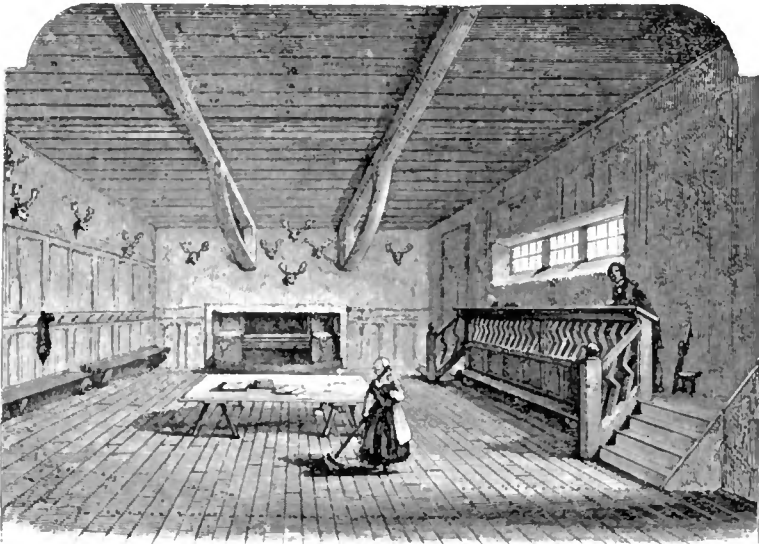


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local History Bulletin

AUTUMN 1976 — No. 34



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EDITORIAL

OPINIONS DIFFER ON the best way of dealing with rising prices, and your views on the subject of this Bulletin would be interesting: do you think the quality of the Bulletin should be maintained and the subscription increased (probably at least doubled), or would you rather receive a cyclo-styled production, though even this would entail a rise in present subscriptions? I apologise for probably having to add to your cost of living and may be reduce the standard thereof, but still hope you will send me your comments in time for consideration by the Committee at the November Meeting. Articles for the Spring, 1977 Bulletin must be in my hands by 15th January, please.

LAURIE DUIRS. Editor.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

The Verderers' Court-room at Speech House, Forest of Dean. We are indebted to the Forest of Dean Newspapers Ltd, for the illustration. The Court-room celebrated its 300th anniversary this year. The earliest reference to the Verderers in the Forest was in 1216, and an almost unbroken record exists from that date. Originally the meetings took place at Kensley House, which was in the vicinity of the present Speech House, to which the Court moved in 1676.

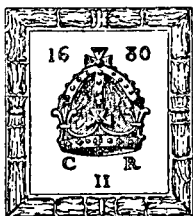
The following information regarding the Court, extracted with generous permission from Dr. Cyril Hart's book "The Verderers and Forest Laws of Dean" might be of interest:

Authority: The Dean Verderers have not been incorporated and there is no statutory or other instrument governing their appointment, which is regulated by custom. Section 1 (6) of the Wild Creatures and Forest Laws Act, 1971 provides that the Dean Verderers shall continue to be elected as at the passing of the Act.

Election of a Verderer: The method is the same as for the last 800 years, namely on the death of one of the four Verderers his burial (not his death) is notified to the Crown by the Steward of the Verderers' Court and a Writ tested at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, is then sent to the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire to arrange for the election of another Verderer. The High Sheriff fixes the date of the election and after due notice as prescribed, the election takes place at Shire Hall when all Freeholders of the County of Gloucestershire (excepting those of Gloucester and Bristol) are entitled to vote. Election is decided by a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded. A Verderer serves for life.

Powers: Under the custom of their office, the Verderers convene their Courts every 40 days, but adjournments are made until there is sufficient business to attend to (the Court-room when not cleared for the Verderers, is an attractive dining-room of the hotel in Speech House leased to the Trust Houses Limited). Originally the Court could impose fines to a limit of 4d., on offenders, but this is no longer done. The subjects discussed nowadays range from Commoners'

privileges, and proposals for open-cast mining, to the flora and fauna of the Forest. Commoners occasionally consult the Verderers as to the current acreage of statutory inclosures, and the Verderers' views are sought on the silviculture of the Forest and the method of management and policy followed or proposed by the Forestry Commission.



Badge of Charles II on the Speech House

AMATEUR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

IN 1948 Mr Irvine Gray, the newly appointed County Records Officer, began an evening class on local historical research, sponsored by the Extra-Mural Department of Bristol University. The class has been held annually in the Record Office ever since, the idea being imitated in Bristol soon afterwards, and more recently in many other parts of the country. Nowadays the demand to attend the course is such that numbers have to be limited to the first 20 applicants who write direct to the tutor (who for some years has been the County Archivist, the author of this article).

