

Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to our fourteenth newsletter, keeping you in touch with the work of the County History Trust. We hope you have kept safe and well during the past six months. The reports here are clear evidence that the work of the Trust and its historians has not stopped during the lockdowns. Thank you to all of you who support our work financially as without you nothing would be possible. If you feel able to join them, then our coordinator would be very pleased to hear from you!

Sadly this edition starts with a tribute to John Juřica who passed away in December. John was a great help to the Trust, especially in its early days, and we are grateful that Simon Draper, who worked with John on VCH Gloucestershire, has agreed to write the tribute.

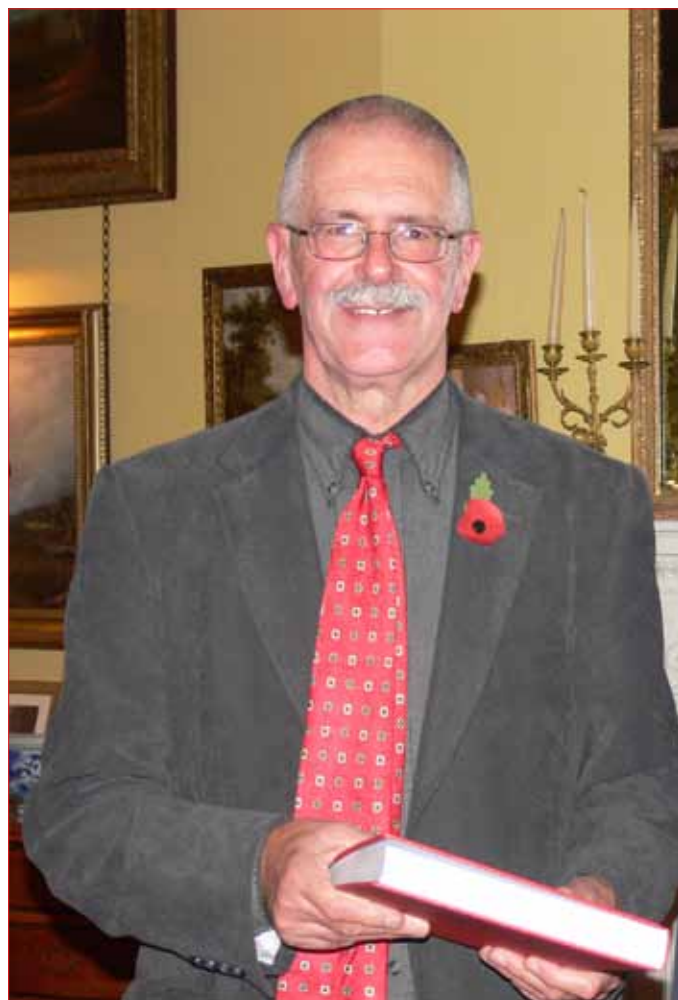
As usual, my thanks go to Jan Broadway for contacting contributors and distributing the digital version of the newsletter and also to John Chandler for the excellent production and to all the contributors, without whom the newsletter would not exist. We hope you find our fourteenth newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any comments or further ideas, please let me know: dhaldred@btinternet.com.

David Aldred

John Juřica

John studied History at Birmingham University. His first academic post, in the early 1970s, was as a Research Assistant at the University of Exeter. Whilst still working on his PhD on the knights of Somerset, which he completed in 1976, he moved

to Gloucestershire to take up the post of Assistant Editor on VCH Gloucestershire in 1973. John's employment on the project in the county spanned some 37 years, during which time he edited the *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* from 1994 to 2009, and he was honoured with three years as its Vice-President from 2011. As well as editing the Society's journal, John edited the much-used book *The Register of Gloucester Freeman* in 1991 for the society's Gloucestershire Record Series.



During his 37 years he wrote the histories of an incredible 47 parishes, published in seven volumes of the Big Red Book. These included rural parishes principally in the Stroud valleys, eastern

VCH Gloucestershire

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Cotswolds and Forest of Dean, as well as towns such as Fairford, Mitcheldean and Coleford. One of his most significant contributions, however, was the chapter 'Gloucester 1835-1985' in the Gloucester City volume (Volume 4), published in 1988.

