

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Established 21 April 1876

www.bgas.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 202014

(Some) Reasons to be cheerful: Message from the Chair

Let me first address what is unavoidably the main topic of 2020 so far – the virus. All of us will have felt the impact of the pandemic itself, and its consequences for society and individuals, in different and unforeseen ways. Almost all of us will have personal knowledge of real losses of every description – of health, even of life itself, of livelihoods, of opportunities, of freedoms, of human contact. It is far too soon to take final stock, but it's plain that just about everything we care about has changed in some way.

Mercifully, our collective capacity to absorb and deal with change seems to rise to the occasion, which is my cue to turn to the affairs of this Society rather than the world at large. The cancellation of the AGM and virtually all other planned events and meetings from March onwards created a huge amount of work for your officers, in keeping everyone informed of what was going on (or mostly *not* going on), and in devising alternative arrangements. I make no apology for singling out one person above the rest, who has been unstinting in his commitment and resilience under pressure: Graham Barton, our invaluable Honorary General Secretary. I'm sure Graham has the heartfelt gratitude not just of all his co-trustees, but of every single member.

Curiously, one thing has made all this behind-the-scenes activity and pressure bearable, certainly for me and I believe for others too: the realisation that the disruption is proving a golden opportunity for accelerating necessary change. So, denied our quarterly and sometimes rather stately Council meetings, much more trustee business is now being dealt with, and faster, by email. The 2026 Working Group mentioned in the last Newsletter was able to quickly finalise its findings from the Survey (see more on this on p4). And the Group equally quickly adapted to much more frequent meetings, online, with really tangible results: among



other things, the project to build a new website for the Society has progressed much faster than it would have done otherwise.

By the time you read this, we shall have run our first online talk, with our thanks to Dr Madge Dresser for accepting the invitation so swiftly. Less dramatically, we have also discovered the advantages of commercial mailing systems, allowing us to send members written communications without the effort of addressing, stuffing and posting envelopes – and circumventing the practical impossibility of mustering a stuffing team during lockdown. Ironically, one of those mailings was to ask members yet again to let us have their up-to-date email addresses, so that more postage can be saved, and online methods relied on to reach most of you.

I'll conclude with thanks once again to all who have helped keep the BGAS show on the road over the last six months; the Society is broadly in good heart, but to keep it that way, we definitely need more helping hands, on a range of tasks, from backroom administration to communications. If you've reached the end of your lockdown to-do list, and are now casting around for something fresh – we need you now!

James Hodsdon

AGMs

Every effort was made to reschedule the deferred 2020 AGM at a suitable date later in the year, but the social distancing practicalities have made it impossible to devise a solution that members generally would find acceptable, and the meeting has been abandoned. We are not geared up, as some other societies have been, to run an AGM online, nor do we have premises that are under our own control.

The particular loss this spring was the opportunity to hear David Viner's Presidential Address, and for Michael Hare to begin his own presidential year in the long-accustomed way. Fortunately, thanks to the flexibility and forbearance of all parties, we can now look forward to hearing David's address at the 2021 AGM – in the Spring as usual, let us hope – with the handover to Michael taking place on the same occasion. The proposal to give trustees the power to set subscriptions, which needs a quorum to pass, is held over to the same meeting.

Coronavirus and the Society's finances

Several members have asked what effect the pandemic has had on BGAS's finances.

The short answer is - not a lot so far - but some impact is expected towards the end of 2020, and an even bigger, but as yet not quantifiable, impact in 2021.

So far as the Society's capital is concerned, the value of BGAS's investments fell suddenly at the end of February by over £150,000, of which some £60,000 has since been recovered. Fluctuations in the capital value of the Society's investments do not affect our ability to perform our charitable functions, which depends not on capital but on income.

On the revenue side, the restrictions on activities imposed by the government in response to the virus have enabled BGAS to make some small savings. For example, we have not had to pay for premises for meetings, and we have not bought any books for the library. Some receipts have been reduced, e.g. contributions towards the cost of printing funded archaeology articles in *Transactions*; and we have sold fewer publications. Additional costs have been incurred. For example, it was considered unreasonable to ask volunteers to deliver copies of *Transactions* by hand, so all copies were posted. We are assessing whether to do the same for all copies of the two *Record Series* volumes later this year.

The biggest concern is about the dividends the Society receives from its investments, which in 2019 paid for 60% of what the Society spends. In the first half of 2020 dividend income was only a little down compared with 2019, but the virus

restrictions on activity have disrupted many businesses and have reduced their profits. We expect some dividend reductions in the rest of 2020, and even more in 2021, but we cannot tell yet how severe those reductions will be. Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee is contemplating a reduction in dividend income in 2021 of some £9,000, perhaps less, perhaps more.

Negotiations with the University of Gloucestershire about the library have not yet concluded, so how much BGAS will have to pay, one way or another, in respect of the library is uncertain. Added to the other uncertainties, the financial outlook is not at all clear. However, you can be assured that your trustees continue to keep a close eye on developments.

William Evans

BGAS Treasurer

The 2020 Membership Survey: what we learned, and what happened next

The online survey was commissioned by the Working Group charged with considering what changes the Society needs to make to reach the year 2026, its 150th Anniversary, in good shape and good heart. Over the six weeks the survey was open, we had 148 responses, all but six of them online. This, representing around 25% of (non-institutional) members, was an encouraging level of response. It gave us, as we hoped it would, a firmer basis for recommended changes.

Use of the online service meant that returns were collated with minimal effort, and clearly displayed. The full results can be supplied on request, but the key points are distilled here:

While the Society's current offerings are appreciated - to different degrees - by most of our existing members, there is a clear sense that we have to offer more, and in different ways, if we are ever to appeal to new people, and stem the long-term decline in membership. A particular need is to find ways of facilitating hands-on involvement with archaeology, either through our own activities or (more plausibly) through partnership with others.

There is explicit appetite for more e-publications, with a corresponding reducing appetite for print. This would be relatively easy to respond to, and would help attract a new audience through the website BUT will have to be preceded by the overhaul of the website which we know is due.

There is still appetite for good talks and outings. Most reports were positive, but alongside this came criticism of the quality of presentation of some past talks, and a perceived lack of welcome for newcomers and guests.

Several voices want BGAS to put more resource into research.

Seeing any of these improvements through to fruition will take MORE EFFORT from MORE PEOPLE, and this issue remains unsolved.

In many respects, this is what we knew or suspected already; the big value of the survey is that we now have some numbers to inform our next steps, and the priorities.

One plus of the lockdown: the Working Group has discovered online meetings, and has definitely been making faster progress this way than it would have done otherwise. We've noted how other institutions (arts, cultural and others) quickly responded to lockdown by enhancing what they offer via the web, and this added to our sense that improving our website, as a prelude to increasing what we offer, and allowing more flexibility to members and potential members, is the most urgent task in the near term.

