

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

LOCAL HISTORY

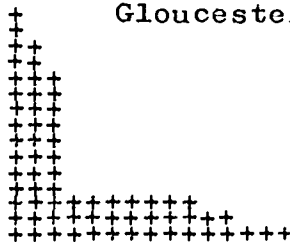
BULLETIN.

AUTUMN 1965.

NO. 12.

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER,

AUTUMN 1965.

We begin this Bulletin on a very sad note. Our beloved Dr. Olive Griffiths, who has edited the Bulletin for so many years, died on 21st November after a long and trying illness.

We cannot pay too high a tribute to Dr. Griffiths. She served on the Committee with untiring devotion from 1947, when it was started again after the war, and it was largely due to her efforts that many of our most ambitious projects were carried out so successfully. To those who knew Dr. Griffiths, it will come as no surprise to learn that, although she was so ill, she struggled to produce this issue of the Bulletin just a few days before she died.

We shall miss her very dearly.

P.P.

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This Autumn has held for Gloucestershire local history students a great grief and three sources of happiness.

We all regret the passing of Sir Ian Richmond - all who were fortunate enough to hear him speak will endorse Mrs. Clifford's warm and scholarly appreciation of his personality. But for him we know that the end came suddenly in the midst of great interest and happiness. Only a few days before his death Miss Powley received a letter rejoicing in the flood of new accessions which had descended on the Corinium Museum from the Abbey site and he evidently looked forward to years of work on the material.

The extraordinary richness of the remains on the Abbey site are one of our causes for rejoicing and the news, only just received, that the Ministry of Works have taken over the Grey Friars site so that like the Black Friars, its future is secure. When both buildings are thoroughly repaired and set in order the public will be admitted to them both. Finally, there could be no greater comfort than to know that there is a secure and interesting future for Westbury Court.

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY.

The seventeenth annual meeting will be held on November 18th and 19th. The discussions on November 18th intended for Secretaries of Local History Societies or their delegates will cover Historical Building Trusts, Recording Local Dialects and Organising Excursions to Places of Interest. No doubt the delegates will have a lively and heated discussion on these problems, with which they are constantly confronted in their work. On the following day the two lectures will be 'Visible History - its Fate' by the Deputy Planning Officer for Cambridgeshire and 'The Place of Team Work in writing Local History' on which papers will be read by Victor H.T. Skipp, Senior Lecturer in History, Bordesley Training College, and Brian Jennings, Lecturer, Extra-Mural Department, Leeds University.

THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Council has rightly become alarmed at the piecemeal planning from which so many of our historic towns have suffered to the extent that even their mediaeval lane structure is now completely unrecognisable. The Council have made a list of places in each county whose future is so important that they feel the three Royal Commissions should prepare surveys. These towns should be placed in the care of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and not of Local Authorities. In Gloucestershire the

Council recommends extreme care by the local authorities in allowing alterations at Cheltenham, Chipping Sodbury, Cirencester, Fairford, Gloucester, Lechlade, Painswick, Stow-on-the-Wold, Tetbury and Winchcombe and that Chipping Campden and Tewkesbury should be placed directly under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

Miss Powley reports that:

"The Committee has been very busy in the past few months and has considered a number of new projects as well as continuing the old and well-established ones.

The most important matter with which the Committee has dealt has been the question of its own membership. With the much-regretted resignation early in the year of Mrs. Daber, whose place was taken by Dr. Perry, and, more recently of Dr. Sharp, the Committee has reviewed its composition as a whole and, as a result, has invited those local societies which were not already represented on the Committee to nominate a representative. We hope that this will keep up the Committee's close connection with needs of the amateur in the field and, also, give local societies the benefit of the Committee's overall view. In addition, the Committee will also be joined by Mr. I. Popham, Regional Officer of the National Council of Social Service and a member of the Standing Conference of Local History.

Following up the Old People's Essay Competition, a master tape has now been made of the winning entries and individual copies are being prepared for distribution. These will be available for Local History Societies, Old People's Clubs, Schools and, indeed, any interested groups or individuals. The Committee hopes that they will in turn stimulate further reminiscences.

We have had a request for help from the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, who are engaged on research into the registers of selected parishes throughout the country. Since the task is large and rather daunting - involving counting the number of births, marriages and deaths entered in the registers - the Committee has decided against sponsoring the research on a large scale. When completed, however, it will yield valuable information on crises of subsistence and if any societies or individuals would care to assist in the research, we should be very glad to hear from them.

Our well-tried and popular project, the Schools Essay Competition, is being held again this year. The conditions are much the same as last year and details have already been sent to Schools, although they are also available here for anyone who has not received them. As the interest in Local History continues to grow, we are hoping for another good crop of lively entries.

It has been decided that at present the Industrial Essay Competition should not be made an annual event. Last year it was held on an experimental basis and since there were so few entries - of a very high standard, nevertheless, - the Committee felt that it had perhaps been premature and that students were not yet ready to demonstrate their prowess in a subject which is still so much in its infancy. We are, however, convinced that the interest in Industrial Archaeology is still growing and we intend to repeat the competition when it is well-established.

The Committee continues to keep in touch with the Standing Conference for Local History and the Council for British Archaeology, from both of which we receive a great deal of help and information about the progress of Local History throughout the Country."

The prospects of closer contact with the Local History Society seems likely to be very helpful. We have lost some very valuable members this year, Mrs. Baber, who ran the Schools Essay Competition from its beginning and gave such competent directions to the Schools themselves, Dr. Sharp, who, though a scholar and a teacher whose time her friends felt was filled three times over, hardly even missed a meeting and gave the Committee most generous help, particularly over the W.I. Competition on Our Village in the last Hundred Years. Mr. Abbott so often stepped into the breach and judged a competition and inspired us with his enthusiasm that here again we have lost a sound ally. We wish all three happiness in their new undertakings.

"After last year's break, the One-day School for Sixth-formers was again held most successfully this year - so successfully in fact, that the title 'One-day School' is now more misleading than ever. The programme lasts only one day, of course, and we are now quite used to repeating it for a second day to cope with the large numbers wishing to come. This year, however, as an experiment it was repeated on a third day for the benefit of Secondary Modern Schools with the result that we had a total attendance of approximately ninety children.

The programme was similar to that of previous years and was based on visits to the Folk Museum and an exhibition of historical documents in St. Mary's Gateway, preceded by introductory talks on 'The Museum and Local History' and 'Local Records'. The Museum proved as popular as ever and provided a detailed background of daily life in the County in contrast to the documents, some of them very valuable, which illustrated four important national milestones - the Civil War, Enclosure, the Industrial Revolution and the Poor Law - as they affected Gloucestershire. Any questions which arose from the exhibitions, and, indeed, questions on Local History generally, were answered by a very distinguished panel of experts at a Brains Trust session in the afternoon.

One thing which rather disturbed us was that a number of school parties were not accompanied by a teacher. It was most noticeable that the children gained most from the proceedings when they were accompanied by a teacher who was actively interested and, because the success of the school depends so much on the co-operation between the teachers and the organisers, we are exploring ways of increasing this co-operation. It might, for instance, be helpful if we were to send out details of the contents of the exhibitions in advance so that teachers could prepare their pupils beforehand to look for the important points.

We must thank the speakers who so kindly gave up their time and our Chairman, Lt. Col. A.B. Lloyd-Baker, who opened the proceedings. Most of all, however, we must thank the staff of the Museum and the County Records Office for arranging the exhibitions and, in particular, Mr. Irvine Gray, the County Archivist, and his Senior Assistant, Mr. Brian Smith, who between them bore the brunt of the organisation."

(Report by Miss Powley)

#### EXHIBITION OF HERALDRY.

The County Records Officer, who organised the exhibition, contributes the following note:

As one of the 'fringe activities' of the Three Choirs Festival, the recently formed Gloucestershire Heraldry Society, with the co-operation of the County Records Office, arranged a small exhibition of heraldic art. This was held at St. Mary's Gateway, Gloucester, from September 4th to 11th.

Exhibits included illuminated pedigrees, grants of arms, and documents with heraldic seals from the Records Office collections and private owners, ranging in date from the 13th to the 20th Century. Some fine armorial porcelain was also lent, as well as engraved silver, sheriffs' banners and coach panels, a funereal hatchment, paintings and printed books. One item of exceptional interest was the original tabard worn by Ralph Bigland (1711-1784), Garter King-of-Arms and author of Bigland's History of Gloucestershire.

