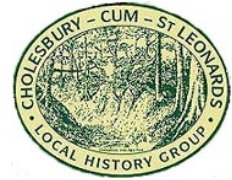


Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local history Group



NEWSLETTER No. 9
2005/6

Chairman's Introduction

It has been yet another very successful year for the Group, with our membership again at a record level, concluding with the AGM and Members' Evening in May. As Prime Minister Harold MacMillan once famously said: "Events dear boy! - Events!" And so it was with Brian Horridge having just concluded an intriguing story of detective work about his family history and with Windsor Thomas in full flow about Art Deco, New Zealand style, that our Members' Evening was brought to a sudden halt. The rest is history but I just wanted to thank both speakers properly as well as reassure you that Windsor will be back to present his talk to us in the future.

Talking of "events", it has always struck me as peculiar how so many events can occur relentlessly from day to day all around us, be they dramatic, momentous or trivial, local, national or global. Yet, despite this, one can still look back and conclude that daily life in one's own locality at least appears to have continued relatively unchanged from one year to the next or even perhaps one decade to the next. Whilst we call daily events 'News' and, at the other end of the spectrum, the changes to our planet Earth 'Geology', everything in between is one way or another consigned to the category of 'History'. It's only when you delve inside the cover of a history book, watch a TV history documentary, compare two photographs of the same location or hear one of our speakers at a Local History Group meeting recalling events from a bygone age that a scene, a building or a way of life we have convinced ourselves has been all but constant has, in fact, changed or even disappeared almost in front of our eyes.

In contrast then, one thing that has not changed over the last 42 years has been the aim of the Group *to seek out and record all aspects of life in Hawridge, Cholesbury, Buckland Common and St Leonards and to rouse the interest of the community in the place in which we live.* Looking back briefly on another busy year our programme of talks captured in a variety of ways how life has dramatically changed in these parts be it 600 years ago or just 60: for instance, the impact of the Black Death, killing perhaps half the population of Bucks villages in the middle of the 14th century; how the gentry and their least well off contemporaries fared at Chenies Manor in the time of Henry VIII, the impact on the local community of the building of the Wendover Canal in the 1790's, its

subsequent demise and now its recent renaissance. Finally, life in Wingrave for evacuee families during the 2nd World War was vividly recounted by our two speakers almost as though it were only yesterday!

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will be able to read about the progress that has been made by the team led by Shirley Blomfield on the archiving of our local history photographs, documents and other items. We have also started to offer our services and access to the archive to the local school and playgroup, and earlier this year were invited by Stone Local History Group to talk about the history of our area.

It will not have gone unnoticed by now that the Local History Group is doing its bit to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. Look within for three different contributions on this theme. Our (Late) Summer Outing this year is to the Trafalgar Exhibition at the Maritime Museum at Greenwich. A write-up of this trip will no doubt appear next time, but instead you can read an account of an earlier outing by local people to London in 1910. Our talks continue the Trafalgar story with contributions on those involved at the battle and the costume of the time. Lastly as announced at the AGM and in Hilltop News we have combined with St Laurence Church, Cholesbury to celebrate the Trafalgar Weekend with a display in the church and a lunch at Cholesbury Village Hall.

This is the ninth newsletter, and we hope it continues to stimulate your interest in our local surroundings and its history. My thanks, as Chairman, go to my colleagues on the Committee for ensuring events and activities run smoothly, to all those who help out behind the scenes at meetings, to our speakers and of course all of you for your continued support of the Group.

The forthcoming season's programme offers a wide-ranging selection of themes and speakers to surprise, inform and hopefully amuse you, concluding with a combined AGM and Members' Evening next May. Together with the Committee, I look forward to seeing everyone in October. Do invite your friends to come along with you as well.

