

Friends of  
Gloucestershire  
Archives @the

Hub

**Charity Number: 1165223**

**Summer 2022**



**Edward Kendall Pearson (1868 – 1946)**

# **FoGA Governance**

## **President**

Edward Gillespie OBE,  
Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire & Custos Rotulorum

## **Trustees**

Clive Andrews (Chairman)  
Heather Forbes (County Archivist)  
Stephen Haygarth (Treasurer)  
Caroline Meller (Secretary)  
Dr. Cherry Ann Knott  
Claire Collins (Assistant Treasurer)  
David Cook

## **Committee members**

Ally McConnell (Membership Secretary)  
Jemma Fowkes (Events)

## **Newsletter Editor**

Situation Vacant

The Trustees may also be contacted via:

Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street,  
Gloucester, GL1 3DW

or through the FoGA website:

[www.foga.online](http://www.foga.online)

## The Newsletter

Like so many of the Friends I always look forward to receiving my copy of the Newsletter with its interesting articles and, as the name implies, news.

Liz Jack first edited the Newsletter 20 years ago, and with the exception of three years when she handed over the position to Hilary Haygarth, has undertaken the role ever since. She has done a truly splendid job. She has kept an eye on happenings at the Archives and reported them to the Friends. She has searched out articles from fellow members and, when unsuccessful, has filled the gaps with many carefully researched articles of her own. Camera always at the ready, Liz has also captured many of the interesting photos which have enlivened the Newsletter over the years.

Liz was a trustee and when she stepped down in 2018 she offered to carry on as editor, but has now decided it is time to relinquish her blue pencil. Pulling together articles, editing and formatting them, and producing ‘camera ready’ copy is no easy or quick task, so we owe Liz an enormous debt of gratitude. On behalf of all members of the Friends I want to say a massive thank-you to her for all she has done.

We will announce future plans for the Newsletter in due course. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in taking on the editorship – there are two editions a year – do please let me know.

*Clive Andrews*  
*Chairman*

## Obituaries

### **Patricia C. Bath (Pat) (1929 – 2022)**

Pat Bath was born in Gloucester in 1929, the first of two daughters born to Cecil and Edith Bath. She grew up in Roseberry Avenue and, at the age of 11, went to the High School for Girls in Denmark Road. Following her school career, Pat continued her studies at Exeter University but, whilst there, she suffered bouts of illness which were to affect her for the rest of her life.

Pat was a member of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives for almost thirty years and, for many of them, had been on the Committee. She was always a quiet member who did not push herself forward but, nonetheless, carried out important background work efficiently and without fuss. In days gone by, before the pandemic and the interruptions caused by the For



the Record rebuilding, she participated in all our outside visits and evening events, including dressing up on the Elizabethan evening and playing skittles for the Friends' team against the Archives staff.

For Gloucestershire Archives, Pat spent several years working on the Schools Gazetteer project, along with Angela Newcombe and George Merchant. As a member of the Gloucestershire Family History Society, she was a volunteer helping to staff the Family History Centre, particularly the library, and ran help

desks at local events. Research into her family history had also led her to become a member of the Society of Genealogists.

But FoGA, the GFHS and SoG were not the only organisations Pat supported. She was a lifelong member of the Girl Guides, rising to Deputy Commissioner locally; she was a member of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society for over 60 years, rising to Vice-President.

And Pat was also a Friend to other organisations as well, of Berkeley Castle, Robinswood Hill and, not the least, a Friend of Gloucester Cathedral where her funeral was held. We will miss her quiet presence and offer our condolences to her sister, family and friends.

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### **James D. Hodsdon (1947-2022)**



I am sure most if not all of you are aware of the sad and sudden death of James Hodsdon earlier this year but it would be wrong for us not to pay our respects here, to one who was, for many years, Chairman of the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives.

James was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1947, grew up in Purley, Surrey and attended SOAS University of London and the University of St. Andrews, completing a doctorate in Arabic. In 1972, he joined GCHQ and remained there for his working life.

James was a keen amateur historian, (though ‘amateur’ does not do justice to his enthusiasm and skill), concentrating on Gloucestershire in general and Cheltenham in particular. As well as being the general editor of the Gloucestershire Record Series for ten years, James produced two excellent books: *A Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* compiled by James in 1997 and *The Court Books of the Manor of Cheltenham 1692-1803* in 2010. In 2018, he was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

When the Gloucestershire Council and the University of Gloucestershire decided they could no longer financially support the Victoria County History series, it was James with a few others who set up the Gloucestershire History Trust to ensure the project continued. Thanks to his efforts, three more volumes have been researched and are near to completion.

