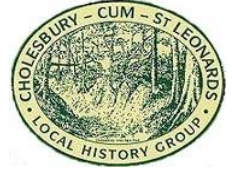


Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local history Group



NEWSLETTER No. 14

2010 - 2011

Chairman's Introduction

Within the pages of this Newsletter I am sure amongst the miscellany of contributions you will find articles to capture your interest. We go behind the scenes to hear from our Librarian and Archivist as to what they have been up to over the past year and the interesting new insights into the history of the local area they have discovered. Hot off the press are accounts of the recent outing to Southwark, which was clearly enjoyed by all. For those who want to know about those halcyon days when buses were more common than cars, there's an interesting chronology drawn from some extensive research the Group was given. Probably the second or third thing you ask when meeting someone for the first time is to ask them what job they do. So there are a few facts and figures behind how some of our predecessors earned a living one hundred years ago. First-hand stories are often the richest source of information for the local historian as shown by some memories of visiting St Leonards during the 1950s. There's a quiz and a puzzle on the back page. Finally, we have articles on a naughty vicar and his church! As Editor can I thank everyone who has contributed excellent articles and I am sure they will provide an informative and enjoyable read for members.

Earlier in the year members agreed that young people should be able to enjoy free membership of the Local History Group. We hope to see some new younger members in the seasons to come. I'm also pleased to welcome Richard Leat to the Committee. If you would like to help out at meetings please do get in touch. In the coming programme of talks there are topics on local places, on Buckinghamshire and further afield. I hope to see the usual good turn-out from members and visitors. Finally, I would like to thank my Committee colleagues for their endeavours on behalf of the Group over the past year, all those who have helped out before, during and after meetings, and all members for their continued support of the Local History Group. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the Autumn, our 47th year.

Chris Brown

Impressions of our visit to Southwark

When one evening early in 2009 I got into conversation with Jo Brewster and her husband John on a homeward-bound train, I saw the possibility of a talk linked to our annual outing. I never dreamed that it would turn out so well.

Two dozen of us braved one of TfL's days of playing Public Enemy No.1, but that was forgotten on arrival at the Cathedral precincts. Everything welcomed the visitor: buildings were clean and uncluttered, and the new blended naturally with the old.



We had to split into two groups, and I joined the one to be guided by Jo. Obviously proud of her job and her workplace, Jo is a natural. She led us through two millennia of history, seemingly without a break. It began so well with the excavated trench, from the

(To read more impressions of the summer outing to Southwark Cathedral see inside)



section of Roman road (no potholes!), up through Norman and Early English arches to the 17th century "Delft" kiln. And so it was throughout the Cathedral. You felt that you were being taken round a friend's house.

After lunch in the pleasant refectory, Jo led a stroll along Bankside, which was teeming with (other) tourists. I wondered how many of them, from the crowds in Clink Street to the bridal parties on the Millennium Bridge, were being entertained - and educated - as we were.

A Grand Day Out, as Wallace and Gromit would say.

George Cobby

(Photographs by Windsor Thomas)

2010 - 2011 PROGRAMME

Researched and produced by *George Cobby*

FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2010 8.00pm for 8.15pm Cholesbury Village Hall	THE VERNEYS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Colin Oakes is an archaeologist and expert on London's history. He returns once again to perform for us in his unique and entertaining way.
FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2010 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	THE FIRST LANDING AT HALTON Francis Hanford is curator of the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton which we visited last year. This talk is the one postponed due to snow in 2009!
FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2010 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARTISTS Sarah Gray is the manager and curator of Buckinghamshire County Museum and this talk will reveal some hidden treasures of the museum's art collections.
FRIDAY, 7 JANUARY 2011 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN Andy Gunn is a lecturer in arts and crafts and the Victorian society.
FRIDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2011 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	COTTAGE CRAFTS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Janet Dineen teaches mixed arts and crafts at Chesham's White Hill Centre.
FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2011 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	AYLESBURY CLOCK AND CLOCK TOWER Ralph Ludlow has a background in Engineering and a particular interest in model engineering such as clocks.
FRIDAY, 1 APRIL 2011 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	A HISTORY OF WENDOVER Jan and Margaret Gosling have researched in depth the history of Wendover, where they have lived for over 30 years.
FRIDAY, 6 MAY 2011 8.00pm sharp Cholesbury Village Hall	AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING A time when we look forward to exchanging local history stories and anecdotes.
MEMBERSHIP: - ADULTS £8.00 pa. JUNIORS (those below the minimum school leaving age) FREE. VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME: £3.00 PER MEETING Coffee, Tea and Biscuits are served and a collection is taken.	