The exhibition was visited by about 600 people during the week, and seems to have been quite a success.

THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.  
SUMMER MEETING AT CHELTENHAM, 12th - 17th JULY, 1965.

In archaeological circles the R.A.I. is one of the leading national societies and we were honoured by their choosing Cheltenham as the centre for their 6-day summer meeting. The preliminary planning was done by Mr. P.E. Curnow, F.S.A., who found his task by no means easy. In such an area the problem was not to find enough ancient and historical monuments to fill six days of touring, but to decide which of the important sites could be omitted. Even so it was found necessary on two days to arrange different tours for the prehistorians and medievalists.

The printed programme began with articles by Mrs. Clifford on the prehistory, Sir Ian Richmond on Roman Gloucestershire, Nicholas Cooper on Cheltenham and Lionel Walrond on Industrial Archaeology. These articles in themselves form a comprehensive introduction to the archaeology of the county. The programme continued with notes by the prospective guides on each place to be visited. The guides included many well-known names - Sir Ian Richmond, Dr. Raleigh Radford, Dr. Graham Webster, Mr. Arnold Taylor, Dr. H.M. Taylor and several others. Our own local antiquaries were well to the fore. The Dean of Gloucester, the Cathedral; W.I. Croome, Northleach and Cirencester churches and Tewkesbury Abbey; D.C.W. Verey, Ashleworth Court, Church and Barn and other sites; L.V. Grinsell, Delas Knap; H.S. Gracie, Uley Bury, Nympsfield Long Darrow etc., all acted as guides.

The visitors expressed much appreciation of our local hospitality. His Worship the Mayor of Cheltenham provided a Civic Reception. Receptions were also given by the Bristol & Glos. Archaeological Society with the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club in the Parliament Room at Gloucester and by Dr. Joan Evans at her home in Wotton-under-Edge.

H.S. Gracie

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.  
GLOUCESTER EXHIBITION AT FRIEND'S MEETING HOUSE.

A small part of an exhibition arranged for the Three Choirs Festival week was devoted to characteristic records of Quaker history. There were black poke bonnets with their starched cambric caps, a fine patterned shawl, a dove coloured gown all in quiet taste and admirable quality and a delightful portrait of Elizabeth Hadfield, née Taylor; Victorian, a little demure, she had a firm mouth and wide, gently humorous eyes, all most explanatory of the accompanying minute recording that she had been struck off the books for being married to Mr. Hadfield by a priest; the transaction was conducted with courtesy and moderation on both sides. An equally revealing minute related to Marshall Hunt, a Quaker imprisoned for stealing; an enquiry made of him in prison gently recorded extenuating circumstances and recommended him to the Meeting's help. A late 18th century letter shows the speed with which the Friends, once free of legal persecution, exercised their social influence; this, of 1789, is a protest in the interests of juvenile morals against the billing of a performance at Tewkesbury Playhouse. There were

various reminders of the bad days; evidence of a collection made in 1671 in aid of a Friend impoverished by persecution; a page of the Gloucestershire Book of Sufferings showing how one had finally been hounded from his livelihood on the land by a South Gloucestershire Vicar, and several certificates of the early eighteenth century given to Friends travelling in the Ministry to assure the host Meeting of their bona fides. All these treasures were beautifully put out, in a very small space, and made the viewer hope for more later on.

#### THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY.

The vigour which this Society maintains and the gift which it possesses for rousing interest can be gauged from the fact that they have arranged a "Tidying up of the Stroud Valley" Exhibition and that as last year's Christmas card brought in £11. they intend to have another this year. At their Annual General Meeting the Secretary reminded members that many sites were practically on members' doorsteps and that if each member concentrated on filling cards for items within a mile radius of their house or place of work, several hundred record cards could be quickly obtained. The importance of documents as well as buildings as objects of research was also stressed. Fieldwork done this year covered photographic surveys of the stations between Stonehouse and Chalford and between Haresfield and Yate. Measurement surveys were made of parts of the Thames and Severn Canal in the Brimscombe/Chalford area, Box stone-mines, Price's Brewery at Uley, milestones and toll houses of the Stroud Valleys and the following mill sites - Bourne, Donnington, Egypt, Gann's (3), Lightpill, Monk's and Syreford. The Newsletter maintains its excellent level and describes successful excursions to Newnham-on-Severn and the Nettlebridge Valley, and articles on the "Stroud Valley Improvement Scheme" by the County Planning Officer, New Passage Hotel, Pilning, and our own Industrial Archaeological Competition. An excavation organised by Mr. Abbott at Haind Park Wood which revealed a pottery kiln with a working life from c.1620 until after 1700 is reported in detail. An article on the Nailsworth Kettle reveals that even late in the nineteenth century the citizens of Forest Green and Amberley when in disagreement fired cannon at each other. A pleasant feature of this Society is its close connection with Upfield Preparatory School, Pagan's Hill, whose senior girls usually make some contribution to the Bulletin.

#### ADULT EDUCATION.

As usual students who are interested in the history of the County are generously catered for. Cheltenham will have a course on Roman Archaeology by P.J. Fowler, M.S.A., and Gloucester will benefit from a similar course. Those interested in Gloucester in a later period can attend a course on Gloucestershire in the Eighteenth Century by Brian Smith, the Assistant County Archivist. Cheltenham will have a series on "Transport in Gloucestershire" by Mr.R.D.Abbott, A.M.A., and a panel will discuss various aspects of Industrial Archaeology. Mr. Mansfield will give a series on "Gloucestershire in History and History in Gloucestershire" at Cheltenham. Northleach will be able to hear ten lectures on the Local History of their district by R.W. Jennings. In the Forest area, Mr. Smith will give a course on Local History at Newent and coming further south a course on South Gloucestershire, the Region and its Development has been arranged at Winterbourne, and Wotton-under-Edge will hear a course on Saxon England and the Norman Conquest by Dr. Perry.

#### NEWS FROM THE SOCIETIES.

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society have reported to the C.B.A. on a number of houses.

The two oldest Bristol brasses, originally in Temple Church have been recovered through the exertions of their member Mr. M. Leighton and after cleaning at the Museum will be placed in St. Mary, Redcliffe. The Society became infected with the growing enthusiasm for Industrial Archaeology and for their September excursion they visited the Nailsworth Mills, Egypt, Dunkirk, Longforths Mill and Lake, and Ball Green Upper Stone Mine. They also visited the Thames and Severn Canal including Brinscombe Port Buildings and locks, and Boatyards at Brinscombe and Chalford and the Pound House. On their way home they saw Ebley and Stanley Mills at Stroud.

The Forest of Dean put in a well filled exhibit for the "Leisure Exhibition" held at the Forest of Dean Technical School last July. Some of the exhibits were supplied by the Caving Clubs who are exploring the mining shafts and levels in the Clearwell and Wigpool districts and as a result a close link has been formed between the Caving Clubs and the Society.

The Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society prints two original contributions this year, a transcription of the complaint of Sir Antony Hungerford and Robert Strainge to the Court of Augmentations that although they had purchased from the Crown the Church steeple and superfluous houses of the Abbey of Cirencester yet one Robert Dosing, his wife and servants daily carry off the timber and stuff of the said Church steeple and surplus houses and beg for letters under the privy seal to cause Dosing and his helpers to leave the property alone. The second article by R.K. Lingard-Guthrie gives a brief but most interesting history of the Manor Farm of Tarlton and the Coxe Family.

The Cheltenham Society has made valiant efforts to preserve a village aspect for the centre of Charlton Kings. Efforts have been made to form effective Terrace centres and residents and owners of Lansdown Parade, Oxford Parade and Montpellier Associations were invited to a Borough Council meeting together with representatives of interested Societies such as their own. The Association have very definite views as to the standard of the work to be organised. The Buildings Record Index has grown this year though somewhat slowly, but this is patient, steady work in which very spectacular increases are not to be expected.

We hear with regret that Pucklechurch Local History Society is no longer functioning as an organised body.