Over the years, James has been involved in most of the major historical and heritage groups in the county, organising, fund-raising, bringing his wealth of knowledge and experience for the good of the communities. He was quiet, kind and courteous, a true gentleman, always charming with a dry sense of humour. For all his gentleness, he was able to lead and inspire others. It will be a long time until we see his like again.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Judie, and his children and grandchildren.

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## Passport to the Past

We've been running our 'Passport to the Past' events for children and families for over a year now, and have covered topics from Toys and Games through Police and Crime to Victorian Education.



We choose topics based on what we think will be interesting and relevant to children, and which we can support with items from our collections. Our event for **July** this year has been inspired by Carers' Month and to bring it to life for children we have taken the concept of 'caring' to include looking after pets, toys and plants.

Our collections include lots of lovely *Citizen* photos of pet shows, police dogs and working horses. There's also the story of John Daniel, the gorilla who lived with a family near Stroud in the 1920s...





With the Queen's big 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up, we thought it would be fun to have a look at Gloucestershire's Royal connections for our **June** event, with a special focus on the Tudors.



We have the spectacular Royal Charters to show our audience and will also be asking them to try to write like a Tudor and play a game of Fox and Geese.



As former teachers of History and English & Drama, we try hard to make the sessions as much fun as we can and make sure that everyone can take part. Our youngest participants are 6 years old and the oldest 11 or 12 – so it's quite a challenge to make sure everyone feels included.



Last month we looked at House History and for this topic we included dwellings of every kind – from caravans and houseboats to country piles. The children had to imagine that they had to make a planning decision about building 10 new homes in a small village. As always, the insights they brought to the topic were surprising and impressive.

We've recorded all the sessions and they can be found on the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub's YouTube channel. We keep a close eye on the number of 'views' and these are slowly creeping up.

Now that Covid restrictions seem to finally be coming to an end, we are changing our outreach programme for children and families to include more face-to-face events here at the Archives. We'll still be doing some recorded sessions, but on a school-termly, rather than a monthly basis. We may have to respond to popular demand and reprise our roles as Miss Honey and Miss Strict – Victorian School ma'ams. (This video has been viewed over 1000 times). Watch this space!



Kate O'Keefe and Jemma Fowkes May 2022

## Hard Work Pays Off

*Hugh Conway-Jones reports on a recent award for a local e-publication.*

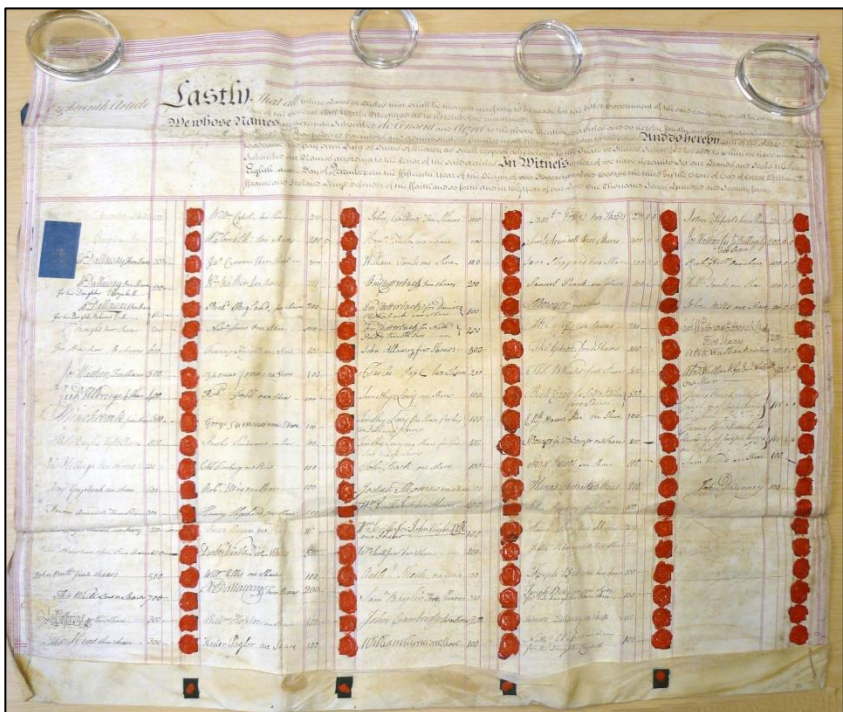
For several years, a varying group of volunteers at the Hub have been photographing and transcribing documents relating to the history of the Stroudwater Canal. The material produced has been displayed on the website [stroudwaterhistory.org.uk](http://stroudwaterhistory.org.uk), and this has recently won a national award.

