

FoGA newsletter Spring 2024

From the Chair of the Friends

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of the Friends' newsletter. My grateful thanks go to John Putley for editing the newsletter once again.

The first few days of May have brought us much needed fine, sunny weather, which has been so welcome after a Winter and early Spring which were incredibly dismal and wet. If, like me, you enjoy being outside in the garden you will have relished a few consecutive days of sunshine and warmth. It has been an ideal time to sow seeds and pot on young plants.

I recently stumbled upon a bundle of documents at the Archives from the Hatherop Castle Estate near Cirencester. It included a vast list of seeds and plants which they ordered from a local seedsman one Spring in the 1850s. The gardener who supervised the kitchen garden seemed especially keen on brassicas and rhubarb. The list extended to many pages.

Although small packets of seeds were first sold in America in the 1790s, and by 1852 Suttons Seeds had started selling them in Britain, such small quantities were far from sufficient for large estates like Hatherop Castle. They bought their seeds in *sacks*, large and small, weighed in pounds and ounces. And, of course, the estate's gardeners would have saved their own seeds from year to year as well.

Spring was not only an important time for gardeners on large estates but also for everyone who tended a cottage garden or allotment. Successful planting and nurturing in the Spring meant food for the rest of the year.

Today many of us are beginning to return to the practice of growing our own fruit and vegetables rather than relying on supermarkets. We know this is good for the environment and good for our own health.

In the News section of this newsletter, you will find details of the Archives' new Green Pledge Project, which focuses on environmental issues and records. You will find a link where you can discover further details about this important initiative. This pioneering project is just one example of the important work undertaken by Gloucestershire Archives – and is a reminder of how crucial it is that the Friends continue to support them.

I wish you all a productive Spring and thank you most sincerely for your continuing membership of the Friends.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

No cost, yet painless, effective donating!

Cherry Ann Knot

Donations to the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives help to enable several of the important ways in which FoGA supports the archives' future, such as being able to bid for manuscripts that come up at auctions, contributing to conservation costs and providing equipment used in the search rooms. Sometimes monetary gifts and bequests are generous, and they are greatly appreciated; but they are rarely predictable.

That is hardly surprising: people are constantly being asked to give to charities, both on a world-wide scale and locally, and across an enormous range of causes. Many of us are simply not able to make frequent donations nor on-going commitments through standing orders.

As someone well past retirement age, on a modest fixed income, with limited scope for working to supplement it, I have often felt bombarded by almost daily requests to give to charities. Many of them are causes I would much like to be able to support but just can't afford to. But one way I have been using that seems effective, and yet costs me nothing, is 'easyfundraising'. I am not a huge on-line shopper (I prefer to support local independent businesses when I can), but these days, almost every purchase I make online yields a small donation to FoGA.

For example, I love sending flowers by post to family and friends across the UK: a smaller family-run business that I use (but have no other connection with), 'Bunches', donates about £1 to FoGA every time I do this. So, before you make an on-line purchase, book a holiday or pay a regular bill like car insurance, check if the company participates in easyfundraising's scheme; your chosen charity will then receive a small percentage of the sum you have paid. You can see what percentage it will be in advance. Sometimes it's only 1%, but it can be as much as 5%. Obviously, the bigger the purchase the more FoGA will receive!

But even when it is a small item and the donation will only be a few pennies, it is astonishing how those small sums tot up! Thus far, I and five others have raised just over £500 for FoGA in this way. Usefully, easyfundraising's transfers

to the charity are made every three months, and they keep you notified of payments made.

You can of course sign up to easyfundraising independently (and perhaps choose a different charity), but if you use the link below, then FoGA will receive an extra £5 when your first £5's-worth of donations has been accrued.

I should also add that I have been using easyfundraising for about seven years, but I have no personal connection whatever with the organisation, and there are some other similar schemes, but I have no experience of them.



Help Friends of Gloucestershire Archives raise free funds when you shop online! Shop with over 8,000 brands via #easyfundraising and earn a free donation for us at the same time, it won't cost you anything extra! All the big names like John Lewis & Partners, Expedia, Argos and Just Eat are ready to donate. Every donation will make a difference! Plus, when you sign up today, they will get a £5 bonus! Sign up here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/friendsofgloucestershirearchives/3XU756/-s2s/LXL7qFLA/SE802/facebook/>

£ £52 million Raised 2.5 million Users 190,000 Causes



© Copyright 2003 - 2024 [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). All rights reserved. Registered Address: St Chads House, Suite 6, Cross Keys, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6DN. [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is a member of the Institute of Fundraising.