Local History Group Committee

Chairman & Editor:	Mr Chris Brown , Rays Hill Farm, Rays Hill, Braziers End, HP5 2UJ	01494 758890
Dep. Chair/ Librarian:	Mrs Paddy Thomas , Cherry Orchards, Cholesbury Common, HP23 6ND	01494 758460
Treasurer/Archivist:	Mrs Shirley Blomfield , Chambers Green Farm, St Leonards, HP23 6NP	01494 758314
Secretary:	Mr Barry Warr , 5 Lammas Close, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 4XT	01784 454950
Programme Secretary:	Mr George Cobby , 188 Amersham Way, Little Chalfont, HP6 6SF	01494 762954
Committee Member:	Mr Richard Leat , Leyland Barn, Bottom Road, St Leonards, HP23 6LJ	01494 758784

New Treasurer

For the last year the important role of Treasurer has been undertaken on an interim basis by Shirley Blomfield in addition to her duties as the Group's Archivist. As there were no volunteers at the AGM Shirley has continued in the role. In May 2010, Richard Leat joined the Committee and has expressed his willingness to take on the role of Treasurer. To formalise arrangements our constitution requires we hold a brief EGM and pass a resolution to this effect. The EGM will take place at the start of our meeting at Cholesbury Village Hall on 1st October at 8.15pm.

EGM Agenda

Election of Treasurer

The Committee invites Members to consider and, if appropriate, resolve that: Richard Leat be appointed Treasurer of the Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group.

Having a Census of History

Sunday 27th March 2011 is the date of the next UK census. 1941 aside there has been such a census every ten years since 1841. Prior to this, 1801-1831 saw a much simpler census, however much of the data has been lost over time. The 2011 census will be the first to enable household returns to be completed online. It may also be the last such census to be conducted, as a 'value for money' review is to be undertaken on collecting demographic data in this way.

The format of the census completed almost one hundred years ago, on 2nd April 1911, also underwent important changes compared to those that preceded it and the range of information collected was enhanced. For those researching family histories, this is the first census where the individual household returns as well as the enumerators' summaries are available. For the first time they were also made accessible to researchers, two years early, in 2009.

Analysis of the 1911 census returns provides insight into the breadth of occupations at the end of the first decade of the 20th century in the Hilltop Villages. Even more interesting is to contrast the information provided about the jobs people had in 1911 with those recorded 60 years before in the 1851 census.

The smallest of the villages over this period was Cholesbury, with between 100-120 inhabitants, of whom about a third were children and just a few were elderly folk, including, in 1911, a 'police pensioner'. The table below compares the types of occupations and numbers of each job for Cholesbury in 1851 and 1911. It reveals some interesting contrasts. In 1851 a third of workers (men) were agricultural labourers, whilst a further third (women and teenage girls) were recorded as straw plaiters. By 1911 there are no straw plaiters due to the Luton hat trade's demise. Mechanisation and improvements to farming practice replaced the requirement for unskilled casual labourers with a smaller number of more specialised jobs.

Meanwhile other industries such as cider- and brick-making provided work for unskilled labourers. Servant numbers in both years are remarkably similar, working

for the Lord of the Manor at Braziers End and the clergy in the Vicarage. By the way, a Higgler was another name for a peddler travelling from place to place buying and selling goods. The 1911 census records an increase in skilled workers, those with a trade, such as the miller Tom Robinson, ironically listed in the last year before the windmill ceased production, and those employed in what today we would call professional occupations, including a pupil teacher. The school in Hawridge only opened in 1857.

Also of interest is the monthly nurse, so called as they assisted mothers 'of the artisan classes' for up to a month after birth. Before 1902, legally, ante-natal care was the sole prerogative of male doctors. Midwives, then all-female, were not recognised in law until after 1902. In rural communities it would be some time before the role of monthly nurse was subsumed into the profession. The other occupation that stands out is the 'black and white artist'. In an era before wide scale use of photographic images, these artists provided most of the illustrations in books, newspapers or periodicals. In this case our artist was called Charles Entwisle (or Entwistle), born in Manchester 1879. So far I have not found any references to the kind of work or the publications he worked on. Together with his wife and baby daughter they were living at The Gables, next to the windmill in Rays Hill. It may not be a coincidence though that in 1913, Gilbert Cannan, the writer and critic newly installed at the windmill, encouraged John Middleton Murry, an editor and publisher of periodicals and Katherine Mansfield the novelist to lodge for a short period at The Gables. Gilbert Cannan was of a similar age to Entwisle and both hailed from Manchester so they may well have been acquainted.

Today, it is no surprise that the householders of Cholesbury have occupations very different to those in 1911. There may be the odd artist or teacher; perhaps there's a midwife; however I am yet to come across a butler or a coachman let alone a higgler. The census return for 2011 will be available in around 2110 to check!