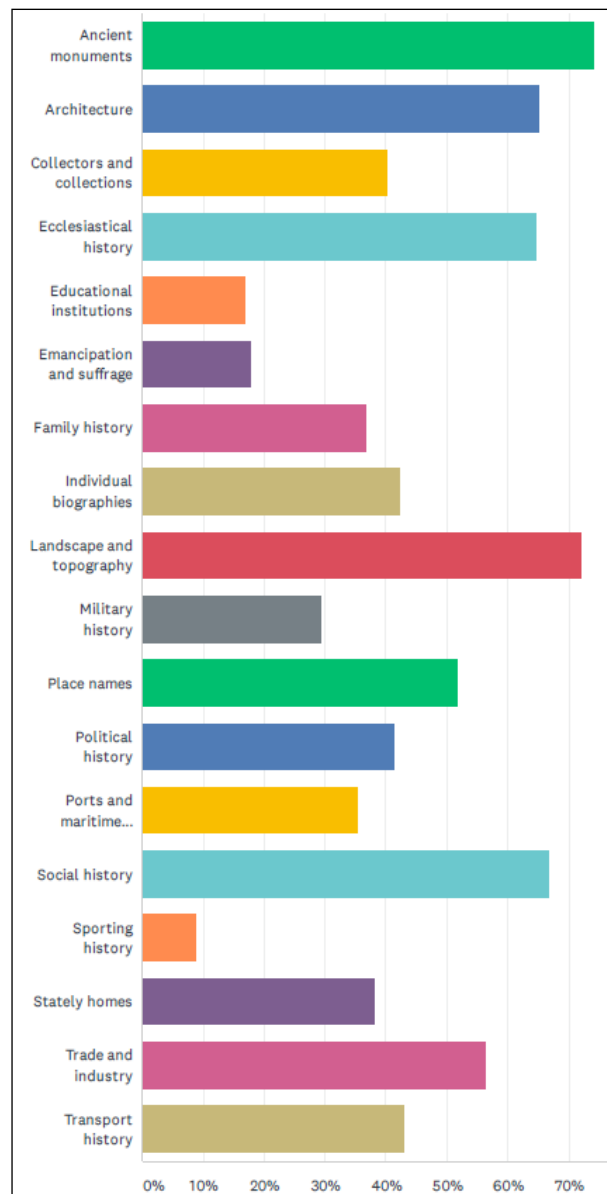
Accordingly, and with the blessing of Council, we have pressed ahead and engaged a website consultancy that specialises in work for charities, to design a new website (to our requirements) and host it. All being well, it will be operational before the end of the year – much to look forward to.

Delivering a new website will cost money, as will maintaining it. However, a more modern website will allow members and the wider public to access more of our publications and services online, and help make inroads into our large printing and postage bills. So we're confident the investment will produce appreciable returns, which is good in itself, but the bigger prize will be realised when more people start noticing it, and signing up to become our much-needed new members.

Existing members have a part to play too. We still really need people who are able to help with communications, helping to run the membership system, organising meetings and events – all really important to the smooth running of the Society.

If you were among the survey responders who indicated willingness to help, or you would like to join those who have already offered to help, *PLEASE* do get in touch with our Hon General Secretary at secretary@bgas.org.uk, who will be delighted to discuss ways in which you can help. Your officers are all capable and much valued colleagues, but they're not superhuman, and more willing hands are needed at the pump. If you're a loud front-of-house kind of person – we need you! If you're a quiet backroom specialist – we need you too!

James Hodsdon



An example of the survey results.—the percentage of respondents interested in particular themes.

Compiling the *Transactions*' Recent Publications list

Firstly, a little bit of history: the present Recent Publications list began as a list of 'Publications Received', which was appended to the Book Reviews in volume 91 (1972) of the *Transactions* by its then joint editor, the late Brian Smith. Two years later, in 1974, David Viner (coincidentally, 46 years later, our Society's current President) volunteered to develop this into a more broadly-based 'Recent Publications' list. David (who also acted as Reviews Editor between 1976 and 1982) continued to compile the list until I took it over in 1983, initially as Reviews Editor and then, between 1984 and 1991, as joint editor of the *Transactions*.

And I've been doing it ever since (year 38 coming up), and I'm still not bored with it!

So how is the list compiled? Well, my approach is rather different for books and journal articles, and the way in which I approach each has, inevitably, been transformed in recent years by the Internet.

Turning first to journal articles, I currently have a list of 22 local (ie Bristol and Gloucestershire) publications, a category in which I also include books and pamphlets published by Avon Local History & Archaeology, Bristol Radical History Group and Bristol Record Society, plus a list of 162 non-local or national journals or regular publications, the latter ranging alphabetically from Agricultural History Review to Women's History Review. Admittedly, I've never found a relevant article in many of them – but, you never know, and I live in hope!

My *modus operandi* is very 'low-key': each journal has an index card, on which I can 'tick' a volume once I have seen it, and the



cards are easily portable when visiting libraries and archives. As, inevitably, the local journals will have relevant material, I always look at the actual publications – but for the non-local and national ones I now largely rely on each journal's website, although that does have its drawbacks.

Most websites will list the titles of articles in each issue, often with very helpful abstracts: this makes it easy to spot those articles which definitely do (or do not) have a Bristol or Gloucestershire content. The problem, however, is the 'grey area' in between, as often neither the title nor the abstract will reveal the 'geographical focus' of an article (if indeed it has one), which is what I am looking for. So if I spot an article that, from its title, might conceivably have a Bristol or Gloucestershire content, I do need to see the actual volume – so I keep a list of those and occasionally venture to a number of libraries,

the most useful of which, in addition to our own Society's library, are Historic England in Swindon, the Bodleian in Oxford, the Society of Antiquaries in London (all of which have journals on 'open access') or - if all else fails - the British Library, which has copies of everything, but where (less conveniently) advance ordering is always required.

As far as new books are concerned, many appear on the shelves of local bookshops, libraries and archives, and I also regularly check the websites of a wide range of publishers and of local history groups and societies, some of whom publish books as well as a regular Journal, Bulletin or Newsletter.

When I do find a relevant book or article, my approach is equally 'low key': I simply make a note of it on an index card (I rarely go anywhere without a few blank cards about my person – just in case!), and I eventually type up the list as a word document, which I send to the Editor of the *Transactions* for publication, and to the Reviews Editor as a 'quarry' for possible books for review.

Despite my best efforts, I am sure I miss things – and although the list is supposed to be 'recent' I am not averse to listing books or articles some (on occasion, many) years after publication, if that is the first time it comes to my attention – the list is very much a 'cumulative' one, which, over the years, I aim to make the single most comprehensive list of publications on the archaeology and history of Bristol and Gloucestershire.

And I am not completely alone in doing this - I do have a small network of very helpful 'spies' out there who regularly send me notes of books or articles that I might not have

noticed – I'm not naming names, but you know who you are and I am very grateful to you all! And I would be equally grateful to any BGAS member who spots an omission in the list (or a new publication) and lets me know about it.

So, why am I not bored with it after all these years? Well, I still feel a certain 'frisson' when I discover a relevant journal article (the more obscure the journal is, the better I like it!) and I do find the challenge of making the list as comprehensive as possible a stimulating one. I also find the whole process very helpful in keeping me abreast of new research in a range of subject areas in which I have a personal interest – many of them non-BGAS. And, of course, the thought that someone, somewhere, might actually find the list helpful always makes the time and effort worthwhile.

Steven Blake

Never judge a book by its cover

The recent BGAS survey confirmed that a large proportion of the members taking part enjoy landscape and topography, social history and place names, and to a slightly lesser degree, political and family history. Mix those with active interests in the Roman, medieval and early modern periods, and the forthcoming edited transcription of the records of ***The Gloucestershire Court of Sewers 1583-1642*** should be a veritable treasure trove for many reading this newsletter.

'Sewers? Interesting?', I hear you say, but have no fear, we're not talking about that kind of sewer! The Gloucestershire Levels (yes, we have 'levels' just like Somerset and Gwent) were first reclaimed in Roman times, and many of their medieval drainage systems (the ditches known as 'reens' or 'sewers') still function today.

These records are nationally important: few covering this tumultuous period of history survive. They feature both men and women from the peasantry to the landed gentry, many of whom were resistant to the increased taxation that characterized the reign of Charles I. In all, around 600 surnames (plus variants) are represented. Each reen and sluice (known as a 'gout') is named, and more than 700 topographical features and place names, mainly between Slimbridge and Shirehampton, are identified in a comprehensive index. Many are still found today, and from a BGAS perspective, we are fortunate that the court's jurisdiction includes parts of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol, making this a truly inclusive project. As an added bonus, many individuals are directly linked to their tithing and thus easily identifiable.

