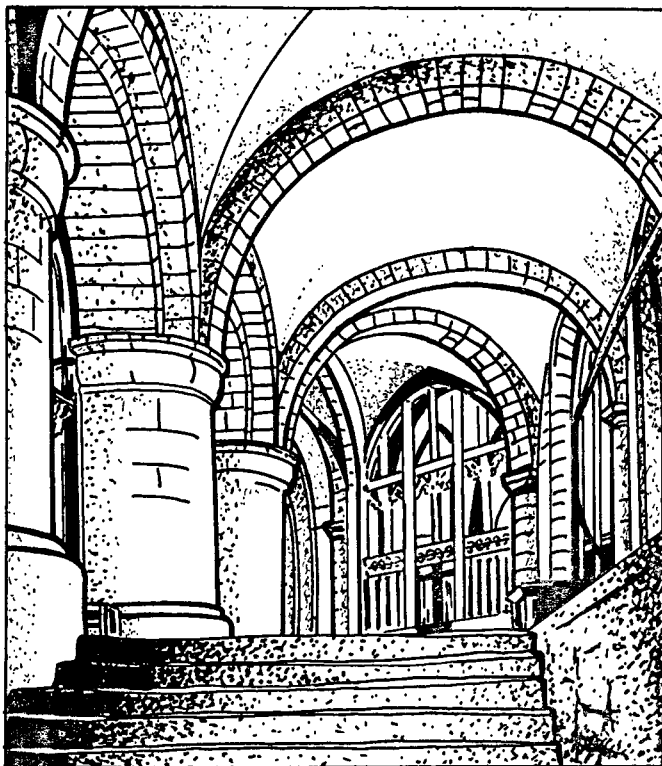


Local History Bulletin

AUTUMN 1972 — No. 26



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EDITORIAL

I MUST APOLOGISE for producing the Bulletin slightly late this autumn due to a combination of circumstances, mostly illness.

This summer saw the successful Serlo Exhibition at the Cathedral of which there is an account on page 4. The cover illustration is taken from the booklet about Abbot Serlo published by the Dean and Chapter.

I was pleased to be invited to the inaugural meeting of the Stroud Museum Association about which the Curator, Mr P. J. Walrond, gives an account on page 3. An octogenarian retired farmer, Mr A. S. Warren is shortly publishing his reminiscences "Memories of a Lifetime", and has kindly allowed me to print excerpts from it which give a vivid picture of life in Gloucestershire seventy years ago. Also, since it is so topical, I include excerpts from one of the school essays, part of the competition reviewed in the last number, about Robert Dover's Cotswold Olympick Games which he founded in 1612. I am very grateful to Miss Taylor-Sabori for her permission to print an extract from her interesting study of the Gloucester cholera epidemic.

I have been asked to tell readers that owing to the high cost of postage we do not send either reminders or receipts for subscriptions for this Bulletin, and we should be most grateful if the cash could be sent to Community House when it is due.

MERCEDES MACKAY, Hon. Editor.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

The South Ambulatory, Gloucester Cathedral.

DEVELOPMENTS AT STROUD MUSEUM

IN AN EFFORT to promote a closer link between the Stroud Museum and those who use it, its management body invited a sub-committee to set up an organisation now known as the Stroud Museum Association, which had its inaugural meeting on September 29th. Over 200 people attended to hear its chairman, Mrs Heather Newman, outline some of the aims of the Association, and how it will help the Museum establish a fuller role in the community. Stroud will shortly be the centre of a new local authority, and the changes must be taken as a challenge. Every town gets the sort of museum it deserves, and in a county as fine as Gloucestershire Stroud must develop accordingly. Mrs Newman went on to describe the quality of the collections, the service given to students and public alike, and stressed the importance of local material remaining in the area to which it belonged.

Mr L. Bennett, Chairman of the Management Committee, gave insight into the history of Stroud Museum, recounting how when the first curator was appointed it was only open two days of the week. The income since then has increased as a result of grants from the local authorities, but the Museum still remains an independent body. Sir Mortimer Wheeler had hoped to be present, but as Mr H. Waddington reported, he had been obliged to postpone his visit owing to commitments with the B.B.C. He did however wish the new organisation every success for the future. Similar messages of congratulation and best wishes have also been received from both the President of the Museums Association and the President of the South Western Federation of Museums and Art Galleries.

Mr Adrian Digby, former Keeper of Ethnography at the British Museum, pointed out that many of the present problems at Stroud arose from having too small a staff for such important collections, and appealed for volunteer helpers.

