter
- Particular of rental income relating to the estates of William Peachey at Sevenhampton, Withington, Dowdeswell, Foxcote and Shipton Oliffe
- Notice summoning court baron, manor of Withington
- Sales particulars: property in Shurdington, Sevenhampton, Dowdeswell, Shipton Oliffe and Cheltenham
- Sales particulars: Gallipot Farm, Cheltenham
- Sales particulars: coppice wood near the Frogmill Inn, Shipton Oliffe
- Sales particulars: Narracott Farm, tenement called Arnold and property in George Nympton and South Molton (Devon) and tenement called North Battisham in Withypool (Somerset)
- Particulars of Seymour Hall, Portland Street, Cheltenham, to be let.



A small section from D12931 / 2 relating to the Frogmill Inn.

## New Light on Gloucestershire in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

**With thanks to Russell Howes for supplying this commentary**

Some documents recently acquired for Gloucestershire Archives shed new light on Gloucestershire in the seventeenth century. Local historian Russell Howes comments on their relationship to other surviving records and their significance.

### *Benedict Webb of Kingswood*

Five letters of Benedict Webb and one of his son Benedict junior, written to John Smyth of Nibley between 1630 and 1632, were offered for sale last November by a Kent dealer and purchased by FoGA (GA reference D12960).

The exact provenance of these letters is not known but it is likely that they are strays from the main Smyth archive which was dispersed at auction in 1887 and 1888. A large batch had been presented to Gloucester Library in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (now held at Gloucestershire Archives, GA references D8887 and D9125). The newly acquired letters complete a lengthy correspondence.

Benedict Webb of Kingswood corresponded with John Smyth of Nibley over 14 years. The earliest letter among the Smyth of Nibley Papers (D8887) was in 1618. Webb described himself as the uncle of John Smyth; the relationship was with Smyth's second wife Mary Browning, who was the daughter of Nicholas Webb, and Benedict was probably his brother. Webb's handwriting is difficult, and his business affairs are not easy to follow from the letters. He was a clothier and also farmed widely spread lands. He had land at Kingswood and also at Thornbury, Clapton and Clearwell in Gloucestershire, as well as land in Wales.

From the beginning the letters show Webb in financial difficulties. Apologetic expressions recur as a refrain: *I will clear the debt, I am unhappy to be troublesome, I crave your patience, I am heartily sorry*. John Smyth helped his uncle by lending him money and by attempting to set right his tangled affairs. Webb normally showed his gratitude, but sometimes there was petulant complaint. In 1618 John Smyth supervised the sale of some of Webb's goods. Webb responded with a list of items which could have fetched a higher price, adding, if all things be passed away at such rates I should be stripped of all I have. Smyth wrote on the reverse 'an unjust letter'. Soon after this Smyth lent Webb £650 and secured his release from the Wood Street 'Counter' in London, where he had been a prisoner for three months.

A year later John Smyth administered a stern rebuke to his uncle. One of Webb's creditors was George Mynn of London; he was a speculative investor in the Forest of

Dean ironworks, though there is no indication that Webb shared in that enterprise. He regarded Webb's bonds as worthless, saying that Webb entered into them carelessly because he never proposed to keep any. Smyth for his part declared, 'I will no longer be delayed with words and promises, so many being already broken and none kept'.

As a clothier Webb appears to have introduced a new process into the production of cloth. This was to use oil from locally grown rape seed instead of what was called 'Spanish oil' and oil from the Netherlands. There were many advantages according to Webb. Clothiers would not be dependent on imported oil, which was liable to be costly and uncertain in supply. The cultivation of rape was possible in dry, sandy soil of little use for anything else, and actually improved the soil, making it suitable for growing corn.

Webb occupied the New Mills at Kingswood. His letters do not say explicitly that he was making cloth there, or that he was using oil from rape seed. Nor do they give the whereabouts of the mills. It is suggested that they were the abbey mills (Jennifer Tann, *Gloucestershire Woollen Mills*, page 90), though New Mills and Abbey Mills appear consecutively in a list among the Smyth Manuscripts.

Webb seems to have obtained a patent from King James I in 1624 for the sole production of rape oil for 14 years. When Webb attempted to prevent the making of rape oil by others his patent was immediately challenged. Royal patents authorising monopolies were a burning issue in parliament at this time. It appears that Webb gained little profit from his invention and patent, but rather was plunged into controversy.

The newly acquired letters from Benedict Webb to John Smyth follow these events. The first letter is dated 7 October 1630. The refrain of the earlier letters is repeated: *persuade the creditors to have patience, I shall clear what is owing*. Webb asked Smyth to settle the mortgage of New Mills for two years, and in the next letter thanked him for doing so; eventually the mills passed into John Smyth's possession.

The third letter shows Webb making a journey to London and another to Dorset, in both places to see landlords and getting small comfort. He told John Smyth that he would hear from him next out of Wales. In the next letter Webb wrote, 'when my friends forsook me God gave me understanding out of these bare mountains to raise up a wonderful blessing'. Webb's activities there were all agricultural: he wrote of growing 400 acres of barley, 20 of wheat and 20 of rye. Rape was not mentioned, but Webb alluded obscurely to his expected share being £1,000, 'for which all the oil is desired'. He went on to say that Jeremy Buck of Hampton was to pay him £2,400 by £200 a month. Buck of Minchinhampton was a captain for parliament in the Civil War. John Smyth endorsed this letter 'his new project'.