Chris Brown

Occupation types	1851 Cholesbury Census	No.	1911 Cholesbury Census	No.
Land Owner/ Farmer	Farmer (2), Magistrate	3	Farmer (4), Smallholder, Poultry breeder	6
Agriculture Workers	Agricultural labourer (22), Shepherd	23	Farm servant (7), Shepherd, Horseman, Cowman (2)	11
Indoor Servants	House Servant (3), Housekeeper; Governess, Cook, Housemaid	7	Domestic servant, Housemaid (5), Butler	7
Outdoor Servants	Groom, Gardener, Steward	3	Groom, Gardener, Coachman	3
Tradesmen	Butcher, Carpenter, Sawyer	3	Boot repairer, Carpenter, Miller, Sawyer, Coal dealer	5
Other unskilled Workers	Higgler	1	Cider factory labourer, Blacksmith's striker, General labourers (5), Brickyard labourer (2), Higgler,	10
Clergyman	Curate	1	Clergy in holy orders	1
Pub Landlord	Publican	1	Licensed victualler	1
Homeworkers	Straw Plaiter	22		
School Worker			Pupil teacher	1
Artist			Black and white artist	1
Office Worker			Commercial clerk	1
Nurse			Monthly nurse	1
	Total	64	Total	48

The History Group Library

The eight additions to the Library this year were as varied a bunch as ever, not all local to us but with, at the very least, a connection with a near neighbour or reference to Buckinghamshire.

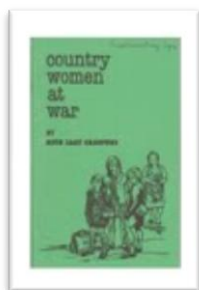
Bert Hosier's book 'Hedgehog's Northchurch' and 'Making the Road from Princes Risborough to Thame', by Peter Gulland were additions made following talks at monthly meetings. Mary Harris kindly presented six old editions of Records of Buckinghamshire to add to the History Group's collection.

A welcome gift of five books from Charles Firth included 'In Search of England', 'Along the Chiltern Ways', and 'County Humour'. However the pleasure of the Librarian was to discover that the other two had some interesting associations with each other and with our own local history.

The first was Claire Loewenfeld's 'Herb Gardening'. Why was a book on gardening accepted with great excitement? Look at last year's Newsletter. Chris Brown had been researching the life of Claire Loewenfeld, the well known authority



on herbs and healthy eating who founded Chiltern Herb Farms in Cholesbury. He put out a plea for any of her books or a photograph. Chris notes in his Wikipedia biography that during World War Two, the author actively campaigned about the bad effects of the shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables. She prepared a leaflet 'Wild Rose Hips in War Time, Their Collection, Preparation and Use' which was widely distributed. As a result the Government organised a national initiative for their collection. Rose hips were made into a syrup rich in vitamin C given to babies and children. Our new book is excellent and detailed, even including good recipes. It was not published until 1964, but it is interesting to see that, in the section on rose hips, it describes how, during the War *'the women's organisation, Boy Scouts and school children collected large numbers of rose hips from the common hedgerows'*. For 'Women's organisation' read the 'Women's Institute', which during the war years became famous for preserving fruit that might have gone to waste. 5,000 Preservation centres were set up all over the country. Members and their children also collected rose hips and other fruits and wild herbs for food or medicinal purposes, just as Claire Loewenfeld advised.



'Country Women At War' is a lively and funny little booklet. It is highly recommended for the vivid

www.cholesbury.com

Remember to take a look at the local history pages on the website, which contain articles about the local history of the villages, old newsletters, the parish map and you can download five Jubilee Local History Walks.

description of happenings which must have closely resembled those in our own villages. When war broke out, the author, Ruth, Lady Crauford, lived in Aldbury. She was heavily involved with her own WI and Hertfordshire Federation of WIs. She represented the W.V.S. in the area, was head billeting officer for Aldbury and ran the local district nursing association. Not surprisingly this gave her a wealth of amusing, exhausting, sad or infuriating experiences, which she puts under the headings 'The Evacuees', 'Troop Welfare' and 'The Home Front'.

How do our two books connect? When you read Lady Crauford's words they really bring to life that 'national initiative' which Claire Loewenfeld inspired. She lists yarrow and St John's wort (for coughs and consumption especially) gathered by Potten End WI, Little Gaddesden's 103lbs of rose hips (tonic) and the 22lbs of digitalis collected by Aldbury, and describes how she enjoyed wandering in the woods with her children and members of her WI. Stinging nettles were not popular to collect except by Wilstone WI who loaded a quarter of a ton into her Austin 7 car one day. There followed an eventful journey to Dunstable with her load.

If Aldbury WI and other Herts WIs were busy across the valley, you might begin to wonder if our local WI was at work, particularly as Claire Loewenfeld actually lived in our villages. It is reassuring to discover from the records of the afternoon WI, which closed in 1979, that through the war years the members were indeed hard at work doing a great deal of knitting, mending and washing for the forces, growing vegetables, and planning an Institute Food Preservation Centre. The record for October 1941 also mentions 'bringing Rose Hips to the Centre' and by October 1944 arrangements were being made to pick rose hips on the Common followed by tea in the Parish Hall.

An updated Library List will be emailed to members at the beginning of the new season. For those without an email contact, a printed version will be available. Members may borrow any book from the list. A small selection is brought to most meetings or you can call me on 01494 758460 if you want to borrow a particular book or have suggestions for new titles. The Book Sale box will continue to appear at meetings. Please support it with your books and purchases. All topics and titles are welcome. They do not have to have an historical theme.