Earlier in the evening the visitors made an informal inspection of the Museum, and of a part of the College of Art where a temporary display had been arranged of objects newly given, or which had never before been displayed. These included a superb wedding dress of the 1870's, a large collection of toys, wooden objects of various uses, a Lewis crosscutter of 1815 (for dressing cloth) invented at Brimscombe, and some of the interesting early medieval finds from the current excavations at the site of the Kings Stanley manor.

The enjoyment of the evening was in no small measure due to the efforts of the many volunteers who helped move the heavy furniture, serve refreshments and supply floral decorations for the occasion.

Within days of the inaugural meeting a number of people had offered to give of their services in any way that would help the Museum, and membership of the Association, increasing daily, stood at about 200 persons. Anyone wishing to join is invited to contact the Secretary of the Association, c/o Stroud Museum.

LIONEL F. J. WALROND, A.M.A., Curator.

THE SERLO EXHIBITION

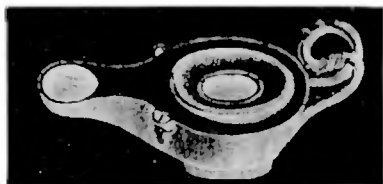
DURING THE SUMMER there was an interesting exhibition at Gloucester Cathedral which was given in celebration of the nine hundredth year since Abbot Serlo was appointed and who built the magnificent Norman church on the site of the present cathedral. Serlo had been a canon of the church at Avranches in Normandy, and then a monk at Mont St. Michel. In 1072 he was appointed Abbot of St. Peter's monastery in Gloucester where he remained for 32 years. Although little is known of his personal life and virtues, he was enormously successful in his fund-raising activities, turning a small and declining community into a prosperous monastery which became the second largest abbey in Britain. A contemporary, William of Malmsbury, wrote: "He raised that place almost from meanness and insignificance to eminence and splendour".

When Serlo arrived he found only two monks and eight novices, but four valuable manors had been acquired by the community, which typifies the continued land acquisition which has made the present ecclesiastical authorities into the third richest landowners in Britain. These manors later got appropriated by the see of York, and an interesting part of the exhibition was a monastic forgery! This was a charter forged in Westminster in 1150 which successfully got back three of the four manors for the abbey at Gloucester. Serlo during his term of office had acquired two more manors and some property at Nympsfield. In addition William the Conqueror gave the manor of Barnwood, William II the church in Newport, and Henry I the church and manor of Maisemore. By the time of the dissolution in 1540, when the interest of kings in their immortal souls gave place to envy of the monasteries' wealth and power, the abbey in Gloucester, in addition to vast acres, actually owned the White Hart Inn in Holborn in London. In fact between 1066 and 1086, when Serlo was Abbot, the annual value of the abbey's manors had almost doubled, thus enabling the monastery to be rebuilt.

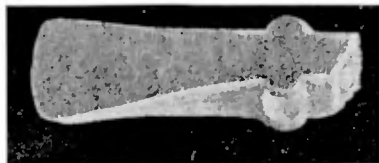
The week of the exhibition was also a financial success, thanks to the well arranged collection of drawings, articles and chronicles of Serlo's time, laid out in the Chapter House said to be the scene of the court which compiled the Domesday Book. The Tudor covers of the Domesday Book were also on view, with items from the Abbey library and monks' habits dating from the twelfth century. Two monks from Prinknash Abbey acted as stewards, and on one of the nights Roman Catholic monks sang in the Cathedral for the first time in 400 years. Kind lady friends of the Cathedral prepared suppers each night for parties making tours after dark to see the experimental floodlighting. Particular interest was aroused by the fact that Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the archeologist and historian of T.V. fame, formally opened the exhibition. Lectures dealing with the history of the cathedral were given by Canon Dickinson of Birmingham University, Canon D. Keen, and the Rev. David Walker of University College, Swansea. There was also an organ recital by Donald Hunt and a concert by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra.

The whole week proved a very interesting study of the history of St. Peter's Church on whose foundations has been built one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the land.

THE 1972 KINGSHOLM EXCAVATIONS AND THE ORIGINS OF GLOUCESTER



A small brass lamp found at Kingsholm
in 1790.



An iron Hatchet found at Kingsholm in
1789, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches long.

Drawings by Samuel Lysons.

GLOUCESTER'S ROMAN ORIGIN has long been known. As early as 1450 we find the confident statement "Gloster was built by Claudius Caesar" in a letter written by the City of Bristol during a dispute between Bristol and Gloucester about their respective antiquity. In recent times archaeology has been called upon to provide more precise answers about Gloucester's origin. To some extent it has done this, but the task is still far from completed and there is the possibility that, with every new excavation which takes place, our knowledge may be increased. The six-week excavation carried out by the City Museum at Kingsholm this summer is an example.

