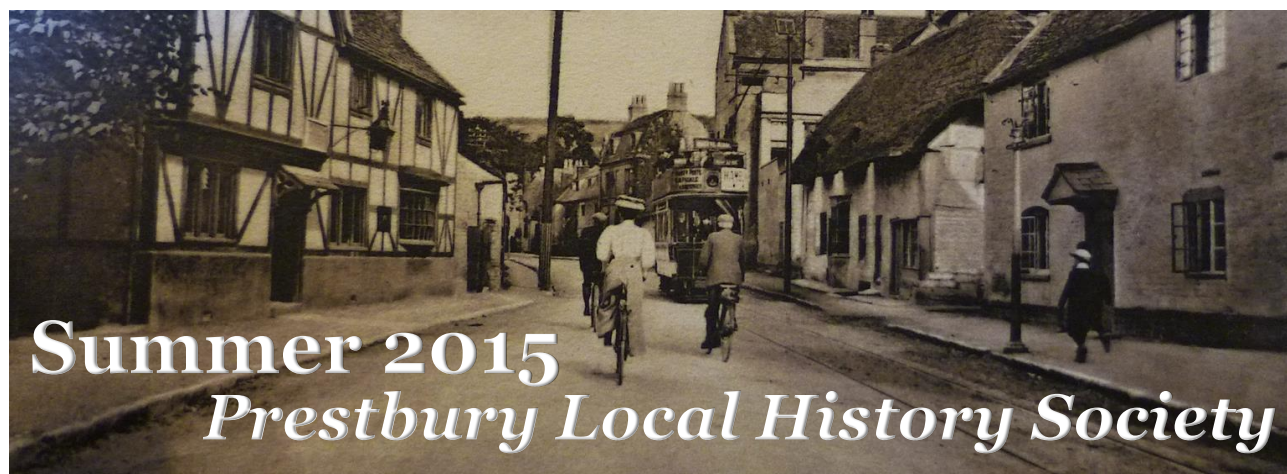


Secretary: Norman Baker, njb123@talktalk.net, 01242 583187

Chairman: Tony Noel

prestburyhistory.com



Welcome to the PLHS summer newsletter 2015.

We look forward to resuming our monthly meetings on Monday 28th September. All the meetings are held at the W.I. Hall at the junction of Prestbury Road and Bouncers Lane. Meetings begin at 7.30p.m.

Since the last newsletter many of you joined us at the Library for launch of our first publication *Prestbury: A Walk Through Time* by Roger Beacham. It was lovely to see so many people at the event and I'm sure all would agree was a great success. The book has proved tremendously popular (as did the free wine) and we are now on our third print run! Our thanks and congratulations once again go to Roger & Michael for their hard work. If you would like to buy a copy please get in touch with us.

Any comments or feedback about the newsletter & website are most welcome. If there is something you'd like to see more of or feedback you'd like to give we'd love to hear from you.

Email: prestburyhistory@gmail.com

Web: prestburyhistory.com

Forthcoming Events

28th September: *'The Craven's influence in Prestbury'*

The Craven family were Lords of the manor at one time and had extensive land holdings. Val Porter has been researching the part they played in our community.



Sheep grazing in the fields behind St Mary's

26th October: *'Travelling Through Time'* with Lynda Hodges. This is a fascinating video of our history made by local people. And well worth seeing (and owning).

23rd November: *'The Burgage'* by Margaret Davies. The Burgage is an imposing physical presence in Prestbury and has been for 750 year or more. The road and its residents have played a big part in our story.

...

Waterloo Commemorations

A commemoration was held on June 18th at 11 am in St Mary's churchyard to mark 200 years since the Battle of Waterloo



A wreath was laid by a serving soldier from the Royal Artillery on the grave of Sir Charles Edward Whinyates. Whinyates was a Pittville resident, commanded the rocket corps of the RA, playing a decisive role in the battle.

Sir Edward Charles Whinyates (1782-1865) was the third son of Major Thomas and Catherine Whinyates of Abbotsleigh, Devonshire. He entered the Royal Military College, Woolwich as a cadet in 1796 and had attained the rank of lieutenant with the Royal Artillery by 1799. He rose through the ranks becoming Captain in 1813 and in 1814 was appointed to the second Rocket Troop, which he commanded at Waterloo.