In the course of preparing this volume (number 35) of the Gloucestershire Record Series, industrial archaeologists have puzzled over sea wall and tide mill specifications, and marvelled at the terminology used for land drainage and sea defence mechanisms. An extensive glossary of 'Levels Lingo' includes definitions for a 'new itch' and 'pillhead' which are quite different to those found on Google! Corrupt commissioners, legal disputes, desperate finances, contempt of court and corporal punishment are found alongside a rich variety of presentments and orders. Although the great Severn Estuary flood of 1607 (illustrated opposite) and another in 1636 brought the tide far into the land, not everyone prioritized the repairs of their sea walls.

Gloucestershire's Court of Sewers records reveal much about local government and the interdependence of all layers of society during the Elizabethan and early Stuart periods. Of course, I could not have completed this book alone, and my especial thanks go to Vicky Thorpe (checking my transcription), Geoff Gwatkin (maps) and James Hodsdon (general editor). In Vicky's words: 'I've really enjoyed learning more about the people and places that were so familiar to me during my time at Gloucestershire Archives. What an unexpectedly great resource these sewers records are.'

Rose Hewlett

See p.22 for further details.



The Great Severn Estuary Flood of 1607

Two thousand years of farming in the Severn Vale: Middle Bronze Age to Roman remains at Cleevelands, Bishop's Cleeve

Excavations undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2014-15 prior to large-scale housing development at Cleevelands, to the north-west of Bishop's Cleeve, revealed evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in this part of the Severn Vale.

The earliest remains recovered were early prehistoric flints dropped by Mesolithic to Early Neolithic (10,000–3000 BC) hunter-gatherers visiting the valley floor. Longer term settlement began during the Middle Bronze Age (1500–1100 BC) with the construction of a roundhouse and ancillary building, and a small cremation cemetery nearby may have been for the inhabitants of this family-sized farm. Elsewhere, several large wood-lined pits were perhaps used for ritual purposes. One contained a log ladder, a stitched bark vessel and a scutching knife – a tool used for processing plant fibres, although the pits do not seem to have been used for plant processing. The ladder had been used to access the pit, but the bark vessel, wooden implement and other items (deer antlers, a gold strip, a flint arrowhead, pottery and animal bone) may have been cast into the pits as offerings.

The site was re-occupied from the Early to Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC), when an unenclosed roundhouse settlement was established, which by the Late Iron Age had developed into a series of enclosures with associated areas of open grazing. This settlement survived into the Roman period,

with evidence for agricultural intensification from the 2nd/3rd centuries AD suggesting, along with finds of Roman brick and tile, that it had become part of a villa estate. The discovery of numerous Roman millstone fragments indicates that grain was milled at a central facility.

Early post-Roman remains were sparse, but settlement of this date can be difficult to detect. The latest cremation grave dated to the 5th/6th centuries AD, whilst Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered pottery from a pit dates to the 5th–8th centuries.

Post-excavation work arising from this project is very nearly complete: further details are available [here](#) on the Archaeology News page of the Cotswold Archaeology website.

A longer article has been submitted for publication in the Society's *Transactions*.

Jonathan Hart

Cotswold Archaeology

(Editor's note: I recommend visiting the website link above to see the article on Cleevelands. The 3D image of the pit is particularly impressive.)



Middle Bronze Age pit with log ladder in situ

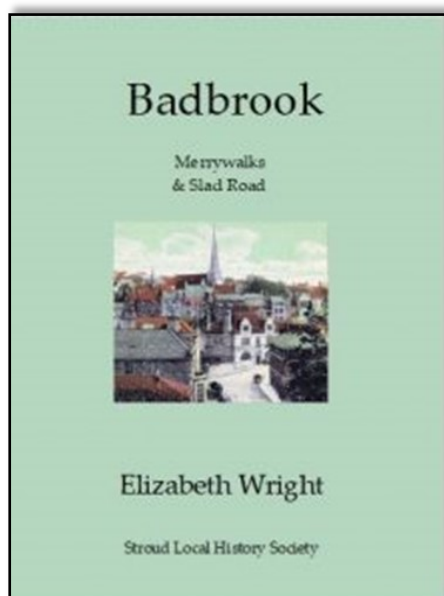


Log ladder, bark vessel and scutching knife from a Middle Bronze Age pit

Book Reviews

Badbrook, Merrywalks and Slad Road: a history 1750-1980 and beyond

Elizabeth Wright, (Stroud, Stroud Local History Society, 2019), 198 pp. many b/w and col. ill. Paperback, £13.50 [no ISBN]
Reviewed 02.2020



Badbrook is located at the lowest part of Stroud and will be familiar to readers as the area where the current bus stops, shopping centre, multi-storey car park and cinema complex are located. The Slad Brook runs through the area, now culverted, which was prone to flooding through the centuries. The book traces the development of the area from 1750 to the present day. Early in its history the Slad Brook was used, as water was in much of the Stroud area, for the woollen cloth industry with two mills and associated mill ponds and dyehouses. This led to considerable pollution from their works and also from sewage emptying into the brook from houses and industry above the brook.

The author has used many sources of information to trace the history of each

building extending to the four principal roads, Slad Road, Merrywalks, Gloucester Street and Beeches Green and neighbouring streets. Before the turnpiking of the roads any traveller wishing to cross the brook from Beeches Green to the town had to use a ford with stepping stones and later a wooden footbridge. One problem in the development of the area was that the land to the north of Slad Brook was in Painswick parish and to the south in Stroud parish with the different administrations and rates. This continued until the end of the 19th century with many disputes concerning the improvement in sanitary conditions.

For the early history the author has used the well-known Notes and Recollections of Stroud by Paul Hawkins Fisher, published in 1871, together with the 1820 map of Stroud by Charles Baker and the 1860 Stroud Board of Health map by Taunton. A series of maps showing the location of the buildings described in the text are clearly drawn and essential to the understanding of the development of the area. The author has searched out and used many relevant documents in Gloucestershire Archives and Museum in the Park, Stroud, and consulted local directories to untangle the various businesses established in the Badbrook area.

The most interesting area of research is the extensive use of newspapers, the Stroud papers and those further afield, now made easier by the continuing digitisation programme by the British Newspaper Library. The trade advertisements and sale notices give clues to the commercial enterprises, their rise and fall. It seems as if bankruptcy was very common in the 19th century as were fires. The book is illustrated with images from the extensive postcard collection of the local historian, Howard Beard.

Although the area covered is small it contains a fascinating history of changes from mainly commercial premises to the building of housing on both sides of the brook along Lansdown and in Uplands and the demolition of many others to allow for the widening of the roads to adapt to motorised traffic. The author relates many amusing tales of characters associated with, amongst others, the public baths, the police station, the drill hall and schools.

The use of references in the text is welcome as is an extensive index and bibliography. (The reviewer discovered a mention of his great-great-grandfather!)

Although at first sight it would appear to have limited appeal it is well worth a read to discover the immense amount of research which has gone into the production of this history.

John Loosley

Cheltenham: unique images from the archives of Historic England

David Elder, (Stroud, Amberley Publishing 2018). 96pp. 160 ill. Paperback, £14.99. [ISBN: 978-1-4456-8366-9]

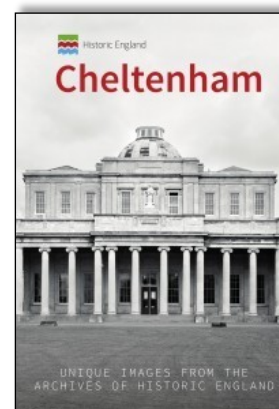
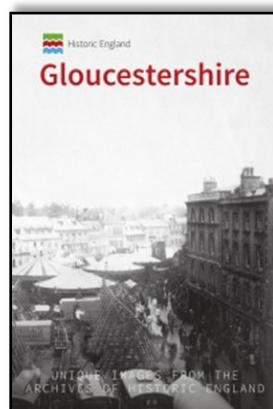
Gloucestershire: unique images from the archives of Historic England

David Elder, (Stroud, Amberley Publishing 2019). 96pp. 160 ill. Paperback. £14.99. [ISBN: 978-1-4456-9215-9]

Both reviewed 03.2020

Following on from the publication of *Gloucester: unique images from the archives of Historic England* (reviewed by Alan Tyler in *BGAS Newsletter* 83), local author David Elder has produced two further books, one on Cheltenham and the other on Gloucestershire, in this series (currently running to more than 40 titles nationwide), which is a collaboration between Historic England and Amberley Publishing.