The aim of the excavation was to sample the piece of ground known as Dean's Close or Kingsholm Close, at the rear of the Kingsholm Court maisonnettes. A complicated series of buildings and other remains of Roman and Saxon date was discovered, so that discussion here is only about one aspect of the dig. In this, remains of a Roman timber building covering an area of at least 60 x 25 ft. were found. Pottery and coins found on the floors of the building or in related contexts show that its occupation belonged within the first two decades after the Roman invasion of 43 A.D. During this period we know that most of the area occupied by the Romans, certainly Gloucestershire, was under direct military rule and, in dramatic confirmation of this, the outstanding find of the excavation was the bronze cheekpiece of a legionary helmet with repoussé decoration, probably representing the god Jupiter on his throne. Other finds of military bronze objects included hinged strap-ends from a military cuirass and pendants from a horse-harness.

The building excavated therefore belonged to a military station occupied within the first two decades of the Roman period. Evidence for such an early Roman occupation of Kingsholm is anything but new. Indeed one of the earliest archaeological publications of Gloucester antiquities, by Samuel Lysons, contains illustrations of military bronzes from Kingsholm. A major step in interpreting these finds was made in 1942 by Charles Green, then the Gloucester Museums Curator. He pointed out the distribution of early Roman finds over a large area in Kingsholm and drew attention to the fact that Ermine Street, the main approach to Gloucester from the east, aims for Kingsholm and not the walled area at the modern city centre. He argued that therefore the earliest

Roman occupation was at Kingsholm and suggested that it dated from the reign of the emperor Claudius. In view of a famous passage in Tacitus' Annals, where it is stated in connection with the events of 49 A.D. that the tribe of the Silures (of South Wales) "would need to be repressed by a legionary fortress", it had long been assumed that there was a legionary fortress at Gloucester. At the time of Green's work it was thought that the legion in question was the Second. Green therefore interpreted Kingsholm as being the fortress of the Second legion created for the campaign of 49 A.D.

From the beginning of the serious study of Roman Gloucester, this tantalising crumb of information in Tacitus has been a notorious stumbling block. Nearly a century ago John Bellows had shown that the walled area of Roman Gloucester corresponded in plan to that of a legionary fortress and so, until 1942, it was assumed that this was the fortress referred to by Tacitus. Green's work was a novel and stimulating interpretation of the Kingsholm evidence, but he rejected the possibility of the walled city originating as a fortress at all. In the early 1960's Mrs O'Neil, in collaboration with Sir Ian Richmond, established that the earliest defences surrounding the area of the walled city were, in fact, those of a legionary fortress. Slightly earlier Richmond had cut a trial trench across the supposed south east part of Green's Kingsholm fortress and found nothing. So the legionary fortress returned to the site of the walled city. Richmond accepted that there was military occupation, but not a fortress, at Kingsholm. He also argued from a lost tombstone of the Twentieth said to have been found at Gloucester that it was that legion and not the Second which was here in 49.

The next development was in 1967 when, on a site within the walled area of Gloucester, Mr Patrick Garrod found a coin of 64 A.D. embedded in a wall of a building thought to belong to the legionary fortress. The implication of this is that the building — and so the fortress — was constructed some time after 64 A.D. This has been fully borne out by the extensive excavations of 1968-71. The walled area of Glevum undoubtedly did originate as a legionary fortress but it is clear that this was not until at least the late 60s A.D.

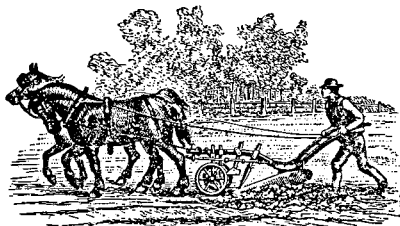
The recent Kingsholm excavation therefore confirms the main point of Green's thesis, that the earliest occupation in the Gloucester area was at Kingsholm. His argument that the area in which the early Roman finds have been made is nearer to the 50 acres of a legionary fortress than a station of a small unit remains valid. It must also be admitted that, on the evidence so far, it **could** be the 49 A.D. fortress mentioned by Tacitus and that that would probably have been occupied by the Twentieth. But it would be foolish not to learn from the story above: as yet we have no proof that this is a fortress or as early as 49 A.D. The main achievement of this year's dig was to locate buildings of the Kingsholm military station and so provide a starting point for future attempts to answering these questions.

