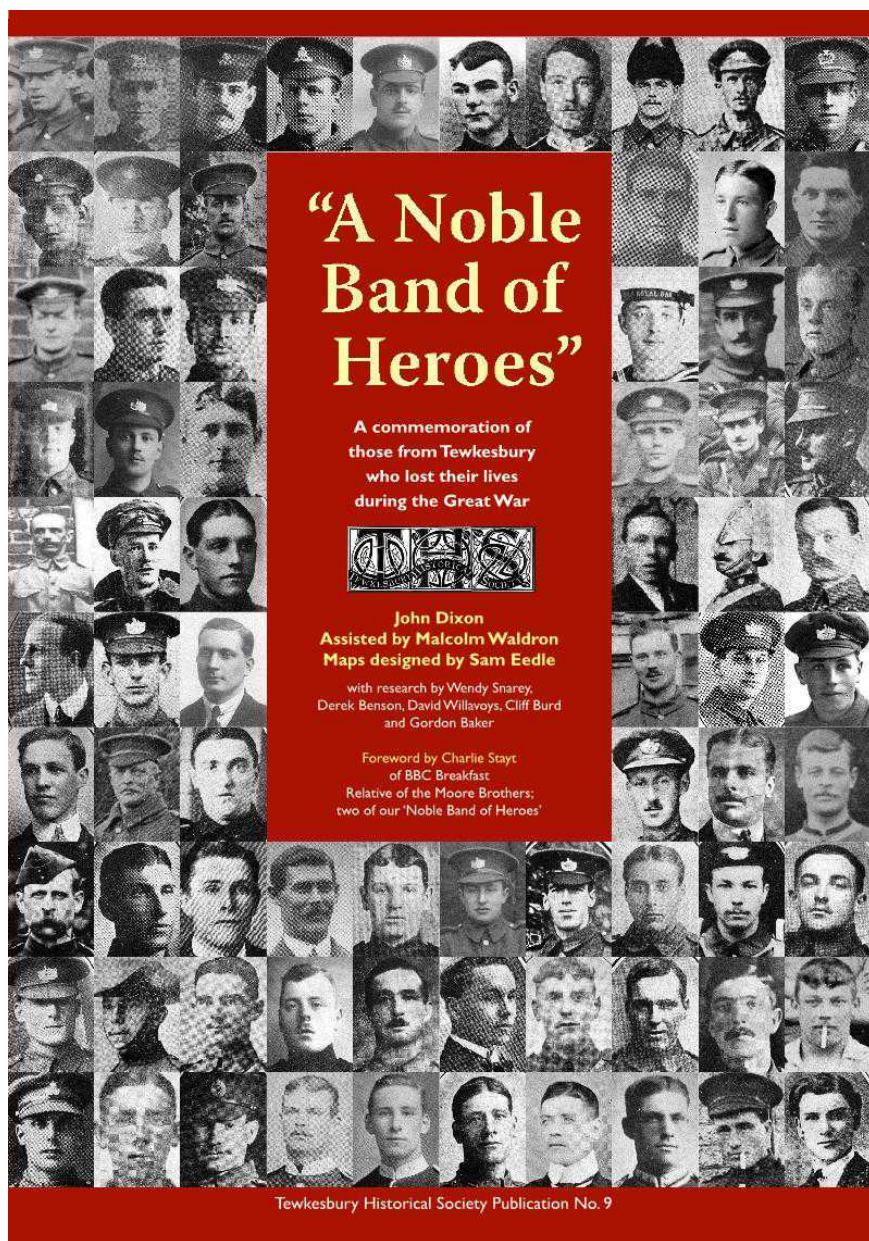



NEWSLETTER

Gloucestershire Local History Association



“A Noble Band of Heroes”

A commemoration of those from Tewkesbury who lost their lives during the Great War



John Dixon
Assisted by **Malcolm Waldron**
Maps designed by **Sam Eedle**

with research by Wendy Snarey,
Derek Benson, David Willavoy, Cliff Burd
and Gordon Baker

Foreword by Charlie Stays
of BBC Breakfast
Relative of the Moore Brothers;
two of our 'Noble Band of Heroes'

Tewkesbury Historical Society Publication No. 9

Gloucestershire
Local History Association

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Issue No. 12 *May 2016*

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A Note from the Chairman

This is the 12th Newsletter that has been produced by GLHA since it was established in 2011, and the Committee has decided that, at least for the time being, it will be our last. This decision has been prompted partly by the relative lack of members' contributions and partly by our Editor Ben Berry's decision to give up the editorship as he embarks on his Postgraduate Teaching qualification at the University of Gloucestershire.