The last letter from Webb was dated from 'Laherne', evidently Laugharne, for John Smyth noted paying Barker, a foot post, 'sent by Mr. Smith 3 several times from Nibley

to Laugharne in Carmarthenshire'. By now it seems that Webb's high hopes in Wales had completely foundered. His landlord had been there and, after a fair show towards him at first, had seized his corn, cattle, sheep, oil and seed. Perhaps Webb was cultivating rape for oil. In a postscript Webb said that his landlord was threatening to arrest him and his son. 'Never man was so unhappy to light on impious men'. These appear to be the last words of Benedict Webb. For the following letter was from Webb's son of the same name, begging John Smyth to meet him in a safe place to give him advice; for he dared not go abroad and was in fear to stay at home.

Benedict Webb senior left his affairs in great confusion, owing debts to numerous creditors. Various papers of John Smyth show different amounts owing by Webb to him. One paper noted £3,628 2s.8d., over and above the surplus of price which John Smyth paid for the purchase of the New Mills in Kingswood, which had been forfeited in mortgage, and now cost him £692. Benedict Webb appears to have been a man of big ideas who overreached himself.

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A volume containing the following plan and pamphlet, bound also with a copy of the well known 'Military Government of Gloucester' by John Corbet, and 'A True Relation of a Wicked Plot ...Discovered by Captaine Backhouse ...'.was purchased thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the National Libraries, The Sealed Knot, FoGA and GADARG (Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group) in September 2012. (GA reference D12862)

### *Plan of Fortifications at Gloucester*

The most intriguing of the new acquisitions is the plan of fortifications at Gloucester. It bears no indication of who made it or when, and it raises the question of whether it depicts what actually existed or whether it illustrated proposals. One possibility is that it represented the scheme described by David Papillon in 1646. His proposals were set out in detail in papers found in Kent County Record Office; these documents were transcribed and explained by Malcolm Atkin in TBGAS for 1993. Document 5 of his papers begins 'The judgement of Mr David Papillon Engenire Concerning the regulary fortifications of the Citty of Glocester, with a Plan of the same, drawne the 16th of the month of July 1646'. Perhaps his plan, which Malcolm Atkin believed was 'now lost', is the one newly acquired.

Papillon envisaged a curtain wall strengthened by eleven and a half bulwarks. Bulwarks were wall or gate towers or gun platforms called sconces or a combination of them. The chamberlains' accounts mentioned sconces at Eastgate, Northgate, Friars' Orchard and St. Oswald's in 1653 when they were levelled (GA GBR F 4/5). John Dorney in his 'Diurnal' of the siege of Gloucester wrote of cannon in a 'pen' at the Westgate.

In this plan existing fortifications appear to be shown in dark lines and Papillon's proposed bulwarks and walls in dotted lines. Papillon believed that the line of fortification might be shortened in places and so require fewer men to defend it. Bulwarks were shown approximately 250 yards apart, according to the scale of 100 poles on the plan, which was the distance recommended by Papillon. The plan agrees with Papillon's description in document 5 of his papers, though with one or two differences.

The first bulwark, marked A on the plan, adjoined the castle, described on the plan as old and ruined. It was nevertheless used for prisoners of war, as shown by the accounts of Captain Thomas Blayney (TNA SP 28/129/5), and for ordinary prisoners before and after the Civil War. Nearby on the plan Barbican Hill was marked. The second bulwark was to be erected between the castle and the Southgate. The third bulwark was already begun at the Southgate. The fourth bulwark was described in document 5 as an 'outer shorte' bulwark and was named on the plan as 'The sponce at Rignell Stile'. Rignell Stile sponce was mentioned in the chamberlains' accounts in 1657 (GA GBR F4/6). The fifth bulwark was the Eastgate bulwark. The wall here was broken down by enemy cannon during the siege.

The 'Sallie Gate' at the north east corner of the Roman and medieval wall was so marked and named in the plan, but was not mentioned in Papillon's description. The sixth bulwark was shown at that place, but Papillon described it as to be erected against the round tower between the Eastgate and the Northgate, and said that the old barn and the works of it were to be deserted, so that the curtain wall might be 'drawn straight'; on the plan a dotted line went directly from the sally gate to the north gate. The old barn was presumably that named as Friars' Barn on the plan; before the dissolution of the religious houses Whitefriars convent stood nearby. The sally gate was also called the postern gate; the chamberlains recorded in 1644 that fourteen load of stone were brought from St. Owen's church to the sally port and postern gate. Dorney mentioned sallies in various places, five times from the Northgate, but not from the postern gate. The seventh bulwark was to be at the lower or outer Northgate. Northgate prison was shown on the plan at the upper or inner Northgate, and here too prisoners of war were housed.

The eighth bulwark was to be erected where a small redoubt stood beyond Captain Singleton's sponce, which was to be deserted so that the curtain wall might run straight. Captain Singleton's sponce was marked and named on the plan. In 1647 Gloucester city quarter sessions ordered damage at Captain Singleton's sponce to be made good. Captain Singleton was a captain in the governor's regiment, and was probably Laurence Singleton who was made an alderman in 1643.

