



Welcome to the 'new look' Spring newsletter 2015.

I've recently been given the task of redesigning the website and newsletter for the society. Many of you will already have had the opportunity to take a look at our new website prestburyhistory.com Any comments or feedback are most welcome as it is still very much a work in progress. If there is something you'd like to see more of please let me know. Email: prestburyhistory@gmail.com

Rebecca Sillence – PLHS Webmaster

Forthcoming Events

27th April: Launch of '*Prestbury: A Walk Through Time*' by Roger Beacham at Prestbury LIBRARY from 7:30pm. This will be an informal evening so there will not be an illustrated talk. The PLHS Archive will also be on display.



Spring crocuses in St Mary's churchyard

18th May: A presentation by Fiona Hall '*Prestbury United Reformed Church*' at the URC Church, Deep Street at 7:30pm

22nd June: We will be hosting a '*History Walk*' Details to be confirmed nearer the time...

Please note: the next two meetings will not be held at our usual venue.

This Month...

In the Spotlight . On this day . News & Events



On 30th April 1929 Barrett's Great Canadian Circus visited Prestbury and set up in Carter's Field. The show included the 'marvellous Lynton troop', horses, wolves, elephants and monkeys. [Gloucestershire Echo](#)

The Cheltenham Gold Cup race March 2015

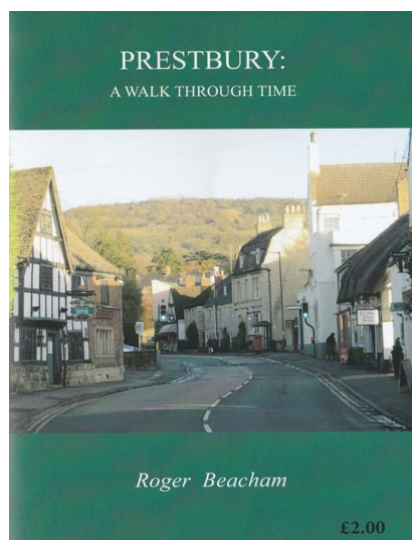
In the Spotlight

Cheltenham Heritage Walks *by David Elder*

This is an interesting recent publication. There are nine walks listed each with a map, some photographs and a wealth of historical information. Walks mostly have themes—the Chelt, the Spa, the literary heritage etc. Walks are generally 2 to 4.5 miles. The book has a cover price of £14.99 and is published by Amberley Publishing.

Prestbury: A Walk Through Time

by Roger Beacham



This is the first publication under the name of the Prestbury Local History Society and does the Society great credit. Roger, and Michael Cole who edited and prepared for publication, deserve our congratulations and thanks. The book is meticulously researched and presented. A map is included and plenty of well chosen photographs.

The walk is just over a mile and takes one from the Library, through Seven Posts Alley, Prestbury Road, Deep Street, High Street, Southam Road, Mill Street and The Burgage. Roger provides a historical background to the village and some of the characters who figure in the story. He also gives a history of all the significant buildings on the route and some of the people who have lived in them.

At £2 per copy it is extremely good value and I suspect that we will find that our first order is insufficient to meet demand.

Norman Baker

Join us for the launch on **Monday 27th April** at
Prestbury LIBRARY from **7:30pm**

Alison de la Bere Carleton...who was she?

De la Bere is a relatively common name which has been used as a surname and middle name over the years. Perhaps, its usage indicates an important person or at least a relationship with an important family historically.

As with all family history, there are versions of stories or personal histories that are passed down. In particular, there is the mystery of Alison de la Bere Carleton. According to the Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic on Saturday 13 October 1928, Lady Allison De la Bere Carleton had a religious service at '...the little Norman chapel in Southam Delabere.'. It was conducted by Rev. N.M. Morgan Brown, rector of Bishop's Cleeve. Afterwards there was a reception at Southam Delabere and they spent their honeymoon in Broadway.

The article continues with the mystery of her identity... '...believed to be the last survivor of the ancient Delabere family, who from the Middle Ages till a few years ago, when the estate came into Chancery lived at Southam Delabere..' Alison de la Bere Carleton said she had lived at Southam Delabere and that her mother was buried in the chapel.

For those of you familiar with the De la Bere family and Ellenborough Park (as it is now know), will realise the inconsistencies with the story. I think it is a fascinating story with unusual twists that often arise in family history research.