A new Local History Society has been formed this year at Kingswood, Nr. Bristol. Mrs. Vinter reports: This newly-formed Society now has about 30 members and has already elected its officers; Mr. S.S. Stokes (Chairman), Mrs. Middleton (Secretary, and Mr. R. Tadman (Treasurer). Six members to form the Committee are to be elected shortly.

Two papers have aroused much interest, the September one on the local boot factories in 1900. More than 50 were recollected by the speaker, Mr. Gilbert Webb, who also explained some of the technical terms of the trade. The October paper was by Mr. E. Lovell who described in a very interesting and scholarly way some of the contents of the Ditton Parish Chest. The local plans for evacuation in case of a French invasion in 1806 were of particular interest.

On October 16th, on a day full of autumn sunshine, some of the Society went by coach to Dyrham where they were shown this lovely house and its treasures by the Curator, Mr. Fish. They also explored the grounds and were fascinated by the cascade running over several stone steps into the water-garden.

Thornbury Society Bulletin contains some interesting matter including an article about Thornbury Workhouse in 1848, the great storm of 1703, a list of Village Place Names, on crossing the Severn in the great cold of 1776, and on the Thornbury exhibition of Industrial Art in 1885.

The winter has its busy seasons for local history workers. Indeed Mr. Jones declared it was easier to work in village churchyards in winter as the mosquitoes worried one no more. So winter 1965-66 will hold many opportunities for us all.

I cannot close this News-letter without thanking Miss Powley for all her kindness and helpfulness when called to take over the last Bulletin at very short notice because of my illness.

O.M. Griffiths.

PROFESSOR SIR IAN RICHMOND,  
C.B.E., M.A., Litt.D. D.Litt., Ll.D., F.B.A.

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Professor Sir Ian Richmond was a great friend to Gloucestershire. His scholarship is internationally acknowledged and his death is a shattering blow to Roman studies. He had a very distinguished career and many honours were bestowed upon him, which he wore very lightly.

As an excavator he was absolutely outstanding; and it was his extensive knowledge of the Roman world which allowed him to make use of parallels from elsewhere to interpret the problems of his many excavations in Britain.

As a lecturer he was in constant demand all over the country and he had the capacity, given to few, of making his subject, whatever it might be, a living thing. He took infinite pains that this might be so and even the youngest in his audience caught impressions of the people whom he depicted with such enthusiasm and clarity.

His stature as an archaeologist can be measured by the fact that he sat on practically every central committee in this country dealing with archaeological matters.

In Gloucestershire we remember him as President of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Society and recall with gratitude his great kindness to the Society when it was visiting other counties, especially on the occasions of the visits to Oxford and Reading. His kindness in lecturing to the Society more than once and in particular his fascinating account of the Roman army with its hospital service will be always in our minds. No one will forget his address at the last opening of the Woodchester pavement when he pictured for us the guests, the slaves, the dancing girls, and the musicians in the villa so vividly that he almost brought them to life.

His work and interest in Glevum, our own Roman colonia, was intense and practical. At our canton-capital at Cirencester, the second largest town in Roman Britain, he made an enormous contribution as Chairman of the Excavation Committee formed to inquire into its history. This work has gone on for several years and has been extremely successful, the results having greatly increased our knowledge of both the Roman and the later periods. In addition to this he was Honorary Curator of the town's famous Museum. His excavations extending over many years at Chedworth Roman villa have gradually unravelled the surprisingly complicated story of the site's development.

In many other ways he has helped people in Gloucestershire with their varied problems, and for this we are glad to put on record our deep appreciation.



It is not only for his scholarship that Sir Ian is mourned, but also for his infinite capacity for friendship, his warmth of feeling and generosity to all who sought his help; and this he gave unstintingly however awkward the moment might be when the request was made. We are proud to think that we have what was perhaps the last article that he wrote, namely the one contributed to the County Roman Gloucestershire on the occasion of the Royal Archaeological Society's meeting at Cheltenham last summer. It will appear in the next number of the Society's Journal.

There is no one who has crowded more into his lifetime than did Sir Ian Richmond, and there is little doubt that overwork was a cause of his untimely death.

It is as a friend that he will be widely missed, and nowhere more than in Gloucestershire.

Mrs. E.M. Clifford.

#### WESTBURY COURT.

It is a great pleasure to know that, as far as is humanly possible to say till the last legal knot is tied, Westbury Court is safe and will be used for purposes of which the first owner would have much approved. The delightful little water-garden which so many of us have stopped to admire through the open-work of the gates specially designed for this purpose is now practically the only seventeenth century garden of this type in England which has not been elaborated and romanticised at some later date. It was not only for its charm until the last few months of distress but also its unique state until lately which made the Daily Telegraph declare its loss would have been not only a local but a national disaster.

It was laid out by Colonel Maynard Colchester soon after he inherited the property in 1694 and he reorganised part of his estate using many features of Dutch gardens of the period, the use of water, the alleys and vistas and view points arranged to enhance its charm. As Colonel Colchester himself is not known to have visited Holland and there is no reference to any foreigner employed in the accounts, the Dutch influence has been hard to understand. Bigland, however, reminds us that his grandfather on his mother's side was Sir John Maynard, that remarkable legal expert whom no government, Royalist or Puritan, could spare. He drew up the articles of Stafford's impeachment, suffered a brief imprisonment on suggesting that Cromwell's accession was an usurpation but soon reappeared as M.P. for Totnes. He acted as Solicitor General for Richard Cromwell and was one of the first sergeants called at the Restoration, knighted and made King's Sergeant in 1660 and appeared for the Crown at the Restoration trials. It seems possible that here is the Dutch connection for he must surely have seen and heard of these ideas from returning Royalists and discussed them with his grandson though he died a year or two before Maynard inherited.

Colonel Colchester himself was a public spirited man, a Founder Supporter of the Societies for the Reformation of Manners and promoting Christian knowledge by Charity Schools, many of which he himself maintained at his own expense, and was a founder member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. But he was a delicate man and wisely used his spare time in enjoying his home and gardens.

He began his water experiments by building a brick wall along the existing brook and then his Canal wall for the Long Canal of 150 yds with a fountain at the North end of which nothing now remains, and at the South end a charming little garden room with a fireplace raised on six Ionic Pillars and pleasantly decorated. Other canals made a D pattern with the Long Canal and the statue of Neptune seems to have been a happy rescue from the Severn.

The costs and many details of his methods of work have been abstracted from Col. Colchester's general accounts by the County Records Officer. Bringing in the water, the cistern and engine were of course heavy outlays and brick-laying for 120,800 bricks cost £21. 9. 8., for instance, with 10,000 bricks for the arch bridge at £1. 15. 0. Tiling the little summer-house amounted to £3. 15. 0. and a Mr. Randal was paid for painting his arms and those of his wife and the great chamber had painted mullions.

Much of the property probably had its original Elizabethan brick garden walls and Col. Colchester was not the man to miss the opportunities of growing fruit that his property afforded. The accounts refer to purchases of 'plumbs', cherries, apricots and pears, filberts and one white and two red sweet watering grapes. The vegetable garden was stocked with peas and beans and he bought 2,000 asparagus plants. Many of his purchases were from "Cousin Colchester", evidently a nurseryman.

Natural hedge plants and shrubs for the long hedges take a large part in the accounts; 1,000 years of three year's growth for instance. Many of the shrubs were shaped for their positions - pyramid hollies and mock privets, and scotch firs to give height and shade as they grew were included.

But it is his lists of flowers which give rise to enchanting speculations. We can only base his choice on plants which are known to be available in Parkinson's Earthly Paradise and the great lists of Tradescant. There may have been by his time many new inventions and discoveries but we have the great collector's work as a corrective to imagination. Colonel Colchester included the laurestinus of which Parkinson, gardener to Henrietta Maria, praised for the low growth of its branches which were topped by small sweet smelling flowers "thrusting together...in an umbell or tuft". He bought tuberoses and daphnes, entered as they often were, under the Dutch name of mezericum. He bought 100 iris of which a seventeenth century writer said, "you could get more variety and colour in one collection than in a peacock's tail". The Tradescants, those great travellers, collected and listed 13 varieties, ranging from the Persian and Susian flowers to the great white and blue English flower de luce. 100 crocus were planted which could have come from 37 varieties, purple, white, gold and striped, not to mention the saffron "Naples" and the autumn crocus.