Chris Brown

2005 – 2006 PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2005

8.00pm for 8.15pm

Cholesbury Village Hall

THE MEN AT TRAFALGAR

Mr Derek Ayshford

FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2005

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

PEPYS, PLAGUE AND FIRE

Mr Colin Oakes

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2005

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

**THE HISTORY OF COSTUME IN THE AGE OF
EMMA HAMILTON**

Mrs Catherine Dolman

FRIDAY, 6 JANUARY 2006

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

TOTTENHOE STONE MINES

Mr Barry Horne

FRIDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2006

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

BREAD, GRUEL AND SUET DUMPLINGS

Mr Ian Waller

FRIDAY, 3 MARCH 2006

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

CAPABILITY BROWN

Mr Russell Bowes

FRIDAY, 7 APRIL 2006

8.00pm for 8.15pm

St Leonards Parish Hall

GETTING TO KNOW WORCESTER CHINA

Mrs Jane Fisher

FRIDAY, 5 MAY 2006

8.00pm sharp

Cholesbury Village Hall

AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING

MEMBERSHIP £6.00 PER ANNUM – VISITORS WELCOME: £2.00 PER MEETING

Coffee and Biscuits are served and a collection is taken

www.cholesbury.com

During the past year, more articles about the local history of the Villages have been added to the website. All the walks that we have published as leaflets have also been added. Elsewhere is a diary of parish events, information about the churches and other groups and societies in the four villages. If you are connected to the internet, why not take a look and send us a message to say you have visited and what you think about the website, or suggest other subjects we could cover on the site.

We are receiving an increasing number of enquiries from other parts of the UK and overseas, asking for help about the history of the area and whether we have any information about ancestors who came from these parts.

For those of you who have used the internet to research your family history, the most well known site to visit for research is called "Cindy's List". This is a repository of links to reputable sites on local history all over the world. The site is used by those from the US and Canada to seek information about their relatives in the UK and, with some surprise, we have seen that our website has been added to the Buckinghamshire section.

About the Speakers

The choice of an opening subject for this year's season was made easy by the fact that October sees the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Derek Ayshford was a teacher, but now looks after the technical aspects of the databases of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society. His wife, Pamela, was also a teacher and has been a professional genealogist for over twenty years.

Another professional, this time an archaeologist, is **Colin Oakes**. He also organises walking and coach tours in and around London.

Catherine Dolman graduated in History, which she taught in secondary schools before becoming an Adult Education Lecturer. More recently she has been working for NADFAS.

Barry Horne, an 'old friend' of our Group, is Secretary of the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable.

Ian Waller gives talks and leads tutorials and workshops for family historians.

Russell Bowes is a freelance garden historian. He holds the University of London Diploma in Garden History, and has worked at the Museum of Garden History in South London.

Jane Fisher has a long association with Worcester Porcelain. She will illustrate her talk with samples, and asks Members to bring a piece of china with them, which she will be happy to discuss.

Members' Evening - Finally, it is up to us to entertain ourselves, and we all look forward to sharing fellow amateurs' enthusiasm on any subject of their choice.

George Cobby

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group Committee

Hon. President:	Mrs E Money , The Old Manor House, Cholesbury Common HP23 6ND	(01494 758235)
Chairman & Editor:	Mr C Brown , Rays Hill Farm, Rays Hill, Braziers End HP5 2UJ	(01494 758890)
Deputy Chairman:	Mrs P Thomas , Cherry Orchards, Cholesbury Common HP23 6ND	(01494 758460)
Treasurer:	Mrs S Clarke , Beechwood, Jenkins Lane, St Leonards HP23 6NW	(01494 758567)
Secretary:	Mrs S Watson , Benton Potts, Hawridge Common HP5 2UH	(01494 758914)
Programme Secretary:	Mr G Cobby , 188 Amersham Way, Little Chalfont HP6 6SF	(01494 762954)
Archivist:	Mrs S Blomfield , Chambers Green Farm, St Leonards HP23 6NP	(01494 758314)
Committee Member:	Mr B Rice , 13 Chiltern Cottages, Buckland Common, HP23 6NQ	(01494 758131)

Website: www.cholesbury.com

Snippets

Founder's Prize

Shirley Blomfield was the deserving recipient of the Founder's Prize, voted on at the last AGM. We look forward to hearing about her choice of book, which will be presented to her at a meeting during the year.

Howzat!

From the Black Box records we were interested to see these comments in "*A Local Cricket History*" written in 1960 by Mr Warr, when it seems that Hawridge and Cholesbury Cricket Club 'closed down'!

"1901 Match Supper 4/-. This must have been a very cheap Supper judging by the expense at 4/- but from vague records and local knowledge it was an annual event held in the Parish Hall or at the "Full Moon". The custom was for all people interested in the Cricket to give some eats, such as jars of Pickle Onions, Cooked Chickens, legs of Pork, Home Baked Bread, etc. and, no doubt, to some it was the greatest event of the year. Was the expenditure of 4/- for 48 pints of Wethereds Best Beer if in that year it was a 1d a pint?"