So... who was Alison de la Bere Carleton.....?

Michelle Rees



Postcard circa 1909

Where history takes you!

I have studied the life of William Marshal for many years now, reading most factual literature written about him and visiting most locations associated with him save for a few.

The history, or 'L' *histoire de Guillaume le Marechal*, as his life as an Anglo-Norman baron should properly be called, reveals many local links including the city of Gloucester, the county as well as many other parts of England, Wales, Ireland, France and various other places in continental Europe and even the middle east. The nearest place to Prestbury associated with the Marshal, is Badgeworth and Brimpsfield near Cheltenham.

But what fascinated me about him from the very first, was that his life story, or biography, was the first about a common man, therefore not a royal, or even an aristocratic person, but a normal, common man. Never before in human history had a biography been written anywhere in the world that described the life, in full, of such an ordinary born person.

The reason he was so honoured was because his extraordinary life, his rise to power, all began when he was just a child of five or six years old in 1152 and went on through to reach the very highest place in 13th century society, when as an old man, he was elected to be Regent of England during the minority of Henry III, who was crowned in Gloucester after the death of Henry's father King John in 1216.

That history is too long and fantastic to be described here. There are many versions of the *L'histoire* re-telling in modern English, or French, the story that was originally written sometime in the early 13th century, as a Middle-French poem of some 19,214 lines in rhyming couplets, all of it the most incredible adventure, but it is true, well mostly born out by recorded history, and well worth reading. It's more than just a story of chivalrous knights and derring-do, though this is most probably what started all that, but if you love English, or Anglo-French, medieval history, I strongly recommend it.

Part of the romance and adventure of his life, and its appeal to me, was heightened some years ago when I read that the only copy of the *L'histoire*, there is only one original manuscript extant, was for many years in the 19th century lying on a shelf in the library of Sir Thomas Phillipps at Thirlestaine House in Cheltenham, now part of the Gentlemen's College, just a few miles from my home.

The great French scholar Paul Meyer first saw the manuscript at an auction at Sotheby's in 1861. It was then bought by the antiquarian collector Sir Thomas Phillipps and it disappeared into his vast collection at Cheltenham and was not seen again until after Phillipps' death in 1872, probably untouched and unread. After many years of trying, Meyer eventually got access to the manuscript and with the help of an acclaimed academic, Miss L. Toulmin-Smith, was in April 1880 in Cheltenham, able to make a copy in modern French before it was sold again, this time to the publisher W. Heath Robinson. After his death it was bought by the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, where it now resides as manuscript M.888.

In 2009 I happened to be in America visiting friends and was due to fly back from New York, so I decided to spend a few days in the city to see the sites. Quite by coincidence, I had booked into a hotel in Murray Hill, only to find later that I had stayed no more than a block away from the library where M.888 lay. It had come a long way through time and history, over thousands of miles and still I am drawn to its amazing story. One day I intend to go back to New York to see it for myself. Surprising where history takes you!

David Jones - PLHS Archivist

PRESTBURY'S VC.

Capt Thomas de Courcy Hamilton was an early recipient of the Victoria Cross awarded for his courage at the siege of Sebastopol during the Crimean War in 1855. In retirement 1874 he moved to Dunboyne, 3 Beaufort Villas—now Western Approach Road, and lived there until his death in 1908.



<http://www.blennerhassettfamilytree.com/Thomas-Hamilton-V-C-.phpy>

Norman Baker



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Prestbury Local History Society is a member of the association of Gloucestershire Local History Associations. This is a fairly new body which was created when local government funding was withdrawn from a previous similar organisation. We pay £10p.a. as a society and we send a representative to the meetings of the GLHA Forum which are held quarterly.

The representatives of 49 local history bodies meet together with the staff of Gloucester Archives, usually as their guests. It is a valuable organisation where we are updated about work being undertaken by the Archives and other concerns such as the Victoria County History and the County History Trust. We are also able to share our own news and concerns as local history societies.