Fifty double hyacinths, still often known by the English name of jacynth were apparently easily obtainable and the Dutch double hyacinth war which preceded the tulip mania of the Netherlands was still in the future. Col. Colchester paid for his bulbs in a long miscellaneous list which totalled £3. 17. 0. The 50 great daffodils may have included the purple ringed daffodil, the great double bastard daffodil of the Tradescants (bastard? a sport which bred true?) It is very interesting to realise that only the very adventurous English traveller in the Spanish or French Pyrenean valleys would, in Elizabethan days, have seen the jonquils which Colchester could buy so readily in England.

His anemones could have been violet, peach, encardamine, the great orange tawny; the Ranunculus seems to have been a water crows-foot but there was a yellow form and a yellow garden batchelors button.

150 tulip bulbs was by far his biggest purchase of any one plant and as far back as Tradescant's time 30 varieties of this gallant flower were known and he could certainly have ordered white, purple, red and yellow.

After Colchester's death in 1715 various descendants took over the property and in 1734-5 the Elizabethan house was pulled down and an elegant stone building built in its place and a second summer-house. During the eighteenth century the family moved to Mitcheldean and the house was pulled down but the garden was well maintained and the gentlemen of the family used to ride over and take their wine in the little summer-house.

A time of difficulty followed for such places are not easy to maintain, but now it seems that there is a happy future for the Court and we can relax and imagine the Colonel and his devoted wife sitting in the little garden room eating their own nectarines and peaches, admiring the reflections in the canal and wondering what can be done to increase the lovely spread of colour in the knot gardens and other beds, and as dusk falls pacing back to the house pausing to breathe the perfume of their honeysuckle.

(Information from the County Records Office and *Plight of a Historic Garden* by J. Kennworthy-Brown. (Country Life, November 12th, 1964) *The Tradescants* by M E A Allan & Parkinson's *Earthly Paradise*).

O.M. Griffiths

BOOK LIST

Pre-Roman History (Pictorial Survey) by S. Stanley.	Studio Vista Ltd. 63/-
Fool in the Forest by L. Clark.	Leicester University.
Bristol as it Was, 1874-1879.	Reece Winston.
	Obtainable from booksellers.
Industrial Archaeology of Southern England. by K. Hudson.	Macdonald. 45/-
Mediaeval Word List. (New edition, much enlarged.)	
The Railway Navvies by T. Coleman.	Hutchinsons.
Web of Fortune (On Creswell family of Bibury, Glos. and Pinkney, Wilts).	
Historians Guide to Ordnance Maps.	National Council of Social Service.
	5/-
	Obtainable from Community House.
Short Account of the Armorial Bearings of the Sovereigns of England.	Ditto 3/6d.
Some Types of Common Field Parish.	Ditto 3/6d.

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 I R E M E M B E R -  
 SOCIAL LIFE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE VILLAGES 1850-1950.  
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Local History enthusiasts will be interested in this delightful booklet just published by the Local History Committee. It contains a fascinating account of the many changes which have taken place in Gloucestershire manners and customs over the past hundred years and gives an insight into the personal lives of a truly rural population.

The booklet has been prepared by the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes from the entries in a competition organised in 1958 for the Women's Institutes by the Local History Committee on the theme 'Our Village in living memory'. The sources used were many and various and included the memories of older inhabitants of the villages and old newspapers and documents. The present selection has been made by Mrs. M. FitzRandolph from a collection by Mrs. Clare Cunnington, to both of whom the Local History Committee wishes to express its thanks for a great deal of very hard work.

The booklet is on sale (price 2s. 6d. plus 6d. postage) in Community House and at the Head Office of the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes.

H.W. PAAR, A HISTORY OF THE RAILWAYS OF THE FOREST OF DEAN: Part two.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY IN DEAN,

Dawlish: David & Charles: London, Macdonald, 168 pp. 35s.

This is a book for the railway history enthusiast and for the transport archaeologist in the Forest of Dean. Well illustrated both with plates and maps, it is the second of two volumes which have told in detail the story of railed transport in Gloucestershire west of the Severn. The first volume was concerned with the Severn & Wye Railway; this deals with a number of lines which were all taken over and operated with varying degrees of success by the Great Western Railway. On the eastern side of the Forest a tramroad was built by the Bullo Pill Railway Company to serve the local coal and iron industries. Renamed the Forest of Dean Railway in 1826, the line was converted to broad gauge operation in 1854. Feeding into the line a number of private branches were built from Cinderford collieries and from other enterprises in the 'Crawshay empire'. Later it was proposed the Forest of Dean Railway should be continued northwards to link up with the Hereford, Ross & Gloucester Railway by the Mitcheldean Road & Forest of Dean Railway. Authorised in 1871 it was completed but never opened throughout. In the west of the Forest, the Monmouth Railway Company obtained an Act in 1810 to build a tramroad to link the Forest with Monmouth via Coleford. From the mid-century there were proposals to replace the tramroad by a railway but these took more than a quarter of a century to translate into reality and the Coleford Railway was opened in 1883. Its period of activity was comparatively short, however, and it was closed for traffic in 1916. The book concludes with an account of the unprofitable activities of the Forest of Dean Central Railway which ran from Foxes Bridge to Awre and of some minor enterprises including a 'distinctly ambitious' proposal to construct a tunnel under the Severn near Bullo Pill in 1810. So the detailed history of the railways of the Forest of Dean is brought to a conclusion.

This volume has the virtues of its predecessors. It deals in great detail with the routes and with the rolling stock. Great care has obviously been taken in going over the ground and in following up clues in libraries and record offices. But the area of search has unfortunately been limited. So for those less likely to be carried away by locomotive ecstasies it has the same defects as its predecessor. The transport system of an area, as the Beeching policy has underlined, is a means to an end not an end in itself. Too little is said about the traffic the railways carried, the reasons why they were built and the reasons why they failed. Then the railways were businesses, they cost money to build and to run, they made profits or losses. But of this scarcely a mention. Nor is there more than a passing reference to the men who promoted the railway concerns, the men who operated them - how many people did these railways employ, for example? - and the men who built them. Yet on the last subject a moving account of The railway navvies has just been written by Terry Coleman. And once again the footnotes are at the back. If they were informative, there might be some excuse but, as with the previous volume, most of them could have been incorporated in the text with a little care. One example will suffice. We read in the text (p.79) 'In August 1876 it was reported The Mitcheldean Road and Whimsey Railroad is so far progressing....' and then the sentence ends with a footnote. We turn expectantly to the back to find merely the word Engineering so the text could well have read, 'In August 1876 Engineering reported.....'

But these criticisms apart, within the limits that he has set himself, Mr. Paar has splendidly accomplished his task, that is to enable the visitor to the Forest of Dean to follow with understanding the physical remains of the railways of the area.

Walter Minchinton.

GWEN HART: A HISTORY OF CHELTENHAM.

Leicester University Press, 1965. 394 pp. 42s.

Urban history in this country is a sadly neglected study. The appearance therefore of Mrs. Hart's history of Cheltenham is to be welcomed, (as is also the handsomely produced new series emanating from the Leicester University Press of which it is an early volume). The subject is a challenging one: the changing character of Cheltenham from its original Saxon settlement through the "longe towne havinge a market" that Leland knew to the 18th century spa of gracious classical villas, parades and squares. Mrs. Hart has used manuscript sources in the Gloucestershire Records Office, the British Museum and the Public Records Office as well as documents in private hands, so that there is a wealth of new material here from the manorial court rolls to the 19th century vestry minutes with which to trace the social and economic development and the troubled often dramatic government of the town from the Middle Ages to the present day. It is particularly useful to be told of the mediaeval manor and of the market town of Tudor and Stuart times. Mrs. Hart's careful topographical information is amongst the most interesting and valuable information in this section. We find for example that the mediaeval pound was near the Fleece Hotel and that the High Cross stood in the High Street near the opening to the present colonnade.

This vivid sense of place stands Mrs. Hart in good stead when she comes to write of the Civil War and the skirmishing for position of the opposing troops struggling for the control of Gloucester. Then comes a most lively account of the Spa and of the men who made it. From then on her pages are full of personalities, Henry Skillicorne, Simon Morcau, the rivals William Miller and Thomas Hughes, Joseph Pitt and many more, with Dean Francis Close bringing a note of Victorian moral earnestness to the scene. And then what a galaxy of contemporary notables visited the place, leading statesmen, politicians, literary figures, writing their accounts of what they saw and did. The visit of George III as recounted by Fanny Burney is of course quite well known. But read Mrs. Hart's pages and find out the impressions of Byron, the Duke of Wellington, Jane Austen, Tennyson.....

