

# GLOSSARY

The Newsletter of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives

Spring 2015



I know it is long past Christmas but I couldn't resist this photo of Santa and his Elves visiting the Search Room!



The Fundraising Committee has been working with Cultural Consulting Network (CCN)'s Marilyn Scott to develop a Fundraising Strategy for the project. This was signed off at the February Project Board meeting. The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives (FoGA) are submitting a £80K grant application to the Garfield Weston Foundation. We should know the outcome by the end of July.

We have liaised with graphic designers to develop branding for: For the Record; and FoGA, which is leading the project's fundraising campaign. And we have used this to produce fundraising information panels and an accompanying leaflet. The static panel is by the donations box at the entrance to the research room and we'll be taking the popup panel out and about to promote the project. We hope to develop additional promotional materials over the coming weeks. So far we have raised £70K of the project's £200K funding shortfall. Please visit [www.foga.org.uk](http://www.foga.org.uk) if you'd like to make a donation.

### **Developing Building Plans**

Following a competitive tendering process, we have appointed Roberts Limbrick as the project architects. This company also produced the plans for our Stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Over the coming months they will be working with stakeholders and using consultation findings to develop plans for the Heritage Hub, strongrooms and training room. They are also overseeing an archaeological survey, which is currently at the desk based research stage. We'll let you know via [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives) when this progresses to an on-site investigation.

### **Consultation**

CCN's Katie Norgrove and Sophia Mirchandani are working with Gloucestershire County Council staff (Archives and Performance and Need) and Gloucestershire Family History Centre (GFHC) volunteers to carry out a range of consultation activities. So far these have included:

- A facilitated session with the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group, focusing on audience development
- Talking to GFHC volunteers and facilitating the first meeting of the Centre's new Focus Group;

- Surveying the Archives' on-site users and volunteers and GFHC's users to test interest in Heritage Hub proposals and heritage volunteering opportunities;
- Analysing the postcodes of Archive users to support marketing and promotion activities and inform the project's Due Regard statement/equalities activities;
- Telephone interviews eg: with local museums to see how the Heritage Hub might increase their volunteering potential; and National Museums Liverpool to see what we can learn/use from their nationally acclaimed House of Memories reminiscence project;
- Visiting Archives + in Manchester Central Library to see to see an example of an archives services and a family history society working together to provide a public service in a shared space; and
- Meeting with other members of the recently formed Gloucester Heritage Forum to develop collaborative working initiatives eg around marketing and volunteer training.

Looking ahead, our planned consultation activities include:

- A second session with the Stakeholder Advisory Group, focusing on customer learning journeys;
- Running an online public survey via public access PCs in Gloucestershire Libraries;
- Meeting the Head of the Virtual School to explore how the project could support the Children's University; and
- Talking to volunteers from heritage organisations to help develop the on-site and virtual Heritage Hub

We will be using the consultation findings to develop our project Activity Plan, one of the main documents needed for our Stage 2 application to Heritage Lottery Fund.

### **Communications**

We have updated the [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/fortherecord](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/fortherecord) web pages and developed interpretive content for fundraising panels.

Archives staff are liaising with colleagues in GCC's Communications Team and project partners to finalise the project's Communications Plan.

### **Pilot project with community heritage groups**

We are piloting a number of different volunteer training activities:

- The Gloucestershire Police archive group has learned how to use Community Sites software. Members are now developing their own website - we'll let you know when it goes 'live';

- Volunteers from Downend LHS, South Gloucestershire have received & evaluated training in aspects of digitisation, cataloguing & collections care - they are currently working on a digitisation project;
- Volunteers from Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology have received & evaluated training in aspects of cataloguing & collections care - they are using this to support four new projects;

We are also exploring training provision for Stroud and the Five Valleys research group and Stroudwater Textile Trust. All of this activity will help to shape the Heritage Hub training programme.

### **E-preservation**

We have set up a pilot project to test how/if open source software *Archivematica* could work at Gloucestershire Archives (GA). Expert volunteer, Viv Cothey provided technical support to install this software on a standalone machine and we are now comparing *Archivematica's* features with those of 'SCAT', the Archives' existing in-house process. The National Archives' Transforming Archives trainee based at GA is undertaking this work, directed by GA's Online Services Archivist.