And Mr Warr's final sentence reads: -

"Only one more item before 1900 :- A thriving Golf Club was operating over Cholesbury & Hawridge Commons."

An Outing to Remember

This year the History Group outing came too late to catch the Newsletter deadline for a report. In its place you can enjoy this description of another outing from Cholesbury. This was a visit to the Japanese-British Exhibition at White City. W. Batchelor's account is in the September 1910 edition of Cholesbury Parish Magazine.

How I spent the Day at the White City

The Choir had their excursion to the White City on 27th August. We started from the Vicarage at 9 o'clock with our hopes raised high by the prospect of a fine day. We had a most enjoyable ride in Mr Eggleton's brake to Chesham station, from whence we took the train arriving at the White City just before noon, after a most exciting railway ride. Having arrived, we soon dispersed, each seeking his own amusements, of which there was no lack. The Japanese tribes were especially interesting, with their strange dress and customs. I stayed in the Japanese village a long time, watching the natives at their various occupations and listening to their strange language. I next paid a visit to the Irish Village, where I saw many relics of ancient Irish furniture and had a ride on the Irish Jig.

After visiting several more places, of which I have not space to write, I was glad when 3 o'clock came round – the time arranged for us to meet for tea. Then having sat down for tea, we all did full justice to the good things set before us. After tea I had a motor ride, which I enjoyed as much as anything. After I had visited the Machinery Hall and several other places, I found that the time was drawing near for us to depart, before I had seen half the wonders of the exhibition, and I should have liked to stay much longer, but I had the homeward ride to look forward to, so I did not mind so much. We left the White City just before 7 o'clock arriving at Chesham about nine. Then we came from Chesham in the brake, a bit tired, it is true but all of us quite happy.

There are a few of these magazines in the History Group archives. They are now rather fragile but are interesting because the parish news and a letter from the Parish Priest, Henry E Ferry, were printed only on the inside of the cover page. The main body of the magazine was of general interest and produced by the Diocese. The rather striking red and black cover was printed with the name 'Goodwill, a monthly magazine for the people' as well as 'Cholesbury Parish Magazine'.

There must have been many such expeditions from the villages. If you have any photographs of other outings or reminiscences from elderly relatives, please let us know.

Paddy Thomas

19th Century working life in the Hilltop Villages

From the relative comfort of the first decade of the 21st century there is a tendency for us to imagine that the pace of change to working life that has occurred during our lifetimes is a modern phenomenon, contrasting with an almost unchanging pattern of rural life from season to season during the latter part of the 19th century. We imagine somehow that the Hilltop villages were isolated from the industrial revolution occurring in towns and cities. Unlike today most local people would have lived their whole lives within a few miles of where they were born. All but a few earning a living directly or indirectly from the land. But change was afoot.

For the first time this year it has been possible to access all the censuses from the second half of the 1800s and find out how occupations ebbed and flowed over the period. My research is at an early stage and somewhat confined to statistics but nevertheless I thought it might be of interest to provide a few examples of the differences between the livelihoods of local people in 1861 compared with 1901, the most recent one for which individuals' records are available.

In 1861 there were just over 550 individuals with a occupation recorded across the four villages. Note that this would have included not just those between 14 and 65 but a sizeable number of 10-14 year olds and a few over today's retirement age, bearing in mind normal male life-expectancy in those days was nearer 45-50. By 1901 there were just short of 300 with a recorded occupation, excluding those 'retired' or 'annuitant' (virtually non-existent in 1861). The category 'scholar', frequent in 1901 was rare in 1861 when young children laboured for a pittance whilst attending so-called 'straw-plaiting schools'.

Of all those in work in 1861, 180 (almost entirely male) were agricultural labourers and 226 (apart from the children, exclusively female) were straw-plaiters. In addition other women were bonnet makers, needlewomen or laundresses. Contrast this with 1901 when the numbers of labourers had halved and there was just one straw-plaiter left and no needlewomen or laundresses. The reduction in women working is probably due to an improvement in economic prosperity with more year-round work for men.