No previous experience of historical research is required, although it is helpful if prospective members have some historical background knowledge from earlier training, or from attendance at lecture courses. Compared with such courses the Research Class is essentially practical, with members choosing topics for research and being guided in their work by the tutor, thus learning something of historical methodology and the delights and difficulties of researching original manuscripts.

At the end of that first course in 1948, a slim collection of essays was published on the work of the class. Believing firmly that knowledge should be shared, it has been found possible, by dint of persuasion and harrying of contributors, to edit ten annual volumes of Gloucestershire Historical Studies by class members. These show conclusively the continued and valuable benefits accruing from those evening classes.

BRIAN S. SMITH.

Further information regarding these Historical Studies appears under Books Noted in this Bulletin.—*Editor.*

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD 1476-1976

THE OCCASION OF the Quincentenary Celebrations is the completion of the Parish Church and the granting of a Royal Charter for the Fairs.

Though the present Church was begun in the twelfth century and subsequently enlarged over several years to take a bigger congregation, then to accommodate three chantry altars, later to allow the Monks of Evesham Abbey to sing their offices when they made their progresses round their manors, the small tower at the south-east corner of the nave was finally replaced by the present magnificent landmark, and completed in 1476 A.D.

In the self-same year, though the town had had a Thursday market for some time before this, the King granted to the Abbey of Evesham, which held the manors of Stow and Mangersbury, a Royal Charter for two Fairs, one on the feast of St. Philip and St. James on May 1st, the other at the Translation of St. Edward the Confessor on October 13th. Edward IV, who granted the Charter, was himself "a true Renaissance Prince", removing the man to whom he owed the throne in battle; eliminating the true King, as some say, as he lay in the tower; and effecting the death of the Prince of Wales in the Battle of Tewkesbury.

The Church stands as its own memorial but excellent copies of the Charter have been printed which, at £1, make an attractive souvenir. The witnesses to Edward IV's signature include his brother Richard, who was to succeed to the throne, and become notorious through the killing of Edward's sons "the Princes in the Tower". Another brother to add his signature was George, Duke of Clarence, who was drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine. As a contributor to the Evesham Journal remarks "they read like a cast-list from Shakespeare's Richard III; and as only Cardinal-Archbishop Bourchier lived to a ripe old age, 'with so much of their lives occupied in trying to keep their heads on their shoulders it is perhaps to the credit of these men that they yet found time to grant a twice-yearly Fair to a small town in Gloucestershire'".

That year must have been an occasion of true rejoicing for Stow; as, with Royal Approval and the support of the Abbey of Evesham, the townspeople must have hoped that the troubles of the Wars of the Roses and the risings of people like Jack Cade, would keep well away from them; and that they could get on with the trade that came to them from their position where so many roads crossed, and where sheep could so conveniently be brought from the wolds and sold to the wool-merchants in neighbouring towns.

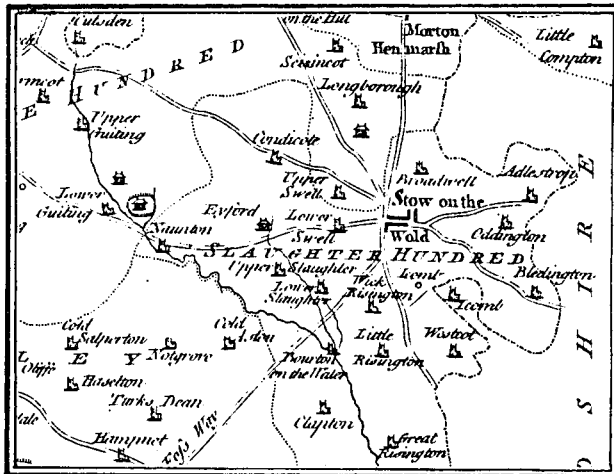
So far their trade had prospered; and they served well the villages round about. The link with their church was close, and they rejoiced in a three-fold patronage; for the town was named first St. Edward's Stow after the hermit who brought christianity to the first Saxon settlers: Duke Aethelmer rebuilt the church about 987 and dedicated it to his kinsman, St. Edward the Martyr: the Normans, in their rebuilding, sought the patronage of their favourite Edward, the Confessor. The trade guilds also supported a chantry in the church, and so combined a care for their members in this world, with a care for their well-being in the next.