The website features places along the Stroudwater Canal and the people who worked on and around the waterway. Pages explain the role of canal features and nearby buildings visible from the towpath. Other pages describe the lives of canal workers, bargemen and local traders. Notable stories include the time when lock gates were found to be leaking in 1803 after over-enthusiastic militia men had used them for target practice and some of their musket balls had passed through the woodwork. Another story recounts how the annual Stonehouse Regatta in the 1890s featured rowing and swimming races alongside canal capers and 'Bovril Bombs'. When fired, these bombs discharged small paper discs, one of which entitled the finder to 10 shillings worth of Bovril.

As well as the pages about places and people, the site presents images of over 10,000 images of original documents from the remarkably rich archive of the Stroudwater Company which is now held at Gloucestershire Archives. Searchable summaries and some transcripts have been painstakingly prepared by volunteers from the Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity (known as SNAC). A simple search facility makes it easy for anyone to find information about ancestors, buildings, local businesses or whatever.

For all this hard work, SNAC has just been given the Alan Ball Award for the best local history e-publication in 2020. This award is organised each year by the Local Studies Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, which supports local history collections in libraries across the UK. The announcement of the 2020 award was delayed due to the Corona virus pandemic.

The work to make the archive more available to the public is supporting a larger project to restore the Stroudwater Canal for leisure purposes, and the development of the website itself has been paid for by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



The illustration shows the founding document of the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation which was signed by all of the prospective shareholders in 1774. (D1180/8/1)



# Open Garden

In association with Kingsholm and Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership

**Saturday 25 June 1pm - 4pm**

- Relax in the beautiful surroundings of our community garden
- Family friendly garden games & activities
- A "right royal" display of records held at Gloucestershire Archives
- 'Tracing your roots' help available from Gloucestershire Family History Society
- Free refreshments



For more information see our website at [www.heritagehub.org.uk](http://www.heritagehub.org.uk)

Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW. Parking on-site



## Community Garden Update

You may remember that, before lockdown, the front border next to main reception at the Heritage Hub was provided by FoGA and planted up by members.



It has been maintained well since then by Jonathan Hoad (also recently the FoGA social media person) but he is unable to continue.

We would love someone from within the Friends to volunteer to maintain it. There's very little work involved, and all tools can be provided. If you are interested, please email

[ally.mcconnell@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ally.mcconnell@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## Gloucestershire Stone Stile Project

Stone stiles are part of our Gloucestershire countryside but there is no legal protection for them and some are being destroyed. The new Countryside Code issued in 2021 offers guidance on making rights of way more accessible to visitors, particularly for those with different abilities and needs. It suggests creating gaps and putting up self-closing gates instead of stiles. Whilst there is nothing wrong with easing access, there is no need to damage or destroy these existing ancient stones.



*Photograph by Maddie Booth of Whiteshill*

In the summer of 2020, with the support of CPRE, Professor Peter Wilson began a project to record the stiles, the Gloucestershire Stone Stile Project.

<https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>

The project has four simple objectives:

- To record all existing stone stiles before they are lost
- To provide photographs of each as a permanent record

- Indexing the stone stiles, by parish, noting their key features
- To create a digital online map with notes about the history of each stile and the locality visible from it with the aim of adding an enjoyable dimension to ramblers' walks and stimulating children's interest in walking and local history

To date, with the help of over 200 enthusiastic walkers, 90-95% of the county's stone stiles, an historic part of the man-made 'furniture' of our Cotswold landscape, have been recorded and photographed. Recently, Mr Red created a map to illustrate the location of known stiles: the map, a work in progress, can be viewed at

<http://stiles.mister.red/>

The current position is that;

- Stone stiles are unprotected. They usually date from the land enclosures in the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.C. and so can mark very ancient pathways. There can be much history attached to them.
- The landowner can do what he or she likes with them
- Most are on recognised Public Rights Of Ways (PROWs) but some are to be found where there once were public footpaths
- Where there is a PROW, land owners have to maintain access to it whilst keeping any livestock in and yet make it possible for a walker to pass through or over the animal barrier/ boundary.