Gone Fishing!

John Putley

By the time you read this, the annual coarse fishing close season will be coming to an end. The close season – dreaded by most fishermen as the good lady usually has a long ‘*To Do*’ list ready to go – is in place to protect our precious coarse fish populations when they are preparing to spawn (breed and lay eggs), spawning, or recovering from spawning. This can be both stressful and exhausting, so the annual close season (on rivers and streams) from 15 March to 15 June inclusive reduces disturbances and protects vulnerable stocks during this vital time. It was introduced the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878 – also known as the ‘*Mundella Act*’, after Mr AJ Mundella, the MP for Sheffield, who campaigned for it due to the huge expansion in the number of anglers (Sheffield alone had 211 angling clubs, with 8,000 members) and the widespread concern about over-fishing, particularly in the breeding period. This act established a legal close season forbidding anyone, without special permission, from angling for coarse fish from sunset on 14 March until sunrise on 16 June. As an angler currently twiddling my thumbs, it got me thinking about the records that relate to fish and fishing in the archives.

Since medieval times, the keeping and eating of freshwater fish was the realm of the aristocracy or the monasteries as they were luxury items requiring land and ample water. Although most villages had a pond, these were primarily for watering stock animals and any fish were just coincidental. Fish played an important role in the diet of the upper classes because church rules frequently forbade meat consumption, not only in lent, but also on Fridays, Saturdays, and the vigils of many religious festivals. This didn’t affect the lower classes (who rarely ate meat or fish as these foods were too expensive) but in aristocratic households, plentiful amounts of fish were deemed a necessity on non-meat days. The bulk of the fish eaten seem to have been marine species, but freshwater fish made up about one-third of the total. Although fish consumption dwindled after the renaissance, private fishponds remained a mark of social status and helped reinforce class differences well into the 20th century. The fish in these accounts were probably intended both for sport and the plate, as by this date, the pastime of angling was quickly becoming very popular among the upper classes.

Perhaps my favourite document is this one, a page from the household accounts of the Whitmore Family of Lower Slaughter which records re-stocking fish into the ponds of the Lower Slaughter Manor House in 1762 and 1764. The fish mentioned in this document are eels, tench, perch and carp, which are not only angling fish, but in times past, prized for eating.

1762 May 18th
 Drown the Town Henge with Pond & 100 Fish
 1762 Sept 10th
 Charged out the Pitt by the Turnpike & put three
 Brace more Carps into the Dogkenell Pitt.
 Sept. 21st 1762 Put 4 Brace Carps out of the 101 shaw
 Here into the Dogkenell Pitt.
 Put severall Balls into D.
 April 30th 1763 put 5 Brace of Tench into
 each of Kingwell Pitt & 3 Brace of Tench
 Tench & 5 Brace 3/4 of Carps into the
 Turnpike Pitt.
 May Put into the Turnpike Pitt some small
 Carps & Perch
 D. into Bagley's Pitt some ^{52 brace of 2000 stone} Tench
 & some small Perch
 D. into each of 9 King Well Pitt 6 Brace
 of good store Tench
 March 1764
 Put into Smallway Pitt 8 Brace small Tench
 D. into Dogkenell Pitt - D.
 D. into King Well upper Pitt 14 Brace D.

Gloucestershire Archives D45/F15

Another firm favourite is this image from *The Citizen* newspaper – a couple of fishermen on a damp day at Bridgend, Stonehouse in 1969. You can feel the tension as they are keenly watching their floats, waiting for them to twitch and then go under!