### **Dowty Archive**

Archives staff are liaising with key staff at Messier-Bugatti-Dowty to develop the Dowty archive project that will form part of our Stage 2 application to HLF. We want to catalogue and share this extensive collection.

### **'Union Catalogue'**

Archives staff are liaising with Gloucester Cathedral's Archivist to explore the feasibility of uploading details of the Cathedral's archive and library materials to GA's online catalogue.

### **Storage**

Some members of the Project Board and GA's conservators visited Herefordshire Archive's new facility to see their storage arrangements. GA's Collections Team is currently measuring up rolled items stored in the strong room that will be decommissioned to make way for the Heritage Hub. They are about to trial new space saving packaging for this type of material.

**The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives**

**are raising funds for the**

**FOR THE RECORD project. Please DONATE now! Go to:**

**[www.foga.org.uk](http://www.foga.org.uk) and click on Donate.**

## Re-Branding the Friends



I am sure those of you who receive the coloured, electronic version of the newsletter will have noticed a difference this time but the rest of you may not have done so. As part of the *For the Record* project, the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives has been re-branded! We are now using a new font for the text and what I call FoGA Green as our background colour, matching that with the green in the squares on the Archives' leaflets and the large display board at the entrance to the search room.

Work has also been done on the image of the seal that we have used for years. On the left, above, you will see the rather ragged image that we have displayed on many of our leaflets and posters. We believe that is based on the seal, in the middle, found in document GBR/J1/1038 which shows a rendition of Gloucester Castle. On this reference, Gloucestershire Archives catalogue states:

Gloucester City property: 'City Lands, East Ward': Land to enlarge shop front 'situate before the church of St. Michael'. Date 1398. Seal: Second Borough Seal, showing stylised impression of Gloucester Castle.

Using these two images, our new, neater, stylised logo has been designed and is now in use. If you can add anything to the information on the seal, we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Help Requested

A visitor to the Search Room has expressed an interest in the Cotswold Bruderhof who lived at Ashton Keynes between 1936 and 1942. He would welcome any information that anyone has on them.

In the first instance, please contact me: Liz Jack, 11 Old Cheltenham Road, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0AS or email to: [ejack@gloster.demon.co.uk](mailto:ejack@gloster.demon.co.uk)

## Research Revealed

Back in February, three Friends gave talks on their current research.

- Pam Daw told us about Thomas Talbot and Samuel Edmund Waller
- Clive Andrews spoke about Wickwar School and John Andrews
- Caroline Mellor talked about the Fountain Inn, Westgate Street

An abbreviated version of each talk follows.

### Thomas Talbot and Samuel Edmund Waller

Pam began her illustrated talk by showing us a framed picture, entitled *Sowing His Wild Oats*, of a young man who had been gambling all night and lost, playing cards! The painting was originally displayed in the Royal Academy in 1897 when the painter, Samuel Edmund Waller was 47.

The picture was issued as a calendar for the *Talbot and Company's Mineral Waters* of Gloucester. The business was set up in 1845, the date on Talbot's factory in Commercial Road which was finally demolished in 2010. The founder, Thomas Talbot, was born in Portsea, Hampshire, in 1820, where his parents were innkeepers. At the age of 13, Thomas was left an orphan.

By 1845, Thomas was in Gloucester, where he worked as a cook. That year, he married Ann Buston in St Mary de Crypt and they set up home in Lower Northgate Street, running their own soda water manufactory and retail grocery shop. In the 1870s, Thomas designed a purpose built factory at 6 Commercial Road and the family moved into the house next door. The business thrived and Thomas went on to become an Alderman and then Sheriff of Gloucester in 1886. He died 5 years later, in 1891.

Unlike Thomas Talbot, Samuel Waller was born in Gloucester, the son of an architect and farmer, Frederick Sandham Waller, who had several appointments as the architectural surveyor for the local Diocese. Amongst other works, he designed the lovely gabled buildings along the east of College Street.

His son, Samuel, was educated at Cheltenham College and later went to Gloucester Art School and then to the Schools of the Royal Academy, in London. Samuel became a book illustrator, and later an illustrator for the '*Graphic*'. His work was exhibited in the Royal Academy from 1871 to 1902 and in many other public galleries. His pictures had huge public appeal and he always had commissions waiting to be started. Many examples of his work can be seen on the Internet now but only a few have remained in Gloucester in the City Museum.