Both books follow an identical format to the Gloucester volume: a total of 160 colour and black & white illustrations, largely drawn from



Historic England's photographic archive, but supplemented, where the author felt that an important topic was not covered by the archive, either by his own photograph or by an image from a library, museum or private collection. Clearly, the availability of Historic England images was far greater for the Gloucestershire volume (in which only six images are not theirs), but apparently less so for Cheltenham, in which 49 of the images are from elsewhere, including a number of maps, plans and topographical prints, which certainly add visual variety to that particular book.

Inevitably, there is some overlap between the images in these two books: of the 12 Cheltenham images in the Gloucestershire volume (six of which show schools and colleges, which is perhaps something of an 'imbalance', given the range of other Cheltenham topics that might have been chosen), seven are also included in that for Cheltenham – a situation that in fact also applies to the earlier Gloucester volume, seven of whose images re-appear in that for Gloucestershire. Also inevitable, but wholly understandable, is an overlap in the subject matter of the sections into which each book is divided: places of worship, public buildings, education, entertainment & leisure, and industry & commerce appear in each, while the remainder certainly reflect the contrast between Cheltenham and the rest of the County: among the sections in the former are the Regency and the Races, while the latter includes agriculture & food, castles, houses & gardens, and transport

Book Reviews continued

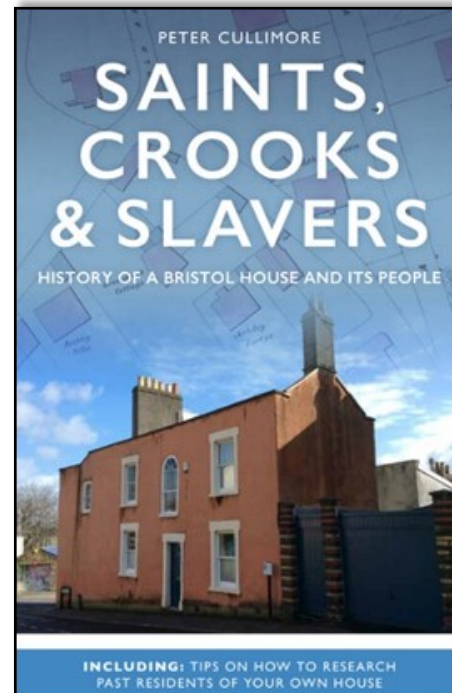
(the latter being a rather surprising omission from the Cheltenham book).

Both books include much that is familiar, in terms of both locations and information, but also much that is new. That they offer the opportunity to sample, often for the first time, images from Historic England's remarkable archives (which comprise no fewer than 12 million photographs, drawings, plans and documents) is the real strength of both these volumes and of the series as a whole, which sets it apart from many other 'old photograph' publications. The images are all of high quality, varied, and full of interest, and the captions are all to the point and eminently readable – as indeed is the succinct one-page Introduction to each book. The inclusion of many aerial views from the Harold Wingham and Aerofilms collections is a real bonus in both of these books, while the Gloucestershire volume has a welcome focus on people (generally shown at work) as well as on places. It is also remarkably comprehensive in its coverage of the historic, pre-1974, county, with images ranging from Tewkesbury in the north to Bitton in the south, and covering a wide range of topics and eras, from the prehistoric landscape of Minchinhampton Common to the decommissioning of Berkeley power station. Both books are certainly a pleasure to read and to browse, and are a welcome addition to the available images of Gloucestershire's past.

Steven Blake

Saints Crooks and Slavers: History of a Bristol House and its People: including how to research past residents of your own house

Peter Cullimore and Sue Cullimore, (Bristol, Bristol Books, 2020), 128 pp, ill. Paperback, £12.00 [ISBN: 978199446243] Reviewed 05.2020



This is a Bristol book, by a Bristol resident, Peter Cullimore, published by Bristol Books. However, it is of wider interest, containing a useful guide to sources, both written and web-based, contributed by Sue Cullimore, whose knowledge of historical geography shines through. Spring Cottage, 58-60 Fairfield Road, is a property built perhaps originally in the 18th century, and enlarged in the early 19th. Nor is it concerned only with the house, for there is a select account of the people who occupied it, whether as tenants but latterly as owner occupiers. Spring Cottage emerges from obscurity and there is a well-told history of its occupants from an originator, the Quaker Shurmer Bath to Penny Gane, a recent Chair of Bristol Women's Voice and a head of Bristol's Mayoral Women's Commission; as well as many others in between before the authors arrived over 30 years ago – almost the longest-standing residents in the house's history.

The house has an interesting and varied history of occupancy and ownership. The author has chosen an excellent variety of brief lives to illustrate his strong narrative. The text is further strengthened by the judicious use of maps and carefully selected and beautifully reproduced and labelled illustrations. They show the development of the area from 18th-century fields to 21st-century pictures of the area and the house today. The research is light-touch, no jargon such as 'map-regression' although that has clearly taken place. The illustrations are fine: there is an image or map on almost every page.

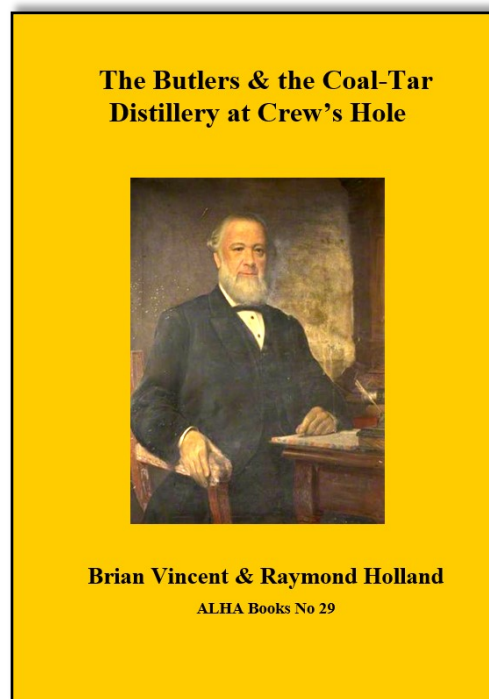
The range of sources used is impressive, notably censuses, directories and newspapers as well as records of births, marriages and deaths. The stories of individuals and families are set in the context of significant national and international events: wars, revolutions and riots, migration and movement to and from abroad as they affected or impinged upon the residents of Spring Cottage. There are many social and economic insights, not least a snapshot of the regular curse of bankruptcy and poverty – not to mention slavery – all hot topics in the city as I write.

The authors have chosen well. Inevitably they have at times had to proceed by assertion in tracing individuals. The result is impressive. Inevitably too there is much more they could have said, and much more that could be done. The fascinating aerial picture showing the double ridged roof on the earlier part of the house makes this reviewer itch to get up in the roof and to look. Likewise the photo of the brickwork of an external building reminds us that there is much more on the fabric history to be said – the windows are very fine. But these are mere quibbles, this is a well-researched, informative, elegantly written and well presented work of microhistory from which anyone could learn about sources for their house history, whatever their background or research skills. The Cullimorees have set a solid and highly readable baseline.

