

**Charity Number: 1165223**

Winter 2020



**An Embroidered Envelope bringing  
Christmas Greetings  
from the front during the First World War**

# FoGA Governance

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## From the Chairman

Dear Member

I imagine that the last nine months have been a roller-coaster for most of you, as they have been for me. Sometimes there has been light at the end of the tunnel and at other times the tunnel has seemed very long and the light very distant.

Many of us have missed seeing our children, our grandchildren, and other loved ones. We have had to forego those things which were previously normal and which we did almost without thinking, going on a train journey, taking a holiday, socialising with friends, engaging in communal activities.

When restrictions were partially lifted in the Summer it was good to visit the Archives again and to see familiar faces, all suitably distanced, once again engaging in research and cataloguing projects. All credit is due to Heather Forbes and her colleagues for making the Archives a safe place to visit – and as welcoming as always. Let us hope that we can visit again soon.

The trustees of the Friends have kept the organisation ticking over. We have not been able to meet face to face but have dealt with important matters by exchanging emails. My thanks to all of you who responded to my messages about the ‘virtual’ Annual General Meeting. This enabled us to deal with essential matters and to approve the Annual Report and Accounts and to submit them to the Charity Commission on time.

Despite the heartening announcements about effective vaccinations we are in the dark tunnel for a little while longer. But I very much look forward to seeing many of you soon when we resume our programme of talks and outings.

In the meantime, I send you all my very best wishes for Christmas and a much brighter New Year. Clive

*Clive Andrews*, Chairman

# Christmas Closing Dates

## Gloucestershire Archives

will be closed from

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**

and will re-open on

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**



## From the Archives

We have recently re-opened to the public and volunteers after lockdown 2. Staff whose rôles need them to be “hands on” with the documents were working on site, with safety measures in place, but most staff were working from home. We look forward to re-opening on 3 Dec.

**Xmas opening hours:** we plan to close our public service from Monday 21st December until Monday 4 January, opening Tuesday 5 Jan. As ever, please watch our website for up to date information.

We've had some submissions to our **lockdown archive** but would love more, be it a diary, written account, recording, photo or however you want to record these exceptional times. More detail on the Heritage Hub website.

### **Other news:**

The collections team are taking the (unwanted!) opportunity of lockdown 2 to do strong-room based work. We are stock-checking boxes and locations and also moving frequently used records from far flung strong-rooms in Moons into the three new strong-rooms which are much nearer the research room.

We've been able to recruit 2 graduate trainee archivists: Malcolm Cohn, who started with us in September, and Laura Cassidy who will be starting early December. It's not the easiest time to start a new job but we hope the experience they gain with us will help them pursue their chosen career in the archive sector. From Jan 2021, we will also be hosting a "Bridging the Digital Gap" trainee for 15 months, and have recruited Natasha Young to this role. This post is funded by the National Archives and is an initiative to diversity the workforce in various ways.

We've accepted a quote from Greenfields to create our wildlife pond. Greenfields did the hoggin path and volunteer shelter so we know it will be done to a high standard. The work will happen in Spring 2021.

The procurement exercise to replace CALM, our specialist software, trundles on. Two companies have got through the process and we will have made our choice by mid December. We're excited about this as we hope the new system will have a more intuitive public "interface" for the online catalogue.

We've made a start at putting our training for community archives online, via the "How to preserve your family archive- the COVID-19 lockdown blogs", a series which we've been posting since April. These will then be used to create content for a web -based resource and also a downloadable booklet. If anyone has any feedback on the blogs, please do get in touch via [archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk). Your comments are invaluable.

Our learning & outreach team have been planning some work with The Shire (city centre project for care-leavers) and mental health nurses at the University of Gloucestershire, and have created some new online resources for schools. The "Never Better" project, based on mental health records in our collections, was shortlisted for a national award from CHWA (Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance), a nationwide charity promoting arts and culture in relation to positive health and wellbeing.

Looking ahead, we are drawing up a comprehensive 3 year programme of events and activities. As part of this, we'd like to work in partnership to deliver monthly talks - probably virtual for the next few months - on themed topics. Please contact [kate.maisey@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.maisey@gloucestershire.gov.uk) if you, or your local history group, would be interested in discussing this further.

*Kate Maisey, November 2020*

## Caption Competition



Do you ever get one of those days? Ally McConnell in melt-down surrounded by 2000 boxes of Dowty material.

Send your captions to the editor for publication in the next newsletter. Sorry, no prizes.

