

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local History Bulletin

SPRING 1977 — No. 35

JUBILEE NUMBER



Her Majesty the Queen at Gloucester in 1955 with Lt. Col. Godman,
then Chairman of the Gloucestershire County Council.

With acknowledgments to the "Gloucestershire Echo" and County Records Office

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
EDITORIAL	2
THE COMING OF ELECTRIC LIGHT — A. W. Exell	3
ALBERT MANSBRIDGE — Walter Hawkins	5
GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND AMERICA — Brian S. Smith	6
FAIRFORD CHURCH — Edward Keble	8
HISTORIC TOWNS AND CONSERVATION — Donald Milner	10
THE GREAT TURNPIKE MYSTERY — J. P. Nelson	12
NEWS OF SOCIETIES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST	14
ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES — Carolyn Heighway	17
WOODCHESTER ROMAN PAVEMENT — John Cull	18
EXCAVATION AT ASHEL BARN — T. Swain	18
BOOKS NOTED	20

EDITORIAL

WE WISH HER Majesty the Queen loyal congratulations on the occasion of her Jubilee, and pray that we may enjoy many more years of her dedicated service.

We are grateful to the Editor of "The Times" for permission to print what seems to us sound Jubilee Philosophy — being an extract from "The Times" dated 8th May, 1935 on the occasion of the Jubilee of King George V:—

"Jubilee celebrations have happily no political significance. There may be here and there a few petty and petulant individuals who think it the mark of political consistency to pretend that the organisation necessary to make even possible so universal and spontaneous an expression of congratulation to a beneficent institution, and to a steadfast, indefatigable, and self-sacrificing ruler, is only another glaring display of the contrast between riches and poverty. But no-one can have seen or heard the happy, kindly, cheering crowds of the past few days without realising that this sour snarling finds no echo even in the minds of those who have suffered undeserved adversity. It is not therefore from the pomp and circumstance of the celebrations that any political lessons are to be drawn, but from the spirit which these celebrations showed the nation to possess. This great volume of loyalty to free institutions, this spontaneous kindness of one to another, this fervour so different alike from the dull resignation of regimentation and from the hollow vociferations of a clique — all these symptoms of a fine and free nation must not be allowed to run to waste in the bogs of unconstructive conflict.

"There must always indeed be deep differences of opinion upon the best methods of interpreting and of directing this fertilizing stream of the nation's good will. Some of the methods which have been advocated, and which will doubtless again be advocated when the celebrations are over, seem designed rather to shatter than to confirm the foundations of that essential national unity which has been so conspicuously revealed. Some of these methods appear to be only too clearly an inheritance from days when economic facts were different, or when specious political theories had not been tried and found wanting. Others again may seem too clearly traceable to personal prejudices or to personal ambitions. The current coin of party politics in this country is not free from dross. But it is the common experience of party organisers in these days that a very large number of people are profoundly indifferent to party labels, though by no means indifferent to the fortunes of their country. The days are past when a party cry could attract cohorts at once solid and comprehensive. And in future all statesmen will be wiser and more successful if they realise that, just as this nation passionately desires peace abroad and will unite solidly against anyone who tries to break the peace, so at home it neither desires nor enjoys political dog-fights and will give its trust most completely and durably to those who set themselves to unite it and not to distract it."

Perhaps untold benefits would accrue if this philosophy was adhered to not only at Jubilees!

With acknowledgement to the County Records Office

Laurie Duirs, Editor.

THE COMING OF ELECTRIC LIGHT

THE FIRST VERY tenuous connexion between Gloucester and electric light came through England's Glory Matches, made in 1872 by Thomas Gee of Gloucester, with the picture on the box of 'H.M.S. Devastation' described as a costly monster of the deep (see "A Hundred Years of Match Making; the Moreland Story", 1967) and, as the last word in ship construction, a fit symbol for 'England's Glory'. Equipped in 1879 with Wild's Electro-Magnetic lighting apparatus, she was one of the first ships to have electric light. Morelands took over the patent in 1891 and the electric light connexion was perhaps remembered in one of the jokes on an England's Glory box: 'Advice on how the electrically-minded husband should treat his wife:— *If she's a poor cook — Discharger!*'

There is a record of the use of electric light, from batteries no doubt, at the Paris Opera House in 1846, and a Glasgow railway station was lit in 1879. In 1880 Edison and Swan both invented the incandescent filament bulb, whereupon lighting became a practical proposition and things moved rapidly. When the Savoy Theatre opened in October, 1881 with 'Patience' (see Leslie Bailey, "Gilbert and Sullivan and their World" — 1973) the stage was lit by power provided by a steam-engine on a vacant plot next to the Theatre, and an electric light bulb motif was incorporated in the design of the programme. At about the same time electric lighting was used at the British Museum, Bloomsbury.

Coming to local affairs, electric light was first produced at Blockley, at that time still in Worcestershire, in 1884 or 1885, not quite so early as 1880, as stated in a note in the "Evesham Journal", 13th May, 1911, but early enough for Blockley to claim to be the first village to have electric light and certainly earlier than a similar claim made for Fladbury. I have recently been told that the village of Clapham in Yorkshire also has pretensions to the honour.

J. JOYNER

has great pleasure in announcing that

On and after October 27th.

HIS

**Wholesale and Retail Family Grocery, Wine and Spirit, and
Provision Establishment,**

WILL BE

Illuminated by Electricity!