I arrived on the scene in January 2007, firstly as his Research Assistant working on Bromesberrow parish (where our first fieldwork together was conducted in a blizzard!), and a few months later as Assistant Editor when he was promoted to Editor. As County Editor from 2007, he edited *Volume 12: Newent and May Hill* published in 2010 and afterwards co-edited with Dr John Chandler *Volume 13: The Vale of Gloucester and Leadon Valley*, published in 2016. From 1996 until 2010 all Gloucestershire VCH staff (including myself) had to dedicate some of their time to teaching at the University of Gloucestershire, and John supervised several students in their dissertations or theses on a wide range of topics

relating to Gloucestershire's history. When the funding for the VCH from the university and the county council ceased in 2010, the current Trust was set up to provide the project with continuity. Although John had retired, the Trust will be forever grateful that he continued to give of his expertise and knowledge to ensure that it was meeting the VCH approaches to researching and writing, especially in the early years.

I am eternally grateful for the three years he and I spent together in our little room at Gloucestershire Archives, and I greatly miss our morning chats over coffee, often accompanied by his famous carrot cake, and about music rather than history (John was an accomplished piano player). I particularly admired his quiet and stolid resilience when it became apparent that his health was failing him towards and beyond the end of his career. I will always remember John as a kind, understanding and generous colleague and friend who gave so much to the county's VCH.

Simon Draper



Cotswold Archaeology excavating Roman shops beneath the Cornhall, Cirencester in 2008 (©Cotswold Archaeology) see next page

Report from the Trust

Trying to pick a positive note that isn't going to look ill-founded by the time you read this is tricky, but let us hope that the roll-out of vaccines will soon allow elements of normality to return. Within the limits set by government, Heather Forbes and her team have worked hard to keep services going at the Heritage Hub whenever possible. Editors and volunteers alike have been most grateful for their efforts – inability to access archives has been the single biggest brake on VCH progress. 2020 closed on a melancholy note, with the sad news of the death of John Juřica on Christmas Eve.

Despite all the setbacks, we can nevertheless chalk up progress during 2020 in all three of our current project areas! The Cirencester work has taken several leaps forward, with not only the delivery of drafts on Bagendon and Daglingworth (a round of applause for Alex Craven, please) but also the two special additions to Volume 16. These are Professor Tim Darvill's overview of the pre-history of Cirencester and its hinterland, which will dovetail neatly with Neil Holbrook's essay on Corinium, showing how the Roman town not only reflected earlier settlement in the area, but also shaped (to some extent) the pre-Conquest town. Having these two contributions, from the primary experts in their fields, is a huge bonus, for which we are immensely grateful. They will make the eventual Big Red Book very special.

Going south to Volume 14 territory, the first sod of the history of West Littleton history was turned on 1 October, when Simon Draper, 'borrowed' from the Oxfordshire VCH team, began in earnest, having scoped the potential sources earlier in the year. The manorial descent of the parish – closely allied to those of neighbouring Tormarton and Acton Turville – has already been drafted by Simon, and John Chandler has prepared the section on landscape history. I'm pleased to report that our generous sponsors in the village – without whom we could never had made a start – are happy with the early results. We've also benefited from 'Member-Awarded' funding from two local councillors, continuing a fine South Gloucestershire tradition of cultural support, going back to our initial work on Yate.

Coming back north to Volume 15 Cheltenham, there are two developments to report. John Chandler has been able to use lockdown time to make considerable headway with Swindon Village, the task being made easier by the extensive notes compiled by an earlier local historian, Colonel Grazebrook. Together with the work by Sally Self and helpers on



John Chandler and Simon Draper plan their research on West Littleton in October (James Hodsdon)

20th-century market garden and retail developments in Swindon, we shall soon be able to put a tick by that part of the job (a pencil tick, at least).

After the failure (due to lockdown) of an earlier initiative to engage a young academic to research medieval Leckhampton, we are currently in the process of a formal recruitment exercise to appoint someone for a year to do the complete history of the parish. I hope we'll be able to announce a name soon. *[see Stop Press, p. 11 below]* It is of course a matter of great regret that John Juřica, a long-time Leckhampton resident, is no longer around to be consulted.

