

## Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to our ninth newsletter, keeping you in touch with the work of the County History Trust. Our main item of news is the publication of the long-awaited Cheltenham Short, full details of which you can read below. This serves as a fitting tribute to John Chandler who served as our County Editor and then as Consultant Editor until his departure in January. The work of our contracted historians and our volunteers does not stand still, however, and you can read about their researches in this newsletter. We also have a tribute to John Loosley whose term as a Trustee has come to an end. John played a pivotal part in establishing the Trust in 2010. Finally, at the end of this newsletter you will find statements on our Data Protection and Privacy policies as required under the General Data Protection Regulation. These have also been posted on our website.

Once again, my thanks go to Jonathan Comber for collecting the various contributions, to John Chandler for the excellent production and to all the contributors. We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have any comments or further ideas, please let me know: [dhaldred@btinternet.com](mailto:dhaldred@btinternet.com).

*David Aldred*  
Editor

## John Loosley

*From James Hodsdon, our chairman:*

John Loosley, known to just about everyone in the Gloucestershire local history community, completed his third and final term as a Trustee in April. As committed historians ourselves, we thought it only right to record not only our warm thanks and best wishes, but also John's key role in setting up the



*John Loosley (Courtesy of Cotswold Archaeology)*

Trust in the first place. He has also been our Hon Sec for the past nine years, a role now taken over by David Aldred.

*From Nick Kingsley, a founding Trustee:*

The model established nationally for the operation of the Victoria County History after the Second World War, with research hosted and funded locally by local authorities and/or universities, and publication and specialist editorial input provided by the University of London Institute of Historical Research, came under increasing pressure in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and especially after public bodies felt the impact of 'Austerity' following the 2008 banking crisis.

Gloucestershire was not immune from these pressures, and as the time approached for the renewal of the partnership between the County Council and the University to meet the research

# VCH Gloucestershire

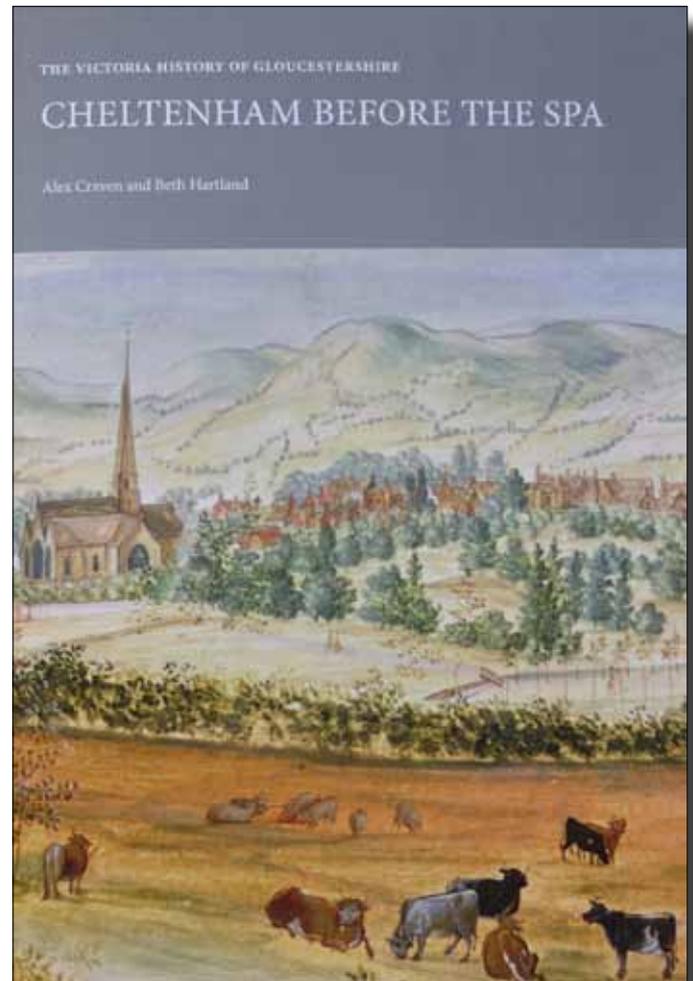
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costs of the Gloucestershire VCH, both parties made it clear that they would be unable to continue to provide funding for the project beyond October 2010. The Advisory Board of the project agreed that only by establishing an independent charitable trust was it likely that funds could be raised privately to support the continued operation of the VCH in the county, and it was John Loosley, as both a member of the Advisory Board and General Secretary of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, who agreed to take the initial steps to establish such a charity. He presented a draft trust deed to the final meeting of the Advisory Board in April 2010, approached those identified as potential patrons and trustees of the charity, and arranged for an inaugural meeting of the new body to be held at his house near Stroud on 31 July 2010. Following that meeting, at which the Trust's officers were first appointed, and our subsequent registration as a charity, the Trust took over responsibility for the VCH from the County Council and University.