# Wickwar School

The small town of Wickwar has a flourishing primary School founded in 1684. It bears the name of its founder, Alexander Hosea, who ran away from Wickwar in his teens and made a great fortune in London. He bequeathed £600 to build the school and also gave a property in London which would provide the income for the schoolmaster. He vested control of the school in the Mayor and Aldermen of the town.

The school had a turbulent history in its early years with numerous disputes over its management, the income from the London property and the activities of the schoolmaster, who preferred teaching Latin to rich children rather than reading and writing to poor boys, which was Alexander Hosea's intention.

A particularly nasty dispute broke out in the early 1730s in which my 8 x great grandfather, John Andrews, played a significant part. A certain William Giles had lorded it over the town for many years but was now elderly and his influence was slipping away while John Andrews was in the ascendancy. John, his son Thomas and his brother Nicholas were all Aldermen, making up a quarter of the total number. William Giles was unhappy and was looking for an excuse to attack John Andrews.

His opportunity arose in 1733 when John, by then Mayor-elect, was instrumental in appointing a new 'Latin Master' for the school. Moses Ford, the out-going Mayor, had not been part of the appointment process and was greatly unhappy. He and William Giles were almost certainly cousins. Together they persuaded 18 men of the town to sign a petition to the Lord Chancellor asking him to order the removal of the new Latin Master and his replacement by a schoolmistress to teach the poor girls of the town. Additionally, because the Mayor and Aldermen were not, to their mind, the right sort of people to be running a school, they asked the Lord Chancellor to appoint five of the local gentry as additional trustees.

William Giles signed an accompanying affidavit attacking John Andrews in particular. He called him a common ale-house keeper; in fact he had wide commercial interests of which owning the main inn in the town was just one. John retaliated. In a venomous affidavit he said that even though Giles called himself 'Esquire' he was in fact the illegitimate son of a poor Welshman, whose step-father was a mere butcher. 'But the said Giles having since got himself rich in the world, as he understands, vaunts himself and says he will rule the Town, and everything shall be as he pleases.'

The dispute hotted up. All the local clergy signed an affidavit in support of the new Latin Master. Some of the men who signed the original petition said they

only put their names to it because William Giles had threatened to ruin them. Other signatories retaliated and said the first group had only changed their minds because they had been threatened by the Latin Master's lawyer who said that he would send soldiers to arrest them if they did not retract their affidavit. The atmosphere in the town must have been horrendous.

Eventually all parties appeared before Baron Talbot, the Chancellor. As the 8x Great Grandson of John Andrews I am pleased to say that the petition backfired on William Giles. His own handling of the school's finances (he had somehow managed to become the tenant of the London property himself, at a reduced rent, and was failing to pay the schoolmaster his salary) was to be investigated by one of the Masters of the Court and the Latin Master was to remain in post. The Chancellor did, however, order that five gentry should become additional trustees, something which John Andrews, by then Mayor, and his fellow Aldermen seem to have quietly ignored!

**Clive Andrews**

## **The Fountain Inn, Gloucester**

### **The Inn of Legends**

Located off the busy thoroughfare of Westgate Street, Gloucester, the Fountain Inn is tucked away at the end of a narrow passageway; a building with a history stretching back to medieval times and a fascinating place to research.

The present day name of the pub derives from the Trinity fountain, once located in Westgate Street but it has only been known by this name for the past 300 years. The first recorded name dates back to a reference in *The Rental of the Houses of Gloucester*, written in 1455, when the inn was known as *Savage Ys In*, after its owner, Sibilla Savage. A relatively short time later it became known as *The Catherine Wheel*, a name it kept until the early 1700s.

As with all public houses it's difficult to gauge the exact age of the building. Landlord after landlord has altered and renovated in order to entice customers through the doorway. However, it is thought that the present Grade II listed building dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with evidence, such as the medieval arched cellar and tap room, suggesting it existed in much earlier times. One legend purports that the land was given by a grateful King Henry III, after his coronation at Gloucester Abbey, to Peter the Poitevin, Bishop of Winchester, in 1216. If the inn was built at this time it would not only make *The Fountain* the oldest public house in Gloucestershire but due to celebrate its 800<sup>th</sup> birthday next year.

