



PRESTBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JULY 2013



Members of the History Society enjoying a historical tour of the High Street guided by Roger Beacham.

CHANGE OF VENUE

The good news is that we are growing. The bad news is that we have now outgrown our 'home' at Prestbury Library and we therefore have to move. From September our monthly meetings will be at the Women's Institute Hall. We will review our position at our AGM in January.

The Library has been a good meeting place in many ways but we have been painfully aware that we have often been overcrowded. The new venue will give us plenty of space. It is central to the village and has some parking available. We have also been given permission to continue to use the Library car park.

Lloyd George survey of land values 1909

The survey of land values was undertaken in order to implement Lloyd George's 'People's Budget' of 1909. Lloyd George had introduced old age pensions the previous year, and was faced with providing revenue for this purpose. He also needed funds for the naval building programme which was needed to compete with Germany's naval building programme. The chancellor of the exchequer wished to tax the 'unearned increment' of land, that is, to tax windfall increases in its capital value due to chance factors such as development potential or the discovery of minerals. 'Land' included all agricultural land, allotments, land with barns, houses, cottages or any other buildings on it. The focus of the survey was therefore on every piece of land and the owners and was organised by the Inland Revenue. The survey therefore generated a large amount of information on the farms and fields and their ownership. The local material is held by Gloucester Archives.

A group of volunteers are working on the materials. They are making good progress in transcribing the entries, and a great deal of what has been transcribed is available to all on the dedicated website www.glos1909survey.org.uk. In addition, a certain number of short articles are being contributed to the blog on the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives website, www.foga.org.uk/blog. More articles on items of interest found in the survey would be very welcome.

WE ARE CREATING A PRESTBURY ARCHIVE.

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?

The Archive will be created and maintained by the Prestbury Local History Society for the parish. It will be housed at Prestbury Library where a filing cabinet and space is being made available. When the Archive is ready we will need to have a member of the History Society at the Library every Saturday morning so that the Archive is available to any who wish to consult it.

We have appointed David Jones as Archivist who will collect and index the material we can gather. If you can help us then please let David Jones or any member of the History Society Committee have your contribution. Please ensure that there is adequate information (names, dates etc) available too.

The Archive already holds the **PRESTBURY CENSUS RECORDS**. Our Chairman, Michael Cole, now holds a searchable database of the census returns for Prestbury from 1841 to 1911.. The indexing of these records is a considerable achievement and is a very valuable resource for anyone researching the history of our community.

MEMORIALS AND INSCRIPTIONS. A database of the memorials in St Mary's church yard has been compiled and a disc is available on loan from Michael Cole.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Local History Day
GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S 'SPECIAL HOUSES'.
at Pate's Grammar School, Princess Elizabeth Way,
on Saturday, 12th October 2013, between 10.30am and 4.30pm.**

The event will comprise a mixture of talks and displays
Five speakers have agreed to give talks of between 20 and 30 minutes on the following topics:
The Building of Frampton Court and Cote House, near Westbury-on-Trym (Stephen Hague);
Highmeadow and Naas House in the Forest of Dean (Averil Kear);
Stratford Park House, Stroud (Steve Hill);
Fairford Park (Chris Hobson) and
Valuable Gloucestershire Houses and Estates in the Lloyd-George Survey of 1909 (Anthea Jones).

Further details of the day will be made available nearer the time.

A further Local History Day is planned, focusing on the effects of the First World War on Gloucestershire communities. This will be held, also at Pate's Grammar School, on Saturday, 11th October 2014.

SUBJECTS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING RESEARCHED INCLUDE:

PROMINENT FAMILIES AND 18-20 CENTURY HISTORY. Roger Beacham has an unrivalled knowledge of local families and the history over the last two centuries. He is also currently researching and preparing a Historical Walk of Prestbury.

THE LOST BUILDINGS OF PRESTBURY, Michael Cole has already presented some of the results of his research on this subject. He also continues his interest in the occupations of local people from Census returns.

ROADS AND PATHWAYS, TRANSPORT, OCCUPATIONS. Lynda Hodges has shared her knowledge of 'The Great Toll Road Scandal' and continues to work on the history and development of our road and path network.

PRESTBURY PRE 1850 AND PRESTBURY PARK. Beryl Elliott is one of our most prolific researchers.

PRESTBURY'S MILLS, BOTH UPPER AND LOWER. Norman Baker has presented an evening on the Lower Mill and maintains his interest in that subject. The occupant of the Upper Mill is currently working on its history.

PRESTBURY'S FIELDS AND FARMS. A website which lists the farms of the parish is up and running and is maintained by Norman Baker. Research on specific farms is undertaken by:
HOME FARM, Norman Baker,
CHURCH, NOVERTON AND UPPERHILL FARMS (i.e. the farming estate in Prestbury of the De La Bere family) Michelle Rees.
CAKEBRIDGE, Michael Cole
NEW BARN FARM AND HYDE FARM Val Porter.
LYNWORTH FARM John Fisher.

THE BURGAGE. Margaret Davies has just embarked on a study of The Burgage. If anyone has information, photographs, drawings which they are willing to share she would love to hear from you.