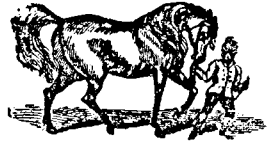
Five hundred years after, the town still prospers; and the adventures of the Civil War, when a battle was fought on the Donnington side of the town, and the importance of the coaching days, are distant memories. The sale of sheep has given place to the sale of horses at the famous horse-fairs. Still in May and October the merry-go-rounds come for the statutory Fairs; and the long-distance, and visiting, coaches still make it a point of call. The town still preserves the old buildings that cluster round St. Edward's Holy Place and cover the site of Mauger's camp. It is still a Market Town.

This year the people of Stow, after three years' preparation, and somewhat to their surprise, have found a way to reflect the rejoicings of five centuries ago, and the satisfaction of five hundred years of steady trade and service to those who come from near or far.

It is interesting that at the first Open Meeting to discuss the Quincentenary Celebrations, a Public Relations man kept asking us whether we wanted it to be a "local, national, or international event". We answered that we just wanted to enjoy ourselves and to share our enjoyment with those who will. And that is how it has worked out: to the great happiness and true coming together of the townspeople of every age and style.

W. H. WAY.





HORSES AND HOT POT

TRS 34.

Q.S. Depositions, 1738.

The Information of William Morris of the Parish of Aburgaveney in the County of Monmouth, Card Maker. Taken upon Oath Before Thomas Pyrke Esqr. one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Gloucr. this 2d. day of December in the Years of our Lord 1738.

This Informant Deposeth and saith upon his Oath that on the Twenty Eighth Day of November last as he was Rideing from Ross in the County of Hereford towards Gloucester with two horses, upon the Road at a place called the Lealinc in the Parish of Newland in the County of Gloucester he saw some people standing at the Dore of Frances Dawtry known by the Signe of the Horse Shoc, which asked this Informant if he would sell the Mare he Rod on who answering told them he would if they would give him the worth of her, and this Informant saith that he sold the said Mare for Three Guineas and a halfe to Roger Appletree of Mitchel Deane in the said County; and this Informant saith that he went into the said house together with the said Roger Appletree and Thomas Merret junr. of Mitcheldeane aforesaid in order to Receive his Money for the said Mare, where they dranck a sort of Licquer they cal'd hot pot which this Informant saith was Brandy and Cyder Mixt together and this Informant saith that he wanted to go about his Business and asked the said Roger Apletree several times for the money for his Mare wich the said Roger Appletree refused to Pay him till he had got a voucher to certifie that the Mare was not Stolen and this Informant saith that he would not pay him the money nor let him have his Mare and that more Company came in which were acquaintances of the said Roger Appletree and that they Push'd the Licquer about so fast, that Made this Informant Much in Licquer, and this Informant saith that he asked the said Roger Appletree frequently for his Money who told him if he asked him once more he would Dash his Brains out, and accordingly the said Roger Appletree and Thomas Merret fell upon him and Carried him in to a Darck Roome and Beat him in a very Bad Manner, which together with the Licquer he had before put him out of his sences, and this Informant saith that in the scuffle and while he was there he lost out of his pocket about five pounds in Money and the Mare he sold to Roger Appletree together with another horse which was put under the Charge of the Landlord of the house; and farther saith not.

Sworne the Day and Yeare above
written before

The Marke of
William X Morris.

Thos. Pyrke.

County Records Office.

THE THEATRE IN CIRENCESTER AND OTHER MATTERS IN THE 1800's

ONE OF THE last London celebrities to appear at Cirencester's Georgian theatre was Maria Foote. The handbills announced her as from the Theatres Royal, Drury Lane and Covent Garden, and on Friday evening, 9th July, she was to offer the town her Letitia Hardy in the elegant comedy "The Belle's Stratagem" and her Arinette in the musical farce of "The Little Jockey, or Youth, Love and Folly". On the second evening of her two-night stay, she was to appear as Rosalind in "As you Like It".

Everybody knew Miss Foote. She was a delightful creature, an engaging and lively actress who danced gracefully, and a ravishing singer of sentimental songs. Indeed, most of those who stood in Gloucester Street waiting for the door to open at six o'clock will have come to see the lady's physical charms, rather than to witness her powers of acting. She might still, at the age of thirty-three, be the embodiment of untarnished youth, but it was universal knowledge that life had begun early for Maria Foote — and that did not simply mean that her first professional Juliet had been at the age of twelve. For many years, while still young, she had lived what was then genteely known as 'under the protection of' Colonel Berkeley at Berkeley Castle. This protection had resulted in two children, but no marriage. Colonel Berkeley did not want to bedevil the outcome of proceedings in the House of Lords regarding his own legitimacy. The late Earl, his father, had started a family with the comely daughter of a butcher in Gloucester, before making her his Countess.