The history of the inn has been well documented over the years and there are many local books which refer to its medieval history and later, the legendary visit by King William III to oust Jacobite rebels. However, the era of the newspaper search engine has opened up a detailed history from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In the early nineteenth century the Berkeley Case, at which the evidence of residents from Westgate Street was heard alongside that of Edward Jenner and the Duke of Norfolk, included a reference to a *famous letter* addressed to the House of Lords which was said to have been written at the inn. Other events reported in the papers included an *excellent dinner* served at the inn in June 1840 for pensioners who had fought at the Battle of Waterloo, a suggestion that the building could be used as the site for the new museum and School of Art and Science in 1870, and an account of what a group of Americans thought of the inn in 1907, *we've heard of it in New York*.

There is still scope for further research to be carried out and any reference members may find to the Fountain Inn's history would be gratefully received.

**Caroline Meller**

## **Know Your Place - West of England**

### **Know Your Place West of England Project gets the go-ahead**

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a grant for Know Your Place West of England (KYPWoE), a project led by South Gloucestershire Council in partnership with Gloucestershire Archives, FoGA and archives services and organisations in Somerset, Bath and NE Somerset and Wiltshire.

At the heart of KYPWoE is the creation of an online resource that will transform the way people access and interpret historic maps. The KYPWoE website will provide high quality images of inclosure maps, tithe maps, large scale town and city maps and the complete 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey. Users will be able to explore and compare maps by overlaying one with another and will be able to move seamlessly across county boundaries - something impossible to achieve other than in a virtual world!

An exciting aspect of the project is that individuals and groups will be able to record and upload to the website information and images relating to specific places. This will create a unique and enriched 'community layer' to the historic base maps. There are lots of opportunities to get involved with the project. For more details and updates see:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tourism-and-travel/museums-and-galleries/know-your-place-west-of-england/](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tourism-and-travel/museums-and-galleries/know-your-place-west-of-england/)

# FoGA Events Programme 2015

*Talks: FoGA members free, non-members £3  
To be held in the Frith Room (unless otherwise stated)*

**For more information on any of these events, contact:  
[events@foga.org.uk](mailto:events@foga.org.uk) or phone Caroline on 01242 677 489.**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2pm**

**'Quite a nice place for a camp' by Fiona Mead**

Letters and Photos from Michael Hicks Beach, St. Helena, 1900-01

Many of you will be aware of the vast St Aldwyn archive now in the care of GA, and carefully catalogued by archivist Karen Davidson. Fiona Mead, who will be giving the talk, was one of several volunteers who helped provide more detailed information about some of the collection. One such section was the letters from Michael Hicks Beach to his parents when he was stationed on St Helena during the Boer War. This talk draws extensively on his letters and diaries, along with his photos, which are supplemented by a considerable number of other photos kindly made available by the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. It should provide a fascinating insight into life on a tiny Atlantic island.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm**

**Box of Delights - The Mullings Project by Jane Heward**

This year's AGM will be followed by a talk to be given by Jane Heward, Cirencester Project Archivist. Jane is leading a team of volunteers at the archives. They have been given the task of unravelling the records of the solicitors firm Messrs Sewell, Mullings and Logie. Accumulated over many years, the records are now being stored in 632 boxes and contain information about many local places such as Bledington, Oddington and Coln St. Dennis as well as about such people as the Whitmore-Jones family of Chastleton and Joseph Pitt, developer of the Pittville Estate, Cheltenham. Jane will give an exclusive talk about the delights within these boxes, and how this has enhanced our understanding of local places and people.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm**

**Outing to Brockworth Court**

The manor house is a Grade II star listed property tucked away from the hustle and bustle of modern day life in Brockworth. It was built by Richard Hart, last Abbot of Llanthony Priory and sold in 1540 to John Guise. Other buildings in the vicinity of the manor house are also important enough to have been given listed status: an 18<sup>th</sup> century wall (4.5m. high in places), a well head, shelter shed and a

magnificently restored tithe barn. As well as a tour of the house with the current owner, Tim Wiltshire, the beautiful gardens, church and tithe barn will also be open for us to explore. Please complete the booking form if you would like to visit this very special, secret gem in Brockworth. The £12.50 cost includes afternoon tea.

Tim has suggested that if you would like to research the history of the complex before our visit there are plenty of documents available at the archives under *Brockworth Court* and *Llanthony Secunda Priory*.

