



Welcome to the PLHS autumn/winter newsletter 2015.

We have an exciting new programme of events lined up for you in 2016 and look forward to seeing you again in January. Following the success of 'Prestbury: A Walk Through Time' we are also looking into the possibility of producing another PLHS publication next year.

Email: prestburyhistory@gmail.com

Web: prestburyhistory.com

2016 PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| January 25th | The Early Years of Prestbury - <i>Norman Baker</i> |
| February 22nd | (The AGM) The Prestbury Post - <i>Tony Noel</i> |
| April 4th | Trouble at Church - <i>Lynda Hodges</i> |
| April 25th | Our Thatched Heritage - <i>David Jones</i> |
| May 23rd | The History of St Mary's Church - <i>Lynda Hodges</i> |
| June 27th | Village History Walk |
| September 26th | Archive & Quiz evening - <i>David Jones & Rebecca Sillence</i> |
| October 24th | Lost & Forgotten: Prestbury's demolished buildings - <i>Michael Cole</i> |
| November 28th | Pittville - with <i>John Simpson & Steve Blake</i> |

Recent renovations in Prestbury

We will be hearing more about Prestbury's thatched buildings in April.



DEEP STREET – NEW THATCH



HOME FARM – NEW BUILD



MILL STREET – BARN RENOVATION



LAKE STREET – NEW THATCH

More about our programme for 2016

We look forward to your involvement in the meetings. Meetings take place 7:30pm at the WI Hall on Bouncers Lane (except May and June).

The new programme offers an interesting range of subjects. We all wonder how Prestbury came to be and how it came to have the shape that it has. This will be explored in the **January** presentation.

In **February** we have the necessary Annual General Meeting but as this usually takes less than 20 minutes we have adequate time to get involved in the story of the Prestbury Post which our Chairman, Tony Noel, has been researching.

Our March meeting is postponed to **April** as our usual date coincides with Easter Monday. Lynda Hodges, the author of the church history book on sale at the church, will share with us the story of the period when there was much trouble at the church.

At the end of [April](#), on our regular meeting date, we look forward to a presentation about our local thatched heritage by David Jones. Our thatched buildings add much to the character of our village and David, our Archivist, will share his research on this heritage.

The Parish Church is our oldest building and has been at the center of the village for many centuries so we visit the church in [May](#) to learn some of its history from Lynda Hodges.

Our village history walks have been useful and given us a very direct involvement in the local scene. We plan to develop a new walk for [June](#).

The autumn programme starts in [September](#) with a social event. This will include a photo quiz and the opportunity to look at some of our Archive acquisitions. There will also be previously unseen images of Prestbury on display which Rebecca our Webmaster has been digitizing from local collections.

In [October](#) Michael Cole will take us through his recent research on the stories of our lost buildings.

In [November](#) we welcome members of 'Pittville History Works' who research and publish the history of Pittville. Prestbury has close ties with Pittville and for many years Pittville fell within Prestbury Parish (as you will notice from many of the graves in St Mary's Churchyard).

Do have a look at their website www.pittvillehistory.org.uk

Norman Baker

PLHS Membership 2016

Membership can be renewed at the January meeting for the cost of £10 for twelve months. We are always pleased to welcome new members and guests throughout the year.

Prestbury Remembers WWI -1915 display

This year I was invited to create a display for St Mary's Church detailing the events of 1915 in relation to Prestbury.

We had around sixty visitors, which was a pretty good turn out for a blustery Sunday afternoon. I was also lucky enough to be able to display the medals of three Prestbury brothers who lived at the Burgage.

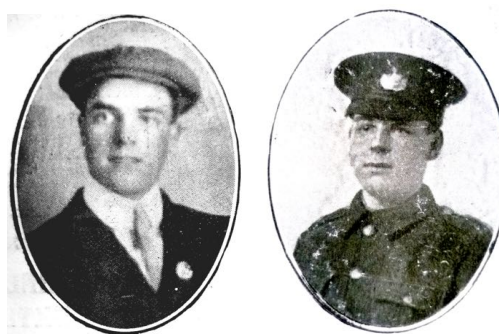


Pete Richards was kind enough to lend me the medals of the three Cook brothers.

William, Henry and Ernest Cook (or Cooke) were the sons of Edward Cook. They also had one sister Gladys who lived with their father, a widowed gardener. The family home was at the Burgage (probably now No.7). William worked as a gardener in and Henry was already a member of the regular army, having recently returned from China with the 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.



2nd Glosters Tientsin, China Christmas Day 1913.