In those early months, John played a critical rôle in liaising between the Trust, BGAS (which had agreed a donation of £25,000 over two years by May 2011), the County Record Office (now the Archives), and the former editorial staff, who continued to work on a voluntary basis to complete drafts in progress for Vol. 13. It was due in particular to his efforts that there was such a sense of continuity between the old and new management arrangements for the Gloucestershire VCH, and that disruption to the process of drafting Vol. 13 was minimised.

## *Cheltenham before the Spa out at last!*

The last stages of editorial work on the 'Cheltenham Short' – our second VCH paperback, covering Cheltenham's history from the year dot up to c.1740 - took longer than expected, but the final proof copy was approved in late June, and printing took place immediately after. Along with John Chandler, I feel I've scrutinised every comma and caption several times over, so it is a great relief to see the job finished at last. Obviously we hope that everyone agrees with us that the wait has been worth it, and that it will help spread the word about the VCH project in Cheltenham itself, and the surrounding area. The



Trust congratulates the authors Alex Craven and Beth Hartland on their achievement. As you will know, the planned hardback volume (VCH Glos Vol. 15) is to cover Swindon Village, Charlton Kings, Leckhampton and Up Hatherley, not to mention some updating of the Vol. 8 (1968) account of Prestbury, so there is a deal of work still to be done. And before the work comes the fundraising . . .

Details of the arrangements for the distribution of pre-ordered copies have been sent to everyone who pre-ordered. If you didn't pre-order at the special price of £9, there is limited additional stock available at £12 from the Trust at Gloucestershire Archives. This is still less than the regular retail price of £14 which we expect to apply if you order at a bookshop or online (preferably from the University of London publications website, [www.sas.ac.uk/publications](http://www.sas.ac.uk/publications), where it is also available as an e-book).

The initial print run is for 250 copies, of which over 150 will go to pre-orders, so thank you once again to all those who have supported us by signing up for a copy. As *Cheltenham before the Spa* is produced by a print-on-demand process, it will be a simple matter to order up more when (as I fervently hope!) the first run sells out.

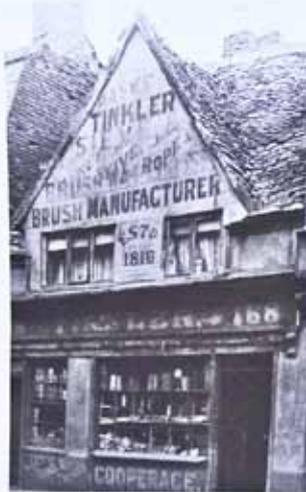


Figure 9 A number of properties in central Cheltenham conceal medieval timbers behind later facades. Tinkler's basket shop, photographed in 1931 and clearly untouched by any Regency makeover, must have been typical of many small businesses fronting the High Street at the head of a one-perch wide burgage plot. It was demolished in 1967.



Figure 10 This vignette, first appearing in an 1845 guidebook, served to depict the High Street in the pre-spa era. It has given rise to the mistaken belief that the river Chelt once flowed down the street. In fact, this watercourse was more akin to an open sewer – the woman is emptying slugs into it, not about to fill her jug – which was periodically flushed by diverting water from the Cambrey mill. This inevitably reduced the head of water available to drive the mill, and successive millers were reluctant to fulfil their obligations.



Figure 11 In this section of the 1806 enclosure map, the course of the 'common stream' is still visible, as a thin blue line following the contours behind the houses west of Barrett's mill. Water was periodically diverted along here, as over the High Street at today's Cambrey Place. Besides its cleansing function, it probably also supplied the horsepool, located near here from early medieval times until the mid 18th century. The last traces of this stream probably vanished when the Bath Road was formed in 1813.