We should like to thank Mary Harris, Charles Firth and Bert Hosier who presented books to the History Group Library during the year.

Paddy Thomas

A Short History of Bus Services in the Hilltop Villages

We are grateful to John Savage from Tring who kindly presented us with a copy of his detailed research on the history of bus services in the Tring area. The following article is based on John's discoveries about our local bus routes.

The story begins in August 1924 when Mr E W Young's Aylesbury Motor Bus Company, the pioneers of bus services around Aylesbury, started a single return service on Fridays from Buckland Common (Rose and Crown) via Cholesbury and Hastoe to Tring (Market). The fare from Buckland Common to Tring was 7d and from Cholesbury to Tring was 6d. In 1930 route numbers were introduced and Route 10 was assigned to the Buckland Common to Tring service. The No 10 route was short lived and withdrawn later that year due to increased competition.



Route 397 bus in service during 1930s

The competitor was the Amersham Motor Bus and Haulage Company which, from 1928, provided a service from Chesham to Buckland Common via Cholesbury. After a short period services to Buckland Common were withdrawn in favour of a revised service, labelled Route 7, from Cholesbury via Wigginton to Tring. There were four services each day (except Mondays) and an additional journey on Saturday evenings. The success of this route encouraged the Chesham & District Bus Company to start an almost identical service in 1930. Despite running to Buckland Common and providing a full Sunday service, their service was unprofitable, and they were taken over in 1932 by their competitor Amersham & District.

The most significant change came in 1933 when the London Passenger Transport Board subsumed most provincial bus companies, including Amersham &

District. Routes 7 became Route 397 but services to and from Buckland Common were dropped and serviced by an extension of Route 398 from Bellingdon. Services improved steadily between 1944 and 1958, with new buses and hourly services, 7 days a week. However, the heyday of our local bus services ended in the 1960s when Route 397 was withdrawn. It was covered by Route 348 and 348A and later 394 on a reduced frequency. Sunday services were withdrawn, never to return.

In 1970 the National Bus Company took over services. Route 398 was renamed 394 with a new return Route 349. Initially services were improved with a service to St Leonards and some buses also running on from Tring to Berkhamsted, but these routes proved unprofitable and in 1975 services were pared back to those of the 1930s. The route between Buckland Common and St Leonards and Tring was withdrawn, although services were again restored in 1980 when the further development of Coppice Farm Park made it profitable to run to Lanes End. In 1986 bus services were deregulated. The Cholesbury route was not commercially viable and services henceforth depended entirely on Bucks CC subsidies. Over the next 10 years re-badged Red Rover 94/49 routes were progressively curtailed to just three times a week. In 1996 Turners took over the contract and in 2001 there was an unsuccessful experiment with an additional subsidised service 194. In 2005 Arriva /Carousel took on the 94/49 route and in 2009 the contract was awarded to Red Line Buses and again relabelled Route 194/149, which you might even be lucky to spot today!

A Little Architectural Gem

Next time you visit or pass by St Mary's Church, Hawridge, dally a moment to appreciate its external features. Underneath our noses is in fact a little architectural gem. By 1850 St Mary's, originally constructed in the 13th century in the plain Early English style, had fallen into serious disrepair due to years of neglect and lack of funds (an explanation of the reasons for this can be found in Barry Warr's article).

William White, a renowned architect, was commissioned to undertake the restoration. White was one of a few architects feted in church



circles for their innovative designs, originally in the Gothic Revivalist style, which had been all the fashion in the early 19th century. In 1856 a rectory in Heath End was built and the refurbishment of the church took place. It was one of only three such small churches White designed in a modern and distinctive style for which the name 'constructional polychromy' had been coined. The key features are simplified contours, with no projections, so no shadows, and use of contrasting colours; red brick flush tracery and flint coating. Sadly the 'Great and Good' of the Church did not feel able to extend these colourful features internally although the simple whitewashed walls and wooden chancel arch seem to be in keeping for the church of a rural parish. The fact that Pevsner described the church 'of no architectural interest' serves only to add to its charm.

Chris Brown

Founder's Prize 2010

The Founder's Prize in memory of General Money, one of the Group's Founding Members, is awarded by Members' vote to someone who has contributed to the activities of the LHG over the year. Barry Warr was the deserving recipient of the prize. We look forward to hearing about his choice of book when it is presented at a future meeting.

The Extraordinary Case of Rev. William Day

It's June 1837 and a new rector arrives at St Mary's, Hawridge. His appointment will turn out to be a mixed blessing for both vicar and parishioners.

The Rev. William Day was born in 1813, the second son of George Day, a clergyman of Earsham, Norfolk. Hawridge was his first appointment after being awarded a B.A from Merton College, Oxford in 1835.