The Committee will be looking at other ways in which we might communicate with our members and the wider world, and a number of regular features of the Newsletter, such as Liz Jack's Book Reviews, will in future be included in the appropriate page of the website - so please do let Liz know if your Group has a new publication that you would like reviewed.

I would certainly like to thank Ben, on behalf of the Association, for all his hard work and creativity in producing our Newsletters over the past couple of years and to wish him every success with his University course.



A Note from the Editor

Getting the Young Interested

I can not be too much relied on to advise in this area since I am not a typical youth. I have no idea what's so enticing about Nicki Minaj on Facebook but I have a sound understanding of narrative theory. But in fairness, this stereotype of the modern-day youth is just that – a stereotype. It's probably one, I say without an ounce of research, that has been prevalent throughout much of history.

We're not really interested in teenagers though, which is fine because teenagers aren't going to be much interested in local history. The sort of people we want to attract are young adults, but why and how? Honestly I've no idea why you're all so interested in young people, nor why I received a round of applause when I joined my local history group, but I think (and hope) it's a little more than noticing your aged demographic of members dwindling year after year. An older colleague and mentor of mine once told me how when I get to his age I'll start going to a lot more funerals, and I'm not sure how many of you take a copy of the local obituaries to your AGMs.

Getting your societies to look attractive to the fresher generations will increase membership, and should bring forth innovations: new interests mean new areas of research, and new contacts means more opportunities. It might be worth revising just how you can help young people interested in history, too. Some may be studying at college or university and will welcome help and mentorship, others may be interested in a specific period of history and would be interested in knowing how people in their locales lived during that time (I seem to know a lot of people with interests in the dark ages or medieval period – probably due to their influence on the fantasy genre).

Not many of my peers knew anything about the Battle of Coleford, but nor did I until I joined my local history group. Come to think of it, not many of my peers really knew there was such a thing as a local history group. I know some of you will have promoted yourselves and your events in the local paper, maybe even got in there for free with a ferocious press officer in your ranks. It may also be worth considering the new forms of media; they're free and reach far.

Do not be afraid of Facebook. You can set yourselves up as a group and share photos and promote events. I know the complaints – our generation has shorter attention spans, we should be in the sun and away from screens and clickbait culture. Social media has its dangers, sure, in terms of increasing social anxieties or publishing things you rather quickly wish you hadn't, but these need not concern

you. A majority of people browse through their feeds while waiting in line for the bus or during the adverts in The Chase and this is when your post about an upcoming event might catch their interest.

There are other social media outlets you can utilise, some will be more suited to your needs, Twitter will be less. You can put videos of events, tours of historical ruins or re-enactments on Youtube; or use Tumblr, Blogger or Wordpress to host a free blog to keep people up-to-date on the goings on in your society.

Here are a few tips:

- Look at other Facebook group pages, Youtube profiles and blogs to get an idea of what people are doing.
- Keep those Facebook posts short to suit our short attention spans, and try to add pictures to catch the eye whenever possible.
- If you use a blog or Youtube, always share the links on your Facebook page.
- Any parts of local history that are interesting but perhaps a bit too boring for a full length article? Turn it into a blog post instead.

Don't think that because you suddenly have a couple of hundred followers on social media your membership will leap upwards. Most people will just be keeping an eye until something sparks their interest. Think of it as free publicity.

One of the reasons that local history societies attract the older generations is because they will have a greater sense of identity tied to where they live. Somebody who has lived in your town or village for most of their life will feel a deep connection to it, and those who have moved to your quiet parish for retirement might want to know more about it and come along to meet new friends. Well, now that you're reaching out to younger people, how are you going to trap them in your village halls?

When I think about the places or events local to me that attract young people, what first comes to mind is the local pubs, then the pubs in local towns, and then I have no idea. There are sports, video games and alcohol for you to compete with, how are you going to drag them away?

Not many youths are going to be looking forward to an hour-and-a-half lecture on the history of a stately home they've never heard of, even with tea and biscuits supplied. Sorry, I know it's a hard

truth, but they can search for that on Google. Offer something they can't get elsewhere – can you arrange a tour? Or tours? Some of the expense saved from hiring a speaker can be put to subsidising some of the ticket prices (or not – best ask your treasurer). While guest speakers are usually pretty reasonable with their costs they don't necessarily bring in the people you're after. Would archery practice? Quill writing? Cooking Norman food? It sounds expensive, I know, but it doesn't have to be every month and if you've got the funds then why not try it?