THE ORIGINS OF PRESTBURY Tony Noel is continuing his research. Currently his earliest reference is AD803.

ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK IN PRESTBURY Geoff North

If you have relevant information or any resources the researchers would love to hear from you. Contact information is available from the Secretary.

We will place a table in the hall at future meetings on which researchers can display photo's, maps and documents with which they have queries and need information. Please look out for the table and help if you can.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME RESEARCH? We would be pleased to help.



CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR I.

2014 marks the centenary of the start of World War I. We need some-one to re-research the names on our village war memorial. Some work is already done but there is plenty to explore.

WE HAVE A WEBSITE – WE NEED A WEBMASTER

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

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

“On September 5th 1643, Robert, Earl of Essex, ‘Like a blazing starr’ appeared on the hill above Prestbury to the immense relief of the lately beleaguered citizens of Gloucester”.

There will be a
CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT
celebrating the arrival of Robert, Earl of Essex, arranged by and performed at the Plough and the Royal Oak on the 14th and 15th September.

PUBLICATIONS

We would like to publish our first volume on the history of Prestbury during 2014. To that end we would welcome submissions of suitable material for inclusion. If you have researched some aspect of our history, whether or not you have presented it at our meetings or elsewhere, please let us have a look. Material for inclusion would need to be researched and factual statements substantiated by reference to sources. All issues of copyright would need to be resolved by the author prior to submission. The material published would remain in the ownership of the author. If you have suitable material please inform the Chairman, Michael Cole, or Secretary, Norman Baker.

We are very grateful to *the Cheltenham Local & Family History Library* and to Rebecca Sillence, one of our members, for the following guide to resources.

A Summary of resources relating to Prestbury

This is just a brief summary of the resources available. For a full list of documents and resources please visit our joint catalogue with Gloucestershire Archives.

<http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Index.tcl> or visit our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries

NB: Some of the details below are links to websites and whilst we don't support a particular site (and there are possibly other sites which provide the same information) links to sites that we have found useful in the past have been included.

Directories & Electoral Registers: We have a large collection of Cheltenham directories (many of which include Prestbury) dating from the early 1800's-1975. Electoral registers for Cheltenham are also held here and run from 1920 – 2002. It is worth noting Prestbury did fall under Tewkesbury Borough for a time so the electoral registers for these years would be found at Gloucestershire Archives.

Renumbering: Over the years many houses in Prestbury have been re-numbered or re-named. We have recently started compiling a list of the changes made in the 1950's to help identify previous house names or numbers. (*Please ask staff for details*). See also our collection of Cheltenham Borough Council minutes.

Census/BMD: Via our subscriptions to *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* we have access to the census online 1841-1911. You can search either by person or by address (using enumeration districts). We also have the Cheltenham the area on microfilm for 1841 - 1901. We have access to the birth, marriage and death index 1837- 2005 via library PCs or you can try using www.freebmd.org.uk from home. For Prestbury parish registers, wills and burial records contact Gloucestershire Archives for details.

Some reference texts held at Cheltenham Library that mention Prestbury:

The Victoria County History entry for Prestbury is Vol 8 pg 67-81. It can also be viewed online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66385>

The Buildings of England ('Pevsner') Vol 2 on pg 639.

Hodson's *Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* includes many of Prestbury's streets and buildings and is also searchable online via the BGAS website www.bgas.org.uk (search box bottom left of homepage)

Cheltenham Probate records by A.J.H. Sale 63G929.3 - contains some entries for Prestbury residents. (See index at back of volume)

Phillimore's G929 - Index of Prestbury marriages 1633 - 1837 Volume XV p129-149

Bigland's G942 - Volume 5, p320 – 322 contains monumental inscriptions for St Mary's church (mainly C17th & C18th). Pedigree of Baghott on p323 .

Newspapers & Magazines: Many articles about Prestbury are contained within local papers and magazines, such as personal announcements or property sales listings. We hold copies of various publications in hard copy or on microfilm, which are available to view in the library. Some of these publications have searchable indexes:

By using the search facility on www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk you can identify articles in the *Cheltenham Looker On* (1833 – 1920), *Cheltenham Chronicle* (1909 – 1950) and the *Gloucestershire Echo* (index covers 1932 – 1950 only). We hold copies of these publications so once a page reference is known the article can be viewed in the library.

There is also a searchable index for the *Cheltenham Examiner* via the Archives website. <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/index.aspx?articleid=109256>

Some articles from magazines such as *Cotswold Life*, *Gloucestershire Life* (and a handful of articles of interest from the *Gloucestershire Echo*) are also indexed on the local studies catalogue.

Lloyd George Valuation Survey (1910 onwards): Any surviving valuation maps may be found at Gloucestershire Archives or The National Archives. Many of the text summaries are available online from www.glos1909survey.org.uk and they hope to eventually add the maps. (Some entries give information about subsequent owners.)

Books/Pamphlets: We have several books in our collection relating to Prestbury and its inhabitants. Among these are the popular titles: *A Portrait of Prestbury* by Florence Jackson, *Prestbury our Heritage: an Architectural Survey* by the WI and *Twentieth Century Memories of Prestbury* by Jo Grimster.