What at present will not be found in WORCESTER, GLOUCESTER, HERLFORD, OXFORD, WARWICK,
or in many Cities or Towns in ENGLAND and WALES.

Winter's coming, cold and dark,
Young and old may miss the mark;
At JOYNER'S there's ELECTRIC LIGHT,
Take there your Cash and you'll do right.

For Grocery and Provisions of the FINEST QUALITY and that will bear Inspection by
ELECTRIC LIGHT. GO TO

Joyner's stores, Blockley,

Where you can get supplied in the BEST and PROPER STYLE.

I AM SO GLAD I SAW THIS.

Go to JOYNER'S. He cannot fail to please.

Reproduced from "Blockley through Twelve Centuries" by kind permission of the Blockley Antiquarian Society.

The late Captain E. G. Spencer-Churchill wrote "My family left Dovedale, Blockley, in 1887 and I well remember that my Father harnessed a waterfall just below the house and took electricity from it to light his own house, and the church, well before then. I think it was about 1884 or 1885". The head of water was provided by a dam built earlier for the Dovedale Mill, a flour and chaff mill. This was a kind of pilot project by Lord Edward Spencer-Churchill, and was evidently successful, for a more ambitious scheme replaced it at Mill Close at the other end of the village. The Memorandum of Association of the Blockley Electric-Lighting and Manufacturing Company was dated December 12th, 1887, signed by Edward Spencer-Churchill, Alexander William Hall, Henry Barter, William F. Warburton, Charles Barter and Hugh Nigel Warburton at an apparently convivial occasion as all the signatures were witnessed by William Henry Haver, Butler, St. Thomas's, Oxford.

The undertaking at Mill Close, a disused silk mill, was called the Astral Works, and the original water-power soon had to be reinforced by turbines driven by gas made from anthracite. The Astral Works were eventually bought by the Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company in 1931, and finally taken over by the Midlands Electricity Board.

I have already recorded (A. W. Exell in H. E. M. Icely "Blockley through Twelve Centuries" pages 226-228 (1974)) some engineering details, and should now like to discuss briefly a few social aspects no doubt paralleled on a wider stage. Blockley is a microcosm, but a microcosm is more amenable to inspection.

In 1887, perhaps significantly a few weeks before the establishment of the Astral Works, Blockley suffered, owing to the death of the third and last Lord Northwick, the equivalent of a change of dynasty after two hundred years of beneficent rule by the Rushout Family (Barons Northwick) of Northwick Park, owners of much of the village. The estate went to Lord Edward Spencer-Churchill, Lady Northwick's Son by her first marriage, and so unrelated to the Rushouts. The Rushouts were typical Lords and Ladies Bountiful of Victorian times, but not to be despised for that, for their benefactions contributed immensely to the life of the village, their installation of main drainage alone saving hundreds of lives from cholera and typhoid. Lord Edward belonged to the new technology: Blockley passed abruptly from the Victorian Era to the Modern Age.

The electricity undertaking was the work of a group of youngish men, all friends and some of them related by marriage. The principal motive was neither charity, for the effect on the unemployment that had resulted from the death of the Silk Industry, was small, nor profit, for little financial gain was to be expected from work on such a small scale. The moving force was sheer interest in scientific development. It was clearly a kind of hobby with Lord Edward, who worked at it with his own hands and shortly afterwards installed electricity in another of his houses at Windsor. The many projects started at Blockley in the abandoned mills (piano manufacturing, collar-making, iron-works, etc.) whether for profit or with humanitarian motives, all eventually failed as water-power gave way to steam. Only the electric light venture, the last one to keep the mill-wheels turning for anything but grinding, survived the transition to the age of steam.

Electric light rapidly replaced oil lamps for all who could afford it and our illustration shows the psychological uplift it had in Blockley, which moved

suddenly into modern times without any transitional gas lighting, for gas only came to the village some 50 years later and was mainly installed purely for heating and cooking.

The mill-wheels which had given the village power for more than a thousand years, ceased to turn. The stream continued to give life to the community and further afield by its copious supplies of pure water; its valley became a chain of lovely gardens; the mills became charming dwelling houses; every mill-pond became a little paradise; the kingfisher and heron returned; and even the trout appear reasonably content.

A. W. EXELL.

ALBERT MANSBRIDGE

1976 MARKED THE centenary of the birth of Albert Mansbridge in Gloucester to Thomas Mansbridge, a carpenter, and his wife. They were poor and lived in Albert Cottages (hence his christian-name!), India House Lane — these buildings were demolished some time ago, but were at the rear of the India House Inn in lower Barton Street. He attended St. James's School, the stone buildings still standing more or less as in his day, except for the disappearance of the gallery. The School is worth mention, as now the oldest Church School in the City, where the buildings have been in continuous use since 1843.

When Albert was five years of age (he started at St. James's at four) the family moved to London, and in time he won a scholarship to Battersea Grammar School, no mean achievement in the 1890's. However, the poverty of the family meant that he had to leave at 14 years, to augment its income. Nevertheless he made full use, in his spare-time, of the City museums, libraries, art galleries and especially the churches, listening to famous preachers and lecturers; and he felt that this was probably the best groundwork of all for a broad education. This was followed up by evening classes at the London Institutes and University Tutorial Courses, so that in his late 'teens he, himself, was able to supplement his income at evening classes, as a lecturer on social and economic studies.

