

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## EDITORIAL

SUBSCRIBERS WILL WISH to know that the Annual Conference and Social will take place on Saturday, 14th October, 1978 at the Gloucestershire College of Education, Oxstalls Lane, Gloucester from 2.00 until 5 p.m. There will be talks on "Understanding our Environment through Local History"; "Parish Registers"; "How to Read Ancient Handwriting"; "Studying local Farm History"; "The Romano-British Site at the Portway, Upton St. Leonards"; "The Forest of Dean Iron and the Whitecliffe Furnace". In addition it is hoped that a number of displays will be provided by local Societies — come along and bring your friends.

WYNNE ROBERTS, Editor.



### TEA-TIME HAPPINESS IN YESTERDAY'S PROMENADE

FROM MY SEAT in the shadow of constantly photographed and perpetually drenched Neptune, and still wrapped in the aura of Jubilee celebrations, I gazed pensively at the premises once occupied by the Cadena Cafe, and thought how sad to see the lifeless "look-out" where laughter once echoed along the Promenade. It was always a pleasurable experience and a rendezvous for happiness in Summer to enjoy ice-cream in full view of the Neptune fountains and trees. I visualised the pleasant scene if that "look-out" could be restored to its former use.

The Promenade area was well served by cafes and restaurants, and the tinkling tea-cups could be heard from end to end, with an unspoken motto: "Our kettles are always on the boil". The Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe had a verandah sun-lounge from which vantage point one could watch the scene below, and, comforted by the warmth of the glass, have forty (or fifty) winks. At Brunners, too, an effort was always made to find a window seat overlooking handsome floral window boxes. Much admired, too, were the mirrored walls, if only to adjust one's bonnet or cravat. The Cadena's twin sister in High Street had a quite splendid central staircase, and Cavendish House, of course, had its morning coffee and tea lounge, on the ground floor. Shirers and Lances had an upstairs cafe of appreciable size, and mention must be made of the Cafe Maria in the Promenade, and the popular Maison Kunz, adding a Continental flavour. But for a Palm Court atmosphere, the Wednesday afternoon Tea Dance at Boots was a must. Hurrying up the stairs, one entered a new world of musical trio, dais and potted palms, a romantic setting indeed for dancing to lilting tunes.

Having tea out in Cheltenham's yesterdays, one was possibly spoilt for choice, but it was undeniably a time for spreading cream and jam, and happiness in lavish form.

CYRIL NICHOLSON.

## THE COACHING AGE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

STAGE COACH SERVICES began in the reign of Charles I. During the eighteenth century their speed increased, as roads and vehicles were gradually improved. At the beginning of the century a coach took three days for the journey between Gloucester and London in the winter, though in the summer it "flew" in two days. An interesting journey in 1745 was described by Joseph Jackson, of the Sneyd Park family. He travelled from London to Gloucester by stage coach, in which was an impertinent Quaker woman, and thence to Tewkesbury by wherry, when he had the company of a poet with a book of conundrums, and a chamber maid.

An improvement came in the 1760's when coaches began to travel by night, so that the "Gloucester Flying Machine" could announce in 1767 that it did the journey to London in one day. Similarly, whereas the coaches between Gloucester and Bristol in each direction had met at Newport for dinner in 1725, they met there for breakfast in 1763. Coaches direct to London ran from Stroud by 1769, and from Cheltenham by 1782.

The golden age of coaching was from the end of the Napoleonic War to the coming of the railways. In 1817 a day coach to London was introduced. It was called "the Regulator", and left Gloucester at 5.30 in the morning and arrived by 8.30 in the evening. By 1820 over 40 coaches left Gloucester every day for places as far afield as Milford Haven and Shrewsbury. The chief coaching inns in Gloucester were "The Bell" in Southgate Street, and "The Booth Hall Inn" and "The King's Head" both in Westgate Street.

Fares increased as the services improved. In 1754 it cost £1 3s. 0d., from Gloucester to London. Poorer people could travel outside at half price. It was usual to pay half the fare at the start of the journey, and the rest during the course of it, or at the end. By 1803 the fare from Gloucester to London had gone up to £1 15s. 0d., inside, but was only 15s. outside. A memorandum in the Clifford family papers gives expenses of a journey in 1812 from their home at Frampton-on-Severn in the Yorkshire: besides fares of £15 8s. 0d., there was £2 3s. 6d., for "drivers" and £1 6s. 5d., for "gates". Fierce competition later caused some fares to be reduced, and in 1842 one proprietor was offering a coach from Gloucester to London at 28s., inside and 15s., outside.

The most important encouragement to stage coach services was when John Palmer persuaded the Post Office to use coaches for the conveyance of the mail, instead of postboys riding on horseback. The first mail coach service began between London and Bristol in 1784. Mail coaches began to run between Gloucester and London in 1785. "Mail coaches — persons and property protected — by government authority — with a guard", ran the announcement in the *Gloucester Journal*. The newspaper commented that mail coaches would secure the Post Office from the expense of prosecuting mail robbers, which amounted frequently to £30,000 a year. A mail coach service between Stroud and London began the same year. In 1827 the Stroud royal mail was met at Chalford by an auxiliary coach to Old Passage for the ferry to Chepstow, a shorter route than through Gloucester.