It is perhaps natural to concentrate attention upon such a gallery of distinguished people. But it would have been interesting to have learnt rather more of the way of life of the common labouring sort of people upon whom this magnificently civilised existence depended. The poor appear mainly as the recipients of charity, whether of the Poor Law or of private benevolence. More use of taxation assessments, the censuses, directories of occupations and so on could have filled in the background. The Spa must have brought economic prosperity to thousands - but how was that prosperity distributed throughout the community? Where did the growing population come from? Did it draw upon the workers of the Stroudwater cloth industry in times of unemployment for example? We know of Papworth's architectural triumphs but what of the building trade itself? What of the profiteers and private speculators and those responsible for working-class housing?

To make such a criticism is not meant to detract from Mrs. Hart's achievement in presenting here the story of the origin, growth and development of a uniquely interesting local community through its vicissitudes from market town to Spa and its present-day educational and industrial interests.

SIR FERDINANDO GORGES,  
A WESTERN COLONIAL PIONEER.

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Sir Ferdinando Gorges has in 1965 been widely celebrated as a pioneer of American settlement four hundred years after his birth in, it is believed, 1565. Bristol had an admirable exhibition in the appropriate setting of the Red Lodge with a fine Catalogue, by Miss Elizabeth Ralph, the Bristol City Archivist. Plymouth, too, put on a very good show in his honour at Sir Francis Drake's old home Buckland Abbey, and published a commemorative tribute by Mr. K.D. Holt, Plymouth's City Archivist. What kind of man was this, with his Spanish-sounding Christian name? Why was it worth treating him as if he was a memorable character? An English historian, R.A. Preston, who is now a professor in America, wrote a large book about Sir Ferdinando some years ago but it has not been widely known and we have needed a shorter guide to his career and to his significance in our time. This has now been provided by Professor C.M. MacInnes in the form of an attractive 26-page pamphlet, Ferdinando Gorges and New England, which the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association has recently published (price 2s. 6d.).

Sir Ferdinando Gorges was a soldier who spent a considerable part of his life as commander of Plymouth Fort, but he had grown up at Wraxall, not far from Bristol, retained a connection with the City throughout his life and came late in life to live at Ashton Court, distinguishing himself as a Royalist defender of the City in the Civil War. His fame rests on different grounds from these. For over forty years Gorges firmly set his sights on North America, and though he is never known to have gone there himself, he sponsored one venture after another for exploiting its fish, its furs and its land. New England as a whole owes much to him and Maine, the United States' most easterly state, regards him, rightly, as its founder.

Professor MacInnes points out that he grew up in an age of hostility to Spain and that his first interest in the overseas world was aroused by the prospects of robbing and weakening the Spaniard. Once King James came to the throne this was no longer legal: if Gorges regretted this there was little he could do to revive the war which ended in 1604. Instead, he took encouragement from Captain George Waymouth's voyage in 1605 to what are now the shores of Massachusetts and Maine to interest himself in overseas settlement. Gorges regarded the wild American mainland as a potentially valuable investment, to which he could send fishermen and traders and above all settlers who would create a New England overseas - the name comes from Captain John Smith but he gave it the name after a voyage in 1614 to its shores largely financed by Gorges. The latter was prepared to send out settlers or to obtain grants from the King to allow other people to settle on lands assigned to him. He planned in the end to erect a grand colony of his own, with himself as its lord proprietor and with a whole hierarchy of officials depending on him in the area covered by his grant of Maine (the name is either a reference to 'the Mainland' or a corruption of the Indian word for part of it which first appears as 'Mawooshen'). He never made a success of it as the Calvert family did in Maryland. The rocky forested shores of Maine were hard to exploit: their riches in timber and fish - the lobsters were even then considered remarkable - took more money and time and patience than even Gorges possessed to make a living for a settler population. But along its southern coastal fringe the first settlers in Maine were planted under his auspices in the sixteen thirties and were, modestly, flourishing by the time of Gorges' death.

From 1605 to 1620 he was in and out of a dozen ventures to explore, fish and settle the Maine coasts. He was active, especially, in setting up the first English post, Fort George, at Sagadahoc on the Kennebec River in 1607. Gorges and his gentlemen friends in Somerset and Devonshire quarrelled with the Plymouth merchants on what was best to do about this settlement. In the end it was abandoned as too expensive - and too cold in winter for men to settle. Thereafter, followed a series of intermittent fishing and exploring voyages which gave many seamen summer experience of the fishy richness of the Gulf of Maine. In 1620 in the Council of New England Gorges and his friends were given a new status as supervisors for King James of fishing and settlement. It was under this rather casual wing that the Pilgrims and other groups - including his own son Robert Gorges - settled in Massachusetts in the sixteen-twenties, but they never exercised much control of these pioneer English settlers and still less over the great migration of the Massachusetts Company in 1631 and the years following. It was in these years that Gorges - then settled at Ashton Court with his fourth wife, Lady Elizabeth Smyth - became in name Governor of New England and tried to develop his own grant of Maine. His relative, Thomas Gorges, as Deputy Governor, in 1640 set up some control over the scattered groups of farmers and fishermen for him on the more southerly bays of modern Maine. They had many ups and downs before Thomas left in 1643, while Sir Ferdinando always failed to raise the great expedition on which his mind was set which would, he believed, instal him firmly as lord proprietor. He was still planning it when the Long Parliament met, when the Civil War began, and when he became a royalist soldier in his old age, having at last to lay all his American plans aside until the war was over. But after his death in 1647 his family kept his name and his American associations alive, and they have remained living, as we have seen, to our own day. It is this story which Professor MacInnes has put succinctly, clearly and cogently in print. His pamphlet will prove a most attractive and informative guide to a man who was, we may sometimes think, somewhat obsessed with America. Had he and some others not been so absorbed, European settlement might have taken place there under very different times and circumstances.

D.B. Quinn.

University of Liverpool.

## EXCAVATIONS 1965.

### FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA.

Excavations in 1965 consisted mainly in confirming the existence of the back wall of the villa, which had been approximately located by probing with an auger. One new room was found, tacked on to the N.W. corner. This showed that there was no extensive west wing to balance that on the east. Hopes rose that the excavation might soon be completed, but they were dashed by the discovery of a deep ditch and its contents. In it were a large number of tesserae from a mosaic pavement and many remains of a hypocaust - flue tiles etc.

This ditch was beyond the west wing and nearly 50 yards from the nearest hypocaust, so the remains set a problem which must be investigated next year. The favourite theory at the moment is that there was a detached bath-block in the early stages of the life of the villa and the bath-water was emptied down this drain. The reason for this suggestion is that the elaborate bath suite in the east wing was not built until after 350 A.D. while the house itself was begun about 270 A.D. The occupants were quite wealthy people and it seems unlikely that they would live there for 80 years without a bathroom. It was quite normal at the time for the bath to be in a separate building.

The principal interest this year was in the small finds. Two complete bronze bracelets turned up; an unusual find because such articles were usually broken before they were lost or thrown away, as had happened to three others. An ivory playing piece for some such game as draughts was in perfect condition. In iron, we found a hunting arrowhead, a knife and a bit from the equivalent of a brace-and-bit. The number of coins rose to 209.

The rarest and most important items were of glass. The first was a most attractive fragment of millefiore. This is a glass mosaic formed by the fusing together of a large number of canes of different coloured glass, drawing them out so that each piece is much reduced in section, slicing through the whole and then polishing the surface. Our piece had five colours, red, white, blue, black and yellow. It is thought to have been made in Alexandria about the 1st century A.D. The other, even rarer, find was an engraved glass wine beaker. Except for the rim the glass is nowhere as much as a millimetre thick. Thirty-two fragments have so far been found, spread over 15 feet of ditch. They have been pieced together and reveal a pattern consisting of four men each holding in their hands three objects rather like bullrushes. They have an Egyptian cast of countenance, a 'Beetle' hair style and stand in an Egyptian attitude. They are clothed in knee-length tunics. All this suggests that the beaker too may have been made in Egypt.