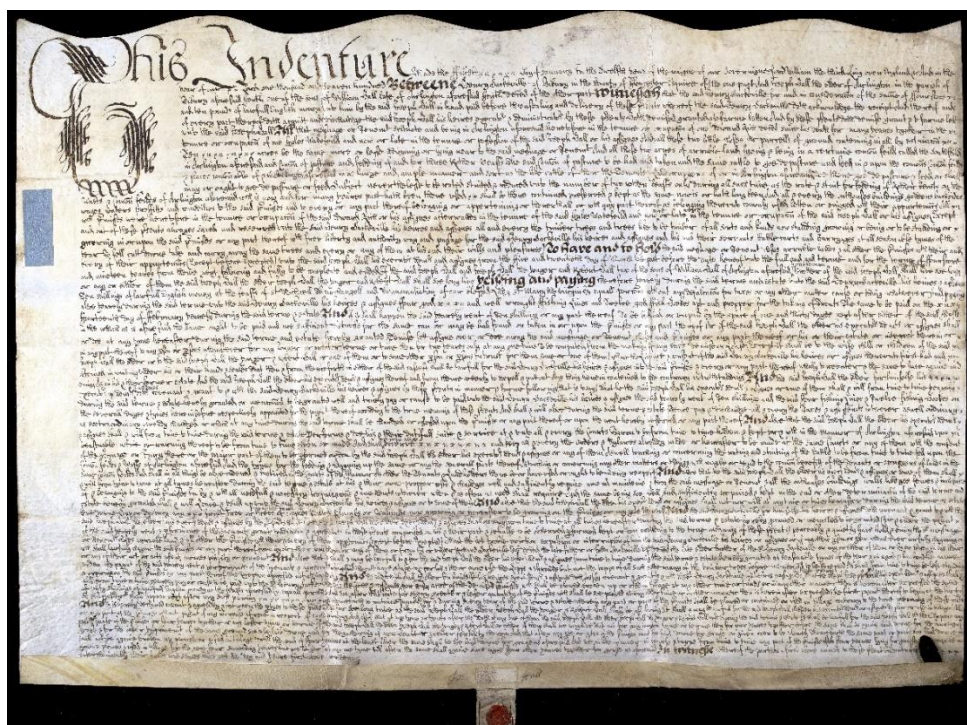
Gloucestershire Archives D10638/1/1969/5/58

We have quite a few images of fishermen – I also really like this one; a couple of old boys fishing on the Stroudwater Canal arm at Saul Junction with a few young lads around them.



Gloucestershire Archives D9746/2/301/13

We have a few documents pertaining to angling as well, perhaps non more impressive than this one, which relates to my personal favourite form of angling – trout fishing – and in one of my favourite Gloucestershire places, Bibury.



D678/1/T1/4/26

This indenture is a counterpart lease from 1 January 1700/1 by Henry Sackville, Esq. of Bibury, to Joseph Hall the elder of Arlington, parish of Bibury, gentleman. It primarily concerns the lease of a messuage and 10a. of land at Arlington, and 2a. of arable land in South Field, and common of pasture for three beasts for a term of 99 years. The reference to trout fishing comes in the consideration for the lease, which was £90 with a rent of 10s a

year plus '4 good fishing lines and 12 good fishhooks proper for taking trout.' This strongly suggesting that Henry Sackville was fond of fishing in the beautiful trout-filled waters of the River Coln. The reputation of the Coln as a trout stream has been celebrated since the 1300s – one customary payment by the tenants of Bibury Manor at Midsummer in the 1260s was called the 'fish fee'. The Red Book of Worcester records that the Bishop of Worcester had a fishery in the village in 1285 and local men were frequently presented in his court for fishing illegally. Although fly-fishing increased rapidly in popularity after the English Civil War, we can't be sure that the '12 good fishhooks proper for taking trout' refer to artificial trout flies as at this time, fishermen were happily taking trout with worms, grasshoppers and even frogs! Knowing the trout at Bibury I suspect you could catch them on anything – I know my Uncle Ralph once caught one using the gold foiled paper from a packet of *Players* cigarettes!

Today we are used to obtaining rod licences although it wasn't always the case, and the rod licence has a quite complex and protracted history. The origins lie in the 1865 Salmon Act, when several fishery boards were set up across England and Wales. However, these boards were only interested in salmon and trout and, amazingly, all other fish species were regarded as undesirable vermin! All these boards issued licences to fish with rod and line for salmon and trout, but not for coarse fish. The idea of a rod licence for coarse fish was first proposed at a National Federation of Anglers (NFA) meeting held in Sheffield in 1904, but nothing came of the idea. As a result, there was a hotchpotch approach to coarse fishing rod licences with individual interests being able to issue their own licences and use them to raise money. This rod license, issued by the Stroudwater Navigation Company Canal in the early 1900s and giving permission to 'angle' between Wallsend and Framilode was typical.