By this period people were proud of the speed and efficiency of the mail coaches. Thomas De Quincey in an essay described how Oxford undergraduates of his day chose to travel outside, if possible next to the coachman, because they exulted in "the glory of motion"; he enjoyed "the official grandeur" of the mail coach, when he saw turnpike gates open and carts scatter as it approached. One of the routes on which he travelled was between Oxford and Gloucester.

In earlier days travellers risked being held up by highwaymen. These usually attacked lone travellers rather than coaches. However, Edward Mason showed great effrontery in 1770: he held up the coach from Bristol to Gloucester, and then coolly waited to rob the coach from Gloucester to Bristol; he followed the tradition of the gentlemen of the road, robbing only the men passengers and taking nothing from the ladies. He escaped on this occasion, but was captured near Salisbury about a fortnight later. There was also risk of accident, even to the royal mails. W. A. Oliver, an army officer, described in a letter how the mail coach overturned at Witney in 1794; the reason, he said, was that the coachman was drunk and all four horses blind. John Keble, the clergyman, was lucky in 1825. As he travelled to Fairford from Hursley in Hampshire, his coach lost a wheel, but he alighted on his legs "as if it were a cat on a feather bed".

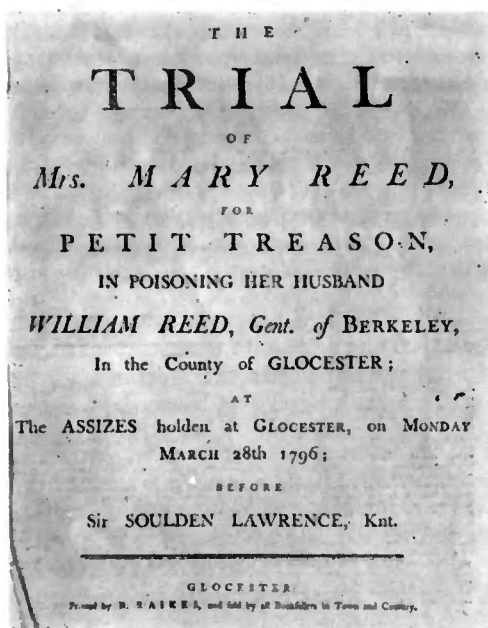
Coach service proprietors were usually innkeepers, and sometimes also served as postmasters. They often formed partnerships with proprietors in towns to which their coaches went. Mail coaches were operated by private contractors, though the guard was an employee of the Post Office and wore their uniform. In Gloucester William and John Turner for many years operated the coach to London. In 1763 Mr Turner supplied cheap coal to the poor, and in 1770 he rescued 17 people from floods at Longford. The first royal mail service was worked by a partnership which included Messrs. Pains of Gloucester, but after a few months John Philpotts of "The Bell" negotiated a contract with John Palmer. Later the mails were operated by John Heath, who invited local dignitaries to a housewarming at "The Bell" in 1794. He described his service as the oldest coach on the road, having originated with Messrs. Turner.

A number of proprietors were in competition after 1815. The proprietors of "The Regulator" assured passengers that complaints against racing coachmen would be attended to. In 1825 John Dowling of "The King's Head" announced a new coach to London called "The Magnet", but his rivals claimed that it was only a branch coach which joined "the great Magnet" at Cheltenham. A year later Heath's coach was called "The Magnet" and Dowling's had been renamed "The Retaliator". When an appraisal was made of "The King's Head" in 1834, John Dowling owned carriages, harness and saddles worth nearly £1,000 and 51 horses worth £700.

The railways brought a new sort of competition. However, some proprietors in Gloucester worked in conjunction with the railways. One coach was called "The Railroad" and arrived at Birmingham in time to connect with "the train of carriages" to Liverpool and Manchester. When the Great Western Railway reached Cirencester in 1841, Thomas Heath ran the mail and other coaches there, in order to connect with railway trains to Paddington. Another proprietor

took a different view; he headed his advertisement "Danger of Travelling by Railroad avoided", and claimed that his coach "The Queen", reached London in 11 hours. However, this resistance was in vain; in a very few years the fine system of stage coaches was a thing of the past.

RUSSELL HOWES



### THE TRIAL OF MARY REED

*"Gloucester Journal"*, 4th April, 1796.

"MONDAY LAST CAME on the trial of Mrs Reed, for the murder of her husband, at Swanley, in this County. Such was the eagerness of the public, that the Court was completely filled between six in the morning and about eight, Mrs Reed was brought into Court in a sedan chair, and appeared at the bar dressed in white".

William Reed had died mysteriously at Swanley in the parish of Berkeley on the 17th March, 1794. Mr Joyner, the Coroner, decided that this was a case of murder, regarding both Mary Reed and her brother, James Watkins, as suspects. After a brief period as a fugitive, Watkins had apparently shot himself, leaving Mary Reed the sole defendant on a charge, not simply of murder, but of petit treason in that she had betrayed an allegiance to her spouse. A verdict of guilty meant execution by burning.