2020 was not kind to universities generally. The School of Advanced Studies at the University of London, home to the Institute of Historical Research and the VCH team, has been under particular financial pressure (it simply doesn't have the numbers of fee-paying students that undergraduate-centred colleges have), which translates to fewer people having to cover more tasks. The need to save money has galvanised efforts to come up with a new publishing model for VCH Big Red Books and the paperback Shorts, and it was announced in November that the way forward will be a print-on-demand system, managed by the UoL in-house publications team. Suffice to say that we shall be very interested to see how this works out in practice, and secretly relieved that we're not going to be the first ones through the new system. We are assured that under the new system, the appearance of the volume

content will be unchanged; and we can have as much colour as necessary, which will improve the mapping considerably. In future, counties such as ours will be spared the additional cost of getting older volumes digitised for mounting on British History Online, which is clearly a plus.

I'll close with heartfelt thanks to all who have helped keep the VCH Glos show on the road in 2020. Even if hardly anything went exactly according to plan, a good few things (as outlined above and elsewhere in this newsletter) have made progress, despite or sometimes because of lockdown, so we still have numerous reasons to be cheerful. We can embark on 2021 in good heart, and look forward to a rather more social year before too long.

James Hodsdon

James Hodsdon
Chairman

From our County Co-ordinator

Collecting comments and corrections

The project now has drafts available online via our website <https://www.vchgloucsacademy.org/index.html> for each of the three volumes currently underway. We hope that local experts will read and comment on the drafts. If you would like a printed copy of a draft, please contact us at vchgloucs@gmail.com or VCH Gloucestershire, c/o Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW.

VOLUME 14 YATE AND THE SODBURYS

Chipping Sodbury
Little Sodbury
Old Sodbury

VOLUME 15 CHELTENHAM

Cheltenham by period:

1738-1852
1852-1945
1945-2020

Cheltenham themes:

Charities for the Poor
Communications
Education
Parliamentary representation
Sport

VOLUME 16 CIRENCESTER

Prehistory in the Cirencester area

Cirencester Abbey

Cirencester

Medieval

1540-1825

1825-1945

Since 1945

Stratton

Baunton

Daglingworth

Bagendon

The drafts are posted as PDFs, so that references to pages and line numbers will be consistent. A version number is included in the page header. It is helpful if people include this with their comments, so we know which version is being referenced should more than one be in circulation. Comments can be sent by e-mail to vchgloucs@gmail.com or, if you prefer, by post c/o Gloucestershire Archives.

If you send us comments and corrections, please don't be offended if we seem to do nothing with them for some time. Your contributions are collated as they arrive and the editors will consider all comments when they come to revise each draft. If a draft includes an egregious error, which you consider needs correcting urgently, please alert us to it.

Jan Broadway

Co-ordinator, VCH Gloucestershire

Updates from the Volumes

Volume 14: South Gloucestershire

WEST LITTLETON'S NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONNECTION

When starting out on VCH research for a Gloucestershire parish one wouldn't normally look to Nottinghamshire for key documentary sources. Nevertheless, Nottinghamshire Archives has significant holdings on West Littleton, as does Welbeck Abbey – one of the four 'dukeries' in north Nottinghamshire – whose estate archivist has kindly supplied digital images of a splendid colour map of the parish made in 1637 by William Senior, 'professor of Arithmetique both natureall & artificial'. The map is part of the 'Welbeck Atlas' made for the earl of Newcastle, and therein lies a clue to West Littleton's Nottinghamshire connection. (See the next report. Ed)



There are more sheep in West Littleton than people! (John Chandler)