Gloucestershire Archives D1180 Acc 11549 Box 1/6

It wasn't until after the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 that a coarse rod licence became a legal requirement throughout most of England and Wales – but some areas and fisheries were exempted – notably the Thames region (which didn't come into the scheme until the 1970s). Ultimately, rod licenses remained at a district level and if you fished in more than one district, you needed more than one license. It wasn't until after the privatisation of the water industry in 1989, when the fisheries function passed to the

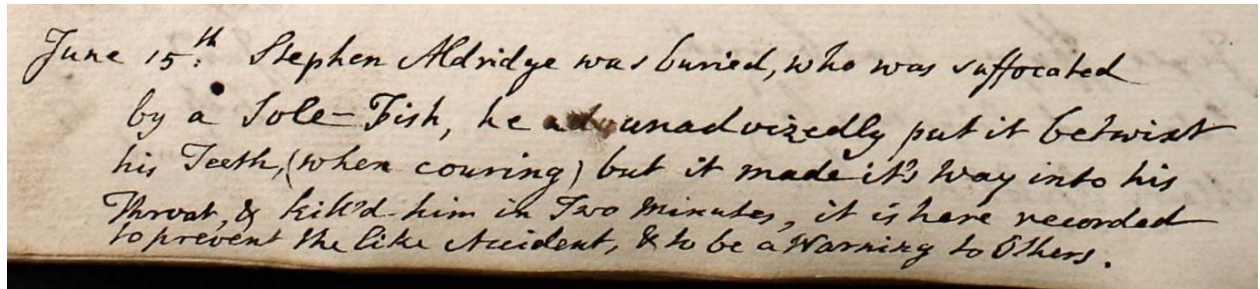
National Rivers Authority (NRA), that the idea of a national rod licence emerged, and it wasn't until 1992 that the scheme came into force and has remained ever since.

While the introduction of the close season and national rod licences have had a positive impact on fishing and angling, there is a darker side. Back in the 1700s the old Tudor Vermin laws were still on the statute books and these allowed people to catch and kill lots of wildlife that were then considered to be pests and harmful to agriculture and therefore to the population. At this time, you could catch and kill one of these animals and take it to your local church and be paid a cash bounty. The list was extensive and included just about everything we think of as our natural wildlife today. The most comprehensive act was Elizabeth I's 1566 law 'An Acte for the preservation of Grayne', which included a 'Newe Liste of the Animals & Beasts & Birds & etc considered to be VERMIN'. This list contained the following animals: *Crowes, Choughs, Pyes* (Magpies), *Rookes, Stares* (Starling), *Martuynj Hawkes* (Hobby), *Furskytt or Moldekytte* (Hen harrier), *Busarde, Carmarante* (Cormorants), *Iron eagle, Ospreyes, Woodwall* (Woodpeckers), *Jaye, Raven, Kyte, Kings Fyssher, Bulfynche* or any other bird that eats fruit, *Fox, Gray* (Badger), *Fitchou* (Polecat), *Wessel, Stote, Fayre bade or Wilde catte, Otter, Hedgehog, Rattes, Myse, Moldewarpe or Wante* (Mole).

This page from the churchwardens' accounts for the parish of Cowley in 1777 and the third entry is for 'Paid for two Fishers' recording the payment of two shillings for two kingfishers. These birds were targeted because they ate fish, which is sad because they are easily one of the most beautiful birds in the countryside today. Thankfully these laws were eventually repealed and, today, when you are near the water's edge you may lucky enough to see the flash of orange and electric blue as a kingfisher flies past.

| Disbursements by Charles Wiltard Churchwarden of the Parish of Cowley in the County of Gloucester for the first Half Year Begun June 24 1777 | | |
|---|---|--------|
| Paid Expenses at Visitation | £ | 4 4 |
| Gave Tho. Gubb for his Expenses at Ditto | " | 2 6 |
| Paid for Two Fishers | " | 0 |
| Paid for a brush to Clean the Church | " | 4 6 |
| As the Ringers Coronation Day | " | 5 |
| As the Great Feast & Expenses at Visitation | " | 0 9 |
| As in the whole year at Times for Taxes | " | 4 |
| As for Underwood for Iron for the Churchyard Gate | " | 7 10 |
| As for Mr. Moody for Glazing y Church | " | 4 2 |
| As for Elijah Crowe for the Churchyard Gates and Mending the Churchyard Rails | " | 7 0 |
| As for Underwood for Mending y Rails | " | 6 6 |
| As for Wm. Griffin for Mats for the Church | " | 10 |
| As for 10 Dozen of Sparrows at Times | " | 2 0 |
| Paid for Putting the Bollers on | " | 4 |
| Paid for 4 Dozen of Sparrows at Times | " | 4 |
| Paid Elijah Crowe for Mending y Rails | " | 7 10 |
| Whole Disbursements | £ | 5 12 4 |