Prosecuting Counsel, Milles, introduced the case by outlining the background of family discord which led, he suggested, to murder. "The deceased

was left by his father, James Reed, Esquire of Westbury-on-Trym, a fortune of about £6,000. In the year 1787 he became acquainted with the prisoner, and kept her till 1789, during which time she contrived to defeat a marriage intended between him and a lady of considerable property, and at length persuaded him to marry herself . . . By the expensive manner in which they lived, their circumstances became very much reduced. After residing at many different places, they came to Poole in Dorsetshire, where the prisoner's brother, James Watkins, came to live with them; a Mr Robert Edgar also lodged with them there".

Both these men intended to take advantage of the pliant William Reed. Edgar cuckolded him and would not break off the affair, even after being ordered from the house. Watkins demanded that his brother-in-law find him a lucrative post, perhaps a station in Newfoundland. According to Edgar, Watkins' frustration led him to talk of murder by poison, with the full knowledge of the intended victim's wife. Defending Counsel, Bragge, could only argue that the evidence of Robert Edgar had been bought by William Reed's vengeful brothers.

To encourage him to hope for marriage, Mary Reed had told her lover that her husband suffered from a fatal illness. However, several witnesses, including a surgeon who attended him at Poole, swore that Reed was in good health. Had he been unwell, it would have been more difficult for William to arrange a life insurance for £2,000 with the Royal Exchange Assurance Office a few weeks before his death. His wife also insisted on his making a will, very much in her favour. He confided to his attorney that, although he knew of his wife's infidelity "it does not signify; so it must be, or I shall have no rest".

Thus, when the Reeds stopped for a while at Berkeley on a journey to Wales, Mary had both amorous and financial motives for disposing of her husband. Nevertheless, they gave strangers the impression that they were a loving couple, though Watkins, who travelled with them, appeared to Sarah Pegler of Berkeley, to be "hasty". Their third address in just over a week was the secluded house in Swanley, where William Reed died.

A neighbouring cottager, Phoebe Knight, told the Court what happened on the 17th March, 1794. Called across to the Reed's house, she found Mary bandaging a nasty wound on her husband's head. Watkins had inflicted this blow as William lay on his bed feeling ill after having some soup for his dinner. "I think we are going mad" declared the victim. He clearly thought the soup was chiefly responsible for his condition, but did not, as yet, suspect deliberate poisoning.

The prosecution relied for medical evidence on Henry Jenner of Berkeley, the surgeon who had been summoned to William Reed's sick-bed. Jenner reported not only on Reed's condition, but on what he observed of the couple's behaviour. There appeared to be no bitterness between them, but William obviously wished to confide something to Jenner and Mary would not leave them alone together. Another neighbour, Hester Munday, noticed that when the surgeon had gone, the patient came out as far as the doorstep, but vomited there. Phoebe Knight's dog lapped up the offending matter and was found dead the next day. Hester Munday also observed a reunion between Mary Reed and Watkins, who had run off after his assault on William. He embraced his sister and went away again towards Gloucester, carrying a box, just as his victim expired in an upstairs room.

The version of events suggested by Milles was that Mary had put arsenic in William's soup at dinner, and when this did not work as quickly as anticipated, Watkins had tried to finish him off with a broomstick. Much depended on what Henry Jenner decided at the post mortem to be the true cause of death. In fact he considered that the blows to the head did not inflict a sufficiently serious wound, but found ample evidence of poison both in Reed's inflamed stomach and in the dog. He even administered "a dark liquid, the colour of a glass bottle" from the stomach of the corpse to another dog, which also died. Mr Brage made as much as possible of Henry Jenner's inexperience and the fallibility of canine comparisons, but the theoretical validity of that procedure was vouched for by Henry's highly respected uncle Edward, and by Charles Brandon Trye, formerly of Gloucester Royal Infirmary.

The prosecution desired to show that, even if it had been Watkins who administered the poison, Mary was clearly an accessory to the murder. Daniel Hadley, the Reeds' landlord, described how she had hoped to avoid an inquest and get her husband buried quickly. Even more damaging were the contents of two letters intercepted by the coroner. James Watkins wrote from Gloucester "Damnation sieze the flincher . . . do we not receive the £2,000?"; while a letter from Robert Edgar in Dorset included the words "I hope before now the old Boy is in heaven".

By contrast with the impressive weight of prosecution evidence, the defence was perilously thin. Mary Reed excused herself from giving evidence on grounds of illness, but asserted her innocence in an eloquently worded statement which was read to the court. Nevertheless, the evidence which was elicited from the half dozen defence witnesses proved reasonably useful. William Reed's brother, Thomas, had been largely instrumental in ensuring that the case was proceeded with, yet he had to admit receiving a letter from his brother threatening to commit suicide if not supplied with money. Moreover, Jane Denley reported that after laying out the deceased, she had been given the allegedly poisoned soup to take home for her husband, who had suffered no ill effect from eating it.