Unfortunately local history is a niche subject to be interested in, and may just not be on the agenda for those who aren't yet retired. Keep your events family orientated, and once you spread your reach via social media, you might just find your average age dropping a little.



Members' Forums, 7th December 2015 and 7th March 2016

Two Members' Forums have been held since the publication of our last Newsletter in November 2015, each attended by between 25 and 30 people. Both meetings received reports from the Association's Chairman and Treasurer. The Chairman's Reports focused on the Association's recent and forthcoming activities – and in particular on the changes being made to its website, courtesy of Ray Wilson. These include a much extended section listing member groups' events and a new 'Tours and Visits' list, which 'went live' in February. The Treasurer reported on membership (now standing at 48 local history groups) and on the Association's sound financial position.

The Forum also received its regular 'updates' from the County History Trust, whose twice-yearly 'Academy Newsletter' is emailed to GLHA members, and from Gloucestershire Archives. The Archives' reports focused on ways in which local history groups could support and assist the Archives in acquiring documents that come up for sale, and on the changes in opening times and access to documents during the period in which building work is to take place at the Archives from later this year; a note on each is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As usual, each Forum included a presentation of particular interest to members. In December, Gwilym and Carol Davies entertained us with local folk carols and wassails – and also told us about the work they are doing to preserve and make available traditional Gloucestershire songs (for more details visit www.glostrad.com). In March, Cyril Smith and Bob Parker, two of the volunteers working

on the Constabulary Archive (which is to become part of the new 'Heritage Hub' at the Archives) talked about the history of the County's Police Force and its archive, which was established in 1999 to preserve and organise documents, photographs and artefacts – a fascinating selection of which were brought to the meeting for members to see (for more details, visit www.narpo-glos.org.uk/page85.html). The March Forum also received an update from Anne Lovejoy, the Assistant Project Officer for the HLF-supported 'Know Your Place West of England' project, including the imminent 'uploading' of a range of Gloucestershire maps to their website (www.kypwest.org.uk).



Gloucestershire Archives

Changes to Gloucestershire Archives' research room service, from March 2016

Phase 1 – March-June 2016

What do the changes mean for researchers?

As an interim measure, before the work to build the new Gloucestershire Heritage Hub starts later this year, there will be some changes to the research room opening hours and the times of the document production.

Changes to the opening hours for the research room and Family History Centre

- The research room will not open at all on a Saturday from (and including) 26th March.
- The research room will close at 5:00 on a Thursday afternoon from (and including) 7th April.

Please Note that Gloucestershire Family History Society's Family History Centre will not open on a Saturday morning after 5th March.

Changes to the document production times

Starting on Tuesday 5th April we'll reduce the document production runs after 12:15pm.

So we'll produce documents at the set times during the morning (9:30, 10:15, 11:15 and 12:15) as usual, then there will be one document production run at 2:15pm each afternoon. So, only pre-ordered documents or items on the waiting shelf will be available. But you can order documents, 3 at a time, on all the daily production runs even if you've pre-ordered items.

Pre-ordering your documents

You can pre-order documents to use during your visit:

- You can check our online catalogue to find document references www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/catalogue and then email the references to us archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk.
- You can order documents yourself during your visit – just leave the completed request chits with us and include the date you intend to visit.

Please help us!

We need time to produce documents from the strongrooms so please give us as much notice as you can. At least 2 working days for up to 3 items and at least 5 working days if you'd like to see more.

Phase 2 – ‘the Searchroom-lite’ from 7th June 2016 to summer 2017

What do these changes mean to researchers?

We intend to provide access to original documents while the building work is in process. From Tuesday 7th June to Friday 5th August the searchroom service will run in the existing rooms with full access to microfilms, books and other facilities. From Tuesday 9th August until the summer 2017, we'll move into temporary accommodation in the Frith Training Rooms with more limited facilities

Access to original documents for independent researchers

- The ‘searchroom-lite’ will be open for independent researchers and individual volunteers from 9:00am to 4:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- It will be able to accommodate 20-25 people so pre-booking is essential.
- All documents must be pre-ordered – there is no upper limit and each request will be dealt with individually.
- There will one document production run each day at 12:30pm.

Access for project groups including VCH volunteers

- Monday and Friday are reserved for project groups including the VCH volunteers and the VCH Academy will continue to run and John Chandler will confirm the dates.
- The research room will be open from 10:00am to 4:30pm on Monday, 9:00am to 4:30pm on Friday.
- Space and documents must be pre-booked.

Other facilities in the 'searchroom-lite' - applies from 9th of August

- WiFi and 1 public access PC.
- The Inclosure PC and printer.
- Key reference books – selected with the help of the Customer Focus Group and regular researchers/volunteers.
- A WC, lockers and coat pegs with space to eat sandwiches. There will not be room for the drinks machine.