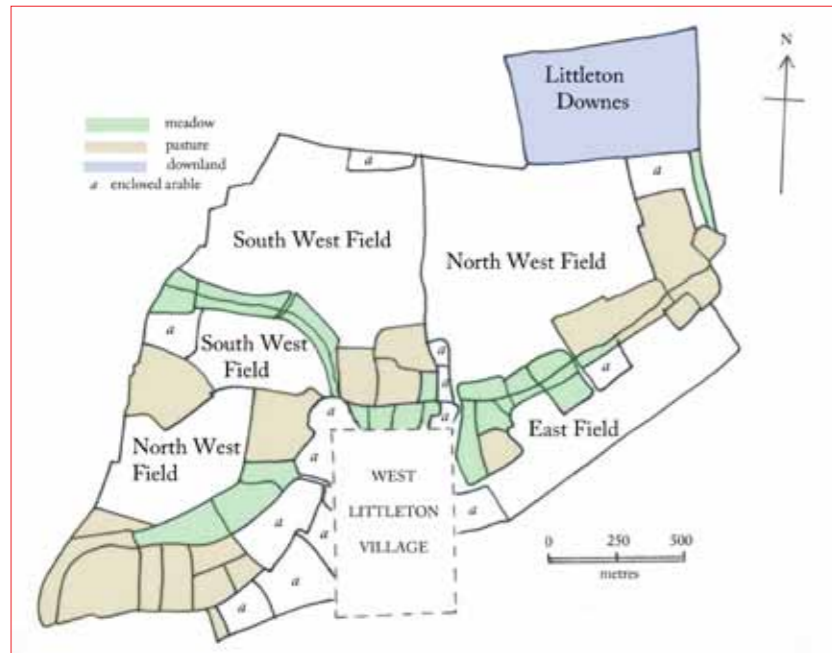
Throughout the Middle Ages West Littleton formed part of Tormarton's larger manor and parish. One of the earliest recorded lords was one Matthew (or Maihel) of Tormarton, who saw his lands confiscated c.1150 for killing a man in a duel. He was the father of the family later surnamed de la River of Tormarton, of whom Sir John gained both the manor and rectory of neighbouring Acton Turville, annexing the latter in 1344 to his newly-founded chantry in Tormarton parish church, where Sir John's monumental brass can still be seen. Tormarton manor (including both West Littleton and Acton Turville) continued in the de la River family for a further century until the last of the family Isabel married Sir John St Loe (d. 1499) of Sutton near Chew Magna in Somerset. His great grandson was Sir William St Loe, an MP and royal officeholder (Elizabeth I's captain of the guard by 1558), whom history remembers for his second marriage to Elizabeth Cavendish, better known as the redoubtable 'Bess of Hardwick', to whom Sir William left all his estates.

Bess, who is perhaps best known for her associations with both Chatsworth House and Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, kept the greater Tormarton manor until her death in 1608, the year of a survey in Nottinghamshire Archives showing it to have been worth £279 a year to her. Afterwards it belonged to her nephew Sir Charles Cavendish of Welbeck Abbey, a former Premonstratensian monastery near Worksop which he rebuilt as his family seat. His son and heir William was the person

for whom the 'Welbeck Atlas' was made, having been created Viscount Mansfield in 1620, earl of Newcastle in 1628, marquess of Newcastle in 1643 and eventually duke of Newcastle in 1665. As a prominent Royalist, however, he suffered during the Commonwealth, when Tormarton was sold by Parliament to the regicide Edward Whalley. William recovered it in 1660, but sold it soon afterwards, thus ending a period of some 60 years during which the fortunes of Welbeck and West Littleton were intertwined. Much of the Welbeck Abbey estate archive has since found its way into Nottinghamshire Archives, but some choice items (notably the 'Atlas') stayed behind.