(continued over the page)

Remember in the first part of the 19th century few were in regular work, relying on 'poor relief' handouts, and labourers would have done a range of casual jobs over the year, e.g. moving from farm to farm as well as the nearby woodlands. Delving a little further one finds what happened to the types of occupation. The reduction in the working population reflects two trends: firstly, farming becoming less labour intensive, one of the new jobs listed providing a clue – a threshing engine operator; secondly the migration of men and some women to the many new and better paid jobs in nearby towns or further to London or Birmingham. Thirteen were now working in the local cider factory. Growth in furniture-making is demonstrated by occupational changes. In 1861 there were 12 sawyers/woodsmen and 4 chair turners. By 1901 there were 5 sawyers and 6 chair turners but over 19 carpenters and a local cabinet maker. In another locally successful industry, brick-making,

numbers almost doubled over this period as did that of bricklayers (from 5 to 9 in both cases). By 1901 the number of women who were servants or housekeepers had also doubled to 25. There were 7 grooms (compared to 1 in 1861) and 8 gardeners (compared to 2 previously), tomato growers, pheasant breeders and a gamekeeper all reflecting the growing influence of the local 'gentry classes'.

Another significant development in the types of occupations was amongst the more 'skilled' occupations such as school teacher (of which there were 7), nurses (2) and postmistresses (2) in 1901. The number of clergymen and preachers doubled to 4, while the number of publicans remained stable at 6. Peace and order was being maintained, at least in the Cholesbury and Hawridge area, by a solitary constable, although one could say rather cheekily this is still one more than we have today!

Chris Brown

The History Group Library

Once again books by local authors have been added to the Library List. The first is by Wendy Austin, who is one of our regular speakers. Wendy kindly gave us 'Further Tring Personalities' and the library now has all three books in the series.

The next author is definitely local and will be well known to many members. Don't you miss shopping at the 'Turkey Farm' down the Vale? Often a visit there would produce not only a basket of turkey joints and portions but also a long chat with Ron or his daughter Margaret about life in general and what was going on in the villages.

"From Christmas to Anytime" is Ron How's very personal account of his own life. The story begins in 1934 when they were living in Chesham. His father was working in London and keeping chickens and ducks as a hobby. Two fields were rented in Missenden Road and that hobby was turned into a business. Ron was already helping by carrying a gallon of water in a bucket he could manage and wielding his own hammer when the pens were being built. Lively and detailed memories of Ron's early days, playtime, schooldays in Chesham, the war years, the move to Woodlands Farm in Chesham Vale, and his time in the RAF, wind in and around the story of the steady development of the Turkey Industry. The birth of Chessovale Flavour Full Turkey was all part of that and ended only in 1999 when Ron retired and the farm was sold.

Ron How now lives in Chesham Bois. It was very pleasant to visit him recently, to sit in the garden with a cup of tea, have a great chat and to ask him to sign the History Group copy of his book. He said he meant the title to describe the book as the story of the

time when turkey was only available at Christmas until it could be eaten at any time of the year.



Ron How on the left with his father, M. D. How

Each year we try to find new books that may help and encourage members to do some local research. Now on the Library List for you to borrow are "Tithes, Maps, Apportionments and the 1836 Act: a guide for local historians" and "Reading Tudor and Stuart Handwriting". They are not huge daunting tomes and offer good advice and information.

The History Group Library is there for you to use. If you contact me on 01494 758460, I will send you the list of titles. Your chosen book can be brought to the next meeting or I will arrange for you to collect it from me. At most meetings there will be a few of the library's books etc. for members to look at. Please let me, or any committee member, have your suggestions for new titles.

Paddy Thomas

With grateful thanks to Ron How for kindly giving his permission to reproduce the picture from his book.

Notes from the Archivist

The past year has seen work on the Catalist database continuing at what might be loosely termed "a steady pace". The filing cabinet certainly has more free space and the completed Black Boxes now number three. It is satisfying to see the photographs and documents properly catalogued and stored. Recent purchase has been made of more Black Boxes together with a supply of Grey Boxes, which will go a long way to seeing the work through to completion. The Grey Boxes are being used to store items that are not photographs and not of a standard A4 format, such as Wills and Deeds. Having access to the database is making the retrieval of information much easier, and the scanning of photographs and documents onto the system enhances this. Thanks are due to Chris Brown for the time-consuming work of scanning, and to everyone who has helped with the input of information, especially Paddy Thomas, who did a lot of work in the Autumn of 2004 while Windsor was travelling overseas.