We will work with Gloucestershire Family History Society to make the most of the space in the Frith Building so anyone who is not working on original documents can use the facilities in the Family History Centre. These include:

- 1 film and 1 fiche reader – films and fiches must be ordered in advance.
- 1 GA Public Network PC and access to the GA WiFi network.
- Access to many online resources including Ancestry.
- Family-history based library with some key reference books.

Summary of the arrangements for the Archives service during the refurbishment, 2016-2017.

Basics

- Please check the Archives website before you visit for up-dated information.
- Please plan your research in advance!
- No parking available from August/September except for disabled.
- The new search room should be ready by August 2017 but work to build a new entrance and training suite will still be continuing.

Access to documents

- From 7th June all original documents must be pre-ordered but the searchroom will run from its existing accommodation.
- From Tuesday 9th August the searchroom will move to temporary accommodation in the Frith room with restricted space and facilities.
- From Tuesday 9th August the Family History Room will have a microfilm and microfiche reader. Please order films/fiches in advance.
- A lot of information (e.g. parish registers, wills) is now available on Ancestry which can be

accessed free at local libraries or on computers at GA. More sources (e.g. electoral registers and gaol calendars) will be available from June. Other websites like Know Your Place include digital copies of Gloucestershire material.

Depositing records

Please make an appointment!



Acquiring Items for Gloucestershire Archives

At our December 2015 Forum meeting we discussed how we might help save archival material at risk of being lost to the local community.

Historic documents are being offered for sale all the time by dealers and private individuals. Generally they disappear without trace after a sale and are lost to research, or sometimes they pop back up on the market a few years later at an inflated price before vanishing again.

Julie Courtenay from Gloucestershire Archives (GA) explained to the Forum that GA hears about major auctions from 'The National Archives' Sales Monitoring Service or directly from dealers. If a document or collection is of national significance, GA may raise the purchase money by applying for a grant and/or appealing for public donations. It has done this successfully in the past through the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and The Friends of the National Libraries.

But often news arrives with little warning, when someone spots documents on sale locally. GA doesn't have a specific budget for purchases and as a Council service it can't bid at auctions. So it relies very much on support from The Friends of Gloucestershire Archives and the wider public in these cases.

There are two ways your group can help:

By raising awareness among your members. Please ask them to keep a look-out for original documents being sold – whether on eBay, at local sales rooms and antique shops, and even at car boot sales. And if they spot something that appears to relate to Gloucestershire, then it would be very helpful to send details as soon as possible for the attention of Julie Courtenay at Gloucestershire

Archives (email archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk). Julie will assess whether the item may be worth buying to preserve permanently at the Archives, and if so, will contact GLHA.

This leads on to the second way your group can help. GLHA will circulate its member groups about the item(s) being sold, and ask you to confirm as soon as possible whether or not your group would be interested in attempting a purchase, or whether you would be prepared to pledge a specific sum towards a joint purchase (perhaps with another group, especially if the documents relate to a wider area of interest).

As a result, we may be able to identify and share news of sales more effectively with the most relevant communities, and be more likely to secure archive material at risk from disappearing for ever from Gloucestershire.

Many thanks.



GLHA Dates for your Diary

Forum Meetings

2016

Thursday 9th June 7.00 pm (AGM) at Glos Archives.

GLHA Annual General Meeting.

Followed by Gay Chamberlayne and Margie Hoffnung from the Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust who will talk about the work of the Trust.

Thursday 8th September 2.00 pm at Churchdown Community Hall.

Ian Standing will talk about the work of the Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust.

Followed by GLHA business and Discussion topic – The Use of Social Media.

Monday 5th December 2.00 pm at Churchdown Community Hall.

GLHA business.

Followed by Pat Furley Lantern Slide Show and Christmas refreshments.

2017

Monday 13th February 2.00 pm at Churchdown Community Hall.

Thursday 15th June 7.00 pm (AGM) at Churchdown Community Hall.

Local History Day

Saturday 18th March 2017 at Churchdown Community Hall.

Topic – Gardens for Food, Fun and Flowers.

Deadline for booking a display space – 1st February 2017.

Summer Afternoon Meetings

Saturday 16th July 2016 – Chipping Campden.

Saturday 24th June 2017 – Tewkesbury.

2018 – Cirencester.

Website

Local Societies Events List

Next deadline for submissions 1st September 2016.

Guidelines at www.gloshistory.org.uk/submit_prog.php

Visits and Tours List.