Wellington, who did not believe in rockets, ordered that they should be left behind; and when he was told that this would break Whinyates's heart, he replied:

“Damn his heart; let my orders be obeyed.”

However, Whinyates eventually obtained leave to bring them into the field, together with his 6 guns. According to his entry in the Dictionary of National Biography he ‘fired several volleys of ground-rockets

with good effect against the French cavalry’ and

‘In the course of the day he had three horses shot under him, was struck on the leg, and severely wounded in the left arm.’

He received various medals and honors and had a long and distinguished military career. Whinyates connection to Prestbury comes when he later resided at Dorset Villa, 83 Pittville Lawn, from 1858 until his death in 1865.

He is buried in St Mary’s Churchyard Prestbury, his headstone being located against the church wall near the steps from Mill Lane. The headstone contains further details of his military career and if you’d like to read more about his life or view a portrait you can visit to the Pittville Lives website where he is listed at the bottom of the page linked below, along with his brother.

<http://63.247.142.17/~globalla/biographies.html>

Rebecca Sillence

Prestbury's Bloomsbury Connection

*Many of you will be aware of the recent BBC series 'life in squares', which charts the lives of the Bloomsbury set. What you may not realise is that there is a local connection. 328 Prestbury Road was home to the parents of the artist Dora Carrington. Although Dora wasn't one of the 'set' herself she had a somewhat bohemian lifestyle and after her father's death in 1918 she spent a lot of time in Prestbury and corresponded from her parents' house with Virginia Wolfe and Lytton Strachey. She had a long and complicated relationship with Strachey, which in the end brought a rather tragic end to her life. You can read more about Dora as well as some of Prestbury's other interesting connections in Roger's book *Prestbury: a walk through time*. Rebecca Sillence*

GLOUCESTERSHIRE *Victoria County History*

The Victoria County History project was started in the reign of Queen Victoria and has been described as the 'The Greatest Publishing Project in English Local History'

The VCH was founded in 1899 as a private enterprise, with the intention of producing a history of each English county to a standard plan which, in the words of Arthur Doubleday, the founding general editor, made 'a special feature of general articles which should bring into prominence the main characteristics of every phase of county life'. Work began almost immediately in 34 counties, and volumes (still known as big red books) appeared regularly from 1900. *(From the VCH website)*

Prestbury has already been covered in Volume 8 and will prove a very useful first point of call to anyone researching our history. The entry can be read online for free or you can visit your local library (Cheltenham or Prestbury) to view a copy. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol8/pp67-81>

The latest research being undertaken by the Local VCH team will cover Cheltenham. This is likely to overlap with areas of Prestbury and may lead to additional information being added to the existing entry for Prestbury. We believe this will be of benefit to our members and future researchers.

The Committee has agreed that we should make a donation to support the work of the Gloucestershire Victoria County History project. We will be donating £40 from our funds but welcome members to contribute further. There will be a collection box for donations at the next meeting in September.

Giving to the VCH (from the VCH website): *"The Victoria County History has always relied on the generous financial support provided by interested individuals and institutions, especially those with strong links in their local areas. That support is vital to the whole enterprise. Without it, the VCH would be unable to continue its production of high-quality local history resources in print and on-line, the result of unrivalled research and the superb work of local history volunteers."*

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/gloucestershire>

PLHS Committee

The relationship between Cheltenham & Prestbury

The relationship between Prestbury & Cheltenham would be an interesting study. Both are Saxon creations probably of the 8th century but Cheltenham had the edge when the Saxons chose it as the site for a Minster Church.

A Minster was a community of monks and lay people created as a base from which the surrounding area would be reached by the church. It was probably around this small community that Cheltenham grew. When, much later, parishes were formed Prestbury was probably a daughter church to Cheltenham.

Tension in later centuries would have arisen from the fact that both Prestbury and Cheltenham were granted market charters. The failure of Prestbury's market is attributed in part at least to competition from Cheltenham.

The rivalry is reflected in a little ditty which I found in 'The Folklore of Gloucestershire' by Roy Palmer.

*Prestbury was Prestbury
When Cheltenham was a pup,
Prestbury will be Prestbury
When Cheltenham's busted up.*



The book is a compilation of stories and anecdotes from across the county. The snippets are grouped into themed chapters such as 'Deaths and Entrances' in which I found the following account:

A Mrs Blocksum of Prestbury died in 1763 at the age of 103. She had previously claimed that she would rise again a few days after her death, and therefore declared that the coffin lid should be taken off when she was interred, which was performed agreeable to her request.