The site of Alvingate was shown on the plan. This gate was stopped up during the war, as mentioned in one of the city letter books (GA GBR H2/3); the chamberlains

paid for earth to be thrown from it in 1647. At the north corner on the plan dots marked a shorter line within the existing wall, and so excluding the 'Small Sconce' and the 'Chapel House'; the small sconce may be the redoubt mentioned in Papillon's description. The ninth bulwark was at the old court of guard according to the description, and adjoining St. Katherine's sconce on the plan; Papillon wrote that it would command rising ground on the city side at Kingsholm; the ground to the north west was marked on the plan as very low. The tenth and eleventh bulwarks were to be in a small meadow which was not shown in the plan. Two further bulwarks beyond the River Severn were on the plan but not mentioned in Papillon's proposals.

Papillon's scheme was never carried out. It was apparently shown in the plan of Hall and Pinell in 1780, which seems to be a modified version of the newly acquired plan. It is remarkable that Papillon and his ideas received no mention in any other contemporary documents about Gloucester.

### *Proclamation of Charles II at Gloucester*

The pamphlet *Gloucester's Triumph* described the proclamation in Gloucester of Charles II on Tuesday, 15 May 1660. The city and the country were in a time of transition. The king, who had been in exile in the Netherlands, did not land in England until 25 May. The various forms of government in the interregnum had all been sustained by the army, and soldiers were prominent in the celebrations at Gloucester. The mayor was called in the pamphlet Colonel Toby Jordan. He had been appointed a captain of a company, along with two other men, by the city quarter sessions on 1 April (GA GBR G3/SO2). That was the day when Gloucester had elected Major General Edward Massie as one of its members of parliament, and there had been a 'tumult' between citizens and soldiers. It is ironical that in 1643 Toby Jordan had been the citizen who had accompanied Lieutenant Colonel Pudsey in delivering the defiance of Gloucester to Charles I before the siege. Massie was not present at the proclamation since he had gone to greet the king, who knighted him at Canterbury immediately after his arrival at Dover.

The proclamation took place in what the pamphlet calls the market place. It was evidently at the Cross, near which a new wheat market house was being built in Southgate Street. A scaffold or platform facing the Cross was erected at the market building. The city chamberlains' accounts recorded details of the preparations (GA GBR F 4/6). There was yellow cotton cloth to hang about the scaffold, yellow being, the pamphlet said, the colour of the city militia regiment commanded by the mayor. Wine was bought to run from three conduits, and several dozen cakes, and sugar, apparently to put in the wine. Six faggots, that is bundles of sticks, were provided for bonfires. The chamberlains paid for tobacco and pipes, presumably for the city council. The city council commissioned a statue of Charles II from the sculptor

Stephen Baldwin; it was in due course placed on the new market house (GA GBR B 3/3). It has survived and now stands near St. Mary de Lode church.

The pamphlet claimed that a 'mighty concourse', not fewer than 10,000, attended to show their joy at 'this long-looked-for day'. Proceedings began with a procession to the cathedral church, when the mayor was accompanied by the aldermen in scarlet, and members of the common council, and the masters and wardens of the guilds and fraternities. It was 'lecture day'. These were still puritan times. Lectures were additional weekday sermons paid for by the chamberlains. William Bartholemew, who was minister of Chipping Campden from before 1647 until 1661, was the preacher this day.

The mayor returned home briefly and then was brought to the Tolsey, the meeting place of the council on the corner of Southgate Street and Westgate Street. Nine companies of foot and three troops of horse marched into the city and escorted the mayor from the Tolsey to the scaffold.

The two sheriffs, William Scudamore and Nicholas Snell, read the proclamation, first the one, and then the other repeated it 'in a loud and distinct voice'. Meanwhile the mayor stood with drawn sword in token of his readiness to fight in defence of the king. With his sword the mayor gave the signal to fire. The soldiers fired several volleys, 'so that we were in the midst of fire and smoke for a long season'. The declaration of the house of commons was read, presumably the invitation sent to Charles II for his return. The troops marched past giving volleys, and the formal assembly was dismissed.

Then bells rang joyfully. The chamberlains paid ringers on several occasions this year, though 15 May was not specified in their accounts. The churchwardens of St. Michael's paid ringers on 3 May when news came that the king was voted in, on 'thanksgiving day', on the day of proclaiming the king, the day when the king landed, the day when he came to London 29 May, his birthday, and on 28 June, another thanksgiving day. The churchwardens of St. Mary de Crypt similarly paid for ringers. Bonfires were lighted, and fireworks and rockets concluded the day.

The ceremony followed closely that used for the proclamation of Oliver Cromwell as lord protector in 1657 which was described in detail in a city letter book (GA GBR H 2/3; HMC 12, appendix IX). The pamphlet was anonymous, and addressed to a 'noble lord', possibly Lord Herbert, who was lord lieutenant of Gloucestershire after the Restoration.

Russell Howes

The documents which Russell has described can be found in D12960 and D12862. They have been purchased with the help of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives and others.