The turning point for him was when he was invited one evening to meet Canon Charles Gore, whom he had heard give a series of addresses. Gore later became the Bishop of Birmingham and remained to the end of his life a deeply religious man, with a strong awareness of the needs of the under-privileged. This awareness met a kindling fire in the enthusiasm of the young Mansbridge; 'the meeting of minds of the over-privileged and the under-privileged' as Mary Stocks put it. The result was the idea, conceived by Mansbridge, of workers having access to University Tutorial courses; through the amalgamation of the Co-op. Educational Movement, the Trade Unions and the Universities. With the support of these three Movements, and especially with the Dons of Oxford at first, was founded the Workers' Educational Association, with Mansbridge as its first Secretary.

An early supporter was a young Oxford Don, William Temple, who not only later became President, but retained a close lifelong connection, even when he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

As the Dean of Gloucester so ably put it at our Centenary Service in the

Cathedral, 'Gore was to Mansbridge, as Mansbridge became for Temple' the vital inspiration to carry on and develop Adult Education, not only in Britain, but world-wide — education in its truest sense, as a part of living.

The W.E.A. has continued to develop its special contribution of a non-political and non-sectarian movement, in spite of early condemnation from some left-wing leaders, who thought it should have been politically orientated. Mansbridge was a clear sighted guide over these obstacles, and must have been, in spite of his odd cockney accent with West-country overtones (Mary Stock's description), a spell-binder whose lectures remain as landmarks to many to this day, as the Dean testified of the four he heard from him at Cuddesdon Theological College.

I can only make brief mention of his drive and energy, and ability to see the need of the moment. Forced to give up the W.E.A. Secretaryship, following cerebral spinal meningitis, from which he was lucky to recover, although never afterwards strong, he nevertheless founded the National Central Library, the fore-runner of our modern library exchange service. Then followed the British Adult Education Institution (jointly with Haldane) out of which came libraries for Merchant Navy seamen (later becoming the College of the Sea), hospital and prison libraries, art and film institutions and other educational schemes. He received many honours in his lifetime and died in 1952 in Torquay, after a long and full life. His native City, Gloucester, honoured him, when his ashes were buried in the Cathedral nave, and eight years later his beloved Wife joined him — a rightful honour for her, which she had earned through her own efforts, as she had been his working companion as well as Wife, travelling with him and lecturing in many countries.

WALTER HAWKINS.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND AMERICA

The County Archivist, Mr Brian S. Smith, was invited to make a three-week lecture tour in the U.S.A. in October and November, 1976, and contributes some personal comments on local history in America.

THE INVITATION CAME initially from the University of Pennsylvania, whose Archivist, Mr F. J. Dallett, has Gloucestershire ancestors, notably the 19th century water-colour painters of Gloucestershire scenery, the Smith family. 'Penn' is one of the oldest and largest American Universities, which in 1762 appealed for funds in England. The account books survive showing, for instance, that the Corporation of Gloucester contributed 10 guineas, and even so small a parish as Oxenhall gave 4s. 6d. — a sum which the University's mathematicians have computed as being worth \$33,000 over the succeeding two centuries.

A post-graduate seminar to the Bicentennial College of the University was followed by two more lectures in Philadelphia and a fortnight's travel and lecturing in Richmond, Washington, New York, Syracuse and Indianapolis. At the University of Philadelphia and Richmond (Virginia) the theme was the English background of the early colonists, particularly the three ship-loads of

settlers from the Berkeley and Winchcombe area, who founded Berkeley Plantation, Virginia in 1619. Unhappily only nine of the 93 venturers survived the rigours of the first few years in America, and a visit to the swampland and forest bordering their settlement on the James River revealed to me some of the discomforts they faced.

The other lectures were to local historical and genealogical societies, mostly on the subjects of Gloucestershire emigrants to America and genealogical research in England. In Philadelphia, for instance, there was much interest in the Gloucestershire background of Charles Mason, the Sapperton-born astronomer who surveyed the Mason-Dixon line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, later recognised as the boundary between North and South. In Washington a descendant of Stephen Hopkins of Wotton-under-Edge, the only Gloucestershire man to sail in the Mayflower, introduced himself, and the New York audience was delighted with the vivid description of their city in 1835 from a letter in the Gloucestershire Record Office.

There is a rapidly growing interest in local history in the U.S.A., both in academic circles in some Universities where local history and demographic studies are developing, and among amateur societies where genealogy is the second-fastest growing hobby (after 'collecting') in the country.

Each State has a genealogical society, sometimes numbering over 2,000 members, sometimes with their own premises and libraries or financially supporting the municipal libraries and record repositories.

These record repositories are in marked contrast to those in Britain. Among the fourteen visited were national, state and city archives, private record offices administered by historical and other societies, and church archives in a University library. This variety indicates one of the problems facing the historian, and another is the disorganised and weak arrangements for collecting and preserving records. Many records have been lost or destroyed even in recent times, and many others are neglected and inaccessible because they are not handed over to archivists. The English county record office system is envied for its control and centralisation of archives both public and private. Whereas the Cheltenham historian can reasonably expect that most of his documentary sources will be found either in the Public Record Office, or the Gloucestershire Record Office, the historian of Richmond, Virginia, would find a much smaller proportion readily accessible to him, and that divided between the National Archives, the Virginia State Archives, others at Richmond City Hall, with large family collections at the Virginia Historical Society, and the extensive Baptist Church archives at the University of Richmond.