Next year we hope to discover the detached building and the water supply.

H.S. Gracie.

#### DARNSLEY PARK, 1965.

This year the season was extended to three weeks and there were additional students from three training colleges; there were also several Americans and two French girls giving the gathering an international flavour. In spite of this, the amount of work done was not greatly increased; the main reasons for this were the appalling weather in the first two weeks, and the fact that many of the students were complete beginners. However, considerable new areas were opened up and for the first time it was possible to see with greater clarity some of the problems which need to be resolved.

The remaining rooms attached to the small bath-house were cleared and it is now evident that in addition to the excavations at the time of discovery, there has been deep interference in this area, possibly in the Middle Ages, by people searching for tiles. They in fact gutted the building and removed much of the evidence which would have helped to relate this structure to the later periods. When our excavation was extended towards the east, new walls were revealed which belong to buildings which pre-date the bath-house, the abutting walls of which are of a different character. The small bath-house itself is of two main periods with a drastic reconstruction when the apse was inserted. From the infilling of the hot room, then cut off, have come several coins c.330-335, showing that this alteration took place at this time or later. Further evidence of the operational date of the bath-house will come from the stoke-holes yet to be explored.

One of the most difficult problems is the relationship of the bath-house to the main building previously uncovered. This is a rectangular structure 80 ft. by 26 ft. internally, with a division wall near the west end. There are no indications of any internal bases for columns and it therefore seems probable that it was never roofed, and this would certainly help to explain its relationship to the bath-house. The bath-house walls stand above the level of the heavy slab paving which covered this interior of the enclosure showing that the former may have remained in use. At the west end



of the walled enclosure there appears to be a domestic wing with the room with the channelled hypocaust (5), another with the worn step (13)\* and with possible other rooms to the north. The entrance at the east end of Room 13 demonstrates at least three main phases. The original entrance is associated with two pier bases with a span of 8 ft. indicating architectural treatment. This was taken down to accommodate a pitched area with traces of wheel ruts showing that carts were using this entrance at this phase, and at the same time the verandah wall was also removed and the courtyard extended up to the main wall. Later the entrance was completely blocked by the two rough walls built across the enclosure but over the heavy slabs. At present the phase inside the enclosure which can be associated with the first entrance is missing. Traces will no doubt be found when the slabs and pitching are removed. To the north of the bath-house a second well was found. The top had been demolished as in the case of the first, and it had been filled with building material including tufa voussoirs from the bath-house. This area had also been disturbed by tree roots and rabbits which may indicate that the demolition had taken place very late in the villa's history and the area never fully consolidated.

In its final stage the whole of this area seems to have been demolished and the interior of the walled enclosure carefully packed with stone. When the turf is stripped the walls are only partially visible in the stony layer. There is little doubt that this was deliberate and that it does not represent the collapse of the building but material from higher levels may have been removed, and one can only suggest that stone platforms were formed which could have been used for hay and straw stacks.

An outline chronology for this area suggests the following:-

1. Stone structures in area 25 of unknown date and function.
2. Small bath-house attached (phase 1).
3. - do - demolished and rebuilt (phase 2) (coins c.330-335 in debris).
4. At the same time or later, the walled enclosure built (coin c.340 in foundation), function and internal arrangements at present not known.
5. Domestic wing (Rooms 5 and 13) added. These had a long life, the channelled hypocaust eventually blocked and the step in Room 13 considerably worn.
6. During period 5 or later, heavy slabs and pitched area laid inside walled enclosure and entrance adapted for carts.
7. Rough internal walls built blocking the entrance; perhaps at this time or later, the two openings in the earliest structure were blocked (some of the blocking stones are tufa voussoirs from the bath-house roof).
8. Whole area demolished and stone packed within the walls.

#### Oxpens and the dry-stone walls

The area to the south-west of the above is treated separately since at present there is no firm relationship between its chronology and that considered above. At the north end of the oxpens, the base of a substantial structure was investigated and considered to be part of an oven inserted from the upper floor of the oxpens. A large area of ash lay below this but was not in association. Coins of c.375 were found in the stone structure. The whole of the floor of the oxpens has now been removed, revealing a large area of small stone paving associated with a large area of burning. This seems to be a collection of hearths rather than a building destroyed by fire, and appears to overlie the dry-stone wall structures which

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\* These two rooms may have been added in a later phase since the flue for the channelled hypocausts was cut into an existing wall.

have increased in complexity without revealing their nature. At the south end of the oxpens there is an area of looseness and disturbance with rabbit remains. This can be associated with stone robbing of the main east wall of the oxpens from the south which has removed part of a cross wall and some of the earlier structures. The area to the west of the oxpens seems to have been an open yard in its final stage but there is no trace of collapsed building or even roofing material on it. The oxpens, like the other buildings of the villa, must have been demolished in a final phase. Below the yard, earlier structures are beginning to appear which will probably add to the puzzling plan of the dry-stone walls.

Suggested chronology:-

1. Timber structures possibly associated with late second and third century pottery.
2. Dry-stone walling probably representing farm-yard buildings over a long period of change (coins c.310 from yard level associated with dry-stone wall, but stratigraphy at present uncertain).
3. Hearths or burnt area overlaying demolished dry-stone walls?
4. Oxpens, phase 1, lower floor (coin c.360) and heavy pitched area to the east.
5. Oxpens, phase 2, upper floor (coins c.375).
6. Oxpens demolished.

Graham Webster.

CIRENCESTER EXCAVATIONS.

The main project for this year's work in the Cirencester Excavations has now been completed and the results obtained have been beyond all expectations.

The object has been to obtain as much information as possible about the history of the Abbey in the limited area available for excavation. It is now possible to reconstruct the entire plan of the 12th century Abbey Church and much of the detail of the 14th century alterations.

The 12th century Abbey church had the normal plan of its period, a large apse at the east end of the Quire and a smaller apse at each end of the flanking aisles. A small apsidal chapel projecting east from the south Transept matched a similar chapel on the north-side, thus revealing a symmetrical plan.

Foundations uncovered in the crossing of the Quire and Transepts indicate the position of the Quire stalls with two east facing stalls for the Abbot and Prior on either side of the entrance through the pulpitum.

During the 14th century extensive alterations took place. The Quire was re-built from ground level, the new Quire being wider by some four feet than formerly and the east end was extended by three bays, an extra 50 feet, thus making the total length of the Abbey 270 feet. In the same phase of reconstruction the foundation of the west end was widened to carry a decorative facade. Corresponding to the squaring off of the apsidal chapel at the north transept, something similar occurred at the south transept. Its extent is uncertain, but the chapel may have been enlarged considerably to become a Lady Chapel. If the nave, too, wasn't rebuilt in the 16th century it was at least vaulted in stone at this period.

Towards the end of the six weeks excavations it became apparent that the Abbey church covered the foundations of an earlier, pre-conquest, church and the work was therefore extended to discover its plan and history.

This church has been shown to be apsidal at the east end with a nave and side aisles or chapels. The internal width of the nave is about 20 feet and of the aisles seven feet. The overall length of the church is 180 feet. Among the surviving examples of churches of this date in England there seems to be none of such length with the possible exception of the foundations now buried beneath York Minster.

Below the now-destroyed position of the altar were discovered traces of a small square crypt which would have contained the Holy Relic.

The plan of this church and the nature of its foundations of massive reused Roman stones suggest that it was built in the 8th century. No structural alterations were observable in the foundations, but at some date after its original construction a large stone-built tomb was inserted into the south corner of the Apse. Regarding graves: of the Abbey period they were frequent in the choir, ambulatory in the north transept. Of the pre-conquest period, stone built graves and stone cists cluster round the east end of the church and along its south side where we have excavated. This seems similar to the pattern found at Hexham.

Beneath the foundations of the Abbey and Saxon churches the surviving remains of a Roman building of considerable size were uncovered. Insufficient of this building survived to determine its exact nature, but had it been a private house it would have been most impressive. It contained a range of rooms surrounding a colonnaded courtyard and further to the west, at least one large room with hypocaust heating.

The large quantity of Purbeck marble and painted wall plaster fragments found everywhere on the site suggest something of the richness of its decoration.