However, it wasn't just so-called vermin that died. Sometimes fishermen just didn't think! This entry from one of the parish registers of baptisms and burials for Arlingham for the year 1763 records the unfortunate death of Stephen Aldridge. The vicar recorded the entry and felt compelled to include the circumstances: *'June 15th, Stephen Aldridge was buried, who was suffocated by a Sole=Fish, he unadvisedly put it between his teeth (when couring) but it made its way into his throat & killed him in two minutes, it is here recorded to prevent the like Accident, & to be a warning to others.'*

A photograph of a handwritten entry from a parish register. The text is written in cursive on aged, slightly discolored paper. It reads: "June 15th Stephen Aldridge was buried, who was suffocated by a Sole-Fish, he unadvisedly put it between his Teeth, (when couring) but it made its way into his Throat, & killed him in Two minutes, it is here recorded to prevent the like Accident, & to be a warning to Others."

Gloucestershire Archives P18/IN/1/5

And finally, we'll finish off with an archive rarity - some artefacts! These are a group of six trout flies that are part of the Edith Jane Bourne Witts (1877-1963) collection in the Witts family of Upper Slaughter archive. They are in a bag from Allcocks, a company which was founded in 1803 and is widely accepted as being one of the oldest brands of fishing tackle in the world. These all appear to be dry flies – the black, silver and red ones look like a variant of the 'Bloody Butcher' or the 'Red Spinner' – but I've not been able to identify the other two patterns. Not surprising really as trout flies come in a bewildering array of patterns and colours! If anyone is a keen fly fisherman and you know what the flies are, then I'd love to know!





D1283/F/5/8/24/25

Gloucestershire Archives Collections Management – new accessions

Recent new acquisitions to the archives include:

- D16248/2 - Account of Voyage by John Burroughs
- D16375 - WJB Halls and Halls & Keck Ltd
- D8552 Black and White Motorways Ltd
- D6234 - BBC Radio Gloucestershire 2015 Behind the scenes at Gloucestershire Archives- two programmes, each lasting around 54 minutes, recorded by Pete Wilson on site at Gloucestershire Archives
- D15340/19/1-29 – Lockdown Photography around the county
- D16479 Gloucester and District Cornish Association
- D16509 - Research papers of John Thornell into the history of Gloucester's cinemas and theatres, as well as County and a few out-county cinemas
- D16565 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Cheltenham
- D16572 - Elsie Olivie's transcripts of interviews with freeminers and freeminers' wives
- D5464 - Gloucester City Cycling Club

Full details of these new (and other) acquisitions can be found here:

[Gloucestershire Archives accessions, July-September 2023 | Gloucestershire Archives \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Gloucestershire Archives accessions, October – December 2023 | Gloucestershire Archives \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Community Cataloguing Archivists Jess and Yvonne have now mostly completed the cataloguing backlog of Local Studies material, adding around 297 new Local Studies accessions onto the catalogue. This has included several pamphlets relating to Berkeley and Oldbury nuclear power stations, c.1950s-1981; a River Severn Catchment Board handbook, 1934; a guide to St Mary's Church, Painswick, c.1935; a guide book for About and around Cheltenham, c.1913 and a report on Typhoid Fever: A recent outbreak in the Bristol area, 1950.

Dates for the diary

The Friends Annual General Meeting this year will be on **Thursday 10 October at 4pm**, when we will be joined by our President, Edward Gillespie, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Further details will be sent to members in due course.

News

- **GREEN Pledge Project:** Gloucestershire Archives received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Dynamic Collections programme to run the two-year GREEN Pledge Project based on environmental records, activities and actions. As a result the 'Green Pledge' project team is now fully up & running, with the following appointments:
 - Christina Wheeler – Project Manager
 - Marion Hill - freelance [Learning & Outreach Officer](#) to support the project.
 - Ethan Langfield – Apprentice Archives Assistant supporting the Customer Service Team
 - Briony Penfold – Community Cataloguing Archivist, supporting both the Customer Service and Collections Teams

The Green Pledge Project is also working in partnership with the University of Gloucester and has offered degree students placement opportunities. As a result, we've just been joined by a 2nd year Human Geography student, Piper, who will learn about researching the archive catalogues to uncover materials around sustainability and lifestyles, as well as helping with our podcasts and social media. She will be doing 75 hours of work towards the project and has interests in social geography and textiles.