Tom Beaumont James

The Butlers & the Coal Tar Distillery at Crew's Hole

Brian Vincent and Raymond Holland (Bristol, Avon Local History & Archaeology ALHA Books No 29, 2019), 44 pp, 25 ills (1 col). Paperback, £3-50 [ISBN 978-1-911592-29-7]. Reviewed 06.2020



Coal-tar is a thick dark liquid obtained as a by-product of the production of coal gas, and a vital feed-stock in the manufacture of a large number of important medical and industrial products. The latter include binders for road surfaces, sealants for roofs, fuel and as a source of creosote, which is a cheap and effective wood preservative patented in 1838. In 1843 Isambard Kingdom Brunel established a coal-tar distillery on the north bank of the River Avon at Crew's Hole just over two miles east of Bristol Bridge. This was already a centre for industry, starting with copper smelting in 1695 using ore imported by ship from Cornwall, and in time the site boasted a number of major chemical industries such as the manufacture of various alkalis, acids and fertilisers as well as coal-tar.

Brunel made extensive use of timber for both sleepers and for his viaducts in Cornwall and

Book Reviews continued

the Stroud Valley. The large quantities of wood preservative needed made it economic sense to have his own works, to which he appointed the 24-year-old William Butler (1819-1900) as manager. Butler had been with Brunel for about three years when he must have impressed his employer. He also made a success of the new business and was able to buy the works in 1863 and form his own company, Wm Butler & Co Ltd.

As the title suggests, a substantial part of the book is devoted to the Butlers and, starting with William Butler's grandparents, six generations are traced in some considerable detail. Inevitably, some family members became part of the firm while others pursued successful careers elsewhere. We also learn that William Butler took an active role in the Methodist Church, the Liberal Party, local government and was heavily involved with the introduction of a tramway system in Bristol. Later generations were similarly involved in the community.

As might be expected when one author, Brian Vincent, is a Professor of Chemistry and the other, the late Raymond Holland, was chief chemist and later production manager and deputy works manager at the Butler firm, the account gives technical details, but they are clearly explained. The complex history of the company's changing fortunes in the twentieth century is also well documented.

The Crew's Hole works closed in 1981 and the site is now a housing estate. Clearly the Butler brand was held in some esteem as after a number of takeovers it is still in use today with Butler Fuels who supply domestic and commercial heating oil.

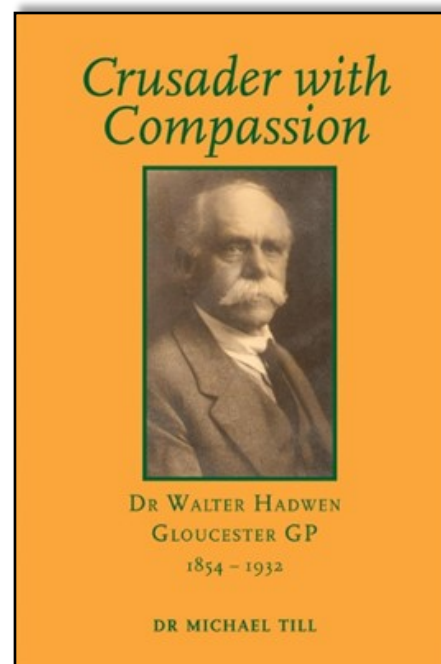
There is a good range of illustrations and maps which are reproduced well, although some would have benefited from being larger in size. The booklet has a comprehensive list of references and is an excellent starting

point for anyone wishing to learn about this important aspect of Bristol's industrial past.

Ray Wilson

Crusader with Compassion: Dr Walter Hadwen

Michael Till, Gloucester GP 1854–1932 (Gloucester, Hobnob Press, 2019), 192 pp, many ill in b/w and col. Paperback, £14.95. [ISBN 978-1-906978-78-5] Reviewed 06.2020



Dr Walter Hadwen was a character. First trained as a pharmacist he retrained as a doctor and became a GP in Gloucester. A firebrand orator, his powerful views as an anti-vaccinationist, anti-vivisectionist and confirmed vegetarian were spread widely, and his campaign against smallpox vaccination held resonance in Gloucester where several outbreaks occurred during his

lifetime. He appears to have been regarded as an antihero by many in the medical profession but when he was charged with murder of a girl who died in his care with diphtheria his patients stayed loyal to him. He was acquitted. His force of oration and prolific pamphleteering made him a national and international force. His interest in alternative or traditional medicine is intriguing.

Dr Michael Till was a GP (now retired) in the practice Walter developed. He writes a detailed and well researched book on Dr Hadwen, replete with personal recollections by people who knew the man, and many illustrations and primary sources. He writes well and though the material is detailed it is an entertaining read which may not encourage sleep.

Dr Till does not allow this to be either a hagiography nor an assassination, and from this Walter emerges as a caring and compassionate man of single-minded views. If there is a weakness it is that whilst the author presents the material and puts it in the events and ideas that occur locally and nationally he does not attempt to extend his analysis to a wider frame or relate it to modern times. As such he allows his evidence to speak for itself and leaves the readers to make their own interpretation.

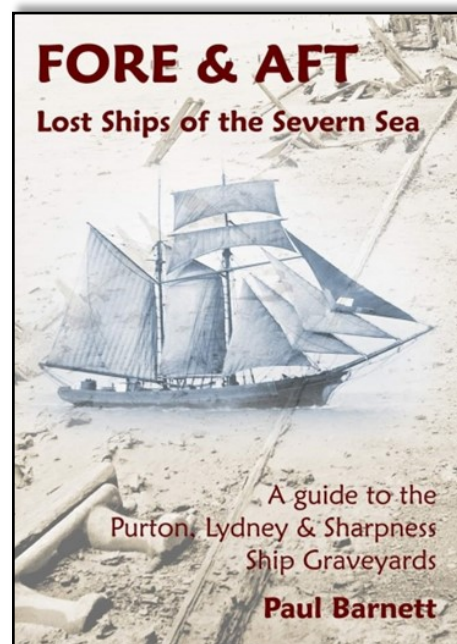
This is a well written and detailed book that is easy to read and provokes a lot of reflection. It is also a good primary source for people studying the anti-vaccination or anti-vivisection movements. Walter's argument against vaccination – the way it failed to protect against smallpox, caused an increase in other infectious illnesses and as a dirty vaccine inflicted people with other disorders – are still echoed in many modern anti-vaccination campaigns.

I would commend it to anyone interested in general practice, public health or the history of medicine.

Peter Carpenter

Fore and Aft: Lost Ships of the Severn Sea

Paul Barnett, (Paul Barnett, 2020), 192 pp, over 400 ill. Paperback, £14.95 [no ISBN]
Reviewed 07.2020



I have to start this review by saying this is a sad book, especially for anyone with any hint of the sea in their blood. Simply browsing through its pages you are struck by melancholy at the thought of so many fine ships that are now lost. It's a scene that is repeated around the country for our creeks, pills and inlets are often crowded with the abandoned remains of all kinds of craft,

Book Reviews concluded

unloved and rotting away out of view of anything except the local wildlife.

Anyone who walks the banks of the Severn will at one time or another come across the timbers of some long-lost ship, jutting proudly out of reed-beds or estuarine mud. For many people, this is just another sight and they take a photograph and walk on. Some may ponder a bit more; wondering what type of craft they are looking at, what its name was, what it did and why it ended it up where it is. It is these questions that Paul Barnett has answered and this book is a tour-de-force – the author has researched the identity and fates of over 150 of the hulks which can be found along Severnside, not just those of the now famous ship graveyard of Purton but also the graveyards around Lydney, Sharpness and the lower reaches of the Wye. For each craft Paul has been able to source two photographs, creating a 'then and now' with good concise notes explaining the images and giving part of the vessel's story. (To give the full story would need several more books!) In addition to chapters on the Purton hulks, Lydney hulks and Sharpness hulks, there are chapters on other even less well known areas and, in geographical terms, the book covers the Severn from Wainlode above Gloucester down to Portishead below Avonmouth. Paul also includes a chapter on the Severn & Wye Railway Disaster, various vignettes detailing aspects of the maritime usage of the river (including a fascinating account of how vessels were beached) and a useful vessel index.