(The news of Mr Green's death was learnt while this article was being written. The references to his well-known paper "Glevum and the Second Legion" of 1942 will, it is hoped, make it clear what an important contribution he made to the archaeology of Roman Gloucester. The above notes are therefore offered as a small recognition of his work.)

H. R. HURST.

MEMORIES OF A LIFETIME — Excerpts

SEVENTY TO EIGHTY years ago, in my boyhood days, the only means of public travel was by carrier van, three of which were run by men from Redmarley one or two days a week. These were four wheeled vehicles with covered tops,



the most coveted seats being with the driver where there was room for two passengers; that is if one of the passengers was prepared to move to allow others to get in and out. Progress was slow owing to frequent stops for the driver to take instructions regarding some article a client wished the carrier to purchase for

her in town, for shopping around was part of his recognised job. If the customer did not wish other passengers to know what he was to get she had to whisper in his ear, and usually ended up saying aloud, "you know what my size is". A progress of three to four miles an hour could be made if conditions were favourable, but if there were many passengers the more able-bodied were expected to get out and walk up the worst hills.

In the nineties even bicycles were very rare. A few young men used old fashioned penny farthing machines. They were referred to as safety bicycles and were equipped with solid tyres. The pedals operated the large wheel, being directly attached to it. To mount the bicycle the rider needed a running start, and, using a step on the back tyre, a flying leap would land him in the saddle, where, having caught the revolving pedals he could carry on . . . The roads in the early days caused some difficulty. Sections of road were frequently repaired by putting down a layer of broken stone, with a sprinkling of grit on top, leaving the traffic to roll them down. The grinding of iron shod wheels caused layers of dust to accumulate, and a good wind caused much discomfort.

Traction engines were used on the roads early in the century, more particularly for heavy hauling chiefly of stone for road maintenance. These engines were quite large, hauling three trucks with loads of ten tons each which they deposited in heaps by the roadside. The stone used in our village (Staunton) was granite from the Holly Bush quarries. It came in lumps up to half a hundredweight each, and was broken later by full time stonebreakers who worked on a piece-work basis at a rate, I believe, of 2/6 a ton. Each lump had to be reduced to a size small enough to go into the workman's mouth. Schoolboys on their way to school took much pleasure in belting away, and were frequently a good source of cheap labour.

Amusement and Recreation

In those days any form of organised games or recreational pursuits were unknown in country areas. Even so young people were able to make their own amusements, and nothing was heard of boredom or the inability to find something to do.

There were however three events annually that certainly relieved life's monotony. Each year the branch of the Oddfellow Benefit Society held what was called a club meeting. All members who could do so assembled, and, led by the local brass band, paraded the village on their way to the church where a special service was held. The procession then returned to the local inn to partake of a luncheon. That over, everyone amused themselves as they thought fit while the band played selections of music to the end of the day. I think Staunton Brass Band was considered quite good and was much in demand. I well remember how the cows enjoyed the music. They would stand listening to it for long periods, and it is still thought by some cow keepers that cows milk better if music is played to them during milking.

The event second in popularity was a concert given each year by the Gloucester Co-operative Society who produced a well-trained concert party for those places where their branches were situated. As they had a quite flourishing branch at Corse, a concert was arranged there, a function greatly enjoyed particularly by the youths and younger members. I was never allowed to attend, but always looked forward to the reproduction of the comic songs, probably somewhat imperfectly rendered, by the fortunate people who had heard them.

The third great annual event was the Redmarley races arranged by the Ledbury Hunt. All road traffic was of course horse drawn and it seemed as though practically the whole of Gloucester and the several villages near turned out in full force. Vehicles of every kind formed an almost endless procession. Several four horse coaches with buglers and posthorns complete, two horse brakes, handsome cabs, carriages and pairs, traps, carts, and on occasion a donkey cart, all passed through, a cavalcade of intense interest and quite a spectacle to watch.

Smallpox

In the year 1895 vaccination against the dreaded smallpox had proved a sure preventative. So it seems almost unbelievable that Gloucester should have suddenly been stricken in that year with smallpox of a most virulent type which spread through the town with great speed. Facilities to deal with the situation were almost completely lacking. I have a vivid recollection of going into town with my father on a number of occasions and seeing the large number of funerals of the victims passing through the streets, with people rushing into their homes and closing their doors in the hope that they could avoid infection. I had been vaccinated as a baby, and again at the outset of the trouble, and so was well protected.

Some writers have claimed that the smallpox epidemic in Gloucester in 1895/6 was the greatest calamity to overwhelm any city in modern times.