Recently we have met up with local people who wished to record their memories of the villages and over the year there have been enquiries for information held in the archives. A number of these have come in by e-mail and are mostly related to research with family history. For this reason we have decided to introduce a modest range of fees for researching, copying and dispatching information. These will contribute towards the Group's running costs and are itemised below.

On a Friday evening in March we were alerted to a sale of the effects of the late Mr Ernie Collier at Brown and Merry's Auction Rooms in Tring. The next morning, a bitterly cold one, saw John Phimester and myself waiting for the bidding to begin. We were very lucky to acquire photographs from the lots in the sale, which purchasers did not wish to keep. Thanks go to John for waiting until the end of the sale to achieve this. When the process of identification is complete, the photographs will be scanned onto the Catalist system.

The photograph below is already in the collection and scanned - this is the Turner family who lived in Braziers End House. According to "Hilltop Villages" the family continued to live at Braziers End although in 1899 Mr Turner bought Hawridge Court and its land, becoming Lord of the Manors of Cholesbury and Hawridge. He is also reported as owning Dundridge at that time.

We have been looking recently at editions of "Goodwill", dating from 1907-1909 and published as Cholesbury Parish Magazine. Extracts relating to the villages have been typed up and this is an exercise that would be extremely useful for the more recent Parish Magazines that we have in the archives. Is there a volunteer with some time to spare who might be able and willing to read through the magazines and make notes of items of interest? Please get in touch with me.

Shirley Blomfield

The Turner Family



Back row left to right: Dorothy, Kathleen, Rose, Olive, Roger
Front row left to right: Tom, Mr Henry Turner (the Squire), Mrs Mary Turner

Charges for black and white copies of Local History Group Archive items

Item	Members	Non-members
Documents	£1.50, extra copies £1.00	£3.50, extra copies £2.00
Photographs	£2.50 each	£4.00 each

Trafalgar Trifles

To commemorate Nelson's victory of 1805, Trafalgar Square was laid out between 1829 and 1841 to a design by Sir Charles Barry (architect of the present Palace of Westminster), on the site formerly occupied by the King's Mews. A mew is a cage for hawks, and medieval monarchs kept their falcons, and later, their stables there - hence, mews meaning stable yard or courtyard.

The Nelson Column was slowly erected between 1839 and 1843. The stone statue is 17 feet high, and weighs 16 tons. The height from the pavement to the top of Nelson's hat is 184 feet.

HMS "Victory" is associated in most minds with Portsmouth Dockyard, but not so by the people of

Chatham, where it was built between 1759 and 1765 and, upon completion, put into reserve.

Although Nelson's flagship from 1803, "Victory" had served in that capacity from 1778 under several distinguished admirals, including Keppel, Kampenfeldt, Howe, Hood and Jervis. It was the last named who, when questioned by a nervous House of Lords fearing invasion, famously replied: "I do not say that the French cannot come. I only say they cannot come by sea".

For accountants, traffic calmers and environmentalists, "Victory" cost £63,175, had a maximum speed of 9 knots and at 3,500 tons, consumed 100 acres of woodland, mostly oak.

George Cobby

"Oh yes, there were....."

... women fighting in the Battle of Trafalgar. Although official Admiralty instructions in the 18th Century stated that a Captain "is not to carry any Woman to sea, nor entertain any Foreigners to serve in the Ship, who are not Officers or Gentlemen, without Orders from the Admiralty", there is no doubt that the rule was being broken. Women did from time to time go to sea, and not always disguised as boys or men. Ann Perrian was one, who actually gouged a naval pension out of the Board of Admiralty, a body little known for acts of generosity in those days. Ann lies buried at Exmouth. She was the only naval pensioner of her sex, receiving £10 per year. She served in HMS CRESCENT and HMS ORION and was present at Lorient, Cape St Vincent and the Nile. Her job was with the gunners, preparing the flannel cartridge cases.

Then there was Mary Lacey whose petition to the Admiralty in 1772 set forth her remarkable career. Disguised as a man, she was entered on board His Majesty's Fleet where, having served until the end of the war, she bound herself apprentice to the carpenter of the ROYAL WILLIAM for seven years up to 1766 and then served as a shipwright in Portsmouth Dockyard until 1772 when Their Lordships granted her the pension of a superannuated shipwright. The most famous case of many was, however, that of Jane Townsend, who claimed the Naval General Service Medal for her acknowledged (but illicit) service aboard HMS DEFIANCE at Trafalgar. She rendered good service in the fight and, like Anne Hopping and Mary Anne Riley at the Battle of the Nile in 1798, applied for the campaign medals.