## International Rescue



In March 2009, disaster struck when the building housing the city of Cologne's historical archives suddenly collapsed into a new underground railway being developed below. Once the firemen had stopped searching for any survivors, volunteers from across the world travelled to Germany to assist with the rescue, among them Karen Cooke, partly sponsored by staff at the Archives. Giving up a week of her

time to travel to Germany, donning white overalls, face mask and heavy boots, Karen was ready to deal with whatever came her way. The rescue effort started immediately, beginning with the catalogues. Thousands of items had been buried beneath the bricks, wood and debris. Almost every item had suffered some damage: physical crushing, tears, cuts, and cracks from the weight of the building, surface dust from the rubble and water damage from the weather conditions at the time but good protective packaging had saved much of the material from the worst of the damage. Every item had to be carefully retrieved, suitably cleaned and finally re-



packaged. Water-damaged items were rinsed, wrapped in stretch film, and freeze-dried. Loose dirt was removed from dusty documents using brushes, sponges, compressed air and, in some cases, scalpels. Some archival items were lost in the disaster, particularly audio video material; only 60% of this was recovered and more than half of that was unusable. But much was recovered thanks to the volunteers. Well done, Karen!

## 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 underrepresented 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 the 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](http://www.bartonandtredworth.org.uk)) or Youtube channel, along with Digital Stories made with contributors and volunteers:

([www.youtube.com/user/bartonandtredworth](http://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 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](http://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

## FoGA Summer Programme

*Talks: FoGA members £1, non-members £2.*

Welcome to the summer programme. I hope many of you will be able to join us at these events. I have tried to cover different parts of the county and give a bit of variety. There are two guided walks, but the contrast will be interesting, I think. See you soon! Fiona

**Monday 15 April, 7pm for 7.30pm.**

**Tithings, Hundreds and Thousands: the Manor Courts of Cheltenham in the 18th century.**

A Talk by Dr James Hodsdon, our FoGA Chairman, who is the author of several publications and the editor of "The Court Books of the Manor of Cheltenham, 1692-1803".

To be held in the Frith Rooms at Gloucestershire Archives.

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm for 7:30pm at the Frith Centre.**

The **Annual General Meeting** followed by

**The Fielding and Platt Community Archive Project.**

A Talk by Ollie Taylor, Trainee on the National Archives scheme, 'Opening up Archives', Project Officer on the Fielding and Platt project and recently appointed Oral History Project Manager at Bath Abbey managing its new project 'Creating Voices'.

**Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.**

**A guided historical walk round Gotherington £7.50**

Geoff Newsum will lead a group round this vibrant village (that's official: winner of the GRCC Vibrant Village of the Year 2012). Geoff has written a series of four guided walks round the village "A Walk through the history of Gotherington", and we will benefit from his expertise as he explains some of the history and the buildings. We will round off the afternoon with tea and biscuits/cake at the Village Stores Cafe

**Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm**

**A guided historical walk round Fairford. £7.50**

Last time a village, this time a thriving country market town. What they have in common is a close-knit community which cares a lot about heritage and history. Our walk will be led by two knowledgeable local guides who will

explain the various points of interest. We will then finish up at the (Grade 2 listed) Community Centre for tea supplied by local ladies.

**Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> start time to be confirmed:**

**Visit to Berkeley Castle, plus.... £12.50**

Anyone can visit the Castle when it is open, but we will have the advantage of seeing a display of archives presented specially for us by David Smith. Apart from the castle tour, there are the gardens and the Butterfly House, in fact so much to do, that you may decide to bring a picnic to enjoy before the visit. I will arrange for tea and cake (included in cost) afterwards in the Yurt Cafe

<http://www.berkeley-castle.com/history.html>

*N.B. I have priced this on the basis of concession tickets, as many of us are 60+. Any younger members – and there are a few, thank goodness, will pay the same, but I will pay the Castle the full price and FoGA will cover the difference. Far too complicated otherwise. But please mark on the booking form **Full or Concession**, as I must pay the correct entry charge to the Castle.*

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September:**

**A Visit to Gigg Mill and Dunkirk Mill, Nailsworth:**

It is possible to arrange a group visit some afternoon to Dunkirk Mill, but the Weaving Shed (with working demonstration) at Gigg Mill is only open on Saturday mornings. Personally I would choose to visit it, have a pub lunch and visit Dunkirk Mill in the afternoon. On the other hand, anyone can turn up at the mills and visit:

[http://www.stroud-textile.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=160&Itemid=139](http://www.stroud-textile.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=160&Itemid=139)

One mill £3, two mills £5

But I will arrange something, at the very least Dunkirk Mill plus afternoon tea in Nailsworth, if there is enough interest.

A Booking Form is enclosed with the newsletter and also available on the web. Please make sure you have included a contact number or email, so that we can notify full details/any changes. We hope to see many of you at these events. FOGA members are welcome to bring along friends who are non-members who will be charged the same price as members.