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm**

#### **Social, fundraising evening**

Back by popular demand the social evening this year will again take the form of a quiz. Why not come along and test your knowledge of the minutiae of Gloucestershire life? Prizes will be presented to the winners and losers alike with refreshments on offer to sustain thought power throughout the evening. Either complete the booking form or contact Caroline to reserve a place. Tickets are £10 each.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm**

#### **James Clifford, Entrepreneur by Rose Hewlett**

James Clifford, an Elizabethan courtier from Gloucestershire, is best remembered for his pioneering achievements in Shropshire where he built either the first or second wooden railway in the country to help exploit the coal from his mines. Today, in the Ironbridge Gorge area, he is credited with having underpinned the Industrial Revolution, but in his native Fretherne and Frampton on Severn, folk simply recall him as the gentleman who built an extravagant house for Elizabeth I (she never came) and left huge debts when he died. Rose Hewlett will deliver what promises to be a fascinating talk about one of Gloucestershire's celebrated sons.

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm**

#### **The Glosters at Waterloo by Andy Meller**

This year marks the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, a pivotal power struggle between two great nations. The Glosters played an important role in this battle and were the only infantry regiment to be named by the Duke of Wellington in his despatch after the battle was over. Andy Meller will explore the local story the Glosters played out on the international stage, focusing on some of the key figures and action that unfolded during this epic event.

**For more information on any of these events, contact:**

**[events@foga.org.uk](mailto:events@foga.org.uk)**

**or phone Caroline on 01242 677 489.**

# Llanthony Secunda Priory Re-formation Project

Restoring, re-opening and re-animating a key piece of Gloucester's heritage

Llanthony Secunda Priory has secured a stage one Heritage Lottery Fund Grant towards a £4m project to restore, conserve and re-animate this little known, but historically significant site, in the Gloucester Docks.

Since its inception in 1136 the Priory site has had a chequered history, having enjoyed periods of great wealth and influence and equally periods of relative poverty and decline. The industrialization of Gloucester posed a significant threat to the site, almost destroying it completely, and it is a miracle that any remains exist at all. By 2007 all grade 1 structures on the site were on the 'at risk' register.

The creation of the Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust (LSPT) in late 2007 was a turning point. They are working to provide a new future for this unique heritage asset through finding a long term sustainable use for the buildings and landscape, and developing it as a green space for use by the local community, thereby securing its place within the wider regeneration of the Gloucester Docks area.

The 'Re-formation' project will repair and conserve the six grade 1 listed structures and reopen the Brick Range and Medieval Range for public use; landscape the grounds to create new vistas and garden areas; create new interpretation in the grounds and buildings to reveal its complex and interesting history; develop a varied public programme of free and paid for events and activities to animate the site, and create new volunteering opportunities and spaces for local groups to use and enjoy. The Trust has been consulting widely on plans and is keen to partner with local organisations and groups to encourage use of the site and exploration of its history. They will be undertaking additional archive research into the site during the coming year.

If you would like to get involved or want to learn more, visit the website:

[www.llanthonysecunda.org](http://www.llanthonysecunda.org).

or contact Edwina Bell, Project Manager, Llanthony Re-formation Project on:

[Edwina.bell@llanthonysecunda.org](mailto:Edwina.bell@llanthonysecunda.org).



Note on timetable:

The project timetable assumes work starts on site in Summer 2016 with the buildings and site re-opening September 2017.



**Llanthony Secunda Priory**

## **To All Members**

Your FoGA subscription was due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Rates remain the same as last year:

Individual £10 pa; Family £15 pa; Groups £20 pa.

It would be appreciated if you would renew promptly.

Why not take out a Standing Order and then you won't have to remember to send that cheque!

**Hilary Haygarth, Membership Secretary.**

(Address on back page)

# The Loxley Family

## **Their connection with Fairford and a discovery!**

In January I came across newspaper reports of the sinking of HMS Formidable in the English Channel in the First World War. She was captained by Captain Arthur Noel Loxley. The name Loxley was familiar as the Rev Arthur Smart Loxley was Vicar of Fairford from 1878 to 1888. He died suddenly on Easter Day 1888 at the early age of 42. Four of the vicar's five children were baptised in Fairford Church. Arthur Noel was the eldest and baptised at Lampport, Northants in 1874, where his father was then curate. After the death of their father when the youngest child was only one year old, the family moved back to Gloucester where the Reverend Loxley had been a minor canon and Cathedral Librarian.