Cambrey mill to the lower end of the town.<sup>28</sup> A boy drowned in the common stream in 1638.<sup>29</sup> There are references to a causeway or ridge-way, presumably the roadway running either side of the watercourse,<sup>30</sup> and there were bridges to enable access to the churchyard and the court house.<sup>31</sup> To the east of the rectory, the common stream was fed with water from the Chelt by a leat, and there was also a pond called the horse pool, the responsibility of those tenements on the north side of the street to the east of the rectory.<sup>32</sup> There was a well in the lower end of the town, presumably near Well Lane,<sup>33</sup> and another in the upper end of the town.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> In 1550 it was described as 'the common water course within the highway [regis arate]'. TNA, LR 3/21/2, m. 1v. In 1697 it was called 'the town channel that passes through the middle of the town': Hodson, *Court Books*, 48.

<sup>29</sup> GA, P78/1 EN 1/2, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> TNA, LR 3/21/2, m. 2; GA, D855/M2, p. 401 [marked p. 399]; D855/S9A, p. 144.

<sup>31</sup> GA, D855/M10, f. 77.

<sup>32</sup> GA, D855/M1, p. 25.

<sup>33</sup> GA, D855/M2, p. 403 [marked p. 399].

<sup>34</sup> GA, D855/S9A, p. 210.

The book will certainly feature at the Gloucester History Festival in September, and we shall look for other opportunities to promote it where we can.

James Hodsdon  
Chairman GCHT

(John Chandler has arranged to repeat his sold-out Literary Festival talk on Cheltenham at the Gloucester History Festival on 7 September. He is also organising another Scriptorium Tag on 12 September. See below in Heather Forbes' report for the details. Ed)

## Report from the Trust

As you might guess from the report above about the Cheltenham Short, this has been my main VCH focus over recent months. Because of domestic calls on my time lately, I've been a rather rare visitor to the airy spaces of Alvin Street – which means I appreciate the transformation even more when I do visit! I was pleased to hear recently that the Archives' staff plan to give the new 'VCH' room a very appropriate name (again, details are in Heather's report below. Ed).

However, I have been out and about a little – in May the VCH Advisory Board (a mixture of county, academic and other members) met for the first time since the energetic Prof Jo Fox's arrival at the Institute of Historical Research, the London home of the VCH Central Office. The atmosphere was entirely positive (unlike some other meetings of the same body in recent times...), though it will be a while before Jo can institute the various changes she seeks on matters that affect the whole of the IHR. An aspect of particular interest is the future policy on publications, and how much of Angus Winchester's recommendations are to be implemented.

In late June, Katy Layton-Jones and I met up in Cirencester to compare notes with knowledgeable people about local contacts in the villages, mostly north of Cirencester, now being researched for the completion of Vol. 16. We came away with some good leads, and now that Katy has made progress on the library/archive-based material, we are getting ready to get out and meet people. To my regret, no fresh work has been done on finding funding to complete Vol. 15 (Cheltenham), and I am hoping that publication of the Short will prompt the necessary action.

Finally, I'm delighted to record that John Chandler has accepted our invitation to become a Trustee. As I hardly need tell you, he brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience, and (as the Scriptorium Tag demonstrates) he has a wonderful way of coming up with new ideas that are not only interesting but also fun. We greatly look forward to working with him in this new role.

*James Hodsdon*

## From our County Co-ordinator

In a couple of months it'll be a quarter of a century since I first became aware of the VCH, as a new research student visiting Senate House for the first time. Since then I have used the Red Books extensively in my own research, particularly in tracing the background of gentry families across the country. I knew it was a valuable resource for certain kinds of enquiry, but had a limited grasp of the range and depth of the research in its volumes. Even when I was interviewed for jobs with the VCH in Gloucestershire, I didn't really appreciate the skills and expertise required of an editor. Fortunately for everyone I can very sincerely say that the better candidates (Simon Draper and John Chandler) got the jobs. Observing the editors at close quarters over the past few years I've developed a better understanding of the work, but there is nothing like doing it yourself to learn how challenging something really is.