It's also worth mentioning a small collection of photographs can be found at Prestbury Library plus some original photos and postcards are available to view at Gloucestershire Archives. Photos of Prestbury also occasionally appear in pictorial books about Cheltenham or Gloucestershire (some of which have been indexed) so please ask a member of staff to look on our '*photos database*' for you.

In our collection at Cheltenham the general shelf mark for books relating to Prestbury is 223G. If you can't find what you are looking for on the open shelves please ask a member of staff to check for books located in our stock rooms.

It may also be useful to refer to a general book about local or family history which introduces how to use the various resources in more detail. You can search the library lending catalogue <http://prism.talis.com/gloucestershire/home> to view what we have in stock or visit the local history department.

Maps and land ownership: We hold various OS maps including large scale 1:2500 maps from 1923. We also have a tracing of an early 1840's tithe map (original map at Archives) showing field names, buildings and boundaries. Unfortunately copies cannot be made of this map without permission from the tracer.

The Cheltenham Local History Society publication 'Cheltenham Revealed' includes a plan of Cheltenham dating from 1800 which covers some parts of Prestbury. There are also various articles in the Cheltenham Local History Society Journals that refer to Prestbury regarding subjects like land owners and field names. The journals have an accompanying index (and most articles are also indexed on the catalogue).

We have an original written description of the 1732 'Inclosure of Prestbury' (found at *CW/223G333/CE*) giving personal names, field names and the size of each plot with a description of its location in relation to other plots.

There are also various hand drawn maps, deeds, sales particulars, rent books, court rolls and land surveys at Gloucestershire Archives. For court rolls (1726-1871) see *D9125/2/5953* and for an example of a land survey map (from 1777) see *D184/P1*.

Pubs

If you are interested in tracing the history of Prestbury's Public Houses (of which there are many!) there is a useful site containing a Gloucestershire Pubs Database <http://www.gloucestershirepubs.co.uk> or you can usually find out more information from the records held at Archives (licensing , inventories etc...) or local newspapers.

Military History

We have access to various online WWI records in the library (service & pension records, medal rolls etc...) and also have a searchable database of photographs of local soldiers which were published in the 'Chronicle & Graphic' during WWI. The book '*Leaving all that was dear*' is an excellent source of information and photos and there is also the CWGC database www.cwgc.org to search for details of casualties in WWI and WWII. The TWGPP can also often provide photos of war graves <http://twgpp.org>. For soldiers that were in the 'Glosters' in WWI the soldiers of Gloucestershire museum also have a searchable database www.glosters.org.uk.

There are more sources of information relating to Prestbury than I can possibly hope to list here, but I have endeavoured to introduce a few of the most widely used and interesting items in our collection. To search full Local Studies catalogue please visit:

[http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?
dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Index.tcl](http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Index.tcl)

For enquiries please contact us:

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GL50 3JT

Tel: (01242) – 532693

Email: cheltlocalstudies@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Web: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries

LOCAL MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Monday, 4th November, 2pm – 4pm. Joint Gloucestershire Archives/GLHA workshop at 8 Gloucestershire Archives, looking at sources for studying the impact of the First World War on Gloucestershire communities. Numbers will be limited and booking will be via the Archives' on-line booking system, so look out for further information during August.

What Gloucestershire's Engineering Firms Gave the World

Global Language Immersion Centre, 4-6 Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2EA, on Saturday 31st August from 10.00 until 13.00 (doors open at 09.45). The event is free, but pre-booking is essential.

Book by emailing archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk or by ringing 01452 425295.

A mini-conference celebrating three of Gloucestershire's most famous engineering companies, each of which exported their innovative products around the world.

Steve Mills will talk about the Gloucester-based firm Fielding & Platt; David Evans will discuss the firm R A Lister of Dursley; and Ian Pope will present the story of the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company. There will be an opportunity for questions after each talk. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase and displays of images from Cheltenham Local History Society, and from the Fielding and Platt documents on deposit at Gloucestershire Archives can be viewed during the morning.

CHELTENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Evening Meetings and Lectures are held in the Municipal Offices in the Promenade, from 7.30 till 9:00 p.m. normally on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May. All are welcome at these meetings, although a charge of £1.00 is made to non-members and 50p to under 18s and students.

Tuesday 17th. September

Malcolm Watkins - The Birdlip Grave Group, a 2000 year mystery.

Tuesday 15th October:

Helen Brown & Ann-Rachael Harwood - Cheltenham Local History and the Role of the Museum.

Tuesday 19th November:

Dr Nicholas Herbert - The Turnpikes and the Improvement of the Roads.

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 23

“A Prestbury Miscellany”

Growing up in Prestbury. Elaine North
Miscellaneous photographs of Prestbury.
Prestbury’s ornamental ironwork. Geoff North

October 28

M & J Fisher “Lynworth Farm”
Norman Baker “Home Farm”

November 25

Tony Noel.

“Christmas in Prestbury 1289.”

MEMBERSHIP of the Prestbury Local History Society 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 already a 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.

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

PRESTBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CONTACTS

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