## Social Media for FoGA

Firstly I feel that I should introduce myself, I am an archivist at Gloucestershire Archives, and have been the hidden person behind the posts on FoGA's social media channels since March 2020. One of the main goals of the Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts is to showcase some of the wonderful items held at Gloucestershire Archives, as well as the work the friends have done to support the archives over the years.

Over the last few months, I have asked staff at Gloucestershire Heritage Hub to tell me about their favourite item from the archives. This has included enclosure maps from c.1592, school plans, photographs albums, and possibly the only surviving document written inside Gloucester Castle!

If you are a user of social media, you can find the Friend's accounts: @friendsofglosarchives on Facebook, @friendsofGA on Twitter, and @friendsofglosarchives on Instagram.

*Rhianna Watson*



D1099/92. A post-enclosure map of Homestallend, part of the Manor of Todenham from c.1592



# It's a Virtual World: New Online Resources for Gloucestershire Archives

This year has certainly brought some new challenges. Such as trying to hear people when they are wearing a mask or working out how to switch the camera on when Zooming friends and colleagues. Supermarket trips are now the height of the event calendar whilst grey roots have become, if not actually fashionable, then at least tolerated. For many of us it has been a trying time, with loneliness soaring, not to mention the real threat to life that the pandemic presents. But it's brought new opportunities as well.

At Gloucestershire Archives, we may be in our second Lockdown and shut to the public, but Staff activity is buzzing behind closed doors. As part of the new Partnerships, Learning & Outreach Team, I have been working on new online resources for children and young people. These are aimed to address some of the difficulties faced by both Teachers and Parents in these troublesome times, as well as for the future Post-COVID-19 World. (Who knows what that will look like). A new online lesson [‘Where We Live: a local history activity pack & resources’](#) all about Gloucestershire past lives has gone live. [‘Rainy Day Activities’](#) have also been created where young people can design their own time capsule, wax seal, map and coat-of-arms.



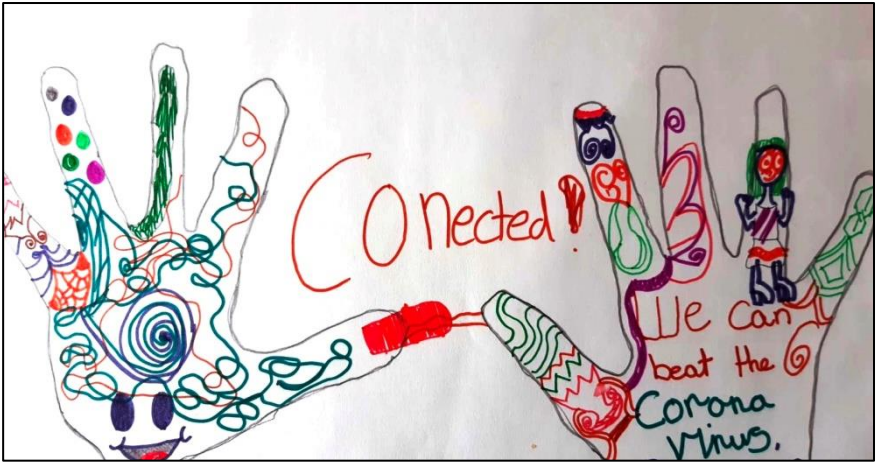


And we have much more to come, starting with the Suffragette Movement in the South West, Tudor City Charters and Black History. It's an exciting time!

We are also actively collecting material connected to the pandemic. Gloucestershire schools in particular are invited at this time to donate posters, photographs, diary entries and any other 'paper' documents related to COVID-19. People in the future will want to know about how the pandemic affected us, the good and the bad, so please consider contributing to the county's archive.

Whilst we are planning to reopen at the end of the second Lockdown (Hurray!), virtual activities will remain ever important. Our [website](#) is packed full of tasty items to keep you interested! Please do take a look, use them, pass them on, and if you get a chance, let us know what you think. Thank you and we will see you on the other side.

To contact **Jemma Fowkes**, Community Heritage Officer, please email [jemma.fowkes@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jemma.fowkes@gloucestershire.gov.uk)  
Finally, a [short video for KS2](#) looking at what the 17<sup>th</sup> century Speed Map of Gloucestershire can teach us, has gone online.



Artwork by Ellia Smith

## Orders and Recognisances

I am currently working on the Orders and Recognisances recorded in the Quarter Sessions records for Gloucester and its neighbouring villages in the latter half of the seventeenth century. My task is to make them more accessible by producing a precis of the Orders and a full transcript of the Recognisances which will be available on the Archives website.