Agriculture

Very little agricultural machinery was available in the middle of the first decade of the twentieth century. Mowing machines were in use on the larger farms but much of the crop was cut with scythe or reaping hook and tied by hand. Threshing machines were driven by portable engines which had to be

moved with horses. The farmers had to arrange for the haulage to the work and three good horses were required to haul the engine, with an extra animal to fetch the straw trusser. It was a major operation to fetch the threshing tackle if an early start was to be made. I have as a lad risen at four o'clock in the morning to get in the horses and help harness up in the dark so as to arrive by the first light of day. The threshing machine proprietor charged £1 per day for the hire of the machines and either food or food money for the driver and his mate.

Before steam the threshing machines were driven by gear requiring four horses. This was before my time, but one of my old friends had lost a leg which he said had got entangled in the gear and was so badly crushed that it had to be amputated. I was much interested to hear his account of the operation which was carried out, he said, without an anaesthetic. Previous to machinery, threshing was carried out with flails made of two fairly stout wooden rods joined by a swivelled joint allowing the striking rod to be lifted above the head, swung round and brought down smartly on the grain. I have helped (or possibly hindered) an elder brother who was given the task of threshing some vetches required for seed which would have split in a machine, and so the old-fashioned flail was brought into use.

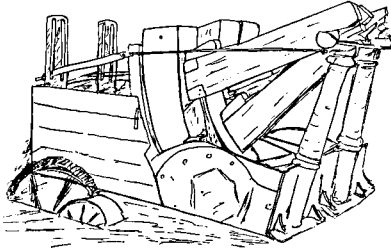
Agricultural workers, when I was a boy, were very poorly paid. Twelve shillings weekly would be considered a good wage for the average adult worker with long hours during haymaking and harvest and no extra payment for overtime. Some perquisites went with the job such as milk where cows were kept, but the most valued extra was cider which was made and stored on the farm. There were quite a lot of orchards, and nearly all farms had their cider mill and press. The usual allowance was three quarts a day for each adult worker, usually carried in receptacles called bottles. They were made in the manner of small casks fashioned with staves of wood with a specially made hole in the side from which the cider could be poured without waste. They held three quarts, and had iron carrying handles. Complimentary to the bottle was a small drinking vessel called a horn. The material from which they were made much resembled horn, and they were beaker shaped. The workers carried their food in what they termed a frail, an oblong rather narrow receptacle made of woven rushes. An extension of one side folded over the top through which one of the two handles was passed. A leather strap loosely encircled the lot, enabling the package to be carried over the shoulder leaving the hands free. The first objective of a young agricultural worker was to collect a set, bottle, horn, and frail, of his own so that he did not feel inferior to his fellow workers. When evening work was required the bottles were replenished, and this was the only extra given for overtime. In counties where little fruit was grown cider was replaced with light ale.

A. S. WARREN.

(Note: As soon as the author had control of his own labour he substituted cider or ale for cash, thus incurring the resentment of his neighbours. Thus he anticipated legislation making set cash payment mandatory.)

THE CAM FULLING STOCKS

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE WOOLLEN cloth industry has seen many changes since its heyday a century and a half ago. The hill slopes of the Stroud Valleys were then colourful with traditional felted cloth, mostly red, drying on racks in the fields. At that time there were about 150 mills and workshops in the area.



The Cam Fulling Stocks as they stood prior to dismantling in 1964.

Today there are only five mills still in production. Mechanisation has replaced hand labour with such success that the output of cloth has hardly fallen. What we have lost is the bulk of the machinery by which our world famous product was manufactured.

Of all the early machines, the most talked of were the fulling stocks. Freshly woven cloth was washed, folded and placed in wood-lined troughs where for hours it was pounded by wooden hammers. In due course the cloth emerged narrower, shorter and thicker with a felted surface totally unlike the original material.

One of these fulling stocks, put in when Cam Mills was built in 1815 remained in use until the mid 1930s. There it remained until the space was needed in 1964 for new modern machinery. The Directors of the firm, Hunt and Winterbotham Limited, rightly realised its importance, and not only gave it to Stroud Museum, but organised its dismantling and storage until more space was available at Stroud.

Now, changes are again taking place at Cam Mills, and although Stroud's proposed Museum of Folk Life and Industry has not yet materialised, the stocks have been delivered to Stroud's former Workhouse. Here again the firm's kindness came to the rescue when it was realised the stocks weighed over five tons, and could never have been unloaded by the Curator single-handed!