To find out more about the Green Pledge Project, please visit our dedicated page: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/our-projects/the-green-pledge-project/>

- **The Arts Council England (ACE) bid to produce a creative and contemporary response to the Bajan slave song was successful.** We will be working towards a major event in Gloucester Cathedral in September. We will also be producing a film.



Bajan slave song (GA Ref.No: D3549/13/3/2)

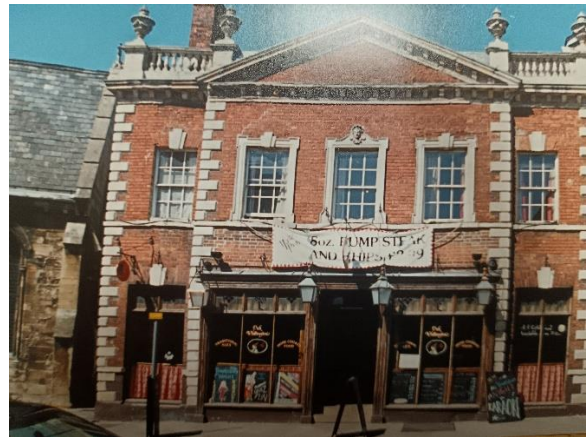
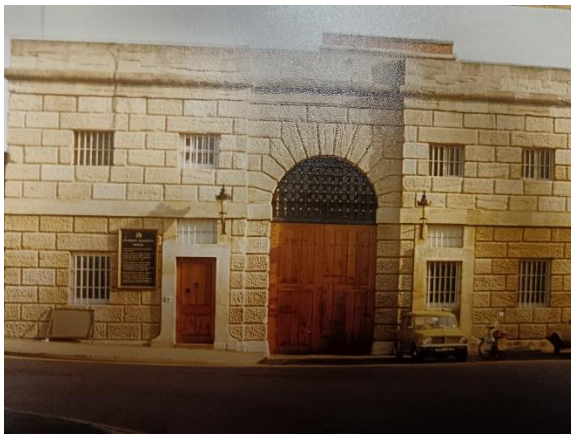
- **The GAWP Word Walk** has been launched. The walk is a public art trail for Gloucester and includes artwork at the Heritage Hub. A website explaining it all can be found at: <https://www.gasprojects.org.uk/word-walk> while leaflets with a map of the art locations can be picked up from numerous places, including at the Hub.
- Gloucestershire Archives and Voices attended the **Concealed/Revealed exhibition, talks and networking event at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery** on 29 February. The exhibition focused on Disabled, D/deaf and neurodivergent artists driving creativity.
- **Heritage Schools Training took place in October 2023** at the Heritage Hub. The training provided ideas for schools' projects which will take place over the next few months. Gloucestershire Archives are once again working with Voices Gloucester to undertake these projects, with funding from Historic England. The primary schools' project will focus on the individual histories of each school taking part. The secondary schools' project will create a group of Heritage Ambassadors from years 10 and 12. In addition, following the success of last year, we will be holding the **Heritage Conference Day** for year 12s once again. This will take place in July 2024.
- As you all probably know, Kate Maisey retired in March and so Helen Bartlett has now taken on all of Kate's previous tasks except for the volunteers and her title is **Archive**

Access and Engagement Manager! As well as her searchroom managerial role and 'Saturday Supremo' she will still to be dealing with work experience people.

Volunteering Opportunity

Are you fascinated by the history of Gloucester?

If you are we may have just the opportunity for you. We have a project to list photographs taken of old buildings within the city of Gloucester. If you have good knowledge of the history of Gloucester from at least as far back as 1974 and would like to put this to good use, then we would love you to come and help us. If you think that you might like to do this then please email jon.shepherd@gloucestershire.gov.uk to express your interest.



Purchases for the Archives

FoGA recently purchased archive material relating to Joy & Peter Evans of the Whiteway Colony. See: <https://heritage-hub.gloucestershire.gov.uk/january-2024/diocese-of-gloucester/a-significant-new-acquisition>

A curious bundle

Clive Andrews

One of the Friends' main tasks is to purchase documents for the Archives when they come on the open market. The National Archives, who keep a close eye on such things, often alert us when Gloucestershire documents appear in sale catalogues.