The town knew every scandalous detail of Maria Foote's colourful early career, as every thing had come out rather sensationally some five years before, during her breach of promise case against Joseph Hayne, Esq., of Burderop Park in Wiltshire, some four miles to the south of Swindon. The disclosures were such that the public was entitled to assume that the case had been brought as much out of revenge on Colonel Berkeley, as to claim damages from the Wiltshire gentleman whom the Colonel dubbed "Pea Green" Hayne. Colonel Berkeley was a boisterous, eccentric wit, renowned as leader of wilder society in London and Cheltenham, a great rider to hounds, and an amateur actor who could always fill the Cheltenham theatre. He had offered to draw the town for Miss Foote's benefit there during the exciting Summer of 1815, when she was eighteen. He was a man of fine figure and stentorian voice.

With the curiosity thus generated in the town, the part of the population of Cirencester that would be seen alive inside a theatre, must have been sorely

disappointed when the promised two evenings were telescoped into one. The house could only hold a bare four hundred. The bill announcing the amendment gave no more reason for the cancellation than 'recent events'.

It is exasperating that history should leave such blanks, but they do, on the other hand, afford the pleasure of hazarding a few informed guesses.

The one significant recent event had been the death, at long last, of George IV. But the Sovereign had died of all of fourteen days before and was awaiting burial at Windsor. There should, on that score alone, have been no theatricals at all in the town.

Did the district magistrates, who controlled public performances, halve the licence under pressure of public opinion? Cirencester may have felt that it could be no less zealous than Tewkesbury. When Miss Foote appeared there the many religious inhabitants of that town overwhelmed her in her room at the Swan Hotel with admonitions, pious tracts and uplifting literature, and Cirencester had its strongly sedate and decorous side, as was shown on the Thursday of the following week. The royal funeral at Windsor did not start until seven in the evening and while Gloucester saw fit to begin a service at five o'clock, in Cirencester not only did a bell in the tower of the Parish Church toll from six in the morning till the funeral was over late at night, but all the shops in the town remained closely shut the whole day.

One thing is certain, Miss Foote's costume in "Youth, Love and Folly", or the report of it, will have scandalised the worthier citizens of Cirencester where there had been strong feeling against the professional theatre for many years. In her masquerade as the Little Jockey, Miss Foote put her light brown curls up under a satin cap, changed into buckskin breeches and buttoned on a well tailored jacket to complete the disguise. She made one concession to decorum, however. The author of the farce had stipulated cap and jacket to be of scarlet and had given Miss Foote a pert little song entitled 'The boy in scarlet wins the day'. Miss Foote amended song and costume to canary yellow. Let others join 'scarlet' to her name'.

Although she toured the length and breadth of the kingdom, because of the great financial return it brought her, it is unlikely that Miss Foote was very put out at the cancellation of her promised appearance in Shakespearian-poetical breeches. She had doubtless reaped a bumper harvest in Gloucester on Monday when it was Fair Day, and the City crowded. Within a year she achieved the high social ambitions her mother had for her, and became the Countess of Harrington, wife of an old cronic of George IV, and quit the stage for ever.

ANTHONY DENNING.

A NEW VOLUME OF THE COUNTY HISTORY

THE PUBLICATION OF Volume Eleven of the *Victoria History of Gloucestershire* in October, 1976 represents another small advance for the *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, a standard reference work on local history which aims to compile from original sources the history of every ancient town and

parish in every county of England. The founders of this ambitious project in 1899 were happily unaware that financial difficulties, the widening scope of the topics included, and the increasing volume of local records available would combine to push the date of completion far into the future. For Gloucestershire only one volume appeared in the early days of the *History*, and it was not until 1959 that the Gloucestershire County Council and London University's Institute of Historical Research began the partnership which has so far produced four more volumes of the set of 18 planned for the County.

The latest volume, numbered Eleven according to a pre-arranged plan for the County set, covers the Hundreds of Bisley and Longtree which include the towns of Stroud, Tetbury, Painswick, and Minchinhampton and 14 other parishes. The compilers of the County history find each new area of Gloucestershire that they come to has its own particular fascination, but the Stroud valleys, which make up the greater part of the new volume, developed characteristics of unusual interest as a result of the dominant local cloth-making industry. The cloth-mills that clustered along the valleys enriched a closely-knit society of clothier families — Webbs, Wathens, Hawkers, and Pauls — who, particularly in the small parishes of Rodborough and Woodchester, usurped the role usually played by the landed gentry. The weavers, originally independent craftsmen working in their cottages, swelled the population of the area and in the course of the 18th century established whole new villages around the large commons in Bisley and Minchinhampton. When trade was slack the weavers posed a severe problem for the parish poor-relief system and expedients such as the building of parish workhouses and the encouragement of emigration could do little to alleviate the burden. The weaving villages were a fruitful field for the nonconformist churches; Nailsworth in particular became a centre for the Quakers, Baptists and Congregationalists, and in the 18th century visits by Wesley and Whitefield to the area attracted strong followings for their differing brands of Methodism.