Submissions to Ray Wilson at visits@gloshistory.org.uk

The Gloucestershire County History Trust

The careful work of researching and writing the parish histories continues. Francis Boorman has settled in well at Cirencester and is leading the team of volunteers as they continue their researches into the town's history. Some of the Cheltenham volunteers, guided by Alex Craven and Sally Self, are beginning to write up their researches into the history of the town between c.1750 and c.1850. They are also continuing to catalogue uncatalogued collections in the Archives, especially the Ticehurst Wyatt D2025 collection. John Chandler, meanwhile, is now proofing and indexing Vol. 13, on the Vale of Gloucester and Leadon valley, for publication later this year.

Rose Wallis, who has been researching the Sodbury parishes in the south of the historic county since completing her VCH Short on Yate, has now gained a full-time post at the University of the West of England. The Trustees have thanked her for her successful time with the Trust and wish her well. Her position as our contracted historian has been filled by Phil Barker who has experience of working for VCH Middlesex. Rose and some of her students intend to continue to support and contribute to the work on the Sodburys.

The monthly academy meetings at the Archives (third Thursday at 11am) go from strength to strength under our county editor, John Chandler. They are open to anyone interested in the methods of local history, not just those interested in the parishes being researched for the VCH. Just come along to the next meeting if you are interested in discovering more about the methods and materials for local history.

Finally – a plea! We are in desperate need of someone with PR experience who could help organise our publicity. Could you be the person? If so, please contact our chairman James Hodsdon jj49@btinternet.com or visit our website www.vchglosacademy.org from where you can also download the latest (January) edition of our newsletter.

David Aldred
for the Trustees



Llanthony Secunda Priory: HLF Bid Update

GLHA members – particularly those who joined our evening visit to Llanthony Secunda last year – will be interested to read the following update on progress with the Trust's Stage 2 HLF bid, issued in January 2016. To find out more about the Priory and the work of the Trust, visit www.llanthonysecunda.org

Llanthony Secunda has been classified by English Heritage as of international importance, because it is the only known example in Europe of a daughter monastic house doing a 'reverse takeover' of its parent. It also has the largest surviving manuscript archive of any Augustinian house, although the documents are at Lambeth Palace. It has a rare area of green space in Gloucester, but also has more buildings on the 'at risk' register than almost anywhere else.

The HLF will not support projects which may not be self-sustaining, so a sound business plan is essential. The Trust is entering into partnership with the neighbouring Gloucestershire College, who will lease the medieval building and share its use. This will provide a secure income on which the Trust can build. Recent archaeology suggests that there was an earlier building before the timber range.

Future projects include:

- Gloucestershire Buildings Recording Group project before development starts
- 'Hard Hat' tours during building work
- Restoration of the medieval building and the brick stable range for public use
- Digitisation of documents from Lambeth for display on-site
- Choir project to perform the 'Llanthony Carol', discovered at Corpus Christ College, Oxford
- Integration with conservation projects and walks throughout Gloucester, especially with the current HLF bid by the Cathedral
- Working with Gloucestershire College to offer students experience in project management, business, heritage and tourism
- Use of the grounds for public events, open-air theatre, fairs and festivals

Publicity needs to be improved, through signage, speakers and events.

Volunteers are always welcome for site clearance and maintenance, and documentary work.

STOP PRESS: We are delighted to hear that the Trust has now been awarded a £3,194,400 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



The Mick Aston Archaeology Bursary for Young People

Mick Aston was the leading figure on Time Team and was very keen to get young people involved in archaeology. He left bequests to quite a few archaeological societies of which he was a member, including the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society is pleased to be able to provide bursaries of up to £300 per year to support young people living in Gloucestershire, including South Gloucestershire and Bristol, aged between 16 and 19, to undertake archaeology work-based placements.

Applications for a grant can be made by an individual aged between 16 and 19 and should include a statement by the organisation providing the training that adequate insurance and health and safety provision is in place.

Further details can be found on the Society's website www.bgas.org.uk and applications should be submitted to the Hon. Secretary of the Society by the 1st June each year.



Painswick Local History Society

As many GLHA members will recall, Painswick Local History Society won the 'best display' award at the Association's 2014 Local History Day at Pate's Grammar School, the theme of which was 'The Effects of WW1 on Gloucestershire Communities'. So it is particularly pleasing to see that the contents of the display – and much more about the subject – has been turned into a book. Here, one of the book's authors, Carol Jackson (who is also the Society's Chairman and the Editor of 'Painswick Chronicle') profiles the Society and its activities.