Last autumn I went to see *The Death of Stalin* and was reminded how much 20th century history I studied as an undergraduate. With Alex Craven having moved on to The Sodburys, we needed an editor to complete the history of Cheltenham from 1945 to the current day. In a fit of what might be regarded as overweening self-confidence, I volunteered. In the first instance I've undertaken to produce draft chapters on Communications, Religious History, Charities for the Poor, Education, Sport and Parliamentary Representation to be posted on the VCH Glos website by the end of December 2018. This constitutes a combined estimated total of 32,000 words and involves taking the chronological accounts of these subjects produced by Alex and Beth, addressing any comments we've received on those sections, melding them into a coherent whole, filling any gaps and extending the account to the current day. Simple!

I started with parliamentary history. This was beautifully straightforward. Six MPs for post-war Cheltenham, a controversy over the selection of John Taylor as candidate in the 1990s and the assault on Nigel Jones in 2000 – all well documented and quite a lot within my personal knowledge – a couple of points for the earlier period needing footnotes and no comments to worry about. I had the section completed within the required word count and the draft posted online within a couple of days. That was the easy bit. Once I'd consolidated the existing sections on Charities for the Poor, Religious History and Education, they were all over their word count before I started on what happened post-1945. I can, and almost certainly will, post drafts online that are longer than the eventual Red Book text. Yet since the practicalities of print publication places limitations on how long the accounts can be, it seems better to address the editorial issues now rather than kicking the ball down the road. Covering the subject comprehensively within a limited word limit is an important skill for a VCH editor. As an early modernist I thought contemporary historians were overwhelmed with sources. I hadn't allowed for lack of access due to the sensitive nature of some records, while others have not yet been deposited or perhaps catalogued. Time and again I am finding myself dependent on newspapers and we know what sticklers for accuracy they can be.

Most of the thematic chapters at least cover areas with which I am familiar as an historian. In contrast sport is a whole new ballgame, if you'll excuse the pun. Late Victorian Cheltenham had a plethora of 'football' teams, although often you have to read match reports to know whether they were playing rugby, association football or a hybrid of the two. At least I know something about the history of rugby and football. I had no idea that badminton may have originated among expatriate officers in





*Baunton in the early nineteenth century*

India, although that might explain why there were three clubs in Cheltenham in 1912, enabling the keen to play every day except Sunday. Another sport I do know something about is horse-racing, as my father was a betting man and I knew off-course betting was illegal when he was a young man. The first betting shops didn't open until 1961. So my attention was caught by the advert for E. Tomkins, Commission Agent in a 1956 copy of *Cheltenham Parks and Gardens, A Handbook for Every Citizen*. It seems you could place a bet on the Gold Cup in 1950s Cheltenham without going to the course, with the collusion if not the active approval of the Corporation. By accepting the advert, were they potentially benefitting from the proceeds of crime?

I will post the draft account of sport in Cheltenham on the VCH central website shortly. If your expertise on the subject is greater than mine (which truly is not difficult), please tell me where I am wrong. And do let me know of any reliable sources, of which I am currently unaware.

*Jan Broadway*  
Co-ordinator, VCH Gloucestershire

(Jan's drafts on Parliamentary Representation, Charities for the Poor and Sport can be read at <https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/gloucestershire/work-in-progress/cheltenham>. Ed)

## Updates from our Contracted Editors

### *Cirencester Parishes*

Over the past month I have been working primarily on the Parish of Baunton and particularly on its religious life from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. As was so often the case in these small communities, the same few names can be found active in an array of committees and organisations. In the 1890s, the head of the school managers at Baunton was the local Rector, Reverend Edward Ball, who took a very active interest in all elements of the curriculum. Parochial Parish Council minutes reveal that he remained until the 1930s, although by that time he enjoyed the title of Canon. No doubt the children of the village took much delight in using his full name: 'Canon Ball'!

Between c.1820 and 1880, many of the parishes I am researching saw considerable investment in rectories and their associated lands; the improvement or, in many cases, demolition and complete reconstruction of the parsonage. Funded by mortgages, some of which were enormous, these improvement programmes would often also include the construction of a farmhouse and additional farm buildings on the glebe. In many ways this

process reflects the wider Victorian principle of environmental and economic investment. The new rectories often mirrored in style and scale the grand villas of the nation's mercantile middle classes, ensuring that their occupants retained a degree of status in the new social order. In addition, the growing demand for the clergy to reside in the parishes they served perhaps prompted the church to acknowledge the poor and unappealing condition of many of the existing dwellings. The archives contain detailed and beautifully executed plans for many of the new and improved rectories. If any readers reside in or near such houses in the villages of Duntisbourne Abbots, Daglingworth, Coates, or Bagendon, I should be delighted to hear from them.