However, once the documents have reached a record office the researcher benefits from better and more detailed catalogues and indexes than are usually found in England. Search Rooms are over-crowded, and researchers make extensive use of microfilms both to overcome the difficulties of distance and damage to the original documents. For the latter reason one can anticipate that microfilm will become more widely used here also, together with another practice — the readiness of Americans to pay for research which they cannot (or will not) undertake personally. Value for money is expected, and the American amateur genealogist, more knowledgeable and better qualified than his English counterpart, is well able to recognise whether he is receiving good

service: justifiable criticism was expressed about one famous English institution and a West Country record agent.

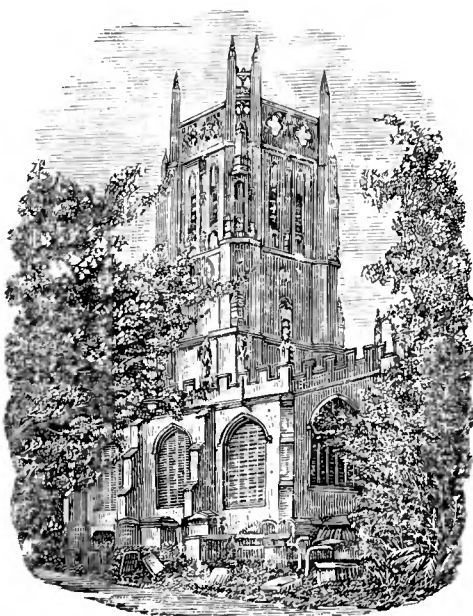
The tour was a rare opportunity to demonstrate Gloucestershire links with America, and also to learn of the widespread personal interest in English local history. It has certainly made me more aware of and sympathetic to the problems facing the American genealogist tracing his roots eastward across his own continent and then beyond the Atlantic to this country.

BRIAN S. SMITH.

FAIRFORD CHURCH

“FAIRFORDE NEVER FLOURISHED afore the cuming of the Tames unto it” wrote Johan Leylande after his laborious journey and search for England’s antiquities before 1545 AD. He recorded “John Tame began the fair new Church of Fairforde and Edmund Tame finished it. Both John and Edmund ly buried in a chapelle of the North Side of Fairforde Quier”.

For many generations it has been believed that the magnificent glass of the windows was the gift of the Tames. During the last two years, however, Dr. Hilary Wayment of Wolfson College, Cambridge, has been making a close study of the windows and his Volume, soon to be published, of the *Corpus Vitrearum* on the Fairford Windows will reveal that royal patronage was behind the execution of the glass. He can confirm the probability that Barnard Flower, the King’s glazier, worked on the glass. “All” he says, “is probably of Henry VII’s reign, except the prophets, who were not put in until the beginning of Henry VIII’s reign. The ostrich feathers in the South windows probably mean that some at least of the glass was given in memory of Prince Arthur”. Some of the faces portrayed may, in fact, depict members of the family of Henry VII.



Of all the parish churches in England, Fairford has been the most successful in retaining its mediaeval glass in its twenty-eight windows. Canon Carbonell became Vicar in 1888 AD and immediately set about the repair of the fabric and re-setting of the glass. In his guide-book "Fairford Church and its Stained Glass Windows" O. G. Farmer wrote, but with exaggeration "After four hundred years the design and details of the backgrounds of the windows were often a mere jumble of pieces and mixed figures. In order to get them put right the cost would have been prohibitive. Canon Carbonell consequently decided to do this work himself. With strong field glasses he examined each window, and when discrepancies occurred he climbed a ladder to take a tracing of the wrongly placed piece, and then searched the other windows for the piece which should have been there. Such pieces were numbered and noted upon the plan which he drew, until as far as possible, they showed the windows as they had originally been designed. His task was a gigantic jig-saw puzzle and took him nearly three years to complete. The actual work of re-leading was done in the Infant's School, and with the expert in control. So fearful was he that some of the glass might be purloined, that the workmen were locked in the School while working and were searched on leaving the building."

The great storm which raged through England in 1703 AD did severe damage to the glass on the West front of Fairford Church. On 19th December, 1971 a mighty whirlwind suddenly struck the side of the Church during the Sunday morning service. In a moment it laid flat great twin pinnacles of the tower upon the tower roof, and the whole length of parapet and pinnacles of the South clerestory flat upon the roof of the nave. However, not one of the four windows reaching up to a foot or two below that damage was hurt.

Shortly before the Concorde came to R.A.F. Fairford technicians from Filton in their immaculate white overalls were in Fairford Church to discover the probable effect of vibration upon the building and glass from the mighty engines of the aircraft. A large instrument resting on the floor of the nave recorded the slightest vibration affecting the top of the highest pinnacle of the tower to which it was connected by a wire. I was told to stamp my foot on the floor. As I did so, the pointer rushed to the top of the recording dial. The experts found that the low notes of the Church organ presented a bigger risk than the Concorde when a mile distant.

A great deal of work has been done recently on the fabric of the Church. Thanks to the skill of Mr Peter Juggins of Chedworth, the Madonna and Child has been restored to the niche above the porch of the South door, and the arms of Alice Twynihow, who became wife of John Tame, are now replaced above the South door on the left. Twenty beautifully carved new pinnacles some five feet high, now replace the old ones. Also a great deal of work has been done on the parapets. Here was revealed some of the glass of the pre-XV century Church, which the builders had used to set their work exactly level. More recently Mr Juggins has designed and carved fourteen gargoyles and little figures of the Corbels over windows. Where they were so worn, as to be unrecognisable, he has shaped them as near as possible to the original design, for instance a woolly lamb and a truculent ram, the heads of a wyvern and a dragon.