What impresses the reviewer most of all however is the sheer amount of research that Paul had to undertake to produce this book. Maritime research is one of the most difficult areas to delve into thanks to the myriad of sources, few of which are signposted or even easily available. Highlighting the fates and history of these craft has also brought their national importance and lack of protection into full view. Thankfully – and Paul has played an important part in this – these

vessels (and all those similar ones around the country's creeks and estuaries) are now firmly on the archaeological radar. At Purton itself, where Paul's fascination was first triggered, one barge has been scheduled as an ancient monument and several are now included in the National Register of Historic Vessels, a long overdue but definitely worthy status. So, having initially said that this is a sad book, I also have to say that it is a work of joy, for at long last the fascinating histories and fates of these craft are receiving the attention that they deserve.

John Putley

Obituaries

Joyce Doreen Morris (1927-2020)

Mrs Joyce Morris, a long-standing and active member of this Society, died on 5th July 2020, aged 93.

Joyce was born, educated and spent her life in Bristol, a city in whose history she developed a keen and early interest, and it was perhaps inevitable that she joined the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society in 1977. Joyce soon put her catering and organisational skills to work for the Society's benefit. For many years, along with Mrs Mary Campbell and Mrs Vivienne Gethyn Jones, she provided near-legendary teas for the Society's AGMs and book launches, and in 1984 she took on the role of Membership and Subscriptions Secretary, and became a member of the Society's Council. Between 2007 and 2010, Joyce was one of the Society's Vice-Presidents.

As a regular attender at courses held at Bristol Record Office, Joyce became a competent palaeographer and transcribed many documents in the Bristol Record Office for the then City Archivist and BGAS General Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Ralph.

A fuller obituary will appear in the next volume of the Society's Transactions, but in the meantime, BGAS members might like to read a comprehensive account of Joyce's life, work and wider contributions to the life of Bristol, kindly written by her good friend, Dr Martin Crossley Evans. (Page 26)

Peter Kenneth Griffin (1943-2020)

Peter was a history teacher and local historian, with a particular interest in the history of the village where he lived for almost his whole life, King's Stanley. He was born and died in the same house, Springfield, and his family has lived in the village for over 400 years.

Peter was educated at the primary school in King's Stanley, at Marling School in Stroud,

and at Wadham College Oxford where he read History. After graduation he stayed on at Oxford for a year to study Education before taking a job with the Schools Service at the Reading Museum.

Peter entered the teaching profession in the mid 1960s with a post at the Forest School in Winnersh. On moving back to King's Stanley in the early 1970s he joined the History Department at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School in Wotton-under-Edge, where he remained until he retired in the late 1990s, by then Head of Department.

After retirement, he was awarded an MPhil from the University of Gloucestershire for his work transcribing the diary of a railway engineer. Charles Richardson, a pupil of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who surveyed the route of the future Great Western Railway through Gloucestershire in the 1830s.

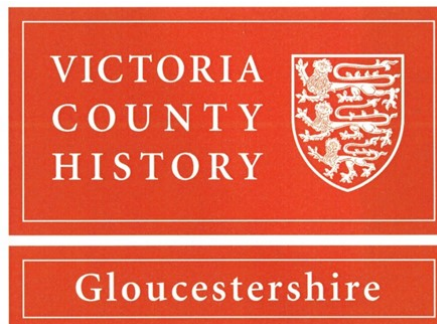
A member of BGAS, Peter was also a keen local historian. He was a member of the Stroud Local History Society, the Stroud Museum Association, the Museum in the Park and the Cotswold Postcard Collectors' Club. He participated in Eddie Price's excavations at Frocester and later helped to lead those at Kings Stanley, working with David Evans.

Ever since he was a teenager, Peter's main interest was the history of King's Stanley. Peter gave many talks and lectures on the subject and – after decades of meticulous research – his book, *History of King's Stanley*, was near completion when he died. His daughter Kate has taken on the task of preparing it for publication in late 2020.

Peter married Elizabeth Shaw in 1965; they had three children – Kate, Chloe and Edmund – and four grandchildren, who live in Coleford, Gateshead, Norwich and Sydney. Liz continues to live at Springfield.

Carolyn Heighway

Notice of the deaths of BGAS members Lionel Walrond and Professor Angus Buchanan came too late for obituaries to be included in this Newsletter. These will appear in the next issue.



Trained (as some of us are, at any rate) to take a historical perspective, it's still very hard to write about 2020 without mentioning the pandemic, so let's do that first. It had an impact on the work of the Gloucestershire County History Trust in two main ways.

Firstly, the inability to access archives in person, which has affected many of us, but most acutely our editors, both paid and unpaid. The extra online facilities granted by various libraries and repositories have of course been very welcome, but didn't really make up for the lack of direct access to individual documents outside the established classes of record.

Secondly, the ability to make or develop new relationships. Emails and online meetings work well enough with people you already know, but it's much harder to explore new work possibilities if you're not sitting down face to face with someone, or able to walk the landscape with them.

So, some things have gone slowly, or not got going at all, but on the other hand, enforced isolation has meant that some pending tasks have made better progress, especially if one had the foresight to have a hoard of archive images or notes stored on the computer, waiting for that rainy day. Despite setbacks, there's positive news to report in all three of the VCH Glos project areas.

Volume 14 (Yate, the Sodburys, and neighbours): generous residents of West Littleton have very kindly pledged most of the money needed to research this small parish just south of the M5 and east of the A46. We did not immediately have a researcher available for this, but luckily have been able to buy in some research effort from the



*West Littleton – St James' church
on a breezy day in February*

neighbouring VCH trust in Oxfordshire, which will mean we can expect a start on the work this autumn. Oxfordshire's nominee for the work is Dr Simon Draper, of whom we have had excellent reports!

Volume 15 (Cheltenham and district): even without archive access, quite a lot has been happening both on Cheltenham itself and on neighbouring Swindon village. Here, Sally Self's 'Bedlam' project has been taking a thorough (and unprecedented?) look at the post-war transformation of former market gardens into an edge-of-town trading and industrial estate.

Cheltenham itself is now several steps closer to completion. Jan Broadway has drafted sections on post-war Local Government, Topography & Development, Social History, and Economic Activity, and we strongly encourage anyone with an interest in the town to look at these and make constructive comments (with references please!) As far as draft text goes, that is almost 'it' for



*Swindon village, Cheltenham:
market gardening between the wars*

Cheltenham proper. There is of course still much to do, including mapping to illustrate the whole account. If there's anyone out there with cartographic skills who'd like to help, please ***please*** get in touch.

Leckhampton was a specific victim of lockdown. In February, we'd been put in touch with a young post-doc who was prepared to tackle the knotty medieval history of Leckhampton, and a very promising short scoping study was prepared. But it was impossible for us to meet up, and in the meantime our contact had another more substantial work opportunity which proved impossible to turn down. Thinking caps back on again...

Vol 15 (Cirencester and district): Alex Craven has done well in difficult lockdown conditions to keep up a flow of drafts on Bagendon and Daglingworth, albeit more slowly than planned. John Chandler is

resuming work on Baunton. A lockdown bonus was that Professor Tim Darvill was able to use enforced home time to prepare and deliver his promised essay on the pre-history of the Cirencester area, which we think will be a valuable (unprecedented again?) addition to the Introductory section of Vol 15. This is now online, and well worth a read. We are commissioning mapping to complement Tim's text.

Regrettably, the Trust's fundraising efforts have had to take a back seat in recent months. Understandably, people's thoughts and charitable instincts have been focused on matters other than historical research. But we shall regroup in due course, and hope that we can use the progress that has been made over recent months as further arguments for the help we need to 'finish the job' – or to be more accurate, finish all three of the jobs outlined above. All drafts are online [here](#).