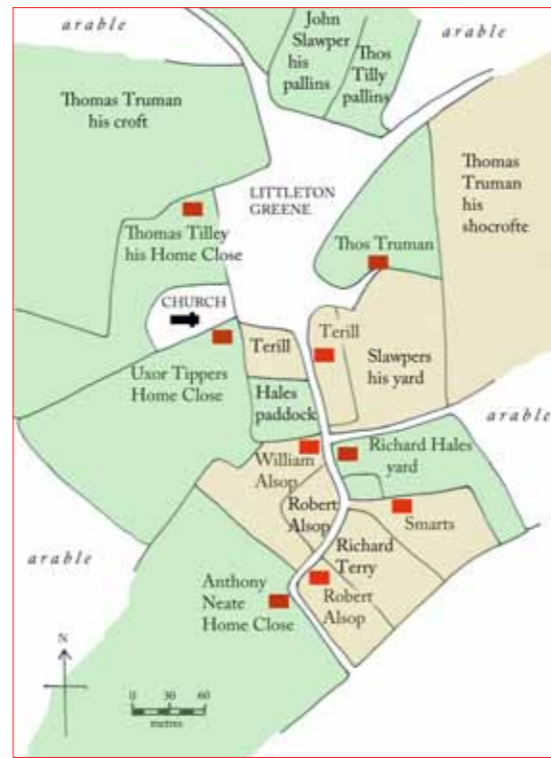
A remarkable monument to Tormarton, West Littleton and Acton Turville's time as part of the distant Welbeck Abbey estate can be found in Tormarton parish church, where a stone tablet bears the following poetic epitaph to William Cavendish's long-serving estate steward who died in 1663: 'Here Gabriell Russell lies/ whose watchful Eyes/ were William, Marquess of Newcastle's spies./ Over three Parishes his onely Hands/ were here entrusted with his Lordships Lands./ Full ninty yeares my Father and I/ were Servants to that Nobylity/ but all that knew them did them Witness bare/ of their just dealings Loyalty and Care.'

Simon Draper



AN ELUSIVE MAP OF WEST LITTLETON

Early on in our work on West Littleton, Simon and I became aware of a few relevant documents and a very early (1637) map of the parish held at Nottinghamshire Archives. As I quite frequently pass up and down the M1 I arranged to visit Nottingham. The map was and is superb – but the problem was that it is part of an atlas held at Welbeck Abbey, which is closed to visitors, and the Archives only had a 35mm slide of it which had to be consulted with the aid of a microfiche reader, and no copying was allowed. Somewhat frustrated I made notes and sketches of it, but little of the legend – who owned which close and building – was at all legible. A few weeks later I visited a local historian in Marshfield, who did have a photographic copy of the map, and I was able to photograph it, but the quality was no better – it was taken, I think, from a similar slide in Bristol Archives. Next step was to write to Welbeck Abbey. The recently appointed archivist there was very friendly and helpful, but couldn't let me visit to see the map at present. She passed my enquiry to a colleague in charge of photography, however, who almost immediately sent me high resolution pdf files not only of the West Littleton map, but also of its companions for Acton Turville and Tormarton (which we are also covering in Volume 14) from the same atlas. She was able to do this because she had been involved in preparing an edition of the atlas for the Thoroton Society's Record Series – and this was published in 2017. Had I discovered that



in the first place I could have saved myself a lot of trouble!

When our work on Volume 14 is nearing completion I have no doubt that we shall try to obtain permission to include reproductions of these fine and important maps in it. Meanwhile they remain strictly copyright and so I cannot show you them in this newsletter. But I have made sketches derived from the West Littleton map to accompany the draft text, and this will give you some idea.

The village (which although close to the Bath motorway junction seems very remote) in 1637 consisted of a church and just nine houses around a green and the lane leading away from it to the south – it is not much different today. The map appears to tell us who lived in each house, and the whereabouts of closes and paddocks that belonged to them. It also shows the arrangement of the open fields, the parcels of inclosed arable land, and the meadowland and pasture along the streams. The field names seem bizarre – the south-west field is at the north-western corner of the parish, the north-west field is to the north-east (and a bit of it is south-west), and the east field is south-east. To make matters worse the original map (but not my sketch) follows the convention of the time, and is oriented with south at the top. Not that I'm complaining – it's a rare and wonderful resource.

John Chandler

Volume 15: Cheltenham and surrounding parishes

PATE'S AND SWINDON VILLAGE



Richard Pate (who clearly missed the how-to-wear-a-face-mask video) founded his grammar school in Cheltenham in 1574. Twelve years later, he granted dozens of Gloucestershire properties to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in trust for the benefit of both the school and the alms house he also set up. These properties had come into Pate's hands as a result of his appointment as a Chantry Commissioner in the late 1540s; his task being to help take under crown control all the assets of the smaller religious foundations left after the major dissolution a decade earlier. Former chantry holdings in Cheltenham and Gloucester made up most of the Pate foundation grant.