Unusually, our most recent purchase was something of a 'job lot' – a bundle of 90 vellum and paper deeds, documents and indentures dated from 1617 to 1932. Almost all the auctioneers could tell us was that they all related to Gloucestershire. We took a chance and purchased them for £130.

Archive staff have yet to investigate fully, but the bundle includes a deed relating to Chipping Sodbury Baptist Chapel, four mid-19th century deeds from Stroud Brewery, and a 1639 deed, with pendant seal, from the north Gloucestershire hamlet of Aston Magna.

We wait to see what other interesting documents emerge from this fascinating bundle, the purchase of which was made possible by the generosity of the Friends' members.

Talks for FoGA members

This year, for the first time, the Friends have arranged talks jointly with Gloucestershire Family History Society. Members of both organisations have many interests in common and holding joint talks is a good way to cement relationships between the two groups and to ensure a large audience. Here are some dates for your diaries.

Thursday 20 June - Making, Mending, Marking - the people and needlework of Cheltenham Female Orphan Asylum

Thursday 17 October - The Regal Cinema 1929-1962 - an interview with Ross Connery

Thursday 12 December - Christmas Past and Present - a festive talk by John Putley

All talks will be held at The Dunrossil Centre at Gloucestershire Heritage Hub

Tea served from 2pm, talks begin at 2.30

Entry is free for all members of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives.

Blogging the Archives

If you've not come across the Gloucestershire Archives blog (the word is a truncation of "weblog"), then they are worth a visit and a read. Here's the links to the two latest ones:

[Cataloguing South Gloucestershire Councils | Gloucestershire Archives \(wordpress.com\)](#)

[Hidden Treasures: Three Wells House/Eastfield documents \(D16629\) | Gloucestershire Archives \(wordpress.com\)](#)

All the previous blogs can also be found at <https://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com/>



Hobnob Press – Recent Gloucestershire books

John Chandler

David Aldred first worked on the history of Cleve Hill 35 years ago, and his book appeared in 1990. Last year he approached us to publish a greatly expanded, updated edition with new, colour, illustrations throughout. It arrived just in time for Christmas, and everyone has been very pleased with it. David, as we all know, is a gifted local historian and historical geographer, and he writes very engagingly not only about the modern community, but also the quarrying, the farming and land use, its recreational amenity value for Cheltenham and the surrounding area, and the pattern of settlement as it evolved on the hill over millennia. (***Cleeve Hill, the History of the Common and its People***, by David H Aldred, November 2023, xxiv, 276pp, paperback, colour illustrations, £19.95, ISBN 978-1-914407-55-0; also hardback, £30, ISBN 978-1-914407-56-7)

Gloucester Rugby Heritage is a charity based in the Heritage Hub, and began life in 2007 as a project sponsored by the Friends. Its enthusiastic team of trustees set out to chronicle more or less everything there was to know about the club and present it in five large hardback volumes. Their determination over many years has now paid off, with the publication of the fifth and final volume in the series. This book has been produced to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Gloucester Rugby and includes details of all the 5,156 matches (3,106 won, 1,706 lost and 344 drawn) played by the Club from the very first on 4 October 1873 up to the end of the 2022-23 season. It also includes a summary of every season and team photographs for most seasons. A real labour of love. (***150 Years of Gloucester Rugby***, by Chris Collier, with Malc King and Dick Williams, December 2023, viii, 261pp, large format casebound hardback, £30.00, ISBN 978-1-914407-63-5)

Anthea Jones came across a little-known but extremely interesting 17th-century writer and traveller, Thomas Baskerville, and decided to edit his work, much of it previously unpublished. Although topics range across Oxford colleges, London taverns and the civil war, the main interest is a series of ten journeys around England, including several which traversed or ended up in Gloucestershire. As such they present a striking parallel and contrast to his younger, and much better known, contemporary, Celia Fiennes, and a fascinating account of England seen through the eyes of an alert and cheerful traveller. (***Journeys in Industrious England***, by Thomas Baskerville, edited by Anthea Jones, October 2023, x, 316pp, paperback, £20.00, ISBN 978-1-914407-51-2)

And while we're on the subject of travel, the new format ***Cheltenham Local History Society Journal*** (issue 40, April 2024), beautifully edited and designed by Oliver Pointer (and produced in association with Hobnob), includes two papers about roads, by Peter Fitchett

on the A40 between Cheltenham and Oxford; and a short piece by me on roads around Cheltenham as described by Thomas Baskerville and Abel Wantner. And much else fascinating material besides, of course.