Mr Justice Lawrence was universally praised for his "distinct and satisfactory recapitulation" in summing up a case which had been heard for more than twelve hours. Few details of his charge to the jury are given, however, and none at all of any closing speeches by learned Counsel. In the early hours of Tuesday morning the jury returned to give a verdict, which evidently created some sensation in the courtroom. Mary Reed was "Not Guilty".

PETER GRIFFIN.

### TARLTON CHURCH

This Church is a Chapel-of-Ease to the Parish Church of St. Peter, Rodmarton.

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THIS CHURCH HAS been closely associated with the old manor of Torleton, one of three Tarlton Manors mentioned in the Domesday Book. These manors were already well established at the time of the Norman conquest, and certainly date from Saxon times.

Prior to the conquest, in King Edward's reign, Leuric was the owner. The manor was subsequently owned by William de Ow, who owned many manorial holdings in Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, as well as Gloucestershire. He was deprived of this manor by his kinsman, William Rufus, in 1095-6 and it was given to another Norman Baron, Edward, Earl of Salisbury. Edward's son, Walter, subsequently gave the manor to Jocelin de Bohun, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1142, for the Cathedral, as recompense "for the harm done by his son, William" a comment referring in all probability to the troubles in King Stephan's reign.

The manor formed an endowment of a Prebendal stall, the stipend of a Canon, in Salisbury Cathedral and the first prebendary was Magister Devon in 1226. Tarlton church is mentioned in connection with this appointment, the first known reference to the existence of the church. Its precise date of construction is indeterminate, but it is a reasonable assumption that it was built between the years 1142 and 1226.

The present church, occupies an area of some fifty-two feet by twenty feet and was reconstructed in 1875. It is probable that the early Norman church was similar to the existing church, as the Chevron moulded Chancel Arch and the East Window date from this period. It is possible that a burial ground was associated with the church at that time, as a twelfth-century coffin lid was been found nearby, built into a more modern building.

As Salisbury Cathedral owned the manor, the Cathedral was responsible for the nomination of the priest. Subsequent to this period, there is some confusion over the ownership of the Advowson, the right of manorial lords to present a priest to the Bishop for approval. Two references maintain that it was held continuously by Salisbury Cathedral until the mid-nineteenth century. In his exhaustive thesis on the locality, however, Thorpe states that the advowson passed into the ownership of the Abbess of Romsey, who also held lands at Coates and Hullasey. He suggests that this occurred about 1343 and states that "we know for certain, that the Abbey held it in 1457". There is a reference, however, of a Prebendary of Salisbury, who lived in Tarlton, John Lecche, as there is a complaint by him in 1353, that "ruffians had carried away his goods at Tarlton and assaulted his servant".

In 1494, a man of Sapperton bequeathed to the church, two ewes, possibly as a contribution to the windows, some of which were altered to the perpendicular style about that date.

In the Valor Eccles of 1535, the name of the prebendary is given and the value of the prebend as £19.19s.8d., at about which figure it remained for the next two hundred years. But unlike its neighbouring Manor and Chapel of Hullasey, which belonged to Romsey Abbey, Tarlton was left undisturbed at the suppression. However, Thorpe states that "at the dissolution, the abbey (Romsey) was holding the manor (with Hullasey) and on the 28th September, 1528, Elizabeth Riprose, the late Abbess, leased it to Henry Poole".

How the manor of Tarlton was administered in its early days is difficult to determine, but reference is made of a fee paid to "Antony Straunge, Steward", which leaves one to suppose that it was administered from Salisbury with a resident manager. However, from the middle of the sixteenth century, there are signs of families holding a tenancy under Salisbury.



About this date the Rodmarton Rector had a dispute with Mr Coxe of Tarlton, concerning the services in this church; refusing to hold services on Sundays, because he had found that it had not been customary before his time, except occasionally to please widow Coxe, and to celebrate Holy Communion at Easter.

The Tarlton Manor House and its associated buildings was probably built about the early to mid-seventeenth century. It was a large house situated to the north side of the church. There was an entrance from the manor house, now filled in, on the north side of the church opposite the existing entrance. Between the church and the site of the old manor house there is still existing in its original form, a unique geared well on which is carved the date, 1674. The manor was subsequently destroyed by fire about 1867. On the Ordnance Survey map of 1878, the outlines of the ruins of the house are shown. About 1870, the existing manor house was built. In the archives of Salisbury Cathedral, there is an interesting document which John Coxe (1627-1762) as tenant, drew up for the prebendary at that time, Dr. John Gandy, giving full details of the farm; buildings, including a Dovecote; all the fields, which have the same names to this day; particulars of the court leet, Copy-holders rights, and of the services.

The church appears to have fallen into disuse in the eighteenth century. Atkyns (1712) says "here is a well-built Chapel, with handsome seats and pulpit, but all Divine Service is omitted". Rudder says the same in his time (1779). Local legend says that it was used to store sheep hurdles. During 1974 an elderly visitor to the church mentioned "that when living in the village as a girl, she could remember her grandfather telling her how this church was used as a barn".