The Recognisances (or bonds) generally record the name, occupation and place of residence of those involved, together with the amount of the bond. These range from gentlemen to labourers so are a potentially rich source for both family and local historians. The Orders deal with a variety of issues such as failure to repair the highway or selling ale without a licence, complaints about poor relief payments, money to be given to widows or maimed soldiers and bastardy claims. At each Session the mayor, aldermen and justices of the peace were present and delivered orders for each case.

Cases I have found of particular interest are those concerning apprentices of which there were a considerable number. In many instances it was a parent of the apprentice who brought the complaint against a master, often citing how much had been paid for the apprenticeship. In 1664 Elizabeth Wintle, a widow of Westbury, had apprenticed her son Robert to a Gloucester mercer, Robert Laurence, and had paid him £25. He had agreed to provide young Robert with clothes and 2s 6d at the end of his term. However at Christmas 1668 Laurence had left the city and turned out Robert who came home with "very mean clothes". The Court ordered that Robert be discharged from his apprenticeship with Laurence and serve the remainder with John Beard, mercer and that Lawrence pay back £10 to Elizabeth within six days. William Taylor had been placed as an apprentice to Thomas Stephens, a pinmaker, in 1660. Stephens had agreed that at the end of his term he would give Taylor double apparel, a set for holidays and another

for working days, plus five shillings. Although Taylor had served his term Stephens had refused to give him the clothes and money. The Court ordered him to do so within one week.

It is not clear whether Mrs Fletcher, who made a complaint about Jonathan Sampson, a turner, was related to his apprentice Edward Dunne or was just the local busybody, but she alleged that Sampson was not teaching his apprentice the art of turning. The Court ordered that one week Sampson should instruct Edward in the art of turning horn ivory boxes and other things of the trade and the other week he was to be instructed in comb making. If he failed to do so he would have to appear at the next Sessions. One guesses that Mrs Fletcher would be keeping an eye on Sampson.

In several cases a master had left Gloucester, abandoning his apprentice in the midst of his term. The Court appeared to take a sympathetic attitude to a boy's plight, discharging him from the apprenticeship and sometimes finding him a new master. As the indentures of apprenticeship were legal documents it was necessary to have a Court order to end an apprenticeship early. Widowed Mary Dewe petitioned on behalf of her son John that James Sare, the tailor to whom he had been apprenticed, had left the city and taken no care for the maintenance of John. He was discharged from his apprenticeship and James Sare's wife Margaret was told to deliver the indentures of apprenticeship to Mary. John Williams had been apprenticed to Nicholas Morecrafte, a tobacco pipe maker, but Morecrafte had left the city so John was to serve the rest of his term with another man of the same trade to be approved by the Mayor.

It could also be a death which resulted in an apprentice being unable to continue learning a trade. Thomas Baylee had been apprenticed to George Taylor, a barber chirurgion, and his wife Joan for seven years by an indenture dated 1669. Baylee's father had paid Taylor £8 and agreed to provide apparel for his son. Unfortunately Taylor had died and his wife was unable to instruct Thomas. The Court ordered that Thomas be discharged from his

apprenticeship and serve the rest of his term with another master in the trade to be approved by the mayor. Mrs Taylor had to pay £4 10s to Baylee senior and deliver all his apparel to the apprentice.

In other instances there just seem to have been disagreement and dissension between master and apprentice. Humphrey Browne had placed his son Richard as apprentice to Thomas Horsington, bodice maker, and given him money for it but Horsington had turned Richard out. Horsington was ordered to turn his apprentice over to an honest man of the same trade to be approved by the mayor and to pay Humphrey Browne 2s 6d weekly for Richard's maintenance. William Browne, a pewterer, was told by the Court that if he did not accept the service of his apprentice Samuel Willis within fourteen days Samuel could look for a master for himself and be turned over to serve the residue of his term. Another pewterer, Thomas Smith, had a long running dispute with his apprentice Edward Savory. He complained of Savory's unfaithfulness, disobedience and neglect of service which the Court required him to prove. In the next Session two alderman were appointed to try to resolve their dispute but they were unsuccessful as in an ensuing Session it was ordered that with the consent of Smith and William Savory, Edward's father, Edward would be discharged from his apprenticeship and that Smith would pay back forty shillings.