*Fiona Mead, Events Secretary*

## Oiling the Wheels of Memory:

### Fielding and Platt Project Update

The Fielding and Platt Community Archive Project, which has been generously supported by FoGA, is now in its eleventh month and is going from strength to strength. In March, the project celebrated National Science and Engineering Week by launching its website and a new app, through which people of all ages can learn about the amazing story of Fielding and Platt and their factory (now buried under Gloucester Quays). It was also a time to celebrate the successes of the project and the impact it has had on former employees, volunteers, and people from Gloucester and beyond.

Less than a year into the project, volunteers trained in heritage-gathering skills have enabled former employees and those who remember the company and the area in which it was situated to share their memories. In doing so, many have remembered things they thought they'd forgotten, not to mention stories of Gloucester's history that had been forgotten or never known at all.

Daphne Collier's memories of Fielding and Platt's float at Gloucester Carnival 1942 stand out amongst them, especially because of the photograph she still has of the occasion. Daphne was sent to work at Fielding's by the Labour Exchange in 1941 aged just 17. She had wanted to join the Wrens but was too young so ended up helping in the Boiler Yard where the pipes for the presses were bent and fitted. She remembers the war work done by other women there and how they had to dress. In 1942, Fielding and Platt, along with other Gloucester manufacturers crucial to the war effort (the Wagon Works, Dowty-Rotol, and G.A.C.), encouraged part-time workers to join their firms by entering floats in Gloucester Carnival.

As well as the propaganda, Fielding's float held a press and six pretty girls, one of whom was Daphne! But, as she explains, she wasn't always meant to be there. It was only thanks to the union activity from the men in the Boiler Yard that secured her place on the float. Until then, women from the offices, not the shop floor, had been earmarked for the float, much to the annoyance of the Boiler Yard's foreman, George Jackson. He led a movement which ensured that Daphne and women from the shop floor who had actually worked on the press that Fielding's were advertising were allowed to appear on the float. Now in her 80s, Daphne tells the story in her own words on the website:

[www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/carnival1942](http://www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/carnival1942).

Recording memories like this and sharing them online has meant that children and grandchildren have been able to learn about stories from their relatives' past and share them with others using digital media. Last month, I was moved to hear that, over the Christmas holidays, three generations of one family had sat down together to listen

to the recording of their (grand)dad's memories. Another unforeseen advantage of the way in which the project has captured people's imagination is that contributors have been able to share memories of those they remember working with who have since passed away. George Jackson, the foreman of the Boiler Yard whom Daphne remembered, is one example of someone who has been fondly remembered by many people. By using photographs held at Gloucestershire Archives and reminiscence from a number of people, it has been possible to build up picture of him and include a page about him on the website:

([www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/georgejackson](http://www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/georgejackson)).

There are many examples of this kind of page on the site.

Contributors from Gloucester and beyond have also been able to share memories of their relatives by adding pages directly to the site. Pages on John Price (one of Fielding's earliest employees in the 1860s), R J Lane (who amazingly became a foreman during his apprenticeship in the 1890s), Bill Prior (an apprentice in 1916), and Ralph Schollar (who sadly lost his life after an accident at the Works in 1929) are just some examples of contributions made to the site remotely.

The message board is also used by visitors as a vibrant forum for discussion. Visitors are also able to add a comment at the bottom of every page which has been an incredibly rich way of gathering information and reminiscences which supplement those already on the pages themselves. So far the site has attracted over 1,950 unique visitors and over 42,000 page views from all over the world. The volunteers involved in gathering the material for the site and uploading pages to it should be rightly proud of their achievements. It has also been excellent to involve a FoGA volunteer in the website:

([www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/lionellongney](http://www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/lionellongney))

and should anyone from FoGA wish to become involved in this aspect of the project then please get in touch with me.

On a personal note, gaining more experience of oral history by managing a large and successful HLF-funded oral history project has been hugely rewarding and I feel I've truly made new friends through the project. Thanks to this experience, I've recently been appointed to project manage Bath Abbey's new HLF-funded oral history project "Creating Voices", which tells the story of the Abbey's restoration from the Bath Blitz in 1942 to 2000 in the words of those involved in its conservation and restoration:

([www.bathabbey.org/history/creating-voices](http://www.bathabbey.org/history/creating-voices)).

I will continue to project manage Fielding and Platt at Gloucestershire Archives part-time alongside my new job in Bath.

I'd like to personally thank FoGA for their support of the Fielding and Platt Project and I hope many of you will visit

[www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk](http://www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk)

to hear some of the amazing stories that support is allowing us to record. Naturally, if you (or someone you know) have memories of Fielding and Platt, too, or the area in which its factory operated, please do add them to the site. Visit [www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/addyourmemories](http://www.fieldingandplathistory.org.uk/addyourmemories) to find out how!

*Ollie Taylor, Project Officer*

## Family History

### @ the archives

Whole-day workshops run in partnership with Gloucestershire Family History Society. **The principles covered can be applied to family history research elsewhere in the country.**

#### Kick Start Your Family History

**Just starting work on your family history or want to know more about the basics?**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013  
10:30 am – 3:30 pm**

#### Beyond the Basics

**Done the basics and now wants a bit more detail about the lives of your ancestors?**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
10:30 am – 3:30 pm**

held at

**Gloucestershire Archives**

**Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester. GL1 3DW**

Light refreshments provided - tea, coffee. Parking is included.

Bring your own packed lunch.