The connection between Manor Farm and Salisbury came to an end in 1867. The previous year, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners "to improve the common fund of the Commission and to make better provision for the spiritual care of populous parishes" were authorised by an Act of Parliament to sell. The subsequent Order in Council was dated the 28th December, 1866. Anna Coxe, the tenant, bought it for £14,303, complaining that "Considering the number of generations during which we have been lessees, I cannot refrain from protesting against the extreme severity with which I am treated by the Commissioners".

It appears, therefore, that the church had not been used since about 1700 until it was rebuilt by the Coxe family and presented to the village in, or about, 1875.

The Font is Norman, recut in the early years of the fourteenth century, with large open quatrefoils in low relief. It was originally in the Parish Church and was replaced during the alterations in the mid-nineteenth century; according to the register, the new Font was introduced "into the church in the room of the old unsightly one". The wooden cover, is in memory of Julia Sarah Cox, who was Churchwarden 1923—1938.

The Stained Glass in the East Window, was presented by the late Major Daubney of Coates in 1947, in memory of his son, Roger Heaford Daubney, killed in action in Sicily in 1943, and of all who gave their lives for freedom in the 1939-45 World War. The design is based on the vision of St. John in Revelations, Chapter 19: verses 11-21.

The Electric Lighting was the gift of the late Lady Apsley, in 1963.

The Chairs and Small Crucifix, were given by Major and Mrs Lingard-Guthrie, the then owners of the Manor Farm, in 1968.

A Festival was held in July, 1972, to raise the finance needed to assist with the preservation of both the Parish Church and Tarlton Church. The Festival, focused on Rodmarton Manor, the home of Major and Mrs Biddulph, was very successful and allowed much major work to be undertaken on both churches. Tarlton church was re-roofed and redecorated at a cost of approximately £1,600.

Rodmarton, Tarlton and Culkerton have been closely linked for many years and were associated with Cherrington in 1974. However, in January 1976, Rodmarton, Tarlton and Culkerton joined Coates and Sapperton with Frampton Mansell to form a new Benefice.

This is a brief history of Tarlton Chapel-of-Ease. As a footnote, however, it is interesting to note that in the Cathedral of Salisbury, a Canon of Torleton still exists, with his stall in the Choir.

Evensong is held in this church at 6 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

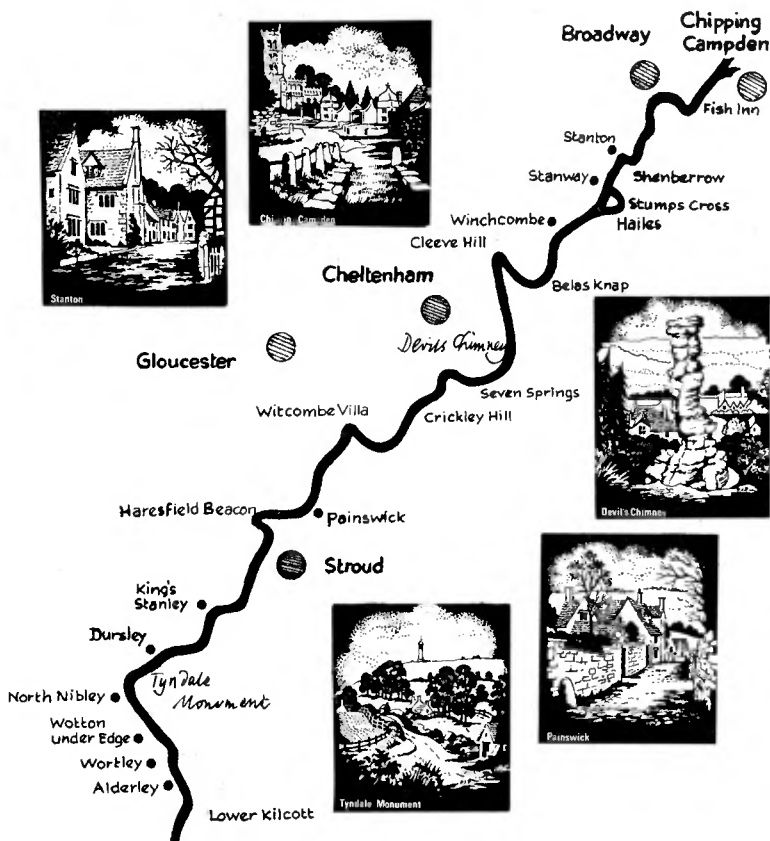
W. MESSAM.

## HISTORY ALONG THE COTSWOLD WAY

IF ANYONE HAD wished to make a history trail covering almost 6,000 years he could not have done better than designate the route which Gloucestershire County Council opened in 1970. This Cotswold Way, following the escarpment from Chipping Campden to Bath, is a fascinating walk through history; the more so because one often comes across reminders of our past almost by accident on remote paths, unheralded by "car park" or "picnic area" signs, silent — apart from the natural sounds of the countryside — and quite deserted. In these circumstances it is easier to feel close to the builders of the long barrow and hillfort.