Painswick has many clubs and societies and the Local History Society is most definitely one of the most active. For the past three decades or so we have endeavoured to stay fresh and lively in our

approach and membership numbers reflect an ongoing interest in the history of Painswick and the surrounding area. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month for nine months of the year. Of these, one is an annual outing to a place of interest in the county, another is given over to members' research and the others are for guest-speaker presentations.

The Society publishes an annual journal, *Painswick Chronicle*, and the latest edition, number 18, was produced in November. Editorial policy has always focussed on spanning a wide time frame and including a broad range of subjects from personal memories to academically researched topics. We try to place the 'local' in a wider context. This year, for example, apotropaic marks were investigated, several being cited in the village, but giving rise to the question: 'How extensive was the practice across the county?' In another article an in-depth study using a complex database has been made of the 1608 muster roll for Painswick and the Bisley Hundred. The database is to be given to Gloucestershire Archives and it is to be hoped that other communities across the county will be added and studied. It is not a census but probably the nearest possibility to one. Other publications include *Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village*; *Gyde Orphanage Remembered*; *Barks and Bites from Bow-wow Land*.

Several of our chairmen have initiated projects which have been of benefit to the local community and visitors. The first was the restoration of milestones on two ancient roads through the parish – Stroud to Birdlip and Stroud to Gloucester. This was not an easy undertaking but eventually 11 milestones were fitted with newly cast plates – accurate copies of the originals – and three snapped stones were repaired. Another project involved a carefully planned study of a substantial area surrounding the village. Many members were involved in real fieldwork led by a professional archaeologist (a member of the Society) and the recording of their finds and observations. The most recent project has been the establishing of six history information boards around the centre of Painswick, each with its QR code, mainly for the benefit of visitors to the village. However, many local residents claim to have learnt much about Painswick's past from the boards and have subsequently joined the Society!

For the past few years we have organised an exhibition in the Town Hall every other year. Sometimes a single theme has prevailed but generally we have presented a selection of topics. These exhibitions have been well-received by both residents and visitors and we hope to repeat the exercise this summer.

Last, but not least, there is the enduring problem of the age profile. Occasionally, we have given little presentations at the primary school, usually eliciting an enthusiastic response. One little boy has even set up his own very impressive museum, announcing that his future career is to be a museum curator (watch out, British Museum personnel!). Nonetheless, attendance at meetings and involvement in activities is usually dominated by those 'of a certain age', and we would dearly love to know how to attract our younger residents. All ideas welcome.

The Story of Painswick

Painswick is at the centre of the very large parish of Painswick and in an elevated position within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is recognised as one of the finest Cotswold settlements, gaining status as a town by Royal Charter in 1253. To the north of the town an Iron Age fortified camp was built on Painswick Beacon (Kimsbury hillfort), remains of which are still visible. Subsequently, from Roman times onwards, stone quarried from the Beacon was used in the construction of the many fine buildings in the town and further afield.

By the beginning of the 19th century as many as thirty mills were recorded along the Painswick Stream in the valley bottom, all but one engaged in the cloth industry. However, the introduction of steam-power and the development elsewhere of huge mills which functioned as factories at this time saw the rapid decline of Painswick's cloth industry.

HAND PRINTED FURNISHING STUFFS

TWO WEEKS EXHIBITION AT THE LITTLE GALLERY THREE BELLIS STREET SOHAM, STREET S.W. 1 THE WORK OF PHYLIS BARRON AND DOROTHY LARCHER OF PAINSWICK IN THE COTSWOLDS. OCTOBER 18 TO 30

In the first half of the 20th century many notable artists in the Arts and Crafts movement were active in Painswick particularly in the fields of fabric design and architecture. Several examples of such architecture can be seen in and around the town.

From at least the 16th century Painswick's wool cloth industry guaranteed its prosperity. Cotswold cloth was considered to be the best and during the 18th century especially Painswick's success in cloth making resulted in great wealth for some families.

There are several impressive houses in the town bearing testimony to that wealth. However, many others working for pitifully low wages in the industry endured humiliating poverty, living in cramped conditions in tiny cottages, often in receipt of Poor Relief or sometimes consigned to the town's Poor House.

Many of the processes, such as spinning and weaving, took place in the cottages. The wool was brought up from the mills by pack horses and some original 'donkey doors' can still be seen in Bisley Street.

Within a few years some of the mills had been converted into factories, initially making walking sticks and umbrella handles, but eventually producing pins of all types. Pin manufacture in Painswick developed on a big scale and by 1904 the three companies involved together produced more pins, hairpins and hooks and eyes than were produced in any other one place in the world. It was a major industry in Painswick for some 130 years.