In the first half of the 19th century a clergyman without independent means or family connections enjoyed a meagre living. Worse still, there was insecurity of tenure and an incumbent usually had to meet all or most of the costs of running the parish from their own resources. Unsurprisingly, debt was a frequent occurrence. Within two years of arriving William Day, whose living was valued at £156, found himself in Hertford gaol for unpaid debts. It was only the beginning of his troubles.

In 1842 'The Times' - under the banner 'Extraordinary Case' - reported a lawsuit brought by a Mr Smith, "a gentleman of independent property", who lived in Chesham. The report relates how, on a July evening, a small child made a remark whilst the Rev. Day was passing the Smith's property on horseback. Day became upset, dismounted and followed the child onto the Smith's property "for the purpose of beating it." A servant tried to intervene but "with an oath is struck very severely."

Mrs Smith hearing the commotion emerged and asked Day to explain his conduct and for her trouble received "several blows with the butt-end of his riding whip upon her neck and shoulders" until he was restrained by a servant. Mr Smith remonstrated with Day who, before riding off, responded by saying, "D—n your eyes, you are only an old pauper." Whilst Mr Smith went for the local constable, Day returned and broke down the gates of Smith's house.

Despite the assault on his wife and the damage to his property, Mr Smith sought only an apology, a 20 shilling donation to charity and for Day to keep the peace towards his family. Day treated the proposal with contempt and refused to offer any explanation for his behaviour. The jury found Day guilty and fined him 200 shillings.

In May 1843, Day went to the 'Rose and Crown', drank brandy and water excessively and left with Benjamin Batchelor. A dog belonging to Mr Weedon, a local farmer, followed them along the road. For some reason Day is annoyed by the dog and he cried out "I will do the rascal" before cutting the dog on the throat.

Between 17th July 1843 and the 16th March 1844 Day was in Aylesbury gaol although we do not know why he was there. On the 5th June, Day was seen in a state of intoxication in the 'Rose and Crown' following a vestry meeting at the church. Earlier reports speak of him as being "rather fresh" and "in liquor".

Now well into his stride, on 17th September, Day left the 'Rose and Crown' in a drunken state. He was accompanied by Thomas Batchelor (possibly the same Thomas Batchelor who was the Hawridge Parish Guardian between 1823 and 1824) until Day said to him "Go to Hell, I don't want you!"

A scuffle with Nathan Tomlin occurred on 18th November. Both of the men were drunk and had to be separated by the landlord of the 'Rose and Crown', Joseph Pitkin. Day was, according to reports, "pretty well tipsy" before he entered the pub.

Matters reached a head, however, on 7th February 1845 when Day drew a knife on Thomas Batchelor and cut him. Day was tried by the Aylesbury assizes on 14th March on a charge of "feloniously cutting and maiming." He was found guilty of common assault and imprisoned, most likely in Aylesbury gaol, for six weeks. This caused a great scandal in the village, where he was already known as "the drunken parson", and caused his congregation, which had been around a hundred, to dwindle even further.

Whether it was his indebtedness, the experience of being sent to prison or just the daily grind of a clergyman's life that led to his addiction to drink we cannot know. What is clear is that it was his drunken behaviour and prison sentences between 1837 and 1845 that led to his trial in December 1845 under the Church Discipline Act.

Having heard the evidence, the ecclesiastical court decided to suspend Day for three years for his "habitual intoxication." Under the terms of his suspension he must present to the court a certificate, endorsed by three clergymen, stating that he has been of good behaviour during this time.

Day's suspension was met with great scepticism. 'The Times' of 5th December asked its readers, "Is it possible to pen this judgement without astonishment?" In its view, "a plain, right-thinking man" would consider Day should be "instantly punished by deprivation." Sir H. Jenner Fust is singled out for criticism because, as the paper sees it, he "could not bring himself to discharge an unpleasant duty."

'The Times'' doubts appear to be well founded. On 14th December, 1848, Day's suspension ended and he resumed his clerical duties - without the certificate of good behaviour the court had asked for. On 19th February, 1849 he is served notice. Characteristically, Day ignores not just this notice but four others and is finally pronounced in contempt.

What happened to William Day next? I've yet to find out but the 1851 Census offers a hint. It shows a thirty-eight year old Rev. William Day in Aylesbury gaol!

Barry Warr

Summer Outing to Southwark Cathedral and Its Environs - 24 July 2010

Some twenty five members and friends made the journey to Southwark on a beautiful summer morning. In the precincts, we met our guides Jo Brewster and David Payne, who took us, in two groups, around the Cathedral and later, on a walk around the area and along part of the south River Walk.

The Cathedral is located next to the River Thames and almost adjacent to London Bridge. On the land side it is hemmed in by railway lines from and to Cannon Street Station and by the approach road to the bridge. This is very different to the time of the first foundations on the site which are thought to have been a nunnery founded in the 7th century next to the only river crossing, London Bridge, originally constructed by the Romans. It is also thought that the nuns operated a ferry crossing to the north bank, although there is no written or archaeological evidence to support either contention. In the 9th century the nuns were moved up-river, away from the threat of invasion by the Danes, and a community of monks was established on the site.