Arthur Noel Loxley had joined the Royal Navy in 1890 and risen to the rank of Captain by 1911. In the early hours of New Year's Day 1915, HMS Formidable was torpedoed by a German submarine with the loss of 547 lives of about 750 aboard. The reports state that Captain Loxley remained at his post until the very last moment as the ship was still signalling when it sank. His name is listed on the Chatham Naval Memorial to the missing.

On 13 November 1916, the second son, Vere Loxley, a Captain in the Royal Marine Light Infantry who was serving with the 1st Royal Battalion of the Royal Naval Division was killed in action. He had served in Gallipoli and after being slightly wounded in France had returned to his battalion in October. One of the men who saw him fall said, "He died leading his men magnificently." He is buried at Knightsbridge Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, France.

On 18 October 1918 the youngest son, Captain Reginald Loxley, RAF died in Paris of pneumonia following influenza and is buried in the city cemetery at Clichy. He had flown with the Royal Naval Air Service at Gallipoli and in France, had been wounded in action and joined the Department of Aircraft Production liaising with the French in the supply of aero engines.

All three Loxley sons are commemorated on the War Memorial in Gloucester Park.

Gerald, the fourth child, who had also flown with the RNAS and RAF during the war was demobilised as a Major in 1919, and their daughter Gladys, had married the Reverend James Agar-Ellis at Malvern Wells in 1903. Rev A S Loxley's wife, Alice Mary, died in Gloucester in 1928.

Not only that, Arthur Noel's son Peter, who was a diplomat in the Foreign Office

and rose to become 1st Secretary and Aide to Winston Churchill, was killed on 1 February 1945 when his aircraft, in which he was a passenger along with several more of Churchill's staff, was lost over the Mediterranean.

While researching the family, I put the name Loxley into the Gloucestershire Archives catalogue and a reference came up to him being mentioned in 'P141 IN 4/3 Log book of parish events and gifts to the church'. I looked this up and found that in 1921 when the new high altar (designed by Sir J Ninian Comper pre-war) was installed, a memorial to Rev A.S. Loxley had been carved into the north end of the altar table. I asked the authority on all things to do with Fairford Church whether he knew about this and he did not, so one day when no one was in the Church we armed ourselves with torches lifted the altar cloth and found the inscription on the cross piece recessed under the table.

1921 IN MEM ASL VIC 1879-1888

I won't say that no one knew it was there but I doubt it had been noticed for years, and all thanks to the GA catalogue. The question then arises, why was it put there so long after his death? The new high altar has been many years in the planning, instigated by Canon Carbonnell the successor to Loxley. The new high altar table is mentioned in the PCC minutes in 1921, but nothing about the carving.

**Alison Hobson**



Have you discovered the Roots café just to the left outside the Archives site? If not, a visit is highly recommended. This is a non-profit making, community project which deserves to be supported.

Downstairs is the main café area with a space for young children to play; upstairs is a quieter room and a large room where local events are held and which can be booked for your meetings. Until the Archives has its own WiFi system, you can pop round the corner and access the Internet for free whilst you indulge in a coffee and cake or lunch.

Opening hours are: Monday to Friday 8am to 5:30pm; Saturday 9am to 5:30pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Further details can be found on: [www.rootscoffee.org.uk](http://www.rootscoffee.org.uk)

## Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project Update

The Project is in the process of converting into a Community Interest Company. It is anticipated that it will continue to have close links with the Archives and with the Friends, but will then become an independent organisation.

As regards Project publications, the Heritage booklet and the book on wartime players continue to sell steadily. Meanwhile the text of a comprehensive book on the history of the Kingsholm ground has been written and the accompanying images are now being added. It is anticipated that this will be published during the summer. It will be followed by two further substantial books on the history of the Gloucester Club and on Gloucester rugby players; work is already underway on both.

Interviews of former players have resumed, and recent subjects have been Mike Burton, Paul Williams and Terry Fanolua. These are a popular feature on the website, with copies also placed in the Archives.

A number of options for providing an audio-visual experience for visitors to Kingsholm have been examined, and it now seems likely that more of this work can be undertaken by Project volunteers with contractor support. Material is now being compiled to allow the production of a proof of concept system.