Of late there has been some increase in reports of stone stiles having been removed with a tendency to replace them with galvanised metal kissing gates. These are noisy, not landscape enhancing and not very suitable for disabled or those with push chairs. The stones may be left nearby or destroyed.





*Photograph by courtesy of Fay Britton*

Peter is now looking for help with indexing the stone stiles and with creating historical, landscape and geological notes for each stile. Additionally do you know of any stone stiles near you that are not on the map? If you can help, please contact Professor Peter Wilson by email on:

[peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk)

## **Mystery Tour 2022**

The Friends' annual mystery tours have always been very popular and attracted a large number of members. But sadly, we have not been able to have a tour in the last two years because of COVID-19. Unless the virus flares up again, we hope to have a mystery tour this year on **Sunday 25 September**. John Chandler, who has so ably organised previous tours, has pencilled the date in his diary, and you might like to do the same.

The trustees will make a decision about whether the tour should go ahead nearer the time in the light of prevailing COVID conditions, and further details will be sent to members in due course. If you are hoping to join the tour, do make a note of the date now.

## **Gloucester Borough Leases Project**

The main owners of property in Gloucester over the centuries were the Borough Council, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, Llanthony Priory, St. Oswald's Priory, St. Bartholomew's Hospital and various other charitable organisations. Records exist for these sources, some going back to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century, but they are not indexed, not easy to access unless you can get to the Archives and definitely not online.

A few years ago, Gloucestershire Family History Society was left a legacy of just over one thousand pounds and it was decided to use that money to pay for the Gloucester Borough Records copy leases (Gloucestershire Archives Reference: GBR/J3) to be photographed so that they can be indexed and put online. Of the 19 volumes of copy leases (1524-1881) that are held at Gloucestershire Archives, 17 volumes have been filmed and the resultant images, over 4500 of them, saved.

Volume 15, covering the period from 1851 to 1881, has already been analysed and the important information has been abstracted into an Excel spreadsheet which is now on the GFHS website;

www. <https://gfhs.org.uk/resources/gloucester-copy-leases/>

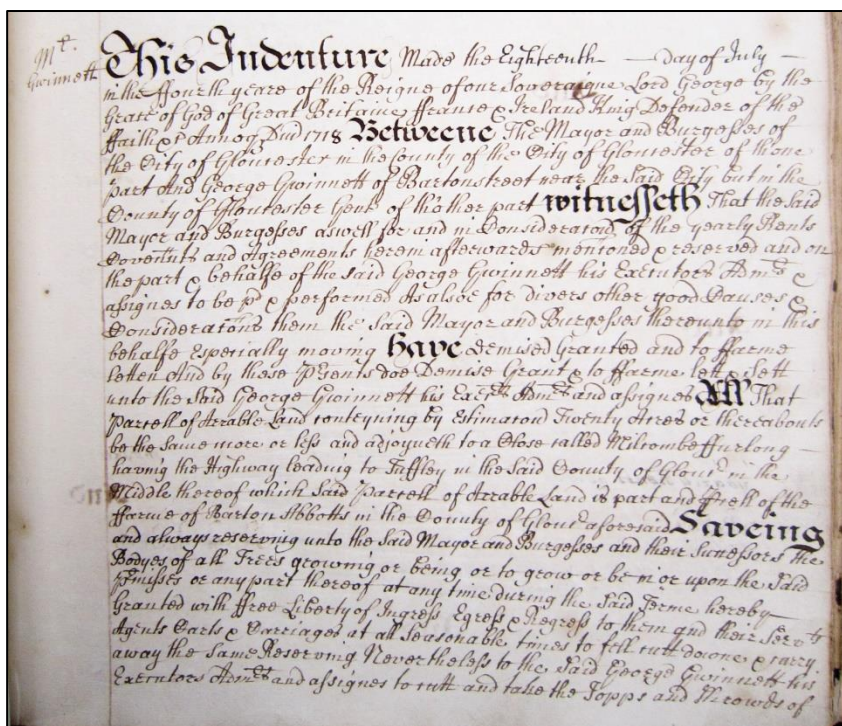
the same information will soon be on the Gloucestershire Archives website. The spreadsheet contains:

- name, address and status or occupation of the tenant
- the owners (usually but not always the Mayor, Burgesses and Citizens of the city)
- the date of each lease
- the type and location of each property.