EDWARD KEBLE.

HISTORIC TOWNS AND CONSERVATION

THE BEAUTY AND character of our Gloucestershire towns and villages have been formed by the gradual changes which time has imposed on man's taste and his physical and spiritual needs. A parish church of Norman or later Gothic years, a market hall and the steady increase of houses and cottages are the visual evidence of rural history and of the unhurried shaping of rural communities.

Such was the pattern of country life until our present century, when the developer and his bulldozer showed that an estate of houses, equal in size to an age old village could be erected beside it in less than a year.

For those who wish to preserve the character of their ancient towns and villages, the problem of conservation is not easy. The preservation or the restoration of a building, or a street is not always possible, whereas the visual conservation of the area in which demolition is threatened may be vital, particularly when the local traditions of building in both form and materials play an essential part in the environment.

It was the very slow growth of our rural towns and villages which gave them their charm, and local building materials and building traditions their character, so that additional houses, of whatever period, became acceptable additions to the community.

Conservation, however, faces other hazards. The demands of the motor age for fast through roads have had their effect to the extent that the narrow lanes and ancient clustered cottages of many towns and villages face the threat of a demolition which, hitherto, only time and weather would have brought about.

Such a threat faced the Cotswold town of Wotton-under-Edge a few years ago, when the east side of its ancient Market Street deteriorated to a point beyond which restoration was impossible. The street as a whole was an attractive mixture of houses and shops, dating from the 16th century, and was admired as an essential piece of the town's history.

The remedy proposed by the local District Council was a clearance of most of the east side of the street and the construction of a car park to take the place of houses. However convenient that might have been for the motorist, such a project would have caused the almost total destruction of a street with character and which, fortunately, has now been placed within a conservation area.

A car park having been discarded as too brutal a solution to the Market Street problem, the character of its reconstruction was of paramount importance. It would have been possible for an entirely modern group of self-service shops to have filled the vacant space, but they, also, would have effectively destroyed the architectural mood of the street and would have been an affront to the old houses opposite.

Fortunately, a developer with a sincere concern for the town's architectural character and an architect sensitive to the task of preserving, as far as possible, the original impression of the street, stepped in to give hope for a reconstruction which has now been achieved.

Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge is still a charming street, despite the fact that its east side is almost entirely new. This is due to the designer's respect



Market Street — the recently reconstructed East side.
With acknowledgments to the British Publishing Company.

for the variety of material which all the town's houses reveal, his awareness of variety in shape, height and the sky line, of the need for both gables and horizontal lines and also for details such as proportion in windows. The effect of the completed row is one of harmony in the total environment, and the street, as it matures and shows the patina of age, will be treasured as are the old almshouses or the parish church.

This, therefore, has been an act of true conservation though not of restoration. If such thought had been given to the expansion and development of many of this country's rural towns and villages, the devastating effects of insensitive estate building could have been avoided.

The true conservationist is not necessarily a preservationist at all costs, but one who is devoted to seeing that a town or village grows naturally, preserving, where possible, its trees and open spaces, and seeing that new buildings, however original in their design, are in visual harmony with the total environment.

Finally, the local historian should not be concerned with the past to the exclusion of the living present, or, indeed, of the future. History is being made as we live, and future historians will judge this generation by what it has done to preserve its heritage. If a village or town is to live, it has to grow, but its visually acceptable growth should now be guarded as never before.

DONALD MILNER.

THE GREAT TURNPIKE MYSTERY

THIS TITLE DOES not refer to a recently discovered story by Agatha Christie, or a thriller by our local crime writer, Joan Fleming, but refers to the inconsistency shown by the various authorities on the subject of toll houses at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century.

It is curious how one thing leads to another. After canoeing the Oxford canal north from Oxford to Braunston, for the second time, two years ago, a friend and I decided to canoe the Grand Union Canal southward from Braunston to the Thames and, canoeing about once every ten days, we are not far from our objective. I was very struck how the Watling Street, now A5, M1, the canal and the main line north from London followed so closely to the same route. In fact near Weedon, you have the continual groan of traffic on M1 close on one side and the intermittent snarls of the diesels on the railway on the other, and from the canal you could almost throw a stone onto both. This led me to study the communications of Gloucestershire and I made a series of maps of the ancient tracks, the saltways and drove roads, the turnpike roads and present roads. This again led me to study the position of the toll houses.

My sources were the reprint of Isaac Taylor's map of 1777 (he refers to Turnpikes), the reprint of the first O.S. Map, Sheet No. 60, of the County produced in 1828, but obviously surveyed earlier (TP for Turnpikes), Greenwood's map of 1831 (he calls them Toll Bars), Cary's New Itinerary of the Great Roads and Cross Roads, 1828 (Turnpike Gates), the map of the Turnpike Roads in Brian Smith's and Elizabeth Ralph's "A History of Bristol and Gloucestershire" and modern O.S. Maps. I also got some advice from the County Record Office.