**£25 per person**

**Book and pay for your place for each course online.**

**Follow the link from this page**

**[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/archives/events](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/archives/events)**

**Booking is essential to avoid disappointment**

Email: [archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Tel 01452 425295

## The Gloucestershire Collection Packaging Project

The Gloucestershire Collection packaging project is well underway now, having completed one year of an estimated three years of work to improve the long term preservation of the significant archival material within this collection. It is much in demand, particularly since the work to transfer the old printed library catalogue into our online catalogue was completed; and this project is helping to make it easier and quicker to retrieve documents for searchers, by checking and re-numbering everything in accordance with the new online catalogue. It is also helping us to iron out anomalies, and even to add new entries, as occasionally previously uncatalogued items are discovered amongst the papers.

The manuscripts themselves were transferred to Gloucestershire Archives in 2005 from the Library, which had started collecting when 'Gloucester City Library' first opened in 1900. They span 600 years of Gloucestershire's history, and give unique insights into the impact of national events. Occupying 160 boxes in the strong rooms, many are unprotected or wrapped in non-archival material, with various sizes and formats in the same over heavy box. Some of the bound manuscripts are also standing on open shelves without any additional protection.

With 2 experienced volunteers, Teri Sowerbutts and Margaret Skinner, under the supervision of one of our accredited conservators, Ann Attwood or Rachel Wales, we are systematically working through each box, checking each manuscript against the catalogue entry, and numbering and re-housing them in archival grade folders, or tailor-made enclosures, and then in appropriately sized archival boxes.

Interesting items that we have come across recently include papers relating to the manor of South Cerney (1649-82), including extracts from court rolls 1649 – 68 and special court baron, 1806. Also extracts from court rolls of Churchdown, with Norton, Hucclecote and Shurdington, Henry IV to Edward VI. From Coaley, papers relating to the maintenance of the poor and conversion of the poorhouse into a workhouse 1780-84. These include accounts and agreement for building, an inventory of goods, and rules of the churchwardens for maintaining the poor for three years from June 1784. Deerhurst papers relating to a faculty granting £191,000 for alterations to Deerhurst church, this includes a copy of a letter to the Society of Antiquaries by the BGAS (Bristol and Gloucestershire Archeological Society) of 1914.

From Dursley, 1814 -29, there are bills for lighting lamps, expenses of the police and the beadles salary. Also petitions of the inhabitants of Dursley against alterations in the Corn Laws of 1815, plus papers relating to Sunday Schools at Dursley 1784 – 1803, including lists of children attending the schools in 1792 and 1799. From

Frampton on Severn, a copy receipt from "Walter, Abbot of St Peter's Gloucester of 13s 4d paid by Ivo Fitzwareyn for lands in Frampton" Richard II, as well as the Act for inclosing lands in Frampton upon Severn and Slimbridge, George III, 1813.

From Slaughter, a "catalogue of a large, extensive and valuable parcel of books, in every science, and in most languages; being the genuine library of George Galway Mills Esq (gone to the West Indies) removed from Slaughter-house in the county of Gloucester . . . which will be sold by auction by Mr Jeffrey at No 11 Pall Mall (24 Feb – 10 Mar 1800)". A priced copy, the library realising over £4,200.

There are original letters from the residents of Stroud and Minchinhampton to W H Hyett requesting him to speak to Lord Althorp in support of his "measure of which he has given notice for the 23 April [1833] on the subject of Slavery". 178 signatures obtained in support of abolition. From Tetbury; subscription lists, nominations, accounts and race cards of races at Tetbury and Cirencester, and today we have come across a document dated 1643 around the start of the Civil War, an order to James Hamilton Colonel of Dragoons to "repair to Thornbury". All in a morning's volunteering!

*Ann Attwood*, Collections Care Manager.



Before and after photographs of part of Gloucestershire Collection D9125

## An Everyday Story of Country Folk, circa 1713

On a winter's day in February 1713, John Bullock of Hartbury was sent for by William Jones of Upleadon. William wanted John to draw up his last Will and Testament. John went that very day and duly drew up the document. In John's presence and before two other witnesses William made his mark and set his seal to it. John left it with William who put it in his pocket. Three days later William died, leaving his eldest son Charles as his sole Executor and chief beneficiary.

Some time later Charles asked John to read the will out to him but when Charles wanted to obtain probate at the Consistory Court at Gloucester the will could not be found. Charles obviously suspected his mother Jane's hand in this and cited her to produce the will at the Court. She then confessed and gave evidence that when he was away from home she had taken a key from his pocket and opened his chest to get at the will. Having looked at so much of it as convinced her it was indeed her husband's, and "apprehending that it had been made in her prejudice", she threw it in the fire.

But why? She admitted she was dissatisfied with the will, and with the fact that her husband, unusually, had named their son Charles as Executor when he was still a minor at nineteen. The will, as remembered by John Bullock, required her to stay with Charles to manage his household. The two younger sons (aged 14 and 11) were also to stay with him until they came of age, he finding them suitable work to do.