One of the things which strikes the walker most forcibly is the continuity of settlement from prehistoric times to the present day — evidence of this can be seen all along the Way. The earliest visible remains are of the Neolithic people who are thought to have arrived by the Severn, making their way to the Edge along a dry gravel bed. The most impressive of the several long barrows seen is Belas Knap, built c. 3,000 with a false portal at the north end. Although it was much restored in 1931, enough of the original dry stone walling remains to show that this craft has hardly changed in 5,000 years. Further south, excavations at Crickley Hill have revealed a Neolithic causewayed camp and an I.A. hillfort c. 600, destroyed by fire and replaced by a second, c. 500, similarly destroyed.

Of the smaller hillforts, Shenberrow is interesting because it has farm buildings actually on the south side of the fort. It is a bivallate structure, and excavations in 1935 turned up I.A. pottery as well as R.B. pottery of the 2nd century. Some of the forts along the Way remain unexcavated — Beckbury, for instance, one of the loneliest, and also the impressive Painswick Beacon, much damaged by quarrying.



*to be used in conjunction with O.S. maps*

Later, the Cotswolds became highly Romanised. Wadfield and Witcombe villas are passed, the latter having been excavated since 1961. Finds of an early date indicate that the villa was occupied in the 1st century, though the main structure dates from c.250. Late Roman coins and pottery show that it was probably occupied into the 5th century.

The Saxons did not arrive until 577 and they, in turn, were defeated by Penda of Mercia in 628. Winchcombe became a Mercian royal seat and capital of a shire separate from Gloucestershire for a time. King Ceonwulf founded the Abbey c. 798 and at Domesday the town had borough status. In medieval times most of the land in the district was monastic. Winchcombe Abbey had manors as far away as the Forest of Arden, but its main wealth was derived from wool from 8,000 sheep on the wolds where it owned many manors (Sherborne, Hawling, Roel (or Rowell) now a deserted village site, Snowhill and

others). Hailes Abbey was one of the last Cistercian houses to be founded in England, in 1242, by Richard Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. In 1270 his Son gave the Abbey a phial of Holy Blood and consequently Hailes became a pilgrimage centre. Richard Kidderminster, Abbot of Winchcombe, built the galleried George Inn at Winchcombe to house the pilgrims; their path between the Inn and Hailes now forms part of the Way.

After the dissolution many local people acquired lands and buildings which had been monastic. Sir Paul Tracy began to build Stanway House, probably on the site of the Abbot of Tewkesbury's residence.

The most magnificent perpendicular "wool" church on the Way is Chipping Campden — but perhaps more interesting is the 12th century church at Hailes, by reason of the wall paintings. A rabbit is chased by very happy-looking dogs, and what an impression the huge figure of St. Christopher opposite the door, must have made when it was newly painted. The church has tiles and stained glass from the Abbey.

It would be interesting to find out just how many of our existing rights of way are prehistoric. In many places the Way crosses, or uses, old tracks. Near the Fish Inn one meets, as a field boundary, Ryknield Street, a prehistoric trackway straightened by the Romans. At Stumps Cross the turnpike road from Stanway crosses what was until the 12th century, the main road from Cirencester to Campden. This track is an extension of the pre-Roman White Way, and it is followed for a short distance. Then, at Hailes, the Salt Way from Droitwich crosses the Pilgrims' Way and climbs the hill to Roel Gate. From Seven Springs the Way follows the old road to Charlton Park, and later comes to the Greenway connecting Badgeworth with Upper Coberley. The former belonged to St. Peter's, Gloucester, when Eafe was Abbess 734-67 — she had sheep at Coberley and it is an old drove road. There are many other instances of the amount of travelling done by our ancestors.

Along this northern part of the Way are several interesting farmhouses and small manor or yeomen's houses. Wadfield Farm is a beautiful Queen Anne house of c. 1700, and Wood Stanway has 17th and 18th century houses.

There is a noticeable difference between the north and south ends of the Way. Chipping Campden looks towards the Midlands, being only 12 miles from Stratford-on-Avon. The Edge is both steeper and higher in the north: in the south it is broken up by streams in steep "bottoms". The northern part consisted mostly of monastic lands; in the southern valleys the woollen industry developed and later railways and canals came.

The Way enters Painswick by the original streets, Gloucester and Bisley Streets. What we see today is the result of re-building during the 17th and 18th centuries, the time of the prosperous clothiers, when there were 20 to 30 mills in the parish finishing the cloth which was usually woven at home. When the industry ceased to be competitive early in the 19th century, towns such as Painswick became fossilised. It is almost as if it were awaiting the return of the clothiers whose houses, mills and tombstones we can still see — families such as the Packers, Pallings, Lovedays and Pooles. The Way passes the old Washbrook Mill, now a farm, bearing the arms of Walter Hawkins and the date 1691.