These the Admiralty refused on the significant grounds that many other women in the fleets had given equally good service!

The issue of women clandestinely living on board warships at sea is discussed at length in a fascinating book by Evelyn Berckman, "The Hidden Navy" (Hamish Hamilton, 1973). In the House of Lords there is a cartoon fresco by Daniel Maclise showing Nelson being tended by women which suggests women were present on board HMS VICTORY, but there is no documentary proof. Maclise might have had in mind an extraordinary oil painting of the period by Thomas Stothard showing two hefty women forming part of a guns crew in action, dressed as men and on a completely equal footing. It is not much of an exaggeration to say that it would be unlikely if there were not one or two women on board a ship of the VICTORY's size at Trafalgar, and if Maclise was guilty of artistic licence in showing them it was by no means stretching credibility.

After all, what is the origin of the phrase "Show a leg"? It's the traditional exhortation to wake up, derived from the old days of sail when women were allowed onboard and to stay overnight when in harbour. The occupants of hammocks had to stick a leg out to show to the Bosun's Mates when they were doing their rounds. A hairy leg was male and had to get up; but a smooth one was allowed to linger an extra hour in the " 'mick".

Compiled from various sources, principally a letter from Basil Greenhill (then Director of the National Maritime Museum) dated 24 April 1980.

Caroline Coates

Cholesbury and the Battle of Trafalgar

A visit to the Churchyard in Cholesbury is a must for 2005. Look for David Newton's headstone (the second from the right in the photograph opposite) to find Cholesbury's very own link with the Battle of Trafalgar. Here lies a man who fought and was slightly wounded in that battle.

Luckily for the History Group Archive, Newton's great grandson sent a photograph (see below) and a memorial card for safekeeping in the Parish. These have helped to fill in some of the details of his life as have notes kindly sent to us by Pam and Derek Ayshford when they were researching the Battle of Trafalgar.



David Newton was born at The Lee and worked as an agricultural labourer until he joined the Royal Marines at the age of 18. At Trafalgar he served as a private on the "Revenge" and apparently during the engagement was knocked down and had three ribs broken. When he left the service he married a farmer's daughter from Whelpley Hill. By 1818 he was living in Cholesbury and the birth of Charlotte, the first of their seven children, was recorded. In 1861 he was still in Cholesbury but by now his wife had died, he was blind and being looked after by his son James. In 1872 into David Newton's story comes

his neighbour, the famous Reverend Henry Jeston, who had by then been Vicar at Cholesbury for forty-two years. Always caring and interested in his parishioners, Jeston wrote a letter to The Times. He tells David's story of how the men on the "Revenge" knew of Nelson's death, and he ends with the hopes that any surviving officers might send "a trifle for my hero".



He describes David as "a thoroughly good devout old man aged 85, almost stone blind, without a pension and supported in part by parish allowance".

It was a great success. In a further letter to The Times on 6 January 1873, Rev Jeston could report that as much as £5.10s.7d had been sent in small sums but also that he had been advised to put David's case to the Board of Admiralty. As a result Newton had been awarded a special Greenwich pension of 1s. 6d. a day for the rest of his life. It was thought to be "the most liberal pension ever granted to a man of Newton's standing in the Navy". In this same letter Jeston relates another of David Newton's stories. This one describes David's experiences of action on the "Revenge". It seems that in the midst of the battle, Nelson asked Hardy the whereabouts of the "Revenge". Hearing that she had four ships attacking her, he ordered the signal for two ships to go to her aid.

David Newton died in July 1878. There are, as is often the case in documents, some intriguing discrepancies in dates. Newton is described on his headstone and his memorial card as being in his 99th year. In 1872 Jeston described him as aged 85 but the 1851 census gives his age then as 68. This would make him 89 by 1872 and only 96 at his death. Whatever age David Newton was on that July day in Cholesbury, it seems most fitting that Rev Henry Jeston, himself now very old, was able to preside over the funeral. This was the final service he could do for the man he had helped and once described as his "hero".

Paddy Thomas