*Katy Layton-Jones*

On a fortuitously pleasant day (for February!), John Chandler and I made a tour of the churches of the nine parishes which will make up the remainder of Vol. 16 of VCH Glos. Equally fortuitously the churches of two of the benefices concerned were open and we were able to have a nose around. We spent a fascinating day and I hope readers of this



*Bagendon church, chancel north window, by Christopher Whall, 1906 (photo John Chandler)*

newsletter might consider visiting these churches themselves (including Bagendon, to see the glass).

*Beth Hartland*

### ***The Sodburys***

In the last newsletter, I focussed upon examples of disorder in Chipping Sodbury during the 17th century. This time I want to discuss another aspect of Chipping Sodbury's history, the curious episode of the town's brief incorporation during the 1680s. The town was granted a charter in 1681, giving it for the first time a mayor and aldermen, but before the end of the decade the charter had been cancelled and the town had reverted to its medieval form of government. Writing a century later, Samuel Rudder tells us 'this weight of honour [of incorporation] was too great to be sustained by so weak and feeble a body, and so the charter was annulled by proclamation, at the request of the inhabitants themselves'.<sup>1</sup> Sure enough, among the records of Chipping Sodbury borough we find a petition by the jury of the court leet calling the charter 'very prejudicial', complaining of lost trade, increased poverty and a 'town almost ruined', and asking the lord of the manor to help in 'vacating' it.<sup>2</sup> Most histories of Chipping Sodbury have followed Rudder and taken this document at face value, but is there more to the story?

Trying to reconstruct the history of Chipping Sodbury's local government in the 17th century is hampered by the almost total absence of records dating from before the 1660s. Nevertheless, it is possible to say that for much of its history the borough of Chipping Sodbury was governed by a bailiff, assisted by a group of burgesses selected from amongst the most substantial men of the town. Chosen each year at the Michaelmas court leet, the bailiff was responsible alongside the steward of the manor for overseeing the various courts of the manor of Chippings Sodbury: the court leet, the view of frankpledge, and the three-weekly court baron. He collected fines, enforced orders, and commanded the constable to keep the peace. With the assistance of the burgesses, he also managed the two large meadows called the Ridings. Each year, on 26 December, he was expected to provide a breakfast for every male householder in the borough, for the encouragement of peace and amity within the borough. Later on the same day, the bailiff attended the town's church preceded by his under bailiff carrying the ceremonial mace of the borough.

This evidence of apparent urban independence is misleading, however. The borough of Chipping Sodbury was in many ways subordinate to the manor of Chipping Sodbury. During the later 17th century several acrimonious disputes flared up between the townsmen and the lords of the manor, successively Edward Stephens of Little Sodbury, his son Sir Thomas and grandson Thomas, which significantly threatened the town's autonomy. Conflict between lords and their urban tenants was not unusual. In *Cheltenham Before the Spa* you will find the narrative of the brief act of rebellion by the bailiff of the borough of Cheltenham, who tried unsuccessfully to assert his precedence over (and therefore independence from) the high bailiff of the manor, at least within the borough.<sup>3</sup> In Chipping Sodbury the townsmen had been in dispute with the then lord of the manor, Sir John Walsh, in the middle of the 16th century regarding their ancient right to summer grazing rights in the fields of Old Sodbury, a quarrel which was only resolved through an appeal to the Council of the Marches.<sup>4</sup>