I decided to confine my investigations to the area covered by the 1828 O.S. Map bounded on the west by a line through the eastern outskirts of Gloucester, in the south by a line just south of Pitchcombe, and which covers all the north and east of the County within these limits, and some of Worcestershire and



The Turnpike house at Paul's Pike, Chipping Campden

Oxfordshire. I started by studying Cary's book because, as a sort of combined A.A. and R.A.C. book of the period, I thought it would be informative and accurate. I was amazed to find only one Turnpike gate marked at Wootton, Gloucester. Others mentioned remotely in our area being at Bengeworth, Evesham, Upper Eatington (now called Ettington) on A.34 and Yarnton, Oxford. In the selected area Taylor gave only 4, and Greenwood 4, but only one the same occurred on the two maps. The O.S. Map, including 4 actually close to Burford in Oxfordshire, and another near Upton Wold on the present A.44, which was then in an 'island' in Worcestershire, gives 3 Turnpikes. I am naturally most acquainted with those in Chipping Campden, and it gives all three, one of which is given by Greenwood, but not by Taylor. Taylor's omissions may largely be due to the fact that many toll roads were not formed by the Trusts until after his map was produced, but this does not account for all of them.

I am informed by the County Record Office that the Turnpike Trusts were normally established for a limited period, generally for 21 years, and were often renewed until the mid or late nineteenth century. By this time many of them became insolvent, and for this reason or because the Trust had expired naturally, the roads became the responsibility of the County Highways Boards. The latter were established following an Act of 1862. According to my Nelson's (no connection with me) Encyclopaedia, roads which were disturnpiked since 1870 were, by the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act of 1878, declared to be main roads and the cost and management of them to fall on the County Councils. Two of the Turnpike roads passing through Chipping Campden were scheduled to expire in 1872 and 1876.

The mystery lies in the fact that Taylor (this is perhaps partly explained), Cary and Greenwood give so few toll houses and yet you would expect in the case of Cary particularly, a high degree of accuracy, as compared with the numbers on the first O.S. Map. One explanation might be that those mentioned were just plain inaccurate. Another might be that when the actual surveying was done for the O.S. Map early in the century, all these toll houses, turnpikes, toll bars — call them what you will — were in existence, but by the time the map actually came out and Cary's book was published, the twenty-one years was in many cases up, and the Trusts had not been renewed.

Cary's Road Book, 1,087 pages long, is such a mine of information that it is quite incomprehensible to me that it should fail to provide information about toll houses, which would be so vital for the travellers of the time.

If anyone more knowledgeable than I about these matters could provide a solution to this mystery, I should be most grateful to hear it.

I propose to make a tour of the sites and discover what Turnpike houses still exist. There is still one on the outskirts of Chipping Campden, Paul's Pike, at the junction of B.4935 to Evesham and B.4081 to Stratford-upon-Avon, and another, Pike Cottage, at the end of Sheep Street. The former, mainly built of brick with Cotswold tiles on the roof, was obviously purpose built. The latter must have been an old cottage adapted for the purpose.

J. P. NELSON.

LOCAL HISTORY HANDBOOK

— valuable to teachers and students alike. 50p, plus 9p postage, and "Local History Bulletin" 20p each issue, plus 6½p postage (some back numbers available at 10p plus postage).

NEWS OF SOCIETIES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

WILL ALL SOCIETIES please endeavour to send details of their Lecture Programmes **NOT LATER** than the end of July for publication in the Autumn issue: some information about Societies' future activities is given below:—

Arlington Museum: With apologies, the Editor wishes to make clear that the Museum has been open to the public for ten years: it was the Extension which was opened in May, 1976.

Archaeology and Local History: Interesting Courses are organised by the University of Bristol and the Workers' Educational Association in various centres in the County; full details may be obtained from The Department of Extra Mural Studies, The University of Bristol, 32 Tyndalls Park Road, Bristol, and the W.E.A. Tutor Organiser, Mr J. Bestwick, B.A., Hill Cottage, The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud, respectively.

Blockley Antiquarian Society: An Index has now been made of some 750 interesting articles listed under general headings, such as Dolls, Garments, Tools, Coins, etc. The Society agrees to loan some of these for exhibitions, and all items are available for further study.

Bristol Archaeological Research Group: 2nd April: Visit to Oxford to study the Evolution of the City Street Plan, with a tour of the medieval City walls, etc. 12th April: "Kingscote Villa" by Mr E. J. Swain at St. Mary's Hall, Thornbury, 7.30 p.m. 15th April: "Old quarries of our area" by Dr. P. C. B. Roberts at Ellsbridge House, Keynsham, 7.30 p.m. 15th April: "The English Country House" by Mr P. A. Stevens at the Village Hall, Banwell, 7.30 p.m.

Cheltenham Society continues to watch development closely and is particularly interested in ensuring that sufficient and usable play areas be provided for children. Controversy continues whether to preserve original facades, or rebuild in replica — the former being the primary consideration if financially and practically possible.

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club: 31st March: Mr David Verey talks on "Gloucestershire Churches".

Forest of Dean Local History Society: 7th May: Half-day Tour — interna¹ Tour of the Dean. 11th June: All-day Tour — Harvington Hall and Avoncroft. 2nd July: Half-day Tour — Burford and District. 3rd September: Half-day Tour — Lechlade and Kelmescott. 1st October: Annual General Meeting — and "The Chairman's Choice".