Spectacular finds from the Abbey include two stone coffins with decorated covers, one from the 12th century and the other belonging to Walter of Cheltenham, also apart from much moulded stonework, a well preserved roof boss and a painted corbel of a monk's head from the 14th century and a crudely carved tiger's head corbel from the 12th century.

The only other site excavated this year was on the north defences of the Roman town where a section revealed the exact line of the Roman wall - a little further south than had been expected. The wall was five feet thick and on its inside there had been a square turret. At some later date the turret went out of use and a 5-sided bastion was added on the outside. Bastions are a well known 4th century feature of the town walls in Cirencester but it is the first time that an internal turret has been discovered.

This year's work was arranged by Mr. J. Wachter, B.Sc., F.S.A. of Leicester University for the Cirencester Excavation Committee of the Society of Antiquaries and the major part of the excavation was directed by Mr. Alan MacWhirr, B.Sc., while the extension of three weeks to investigate the Saxon church was supervised by Mr. David Brown, B.A.

## EXCAVATIONS AT SEA MILLS.

Excavations at the Roman settlement at Sea Mills (ABONAE) (ST 551759) were directed by Mr. M.G. Hebditch of the City Museum, Bristol, from 23rd August until 17th September. Since then work has been continuing at weekends. The site examined is east of the Portway between Sea Mills Lane and Roman Way.

The work has revealed foundations of a rectangular building 20 yds. by 15 yds., with one large and two small rooms. In the short side of the building, opening into the large room, is a wide entrance with threshold of old red sandstone and sockets for massive square wooden jambs. Most of the flooring of the large room had been broken up in antiquity but traces of slabs and cobbling survive. Against the east wall was a large stone hearth, the purpose of which is not yet clear. Adjoining it was a millstone. The two small rooms, at the north end, seem to have had clay floors, but the Roman levels in these rooms had mostly been destroyed in modern times.

The building had dry-built stone foundations. The walls do not appear to have been carried up to full height in stone, and there may have been a wooden superstructure. The absence of slates and tiles suggests either systematic removal of the roof in late Roman times, or a thatched or shingled roof.

The purpose of building is so far uncertain, but an industrial or agricultural use is probable. There is sufficient slag on the site to suggest iron-smelting in the vicinity, but it is not yet clear whether this industry was related to the building, which was apparently in use in the late 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.

Further work is needed on this site in order to locate any further buildings, to check on earlier occupation levels, and to search for 4th century defences, without which the site would have been exposed to attack by Irish pirates.

## GLOUCESTER MUSEUM.

A very comprehensive collection of West Gloucestershire antiquities, the fruit of many years' excavation by the Forest of Dean Local History Society, has been presented by Dr. C. Scott Garrett. The collection includes flints from Tidenham Chase and medieval pottery from Lydney and Littledean Camp; still more important are the complete assemblages from the Roman buildings at Chesters (Woolaston) and Park Farm (Aylburton). The latter site, where four buildings clustered round a quay on the ancient river-bank, invites much speculation; the finds would suggest that it went out of use when the Temple of Nodens was built on the nearby hill.

A Roman perfume bottle of silver which had been ploughed up near Stow-on-the-Wold was acquired by the Museum at the Northwick Park sale on 21st June. The circumstances of this rare find are not known, but it may perhaps be connected with the Roman villa explored eighty years ago above Lower Swell.

## FOLK MUSEUM.

For this Museum which is so closely connected with the unusual Severn fishing skills and has so many special examples of their craftwork on view, Dr. Taylor felt it might be helpful if he gave some notes on elver fishing based on his contribution to Folk Life Vol. 3. In late February, March and April countless numbers of elvers, the fry of the eels who were spawned, like all European eels, in the Sargosso Sea, come towards the end of their three years journey north and enter the River Severn. Elvers are considered a great delicacy and the elverer takes a net, a bucket, two tailing sticks and a canvas sack to bring back the catch. Before the tidal

more tears up the river the fisherman chooses a firm piece of turf as near the waters as possible. As the warning 'Tide' is called from man to man the elverers scramble to safety and wait till the tide turns on the ebb; about half an hour later work begins in good earnest. The net is dipped into the river, mouth down-stream, submerged for a few minutes, pulled out, drained and the elvers tipped into the bucket. A single fisherman may with luck take a hundredweight or more in half an hour.

The handle, or 'tailstick', varies from seven feet six inches to nine feet, according to the user's fancy. It passes through the headboard at an angle and reaches to the beginning of the curve in the top of the net. The headboard is approximately semi-circular in shape, sometimes of solid wood (elm), but also often partly of wood and partly of netting supported by a hoop. In the latter case the wooden section measures fourteen inches by five inches. The side-sticks of 'red withy' from thirty-four inches to thirty-eight inches in length, are housed in notches or holes cut in the forward corners of the headboard and here they are halved, bent behind and secured with nails. Two strainers of wild rose briar pass through holes in the rear of the headboard, but are not here secured, curve together to pass behind the top of the tailstick where they are lashed, and then spread again to meet the junction of the sidesticks and headstick. The latter is about twenty-two inches in length and again of 'red withy'. A net of these dimensions requires a yard and a half of netting thirty-six inches wide. The traditional netting material is an undyed linen scrim, but in recent years both terylene and nylon have come into use for this purpose. So, once again, we see type after type of wood, withy and briar each contributing their special capabilities for a particular function.

Elvering has undergone many vicissitudes including attempts at restrictive taxation from the sixteenth century till the repeal of the clause in the Salmon Act in 1876, though two close seasons were maintained here so that unlike all other rivers in England elver fishing is legal only between March 1st and April 25th. During this time however the elver is at the height of his development and the fish worth selling. They are bought skinned, scoured and snow-white according to eighteenth century writers. They are still a most succulent dish fried in bacon fat and possible rivals to the sturgeon or the lamprey pie which is Gloucester's traditional offering to the Sovereign.

#### STROUD MUSEUM.

The summer season is invariably a busy period at Stroud Museum, and this year, though colder and wetter, has been no exception. Most marked has been the increase in enquiries, not only from the general public but from an ever growing number of students.

Accessions have included a large collection of clay pipe fragments and of old mineral-water bottles used by local firms, all being found in the Chalford area. There have been several additions to our doll collection. But perhaps the two most interesting items were the front of a wig cupboard obtained upon the demolition of the late 17th century King's Arms, Stroud, and an early 18th century walking cane with a silver band inscribed D. FLIGHT, STAY MAKER, STROUD. This gentleman was related both to the proprietors of the Royal Porcelain factory at Worcester, and to the famous London firm of Flight & Robson, organ builders. Any further information on this family would be much appreciated.

Excavations at Kings Stanley, run in conjunction with the Stroud Museum, continue slowly. The main trench has now passed through the 12th century and Roman levels, and has been extended well into the moat which appears to have been dug in the early 13th century. Small finds have again been numerous though not as spectacular as in 1964. It now appears probable that the 4th century Roman occupant was a sheet metal worker, though only a part of one room has been examined as yet. The aim of this seasons work has been to establish a dated sequence of events, rather than to study the plans of former buildings.

### BRISTOL MUSEUM.

Among the accessions received this summer were a Palaeolithic Hand-axe from Poole Keynes, Gloucestershire; Roman Amphora Handle from Taymac Quarry, 1½ miles east of Birdlip; Stone Axe from Hills near Berkeley, Gloucestershire; Bristol Mint (Sharington) gold half crown; Bristol Mint Charles I 3d., 1644.

You may also be interested to know that the City Museum has started a Junior Archaeological Group. The Group is open to children above the age of 12. Notices have been sent to Bristol schools and to a few in the neighbouring districts of Somerset and Gloucestershire. The Group is in fact open to any child who can reach the City Museum by 5 p.m. after school on Mondays. Five meetings have been held so far, with talks by the Museum staff and by Mr. Darry Cunliffe of Bristol University.

A Display of Industry on Trade Tokens comprises a selection illustrating the industrial activities of the time. They include a Gloucestershire example, a Drimscombe Port token showing the entrance to the Sapperton Tunnel. An amusing accession is a Hot-water Can Basket given by the Bristol Workshop for the Blind. These baskets were much in use about 1900. The basket, tubular in form is thickly padded and has a separate pad which fits inside the hinged lid - a cylindrical can of boiling water was placed inside the basket before going to bed so that hot water was quickly available on rising.