In the 17th century, another difference arose between lord and townsmen concerning the highly successful cheese market that was established in the town in 1649. Although the lords had had the right to collect all tolls on the fairs and markets held in Chipping Sodbury since the 13th century, the townsmen insisted that the lords had never collected any market tolls in their memory. After arbitration, it was agreed in 1654 that Stephens would let the tolls to the town for 31 years.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, it appears that Stephens sought to assert his authority over the townsmen by insisting upon a tradition, possibly after a long abeyance, that the bailiff be chosen by the lord's steward and not by the jury of townsmen. The oath of the bailiff was also modified to include a provision to faithfully serve the lord of the manor. Resentment against these novelties, as the men of Chipping Sodbury saw it, came to a head in 1676 over what the townsmen saw as Sir Thomas Stephens' double-dealing over the renewal of the lease of the tolls. The new bailiff, John Wickham refused to take the novel oath, pulled down Stephens' market scales in the town hall, and appointed his own officers to receive the tolls. Stephens responded with a sequence of law suits at the assizes, in Chancery, and King's Bench.<sup>6</sup> He also prevented the bailiff elected in 1676, John Wickham, from leaving his office for three years, threatening Wickham with financial ruin for so long as the town resisted him.<sup>7</sup> The townsmen complained that

the controversy was part of a concerted endeavour by the Stephens family to encroach upon the privileges of the borough, and to render the bailiffs 'more and more a servant to them.'<sup>8</sup> For his part, Stephens derided the town as a 'pretended upstart corporation', arguing that Chipping Sodbury was not a borough but merely a township governed by a constable, and that there was never any bailiff other than the bailiff of the manor.<sup>9</sup>

In the middle of these court cases, the borough was incorporated in 1681, possibly taking Stephens by surprise. The new corporation was to comprise a mayor, six aldermen and 12 burgesses, with the first incumbents all nominated by the charter.<sup>10</sup> The Marquess of Worcester, soon to be created Duke of Beaufort, was appointed high steward, and an under steward and town clerk were also appointed. Chipping Sodbury's new charter was the first to be issued on which the town's legal officers would serve at the King's pleasure.<sup>11</sup> Under the terms of the charter, the mayor and senior alderman were to preside over a three-weekly court, assisted by the under steward, where they were to hear all suits of transgressions within the borough. The officers of the manor were effectively excluded from the government of the town. The award of the charter, apparently through the intervention of the Marquess of Worcester,<sup>12</sup> should no doubt be seen in the context of both the controversy with Sir Thomas Stephens in the previous decade, and of the Exclusion Crisis of 1679–81. Worcester was not only a neighbouring aristocrat, his home at Badminton, but he was also lord lieutenant and a leading agent of the Tory reaction of the 1680s.<sup>13</sup> The new charter provided the government with another opportunity to reinforce its authority in the provinces, and Worcester with the opportunity to diminish the influence of his neighbour and old adversary Sir Thomas Stephens. Within the borough, many of those nominated to the first corporation by the new charter had been prominent opponents of Stephens' suits against the townsmen.<sup>14</sup>

The demise of the new corporation before the end of the decade should also be understood within a national context. Contrary to the story told by Rudder, Chipping Sodbury's charter was one of many cancelled by James II in 1688, when he issued a proclamation annulling all charters granted since 1670.<sup>15</sup> Shortly after the accession

of William and Mary, an instruction was issued in government that no new charter was to be issued or confirmed for the town until Stephens had first been consulted.<sup>16</sup> Stephens was busy working to make sure he was not outmanoeuvred by the townsmen a second time! The creation of the new corporation had evidently exacerbated divisions within the town. In October 1689, as we have seen, the grand jury of the court leet of Chipping Sodbury petitioned Stephens, no doubt at his instigation. The jurors complained that the corporation had been too liberal in their impositions upon their neighbours, which they feared would ruin the town. They further complained that the charter had been granted without the knowledge of the majority of the townspeople, who had found it very prejudicial.<sup>17</sup> They called upon Stephens to have the charter cancelled if it was not already ‘vacated’ by the former king’s proclamation.

As a consequence, Chipping Sodbury reverted to its former government by bailiff and burgesses. The retreat from politics of Beaufort left the townsmen without any counterweight to the overweening power of the Stephens family. Thomas Stephens and his successors were able to ensure their men were appointed bailiffs from then on. The town continued to be governed by its bailiffs until the borough was dissolved by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1883.<sup>18</sup> The episode demonstrates that in order to properly understand the history of the towns and villages of England we must always be careful to place them within their regional and national context.