The Gloucester Journal tartly commented: *'If the old woman should be as good as her word, our readers may depend on hearing of it'.*

An interesting light book to read at odd moments. There is very little other reference to Prestbury other than the inevitable ghost stories.

Norman Baker

Prestbury Remembers 1915

WWI display, walk & afternoon tea



On Sunday 11th October 2015 St Mary's Church will be holding a WWI history afternoon to mark 100 years since 1915. Join us from 2-5 pm to discover more.

Following the positive response to the *Prestbury Remembers WWI* village history weekend last October I have agreed to organise annual event between now and 1918 highlighting the key events and battles of each year and displaying my latest research. We will also be remembering the servicemen who died from the wider Parish (some 40+ men) and focusing on the stories of the men who died during each year of the war.

There will be a wealth of photographs and information to bring the stories to life plus tea & cake, a reprint of the *WWI Memorial Trail* booklet and free children's activities.

- FREE advice about tracing your WWI ancestors
- Remembering those who died in each year (extra servicemen researched)
- Key national events and battles and how they effected our village
- Military Tribunals: see how the war effected our local farming communities
- 1919 electoral register: See who signed up from your street
- Prisoners of war: Prestbury men held abroad & local German POWs
- Home Front: The role of local women & children
- Racecourse Hospital and Prestbury's injured men

I would love to share your family stories and photographs. If you have any information, ephemera or photographs relating to WWI please get in touch.

prestburyremembers@gmail.com

Rebecca Sillence



Prestbury Street Names

Each newsletter, I would like to invite comments on the derivative of various street names in Prestbury. I will provide some comments on the street name and would be interested to hear any information to confirm or deny it!

This week, I would like to start with:

Cummings Court – The Cummings family were well known in the area and Robert Francis Cummings married Winifred Mary Baghot-Delabere in 1919. Their son John Cumming was killed in the 2nd World War.

New Barn Lane – According to *Victoria County History – Gloucestershire. A History of the County of Gloucestershire: Volume 8*, 'New Barn Lane, going west from Prestbury village, was so called by 1828,'. Their source was O.S. Map 1", sheet 44 (1828 edn.) There is also the story that it was named New Barn lane as William Baghot had a new barn built beside the lane.

Michelle Rees

A SAD EVENT AT THE GROTTTO

The tea house known as the Grotto was built by John Darke and was opened in 1781. Over the years it attracted the rich and famous from Cheltenham including George III.

In *September 1834*, the *Gloucestershire Chronicle* reported an inquest on James Butt. He was a musician who had been playing at Lord Ellenborough's late fete at Southam.

He left the house between six and seven o'clock in the morning and went to Prestbury to Mr Thomas Freeman's house the Grotto. There he retired to bed but some two hours afterwards he was found dead.

Tony Noel



The entrance to the long abandoned Grotto in Mill Street. Once a fine place for drinking tea and dinner parties and a popular excursion from Cheltenham.

Can you find this stone in the churchyard wall?

In the churchyard wall between the Priory and the graveyard, look for the white stone with the faint lettering of 'T E'. It is said to stand for Thomas Edwards who inherited the Priory through marriage.

Thomas was married to Jane Wathen, who died in 1802 before her cousins Sarah Baghott de la Bere and Grace Webb. Grace and Sarah lived at Southam Manor House (now known as Ellenborough Park) and they both died in 1829. As neither had any direct heirs, they divided their will between Jane Wathen and Sir Paul Baghott's family who resided in Lypiatt Manor. Sir Paul was a Wathen by birth but changed his name to Baghott!

Thomas Edwards inherited land and properties in Southam and Prestbury from the Baghott de la Bere and Baghott families. And the Priory had come from the Baghott family who had moved to the property in the early 1700's.

Thomas was prominent in Prestbury and in 1826 had donated land for the building of a school in Prestbury.

Before 1838, Thomas replaced the wall and inserted the stone with his initials. His family remained closely linked with the church as his son (Rev. John Edwards) and grandson (Rev. John Baghott de la Bere) were vicars at St Marys.