Brothers Henry & Ernest Cooke

All three brothers served with the Glosters. Henry died at the battle of Frezenberg Ridge (Ypres, Belgium) in May 1915. His brother William died just three months later at the battle of Çanak Bayır (Gallipoli, Turkey). Ernest was gassed in 1917 at Ypres, was sent to Halifax to recover and returned to live at the Burgage after the war. The medals of these three young men are a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by Prestbury's servicemen during WWI.

Photographs are from the 'Chronicle & Graphic' courtesy of Cheltenham Local History Library

Rebecca Sillence

Coronation Road

Prior to the Enclosure of Prestbury Act in 1732 one of the large open fields was Sand Field.

It stretched from Bouncers Lane and Tatchley on both sides of the Prestbury Road nearly as far as the present day Welland Lodge Road. It covered 54 acres and was considered good arable land. 1732 several small fields were created and allocated to their new owners. We do not have the map which should have accompanied the Enclosure but can reconstruct the boundary of Sandfield using the evidence of the Act.



The outline of Sandfield is shown here imposed on the Tithe map of 1841. (Glos Archives GDR/T1/143) We can also see the positions and shape of the new fields which were created by the Enclosure Act. One of the fields was numbered 442 on the Tithe map.

When we look at the 1909 Land Survey map (Glos Archives D2428/3/26.4) it is very clear that the field 442 has been taken over for a new development. At this stage most of the development is on the Prestbury Road and on the western side of Coronation Road. The first property in the road was occupied in 1902.

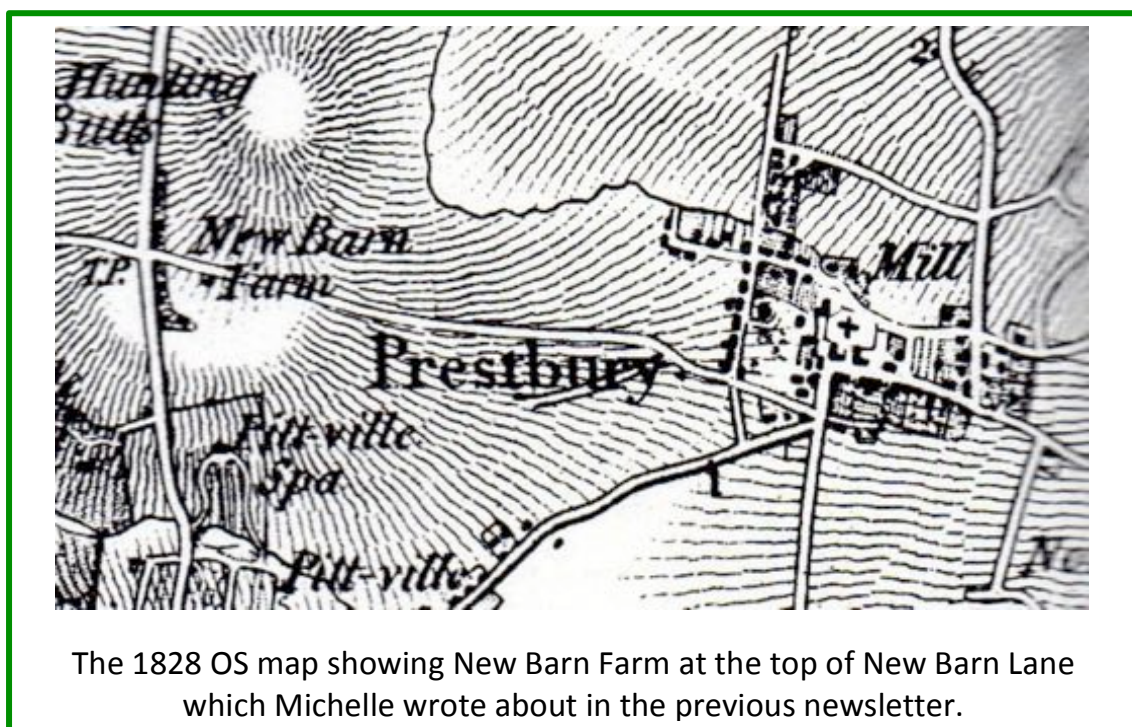




The 1923 OS map shows a little more development. Coronation Rd was named for Edward VII - hence the post-box at the end of the road. The coronation of Edward VII and his wife Alexandra as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the British Empire took place at Westminster Abbey, London, on 9 August 1902.



Norman Baker



The 1828 OS map showing New Barn Farm at the top of New Barn Lane which Michelle wrote about in the previous newsletter.

Street Names of Prestbury

Have you ever wondered how street names are chosen and regulated?