Alex Craven

- 1 Rudder, *Glos.* (Gloucester, 1779), 672.
- 2 *Glos. Archives* [GA], D2071/B2.
- 3 See *Cheltenham Before the Spa*, 108.
- 4 F.F. Fox, *the History of the Parishes of Old Sodbury and of Little Sodbury, and of the Town of Chipping Sodbury* (Bristol, 1907), 46–52.
- 5 GA, D2071/E15.
- 6 GA, D871/L1; D2071/L10; TNA, C 6/228/58; C 6/82/50.
- 7 The National Archives [TNA], C 6/228/58.
- 8 GA, D2071/L10.
- 9 TNA, C 6/228/58; C 6/82/50.
- 10 GA, D2071/B1.
- 11 Paul D. Halliday, *Dismembering the Body Politic: Partisan Politics in England’s Towns 1650–1730* (Cambridge, 1998), 185.

- 12 *Notes on the Diocese of Gloucester by Chancellor Richard Parsons*, ed. John Fendley, Gloucestershire Record Society, 19 (2005), 278.
- 13 ODNB, sub. ‘Somerset, Henry, first duke of Beaufort’.
- 14 GA, D2071/L10; D2071/B1.
- 15 TNA, PC 2/72/161v–3; Halliday, *Dismembering the Body Politic*, 257.
- 16 *Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1689–90, p. 25.
- 17 GA, D2071/B2.
- 18 46 & 47 Vic. c.18.

## From the Archives

### *The Heritage Hub*

After 18 months of building work, the end is approaching! A few weeks ago the timber frame of the new training suite was delivered over the Clarence Row wall. I have been assured the building will be handed over when promised. However, there appears to be a fair distance to go before the site looks like the architects’ impression.

The widow of Christopher Elrington, who edited VCH Gloucestershire for many years, is happy for us to name the room to be used primarily by VCH researchers and volunteers, the Elrington Room. Mavis Lady Dunrossil, a long-term supporter of the VCH (and the Archives, of course), has also agreed that the new 70 seater training suite can be called the Dunrossil Centre. The two new project rooms adjacent to the Research Room will be named after Brian Frith (replacing the Frith Centre and named after the prominent local historian) and Frank Step Hockaday (whose extractions from church records related to the county fill 500 volumes held at the Archives), respectively.

Thank you very much to VCH researchers, volunteers and VCH Academy members for bearing with us whilst we have been operating from a building site. The arrangement for pre-booked volunteers on Mondays has worked well during our restricted opening. I’m therefore pleased we will be able to continue this arrangement following our opening hours consultation.

Our new opening hours will be implemented from 3 September:

Mondays – 10.00 – 4.00 - pre-booked volunteers only  
Tuesdays – Fridays – 9.00 – 4.30  
Saturdays – 9.00 – 4.30 (first of each month)

We’re holding an Open Day on Sunday 2 September, 10am – 4pm, as one of the opening events of this year’s History Festival. Please invite friends, relations and neighbours to see the new



*The Heritage Hub, architect's impression*

Hub and gain a snapshot of the activities taking place there. The Rugby Club has kindly agreed to provide free parking for the event.

I would also commend the wider range of Gloucester History Festival events (1 – 16 September). VCH highlights include the Scriptorium Tag at Blackfriars starting at 2pm on Wednesday 12 September, and John Chandler's talk on Cheltenham Before the Spa at 2.30pm on Friday 7 September at the Heritage Hub. Full brochures are available from the Hub/Archives reception from the end of July, and online at <https://gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/>.

*Heather Forbes  
County Archivist*

### **Cheltenham**

Having completed most of deposit D3119 – the early 20th century records of Cheltenham Original Brewery – the volunteers at the archives have chosen, democratically, to catalogue Cheltenham Borough's plans of the Council's Green Spaces, DC137, some 70 rolls, each one containing up to 45 maps. Some we are told are in a very poor state and a detailed catalogue is needed.

We have received training in the ways that paper and ink can deteriorate and in how to handle very large sheets of fragile paper! Is it the two-handed flip? Or the lay it over and roll gently technique? Whichever is chosen great care needs to be taken. The maps themselves are interesting and often very detailed. We've even found one giving details of our allotment shed with measurements and materials – very useful as ours is falling apart and needs mending!

*Sally Self*

## **Data processing policy**

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## Gloucestershire County History Trust

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