The project is heavily involved with planning for an exhibition at Gloucester Museum, which will run from July to October. This will be entitled "WOW Rugby" and is timed to coincide with the Rugby World Cup, which will stage four matches at Kingsholm. It will be designed to appeal to both rugby supporters and those who know little about the game. There are likely to be several themes, including paintings of Gloucester players, the rules and main features of the game, the Kingsholm ground, the Gloucester Club and rugby in wartime (with talks by Martin Davies). The Club will be supplying artefacts, and the Project photographs and written information. Dave Smith is planning to supply background sound from a Kingsholm match and video of matches.

When Gloucester Rugby allocated space for the Players Association at the start of the present season, this became the Gloster Boys Bar, and the Heritage Project provided many of the photos, newspaper articles and artefacts which adorn the walls. A meeting was held recently to agree improvements which the Project will make to these displays - this will include jerseys, caps, photos and a DVD with still photos and video which will play on a continuous circuit on a TV in the bar. Most of the work on this will be carried out during the summer break, so that the improved facilities will be available for the start of next season.

The level of hits on the Project website show no sign of reducing, with a two month period, December to February, seeing 4,781 sessions by 3,734 users accessing 21,298 pages. More than 80% of users are based in the UK, but other users are spread worldwide. The number of queries answered from members of the public, many of them people who have ancestors who played for Gloucester, and from the media, the majority from local newspapers and radio, continues to grow steadily, and our efforts in this direction seem to be universally appreciated.

**Malc King**

## **Books for Sale**

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society has some of their Gloucestershire Record Series books for sale at the exceptional price of £5 plus £4 postage, while stocks last. The books are:

- Tewkesbury Churchwardens' Accounts (1563-1624)
- Original Acta of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester (c.1122-1263)
- Cheltenham Probate Records (1660-1740)
- Bishop Benson's Survey of Diocese of Gloucester (1735-1750)
- Calendar of Registers of Apprentices (1595- 1700)
- Calendar of Registers of Llanthony Priory (1457-1466, 1501-1525)
- Abstract of Feet of Fines (1199-1299)
- Abstract of Feet of Fines (1300-1359)
- Gloucester Cathedral Chapter Act Book (1616-1687)
- Calendar of Convictions at Petty Sessions (1781-1837)
- Bristol & Gloucestershire Lay Subsidy (1523-1527)
- Cheltenham Manor Court Books (1692-1803)

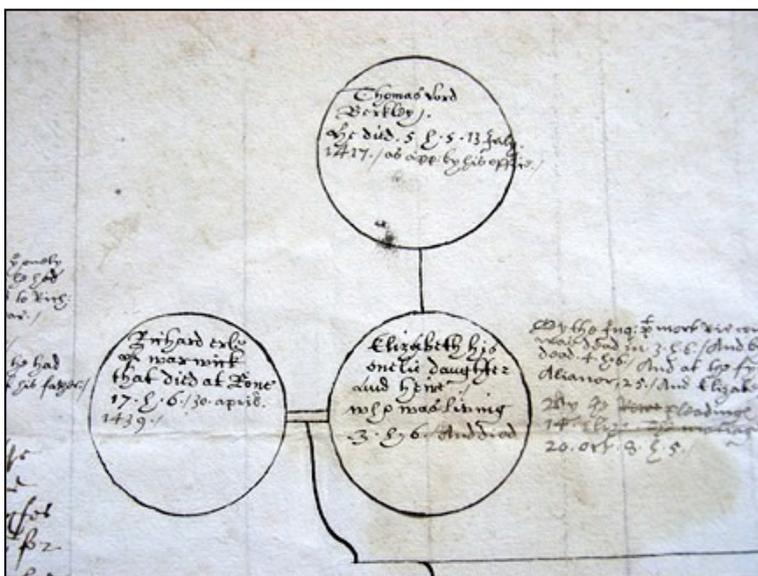
You can order these books and others via the BGAS website on:

<http://www.bgas.org.uk/publications/recordseries.php>

or contact the editor, Liz Jack (address on back page).

# Repackaging

## of The Gloucestershire Collection



D9125/1/12274 A detail from the Pedigree of the Berkeley and Lisle families

We have very nearly finished the Friends funded volunteer project to re-package the Gloucestershire Collection D9125. The manuscripts in the collection span 600 years of Gloucestershire's history and give unique insights into the lives and times of local people, and everyday business, as well as the impact of national events. After three years, and several thousand items, we are down to the last four boxes and some outsize bits and pieces. We are expecting to complete the task at Easter or very shortly after.