Among the list of lectures for the winter is "Aspects of Prehistoric Music" by Dr. J.M. Coles, and "The Roman Palace at Fishbourne" by Darry Cunliffe, F.S.A.

### CHELTENHAM ART GALLERY & MUSEUM.

A number of acquisitions of local interest have been received recently.

Two letters written by Dr. E.A. Wilson dated February 14th, 1903 and February 26th 1903, from the Antarctic to Mrs. Jennings, with a photograph of Dr. and Mrs. E.A. Wilson, along with the purchase of two Watercolour drawings "The Discovery, Winter Quarters" and "Cape Wadsworth, Coulman Island", by Dr. E.A. Wilson, have made a valuable addition to the Wilson Collection.

We have received from Newark on Trent Museum a Souvenir Clay Pipe impressed "F. Archer" and "Donavan" and have also purchased a Watercolour Portrait of Fred Archer and Lord Falmouth under whose colours he rode for many years. Archer was born in the New Year of 1826 at the Cottage in St. George's Place, Cheltenham at his Father's livery stable. Rose Cottage still survives, almost opposite Edward Jenner's house. Archer died by his own hand at Cambridge in 1886 after an attack of typhoid fever.

An item returned to Cheltenham after many years was the inscribed silver plated bugle, 'Presented to Drummer C.E.O'Hagan of the Dublin Fusiliers by Coun. Lenthall on behalf of his many Cheltenham friends in recognition of his excellent conduct in the South African Campaign 1899 and 1900'.

A fine trumpet banner bearing the Royal Arms of George I in silver wire and silks on crimson silk brocade has been recently purchased.

Another notable acquisition of local interest is a very fine primitive oil painting of Pittville Pump Room c.1850.

During ploughing at Ireley Farm, Hailes, Glos., in the early months of this year, an almost complete mediaeval Quern of old red sandstone, probably from the Forest of Dean, was turned out. This is probably contemporary with Hailes Abbey. At the same time an Iron Age 'A' Burial was discovered in the same field, along with pottery and artifacts of the period, which indicate an occupation site on a gravel ridge in this otherwise low lying area. As a result of the enquiries at Hailes Mr. J. Horlick, The Parish Clerk to Stanway, produced a hand written note book by the Rev. St. Aubyn Weston entitled "Notes on the Manor and Monastery of Hailes". This interesting booklet contained an almost complete collection of material, from all sources, on the Monastery and was illustrated with two maps. The Museum Staff have transcribed this work and copies may be seen at Cheltenham Public Library, Cheltenham Museum or the County Records Office, Gloucester.

A gift of a large quantity of costume from the Estate of the late Miss Le Marchand of Little Rissington was received during the Summer, mainly comprised of children's clothes of middle and late Victorian date, much of it beautifully worked in white with lace decoration.

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES.

Recent Additions to the Gloucestershire Collection.

- Victoria History of County of Gloucester. Volume VI
- A History of Malvern. By Brian S. Smith.
- Balance sheets of Hereford and Gloucester Canal Company, 1932-1947.
- A Week's Holiday in the Forest of Dean. By John Bellows and John Holland. 8th edition. 1965.
- Antiquos in the Cotswolds and Midlands. By Tony Koniston. 1965 edition.
- St. Catharine's Church: a short history to mark the Golden Jubilee. 1965.
- Like a Grain of Mustard Seed: contemporary souvenir and record of St. Peter's School, Gloucester. 1864-1964.
- Bristol Hospitals Fund: a record of 25 years of service, 1939-64.
- Cheltenham from Domesday Book to Queen Victoria: souvenir of exhibition of manuscripts and pictures at Cheltenham Art Gallery. 1965.
- The Cheltenham Festival. By Frank Howes, 1965.
- The Ann Cam School, Dymock: a history of the village school up to 1965.
- St. David's Parish Church, Moreton-in-the-Marsh. 1965.
- A Popular Guide to Tewkesbury Abbey. By D.W. MacLagan.
- The Mill Inn, Withington: a short history and description with map and photographs.
- Drother Michael (of Painswick). By Brian Taylor.
- The Charities of William Jones (of Newland): a lecture to the Forest of Dean Local History Society. By Thomas Bright. 1964.
- A Fool in the Forest. By Leonard Clark. 1965.
- Watts of Lydney 1851-1965. By Cyril Hart, M.A., Ph.D.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES 1965 -66.

BRISTOL & GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, BRISTOL DISTRICT.

- |         |                                       |                                                                   |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov.8th | Recent Excavations in Roman Somerset. | D. Cunliffe M.A.,F.S.A.<br>(Bristol University)                   |
| Dec.6th | Gloucestershire Churches.             | Robert W. Paterson,A.R.I.B.A.<br>A.M.T.P.I., (Diocesan Architect) |

CHELTENHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct.1st  | Henry II & Becket: Drama & History.                    | Dr. E. Storne, Ph.D.<br>(Senior Tutor, Keble College, Oxford). |
| Oct.15th | Medioeval English Castles (Illustrated)                | Rev. J.C. Dickinson, M.A., F.S.A., (Birmingham University).    |
| Nov.12th | Country & County. Localism under the Tudors & Stuarts. | Ivan Roots, M.A.<br>(Cardiff University).                      |

For VI Formers Only.

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|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sept.23rd | Local Battle of the Gauges. 1845. | T.J. Yeomans.<br>(Kings School) |
| Oct.14th  | How to make your own family tree  | A.N. Currer-Briggs, M.A.        |
| Nov.18th  | Thomas Telford (Illustrated)      | L.T.C. Rolt, F.R.S.E.           |

CIRENCESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct.11th  | "Some Aspects of the Forest of Dean". | The Rev.R.J.Mansfield,<br>Vicar of Newnham-on-Severn.                                      |
| Nov.1st   | "Roman Leicester".                    | Maxwell Hebditch, Esq.F.S.A.<br>Assistant Curator, Dept. of Archaeology,Bristol University |
| Nov.22nd. | "Gloucestershire's Past".             | Captain H.S.Gracie, M.A.,<br>F.S.A., R.N.                                                  |

1966

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|-----------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan.31st  | Antique Furniture                       | H.R.C.Carr,Esq. of<br>Duntisbourne Abbots.                                   |
| Feb.21st  | "Recent Excavations in Roman Somerset". | Darry Cunliffe,Esq., F.S.A.,<br>Dept. of Classics, Bristol University.       |
| March 7th | "Folk Museum and Folk Life Studies".    | J.Geraint Jenkins,Esq.,<br>M.A.,F.S.A. Welsh Folk Museum, St.Fagans,Cardiff. |

It is hoped to be able to arrange the usual lecture on "Cirencester Excavations" in March (21st?)

COTTESWOLD NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB.

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|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov.9th | The Mediaeval Artist & the Church. | Rev. J.E. Gethryn Jones. |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|

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| Jan. | Annual Meeting. |  |
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Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club (Contd).

Feb.8th      Medieaval Gloucester.                      L. Fullbrook Leggatt  
                    (Westgate Area).  
March 8th    Britain before the Roman                      J.B. Calkin.  
                    Invasion.

FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Oct.2nd      The Chairman's Choice.  
Nov.6th      Something about the Severn.                      F.W. Rowbotham  
Dec.4th      Story of Mitcheldean.                              Local speakers.  
1966.  
Feb.5th      Film afternoon.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Oct.29th     "Some Aspects of the Forest                      Rev. R.J.Mansfield of  
                    of Dean".                                              Newnham.  
Nov.26th     "Historical Mysteries"                              Mr. A.C. Logan  
1966  
Jan28th      "The Constitutional Crises                              Mr. G.J.Carter of  
                    of 1909 to 1914"                                      Dournstream House.  
Feb.25th     The Annual General Meeting when the President,  
                    Mr. D. Milner will talk on "Christian Art in the  
                    Middle Ages", illustrated by lantern slides, or  
                    "An Architectural Tour of Bath", with lantern slides.  
March 25th    Yet to be arranged.

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ALTERATIONS IN OFFICERS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Forest of Dean Local History Society.

Chairman - Mr. R. Court

Cheltenham Society.

Chairman - Mr. S.G. Shaw, The Priory, Prestbury.