In a few cases it was the apprentice who was ordered to continue with his service as happened when John Browne was told to return to his master, Thomas Berrowe, a tailor, and complete his apprenticeship. Despite their differences John Lye was ordered to continue his apprenticeship with Edward Charleton. The tailor Henry Church complained that Aaron Gracion, his apprentice, had twelve times left his service which caused him great loss and damage. Aaron was ordered to serve one additional year after the expiry of his term of apprenticeship. As Aaron had worn out his clothes several times his mother was ordered to pay ten shillings to Church to give Aaron apparel or Aaron would have to pay ten shillings to Church within 15 months of the end of his apprenticeship.

A few entries are of a more serious nature. In 1654 it is reported that after a full hearing of the matters of difference between Nicholas Haynes, miller, of Gloucester and his apprentice Edward Haynes it appeared that Nicholas Haynes had misused and evilly treated his apprentice by immoderate and excessive correction and had threatened to beat him further. Edward Haynes was discharged from his apprenticeship and would serve the residue of his term with the miller John Edmunds. In a similar case brought by John Hill, an apprentice to John Beaton, a silk weaver, he complained of unreasonable beating. Hill was discharged from his apprenticeship and placed with William Sampson, a turner. Beaton was ordered to deliver to Hill his wearing apparel and to pay £4 to Sampson within three days, being part of the money he had received with the apprentice. Both the son of William Birch and William Paine were discharged from their masters because of “immoderate correction”.

Edward Fewtrell, a Gloucester tailor, added meanness to abuse. In 1658 he was charged with abusing his apprentice Thomas Best and also ordered to provide him with two sets of apparel, one for Sabbaths and one for working days, and sufficient linen. He ignored this order and in the following Session is accused of not providing sufficient apparel for his apprentice to preserve himself from lice or scabies. Thomas is discharged from his service and told to serve the rest of his term with William Berrow, another tailor in Gloucester. A year later apprentice Matthew Hill, complained that Fewtrell had not provided him with sufficient meat, drink and apparel so that he was lowly and filthy. Fewtrell had not appeared to defend himself so Matthew was allowed to serve the rest of his term with David Griffin. Fewtrell does not appear again in the Orders; perhaps he decided having an apprentice was more trouble than it was worth or perhaps word got around that he was not a suitable master.

A rather sad case was that of Joseph Halstead who in 1668 was apprenticed to Daniel Randle, a joiner. It was said that Joseph was broken bellied (had a rupture) when starting his apprentice and his condition had worsened due to the heavy work so the continuance

of the apprenticeship was likely to be very prejudicial to his health. Randle had confessed that he unreasonably struck Joseph to the ground. Joseph was discharged from his apprenticeship and Randle told to give him all his apparel. Margaret Halstead, Joseph's widowed mother, would pay Randle 30s after the clothes were delivered, though at a later Session it was recorded that he had not obeyed the Court's order.

These cases I have cited involving apprentices, and there are many more similar ones, demonstrate that the justice system was not, as is often imagined, only on the side of the richer and more powerful. Young apprentices and their parents seem to have been given a fair hearing, the justices did not condone or brush aside violent behaviour and they did their best to rectify situations where an apprenticeship had broken down. These records offer a glimpse into aspects of the lives of the ordinary inhabitants of Gloucester that are not generally available to us and we are fortunate that they have been preserved for us.

*Judy Kimber*



The new artwork on the car park wall.



# The New G.A. Donor Tree



The FoGA flowers were looking lovely in the Summer.



## The Gloucester Lion Tragedy



Image from the Illustrated Police News, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1907.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 1907, Miss Ella, otherwise Ella Jensen, a lion tamer, brought her troupe of six lions and two cubs to the Palace of Varieties, also known as the Palace Theatre, in Westgate Street, Gloucester. With her was her German assistant, Joseph Hasselmann. Hasselmann was a menagerie assistant but never entered the cages except in the presence of Miss Ella. His duty was to clean the cages but there was no need to enter them to do so. After settling the lions in their cages on the side of the stage, Miss Ella went off to her lodgings for her meal, leaving Joseph in charge.

Contrary to orders, Hasselmann endeavoured to remove one of the animals, a huge lion, from one cage to another and, for that purpose, he utilised one of the dressing rooms. The animal had not

been fed for about 12 hours and, as soon as it was liberated, it attacked Hasselmann who, hastily picked up a chair and hurled it at the beast but the lion bit it pieces and sprang upon the man.

Hasselmann's terrible cries for help attracted the attention of two stage hands who happened to be on the premises. They rushed to the dressing room but the spectacle which met their gaze so terrified them that they hurried out of the theatre and across the road to the Fleece Hotel for assistance. Mr Alexander, the landlord, seized a gun and ran over to the theatre quickly followed by a comedian who had armed himself of a revolver.