During the last year (October 2013 to October 2014), we have repackaged 443 documents, including volumes, and multi-part documents, 6 of which have several hundred sub-numbers. We replaced 23 large old boxes, and 18 old big long ones, with 29 new, and more suitable, foolscap size boxes and 15 new, more suitable (shallower) long ones. We used 337 standard folders, 261 'other packaging', and 206 oversize folders.

Huge thanks to our two brilliant volunteers, Margaret and Terri, who have been coming in one morning a week for the last 3 years to do this, and also to the Friends for the grant towards the materials.

**Ann Attwood**

## Victoria County History Progress

During 2015 our efforts are set to begin bearing fruit. The history of Yate, by Rose Wallis, will appear soon as an illustrated paperback, and she and Beth Hartland are now turning their attention to the three Sodbury parishes. These, together with some smaller places nearby, will in due course make up volume 14 in our red book series. Meanwhile the last of the volume 13 parishes, Twyning, is almost finished, so that I shall be preparing this volume (which covers parishes north and west of Gloucester) for publication later this year or early in 2016. We shall soon be posting on our website draft text by Beth Hartland on medieval Cheltenham and Cirencester, and by Alex Craven on early modern Cheltenham; and we are beginning to receive text from volunteer researchers about aspects of Cirencester.

Our enthusiastic group of volunteers, the VCH Glos Academy, is making great strides with reading and noting sources and researching topics, and continues to meet monthly in the Frith Centre - new participants are very welcome. At our February meeting we were joined by Richard Hoyle, director and general editor of the VCH nationally. Our second newsletter was produced in January, and this in digital form, along with information about our activities and texts posted for consultation, can be found on the Gloucestershire section of the VCH website. It includes also details about contributing to the Gloucestershire County History Trust, which oversees our work; we have in addition produced a leaflet offering advice about legacies and bequests.

**John Chandler**

## Gloucestershire Family History Society News

### **New in the Family History Centre:**

We now have the very useful website 'Deceased Online' which gives locations of burial places, dates of burial and the age of the deceased for England and Wales and some places around the world. Not every cemetery or burial place is recorded as it is an ongoing project, but many are and these include cremation records, too.

The online British Newspaper Archive, also at the Family History Centre, that is very popular with all researchers now has more newspapers indexed than ever. Why not come along and see what the GFHS Centre has for your History Project? I am usually at the Centre as a volunteer every Thursday morning from 10am to 1pm and will be pleased to demonstrate what the Centre can offer.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm, so pop in and see us. I can also arrange for a guided tour of the Centre for groups of two or more people. Please contact me for more information, on: [help@gfhs.org.uk](mailto:help@gfhs.org.uk)

**Sue Stafford**

## Ordnance Survey Maps for Sale

The Friends have a large number of original Ordnance Survey maps available for sale. These are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition maps, mostly 6 inch or 25 inch scale, many of which are in excellent condition. The maps cost £15, £10 or £5 depending on their condition. They are rarely available elsewhere and, if they can be found, are much more expensive. So why not enhance your studies by investing in maps relating to your area of research?

There is a folder detailing the available maps in the Reception area at the Archives. Why not have a look and get yourself a bargain! If you cannot get to the Archives, contact the Friends on [maps@foga.org.uk](mailto:maps@foga.org.uk) with details of what you are hoping to buy. All profits to For the Record - a good way to donate and get something in return!

## FoGA Committee

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Chairman:                | Stephen Haygarth, 27 Arden Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG.   |
| Secretary:               | Alison Hobson  |
| Treasurer:               | Stephen Haygarth, as above   |
| Membership Secretary:    | Hilary Haygarth, 27 Arden Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0HG<br>Email: <a href="mailto:membership@foga.org.uk">membership@foga.org.uk</a>    |
| Programme Secretary:     | Caroline Meller. Email: <a href="mailto:events@foga.org.uk">events@foga.org.uk</a>   |
| Liaison Secretary:       | James Hodsdon  |
| Development Secretary:   | Clive Andrews  |
| County Archivist:        | Heather Forbes   |
| Archives Representative: | Lucy Newman  |
| Newsletter Editor:       | Liz Jack, 11 Old Cheltenham Road, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0AS. Email: <a href="mailto:editor@foga.org.uk">editor@foga.org.uk</a> |

Committee members can also be contacted via Gloucestershire Archives  
or through the FoGA website: [www.foga.org.uk](http://www.foga.org.uk).