The latter can be precise but is more often a general description of the area. The more recent leases usually contain a plan.

The intention is to make copies of each lease available for a small charge for those who find a lease in the index which is of interest to them. But first, **volunteers are needed** to abstract the information from the other volumes. The leases all follow a fairly standard pattern so you do not need to understand the legal document, just to be able to pinpoint the various details required. And the most recent volumes are beautifully hand-written so you do not need paleographic skills either. If you are interested in helping to abstract the information from the GBR records, please contact:

Liz Jack by email on: [lizjack.gloster@gmail.com](mailto:lizjack.gloster@gmail.com)



Section of a lease from GBR/J3/Volume 8 dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 1718.

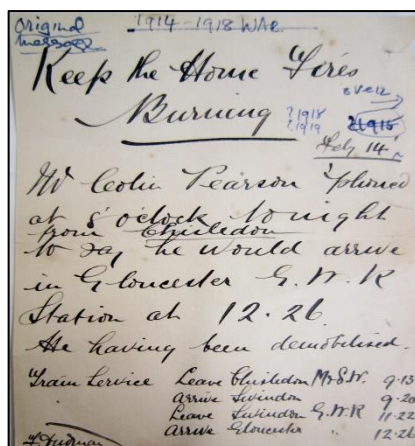
## E. Kendall Pearson



On the front of the last issue was a copy of a Christmas card sent home to his family from France by Colin Kendall Pearson. When Colin was demobbed in 1919, he phoned the Gloucester Citizen office to say he would be arriving at Gloucester station soon after midnight that day. The message was immediately sent to his parents to let them know.

Colin Kendall Pearson

Could just anyone send a message to the Citizen Office and get it delivered by them? I doubt it! But Colin's father, Edward Kendall Pearson, was special. Edward worked as a journalist for the Gloucester Citizen and Gloucester Journal for 43 years, until 1932. In 1919, was the News Editor for the Citizen newspaper.



The original note received on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1919.

E. Kendall Pearson, as he preferred to record himself, was born in Ross-on-Wye in 1868, the son of George Pearson, a builder, and Agnes, his wife. In 1881, he was attending a boys' boarding school in Weston-super-Mare. Ten years later, Edward was a news reporter in Gloucester, working for the Citizen and Journal, having joined the staff on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1889.

Edward eventually rose to be News Editor of the Gloucester Citizen and reported on a wide variety of local events, ranging from water shortages and droughts, to cheese rolling down Cooper's Hill and ice skating on a frozen field in Hempstead during cold winters. Relevant today in this month of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, he wrote a brief history of the Royal lamprey pie offered to the reigning monarch, the lapse of the custom and its subsequent revival in 1893. This year, requested by the Queen to consider the cost of living crisis, Gloucester sent a regal looking pork and apple pie instead.

Over the years, Edward Kendall Pearson attended many council meetings, some routine and others rather more exciting. In April 1894, the death was announced of Alderman Jesse Sessions, a prominent member of the Society of Friends and well-known local merchant. At that time, the number of Conservatives (Blues) and Liberals (Yellows) on the council were balanced. As one of the Liberals was in America and another indisposed, the Conservatives sensed that they could take control if one of their members was elected. Hence, they pushed for an immediate election, to be held two days after the death. The Mayor, however, was appalled at the idea that the election should be held before the funeral of Mr Sessions was held and refused to allow it. The arguments, anger, public comments and general chaos which ensued were described thus by E. Kendall Pearson:

‘the smoke of battle was still thick over the arena when “cease fire” was sounded at the end of a prolonged bombardment’.

To keep up with the speed of discussion and argument in order to report the situation accurately, Edward used shorthand, which his notebook, held in the Archives (Reference: D3558), includes. His skill in accurately reporting the event was very highly commended by none other than Sir Isaac Pitman, the inventor of shorthand, who had been present at the council meeting.