In the early years of the 19th century the advent of new machinery caused the re-organisation of the cloth industry into big new mills. It receded altogether from parts of the region, including Painswick where some early mill buildings still survive to contrast with the large rebuilt mills such as Dunkirk at Nailsworth. Among new industries which moved into the area were pin-making, stick-making, silk-throwing, and iron-founding, the latter supplying the new needs of the cloth-mills. The town of Stroud outstripped the older market centres of Painswick and Minchinhampton, and was much enlarged in the 19th century under the influence of the railway and of the new turnpike roads which were built along the valleys to replace the old hillside tracks. Its position as the social and business centre of an important industrial region was recognised by the creation of the Stroud Parliamentary Borough under the Reform Act of 1832. The spirit of enterprise and improvement in the area at this period was shared by the church which provided schools and places of worship for the outlying hamlets of the large parishes, including Bisley which became a stronghold of the Oxford Movement.

The volume also includes a group of parishes in the Tetbury area which shared in the prosperity of Cotswold sheep-farming. As early as the 12th century

the nuns of Caen Abbey pastured large flocks on the downland of Minchinhampton and Avening and later, in the Middle Ages, the clip from Kingswood Abbey's flock at Rodmarton attracted the attention of Italian wool-merchants. Tetbury, which was created a borough town in about 1200, later benefited from its thriving wool-market and wool-stapling industry. The vesting of the manorial rights in a group of trustees for the townspeople in 1633 gave Tetbury an unusual system of government and led to prolonged litigation among the inhabitants. The town, which in contrast to Stroud missed the developments of the railway age, survives like Painswick as a good example of the traditional Cotswold stone-built town. Much of the history of the whole area covered by the volume is evident in its buildings, which include ancient manor-houses like Chavenage and Daneway, the numerous gabled clothiers' houses of the Stroud valleys, two notable Victorian mansions at Woodchester and Westonbirt, and Rodmarton Manor and other houses built by members of the Arts and Crafts group which settled at Sapperton in the early 20th century.

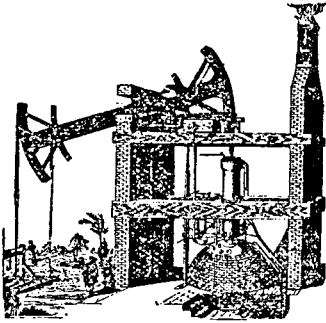
N. M. HERBERT.

ARLINGTON MILL MUSEUM, BIBURY

THERE ARE SEVERAL references to Arlington Mill as a cloth mill in the 17th century, and we find in 1701 "all that mill in Bibury, together with two water grist mills under one roof within the same mill house . . . and all that tack mill being under the same roof as the said grist mills". This shows how the Corn Mill mentioned in Domesday Book was also used for fulling cloth. It is not known when cloth manufacture ceased in Bibury, nor, for that matter, when it began; but in 1638 Thomas Carter of Arlington Mill is referred to as *fuller*, and was warned against raising the water level in his pond, because people could not pass then without danger against the "sheep-house close". It is now supposed that Arlington Row was built as a sheep-house in c. 1380 by the Monks of Oseney Abbey, who kept a shepherd here till the Dissolution. It was an open barn with ten bays of cruck trusses, and was converted into cottages only in c. 1600. They were probably occupied by the people employed in weaving the cloth, which went to the Mill for fulling.

Once a mill site was established it did not often get altered, and so it is safe to assume the mill mentioned in the Domesday Book was on this site, with its long leat which leaves the river Coln at Ablington. The actual building, being functional and over-worked, would have changed over the nine hundred years of use. The final adjustments were made in 1859, when cast iron girders were put in to strengthen the structure, and stone buttresses were added outside.

At the time of the 1850 Tithe Survey Map, the Mill was owned by William Crotch Bowly, and was only a flour mill. It was the largest and busiest mill in the district. When the turnpike road was constructed from Barnsley to Bibury in 1777 "the neighbouring roads were much cut up by the farmers going round to avoid paying the toll on their way to Arlington Mill".