After this, it is thought that a succession of religious buildings occupied the site. In the Domesday Book of 1086 mention is made of a minster in the area and some of its Saxon remains have been found below ground. A minster was a community of priests who served the people living nearby and who spoke to God on their behalf. It was later called the priory church of St. Marie.



The river marked the northern boundary of the ancient kingdom of Wessex, of which Winchester was the capital, and consequently the minster was under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Winchester. As senior bishops often held the important offices of state, they were required to have residences in or near to the capital. The Archbishop of Canterbury had, and still has, his palace at Lambeth and the Bishop of Winchester had his at Southwark. The cathedral is now an ancient monument looked after by English Heritage.

During following centuries the priory was destroyed or damaged a number of times usually by fire, sometimes by neglect. In the 14th century it became known as St. Marie Overie, that is, 'over the rye' meaning 'river'. In the 15th century it was restored and part rebuilt.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the buildings were handed over to Henry VIII and after various owners and uses; in 1552 it became the parish church of St. Saviours, rented from the King. In 1661 it was bought by the church authorities from King James I for £800.

At the beginning of the 19th century the building was in a very poor condition and the roof to the nave was removed, leaving it open to the elements for several years until it was almost entirely rebuilt and re-roofed in 1841.

In 1891 the church came under the authority of the Bishop of Rochester, who in 1897 had the nave rebuilt and St. Saviours then became a cathedral. This rebuilding was supervised by an ancestor of one of our members! In 1905 the Diocese of Southwark was created and the Cathedral established.

During our tour of the building, our guides pointed out a great number of interesting features. Near to the southwest door is a memorial to those who died in the collision, on the river nearby, between the Marchioness and the Bow Belle dredger in 1989. There is a Shakespeare Memorial and window in the south aisle to commemorate the playwright who was one of the founders of the nearby Globe Theatre. His brother Edmond, an actor, is buried in the Chancel.



The Harvard Chapel is dedicated to John Harvard, born in Southwark in 1607 and founder of what was to become Harvard University. The three tiered stone altar screen dates from 1520 and contains 19th century statues in the niches including one of Thomas Becket, said to have preached his last sermon here before being killed at Canterbury.

The Cathedral today not only serves as a focus for the Diocese but as a parish church, a centre for Christian education and a source of inspiration for pastoral, missionary and ecumenical activities.

After lunch we were taken around the area which, well into the middle of the last century, was dominated by warehouses and shipping activities and now is thriving with commercial and leisure ventures, including the extremely popular Borough Market, said to be 'London's larder'. On our way back to the Cathedral we saw Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge, the replica



Globe Theatre and over the river, the magnificent dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.

We were told by our guides about numerous sayings which have their origins locally, examples being; the 'green room', actors 'resting', 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'

(Continued on next page)

When actors at the Globe and Rose theatres were not on stage they had to await their return outside on the grass, hence the 'green room', a phrase which is used to describe modern hospitality suites used prior to TV shows. The actors in these situations were said to be 'resting' before reappearing on stage. Today unemployed actors are said to be 'resting'.

St. Paul's was destroyed in the Great Fire in 1666. The cost of reconstruction was paid for out of the revenues of Westminster Abbey, also called St. Peter's, hence 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. Our grateful thanks go to our very expert and knowledgeable guides Jo and David who with great passion and commitment made our visit a very memorable one and told the story of the Cathedral and its surroundings

John Allen
(Photographs by Gill Sparks)

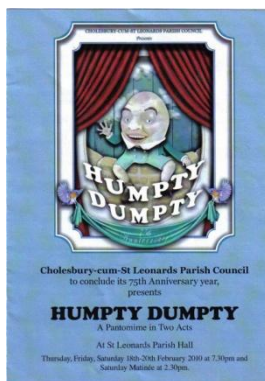
Evensong at Southwark

With just a few minutes to spare, four of us joined the small congregation gathered in the cathedral for Choral Evensong. This was nowhere near such a grand affair as when we were all shepherded in to a prime spot in the choir stalls on our 2008 visit to Westminster Abbey. As usual at this time of year the cathedral choir was on holiday. The guest choir was from St Chad's church in Shrewsbury, which Paddy and I remember from when we lived in Shrewsbury fifty years ago. They looked a little overwhelmed by the occasion but sang well, following the usual pattern for Evensong of *magnificat*, *nunc dimittis*, canticles and responses, a psalm and an anthem which was composed by Parry. The service finished with a hymn sung by all present. It was very good to end our busy, information packed day on this quiet, reverent and reflective note.