Of these, some 26 had belonged to the two chantries of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St Katharine, both serving the parish church of Cheltenham. The properties would typically have originated as pious bequests made by the faithful over the years, their rental income going firstly towards the maintenance of prayers for the departed, but also for local schooling. Many of the properties were burgage plots in the heart of Cheltenham, and it has generally been assumed that the remainder, mostly arable or pasture, were all in Cheltenham too; indeed, the 1586 Act governing the endowment of Pate's grammar school and almshouse implies as much: '... all the which premises ... lying and being within the parish of Cheltenham'.

However, fact-checking for the VCH chapter on Swindon village now shows otherwise. Recent examination of the earliest Pate's Charity rent roll, which starts in the foundation year of 1586, shows an entry for

Ellinor Foxe widow, for one Close called the Rames, with the appurtenances somtyme in the tenure of John Kemett; and for one tenement thereupon newly builded, with certen errable lands thereunto belonging.

Later entries put it beyond doubt that this particular holding was in Swindon, and it becomes clear that it is in fact the same close as is mentioned more briefly among the endowment properties listed in the 1586 Act:

all that close called the Rames, with the appurtenances, then or late before in the occupation of John Kemit.

So, at least one of the endowment holdings was *not* in Cheltenham parish. In later years the Swindon holding consisted of several small pieces of land amounting to just over 5 acres, and it would be safe to assume this was the area of the original Rames close and its arable lands. Tracking the field names through to the 1839 tithe survey, it can be seen the plots all lie north-east of the village centre, in the direction of Brockhampton. The College continued to let out the properties until 1862, when the last tenant John Surman Surman (yes, really!) bought them outright, adding further to his Swindon Hall estate.

Solving this one little puzzle of land ownership in Swindon raises again the dream of properly identifying and locating *all* the properties once belonging to the two chantries in Cheltenham. Their former chantry association is often mentioned in later Tudor records, but the challenge of reconciling property descriptions expressed as abutments, with actual maps, remains daunting.

James Hodsdon

We're indebted to the Corpus archivist, Julian Reid, for kindly making digital extracts of the Pate's Charity records available for study.

BEDLAM FULFILLED

The southern part of Swindon parish, once known as Bedlam and now engulfed by the Kingsditch trading estate (so still Bedlam sometimes), has been the subject of intensive local study (as newsletter readers will recall) by Sally Self, with help from Eileen Allen and others. In and out of lockdown at the Hub Sally has battled on and now completed her task, which will supply a very valuable contribution to the VCH parish history of Swindon. Some of the research will also feed into a paper for the Cheltenham Local History Society *Journal*, and – to an even wider audience – an article in the *Local Historian*, which is scheduled to appear in the July 2021 issue.

John Chandler

Volume 16: Cirencester and surrounding parishes

I am pleased to report that just before Christmas I was able to deliver a completed draft of the history of Bagendon to the Trust. It has since been uploaded to the Academy website alongside the draft for Daglingworth, which was uploaded in November.

One of the obvious challenges to writing for the VCH during the periods of lockdown was the closure of the archives. Fortunately, I had already photographed many documents at Gloucestershire Archives before the first lockdown was imposed, but much remained unseen, and had to wait until archives began to reopen later in the summer. Indeed, the archive at Longleat, which hold many records relating to 17th- and 18th-century



Daglingworth in the late nineteenth century (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

Bagendon, has still not re-opened, and for much of the period its staff have not even been able to answer queries by email. Of course, these are challenges that have been faced by all researchers during this difficult year, and it was a genuine pleasure to be re-united with our friends at Alvin Street when Gloucestershire Archives reopened in July.