Cloth and pin making in the mills and quarrying provided employment for the people of Painswick for more than 450 years.

Legend has it that the air hereabouts is so pure that the locals enjoy an extended old age. There are rhymes recording extreme longevity. Other tales tell of an ongoing feud between Painswick and Stroud youths long ago and an unfortunate occasion when one of the local Inns served puppy-dog pie, that is pie allegedly filled with the meat from a puppy, to visitors from Stroud. Hence the name Bow-wows given to those born and bred in Painswick.

There are 5 further information boards at the locations indicated on the map. For further information about Painswick please scan barcode:

Images courtesy of: The Charman, Patchwork Mouse, The Royal Oak, Painswick Post Office, Olives Delicatessen, Painswick Handreaser, Given Welch, Stroud District Council

One of Painswick Local History Society's information boards.

Liz Jack's Literary Reviews

Painswick and the Great War

By Carol Maxwell and Peter Jackson

Many such books published over the past couple of years have concentrated on recording the lives of those listed on their local war memorial and those who fought in the Great War. This book, however, looks in much greater depth at the events that happened between 1914 and 1918 and the impact on the community of Painswick.

The book consists of 82 pages, illustrated by a wide range of pictures, some of which are in colour, including photographs of those who died, military documents, pictures of postcards sent home, newspaper cuttings, posters, sketches, cartoons, local photographs, maps, charts and statistical tables. There are two appendices, one on general statistics of the war, the other on the medals awarded for service during the conflict.

After a general introduction, referring to a time of great sadness for some residents but prosperity for others, the authors have used quotes from local newspapers and parish magazines to demonstrate the patriotic propaganda used to encourage the young men of Painswick to enlist, and the women to support them.

On the 9th September 1914, the first Belgian refugees arrived in the county, virtually empty-handed, and, by November, 65 refugees had reached Painswick where the community was required to find accommodation, food, clothing and work for the newcomers. Records for Painswick School show that 8 Belgian girls were in attendance whereas two boys were sent to Marling School, in Stroud. To provide work for the men who had arrived from Belgium, the Painswick war committee opened up Kings Mill and turned it into a chair making factory, employing the men, many of whom were wood workers. One refugee, Monsieur Alphonse Bal, carved the decorative part of the war memorial screen in St Mary's Church.

The book continues, with sections on the serving men, making good use of press reports bringing news from the front, information on the wounded and the care they received, plus a detailed analysis of the age of the recruits, their previous occupations and where they lived in the village.

A large section, entitled 'Meanwhile in Painswick ...' discusses life at home and covers every

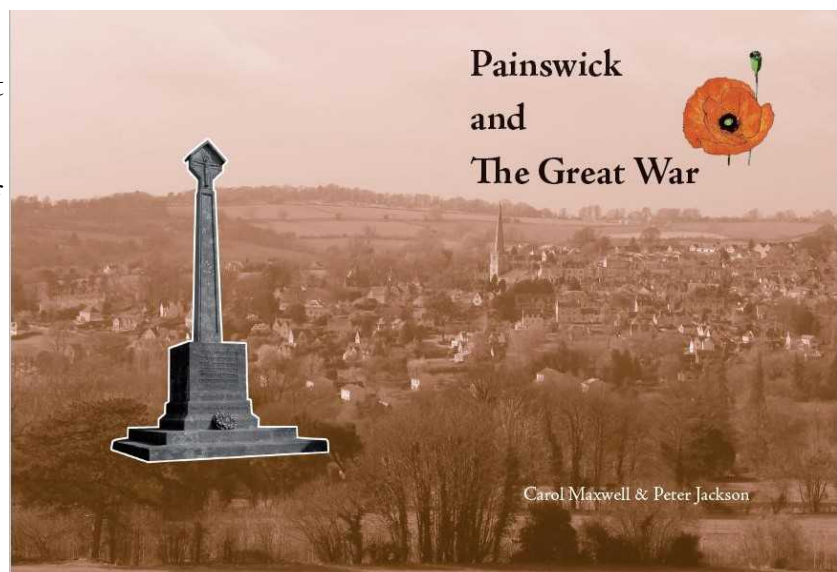
conceivable aspect from committees and rationing to land girls, mill and factory workers. There is a delightful section on 'The Chronicle of Painswick Platoon' including 'In that day, the Elders of Painswick took counsel together saying: "Let us send into all the Country round about and form companies of Ancient Warriors and of such as cannot go forth to fight the Great Beast in foreign parts."'