Gloucester Civic Trust is particularly busy in connection with the future of Gloucester Docks, Lady Bellegate House and No. 30, Southgate Street, which used to be a theatre and attempts are being made to have its medieval frontage restored. Several new plaques have been provided and the Guided Tours have been a great success and form a substantive part of the item mentioned below — Local History School for Sixth Formers.

Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group: 18th April: Lecture by Mr W. Rodwell, Director of C.R.A.A.G.S., on "Church Archaeology" at Old Crypt Schoolroom, Southgate Street, Gloucester, 7.30 p.m.

The Historical Association, Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch meet on 23rd May at Parmoor House, Cheltenham, to hear Mrs P. M. Hembry, B.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S., speak on "Some Aspects of the Development of English Spas".

Local History School for Sixth Formers: This annual event is very popular: the next is to be held in Gloucester in March.

Local History Conference and Social will be held on Saturday, 15th October, 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Gloucestershire College of Education, Oxstalls Lane, Gloucester (not the Technical College) — good parking facilities available. Full details will be announced later, but it is hoped that Societies will include the date in their Programme for the year, and also assist with displays of local interest. Non-members are also very welcome.

Nailsworth Society: April: Mr Sam Hodges, a local Farmer, will show interesting local slides. Easter: There will be a Local History Exhibition covering the last 25 years. May: Local History Quiz. June: Owing to the Jubilee Celebrations there will not be a Meeting. Summer: Visits are planned to Leonard Stanley and Selsley Churches.

Southam Tithe Barn was restored in 1964 by the owner at his own expense, despite its demolition having been agreed to by Gloucestershire County Planning Committee, who had decided that the Barn was of insufficient architectural or historical importance to warrant expenditure of public funds. It is now used by arrangement with the owner for suitable functions, at which an interesting leaflet on the Barn by Mr Chas. L. Smith can be obtained.

Three Choirs Festival, the oldest Musical Festival in the country, achieves its 250th celebration in Gloucester this year. Slides and a tape recording of music associated with the Festival, together with a script read by the operator in attendance, can be obtained through the Festival Office. No charge is made, but donations welcomed. Duration of tape: 55 minutes.

“Tracing your Ancestors” — an informative leaflet on how to set about this task, by the County Archivist, available at Community House or direct from County Records Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Woodchester: A filmstrip of 47 full frames in colour, has been produced, which covers the location of The Pavement, past excavation by Samuel Lysons and illustrates the materials used by the mosaic workers and deals in detail with the particular designs incorporated in this famous mosaic floor. The filmstrip, with a written commentary and a copy of the official guide book, costs £2.65p including postage, and may be obtained from The Rev. J. Cull, Woodchester Rectory, Stroud, Glos. This could form the basis for an interesting evening.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society is ending their lecture season with talks on “The Impact of Jenner” and “The Battle of Dyrham”. During Wotton’s Festival week it is hoped to arrange an evening under the title “Young Wotton looks at Local History” in which members of Katharine Lady Berkeley’s School will take part. Summer plans include visits to three historic houses of various centuries, Stokesay, Tretower and Montacute and an evening exploring Bristol’s churches.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

THE GLOUCESTER CITY Museum Excavation Unit is now housed in new premises, and an energetic few weeks were spent earlier this year moving many thousands of boxes of archaeological material to the new offices and stores in the Old Fire Station, Barbican Road.

The Unit is now settled in and operating as usual; Patrick Garrod, the Field Archaeologist, constantly watches all building sites, sewer trenches, service trenches, and any excavations in the ground which can, and do, yield evidence of the past of Gloucester. The piecing together of all this information has resulted in a situation where more is known of the layout of Roman and medieval Gloucester than of most other towns.

Apart from this work, the Unit is preparing several excavation reports for publication. Excavations at the North and East gates took place in 1974, and the report is near completion; work on the site of 1, Westgate Street in 1975 produced some fascinating results concerning the end of the Roman town, and it is hoped to complete this publication early in 1977. In addition, the Director has produced a booklet on the history of Gloucester, which is on sale at the City Museum.

The other project this year has been continued excavation at St. Oswald's Priory. This building was originally founded by Queen Aethelflaeda, Lady of the Mercians, just before 900 A.D. She built it to serve as a church for her Kingsolm palace, and to house the bones of the famous King Oswald, saint and martyr, killed at the battle of Maserfield in 641 A.D. This monastery was of tremendous importance in the tenth century, so it was exciting to discover that much of the standing ruin is, in fact, original Saxon work. A detailed measured drawing of the ruin has been made by Mr Richard Bryant, and the building is now being repaired by the City of Gloucester.

The excavations showed that the church had a long wide nave with an apse at the west end. This is very unusual, indeed no similar example has survived anywhere in the country. Its purpose may be to provide a raised place for the royal throne at the west end of the church.

Underneath the church floors was found the pit where a small bell about 30 cms. across had been made for the first church. The bell was moulded in wax inside a clay sheath. The wax was melted out, and molten bronze poured in; then the clay mould was broken off. Pieces of the mould were strewn about, and some were inscribed with the letters Alpha Omega.

An important aspect of the excavation was the many burials, of both priests and people belonging to the parish of St. Oswald. Dr. C. R. Oyler is examining these burials for us. From those he has already seen, we can say that people in the 1200's were not much shorter than they are now: the average height was 5' 7", though at least one was a six footer — probably rather rarer than now. Most people died at an earlier age than they do today: 17% of one sample died before the age of five: but those that survived infancy mostly lived on to between 25 and 50. Few people lived longer than that.

