



PRESTBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

March 2014

CHAIRMAN: Michael Cole. 01242 517192. email: tatchleybooks@gmail.com
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THE PRESTBURY ALBUM

The Prestbury Album is a new initiative, intended to provide a specifically photographic, or illustrative image archive as part of the existing Prestbury Local History Society Archive.

The aim is to have a collection of images of people, places, buildings, landscape, festivals, coronations, anniversaries, other events, or subjects that will reflect some aspects of life in Prestbury in history.

This is an appeal to all of our members to consider whether they can either donate, or at least allow us to copy, photographs, or images from whatever source, relevant to the above, in support of the album that will be available for all PLHS members to view either in actual material or online.

Submissions may need to be supported by descriptive or explanatory notes, captions or titles, and every image will have a recorded source acknowledgement and be protected online by a PLHS copyright watermark.

Thank you.

For submissions, questions, or just more information, please contact the PLHS Archivist:-

David K Jones

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CURRENT RESEARCH

It was agreed at one of our earliest meetings that our concentration is to be on Prestbury Parish history. Therefore all of our meetings have Prestbury as their focus. Most of the local history societies around us have speakers at their public meetings who cover a wide variety of topics and there are therefore numerous speakers available. For us, however, the number of people outside our own membership who can speak on the history of Prestbury is very limited. Therefore we are dependent on our own members to research and to share the results of their work. Our constitution states that our objective is to promote the study of the local history of Prestbury. Therefore we need researchers and the encouragement and support of willing people is important to us.

So would you like to research the history of your house, your road, a local family or building, or some aspect of the life of the parish? Please contact the Chairman or Secretary who will be pleased to advise you.

Some of the research subjects which members are currently engaged in are:

THE CRAVENS AND PRESTBURY

The widow of Sir William Craven (former Lord Mayor of London) bought the manor of Prestbury and other adjoining land in 1622 and this passed to various members of the Craven family until 1853 when the manor and freehold estate were sold. A large area of Prestbury including Prestbury Park, Hyde Farm and Hunting Butts was owned by this extremely interesting and prestigious family though they never actually lived in the parish. If anyone has any information about this family I would be interested and you can get in touch by email at porter370@btinternet.com (Val Porter)

Shots fired at Midnight Strange scene in the Burgage. (Cheltenham Chronicle 1902)

This headline relates to Herbert Dickenson, a butcher of the Burgage. Do you know which house he lived in or anything about him or his family?

I am researching the history of the Burgage and would be very grateful for any information/documents/photos/pictures about the people and their houses, architectural features of the houses or events that have happened in the street

Please contact Margaret Davies on 572690 or pass any information to me at the meetings.

EDUCATION IN PRESTBURY

Jill Smith is researching "Education in Prestbury" and would be pleased to have any material on schools in Prestbury (other than the information already contained in Florence Jackson's book) including any personal memories of going to school in Prestbury 1930-1960".

Michelle Rees is researching 'The De La Bere Family and their estates in Prestbury'.

Michael Cole is researching '**Prehistoric Prestbury**' and will be talking on the subject at our March meeting.

David Jones is researching the story of the men whose names are inscribed on our village **War Memorial** and will be talking about this at the October meeting.

Norman Baker is continuing to research '**The Fields and Farms of Prestbury**'.

These and others who are researching would be pleased to have information and photographs on their subjects. Communications may be made via the secretary if contact information is not provided

There is now a **researchers pack** available which has recommended books and resources for any who would like to get involved in research.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES EVENING

May 19th at 7.30p.m. at Prestbury Library

If you are researching some aspect of Prestbury history would you like to share it at our meeting on May 19th? There will be opportunity to share by displaying some of your work and discoveries, or by presenting as a talk with or without slides. Time will not permit any one person to talk at length so please keep presentations down to less than 15 minutes. Please let the Secretary know as far in advance as possible if you are willing to speak.

If you have some records, especially photographs for the Prestbury Album, but also drawings, plans, family trees of long-established Prestbury families or other material would you please bring them to the meeting either for us to borrow and copy, or to lodge in the Archive.

We will also display some of the Archive contents for all to see.

It will be a interesting evening.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27TH JANUARY 2014

The Chairman welcomed 45 people to the meeting.

APOLOGIES were received from G & E North, M. Rees, J Smith, R & L Hodges.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman reviewed the history of the Society, the past year's programme and reminded us of our aims. Much progress had been made in stimulating local interest, but none with publications. He explained the need for a change of venue, moving to the WI Hall because recent attendances, often over fifty, were too large for the Library.

The creation of the Archive was also highlighted. Those present were exhorted to deposit items which could be made available for future research.

FINANCIAL REPORT showed a balance of £1739.16 to carry forward.

APPOINTMENTS. The committee was appointed as follows:

Chairman Michael Cole

Secretary Norman Baker

Treasurer Peter Annesley

Members: Roger Beacham,

Tony Noel

Lynda Hodges

David Jones (Archivist)

Michelle Rees

John White was appointed as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

The meeting was followed by a presentation prepared by Norman Baker – Prestbury in Maps — Reviewing the progress of map-making from Ogilvy's seventeenth century route maps, to recent ordnance surveys, a wealth of useful tools for local history.