In the dressing room, Hasselmann was found and he was on the point of death, suffering from terrible injuries to the head and body. He was just able to state what had happened, and that he alone was responsible for the animal's escape. The lion had escaped from the dressing room but had not been seen to leave the building. The firehose was requisitioned, and Mr Alexander and others proceeded into the auditorium which was then in semi-darkness. The lights were turned up and the brute was perceived prowling the pit.

By this time, Miss Ella, who had been sent for, had arrived at the theatre. The hose was turned on the lion and it was eventually driven back into its cage. Dr. Wilkin was summoned but could only pronounce Hasselmann dead.

At the inquest, witness Frank Huggins, a stage hand, of Ryecroft Street, Gloucester, confirmed the sequence of events. The lion was said to be the quietest and most tractable of animals, and the jury were invited to see it. They were told that it would kiss Miss Ella when asked and that it had saved her life on several occasions when the other animals went to attack her.

Taken from a variety of newspapers on Find My Past.

*Liz Jack*

## The Tyranny of the Vaccination Act

In 2005, as editor of the Gloucestershire Family History Society Journal, I was sent several photographs relating to a member's ancestor and this led me to investigate something of which I previously had no knowledge – the Vaccination Acts.

One photograph showed Charles Alfred Oakley, a railway guard from Cemetery Road, in Gloucester, posing for the Press after his release from Gloucester Gaol in 1896 where he had been imprisoned, according to a poster, for

‘resistance to the Tyranny of the Vaccination Act’.

For centuries, smallpox had killed as many as 1 in 7 of those who became infected, leaving many others maimed for life until, in 1796, Gloucestershire's very own Dr Edward Jenner discovered a vaccine against the disease.

In 1840, a Vaccination Act made free vaccination available to all as a charge on the poor rates. By 1853, it was compulsory for all parents to have their infants vaccinated and those who refused were fined. Vaccination Officers were appointed to keep registers of the vaccinations performed on children, to issue certificates and to prosecute those who refused to conform. As a result, the incidence of smallpox declined in the area.

The sample vaccination certificate below, dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1868, belonged to Kate, the child of George Clutterbuck, of Stone, near Berkeley. The reverse of the certificate states that it should be carefully preserved by the parents as it was proof, admissible in evidence, of the successful vaccination of the child, should any complaint be brought against the father, mother or guardian.

**COMPULSORY VACCINATION ACT.**

(16 and 17 Victoria, cap. 100.)

**SCHEDULE A.**

**Medical Certificate of Successful Vaccination.**

[To be delivered (pursuant to Section IV.) to the Father or Mother of every Child successfully Vaccinated, or to the Person having the Care, Nurture, or Custody of such Child.]

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, That

(<sup>a</sup>) Kate (aged (<sup>b</sup>) 5 1/2),

the Child of (<sup>c</sup>) George Clutterbuck of (<sup>d</sup>) [and residing at

No.          in Lower Stone ~~Street~~ in]

the Parish of Stone

in the County of Gloucester has been successfully vaccinated by me.

Dated this (<sup>e</sup>) 21 day of July 1868.

(Signature of the Person certifying) J. J. Bridgman

(Add Professional Titles) Richard Esq

[See Note on the other side.]

The Vaccination Certificate of Kate Clutterbuck, 1868 (G.A. Ref: D4170.14)

In the early 1880s, a branch of the National Anti-Vaccination Society was established in Gloucester, supported by those who, for ethical, religious or social grounds, objected to enforced inoculation and were prepared to refuse to pay fines and to go to gaol rather than submit their children to the needle. Meetings were held and letters were written to the newspapers to protest against vaccination.

Although Gloucester was practically free of the disease by that time, the number of vaccinations held in the city declined from over 1000 in 1886 down to 34 in 1894. But the number of smallpox cases was growing again and in 1896, there was a smallpox epidemic in the city. The Committee appointed by the Board of Guardians decided to invoke the full force of the law against those parents who had refused to have their children vaccinated, one of whom was Charles Oakley.

According to the Gloucester Gaol registers, (G.A. Ref: Q/Gc/12/14), Charles Oakley was arrested on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1896 and charged with 'neglecting to have his child vaccinated'. He was

sentenced to a 20/- fine or 7 days imprisonment; he chose the latter. Information in the register tells us that Charles, who was born in Gloucester, was 43 years old and a religious dissenter. His education was imperfect but he had no previous convictions. Whilst in gaol, Charles was treated as a debtor would be.