James Hodsdon

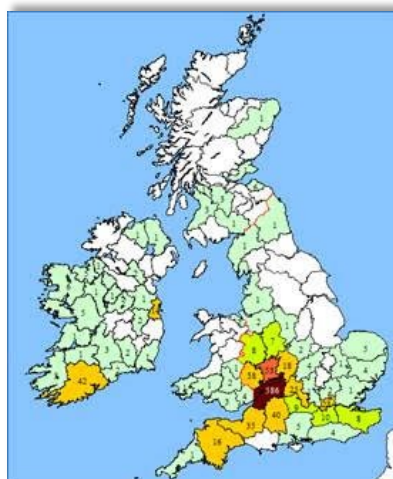
Chair

Gloucestershire County History Trust

Gloucestershire Record Series: A Bumper Year!

Undaunted by the lockdown, the Society is pleased to announce that in 2020, Record Series subscribers will be receiving not one but TWO volumes.

Volume 34 provides a uniquely detailed insight into the 'problem of the poor' - at least, those unfortunates who fell on hard times in 19th-century Cheltenham, and who had to be examined by magistrates, to assess where they were 'settled'. In short, were they to be a burden on Cheltenham's ratepayers, or could they be shown to be the responsibility of another parish?

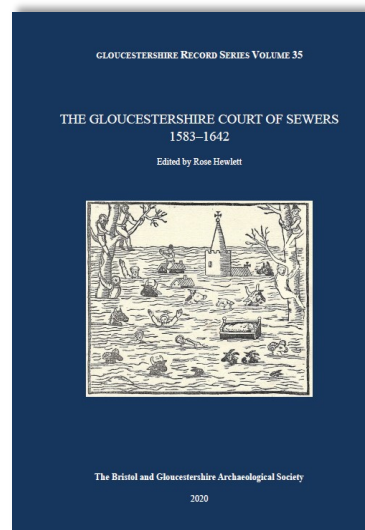


*GRS34, Cheltenham Settlement Examinations:
sample figure shows birth counties of paupers
examined in Cheltenham*

Volume 35 is an edition of a very different sort of record - the Tudor and early Stuart Commissioners of Sewers in Gloucestershire. Responsible for the proper management of water-courses, drainage and coastal defences along the Severn estuary, the commissioners were a vital strand of local government, responsible for overseeing not just year-in, year-out maintenance, but also the response to literally overwhelming rare events such as the 1607 Flood.

In their different ways, both volumes shed considerable light on the response of contemporary officialdom to practical issues that still affect the county today - on the one hand, misfortune disrupting normal family life, and on the other, too much water in the wrong place at the wrong time.

We had been hoping that both volumes would be launched to the accompaniment of talks by their



respective editors at the Gloucester History Festival in September, as happened last year. Stricter regulations on indoor meetings have put paid to this, but ever ingenious in adversity, Heather Forbes and the GHF team have now arranged for Rose Hewlett's talk to be filmed, to be available online as part of the Festival, and later via our own BGAS website. Details are still being finalised - please check online. BGAS had earlier pledged £500 in support of the Festival; the money will be applied to help with the cost of filming this talk and other sessions, so that despite the reduction in physical events this year, the history message will still be reaching a lot of people.

Later in the year, we'll be looking for opportunities to give John Simpson's work the publicity it deserves, certainly in Cheltenham and more widely if possible.

We are able to bring you an extra issue this year because of the great generosity of several institutions and individuals with a particular interest in the Sewers volume, without whom early publication would not have been possible.

With this extra treat on offer, make no mistake: **THIS IS THE YEAR TO SIGN UP**, if you're not already a Record Series subscriber (currently a modest £15 supplement to the ordinary membership subscription).

Please email secretary@bgas.org.uk to subscribe.

Also, see the website for further details of both volumes.

Dates for Diaries

Gloucester Heritage Open Days 2020

Friday 11th to Monday 14th September

This has been a difficult year for all of the Gloucester Heritage Open Day organisers. The Gloucester History Festival has been unable to run its normal programme of Blackfriars talks so there has been limited opportunity for the Gloucester Civic Trust to advertise this year's Heritage Open Day activities. Nevertheless the Civic Trust's team have been working hard to put on a programme, although of course not so extensive as usual.

Details of the 2020 programme of guided walks, talks and other events are contained in the online [brochure](#) and associated [map](#). Please take note that all guided walks, talks and some places open to the public will be by pre-booking only.

Numbers are limited to 5 on walks, 4 on the SULA lightship and 15 for talks. Where booking is not required there may be restriction to numbers entering at one time.

Many of these events are already filling up quickly, so if you are interested in attending please contact the HOD organisers as soon as possible using the registration details provided in the on line brochure.

Paul Drinkwater

HOD Coordinator
Gloucester Civic Trust

BGAS Meetings

Many members look forward to the twice-yearly meetings – the day visits when we explore on foot and learn about history and archaeology in situ. As none will be possible during 2020, we intend to move the programme on as below:

Michael Hare's President's Meeting to Apperley and Deerhurst, originally planned for 19 September 2020, is postponed with date to be confirmed.

Bob Jones' President's Meeting will be held in 2022, details to follow in due course.

The planned 2020 Meeting to the Forest of Dean and Newnham on Severn will now take place in the spring of 2022.

Rose Hewlett

BGAS LIBRARY REPORT

JULY 2020

LIBRARY UPDATE

The BGAS library remains temporarily closed due to the current public health crisis and arrangements have been made to extend the loan periods for items members have borrowed until normal services can be restored. While it is hoped to re-open the library as soon as possible, our concerns for the health and safety of BGAS members and the University of Gloucestershire's staff who manage the library on the Society's behalf remain paramount. A resumption of normal services can therefore only take place when it is considered safe to do so. We regret the inconvenience the suspension of this service has caused library users and would like to thank members for their continued patience and understanding. Further updates on the planned re-opening will be published on the BGAS website when available.

In looking to fill these gaps, we are aware that BGAS members are sometimes kind enough to offer the Society surplus runs of our own *Transactions* or Record Series volumes when their personal storage space is becoming scarce. While it is important to emphasise that we have adequate stocks of our own publications at present, if any readers have copies of the volumes listed opposite which they are willing to donate to the BGAS library, this would help fill the gaps in our collection. If you are able to assist, please email a list of the volumes you have available to secretary@bgas.org.uk

G. J. Barton

Secretary

BGS Library Committee

LIBRARY WANTS LIST

While the library has been closed, there has been an opportunity to consider how the collection might be improved when we eventually re-open. One of these initiatives has been to examine the gaps in our journal collections and explore ways in which these may be filled. An audit of our existing journal stock was completed shortly before lockdown began and this identified a number of cases where almost complete runs of journals exist. As there are advantages in holding a full set of these publications, this audit has enabled a 'wants list' to be created, in the hope that these missing volumes can be acquired.

COUNTY JOURNALS**VOLUMES NOT IN BGAS LIBRARY**

Archaeologia Aeliana	31, 39, 55
Archaeologia Cambrensis	2 nd Series 3, 4, 5, 6; 3 rd Series 1, 2, 4, 12; 6 th Series 13, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46; 48, 50, 56, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 67, 74.
Archaeologia Cantiana	57, 58, 65, 68, 71, 72, 77.
Cambridge Archaeological Journal	40, 49, 50, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 60, 72.
Cornwall Archaeological Journal	1
Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Journal	78, 80, 87, 89, 121, 122.
London & Middlesex Archaeological Society Journal	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 46, 47, 48, 49.
Montgomery Collections	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 36.
Norwich & Norfolk Archaeological Journal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 29, 30, 32 (part 3), 34 (part 2).
Shropshire Archaeological & Natural History Journal	53, 58 (part 1), 59 (part 1).
Society of Antiquaries of Ireland	4 th Series 5, 6, 7, 8; 5 th Series 3.
Surrey Archaeological Collections	47, 52, 61, 62, 64, 74.
Sussex Archaeological Collections	2, 3, 46, 75, 77, 105, 115.
Yorkshire Archaeological Journal	14, 24, 65, 66, 86, 87.

