



PRESTBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2012

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A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2013
WHICH WILL BE OUR THIRD YEAR AS A
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.**

PROGRAMME 2013

On January 28th we have our Annual General Meeting followed by a talk entitled '**The Fields & Farms of Prestbury—an Introduction**' by Norman Baker.

On February 25th we have a guest speaker: Tim Porter. His subject will be '**Winchcombeshire**'. Tim is a professional historian and a good speaker. He knows this part of the world well and will be able to put Prestbury into a particular historical context.

On March 25th Michael Cole will introduce us to some of his findings from his work with the census returns: '**Masters, Servants and Tradesmen**'.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be on 28th January 7.30p.m.

At this meeting we elect the committee which is charged with the running of the society and which consists of 6 to 8 members including the officers: (current holders names in brackets)

Chairman (Michael Cole)

Secretary (Norman Baker)

Treasurer (Norman Baker)

Members (Roger Beacham, Beryl Elliott, Lynda Hodges, Tony Noel, John Williams.)

The whole committee is elected annually.

A TREASURER is urgently required..

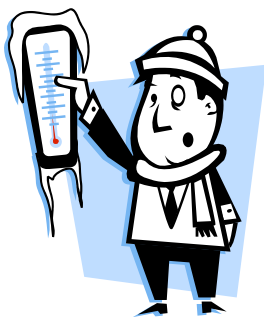
Nominations for any of these posts to the Secretary by 14th January please.

It would also be useful to have advance notice of any propositions which members may like to bring to the meeting.

The meeting is scheduled to take about 30 minutes and will be followed by an illustrated talk entitled 'The Fields & Farms of Prestbury, an Introduction' by Norman Baker.

We appreciate the Library as a venue for our monthly meetings but it felt quite cold at the November meeting. We have now been introduced to the heating over-ride switch so things should be better at future meetings.

When we began our regular meetings the Library was in use on Mondays and therefore always warm for us.. The changes have meant that the library is now closed on Mondays.



MEMBERSHIP runs for the calendar year. The Treasurer will be pleased to receive your subscription of £10 for 2013. Please make cheques payable to Prestbury Local History Society.

If you are an existing member then we just need your name unless any contact details have changed. If you are a new member then please let us have your name, address, phone number and email address. Wherever possible communication is via email.

Whether you are already a member or new to the society we would like to know of any particular research, experience, skill or interest relating to local history. Is there any part of the Prestbury story in which you would be particularly interested—people, places, events ...? We would be very pleased to help you to get started with your research.

PROJECTS AND PLANS

The **PRESTBURY CENSUS RECORDS HAVE BEEN DIGITISED** by Michael Cole and Michelle Rees. Michael now holds a searchable database of the census returns for Prestbury from 1841 to 1911.. This is a considerable achievement and will be a very valuable resource for anyone researching the history of our community.

Roger Beacham is working on a **WALK ROUND HISTORIC PRESTBURY** which will be published next year.

WE HAVE A WEBSITE – WE NEED A WEBMASTER

<http://prestburyhistory.btck.co.uk>

We would like to develop the website further and feel that the best way ahead would be to appoint a 'webmaster'. We also hold a domain name for a new site. Is there anyone with the requisite skill/ experience who would be willing to take it on?

THE PRESTBURY INVENTORY.

Would you be willing to help transcribe the Prestbury Inventory? The Inventory is a collection of 59 documents, such as wills and inventories of households and possessions, from late 16th to late 18th centuries. The manuscripts are written in English but in the script of the time and need transcribing into current English. These records are absolutely fascinating and can give a real insight into the lives of the individual as well as a picture of local society so I'm sure that everyone involved will enjoy the work. It is also very useful and adds extra information to the Victoria County History article on Prestbury.

Paul Evans and Dr John Chandler are co-ordinating the work. They will provide training before the project starts and support during it as well as good quality copies from which to work. If you would like to join our small team please contact the Secretary.