GHH Saturday Events

‘Want to get involved in heritage?’ Saturday, 1 June, 10am-4pm

This is a repeat of last year’s highly successful event that aims to show case training and roles available to school and college leavers and those looking to volunteer in the heritage industry. Learn about training paths and roles, take part in ‘have a go’ sessions, watch demonstrations, films and go ‘behind the scenes’ at Gloucestershire Archives. Get advice and access to relevant contacts and links.

Want to get involved in heritage?

Archives? Museums? Libraries? Archaeology?
Conservation? Heritage organisations and crafts?
Volunteering?



Come to the
Heritage Focus Day at the
Gloucestershire Heritage Hub
1st June 2024, 10am-4pm

Why? Learn about training paths and roles, take part in ‘have a go’ sessions, watch demonstrations, films and go ‘behind the scenes’ at Gloucestershire Archives. Get advice and access to relevant contacts and links.

Who’s coming? Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucestershire City Museums, Gloucestershire Library Services, Gloucester Cathedral Archives and Heritage Services, Canal and River Trust volunteers, John Moore Countryside Museum, Cheltenham College Archives, Jet Age Museum volunteers, members of the Archives and Records Association, Gloucestershire Family History Society, accredited paper conservators, freelance experts, experienced heritage volunteers, college and apprenticeship trainers and more!

Find the schedule for the day and book your place at: www.heritagehub.org.uk/events



Advance notice - our July event on Saturday 6 July will be entitled **‘Crime and Consequences’** and will have a focus on the history of crime and the policing of it in Gloucestershire.

Bringing the County to you: An Archive's A-Z of Gloucestershire

John Putley

C is for Chipping Campden

This photograph (GA Ref.No: GPS/81/155) was taken at the north-east end of Chipping Campden's High Street at its junction with Church Street (on the right) and clearly shows off the broadness of Campden's main street. In the background is the tower of St. James' Church and in front of that, the building on the corner of the street is Wixey's Stores which was established in 1863. This was described as a 'high class family grocer, an export tea blender and a provision merchant' and was owned by Herbert Wixey, who started the business at the age of 22.



As well as the shop, he was an agent for the Metropolitan Bank of England & Wales and was a pillar of the local business society being involved in most local committees and town activities, including the Campden militia (the Gloucestershire Volunteer 'K' Company), the Sunday School and lastly being Chairman of the Campden Fire Brigade Committee. Herbert retired in 1915, handing the business over to his son, Frank, but after Herbert's death just 4 years later in 1919, Frank sold the business to Joseph Burton & Co. in March 1920. The lack of any activity on the street suggests its early morning or a Sunday, probably the former as a box cart and box wagon can be seen suggesting a working day. The cart, standing outside Wixey's store, may well be the store's delivery cart, although it doesn't appear to have any signwriting on it. Not much can be discerned about the wagon on the right apart from the fact that it's seemingly parked (or at least doesn't have a driver) in a rather awkward position and its load is covered - one can only guess what that load is.

C is for Cam

This photograph (GA Ref.No: GPS/69/28) was taken around 1910 and shows Chapel Street in Cam with the wonderfully named village blacksmith Absalom Ford at work, shoeing a horse. The latter looks unperturbed by what's going on and presumably the man behind is the horse's owner and the young man in the apron on the right is Absalom's apprentice. Apart from the first line, the whole scene echoes the sentiment in Longfellow's epic poem, the Village Blacksmith:

'Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.'



Most villages had a smithy but from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, as mass production increased, the demand for blacksmithing products declined leaving smiths primarily occupied in farrier work – a role many still focus on, especially in Gloucestershire with its wealthy horse set! Blacksmithing was seen as an obsolete trade throughout much of the 20th century and because of the lack of work, many blacksmiths in the early 1900s transitioned into the initial generation of automobile mechanics. In the 1970s, a resurgence of interest in blacksmithing occurred and it has steadily grown since. Today, thankfully, blacksmithing has become a unique community of artisans and artists who are as specialised in their skill as those in the past but use and advance upon traditional techniques and ideas.