**National Anti-Vaccination League**

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**A PUBLIC**

**MEETING**

WILL BE HELD IN THE

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL**

On **SATURDAY, AUG. 15th**

To welcome **CHAS. OAKLEY** (a Railway Guard)  
from Gloucester Gaol, where he has been imprisoned  
for resisting the Vaccination Tyranny.

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The Meeting will be **ADDRESSED** by

**ALFRED MILNES, ESQ.,**  
M.A., Lond., and other Speakers.

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Chair to be taken at 7.45 p.m., by

**MR. E. H. SPRING**

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Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

Come and hear one of the finest Orators of the day,  
and learn all about Vaccination.

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W. R. Holloway, Printer, Gloucester

On his release from prison, Charles was greeted by the press, escorted home by a number of sympathisers, accompanied by banners and a portion of the Salvation Army band. Outside of the gaol, the band played 'The Red, White and Blue' and upon reaching Mr Oakley's residence, they played 'Home, Sweet Home'.

On the following day, he was welcomed as the guest of honour at a National Anti-Vaccination meeting held in London in

the Royal Albert Hall. At the meeting, a resolution was passed stating: "That this meeting of railway men and citizens of Gloucester congratulates Mr. Charles Oakley on the sacrifice he has made for liberty of conscience, sympathises with his wife and family, and declares its opinion that the inoculation of disease is an unnatural and degrading operation, is unsanitary and unscientific, and demands as a sacred duty its steadfast resistance."

[This is an adaptation of an article I produced back in 2005 for the GFHS Journal. With the rise in the number of people challenging the need for a vaccine to fight Covid 19, it seemed relevant. Liz]

## A Christmas Quiz

1. What is the height of the tower of Gloucester Cathedral to the nearest metre?  
(a) 61m (b) 69m (c) 76m (d) 84m
2. In which year did Gloucester receive its charter as a port?  
(a) 1580 (b) 1600 (c) 1623 (d) 1641
3. Who wrote the lines “From troubles of the world I turn to ducks”?
4. Where is Smallpox Hill and what is the name by which it is now known?
5. Which Gloucestershire martyr was burned at the stake at Smithfield on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1532?
6. Who wrote the book *In a Gloucestershire Garden*?
7. Where and what are The Dumbles?
8. To what fruit did the village of Blakeney give its name?
9. Which Gloucestershire abbey dates back only to the 1920s?
10. Which Gloucestershire town celebrates Scuttlebrook Wake?
11. What were called ‘Strip-and-At-it’, ‘Dick’s Ready Penny’, and ‘Oddfellow’s Delight’?
12. Which nobleman, reputedly drowned in a butt of malmsey, is buried in Tewkesbury Abbey?

Answers can be found on the last page.

## What did YOU do during Lockdown? - 1

During the pandemic, many of us turned to our gardens for solace and exercise. I decided it was time to get rid of an old, clogged and smelly pond at the bottom of my garden and utilise a pile of old bricks to create a paved area where I could sit and contemplate instead. With the aid of friends and relatives, the rotting plants were hauled out of the water, the rocks removed from the border and the old lining pulled up. The newts and baby frogs were encouraged to move to the other ponds as the water soaked away.

Next, some additional old bricks arrived from friends to give a variety of colour and texture and I prepared them to include in my design. As I sorted through the pile, I discovered that some of the bricks had names stamped on them; Whitfield, Hamblet and Haunchwood. I wondered where they had come from, they had definitely been in my garden for over forty years so they were not new. I began to research them, starting with the Whitfield bricks as they were labelled as of 'Gloucester'.



The Whitfield brickworks were started on the south west side of Robinswood Hill about 1892 by Mr. George T. Whitfield, who laid out and entirely built them, at a cost of about £20,000. He built his own house at Fox Elms and many smaller houses for his employees. Less than 20 years later, the brickworks were taken over by a Limited Company, called the Robinswood Hill Brick and Tile Works, Ltd. The output consisted of facing bricks, common



pressed bricks, wire-cut bricks, and all kinds of moulded bricks, tiles, ridges, quarries, and agricultural drain-pipes.

The common bricks were made in a Bradley and Craven semi-plastic machine, the clay being ground in a perforated pan, then conveyed by means of elevators to a room above, and thence to a mixer, in which water was added, and the clay was made plastic. It was then conveyed to an upright pug-mill, through which it passed, and was forced into several boxes fixed round a rotary table, which, when turning, brought each box opposite the die-box, into which the clay was passed, under great pressure. The brick was then either stacked in drying-sheds or taken direct to the kiln.