The Workhouse is one of several buildings that have been examined with a view to being used as a Museum, and it has been considered by an expert on museum display to be well suited for this purpose. A start has been made in bringing heavy equipment to this site, and it is now to be hoped that funds will be forthcoming to enable this important amenity to the Stroud area to come to an early fruition.

LIONEL F. J. WALROND.

(For a fuller account of these stocks, and of Cam Mills, see *Journal of Industrial Archaeology*, vol. I, No. I, 1964, pp. 9—16).

ROBERT DOVER'S COTSWOLD OLYMPICK GAMES

1612 IS THE date now most favoured by historians as being the year in which Robert Dover inaugurated the Cotswolde Olympick Games.

The next definite date is 1614 when it appears certain that the Dover family moved to Saintbury where John Cragg, Dover's brother-in-law was rector. Dover's first son was born and baptized there in that same year. It was also in 1614 that Dover served for the first time on the Kings Bench.

In either 1622 or 1623 he was summoned to become a member of the Grand Company of Ancients of Gray's Inn, where he served for two years.

In 1628 both his daughters married and Dover and his family moved to Childswickham where, four years later his stepson married Mary Gilby of Chipping Campden.

Robert Dover died at the age of 70 on July 24th, 1652 at Barton on the Heath where he was buried.

Very little is known about the games during their early years, just that they were held in a natural amphitheatre on what is now called Dover's Hill which is about half a mile away from Chipping Campden. It seems, however, that Dover transformed the event from one of the thousands of village fairs into a major attraction. It is thought that the games consisted in the main part of skittles, quoits, football, cock-fighting, bowling, wrestling, shovelboard, chess, cudgel and singlestick fighting, bull baiting, dancing, leaping, racing (on foot and horseback), pitching, shinkicking, coursing and hare hunting.

In 1636 the games were immortalised in a rare, slim book entitled *Annolia Dubrensia*. This book is thought to have been compiled by Dover himself of poems written to him over a period of years. It consists of 33 poems none of which are of any particular poetic value but which are of local interest. Among the contributors were Ben Johnson, Michael Drayton, Owen Feltham and Thomas Heywood, none of whom however was able to provide much poetic life.

The games continued in this way until 1644 when they were stopped, most probably by Campden's puritan vicar William Bartholemew. They were revived, however, following the Restoration.

From this date there is little recorded about the Dover Games. The next reference to them in any length occurs in Sir William Keytes poem of 1740 *Hobbinol*. This poem gives a long and vivid description of the games and of the love life of its two heroes. From it appears that the festivities started in the village with the crowning of the May Queen, followed by a procession, with the Queen at its head, up to Dovers Hill. The Poem then goes on to describe how the crowd amasses and the games begin.

“The vigorous youth
Strips for combat, hopeful to subdue.
The fair one's long disdain by valour mow
Glad to convince her shy, erroneous heart,
And prove his merit equal to her charms.”



The games at this time were no doubt rough and disorderly, but they were to get worse. They reached their absolute lowest in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when they became the resort of the roughs and undesirables from as far away as Birmingham and the Black Country. In 1851 the Reverend J. D. Bourne, the wealthy and powerful rector of Weston Subedge, said he saw over 30,000 at one meeting and was worried greatly by the misbehaviour and general licence that he witnessed.

This apparently stimulated him to seek the cessation of the games. He was able to succeed by obtaining an act of enclosure for his parish in which Dover's

Hill lies. This act gave the landowners and tenants the right and power to prevent access to their land, which was then divided up into fields. The last official meeting of the games took place in 1852.

The games, although in a somewhat lesser way, still take place today in Chipping Campden with the festivities which occur the Friday and Saturday following every Whitsun. The only real games take place on the Friday evening in the High Street, when the children of the village run races. Following these it is the turn of the adults who run wheel-barrow races in the High Street for a barrel of beer. The villagers then assemble on Dover's Hill where there is a firework display followed by the lighting of a huge bonfire by the previous year's Queen. At about ten o'clock the villagers leave the hill in a torchlight procession back down into the village and the market square where dancing continues into the morning.

Saturday afternoon sees the crowning of the new Queen, Morris Dancing, Maypole Dancing and the fair. This day's entertainment is known as Scuttelbrook Wake. The Scuttelbrook, which formerly flowed down the Campden High Street is now culverted and, alas, is hidden from view, but its name lives on.

Robert Dover's Cotswold Olympick Games have now lasted for 358 years — with two breaks. I hope they continue. They are a part of our heritage.

ROBERT BRUNNING.

THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN GLOUCESTER, 1832

GLOUCESTER'S CHOLERA EPIDEMIC occurred during the Summer and Autumn of 1832, as did the main outbreaks in the rest of the country.

As a mediaeval town, Gloucester had narrow streets and homes packed tightly together in the older areas. Streets and paving were badly drained and difficult to clean. On the other hand Gloucester had not been subjected to the tremendous increase in population and consequent building of back to back housing as had the Midland and Northern industrial cities. Even though these back to back homes were comparatively new, most of them had been built quickly and as economically as possible in terms of land and the figures given in Creighton's 'History of Epidemics' indicate that the basic lack of sanitary conditions was the major factor.

Gloucester's epidemic remained contained within a particular area of the city and the wealthier section of the population remained untouched. The reports in the 'Gloucester Journal' do not indicate a state of extreme alarm, although this may of course be attributable in part to a deliberate decision to 'play down' the danger to prevent an atmosphere of panic. The first case of cholera in Gloucester was reported in the 'Gloucester Journal' on 14th July, 1832. It is interesting to note, however, that the issues of the paper during the epidemic carried reports and advertisements of soirees and other entertainments as usual.

A typical pattern of cholera geographically speaking could be seen in the Gloucester epidemic. The area was low-lying, chronically flooded with heavy, water logged soil and squalid hovels had been built all over the river bank.

Nationally, the first victims seem generally to have been people of intemperate and dissolute habits. Obviously, only people reduced to the lowest level of life would have tolerated the living conditions of the area. The Gloucester Board of Health met in November, 1831, and warned that likely victims would be drunken and dirty people. They advised the population to stop drinking spirits, keep clean in person, have fresh air in houses, scour floors and wash walls with quick lime and to see that there was no decaying filth near houses. The Board announced that it would help to provide facilities for general cleaning up. Although there was, no doubt, a tendency to emphasise the fact that drunken habits predisposed people to cholera infection, with attendant moral overtones, the "Gloucester Journal" did acknowledge the social conditions present. They stated that the squalid houses on low-lying land near the river and even worse housing near the Canal in High Orchard would be particularly vulnerable. They urged District Committees to pay particular attention to these parts "and to every lane and corner where filth or bad ventilation, or scanty food and clothing, may predispose the inhabitants to the influence of this scourge".

Short-term measures were put in hand without delay in November, 1831. The Board of Health was meeting daily and on 26th November, the meeting recorded that the ultimate remedy to the situation of 'revolting filth' confronting them was a complete system of sewers to discharge into the River Severn. They realised that this must be a long-term objective and for the present resolved to concentrate on clearing filth, repairing gutters and uneven pavements. Workmen were to be engaged to remove cesspools. Large quantities of lime were ordered. They announced in December, 1831 that a soup kitchen was to be set up at the charge of 1d. per quart and appealed for gifts of cast-off clothing. Tickets for soup could be purchased by well-wishers for distribution to the poor. The organisation of cleaning and relief for the poor seems to have gone on quite well, but it was not until the outbreak in Gloucester was well established that a house in Barton Street was bought and fitted up for cholera victims. On this, the 'Journal' of 11th August, 1832, commented "we trust, therefore, that prejudice will not be allowed to interfere so as to contract the sphere of its usefulness". There was also a comment that some of the lower classes refused medical aid because they thought doctors poisoned cholera cases.

A warning against premature interment was printed in the "Gloucester Journal" in February, 1832, in anticipation of a possible outbreak of cholera. The paper commented that many alarming cases had been known. Yet the habit of the nineteenth century poor of delaying burial is mentioned by Roger Watson in "Edwin Chadwick, Poor Law and Public Health" as a contributory cause in the spread of cholera infection. It was usually the case for burial to be delayed for up to ten days. Relatives wanted time to be sure that the deceased was really dead and also to raise the necessary money for the burial. Often the body was kept in the only room in the house, which was disastrous in cases of cholera.

Methods of treatment were largely "hit and miss" but a Gloucester doctor, named Shute, recommended to the London Board that making victims drink large quantities of cold water was effecting cures. Dr. Shute treated his patients by means of cold water alone. Although reduction of temperature and internal

irrigation may have proved beneficial, the purity of water was the as yet un-realised prime need. Some idea that contaminated water was spreading infection had begun to take root, for the 'London Medical and Surgical Journal' of 1st September, 1832, carried an article by a Dr. Parkin stating that he thought 'Noxious matter' generated in the earth was contaminating water. He suggested that water should be filtered through charcoal. Dosing with opium saline treatments (by mouth and intravenous), plus blood-letting, were more usual means of treatment.