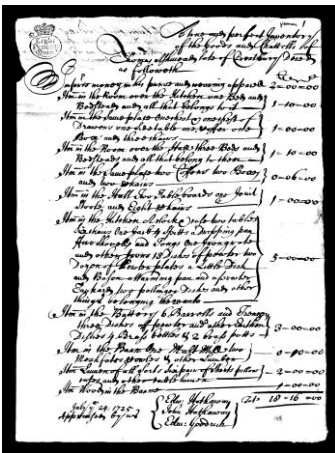
So walk along the path one summer evening and try to find the stone!



Prestbury Inventories

Thanks and congratulations to the team of PLHS members who have been engaged in the task of transcribing a collection of Prestbury 'Inventories'.

These documents are sworn testimonies of the possessions of intestate people at the time of death. In our collection there are about 50 inventories ranging in date from 1663 to 1800. They are all handwritten in the style and spelling of the day so this can present a challenge for transcribers to present the document in modern English.



A typical inventory will include valuations of 'wearing apparel and purse; the items of furniture – which also indicates what rooms there were in the home of the deceased (hall chamber, chamber over buttery); small items in the house such as 'a brass pot, a little kettle, a warming pan and two brass candlesticks', one dozen wooden plates; linen; food items in store – cheese, bacon, corn; livestock; and quite often items of trade – carts, ploughs, tools.

Quite often the valuations come to only a few pounds but in one case, John Hatton 1717, the valuation is £591.14.02 which in today's terms would be many thousands of pounds. The list includes 48 cows and heifers, 250 sheep and lambs, a ploughing team – all that pertains to being a local farmer.

When completed the Inventories will be delivered to Gloucestershire Archives and a copy kept in our own Archive for reference and study.

Norman Baker



Yeoman 1
A true and perfect Inventory
of the Goods and Chattels of
Surgery of Thomas late of Prestbury Deceased
as followeth

In pursuance of his purce and wearing apparel 2 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Room over the Kitchen one Bed and
 Bedstead and all that belongs to it 1 = 10 = 00
 Item in the Same place one chest and one chest of
 Drawers one Sidable one coffer one
 Box and three chairs 1 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Room over the Hall three Beds and
 Bedsteads and all that belong to them 1 = 10 = 00
 Item in the Same place two Coffers two Boxes and two chairs
 Item in the Hall Two Table Boards one lxxxx
 Stool and Eight chairs 1 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Kitchen A clock case? two tables
 Six chairs One Jack to turn spit 4 spits A Dripping pan
 fire Shovel and Tongs one Iron grate
 and other Irons 13 Dishes of pewter two
 Dozen of Pewter plates a Little Dish
 and Basin a Warming pan and pewter
 Tankard two porringer Dishes and other
 things belonging there unto 5 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Buttery 6 Barrells and Ironmongery
 three Dishes of pewter and other Earthen
 Dishes 4 Brass kettles & 2 brass potts
 Item in the Barn One Malt Mill two
 Mash vats bowls and other Lumber
 Item Linen of all Sorts Six pair of sheets pillow
 cases? and other table linen 2 = 00 = 00
 Item Wood in the Barns 1 = 00 = 00
 The Wood in the Barns 1 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Buttery 6 Barrells and Ironmongery
 three Dishes of pewter and other Earthen
 Dishes 4 Brass potts & 2 brass kettles } 3 = 00 = 00
 Item in the Buttery one Malt Mill two
 Mash vats bowls and other Lumber } 0 = 10 = 00
 Item Linen of all Sorts Six pair of sheets pillow
 cases? and other table linen } 2 = 00 = 00
 Item Wood in the Barns } 1 = 00 = 00
 The Wood in the Barns } 1 = 00 = 00
 Total £ 18 16 00

July 24th 1725 Appraised by us
 Edw. Hathaway John Hathaway Edw. Goodrich
 Appraisers }
 Transcriber Sue Hannis March 2015 Checked by Alan Milne

A true and perfect Inventory (yeoman) of the Goods and Chattels of Thomas Ashmead late of Prestbury Deceased as followeth:

	£	s	d
First money in his purse and wearing apparel	2	00	00
Item in the Room over the Kitchen one Bed and Bedstead and all that belongs to it	1	10	00
Item in the Same place one chest and one chest of Drawers one Sidable one coffer one Box and three chairs	1	00	00
Item in the Room over the Hall three Beds and Bedsteads and all that belong to them	1	10	00
Item in the Same place two Coffers two Boxes and two chairs	0	06	00
Item in the Hall Two Table Boards one lxxxx Stool and Eight chairs	1	00	00
Item in the Kitchen A clock case? two tables Six chairs One Jack to turn spit 4 spits A Dripping pan fire Shovel and Tongs one Iron grate and other Irons 13 Dishes of pewter two Dozen of Pewter plates a Little Dish and Basin a Warming pan and pewter Tankard two porringer Dishes and other things belonging there unto	5	00	00
Item in the Buttery 6 Barrells and Ironmongery three Dishes of pewter and other Earthen Dishes 4 Brass kettles & 2 brass potts	3	00	00
Item in the Barn One Malt Mill two Mash vats bowls and other Lumber	0	10	00
Item Linen of all Sorts Six pair of sheets pillow cases? and other table linen	2	00	00
Item Wood in the Barns	1	00	00
Total	£	18	16 00

July 24th 1725 Appraised by us
 Edw. Hathaway John Hathaway Edw. Goodrich
 Latin..... Transcriber Sue Hannis March 2015 Checked by Alan Milne

Llanthony Secunda Priory

Llanthony Secunda Priory is a ruined former Augustinian priory in Gloucester, which also has a strong connection to Prestbury.

The original Llanthony Priory was founded in 1108 in the Vale of Ewyas, Monmouthshire, however following a Welsh uprising in 1135 the monks (or technically speaking canons) had to abandon the priory to escape persistent attacks by the locals. They were granted refuge by the Bishop of Hereford who convinced the Constable of Gloucester to provide them with land. Thus the Llanthony Secunda Priory was founded in Gloucester in 1136.

The new priory prospered and was described as being beautiful and peaceful with stately buildings, pleasure gardens and orchards. Understandably many of the monks were reluctant to return to Wales and it eventually became an independent house. The priory amassed wealth and lands becoming the sixth largest Augustinian house in England by the sixteenth century. It owned 97 churches and 51 manors, one of which was located in Prestbury.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the Priory was used as a mansion house until the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, when it was used by the Royalists. After the siege it was left a ruin with 'not one stone left upon another' and only the outbuildings intact. Over the years the site has been used for arable farming and livestock, and more recently as a scrap yard! The building of the Gloucester & Berkley canal split the site in two and further industrial developments have infringed on the area, making it hard to imagine how it would have looked in its heyday. Today it is a Grade I listed scheduled monument and is in the hands of the Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust.



Several buildings in Prestbury have a connection to Llanthony Priory, including these 16th/17th century houses in Deep Street and 'The Priory' which has its origins as a 14th century hall. Priors Road, named after Priors Farm, is also alleged to be a reference to lands Llanthony Priory held in Oakley in the 12th century.

Rebecca Silence

REBECCA SILENCE
GLOUCESTER
HISTORY TOUR



If you'd like to find out more about the rich and varied history Gloucester has to offer you may be interested in my recent publication *Gloucester History Tour*. This pocket sized book is packed with photographs, interesting information about Gloucester's key historic locations and a map which makes it the perfect introduction to help you explore the city. The book is published by Amberley Publishing with a cover price of £6.99 but can be bought directly from the author for £6.

Please contact me via regencyresearchglos@gmail.com for details.

Prestbury Local History Society

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (except July, August and December) at Prestbury Women's Institute Hall (unless otherwise indicated) at 7.30p.m. All are welcome.

Members have free admission and guests pay £2. Membership is open to all and costs £10 per calendar year.

The Society was formed in January 2011 and exists to collect, research and study information concerning the history of Prestbury and to stimulate public interest in, and appreciation of, our local history. The running of the Society is in the hands of the Committee which is appointed at the AGM.

Website: www.prestburyhistory.com

Chairman: Tony Noel

Secretary: Norman Baker, njb123@talktalk.net. 01242 583187

On a lighter note: Burt the missing owl...

For those of you who were wondering where the owl mentioned in Roger's books was, we received a rather amusing email regarding the mystery owl.



"We've just read Mr Beacham's 'Walk Through Time' book. We were very amused and pleased by the mention of the owl in the last paragraph. The owl (known as Burt) suffered some damage recently, so has had to be removed. We hope to replace him soon."

2016 Programme to be announced soon...