One of the grimmer tasks that the news editor was obliged to do at times was to attend executions at the local gaol. In March 1893, Edward was called upon to witness the execution of Albert Manning for the murder of Jane Frew. Manning pleaded insanity and acted as though insane from the time of his arrest until briefly before the hanging when he suddenly stood in an upright position and began to speak, two activities which he had not done in custody. The change followed a visit the previous evening from his aged mother. Manning was buried in the prison grounds as was usual after execution. Edward Pearson was later called upon to witness that the open grave could not be seen from the scaffold, as national newspapers had claimed. To do so, he walked from the scaffold, accompanied by the Governor of the gaol, to the graveside.

A frequent reporter at the Assizes, Edward was startled one day by the appearance of the Deputy Clerk at the press box, requesting the immediate attendance of 'The Citizen' reporter before the Judge. Wondering what contempt of Court he had committed, he followed the clerk in fear and trembling to the Judge's desk. Mr Justice Bigham at once dispelled his fears and paid tribute to Edward's work.

'I have read your report of yesterday's proceedings in this court and I wish to say I was very much pleased with it. I think it was a very well done piece of work.'

Edward was obviously a very well-respected journalist but he was equally esteemed in his private life. He was a long-time churchwarden of St. Catherine's church, supporting their activities. As it appeared not to have been done before, he wrote a six part history of the church in the parish magazines, explaining to modern parishioners that the church had a much longer history than the plaque on the modern building suggested. The relevant copies of the parish magazine are held in the Pearson collection in the Archives (D3558) for anyone wishing to read it. He also wrote a history of St. Mark's church.

In his capacity of editor of the local newspaper, E. Kendall Pearson was often called upon to give talks, to the local Women's Institute and other organisations. But the real love of his life appears to have been the works of Charles Dickens. He was a founder member of the Gloucester branch of the Dickens Fellowship which was founded in London in 1902 and later became president. He gave one talk to the Norton WI in 1938 discussing rural problems at that time and how they would have been dealt with in the characters of Mrs Nickleby, Mrs Jellyby, Sairey Gamp and Betsey Trotwood.

He gave a well-attended lantern lecture in the Guildhall on the subject of *Bleak House*, using the novel as an expose of the Court of Chancery with the extended court hearings and the imprisonment of those who had crossed the judges. This was accompanied by lantern slides of Phiz etchings from an original edition of the book and a recital by Miss Darkin of the tea party of Sairey Gamp and Betsey Prig.

Pearson obviously had a liking for the tea party episode because, in a previous event, he wrote a sketch adopted from *The Old Curiosity Shop* which he produced at a Dickens recital at St. Catherine's Church. In 'Mrs Quilp's Tea Party', she insisted on real 'shrimps and watercress' – they were declared to have been caught at Wainlodes! In this and in many other events, Edward dressed up as Charles Dickens and produced a more than acceptable duplicate of the author.

In his family life, Edward married Annie West Price in 1892 at St Mary's church, Ross and, by her, had two children, a son Colin Kendall Pearson and a daughter Dorothy Annie Pearson. He retired from his job in The Citizen in 1932. His wife died in 1942, four years before Edward. They are buried in the churchyard of St Lawrence, Barnwood.

## Gloucester History Festival

Gloucester History Festival returns for the 12<sup>th</sup> year from  
**3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

The theme this year is Families and Innovations.



## Gloucester Remembered



Do you remember the Horton Road Engine Shed in Gloucester? `Gloucester Remembered` depicts the Horton Road Engine shed together with information and maps showing what Gloucester Station was like before 1960. The above model is just one of over 15 exhibits at this year's

### **Hucclecote Methodist Model Railway Show on Saturday 11th June from 10am to 5pm.**

Come along to this event and see what the railways looked like years ago. Refreshments available. Hucclecote Methodist Church is located in Carisbrooke Road, GL3 3QP just off the number 10 bus route.

# Make and Mend

Saturday 2 July 2022 1pm-4pm



- A talk on the Hart Silversmiths Trust and a demonstration of silver working by David and Will Hart, Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths
- 'Conserve and protect' – create protective book covers and learn how to take better care of your cherished items by Ann Attwood, Glos. Archives Conservator
- Something broken? Come and visit our 'pop up' repair workshop led by Vilnis Vesma
- Be creative! Get involved in a community sewing project led by the City Voices Sewing Group
- Get crafty! Children's activities, fun for all
- 'We do more than bake...' Glos. Women's Institute tells us more but promises to bring cake!
- Creative ancestors? Find out more about your family with Gloucestershire Family History Society



**Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW. Parking on-site**  
For more information see our website at [www.heritagehub.org.uk](http://www.heritagehub.org.uk)