The clay for the wire-cut bricks was also ground, then passed through a mixer, and afterwards through one of Pullen and Mann's machines. The facing and moulded bricks were also made by a Pullen and Mann's machine, but were afterwards hand-pressed. The grinding of the clay was considered to be a great advantage, crushing, as it did, all the little 'knots' [nodules] in the deposit.

All the sheds were heated by coal-fires, and when the bricks were sufficiently dried, they were loaded onto small trucks, which were passed on an endless chain down an inclined railway to the 14-chamber Hoffmann kiln; each chamber held 15,000 bricks. Gloucestershire County Council used bricks supplied by this firm in the erection of their premises adjoining the Shire Hall, Gloucester.

The Robinswood Hill Brick and Tile Works, Ltd, ceased production in the 1950s and the stack, which I well remember from my childhood, was removed in the 1960s.

The next set of bricks that we used were chosen for their colour, to give some variety. They were 'blue' bricks from the Hamblet Brick and Tile Company which was based in West Bromwich and was founded by Joseph Hamblet (1819 – 1894). The brickworks were

founded in 1851 and became one of the chief producers of Staffordshire blue bricks.



The Staffordshire blue brick is a very strong construction brick and was made from local red clay. When fired at a high temperature in a low-oxygen reducing atmosphere, the brick takes on a deep blue colour and attains a very hard, impervious surface with high crushing strength and low water absorption. This type of brick was used for foundations and was also extensively used for bridges and tunnels in the construction of canals, and later, of railways. Its lack of porosity makes it suitable for capping brick walls, and its hard-wearing properties makes it ideal for steps and pathways. It is also used as a general facing brick for decorative reasons.

Finally, I had two very small bricks, only about two-thirds of the size of normal bricks. These were stamped with the name Haunchwood of Nuneaton. The Haunchwood Brick and Tile Company of Nuneaton was founded in the early 1870s by James Knox (1849 – 1931) and was finally closed down a hundred years later, in 1870. Clay was mined from three small shafts



I wondered why the Haunchwood bricks were so much smaller than the others but discovered from an online advert for the company, that they also made chimney pots, decorative ridges and finials and brick fireplaces. I believe my two ‘baby’ bricks could well have come from a brick fireplace.



The finished pavement

So that is one of the things I was doing in lockdown. The Archives would like to know what you were doing during the pandemic, for a new collection relating to the 2020 pandemic.

***Liz Jack***

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Most of this information was found online; in particular, on Dr. Ray Wilson’s interesting website [www.coaley.net](http://www.coaley.net) (and it is not just Coaley) where, under the heading Brickmaking in Gloucestershire, I found an article by Richardson, L. and Webb, R. J., [Brickearths, Pottery & Brickmaking in Gloucestershire](#), *Proceedings of the Cheltenham Natural Science Society*, Part 1: Volume 1 (4)

## What did YOU do during Lockdown? - 2

As working and relaxing in the garden became harder with the approach of winter, I was asked by the Archives to participate in a project to transcribe 17<sup>th</sup> century Gloucestershire inventories. I was given the year 1687 to work on and provided with a template to fill in with my results and a list of the names and reference numbers of each inventory – there were 280 of them in that year. So far, I have transcribed about 40 of them.

To begin with, the list was organised in a vaguely alphabetical order and I started to download the inventories one at a time from the Ancestry website (which has, from the Gloucestershire Archives website, been free to access during lockdown). Then suddenly I found myself transcribing one inventory out of that order – I had been misled by there being two people with the same name (presumably father and son) dying in the same place in the same year. This led me to re-think my strategy and so I sorted the list into numerical order of reference numbers. Apart from it being a more logical approach, it meant that I could more easily download the images from Ancestry in batches, by just moving to the next inventory displayed online.

Most inventories follow the same pattern; they begin with the words ‘A true and perfect inventory’ followed by the name of the deceased, the date the inventory was taken and a comment indicating who had performed the task. This was followed by the list of items and their value, a total value, the signatures of the appraisers and the grant of probate – the latter invariably in Latin at that time.

Some appraisers were very systematic and named every room where the articles could be found; others just lumped all of the items together. The word ‘Item’ was almost always used at the start of a line but it did not necessarily include one article alone; it could include several items of the same kind or even several disparate items.

The value of each item or group of items was given in pounds, shillings and pence and added up to give a total value of the deceased's estate. Edward Alcock's inventory (Ref: 1687/253) gave me a few problems – his appraisers listed all the amounts in Roman numerals! I can see now why the Roman numeral system was replaced by the Arabic number system – it is not so easy to add up using I, V, X, L, D, C and M – and multiplication and division must have been impossible!