In the middle of the nineteenth century business was such that the water power had to be augmented by the introduction of a steam engine. This had a tall chimney at the back of the Mill, (taken down in 1907). At some time, perhaps in the late 18th century, the top floor was extended over the adjoining cottage to the South West, to give more space for storage bins, and the cottage was generally rebuilt. Within living memory Harvest Home suppers were held in the double room on the first floor of this cottage.

Throughout the nineteenth century the Mill business was run by the Bowly family of Cirencester. Samuel Bowly was born in 1802 of Quaker parents. As a youth he was employed chiefly in the Mill, where he also formed an evening school, for the instruction of the village boys. During his Father's long illness, we are told, he would walk the seven miles to Cirencester night and morning in order to comfort the sick man. In 1827 he married Jane Dearman Shipley (niece of the great, great, great-grandfather of the present owner of the Mill). He became a well-known philanthropist, a temperance reformer, and was prominent in the great anti-slavery agitation, and used his influence in furthering the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the spread of education, dying rich and respected at Saintbridge House, Gloucester in 1884. Meanwhile, Arlington Mill was run by his Brother and Nephew. Bill-heads of William Bowly, 1886-92, have been found in a cupboard in the Mill, after fifty years of dereliction.

In 1914 the Mill machinery was dismantled. The building was later bought by Arthur Severn, who started the Trout Farm in c. 1900. Severn was a cousin of Ruskin, and grandson of Joseph Severn, who attended Keat's death-bed in Rome. The Trout Farm, however, was his lifelong interest till his death in 1949. After that, nothing more happened to the building until in 1965-6 the necessary repairs were undertaken in order to make it a country museum. During the last ten years the collections, a combination of individual taste and what is available, have been gradually growing, and they include mill machinery working, agricultural implements, taxidermy, Arts and Crafts, furniture by Gimson, the Barnsleys and Peter Waals, reminders of William Morris, Staffordshire figures, Victorian costumes, and early 20th century packaging, with a few exotics like Ethiopian crosses, de Morgan tiles, and Griggs etchings thrown in.

DAVID VEREY.

Arlington Mill Museum was officially opened to the public in May, 1976 but opening times should be ascertained before paying a visit.—*Editor*.

NEWS OF SOCIETIES and ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEWS OF LOCAL History and related Societies is always of interest to readers: regrettably, we have only heard from a few:—

The Avon Local History Association holds its Annual Conference and Exhibition at Timsbury Village Hall on 18th September, 1976.

Blockley Antiquarian Society reports that sales of "Blockley through Twelve Centuries" have been very successful. The Society plans to visit Coventry Museum and make a study of the silk spinning industry in Blockley.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society: Congratulations to this Society on holding its centenary A.G.M. in Gloucester Cathedral on 14th June. Sales of "The Essays in Bristol and Gloucestershire History" have been remarkably good.

The Campden Society: The A.G.M. was held on 30th April, and a boat-trip has been arranged for September down the Upper Avon. In December Mr Patterson talks on "The Wool Churches of the Cotswolds".

Forest of Dean Local History Society: At the A.G.M. on 3rd October Mr Bernard S. Smith will talk on "A Picture Alphabet of Garden History"; at the November Meeting Mr Robin Morris speaks on "More about Old Gloucester" and in December Mrs E. Olivey on the "Story of a Cinderella".

Gloucester Civic Trust: The Society has been involved in several interesting publications, as listed in its Annual Report (see Book Review, this Bulletin). The guided tours organised by the Society have been well attended and successful.

Uley Society: A public meeting held on 24th March showed many were interested in participating in a community project on the history of the village. Several working groups have now been set-up to investigate a wide range of topics, not all historical, and it is hoped to publish a small History, the ultimate aim being a book on conclusion of the project which will probably extend over several years. The Uley Society is now represented on the Local History Committee.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society: The Society has had interesting talks by fellow Members on such subjects as "A Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages", "Granville Sharpe and the Slave Trade" and "Parish Registers", and Father Charles Watson spoke on "The History of Organs". The Summer season includes a visit to Filkins Agricultural Museum, the Cotswold Farm Park at Guiting Power, Exeter Cathedral and Maritime Museum, Salisbury Cathedral and Raglan Castle. The Society has opened a Library in the Old Tolsey building and a number of interesting historical items are on view — visitors are welcome.