Since the Public Health Act 1925, Cheltenham Council has been responsible for the naming and numbering of streets. If you want to read more about their guidelines then follow this link

http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/513/street_naming_and_numbering_register/859/street_naming_and_numbering_guidelines.

Tatchley Lane

Eastern end of New Barn Lane, from Burgage to roundabout; 1884 map, and doubtless earlier. Earliest reference to a settlement here is 1686: 'my house in *Tacheley*' (will; personal communication Mrs Beryl Elliott); apparent variant *Tott's Low* seen in Civil War period, and in 1767 rendered as *Tacklow* (pc BE). T(h)atchley Villa is listed in Prestbury Road in 1837 and 1839 directories. From the BGAS website – 'An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham', compiled by James Hodson from record Series 9 (1997) revised to 2003

Muscroft Road

It is located off Roberts Road which is the 2nd right turning in Noverton Lane. The field name can be traced back to 1201. On the 1838 tithe map of Prestbury, the field Muscroft occupies the south eastern two thirds of the development that lies off Noverton Lane, including Gallops Lane, Three Sisters Lane and Buttercross Lane. Muscroft Road lies on the field named Little Mustcroft which extended onto Noverton Lane.

In 1838, Mustcroft and Little Mustcroft fields were owned by Rev. John Edwards (later Baghot-DelaBere) and occupied/farmed by John Robinson.

Cockcroft Lane

There is new sign indicating this road which extends from the intersection of Queenwood Grove, Mill Lane and Upper Mill Lane through to Noverton Lane.

From 'Twentieth Century Memories' compiled by Jo Grimster & Carole Powell, pub 2000, pg 71: Ron Bowles names the lane as Leg of Mutton Lane.

On the 1838 tithe map, along the NE side of the lane, extending from the 'bend of the dog leg' until Mill Lane, are a series fields (numbered 703, 713, 718, 719) named Cockcroft. They were owned by Thomas Hughes and occupied/farmed by Bertha Herbert. At the time, Bertha Herbert occupied Noverton Farm which was owned by Rev. John Edwards (Baghot-Delabere).

Please send any comments to prestburyhistory@gmail.com

Michelle Rees

Prestbury's Shows - Past & Present

In the process of indexing photographs of Prestbury (in the local newspapers) I stumbled across these lovely snap shots of rural life.

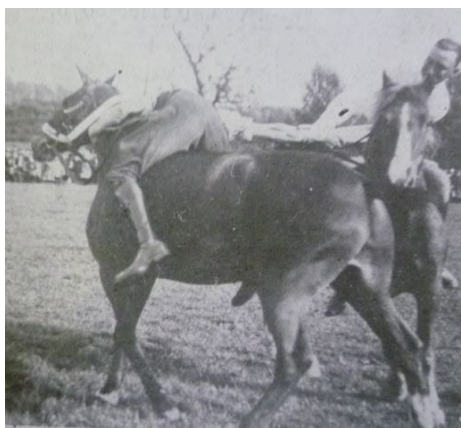
For more than 100 years there have been produce shows in Prestbury. In the past when Prestbury was a predominantly farming village there were also regular livestock shows and displays of horsemanship. More than once Prestbury played host to the Gloucestershire Agricultural Show.

It would seem that there has been a strong tradition of growing fruit and vegetables on any available plots of land, gardens and allotments. In addition to this Prestbury had a number of large farms and horse breeders.