Despite the realisation in Gloucester and in other towns, with a few exceptions, that bad social conditions contributed to diseases such as cholera, matters were allowed to slide once the 1832 outbreak subsided. The "Sanatory Committee" in Gloucester of 1847, meeting in November, reported that "total want of a sewerage system" would find people "a comparatively easy prey" for cholera.

As there was no overall authority controlling conditions affecting public health and no means of obtaining adequate funds, it is not surprising that by 1847 matters had regressed to the state of 1832.

HAZEL TAYLOR-SABORI.

BOOK REVIEW

TWELVE PORTRAITS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE BENEFACTORS

Brian Frith. City Museums and Art Gallery, Gloucester.

ONLY ONE OF the portraits, on the cover, is depicted in this delightful booklet, and the same picture appeared on the cover of our last number. But anyone having read about these benefactors will want to pay an immediate visit to Bishop Hooper's lodging, now the Folk Life and Regimental Museum at 99/103 Westgate Street where all twelve of them are on display.

The portraits originally hung in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall and were moved from there by the Museum Department in 1959, since which time they have been most expertly restored. Not much was known about the subjects of the portraits until Mr Brian Frith, the City historian, undertook the difficult research to discover the historical details, and compile brief but very interesting biographies.

The booklet has a foreword by Mr David Piper, the Keeper of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and a former director of the National Portrait Gallery who gives some interesting explanations of the portraits. They are, he considers one of the sixteenth century sequences of commemorative portraits which were very popular at that time. Certainly they follow most of these series by being painted not very professionally and done years after the subjects were dead. Thus these particular portraits, with one exception, bear little resemblance to the subjects they portray. The portrait on the cover, for instance, of John and Joan Cooke, shows them dressed in clothes which only became the fashion years after their deaths, nor do they resemble the brass images of them in St. Mary de Crypt church where they are buried. Brian Frith has unearthed the fact that Joan Cooke was a lady of vast proportions. In fact she was "soche an unwelody woman . . . that she could not ride nor go herself to soche places owte of the towne of Gloucestr".

Mr Frith in his introduction admits that, despite his researches, there are many mysteries surrounding these benefactors of the City of Gloucester which may never be solved. There is, however, one link between all these biographies. All were people of wealth and position and all showed their love of Gloucester by endowments, gifts of money or articles of silver. Without these portraits, and indeed without Brian Frith's researches, they and their good works might well have been totally forgotten, and they thoroughly deserve to be remembered.

M.M.

STROUD MUSEUM ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME 1972-73

All the Wednesday lectures, except November 8th, will take place at Stroud Subscription Rooms at 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

Admission to all events will be Free on presentation of a Membership Card except where otherwise stated. For the Social Evening at Nether Lypiatt Manor on December 6th, please apply to the Secretary in advance for tickets, as numbers are limited.

PROGRAMME

Friday, September 29th: The Chairman and Committee "At Home" in the Stroud Museum to welcome all members. Many exhibits not normally displayed will be on view. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, October 25th: Mr Peter Fowler, Archaeology Tutor in the Extra Mural Department, Bristol University, will talk on "Motorways, Museums and Archaeology" — a special survey with relation to Gloucestershire.

Wednesday, November 8th: In the Church Institute at 8 p.m. — "Bring and Ask" evening; members are invited to bring items of porcelain, glass or other objects for identification and discussion before a panel of experts.

Wednesday, November 22nd: Mr Adrian Digby, formerly Keeper of Ethnology, British Museum, will talk on "Chicken Itza and the Toltecs"; this will be an illustrated review of archaeology and architecture in Yucatan between A.D. 900 and A.D. 1200.

Wednesday, December 6th: A Social Evening at Nether Lypiatt Manor, by kind permission of Major and Mrs L. H. W. Barrington. A programme of early instrumental music for clarsach, harpsichord and other instruments arranged by Mrs Daphne Graham will be presented. Refreshments will be served; tickets £1 each.

Wednesday, January 24th: Mr Lionel Walrond, Curator of Stroud Museum, will give a talk on "Mills in the Stroud Valleys", surveying the history of many of the buildings well-known in the district.

Wednesday, February 28th: Mr Leslie Chapman will give "An Introduction to 18th Century Porcelain" illustrated with slides; this will be an opportunity to hear from a noted expert details of a popular subject.

Wednesday, March 28th: Mr Justin Delair will give a talk on "Pioneer English Fossil Hunters", with particular reference to Gloucestershire.

Wednesday, April 25th: Mr Peter Turner will discuss "Flora in the Cotswolds", with special slides to illustrate his lecture.