COMMITTEE MEETING

At the first meeting of the newly elected committee it was agreed that we should purchase our own projector. We have been fortunate to have the use of Michael Cole's laptop, projector and screen

for nearly every meeting since we began. We are grateful to him for that and for the donation of a screen.

The committee re-arranged the May meeting programme so that it now becomes 'Research and Resources'. We will invite some of those currently doing research to do a short presentation on their work so far. We will also display some of the contents of our growing Archive. The meeting will be at the Library where our resources are held.

We were pleased to hear that Roger Beacham's walk through the history of Prestbury is making good progress and we can look forward to its publication this summer. We have planned the publication of a volume of articles on the history of Prestbury but we are still gathering material so have not been able to proceed with publication yet.

The Bishop's statue

I recently spoke to a former Bishop of Hereford about the statue of Bishop Richard Swinfield in Hereford Cathedral which I showed in my talk of Christmas at Prestbury 1289. He pointed out that at the bottom of the statue are a number of small carvings. These are a row of pigs dressed in the Cathedral livery. It would seem that the sculptor was trying to make a pun on the Bishops name from Swin to Swine. Or did the Bishop have a nickname? The joke may be on the sculptor, as it is believed that Richard de Swinfield came from Swingfield in Kent. He certainly had property in Kent as well as that in his diocese.

The pig connection continued in the family. The pig illustrated is on the memorial to John Swinfield. After Richard's death on the 15 March 1317, two of his nephews were given offices within the cathedral. John had the precentorship in Hereford cathedral and Gilbert was the chancellor there. It seems only the Bishops pigs had the waistcoats in the cathedral colours of blue and gold. John was Arch Deacon of Shrewsbury, then treasurer of the cathedral and eventually he took on the precentorship. He was still in office in 1311.

Tony Noel.



G ARTHUR CARDEW OBE MRCS. Prestbury's first local historian?

Arthur Cardew was an eminent Doctor in Cheltenham. His first appointment in the town was House Surgeon at the General Hospital. He had a variety of roles in the town including working with the Delancey Hospital, the Ladies College and St John Ambulance. Shortly after WW1 began he took charge of the St John Hospital at Gloucester Road School and for his services was awarded an OBE. He resided at 5 Fauconberg Villas. He died 1934 aged 77. His younger son, a Lt in the Royal Navy, died in 1917 and is buried in Prestbury Church yard.

He is still listed on Amazon as the author of four books though only one of them is available. One of the books listed but unavailable is 'Pre-Domesday Prestbury'. This appeared as an article in the Cheltenham Examiner in March 1897 and will be familiar to many researchers. There is now a copy in our Archive thanks to the work of Margaret Davies who kindly typed the document.

An unusual death in Prestbury

In 1834 an inquest took place into the death of James Butt at Prestbury. He had been a musician at Lord Ellenborough's late fete. He left the house between six and seven o'clock in the morning. He then went to Mr Thomas Freemans house in Prestbury known as the Grotto and retired to bed. He was found dead some two hours later.

From the Gloucestershire Chronicle
Tony Noel

WHEELERS. Someone asked about the field known as Wheelers, at the top of Mill Lane. A young researcher gave me the following.

A Saxon name “h weol-weg” meaning a wheel way. In 1506 it became Wheleways and in 1575 Whelwayes and hence Wheelers.

I do not know her sources, but it looks likely as one of the oldest sunken lanes in the village comes through Wheelers and leads down to Workhouse lane from the common. Local folklore says that this is the lane where the wagons of the Parliament army got stuck in the bad weather on the hill. If seen on a very wet day, like today, this makes a lot of sense!! *Tony Noel*

STABLES IN PRESTBURY

In pursuing the ‘Farms and Fields’ study I came across the name ‘Chapman's Farm’ but could find no other reference to it. Then one of our researchers, Val Porter, passed me some notes on a land sale in 1853 including Prestbury Park, Hunting Butts etc. Mentioned in the notes is ‘pasture and meadow lands occupied by Robert Chapman of 8 Warwick Place, horse dealer’. A Google search led to some-one researching the Chapman family tree. He quotes from "Notes on the History of Prestbury" by Robert Beacham, from Prestbury Parish Magazine, 1973-1977.