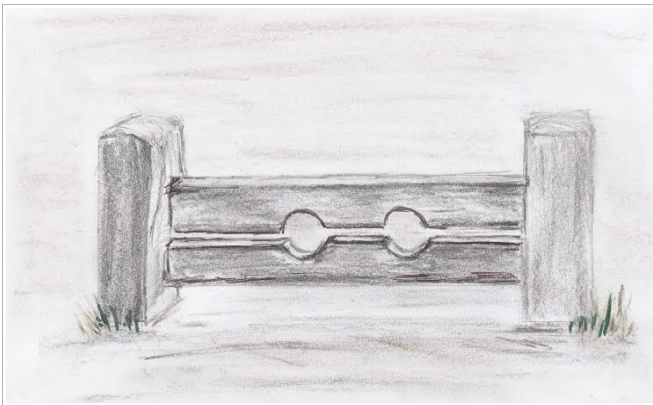
The next GLHA Local History Day will be held on Saturday 24th October at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham. The topic will be 'People to Places: Immigration and Emigration, to from and within Gloucestershire'. The website for GLHA is www.gloshistory.org.uk.

The Black Death & the Village Stocks

The Black Death of the mid-14th century took away between 30% and 50% of the population and was therefore devastating for the nation as well as for the families who lost loved ones.

Amongst the many effects was a dire shortage of labour. This in its turn meant that there were not enough people to work on the land therefore there were food shortages, therefore prices escalated. In its turn that meant that because labour was short, and also because people needed a greater income to buy essentials, wages went up. The land owners found that they were threatened with having to pay more for labour and moreover the workers on their farms were travelling around offering their labour to the highest bidders. The land owners therefore petitioned the king.

One result was the Statute of Labourers Act which required that labourers worked for the pre-plague wages and that employers were forbidden to pay more—hence undermining the free market in labour. The penalty for contravention was up to three days in the stocks, and each community was required to have stocks in place. The stocks in Prestbury were positioned in Mill Street, just opposite the entrance to the churchyard, at the head of the mill-pond—a very public place.



The Black Death was also a turning point in two other very important respects. One was the beginning of a regulated Poor Law and eventually the welfare state. The other was the beginning of organised labour and eventually the trade unions.

The official reaction to the labour shortage, and the imposition of such severe laws, plus increased taxes, led immediately to impoverishment and before long to the Peasants Revolt of 1381.

Norman Baker



Prestbury Remembers?

On 8-10th May this year there will be events held around the country to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Would you like Prestbury to remember too?

Following the positive response to the *Prestbury Remembers WWI* project I have been encouraged to extend my research to include the Second World War. 'VE70' seems an ideal opportunity to launch a new appeal for first hand accounts of life in Prestbury during WW2, whilst we still have a wealth of living memories here in the village.



VILLAGE 'MEMORY BANK' PROJECT

Collecting written & spoken memories of WW2
Photographs, ration books, posters & ephemera
Creating 'Memory Boxes' containing reproduction objects from 1940s to be used for teaching, or reminiscence activities for people with dementia.

- Do you know someone who might be interested in sharing their story?
- Would you like to interview local residents and record their memories?
- Do you have any local WW2 photos or ephemera we can have or copy?

prestburyremembers@gmail.com

Rebecca Sillence

Minutes of the Prestbury Local History Society
Annual General Meeting
23rd March 2015

A WELCOME was given by the Chairman to 33 members and 20 visitors.

APOLOGIES were received from Geoff and Elaine North, Margaret Garthwaite.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on the past year's meetings, activities, membership and plans. Outgoing members of the committee Michael Cole, Lynda Hodges and Roger Beacham were thanked for their work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A very satisfactory report was presented by the Treasurer showing an income of £812, expenditure of £952.06 (including £634.56 on a new projector and equipment), and a balance to carry forward of £1599.10

ARCHIVES REPORT

A report was given of acquisitions to the archive and more material, especially photographs requested. It was announced that the archive would be on display at the next meeting on April 27.

The Following alterations to the constitution were agreed nem. con

PROPOSITION 1: That we hold the AGM within the first three months of the calendar year.

PROPOSITION 2: That nominations for the committee be with the Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting.

PROPOSITION 3: That the references to a Vice Chairman and to charity be removed. Neither are applicable to us.

APPOINTMENTS agreed nem.con

Chairman Tony Noel
Secretary Norman Baker
Treasurer Peter Annesley

Committee members

David Jones
Michelle Rees
Rebecca Sillence
Val Porter
Edward Wyatt

Independent Examiner: John White