Because of the pandemic, Bagendon and Daglingworth are the first histories I have written for VCH without undertaking significant amounts of fieldwork in the parishes. Indeed, the sum total of my fieldwork for both parishes amounts to a short drive through both parishes one evening in the Autumn of 2019, and a walk through Daglingworth village with my young family early in 2020. Fortunately, this lack of personal familiarity with the places is less of an impediment than it would once have been, the range of technological alternatives being quite excellent. Many experienced researchers will be familiar already with the National Library of Scotland's comprehensive collection of Ordnance Survey maps, including the first



A virtual 3D landscape of Bagendon (Imagery ©2021 Google)



Street view of Daglingworth House and church (Image capture ©2021 Google)

edition of the 6 inch and 25 inch Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of the UK. 'Know Your Place: Gloucestershire' also provides early OS maps, as well as a selection of enclosure and title award maps for Gloucestershire's parishes. Another function of the NLS map collection that has proved invaluable in the absence of actual visits on location is the ability to render maps in 3D. Similarly, Google Earth enables one to explore recent satellite imagery in 3D, and Google Street View enabled me to metaphorically "drive" down the streets and lanes of each village, examining in detail the fields and buildings that lay alongside. Of course, nothing can replace the insight one receives by walking the fields and tracks of the parishes we study, but together these two resources have helped to give me a real sense of the landscape of the two parishes and their setting.

Another casualty of the pandemic was the opportunity to meet with other VCH researchers at the Institute of Historical Research in London for our regular meetings. Once again, digital technology has helped to fill the breach, with the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community (the VCH's home at the IHR) providing seminar papers, online training sessions, and even a mini conference via Zoom. All of these events were recorded and can be accessed for free on the CHPPC's website (<https://www.history.ac.uk/chppc-events-archiv>). I particularly recommend Professors Susan Oosthuizen's and Angus Winchester's training session on historic settlement patterns.

Of course, more traditional media remained essential for completing research. Bagendon was particularly fortunate in having had two resident

historians during the 20th century. The first of these, chronologically, was the rector, Reverend George Rees, who served as the incumbent of the parish twice, between 1881 and 1890, and again from 1919 until 1936. His history of the parish, published in 1932, benefitted both from his long personal association with it, and from the recollections of the older villagers he had known as a young cleric, providing a diverting store of anecdotes and sketch biographies of prominent parishioners which stretched back to before the reign of Victoria. My favourite of his characters is another former incumbent of the parish, Reverend John Lewis Bythesea, rector from 1800 until his death in 1845. Representing the last vestiges of the ancient régime that elsewhere was being swept away by the new century, he acted more like the squire than the rector. Deeming the thatched and lime-washed rectory as unfit for human habitation, he purchased an estate within the parish on which he had built a grand mansion, now called Bagendon House. Nevertheless, the old rectory was not in fact too squalid to accommodate his curates there! Preferring to ride across his lands or to join the local hunt, even in his mid-80s, he was said to have dispatched one of his servants to the church every Sunday with a bag of sixpences, to dissuade parishioners from attending that day. Of course, as the news of this practice circulated through the neighbourhood, the size of the congregation presenting themselves for discouragement grew considerably!

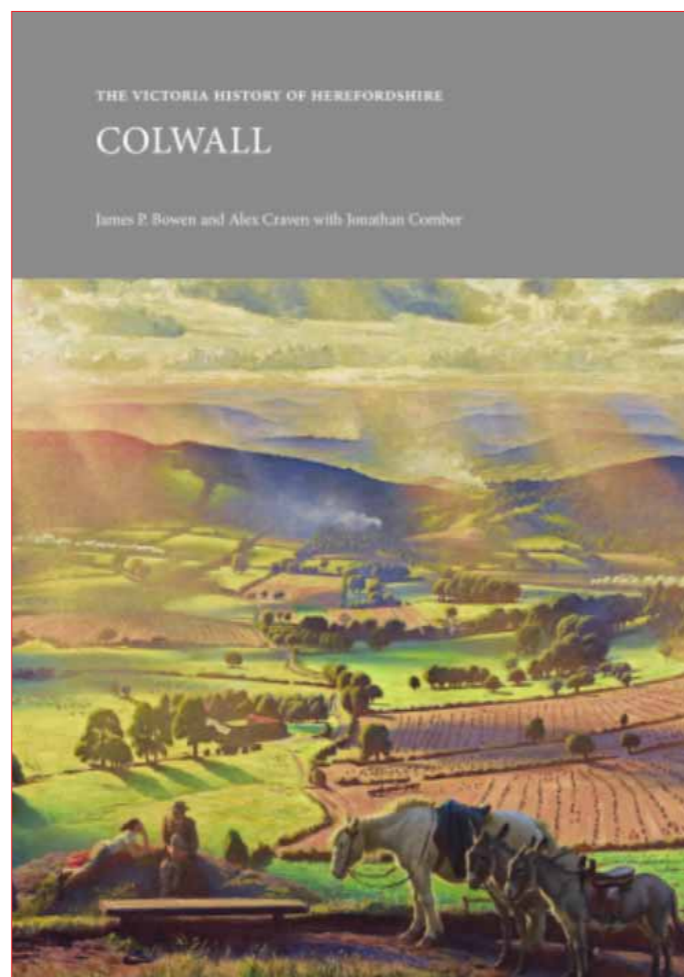
The second of the parish's historians was Joyce Barker, a prominent member of the Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society until her death in 1996, who was born at Trinity Mill in Bagendon in 1912. Her family had worked the mill since at least the 1880s, and they purchased the mill in 1929. Joyce turned her considerable expertise to producing a full history of the mill, an abbreviated version of which was published by the Gloucestershire Local History Association. For Daglingworth, a short history of the parish was published by Olive Griffiths in 1950, with a separate section on the Roman period by Jocelyn Toynbee, but despite being authoritative and well referenced, it lacked the familiarity that a resident could bring to the subject, furnishing only with commonplace observations about the tranquillity and continuity of rural life in post-war Gloucestershire. Hopefully my new histories of the two parishes will provide residents with as much pleasure as I am sure these previous accounts did.