Gloucestershire Local History Committee: The aim of this Committee is to encourage an interest in local history on as wide a basis as possible and all relevant Societies are invited to help. Annually the Committee organises two History Schools for Sixth Form Students (all County schools being notified)

which are well attended, educational and enjoyable: in April the District School was held at Dursley, some 75 students attending from eight schools. The County School is to be held this year in October, the programme for which is still being arranged. The Committee also organises a Local History Conference and Social, held this year at Gloucester Technical College on 10th July, when 70 people enjoyed two very interesting talks and derived pleasure from some fascinating exhibits displayed by various Societies. Refreshments were taken in comfort in the students' Common-room. In 1977 this event will be held on Saturday, 15th October. Currently a List of Speakers is being produced, which should be of help to Societies. The Committee also produces the Bulletin you are now reading, which is published every Spring and Autumn.

Cheltenham Museum Research Project aims at collecting new information on the development of Cheltenham during 1780-1850. Whilst search is already being made of all known possible historical sources, it is hoped that owners of houses and properties will assist in making a success of the project by letting the Assistant Keeper, Cheltenham Museum, have access to original deeds, plans and letters relevant to the above dates. Will readers please help?

Museum at Littledean? We wish Dr. Whiting every success with his project for opening a Prison Museum at Littledean House of Correction. Bodies which have already shown interest in the idea are The National Heritage, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, The Museums' Association, and The Historical Association. Any information that might be of interest should be sent to Dr. Whiting at King's School.

The Corinium Museum, Cirencester: Congratulations on being runner-up tie with Beamish, North of England Open Air Museum in the County of Durham, in the Museum of the Year Award, which is sponsored by The Illustrated London News and National Heritage. No fewer than 40 museums in the United Kingdom entered this Competition. Well done!

Of interest to Cartographers: An interesting old map of the Forest of Dean, Sopwith's Map, has been reprinted which clearly shows the changes that have taken place in the last 140 years. There are introductory remarks and an attractive illustration. The map is obtainable at The Forest of Dean Bookshop, Coleford (60p).

Tewkesbury Abbey Restoration Fund was given great support by a series of five lectures on "Neighbours of Tewkesbury Abbey" by The Lord Sudeley, Mrs D. Winkless, Mr A. E. S. Musty and Mr Christopher Bishop; the lectures took place during May to July.

Arlington Row, Bibury, was awarded a Certificate of Commendation as being of merit and worthy of public recognition, by Judges of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, in conjunction with "The Times" in the sixth Annual Award Scheme.

Jamaican News Item 1976? Some lively cricket was enjoyed, the bowler captured all ten of the wickets at a total cost of 59 runs, 9 being clean bowled and the others caught.

No — item from Stroud Journal dated 14th August, 1925!

BOOK REVIEWS



ESSAYS IN BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORY

PRODUCED BY THE Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society as a part of the celebration of the Society's centenary, this is an excellent publication well worthy of its sponsor. The book consists of a review of the activities of the first hundred years of "The B. & G." followed by ten essays by a number of distinguished contributors on an extensive range of subjects covering archaeological, architectural and historical aspects of the area, and it should have a wide appeal not only to members but also to a large section of the general public.

Elizabeth Ralph's review covers in a masterly and concise manner the story of the Society from its foundation in 1876, referring particularly to the published Transactions and other material, to excavations and site preservation as well as to the attractive meetings arranged for members over many years.

Glyn Daniel takes pre-history as his subject in the *Archaeology of Megaliths*, while J. M. C. Toynbee deals with Roman Sculpture of which there are so many examples in the district. Early Bristol is depicted in David Douglas' essay on the City in Norman Times, and J. C. Dickenson carries the story on as he tells of the foundation of St. Augustine's. The later story of Bristol appears in the concluding essays, which show how the City became a place of refuge for American Loyalists, and poses the enigma of its XIXth century economic development, while Bristol's association with the work of Brunel is told in some detail.

Social history in the Vale of Tewkesbury is the subject of Joan Thirsk's account of *Jobs for the Poor*, while Bryan Little's story of Gloucestershire Spas gives an insight into another side of life. The remaining essay, from the pen of David Verey, on the Perpendicular style of Architecture, is just such an informative and fascinating work which we might expect from such an authority.

Perhaps if we may offer a little criticism, it would be that there is no essay which deals with Gloucestershire West of the Severn. Still a book of this size cannot be completely comprehensive of the many and varied aspects of Gloucestershire life and history. The price (£3.50p) is certainly not expensive for a volume of this importance.

R.J.M.

SIGNALS

THERE IS GOOD news for teachers and others who have been awaiting the re-appearance of the Record Office archive teaching books, known as Signals.