Windsor Thomas

Archivist's Report

The past year has seen some significant additions to the Black Box archives, in part due to the celebrations associated with the 75th Anniversary of the Parish of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards. In 2002, for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, HG Matthews produced a commemorative brick. To commemorate the Parish 75th Anniversary in 2009, Sally Reynolds ensured that the winners of races and other activities at the Fun Day held in July, together with those who contributed to the success of the various other events held over the twelve months, were presented with an innovative "brick" in the form of a rabbit. The archives now hold one of these special gifts. Culminating with the Pantomime in February of this year, photographs and programmes of events have all been donated, including a video of "Humpty Dumpty".



We have also been fortunate to be able to take a copy of a video of Cholesbury Fete, from the mid-70s. The original belongs to Margaret and Geoff Lunn from Heath End. Although very short, familiar faces can be spotted including General Money, the first President of our Local History Group.

Members who were at the AGM in May will have seen the wonderful album of Hilltop Village calendars which Gill Sparks donated to the archives. The calendars were produced from 1978 to 1998 under the auspices of the Horticultural Society. I am sure some of us have copies hidden away in our attics but to have kept the complete run over all those years is remarkable and the album is a tour-de-force with captions and accompanying information. One house is unidentified (it was featured in December 1991 and has no artist's signature), does anyone recognise it?



Through members John and Ann Horn we have also acquired photographs from the family of the late Dorothy Brackley, and Barry Warr has continued to supply photographs, written recollections and compact disks with information on his forebears. In one of Barry's photographs the roofline of the Buckland Common Social Hut can be seen – this is the only known picture of the wooden meeting place which stood on Bottom Road until it fell into disrepair and was finally demolished in the 1980s.

At various times we receive email requests for information and this year was no exception, with information exchanged on David Newton (our Trafalgar hero), Tom Robinson (the miller at Cholesbury Mill) and the Brackley and Langston families. Chris Brown has also been undertaking research and has donated his findings on, among others, Gilbert Cannan (who lived at the Windmill) and author John Simpson Graham, who lived in St Leonards. Working with Brian Horridge, Chris has also submitted their discoveries to date concerning John Gilbert, buried in Cholesbury Churchyard and associated with Dr. Livingstone's Zambezi Expedition.

We have acquired a very comprehensive research document from John Savage on local bus services, from the 1920s to the present day – see the summary of John's article elsewhere in this edition.

Alison Garrett visited from Scotland, and her recollections of Chambers Green Guesthouse can also be read (see next article).

With so many new acquisitions, the Catalist database continues to expand and there is still a backlog of work to be entered, plenty to keep Paddy Thomas and I occupied over the winter months!

Shirley Blomfield

Memories of Chambers Green Guest House

Alison Garrett (nee Wormell) visited Chambers Green at St Leonards with her parents, Marjorie and Will, for holidays during the 1950s and 1960s. During these years the Hooper family ran the house as a guest house, mainly for elderly ladies, but they also hosted holidays for families and for youth groups.



Alison and her Mother on the balcony at Chambers Green

"The people I remember were obviously the old folk who were there year after year. Miss Brighthouse - she was a lovely, friendly, cheerful white-haired old lady. Mrs Darcy - often wore a tweed suit and seemed to go out (in a

taxi) quite a lot - probably a bit younger than the others. Miss Baker, who always wore a long black skirt, long top, a long string of beads and had round rimless glasses and grey hair worn up in a bun. There was also a Miss Budge (or Burge) who took delight in helping me to sew, when I was young. On occasions there were also a couple of gentlemen residents.

I can remember all the Miss Hoopers very clearly (and can also just remember their mother, in a wheelchair). They were all called by their Christian names - Miss Mary, Miss Dora, Miss Olive and Miss Hilda. Miss Mary seemed to do more around the house than with the animals, I think, although they all did a bit of everything it seems. Miss Olive looked after the goats, including milking them, Miss Dora helped take the cows in and out and Miss Hilda walked the dogs in the woods. I can't remember which sister was in charge of the hens, but I remember collecting eggs with them. When I was a child I used to love helping Miss Olive clear the breakfast tables, putting the silver toast racks and condiment sets back on the enormous sideboards in the dining room. She had the most fantastic laugh - one would probably call it raucous - and I loved it!! No-one seemed to mind me hanging about, even in the kitchen, and I was always walking the dogs (Barry and Bully, and after they died - Max and Laddie), leading the cows out, collecting eggs, talking to the goats etc. I did occasionally do things with my parents too!

Help at Meetings

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to last year's plea for help 'behind the scenes'. Volunteers who come early and set out the chairs at the beginning of meetings are particularly welcome and tidying up at the end helps too. I would like special thanks to go to the teams who helped with serving tea and coffee and washing up. You were essential!

Of course we need some volunteers for the new season. If you can help at the first meeting in October, either with setting up the hall or with refreshments, please get in touch with me

Paddy Thomas

localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com

If you would like to receive periodic updates and reminders of forthcoming LHG meetings and other events, please contact us on the above email or include your email address on your Membership Renewal Form.