William seems to have had few illusions about the Jane he married: referring to her as his wife (not the usual "beloved wife"), he clearly didn't trust her to run the estate (valued at £280 11s 6d) or to manage Charles' household voluntarily (she wasn't to get his bequest of £40 until four years after she had left). The fact that she burned the will suggests that William wasn't far wrong about her. But it didn't work: the court proved the will anyway (or rather John Bullock's reconstruction of it).

[Will and Inventory of William Jones, Yeoman of Upleadon, G.A Ref: 1714/101 & 1714/230]

*Stephen Haygarth*

## John Taylor, Water Poet

The picture that adorns our front cover this time (courtesy of John Chandler) is that of John Taylor, the Water Poet. In November, 2012, a group of Friends gathered in the Frith Centre to listen to John Chandler talking about him under the title of 'The Madcap Adventures of a Gloucester Boatman'.

John Taylor was born in Gloucester in 1578, may have attended the Crypt School, but was not a good scholar and, as a teenager, he went off to London to be apprenticed to a Thames waterman. There he plied his trade up and down the river. He returned to the city of his birth at least twice in later life.

Taylor's best-known exploit in the genre of pointless and silly journeys that was common at the time was, in 1619, to set sail in a boat made of brown paper and inflated bladders, and powered by oars made of dried fish, all the way from London to the Isle of Sheppey. He nearly drowned in the attempt. He wrote:

I therefore to conclude this much will note  
How I of Paper lately made a Boat,  
And how in forme of Paper I did row  
From *London* unto *Quinborough* Ile show.

During his career, John Taylor wrote much doggerel and also produced over 200 pamphlets, ranging from political and religious tracts, through directories of inns and histories of kings and queens, to joke books. But it was his travel writing for which he was most noted. One famous journey took him from London, down the Thames, along the English Channel coast to Christchurch and then up the Hampshire Avon to Salisbury. He also went to Hamburg, Edinburgh, the Scottish Highlands, (without money, relying on the generosity of strangers), from London to York by boat along the east coast, to Prague, to the Peak district and the Isle of Wight, travelling by boat whenever possible. In 1641 at the age of 63, he returned to Gloucester. Partly his journeys were self-publicity stunts, but he also had a serious purpose as he wanted to show the civic authorities that if they took steps to improve their river navigation it would be to their economic benefit.

John Taylor died in 1653 and was buried in St Martins in the Fields, London. If you would like to read more about Gloucester's water poet, there is a book on the open shelves in the Archives called *The World of John Taylor, The Water Poet, 1578 - 1653* by Bernard Capp.

# Listening to our Visitors

## Public Services Quality Group Survey of Visitors to British Archives Results for Gloucestershire Archives

We'd like to thank everyone who took part in this survey which we ran in November last year. The comments you made are helping us to improve the service we offer and are contributing to the development of the archive service in Gloucestershire.

### Ratings for our staff, services and facilities:

We're very pleased that 95% of our visitors rated the overall service as good or very good and no-one rated us as poor or very poor.

### We scored particularly well in:

- Quality/appropriateness of staff advice;
- Helpfulness/friendliness of the staff;
- Pre visit information, printed material and telephone; and
- Physical access to the building.

### Here are some of the comments you made:

- YES! 10/10 for everything
- Everyone very friendly and helpful. Document order in advance facility – BRILLIANT
- This Record Office has very friendly staff, is bright and clean and comfortable to visit – VERY different to my first visit 45 years ago
- It is a great place to find the history of your family
- Overall a very good service which continues to improve
- I have visited numerous archives around England - Gloucester is in a class of its own. The staff are knowledgeable, encouraging and welcoming. They show appreciation for their volunteers and there is a sense of belonging engendered among staff towards volunteers.

### There were some areas in which you thought we could improve:

- Document delivery;
- Opening hours;
- Copying services and the charges we make for copies taken in the Searchroom; and
- Microfilm and fiche viewing facilities.

### This is how we're responding:

- The physical constraints of the building make it difficult to reduce the time it takes to produce documents from the strongrooms. It is about one third of a mile to our main strongroom block! We have introduced some measures to help researchers make the best use of their time:
  - documents can be ordered in advance by phone or email and we are investigating the feasibility of a more streamlined online ordering system;
  - we advertise the times that the document production runs leave the searchroom and the times the documents are ready for use on-site and online. We monitor this to ensure that we meet the advertised target times;
- Our current opening hours, which include Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, give a wide range of people the chance to use the searchroom. At the moment, it is not possible to increase our opening hours without compromising other aspects of our service. Closure on a Monday allows staff to undertake work on the collections, which is not possible while the searchroom is open. We will, however, continue to monitor customer preferences about our opening arrangements and will use this information to inform a review, should a demonstrable need arise;
- Our microfilm and fiche reader-printers are coming towards the end of their working lives so we are investigating the options for replacing this facility. We have to set the charges for taking copies in the searchroom to cover the cost of providing this service so we can't reduce these at the moment without compromising other aspects of the service
- We are planning how we can improve the physical access to, and use of, our microfilms and fiches.

### Other improvements that we are working on at the moment:

- We are continuing to update and expand the help sheets and other information available in the searchroom and on our website;
- We are working with our Focus Group and other users to improve the functionality of our website and online catalogue;
- We are updating our Parish Register Guide so we can make it available on our website as well as onsite ;
- We are investigating the ways in which we can increase the space for our public access PCs and exploring the feasibility of a providing a WiFi network onsite; and
- We are continuing to improve the presentation of the searchroom library and we've introduced some changing displays of new books.