The two out-of-print Signals entitled "The Cloth Industry in Gloucestershire" and "Gloucestershire Turnpike Roads" are again available, and there

are still stocks of "The Poor Law in Gloucestershire". A new Signal on "Inclosure in Gloucestershire" is with the printers and should be available by the beginning of the Autumn Term, while another new one, "Gloucestershire Waterways" is in advanced state of preparation with publication planned for early 1977.

For those unfamiliar with the Signals, each booklet contains about 30 facsimile reproductions of historical documents, relating to all parts of the County, together with explanatory notes. The booklets can be easily taken apart to provide display material, used as classroom sets in the way that they have already been tested in the course of compilation, or treated as authoritative text books on Gloucestershire history.

"The Poor Law in Gloucestershire" costs 75p, and the others £1.25p. Orders should be sent to the County Archivist, Record Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TG.

B.S.S.

GLoucestershire Historical Studies VIII

THIS WILL BE published this winter, and will be one of the best, with articles on the demography of a west Gloucestershire village, a critical study of 'Men and Armour in Gloucestershire in 1608', correcting some of Professor Tawney's findings in 1934, a description of the Gloucester city walls based on the city archives, and other papers. Previous volumes have been similarly varied in content and a few copies are still obtainable from the tutor, while some research has been published elsewhere — one article, for instance, was printed in *Indian Archives*.

Since Gloucestershire Historical Studies has become a regular publication, but with only a limited printing, it can easily be overlooked by local historians, despite the interest and high standard of its contents. It costs little (Gloucestershire Historical Studies VII was 30p) and if anyone wishes to obtain copies on publication, they may send a standing order either to the Record Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester, or to the University of Bristol, Department of Extra Mural Studies, 32 Tyndalls Park Road, Bristol, BS8 1HY.

B.S.

THE COTSWOLDS

BRIAN SMITH.

B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1976.

I find it difficult to pinpoint exactly the reasons why I have found this book the most readable and enjoyable book on the Cotswolds which I have ever read. It should really be read twice, the first time to get a grasp of the general outline and the second time slowly and in detail, with constant references to the 1.50 000 O.S. map. Once I started reading it I could not put it down. Brian Smith's knowledge of the Cotswolds is obviously second to none, and he is able to refer to little items from the county records, such as the prices of the dipping and shearing of sheep in 1485, or the charges for the various animals and vehicles at the turnpike on the Cirencester road. And he gives little scraps of conversation such as that with the stone mason from Chedworth, who on

being told that there was a carving on the porch at Cowley of a duck which could have been the mark of Thomas Drake, a Chedworth mason in 1608 replied that it was funny but his name was Drake and he came from Chedworth. Many little incidents like this are recorded and all help to bring the author's wanderings over the Cotswolds to life. The northern Cotswolds I know well, and I much enjoyed reading about the familiar towns, roads, lanes, and rivers, gathering much fresh information as I read. The southern Cotswolds I know less well, although I have walked the Cotswold Way to Bath, but the descriptions of the little wooded valleys, hidden streams, secluded villages, and few great houses filled me with a desire to explore them further.

It is an enchanting and enthralling book with a wonderful freshness, expressing the author's enthusiasm for his county and so much more than a rehash of stories and facts to be found in so many books on this subject.

J. P. NELSON.

BOOKS NOTED

COTSWOLD CHURCHES by David Verey. "Charming personal descriptions" — £5.50p from Booksellers.

BUILDING STONES OF ENGLAND AND WALES by Norman Davey. 48 pages, with illustrations. £1.75p including postage, from Research Publications Ltd., Victoria Hall, Fingal Street, East Greenwich, London S.E.10.

CHELTENHAM AS IT WAS. Photographic record by R. Beacham. £1.30p from Cheltenham Library.

PRISON REFORM IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Dr. J. R. S. Whiting — 312 pages and 10 plates. From Booksellers £8.75p.

CIRENCESTER CIVIC SOCIETY. "A Town Walk", obtainable from The Corinium Museum, 10p.

GLOUCESTER CIVIC TRUST Annual Report (illustrated) from Mrs M. Turner, 133 Reservoir Road, Gloucester — 20p.

SMALL MEDIEVAL TOWNS IN AVON by Robert Leech, including maps. £1.50p plus 20p postage from CRAAGS, 9 Park Place, Bristol.

AN ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY — Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 9a Pembroke Road, Bristol. £4.50p.

Available from Gloucestershire Community Council:

LOCAL HISTORY HANDBOOK — valuable to teachers and students alike, 50p plus 9p postage.

INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE VALE OF CASTIARD — reprinted 1975. 20p plus 9p postage.

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN — some back numbers available — 10p each issue plus 6½p postage.