There was no running water in the bedrooms and each morning one of the Miss Hoopers would bring a pitcher of hot water up so we could wash in the large china basins. Consequently, now, whenever I see these jugs and basins (usually in antique shops!) I always think of Chambers Green. When I think of it all now, as an adult, I cannot imagine how they managed to do everything - it must have been unbelievably hard work. I think they had someone to help them cook and maybe clean but I am not sure.

I went to Chambers Green Guest House with my parents on a very regular basis - usually at Easter but sometimes at Christmas time. I have photos taken in the gardens both in snow and amidst daffodils! Apparently I cut my first tooth there and I also received my GCE results while staying there (in the days when one had post forwarded to holiday addresses) - so you can see that my memories span a good number of years.

The first place I always headed for, when we arrived, was the barn (always known as the cow-shed) to see the Jersey cows, Wendy, Midnight and Twilight, and the goats, Eva (the matriarch) and two others who seemed to



vary! In my very early days of going I remember rows of rabbit hutches in the cow-shed and I delighted in picking dandelions to feed the rabbits. I could never understand

why my mother was so upset by them, but of course I later realised that they had been destined for the dinner table! The man who helped with the cows, milked and fed them etc was called Gom. I think he was probably Mr. Gomm but everyone just called him Gom! The cows used to be taken out into the orchard every morning and brought in at night and I used to proudly lead 'my' cow, Wendy, who was a very dark Jersey, along the path from the cow-shed to the orchard by a rope halter.

Alison Garrett (nee Wormell)

Proof that while some things have changed others remain remarkably constant

The following article was reprinted in the American Liberty Magazine having first appeared in a London Newspaper. What year do you think it was published? The answer is at the bottom of the page.

Chris Brown

AT THIS THE STATE SOCIALISTS POINT WITH PRIDE.

Remarkable as are some of the ways of the Post Office authorities, none, perhaps, are so full of novelty as those which exist in the West Hertfordshire district, within thirty miles of London. Choulesbury and Hawridge Commons are two small contiguous villages of not more than a mile in length together, and the neighbourhood is served from no less than three postal depots,—viz: Berkhamsted, Tring and Chesham. It appears that letters and other postal packets delivered at Hawridge are taken thither by a rural postman from Berkhamsted, which is five miles distant. Continuing his walk, this same postman passes through Choulesbury to Rays-hill Bottom. Choulesbury is, however, served through Tring, from where the postman comes four miles to deliver letters to the Choulesbury village post-office at the top of Rays-hill. From this small office the postal missives for places beyond are taken by the local postmaster to their destination through Rays-hill Bottom, a mile towards Chesham, on a parallel road to that of Hawridge and Choulesbury. The Chesham postman then comes along with his load, and virtually overlaps part of the district

already covered by his other two comrades. He delivers his letters at a farm-house and other places three and a half miles from Chesham, separated by only a meadow from that for which letters are delivered from Tring (four miles away), and then crosses the road to the houses but a stone's throw from the district covered by Berkhamsted, five miles away. Following up these official peculiarities, which puzzle the local residents, it is found that, if letters are misdirected Choulesbury instead of Hawridge, about one hundred yards from the Choulesbury post-office, they are kept at that office for the day, sent back to Tring at night thence to Berkhamsted for delivery the next morning, this mode of transit taking twenty-four hours, and travelling nearly fifteen miles to reach a destination one hundred yards away. By the same rule letters mis-sent to Choulesbury for Rays-hill Bottom follow a similar roundabout course. To add to these anomalies, Hawridge boasts of a Sunday delivery, while the other districts do not; but why, no one in the village seems to know.

Where are they? - A crossword without squares

Place names can be both entertaining and educational: one "river-crossing large enough to accommodate an army" we know as Hereford, and many an army must have taken advantage of this facility. Some origins are patently obvious, others so vague as to be almost anywhere, but those below are all within the purlieu of our Society, and are in alphabetical order.

1. Eastern farmstead and family name (5,7)
2. Ægel's stronghold (9)
3. Open land near a beacon (12)
4. Homestead near a hill (11)
5. Spring frequented by calves (8)
6. A heap of stones and a river meadow (7)
7. Bell-shaped hill with royal connections (6)
8. Noisy river (9)
9. Wooded slope (5)
10. White waters (8)

Answers at Members' Evening. *George Cobby*

New Zealand connections

For anyone with New Zealand connections and wanting to look up births, deaths, marriages, passenger lists or snippets from newspapers, I came across the following website <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/>. There is an email address for making contact with your request and Beverley Evans will email copies of the information, aiming to reply on the same day. Beverley has also recommended the following New Zealand sites, all searchable by name:

Newspapers archive

Births Marriages Deaths site

Christchurch Cemeteries database

Probates & government records

Biographies

WW1 and WW2 details of soldiers who served especially WW1

www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz

www.librarydata.christchurch.org.nz/Cemeteries

www.archway.archives.govt.nz

www.oldnewsbios.co.nz

www.muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases

If you too have found other useful sources of information, on any research topic, please let me know, they may be helpful to the people who contact us from time to time

Shirley Blomfield

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