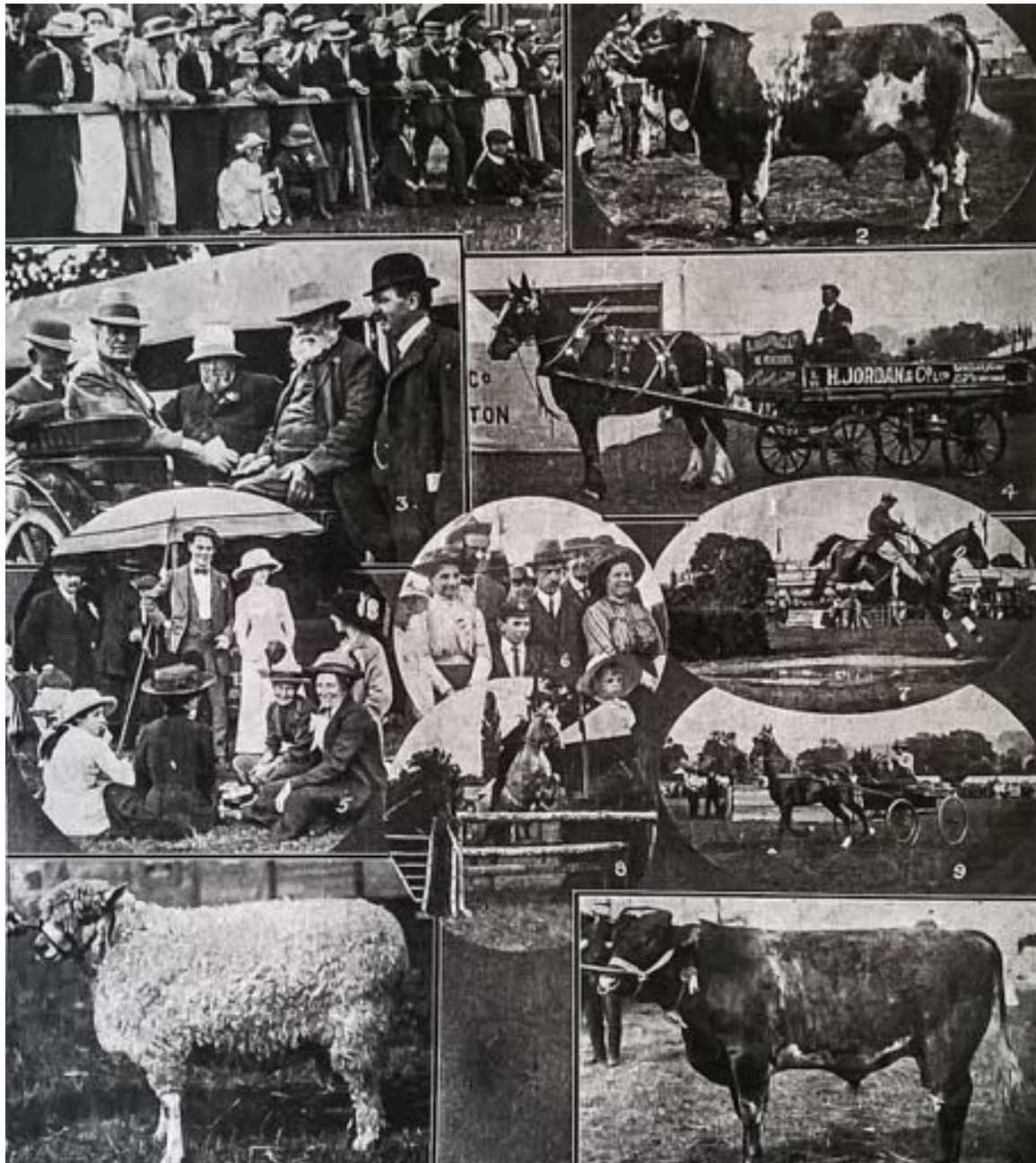
Prestbury Flower Show: judging the produce in 1901.

The First World War caused huge changes in farming communities and a great deal was made of reviving the Prestbury Flower Show in 1919.



Mr Holman & Mr Idiens wrestling! Mrs Henegan's winning 'turnout'

There was bowling for a pig, horseback wrestling, show jumping and other crowd pleasers as well as awards for the best trade turnout, horses, livestock and demonstrations.



1914 Gloucestershire Agricultural Show at Stonewall Fields, Prestbury



Entries at this year's allotment holders show

Today Prestbury's produce show tradition continues through the Blacksmith's Lane Allotment holders and WI who both hold annual shows in the village.

Perhaps next year we should try to revive the art of horseback wrestling... Any volunteers?!

*Join us on Monday January 25th at 7:30pm for a talk about
The Early Years of Prestbury with Norman Baker.*

I have only lived in Prestbury about ten years but I have no wish to live anywhere else. It is a lovely village and community. However, if we compare it with the nostalgic chocolate box picture of an old English village then Prestbury is far from traditional. Travellers drive through without ever seeing our beautiful old church. There is no obvious village green with a pond and thatched cottages grouped around. There is no obvious centre to the village and the roads seem to run where they please without reference to any pattern. The gateway to the village from the south and west is the twin roundabout—hardly welcoming! How did it get to be like this? How indeed did the village begin and when? My talk will be an attempt to answer those questions through an exploration of the evidence.

Norman Baker



Congratulations to Geoff & Elaine North! who received the Peter Smith Award this year from the Cheltenham Local History Society. The award was given in recognition of “many years of energetic support for all the Society’s activities” in particular for their “well researched and richly illustrated displays”.



**We’d like to wish all of our
members a Merry Christmas
and look forward to seeing you
again in 2016.**