CAROLYN HEIGHWAY,

Head of Excavation Unit, Gloucester.

WOODCHESTER ROMAN PAVEMENT

THAT SO LITTLE modern research has been done on this famous mosaic is a tantalising thing. This is all the more so because the uncovering every decade arouses immense academic interest, but allows too short a time to do more than scratch the surface. There is no doubt that a long term plan of action needs to be taken.

The great size and symmetry of the Villa complex, as outlined by Samuel Lysons in his "Antiquities of Woodchester" (1797) caused most people to suppose that it was built on a new site early in the 4th Century. However, as Giles Clarke showed in 1973, there is clear evidence of older walls under this palatial structure. The great floor itself, with its majestic dimensions and complex designs, centred on the legend of Orpheus, was made circa 325 by the mosaicists of Cirencester. Its position in an ancient churchyard meant that it was bound to be discovered. Grave diggers found it in the course of their work, as was noted in the late 17th Century. Until the boom in the woollen industry coffins had been laid on the surface of the mosaic, as the rust marks from coffin nails indicate. Wealthy mill owners demanded to be buried under suitable memorials. This required deeper graves, resulting in holes through the mosaic. Most of the damage to it is due to this cause. An excavation in 1722 by Richard Bradley, financed by a local worthy, was the first attempt to draw the design of some of the pavement. It was not until 1793, when Samuel Lysons began four summers' work that the marvel of it became known. Since 1880 the periodic exposure of the mosaic to public view has brought an ever increasing response, so that in 1973 approximately 141,000 visitors came to the old churchyard in fifty days. Sufficient time has now elapsed to enable those who were in the centre of this activity to look back at it objectively. From the outset it was a mammoth task operated on a shoe-string budget. In the event, the whole operation turned out to be much larger than we had anticipated, and we were left with nagging questions, e.g. "Could we do it again?" "Could a purely voluntary organisation cope if the number of visitors increased at the rate it had in the last ten years?" "Could it in the future be simply an exciting local jamboree?"

The answers will have to be forthcoming before this world-famous mosaic sees the light of day again.

JOHN CULL.

EXCAVATIONS AT ASHEL BARN, KINGSCOTE, GLOS.

Aerial photography and field research has proved the extent of the Romano British settlement at Kingscote to be in excess of some 200 acres. The Kingscote Archaeological Association are at present excavating one small part of this settlement.

Excavations, although still in the early stages, have already produced what appears to be a substantial rectangular building with later additions. Eight rooms have been uncovered. One room contains a very fine tessellated pavement. The main pattern is of an eight sided star set within a swastika patterned

border and a centre piece of a bust, probably Venus, depicted holding a mirror. This pavement is probably of the Cornium school, constructed at about the same time as the Woodchester Pavement.

This room also contained a considerable amount of fragmented wall plaster which has been partially reconstructed. It is a remarkable example of fresco style painting and depicts a figure, probably Minerva or Roma seated on a shield. In the background there are many flowers and foliage and other haloed figures and a cherub-like dancing child. The group at Kingscote are still working on the reconstruction of this.

Finds have been numerous and exciting. A hypocaust system still completely intact has been revealed. The system runs beneath two of the rooms and is a marvellous example of underfloor heating.



A find thought to be unique is a bronze seal in the form of a small cube, each face bearing the impression of a deity. Evidence so far points to this being linked with the administration and trade in this province, perhaps on an Imperial Estate? (See our artist's impression of the faces above).

Work at the site goes on at weekends and the group welcome visitors from late Spring onwards. An Interim Report of work so far will be published by the Kingscote Archaeological Association shortly.

T. SWAIN.



BOOKS NOTED

We have received no books for review; however, the following publications are noted:—

“Just across the Fields” by Humphrey Phelps. Reminiscences of life in a farming community near Westbury-on-Severn. Booksellers: £3.95p.

“Cirencester — A Town Walk” by Cirencester Civic Society, with map. 10p.

“Introduction to Roman Coins” by Richard Reece, illustrated. 15p.

“Food and Cooking in Roman Britain” by Marian Woodman, illustrated. 30p.

“Cotswolds in the Civil War” by R. W. Jennings, illustrated. 60p.

“Cirencester as it Was” — a collection of old photographs, edited by D. J Viner. £1.30p.

These last five items are obtainable at The Corinium Museum, Cirencester, Glos.

“Studies in the Archaeology and History of Cirencester” edited by Alan McWhirr, 14 essays. Obtainable from British Archaeological Reports Office, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford. £3.90p post free.

“The History of Tewkesbury” by James Bennctt 1830: reprint by Alan Sutton. Booksellers: £8.00.

Available in May, 1977 a facsimile reprint by Alan Sutton (limited to 250 copies) of Samuel Rudder’s “A New History of Gloucester”.

“A History of Tetbury” by Eric Hodgson on behalf of Tetbury Civic Society. Booksellers: £4.50p.

“An Autobiography of Richard Boswell — Belcher and the Blockley Riots”. 40p plus 10p postage: Blockley Antiquarian Society, Church Gates, Blockley.

“Gloucester Close” by Aylwin Sampson, fascinating illustrations and historical details of Cathedral Close buildings. Booksellers: 50p.

“Walks in the Brecon Beacons” and “Exploring the Waterfall Country” by Chris Barber. Illustrated with maps, giving locations of Youth Hostels. Booksellers: 76p.

