

Gloucestershire Local History Newsletter

Summer 2011



Local History Committee Regional Meeting, Fairford, Saturday, 2 July 2011

There's still time to book for the Regional Meeting at Fairford, which offers guided tours of the town and of St Mary's church, whose world-famous set of late medieval stained glass windows has now been fully conserved. So if you haven't already done so, please return your booking form (sent with the Spring 2011 mailing) as soon as possible, or contact Alison Hobson on 01285 711768. More information about the Society and Fairford's history may be found by visiting www.fairfordhistory.org.uk. Next year's Regional Meeting will be held at Maisemore on **7 July 2012**, and will be organised by the Maisemore Local History Society.

Local History Afternoon, Gloucester, Saturday, 1 October 2011

The theme of this year's Local History Afternoon, to be held, as usual, at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester, will be Gloucestershire Communities in the Second World War. Three local speakers have been arranged. Virginia Adsett, a former Education & Outreach Officer at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, will be talking about her current research into Cheltenham's role in the Pied Piper Scheme, whereby children were evacuated to the town from major cities; Nigel Cox, curator of the Gloucester Folk Museum will be talking about Civil Defence in Gloucester; and Alan Strickland, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, will be looking at how World War II changed the physical face of Gloucestershire. There will also be a chance to see original 1940s material from Gloucester Folk Museum, from Virginia Adsett's 'Fighting 40s' sessions (focusing on wartime civilian life), that she and a colleague deliver to a variety of adult groups across the County, and from the Cirencester-based Living Memory Historical Association. The latter has an exhibition on civilian life in wartime in the annexe and air raid shelter at the former Cirencester Memorial Hospital, which is open to visitors, free of charge, on Saturdays between May and early October (see www.livingmemory.btik.com). **As always, local history societies are encouraged to mount a display about the impact of the War in their area; if your Society does intend to bring a display, please let Naomi at GRCC know as soon as possible, so that the necessary space may be allocated to you.**

Bryan Jerrard Award 2011

There's still time to submit your Society's latest Research Bulletin or Journal for the annual Bryan Jerrard Award for the best article in a local history society publication – so please let Naomi at GRCC have a copy by the end of July.

Editor wanted.....

John Loosley, who has ably edited the Committee's annual publication, *Gloucestershire History*, for the past 13 years, wishes to give up the editorship after the next issue, which is due for publication in October 2011. If anyone would like to try their hand at editing this, our annual local history publication, please let Steve Blake know (contact details below) and he will put you in touch with John.

Prestbury Local History Society

There has for some time been an informal group of people interested in the history of Prestbury, who have produced material for various local events, including a local history CD. This group has formed the basis of the new Prestbury Local History Society, which was inaugurated in January 2011. The Society plans to hold four public meetings a year, plus eight meetings of the Society's members, devoted to research and the sharing of information on the community's history. The first public meeting, in March, attracted 32 people, and the Society now has 19 paid up members. Current projects include the development of a website, the listing of local historical resources and members' research interests, and the formation of a collection of local photographs. The Society may be contacted via its Secretary, the Revd Norman Baker (email: njb123@talktalk.net).

Another new Society on the way?

Plans are also afoot for a new Society in Quedgeley – anyone interested in helping to set up the new Society should contact Trefor Hughes on 01452 549899, or email him at editor@quedgeleynews.com.

Gloucestershire County History Trust update

Following the generous offer from the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society of £12,500 a year for two years towards the cost of completing VCH Volume XIII, the Trustees have decided to proceed with the recruitment of a part-time county editor to research the remaining parishes of Ashleworth, Hartpury, Maisemore, Norton and Twyning, starting in October this year. Although funds already received from many donors amount to some £15,000, in addition to that promised by BGAS, the Trust is still short of some £20,000 to complete the publication of the volume. Work will continue this year on securing funds from individuals, groups, grant-giving bodies and possible sponsors to make up the remaining amount. The next stage will be the establishment of a volunteer research programme covering the five remaining parishes, and volunteers will be actively recruited later this year. The Trust has received encouragement and advice from VCH Central Office at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, and is in touch with several other counties who are following a similar course of funding for the continuing work of the VCH in their areas. As ever, the long-term aim remains the employment of a full-time editor and the start of work on other areas of the County not yet covered by the VCH. With this in mind a high-profile launch of the Trust will take place in July, to establish long-term funding.

A very special offer from BGAS

The Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society is currently offering 15 of its Record Series volumes for sale at just £5 each (usual price £30), with an additional offer to local history societies of volumes at just £3 each, for resale at their Society's meetings at £5. A flyer for this offer – and another for the forthcoming volume, *Gloucester Apprentices 1700-1834*, by Jill Barlow, which is also being offered to at a pre-publication price of £20 - is included with the current Local History Committee mailing. Volumes may be ordered from the BGAS Publications Stockholder, Miss Pat Bath, 17 Estcourt Road, Gloucester GL1 3LU, and may be collected from Gloucestershire Archives, where the Society's stock of publications is held.

The Milestone Society

This nation-wide society, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, aims to identify, record and photograph as many surviving road and canal milestones and waymarkers as possible, and over 9000 are now included in the Society's database. It also campaigns to protect and conserve milestones, which continue to be lost through theft, lack of interest, or casual destruction, and it works closely with Highways Agencies and local conservation officers. To find out more about the Society, visit www.milestonesociety.org.uk. – or for local activities and initiatives, contact David Viner, the Society's Chairman, by email: dviner@waitrose.com. Gloucestershire is one of several counties where the Society is looking to increase its activity, following on from extensive work done by GSIA members several decades ago.

Friends of the Cotswolds

The aims of this relatively new charity, which was established in 2006, include the conservation of the Cotswold landscape, the revival of traditional crafts and skills, and the protection of historic sites and features. As well as inviting donations towards its work, the Friends also offer grants, generally of up to £500, towards projects which fit their criteria - and which may therefore be of interest to local history societies and groups operating within the Cotswolds AONB. To find out more, visit www.friendsofthecotswolds.org.

Bingham Gallery, Cirencester

The next exhibition at Cirencester's Bingham Gallery will be of paintings, drawings and photographs of Cirencester pubs, from the Bingham Library Trust's collection, including the Cirencester Millennium Embroidery. The exhibition is free of charge, and open from 10am – 2pm on the following Saturdays – May 14 & 28, June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27 and September 10 & 24. Extended opening to 4pm on 10 September as part of Cirencester Heritage Open Day. The Trust is also encouraging people to support its work by joining 'The Friends of the Bingham Gallery'; to find out more, visit www.binghamlibrarytrust.org.uk.

Living History at Lydney

An historically-themed family event, to include a Civil War re-enactment by the Sealed Knot, will take place at the Lydney Park Estate on Saturday, 4 June, between 10am and 6pm. The event is in aid of the James Hopkins Trust, which provides free respite care for disabled children in Gloucestershire.

Local History Committee Contacts

Secretary: Naomi McMahon, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LZ. Tel: 01452 528491. Email: naomim@grcc.org.uk

Chairman: Steven Blake, Delton, Fairmount Road, Cheltenham GL51 7AQ. Tel: 01242 510926. Email: steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com.