What a contrast between Painswick and King's Stanley, which was created a borough at the same date! Evidence of Roman occupation has been found at

the latter and it had a moated manor house, which excavation shows was occupied in Henry I's reign. There are ancient tombs surrounding the old St. George's church — yet it is not a tourist centre, because, being in the Frome Valley, it continued to grow and prosper in the 19th century. Stanley mill and house were owned for 200 years by the Clutterbucks, whose memorials can be seen in the church (styled "gentleman", not "clothier"). The mill, a beautiful example of early industrial architecture, was rebuilt in 1813 with cast-iron pillars upholding brick arches on 5 floors, making it fireproof. There were in 1833 five water wheels and a steam engine; ten years later it had 90 hand looms. The railway and canal are disused, but the mill continues to work.

John Smith of Nibley, steward of the Berkeley estate and tenant (through his second Wife, Grace) of Warren's Court, died in February 1640/1, aged 73. Because of his writings, we know that Nibley was highly industrialised at the beginning of the 17th century, 78 out of a male population of 127 being engaged in cloth manufacture. The Way comes down the sunken track from Dursley, across the Dovere Brook, past the mill (the house remains, the pond is overgrown) and up a lane to the church. The alternative route, the modern road, is called "New Road". A gate bearing the date 1607 on this lane is all that remains of "yards, shed and outbuildings" shown on the tithe map as occupied by Isaac Gazard, but owned by William Jortin. John Jortin, commemorated in the church (died 1843), held leases of land in Nibley from Smith's heirs. The church stands at the edge of the terrace running along beneath the main scarp at 3—400 ft., and is midway between North Nibley and Nibley Green, where a battle was fought in 1470.

In Wotton, Leland's "pretty market town well occupied with clothiers", can be seen, as at Painswick, clothiers' houses and tombs. It too escaped 19th century industrial development, but the advent of the M5 has brought much new housing and the town has a lively and prosperous air.

The Way follows the old main road out of Wotton, Lisleway Hill, then doubles back on a fork off this road. This fork goes down Tor Hill as a sunken track, across the road at the site of Wortley turnpike toll and down Nind Lane towards Kingswood. This was once the "King's Highway". The Way, however, cuts across and descends the hill by another ancient sunken track to Wortley, said to be the route used by Sir Nicholas Poyntz when he took the stone from Kingswood Abbey to build his "New Work" (Newark Park). Across the present road this track still continues as a path to Kingswood.

The old road from Wortley to Alderley crossed the Ozleworth stream by the stone bridge and went up Kinnerwell Lane, as the Way does now. Several springs occur here and this is the site of Monk's Mill, probably so called as it was granted by the Berkeleys to Kingswood Abbey. From 1631-1716, when it belonged to the Poole family, there was a fulling and a grist mill under one roof. It was rebuilt c. 1768 and in 1839 housed handlooms, but production had ceased by 1870.

Crossing into the Kilcott valley, the Way passes New Mills Farm, recorded in 1636 as a fulling mill by a ford, and then leaves the County to continue in Avon.

MARIAN BARRACLOUGH.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Cotswolds Voluntary Warden Service

Amongst the many activities of the Cotswold Wardens, is that of guiding walks for visitors. Some of these walks are of general interest, and others are devoted to particular subjects, amongst which is local history. The Head Warden is always on the look-out for suitable volunteers to guide these walks, and would welcome getting in touch with people with a knowledge of local history, who would be prepared to act as guides from time to time. Those interested should contact The Head Warden, Cotswold A.O.N.B., C/o County Planning Department, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TN.

### Gloucestershire Record Office

The list of Principal Accessions, 1977 has been published and amounts to over 100 items. A random selection is as follows:—

Capel family of Painswick: family and estate papers, 1719—1932.

British and Foreign School Society, Gloucester 1838—86.

Tewkesbury Borough: copy Charter, 1337.

Numerous Parish Records.

Survey of church plate in Gloucester and Bristol Diocese, 1885.

Many hospital records 1660—1965.

Petty Sessions' Records 1872—1973.

### Metal Detectors

The following notes have been published by the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, on behalf of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucester: they would be only too pleased if subscribers wished to reproduce them for the information of people using metal detectors, and in any event, to give maximum publicity to the points made in the notes:—

“Do you have dreams of making an important discovery? Experts are prepared to advise you about necessary steps before, during and after your use of a metal detector.

#### “BEFORE YOU START:

“All land, including parks, commons and roadside verges, is owned by somebody. *Before* you start searching, get permission from the landowner. In law, anything you find (other than “Treasure Trove”) belongs to the owner of the land, unless he has agreed otherwise. A trespasser cannot claim a legal share of the value of finds.

“It is illegal to disturb a site that is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. To be safe, do not take your metal detector near any recognisable excavation, or near sites such as prehistoric camps, Roman villas or settlements, medieval castles or abbey remains.

“Furnish yourself with a good notebook in which to record your searches, and the *precise* location of any finds. This clue may be most important to an archaeologist, and help to solve some of the puzzles of Gloucestershire's past.