The Oaklands, or Oakland House or Court, is a handsome Regency house that now lies sandwiched between the Prestbury Road and Mendip Road. It was formerly surrounded by a small estate that, from a sale advertisement in the “Cheltenham Chronicle” in 1811 (issue of July 4th), sounds quite charming. “A small freehold estate, in the immediate neighbourhood of Cheltenham, called Oaklands; consisting of a handsome modern villa, coach-house and stable, garden, shrubberies and pleasure ground, in the whole about fourteen acres and a half..... The garden is large, and conveniently situated. The ground has been laid out at considerable expense, is ornamented with a small lake, and plantations of shrubs and coppice, which are now in a very healthy and flourishing condition, besides some very beautiful oaks and other forest trees dispersed about it; and will, in a short time exhibit a degree of park scenery rarely met with in the immediate vicinity of frequented Watering Place....”. In the 19th century Robert (“Bob”) Chapman, a notable figure in sporting circles, lived at the Oaklands. He is said to have entertained the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII there, and to have taught him to hunt. Chapman died in November 1893.

The conclusion is that Chapman’s Farm was a Stables and had a short life. Moat Farm falls into exactly the same category. There were several stables in the village which are now gone. There must be memories, photographs and records. Is there some-one who would like to tie it all together?
NJB

The Gloucestershire Local History Association, to which we belong, will have its annual open day on October 11th when the theme will be ‘The Effects of World War I on Gloucestershire Communities’. More news in next Newsletter. One of the speakers will be Geoff North who is a member of PLHS, who will be speaking about Gloucestershire VAD Hospitals. (Voluntary Aid Detachment)

Another piece of information from GLHA was that **Ancestry** will include Gloucestershire Wills in its range from early March. The site can be accessed from the library without charge.

SOME NOTES ON LOOKING AFTER THE POOR IN PRESTBURY

The care of the poor has always been an issue for society. In Prestbury a charity was created as far back as 1646 with the gift of the field still known as 'Poor's Ground'. The field was rented out and the rental income put at the disposal of the church wardens for the relief of the poor. Over time various other gifts were made and charities such as the Ann Goodrich Alms Houses created. Although the alms-houses were given it appears that no income was provided to support either the building or the residents, so the income from Poor's Ground was applied to that cause as well as to supporting the Poor House (Work House) when that was built.

There are records in the Parish account books which give occasional clues about the use of the money.

- ◆ In the 1792 account book (P254OV2/i(iii)) the account for 1780 lists 'two pairs of stockings and two shirts 10/8, a hurden frock 5/11, two shifts, for laying out, for coffin.
- ◆ In June 1789 'Sheets Blankets Bedtick and Bolster by the order of J B de la Bere esq for Young and Hoskins when they were removed on account of the smallpox. 1/4/0'.
- ◆ March 1789 to William Wixey in his illness.
- ◆ Payments are shown for: coal, 'a little meat', shoes, potatoes, rent, 'temporary relief for bad leg', 'for taking wife to the infirmary', paying man to fix bedstead, 'Fuel, soap and lime to cleanse the room occupied by Mary Wixey, (smallpox death?), 'walling and draining the well', repairing windows of poor house, 'Betty Pocket for her child 4 weeks 1/0; for shroud 1/6, towards the funeral 1/6', for shaving children's heads 1/6,

Also in the records of the time is a list of bastard children showing when pay commenced, name of mother, name of father or body paying (usually the parish).

In the 1820s a Workhouse was built in Queenswood (well outside the village!). There is a list of cash advances and gifts from individuals towards the building of the Workhouse dated Dec 1824 - 26. The Overseers Rate Books (P254 Ov1/2-8 1830-32) record payments for the support of the poor whether in or out of the workhouse. The list is of occupiers and owners in the parish and amounts range from a few shillings to hundreds of pounds. The names of the properties concerned are not listed. The first written pages reads *1831 Oct 6. An assessment for the necessary relief of the poor and other purposes in the several acts of Parliament mentioned – relating to the poor for the parish of Prestbury in the county of Gloucester 1/0 in the pound for the present year.*

We also find there a list of overseers from March 1821. Most of the overseers served for one year and had an assistant.

One book also shows the list of visitors appointed to attend the poor house each month – the Vicar and various leading people in the community. The Workhouse (Poor House) had a short life before it was amalgamated with the Cheltenham Union Workhouse.

The various charities were also amalgamated and still contribute in a variety of ways to support people in the parish.

As stated in the title of this article these are notes and far from a finished work. It would be an interesting study to delve more thoroughly into the Prestbury record and also to put that into the national context. Once each parish was made responsible for the care of its poor (Queen Elizabeth I. 1601) strict rules began to be imposed to keep 'benefit tourists' out! Familiar? We would be pleased to hear from you if you wish to pursue this aspect of the history of our community.

NJB

THE PROGRAMME FOR 2014

March 24

PREHISTORIC PRESTBURY.

Michael Cole.

April 28

HOW THE TRAMS CAME TO PRESTBURY.

Lynda Hodges

May 19

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCE EVENING
AT PRESTBURY LIBRARY**

June 23

VILLAGE WALK

September 22

THE DE LA BERE FAMILY AND ESTATE IN PRESTBURY.

Michelle Rees

October 27

THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL.

David Jones

November 24

TUDOR COTTAGE.

John White

A PRESTBURY HISTORY QUIZ.

Tony Noel

Meetings are held at 7.30p.m. at the W.I. Hall unless otherwise stated.