GENERAL JOURNALS

Amateur Historian	7
Archaeologia	42, 69, 70.
Midland History	Part 3 (section 2), Part 3 (section 4), Part 4 (section 1), Part 40 (section 2), Part 41 (section 1), Part 41 (section 2).
Post Medieval Archaeology	1, 33.
Southern History	10, 26.

LOCAL HISTORY JOURNALS

Painswick Chronicle	1, 2.
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A Full Life

Mrs. Joyce Doreen Morris

The death of Joyce Doreen Morris on 5th July 2020, aged 93, brings to an end an era for the many institutions in which she took an active part.

She was born into a working class family in central Bristol on 26th March 1927. Her mother, a Roman Catholic, died when she was young, and Joyce and her three sisters were farmed out among her aunts and had little contact with each other. Her father was frequently out of work. He remarried, but his second wife could not fill the place of her own mother and there was little sympathy between them, something which was clear when she returned to live with her father. Her family life was both difficult and challenging. At the time of the Great Air Raid on Sunday 24th November 1940, the shelter in which she and her step mother had taken refuge received a direct hit. Her stepmother died in her arms, an experience from which she never fully recovered and Joyce was peppered with shrapnel which continued to affect her neck throughout her long life.

In common with many working class children, her only holidays were the annual Sunday School outing. Her education was up to elementary standard at a succession of Board Schools, including the Hannah More School. At school she came to the notice of one of the school mistresses, Miss Ena Glide (later Mrs Mc Ewen and a Church Warden of Christ Church with St. Ewen, Broad Street), and her formidable mother, a retired Board School Headmistress, who both recognised her potential and encouraged her in her academic interests. She was noted for her clear and attractive penmanship, loved poetry, which she recited from memory, or read aloud, and accumulated a good working library of English literature and Bristol history. Her interests ranged from mediaeval illumination to nineteenth and early twentieth century Chinese history, a subject encouraged by her friend, a former C.I.M. missionary in Yunnan, the Revd. David Clark Johnson (1915-2012), vicar of Bishopsworth.

After leaving school in 1941, aged 14, she worked as a junior clerk in the Great Western

Railway, and later became a secretary at Mardon Son and Hall, serving in the WRNS at the end of World War II. In retirement she worked occasionally voluntarily in part time jobs, including twice at Manor Hall in the University of Bristol once during a four month interregnum.

She had a thirst for learning. She attended many of the courses run by the late John Moore and others in the Bristol Record Office and became a competent palaeographer.

In her late 70s she embarked on an internet course, had a private tutor and became proficient in basic computing. For many years she taught English, reading and writing voluntarily at Hotwells Primary School, trying hard to encourage young people to develop basic skills and a sense of enquiry and adventure.

In her younger days she was keen on amateur drama, diction and elocution and was entered by her teachers into the Bristol Eisteddfod. She embodied and championed the values of the English-Speaking Union. Her love of drama made her a gifted actress and she appeared in a number of plays including Shakespeare and Restoration drama. She would have made a memorable Mrs Malaprop.

In 1977 she joined the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and soon put her many gifts to the use of Miss Ralph, to whom she became indispensable, and to the members. A noted cook, she was famous for her baked hams, and her cherry and seed cakes. Together with Mrs Mary Campbell and Mrs Vivienne Gethyn Jones, all the society's catering at the AGMs, which then attracted an average of 80 members and Book Launches, was undertaken by them. Indeed it was said that it was their teas which encouraged such high attendances.

In 1982 the de facto Membership and Subscription Secretary, Vivian George Mildren (1927-1984) was struggling to deal with the society's membership details. The Society then had close on 1,000 members, and addresses were kept on hand written cards. Joyce undertook to help him with the work and brought secretarial skills of a

high order to the task. When he died prematurely in 1984 she took on the role of Membership and Subscriptions Secretary and became a member of the Society's Council for Bristol. Her outstanding services to the Society were recognised by her appointment as Vice President in 2007, a post which she held until 2010.

The Society's annual outings were a source of great delight to her, and she captured the main events of the outings from the 1970s to 1990s in a series of meticulously kept photograph albums. She particularly enjoyed the visits to France led by Canon Gethyn Jones.

Mrs. Morris's palaeography classes gave her the skills to enable her to assist Vivian Mildren transcribe the records of the Guild of Merchant Tailors, which he was working on at the time of his death. Her skills were also utilised by the former city archivist, Miss Elizabeth Ralph, for whom she transcribed many documents at the Record Office. Her practical support for Miss Ralph, particularly after the death of her sister Miss Jeannette Ralph in 1993, enabled Miss Ralph to continue to live in her own home long after she would normally have had to relocate to St. Monica's, and to continue with her heavy academic work commitments into old age.

The traditional Church of England was one of Joyce's greatest loves. She attended the church of St. Thomas the Martyr for many years with her former school mistress Miss Glide and Mrs Glide, but the rapid decline of the church's congregation due to its secondary place in the diocese's considerations and the Social and Industrial Mission's lack of sympathy with the services of the Book of Common Prayer in the 1960s and early 1970s (before the church's eventual closure) led the ladies to move with others to Christ Church with St. Ewen, Broad Street, which became Mrs Morris's spiritual home for more than 50 years.

In the 1970s the church was known by wags as "the B. and G. at prayer" and among the congregation she numbered Vivian Mildren, Dr. Basil Cottle, Miss Jeannette Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knapp, and Mr. and Mrs. Burton Kilby among her close friends. The Society's treasurer, H.G.M. Leighton was baptised at the church by his father's friend, Canon M.A.R.T. Cole and Mr. Leighton retained close links with the church.

Joyce took charge of the catering for many functions, and a leading part in the annual Harvest Supper, acted as sacristan at the mid week communion service, helped at the annual garden parties at Manor Hall, and until the advent

of Covid19, served on the flower rota, the list of readers at services, and undertook the care and laundry of the altar linen and choir robes. Although of limited financial means, she commissioned the church's best cope which was made by the Royal School of Needlework in memory of Vivian Mildren, paid for the carpeting of the choir vestry, two 17th century coffin stools and various other items still used in the church.

She was the Membership Secretary of the Bristol Diocesan branch of the Prayer Book Society until her death and loved the cadences, language and spirituality of the Prayer Book liturgy, organising a memorable tour of St. Thomas's and lecture by Dr. J.H. Bettey, and numerous lectures during the presidency of the late Revd. Roger Thomas, minister of Frenchay. She was also a supporter of the Bath and Wells branch and admirer of the secretary, Mr. Christopher Jefferies, and his tireless work on its behalf.

She married a Cornishman, Clarence "Clarry" Morris, whose family were stone masons and fishermen. He had served in the Royal Navy in the 1940s and 1950s. They met when she was on holiday, and following marriage Clarry worked at Cadena Cafe in Queen's Road, where his gentle manner and good humour won him many friends. Following the closure of Carwardine's in the 1980s he worked as a porter at Clifton College Preparatory School well past the usual retirement age. In his final years they enjoyed a number of happy and memorable holidays among the multiplicity of churches in North Norfolk, based in Walsingham. He predeceased Joyce and they had no family. They were warm and generous hosts and their Sunday lunches legendary.

She was a woman of firm traditional Tory values, held trenchant views, which were firmly expressed, was a good friend, and always willing to help those in need. I enjoyed 43 years of her friendship and I will, like many others, give thanks for a long life well lived and mourn her passing.

Martin Crossley Evans