Alex Craven

An update from across the border: VCH Herefordshire

The latest VCH Short for Herefordshire, covering the parish of Colwall, was published during the first lockdown. This 138-page book includes a chapter on the Iron Age Hillfort of British Camp as well as covering the reputed link of Piers Plowman to Colwall, the bottling of Malvern Water at a Schweppes factory in the village, the difficulties of constructing railway tunnels through the Malvern Hills and the association that poets and artists such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Dame Laura Knight have with Colwall. The front cover of the book reproduces a Laura Knight painting. Copies can be obtained for £14 plus P&P from me at <mailto:research@vchherefsresearch.org>. Subject to Covid 19 restrictions I can hand-deliver copies to the archives in Gloucester. However, this will probably have to wait until the present lockdown ends.

Good progress is being made on the next parish of Cradley. A first initial draft has been produced by Anastasia Stylianou and Fergus Eskola-Oakes. This now needs to be edited as well as going through peer review and Central Office's checks, but we hope



that this will be published as a Short in the next year or so. In early 2021, Herefordshire will look to let a contract for the next two parishes, which are the small parishes of Coddington and Donnington, as we think we have the funds to do this. Then it is just Mathon (including the majority of West Malvern) and revisiting Ledbury to fill in the topics that weren't covered in the two books in the VCH series *England's Past for Everyone*, which were published on this market town in 2009 and 2010, before Herefordshire can have its first red book since 1908!

Jonathan Comber

VCH people honoured

We are pleased to be able to report that the recently retired editor of VCH Staffordshire, **Nigel Tringham**, was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list. As well as a long career with the VCH (he has edited his county's four most recent volumes) Nigel has run the Keele Latin and Palaeography Summer School, edited Staffordshire's *Transactions* (for 38 years) and its record series, and served for many years as a trustee and committee chairman of the BALH.

John Beckett, also recently retired - from his academic post as professor of history at Nottingham University, where he has taught since 1979 - has been honoured with a festschrift by the Thoroton Society, whose council he chaired for 28 years. Between 2005 and 2010 he was seconded from his university to be director of the VCH, and travelled tirelessly around the country promoting its work and encouraging dormant and faltering counties to continue or restart. He was instrumental in guiding the England's *Past for Everyone*, a Heritage Lottery Fund funded project, which breathed new life into a faltering VCH.

John Chandler

Stop press

We are delighted to welcome Dr Louise Ryland-Epton as our researcher for the parish of Leckhampton. A Gloucestershire native and resident, she has already contributed to our Cirencester volume (on the workhouse) and for several years has been researching under contract for VCH Wiltshire. So far as current restrictions permit, she plans to begin work shortly.

Editor

Gloucestershire County History Trust

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