## DURING THE SEARCH:

“Most archaeologist finds are discovered by people working on or walking over fields. Do not be afraid that you have found only rubbish. The shapeless scraps of metal that your detector reveals may mean something to experts. So do fragments of crude pottery which you see while scanning the ground.

“If you take an object from the surface soil, you will not damage underlying layers of evidence.

“If, however, you remove an object from below the plough - soil, you may destroy important information, for example a layer in a pit, or below the floor of a building. Much the best course of action is to report such a deeper find to an archaeologist, so that it can be uncovered with close attention to its position in the soil and its surroundings. In any case please *try not to disturb the surrounding soil*. Digging a big hole is bad archaeology.

## “AFTER THE SEARCH:

“Most of the objects you discover may be bottle tops or recent coins. When you find something you do not recognise, make a note of the *exact* find-spot in your book, and take the object (with loose pottery if there is any) to one of the following Museums:

GLOUCESTER CITY MUSEUM, Brunswick Road, Gloucester (Tel. 24131).

CORINIUM MUSEUM, Park Street, Cirencester (Tel. 5611).

CHELTENHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, Clarence St., Cheltenham (Tel. 37431).

STROUD MUSEUM, Lansdown, Stroud (Tel. 3394).

*or to the* HON. SECRETARY — COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE,  
11 Trowscoed Avenue, Naunton Lane, Cheltenham (Tel. 28461).

“There, experts will be prepared to examine and identify finds. Please do not think archaeologists will demand that you hand over your finds; their concern is to record discoveries on maps and by drawings, so that they can build up a picture of historic sites all over Gloucestershire.

“If the find proves to contain any gold or silver, it may be “Treasure Trove”. Evidence from Museum experts at the Inquest may be helpful in your getting *full market value*. This you are entitled to *provided* you have reported the find promptly. It is illegal not to report such a find. Objects sold illegally seldom fetch more than a fraction of their full market value.

“If you do not take your find along to an archaeologist information is lost — you yourself will not know for sure what you have found!”

## Biglands, Gloucestershire

Gloucester Library has indexed monumental inscriptions to Volume 2, and Volume 3 is in progress. Biglands was published in 1791 and is of great interest to genealogical researchers, since many monumental inscriptions have been defaced or removed from tombstones and churches; now available in cards at Gloucester Library.

## A PORTRAIT OF WINCHCOMBE

by David N. Donaldson

IT IS DEPLORABLE to begin with a cliché, but this most lucid pen-portrait of our little town, really does supply a long-felt want.

It is on the bookshelves of many newcomers to Winchcombe; many of whom have said "We wish we had come here years ago". Such folk knew almost at once that they had become citizens of no mean city; for to walk our streets and byways, is to become aware of an atmosphere.

The past is ever present hereabouts, and the enlightened walker will wish to know the story of what is underfoot and before his eyes. "Underfoot" for Winchcombe people walk on history. This was said so succinctly by our beloved Wincel Tovey — "The dust of Kings reposes in our soil". What a story is ours; and who better to re-tell it than our own historian, David Donaldson? Not only in the lucidity of his writing, but in his sensible plan for his book. Beginning with Neolithic times, he takes us step by step through all the vicissitudes that the slow centuries wrought.

It was in December, 1974 that the author felt the charm of Winchcombe. In that moment, his historian's mind prompted, nay *compelled* him to embark on the three-and-a-half years of research, love for his subject, and dedicated labour: the result of which is this most excellent book. Winchcombe has been fortunate in its historians, but their work is not now readily available to some of us; hence our joy in David's book. We really needed it.

The photographs and drawings add to its charm and value. Its appendix, notes and index, indicate the resolve to do a first class job, and the author has succeeded abundantly.

A. BUTLER.

### BOOKS NOTED

(Prices in brackets are for Postal Delivery).

- "A Diary of the Journey through the North of England made by William and John Blathwayt of Dyrham Park in 1703". Edited by Nora Hardwick — from the National Trust, Dyrham Park, Glos. (50p)
- "Poet's England — 'Gloucestershire' ", compiled by Guy Stapleton — Brentham Press, 137 Fowler's Walk, London W.5. £1.50 (£1.65)
- "Recognisable Qualifications in Local History" (6 page booklet) from S.C.L.H., 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU. (30p)
- Local History Sources No. 1 — "Smyth of Nibley Papers" from Gloucester Library, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1HT. Cheques, etc., payable to Gloucestershire County Council. (£1.60)
- From Alan Sutton, 16 Beechwood Rise, Dursley, Glos. GL11 4HA (representing E.P. Publishing Ltd.):
- "The Diary of a Cotswold Parson" (F. E. Witts 1783—1854) ed. David Verey. £6.95
- "A Handful of History" — A Study of English history of the 17th and 18th Centuries, illustrated by 422 playing cards. £7.00
- "Minchinhampton and Avening" — A. T. Playne; Facsimile reprint of 1915 edition with new foreword by Geoffrey Saunders. £8.00
- "A House of Correction" (Littledean) — J. R. S. Whiting. £5.50