The handwriting varied from one inventory to another. Although I have a certain amount of experience with early handwriting, some inventories looked as though they had been written as the appraisers toured the building and were definitely not copied out neatly afterwards. This made it difficult to interpret the odd word.

One such word was, as I thought, 'Asholontide' but despite looking in various dictionaries and googling the word, I failed to find its meaning. During a Zoom meeting with the Archives, I asked for help from those with better historical knowledge than mine and Jemma offered to post my query on the Heritage Hub website, accompanied by an image of the actual inventory entry. Within a day or so, my request was answered. It wasn't Asholontide, it was Alholoutide which equated to All Hallows! My thanks to those who worked it out.

I have learned about various items of 17<sup>th</sup> century furniture. A 'twiggen chair' was a chair made of wicker, possibly all of it or maybe just the seat. A 'joynd stoole' was a small rectangular stool, with four turned legs, joined by stretchers (the cross piece you put your feet on when perched on a bar stool). A 'tableboard' was a flat top table, often appraised separately from the 'frame' or trestle beneath it.

Then I had to try to understand the names of various implements. I found a book on my shelf entitled *Words from Wills and other Probate Records* by Stuart A Raymond and that was a source of many answers. Also useful was *The Goods and Chattels of our Forefathers* by John S Moore, which is Gloucestershire based.

So I was able to discover that ‘a little Rundlett’ (or runlet) was a ‘small cask for wine or a circular wooden trencher’; ‘Lattine pans’ (or latten) were pans made of a yellow alloy of copper, zinc, lead and tin, similar to brass but weaker’ used in cooking pots and candlesticks; and Hachells were used for hacking hemp

Neither of my books told me what a ‘must mill’ was so I had to resort to Wikipedia to learn that must was the freshly crushed fruit that contains the skins, seeds, and stems of the fruit.

Usually the first items on the inventory list were the deceased person’s wearing apparel and the money in his or her purse. But there were other references to financial matters which I had not seen before. There was ‘money upon specialty’ which meant ‘a sealed bond or obligation, often entered into as security for a loan or debt’. And then there were ‘desperate debts’ which, as the expression implies, were debts that were unlikely to be recovered as they were not secured by bond.

The next group of confusing words related to leases (never my favourite subject). I understood mortgage lease and discovered that a Chattle or Chattell lease was one that could be bequeathed in a will. But there was one phrase which I believe related to property that I have yet to understand. In the inventory for Ann Rodway (Ref: 1687/8), in the middle of the list of furniture and implements it says ‘Item: for the life of an old man at 11 shillings a year’ and is valued at £1 2s 0d. The old man was obviously only living for two years! Any ideas? Answers to the editor, please.

The fewest items were on the inventory for Samuel Clissold a broadweaver of King Stanley (Ref:1687/17). He left ‘his waring aparill and books in his hous’, ‘one loome’ and ‘in mony’ all valued at £10 17s 0d. The inventory of John Harris, a yeoman of Moreton Valence was appraised at £444 19s 4d – that is over £55,000 today.

It has been fascinating to see what people owned in this period and to learn a variety of new terms.

*Liz Jack*

## Kisses from France



An embroidered envelope and the card from inside

These two unusual Christmas cards were recently found when clearing out my Aunt's attic. Each embroidered envelope contained a small card, the first with the words 'Kisses from France', the second wishing the recipient 'A Happy New Year'. On the backs of the cards is written a short, personal message. They appear to have been sent to my great Aunt Rose from her brother Harry Little whilst he was serving, initially with the Royal Flying Corps and later with the Royal Air Force, in France in 1916 and 1917.

This is something I knew nothing about. The cards were amongst a number of letters to Rose from her other two brothers, who served in the Army, along with some military photographs. I now want to carry out more research into what the two brothers did during the First World War as I am aware that one of them won the Military Medal because I have now found the actual citation in another pile of papers. I am looking forward to finding out more.

*Janette Sysum*



Another embroidered envelope and the card from inside.

## Answers to the Quiz

1. 69m
2. 1580
3. F. W. Harvey
4. Downham Hill, near Cam. A smallpox hospital once stood there.
5. John Baynham of Westbury on Severn
6. Canon Henry Ellacombe
7. A grassland area, alongside the Severn estuary, near the Slimbride Wildlife Trust
8. A red pear, suitable for making perry.
9. Prinknash Abbey
10. Chipping Campden
11. Old coal mines in the Forest of Dean
12. The Duke of Clarence.