We're always grateful for your comments and suggestions about the service we provide so please contact us:

Gloucestershire Archives  
Clarence Row  
Alvin Street  
Gloucester  
GL1 3DW

Tel: 01452 425295

Email: [archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## F. W. Harvey

Work to catalogue the poet F. W. Harvey's papers, now deposited in the Archives, is well under way. Gloucestershire Archives is running this project in partnership with the University of Exeter and the project officer would like to recruit volunteers to help with the fascinating task of listing Harvey's correspondence and other papers. If you are interested in this or have any memories or memorabilia of Harvey and his family that you'd like to share, please contact the Archives on:

[archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## News from

# Gloucestershire Family History Society

Today, I was one of the volunteers at the GFHS Centre when we welcomed a family from Chile seeking their Gloucester 'roots'. We found the marriage of their great-great-grandfather who left Gloucester with his family just before the 1891 census was taken for a new life in Chile. Their marriage took place at St James' parish church in Tredworth.

Off our visitors went in the lovely sunshine to visit the church and take photographs before heading back to London, taking with them a few books from the excellent selection in our bookshop as gifts for friends and family back home.

If you have not visited our Book Shop yet and seen the excellent selection available, why not go along to the GFHS Open Day on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This year we have a new venue - we will be at the Kingsholm Rugby Club where we will have a full range of items available to help your research. Our guest speaker again this year is Dr. Nick Barratt and tickets for his talk will be on sale soon. Entry to the Open Day itself is free and no ticket is required for that.

Sue Stafford, GFHS Volunteer

## GFHS Help Desk

Gloucestershire Family History Society is holding a Help session at

### Nature in Art

At Wallsworth Hall, off the A38 at Twigworth, on

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 from 10 a.m. To 3 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand to give you free advice on how to start or continue researching your family history. Bring us your brick walls and we will see if we can overcome them! Free Car park. Cafe on site.

## Remember, Remember!

This is your reminder that subscriptions were due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April. It would be greatly appreciated if members could renew promptly. Why not fill in a Standing Order, it saves remembering to write a cheque and posting it?

The rates remain the same:

£10 for an individual member

£15 for a family membership (all individuals living at the same address)

£20 for a group membership (open to any organisation, institution, company or school).

Cheques should be made out to *The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives*.

Please send your renewal form and cheque to:

The Membership Secretary, 27 Arden Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG

## Gloucestershire County History Trust.

John Chandler's work on Volume 13 of VCH Glos has now reached Hartpury, and Rose Wallis has delivered the first section of her account of Yate (now on the web at [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/gloucestershire) ).

Outlines have been prepared for the proposed volumes covering Cirencester and Cheltenham and surrounding areas, and we expect work on both to start later in the year, once more planning has been done – in both cases, the work will be divided up and sections will be commissioned from subject experts, yet to be nominated.

For the Cheltenham work, the Glos. County History Trust was very pleased to secure a substantial grant from the Summerfield Trust which will assure a start in 2013, and we will also benefit from a specific grant from Cheltenham Borough Council, designed to boost our fundraising expertise.

We are also exploring, using welcome help from South Gloucestershire Council, how to raise further funds to expand our activities in the south of the county. In all the areas where we are currently active, volunteer input continues to grow and to be much appreciated – there are lots of fresh probate inventories now online at the Explore section of the VCH website.

James Hodsdon

## The Lloyd George Survey

The volunteers who are transcribing the details in the Gloucestershire Archives' records of the Lloyd George survey of land values are continuing their effort to finish the work this year. There are a number of the big red books known as Domesday Books still to do. All the Form 37s have been done.

The interesting details which come from the survey could stimulate innumerable lines of research. In some cases, a short note about an item has been entered on the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives' website, in 'The Parlour'. More contributions to this would be welcome, or comments on items already there.

Another line of enquiry has recently been opened up for this researcher by attending the Fielding and Platt afternoon conference in Gloucestershire Waterways Museum on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. The premises of this notable engineering firm are listed in the survey, as are the two houses where what were assumed to be two Fielding brothers lived. If anyone had the time and interest to go to The National Archives, they could identify from our transcript (which will be available on the Fielding and Platt website) the relevant Field Book in which the surveyor entered his notes on each item of property. In the Stroud area, for which there are no records surviving in Gloucestershire Archives, one researcher has found very detailed information about steam engines and machinery in a cloth mill. It would be fascinating to have the surveyor's description of the machinery in Atlas Works. Here is a challenge for readers of this Newsletter!

Anthea Jones

## And finally ...

We would really like to reduce the amount of money we spend posting this newsletter to you twice a year - it costs us about £60 each time and that is money we would prefer to spend on items for Gloucestershire Archives. Most of you have email addresses that we could use to send you each edition - your bonus would be that you would receive the colour version rather than the black and white one! Please offer to help us reduce costs by accepting an electronic version next time. To do so, just email: [info@foga.org.uk](mailto:info@foga.org.uk) Thank you!