Copies of postcards sent home by Ted West, some of them of places where he was serving and others hand-drawn, illustrate the soldier's determination to remain cheerful and not worry his wife and daughter. One shows Ted's drawing of the outside of their dugout and mentions 30 steps down to his living quarters!

The book then covers the wounded and those discharged as unfit to serve, listing the various reasons why – a sad glimpse at what the soldiers actually suffered. Next comes the section of nearly 50 Painswick men who died, and the Roll of Honour, with photos of some of the men and some of the Commonwealth War Graves to be found in the churchyard. Finally, there is a short section on Willoughby Dickinson and his movement for world peace, through The World Council of Churches and the League of Nations.

This book is on sale at three venues in Painswick: at the Painswick Pharmacy, the Painswick Community Library and the 'Patchwork Mouse'. It is also on sale at the Stroud TIC and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester. It can also be obtained by contacting Carol Maxwell (carolmaxwell@talktalk.net; Tel: 01452 813387).

'Painswick and the Great War' may be a relatively small book but it is absolutely packed full of interesting insights into the life of a Gloucestershire village during the 'war to end all wars'. A fascinating read!



A Noble Band of Heroes

By John Dixon and others

Published by Tewkesbury Historical Society, 2015; ISSN: 1742-6030.

This very comprehensive book has been produced as a commemoration of those from Tewkesbury who lost their lives during the Great War. It consists of over 300 high-quality pages of text and maps together with many photographs, some black and white, some colour.

The book is divided into five sections:

1. **Introduction: The Great War** The first section gives the background to how this book came into being and an explanation of the use of the term ‘The Great War’.
2. **Tewkesbury’s Memorials** This brief section shows how, to begin with, newspaper items listing those who were serving in the armed forces were produced, followed by Rolls of Honour, but these were later replaced by more permanent memorials, in schools, churches and organisations leading to the unveiling of the Tewkesbury War Memorial on 7th May 1922.
3. **The War through the Eyes of the Combatants** Apart from the later collection of individual biographies, this section occupies the largest part of the book. Beginning with a short synopsis of events of the war as a whole, this section is divided into the events of each of the four years of the war and the later consequences. Each year starts with a list of dates and a map of the relevant area of conflict; the following text describes the events of that period, particularly from the point of view of the Tewkesburians involved; each section is well illustrated with images of postcards, posters and photographs. Throughout, footnotes are included giving the sources of various pieces of information.

Although the First World War was mainly one fought by soldiers in the Army, information on naval and aerial warfare is also covered. Details of the various campaigns during the war are also described.

A postscript demonstrates that war does not end for the participants exactly when the armistice is signed. Despite the ‘miraculous change’ written about by the Vicar of Tewkesbury in December 1918, life had not returned to normal. The wounded, their nurses (including the

one female death) and the hospitals, the ensuing unemployment, the Spanish Influenza pandemic, those who were awarded gallantry medals and those who were omitted from the war memorials – all receive mention in the final part of this section.

4. **Appendices** Often placed at the end of the book but here found towards the middle, this section contains the appendices and indices. Military terms, ranks and units are explained and medals described and illustrated. People not included in the biographies of those who died, from Kitchener to Kaiser William II, not forgetting lesser mortals such as Mrs Mary Letitia Didcote who unveiled the town's War Memorial, and Sergeant R G Williams who sent a poem home from the front, have their place here.

Indices to the people, regiments and places mentioned in the first half of the book are given here, followed by a list of the biographies in the second part of the book.

5. **Biographies of 'Our Noble Band of Heroes'** This section fills over half of the book. It is a collection of biographies of all who died in the Great War. Each soldier, whether volunteer or conscript, whatever their rank, is given his (or her) own page, organised by alphabetical order of surname.

Across the top of each page is a banner containing the full name and rank of the soldier, their Army number and regiment, when and where they died, where they are buried and commemorated.

Beneath the banner are two or three photographs for each soldier; these pictures include photographs of the cemetery or grave where the person was buried, the regimental badge, an image of one of the medals one and frequently, a picture of the soldier himself.

The rest of each page consists of details of the life of each soldier, their family, childhood, school and religious life; this is followed by their enlistment and experiences before and during the First World War and how and where they died.

This prodigious work is the result of the efforts of several people to whom John Dixon gives thanks. Congratulations to all involved; it must have been a mammoth task. An amazing amount of research has been put into all sections of the book; the result is exceptional. So many different aspects have

been covered. It will be of interest to all those who know and love Tewkesbury, but especially to the military historians.

The book is available from www.ths.freeuk.com price £14 plus p&p or from Alison's Bookshop, High Street, Tewkesbury for £15.

Liz Jack