PRESTBURY WAR MEMORIAL

The inventory for St Mary's. compiled by John B de la Bere III, says " the well weathered stones which form the base of this [War] memorial were part of the "old mill" in Mill Lane and were given for this purpose by Major Christopher Capel." (*the inventory for S Mary's 1914 updated to 1929 with historical notes. P254 CW 3/9*) We are indebted to Roger Beacham who found this reference.

The "old mill" in Mill Lane refers to Lower Mill in what is now called Mill Street. Christopher Capel did not own the Upper Mill at the time but he did own the Lower Mill. When the War Memorial was being built he was reconstructing Lower Mill to create the residence that we now know.



Subjects which are currently being researched include:

Prominent families and 18-20 Century history.

The lost buildings of Prestbury.

Occupations of local people from Census returns.

The origins and reasons for the village of Prestbury.

Roads and pathways, transport, occupations.

Prestbury pre 1850. Prestbury Park. Road closures.

Prestbury's mills, both Upper and Lower.

Prestbury's fields and farms.

Bouncers Lane.

We are all aware of the changing face of Prestbury. It is important that we note the changes and maintain a record of the parish as it was. Do you have memories to share? Could you write/record them for us please. Do you have photographs which show the buildings and people of the previous generations? Do you have a family tree showing long established families of the parish? Are there old diaries, records, accounts, plans, drawings etc which you would be willing to share?

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF PRESTBURY.

The society meets regularly in the Parish Library and during the year guest speakers are invited to give presentations. New members are always welcome to the society. If you would like to learn a little about our village of Prestbury here are some suitable suggestions to get started. We hope that you enjoy the history of our village as much as the members of the Society.

The first two books were written by local authors, they are currently out of print but copies are available to read in the reference section of the Prestbury Library.

Prestbury, the History of a Cotswold Village

By Norah Cossens

A Portrait of Prestbury

By Florence Jackson

The following three books are more detailed and are also available in the reference section of Prestbury Library.

The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire(1712) Sir Robert Atkyns

New History of Gloucestershire (1779) Samuel Rudder

A large volume originally printed in 1779 using much of Atkyns. This was reprinted in 2006 and a copy is held in the reference section of the library.

Victoria County History Volume 8 pages 67-81

A history of St Mary's Prestbury can be purchased from the church.

The life story of a church - St Mary's Prestbury

By Lynda Hodges

Roger Beacham has written books on Cheltenham and has published a number of articles on Prestbury. Beryl Elliott has regularly contributed to the Cheltenham Local History Society Magazine and the Prestbury Parish Magazine. Copies of their work can be found in the Cheltenham Library.

Secretary Norman Baker

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Prestbury Local History Society is developing a website at
www.prestburyhistory.btck.co.uk



The Ann Goodrich Almshouses before the re-building in the 1960s..Courtesy of Mr. Alan Martin

ALMS HOUSES IN PRESTBURY

One of the most intractable mysteries in Prestbury village concerns the foundation of the Alms Houses and the identity of the benefactor.

In the High Street today, between the now defunct HSBC Bank and the Mansard House, stands a row of buildings at right angles to the road. In Victorian census records there were three units or households, notated as 'Alms Houses' at this location, usually occupied by three indigent, elderly villagers. In the space allotted to 'occupation' their entries read: Agricultural Labourer, retired, or simply 'Servant', or rather brutally, 'Pauper'.

We have a photograph [copy] of Annie Martin, at the door of one of these dwellings, c.1938, revealing that they were ancient, timber-framed houses with their front doors, as now, facing east onto the alley, now named Anne Goodrich Close.

On the west side of the present buildings are two inscribed stone plaques. The first reads: The Gift of Anne Goodrich / for the Religious Poor / J720. The style of letter cutting suggests that it may have been removed from the old building and fastened to the new. Underneath, the second plaque reads: Rebuilt 1961 CRDC. In this rebuilding the number of dwellings has increased from three to six.

But who was Anne Goodrich? Where did she live? And can anyone discover the whereabouts of the original foundation deeds, or anything else about her?

Michael Cole.