

Civic Awards 2012

Fears that the prolonged economic recession would put a stop to the regeneration of Gloucester have not been borne out.

The comparative strength of the city's historically dynamic economy has been highlighted by the number of contenders for the Civic Awards competition, run every two years and organised by the City Council and Civic Trust.

We were surprised and pleased when we combed through the planning applications made and buildings completed in the last two years to find more than enough worthy competitors for the seven categories.

Then our confidence was boosted further by the response of the public, through The Citizen, for nominations for the competition. The result was a wide spread of contenders, ranging from multi million pound publicity funded renewal projects such as the docks linkages scheme, to the restoration of a single house by a private individual at 91 Bristol Road.

On Thursday 19th July more than 100 guests were invited to hear the results announced at Blackfriars Priory - itself a symbol of the continuing renewal of Gloucester's magnificent and historic built heritage.

Some of the buildings and projects honoured are not immediately recognisable to the public and are none the worse for that. For instance, the new St. Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School off Horton Road, received two awards: best new build or extension and most sustainable project for its novel design and use of materials. It features bio mass heating and a whole range of environmentally friendly techniques.

And, who has yet seen the splendid restoration of the ancient barns at Manor Farm, Kingsway, which were hidden away from public gaze for more than 70 years in the middle of RAF Quedgeley. Now transformed into The Barn Owl public house they give an historical perspective to this developing area and are well worth a visit. The Barn Owl received a commendation in the best major restoration category.

The top award in that class went to a building that for all too long was the city's leading eyesore, given its very prominent position on the corner of London Road and the Inner Ring Road. Architects, Robert Limbrick, spotted its potential as their new offices and rescued it from near terminal decline. It will be open to the public during Heritage Open Days in early September.

The Language Immersion Centre in Commercial Road, which involves the reinstatement of the

east wing of Blackfriars, and the upgrading of Blackfriars itself, were both worthy winners.

The most excited recipients of a commendation were the mums and dads of the Kingsholm area involved in the transformation of their local play area off Sebert Street from an arid area of green to something which inspires children's recreation.

A full list of winners is shown below:-

Best Minor Restoration or Sensitive Alteration

Commendation:
Remains of Outer Gatehouse, Llanthony Priory

Award:
Blackfriars Priory

Best New or Improved Shopfront

Award:
'Peppers', Bull Lane

Most Improved Public Area

Commendation:
Sebert St Open Space

Award:
Victoria Dock

Best Sustainable Scheme

Commendation:
New Sixth Form Block, Beaufort Community School, Tuffley

Commendation:
Gloucestershire's Solar Power Station Co-operative, Gloucester City Works, Alfred Street

Award:
St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Horton Road.

Best Housing Scheme

Commendation:
The Musket, Matson Lane, Matson

Award:
St Oswald's Retirement Village

Best Major Restoration or Sensitive Alteration

Commendation:
The Barn Owl Public House, Quedgeley

Commendation:
91 Bristol Road

Award:
The Carriage Building, Bruton Way

Best Newbuild or Extension

Commendation:
Language Immersion Centre, Commercial Road

Award:
St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Horton Road

Press Release from Hugh Worsnip which appeared in the Citizen on Monday 30th July 2012. Hugh is Chairman of the Gloucester Civic Trust's Planning Appraisal Panel and one of the Judges in the Civic Awards completion 2012.

St Nicholas Church needs Friends!

Many of you will know that St. Nicholas, one of the most important Churches in the City, is owned by the Churches Trust.

The National Churches Trust is the only national, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK. The Trust relies heavily on Government funding which has been cut and the Trust now has no paid custodians. At the moment the Church only has two friends! Joan and Bob Tucker and clearly needs more.

The plan is to have enough friends to be able to open the Church on a regular basis to the public as well as to take care of it. St. Nicholas, lying at the bottom of Westgate Street, is in a good position to catch visitors to the City with many

coaches dropping people off nearby. It would be an excellent spot to give people information on the City and to point them in the right direction. The Church itself is rich with history and of great interest not just to visitors but to the friends themselves.

The Church is also an excellent venue for events and we hope that Barry Leach of the City Centre Community Partnership may be able to interest the Local Community in the Church, to become friends as well and perhaps to arrange events in the Church.

Finally the Churches Trust realise that expensive roof repairs are needed at St. Nicholas soon and they need to demonstrate that the Church is being used and is valued by the Community to attract funding for the

work. If you are interested in learning more please give Jo Cross, the local organiser, a ring (07900 214 199) or send her an email (jcross@tcct.org.uk).

Alex Bailey



Civic Trust News

Gloucester Civic Trust Ltd
Reg. Charity No. 264719

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1972 - 2012 40th Anniversary Celebration

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding the Gloucester Civic Trust - and on Saturday, October 27th we are going to celebrate with a party to which all Trust members are invited.

There will be a service of thanksgiving at St. Mary de Crypt Church whose former vicar David Paton was one of our founding fathers.

This will start at 11am and be followed by a procession to the Guildhall behind our Civic Trust banner.

At the Guildhall there will be a reception in the theatre where the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor David Brown (also a Civic Trust member) and the Sheriff, Councillor Philip McLellan will be present.

Following the reception there will be a film show and talk introduced by former city archaeologist Henry Hurst, Emeritus Reader in Classics and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Civic Trust will foot the bill for room hire and also the cost of the entertaining our guests to lunch.

However Council of Management members and other Trust members will have to pay their own costs for the reception which will be £10 per

head. This will cover the cost of food, soft drinks and tea/coffee and cakes.

In addition to meat platters and salads the menu will include food for vegetarians including cheese, Quorn 'meat' and quiches.

The caterers are willing to do jacket potatoes instead of quiches for those who are coeliacs.

Obviously numbers will be limited to the accommodation provided in the theatre so we would be grateful if Trust members could let us know reasonably quickly whether they will be coming to the event and how many tickets they will be needing.

We are grateful to Terry and Ann Brooks who will be handling the sale of tickets.

Until we know how many Trust members will be coming to the reception, we will not be offering the opportunity to hear Henry's talk to members of the general public.

This is a party to celebrate the Trust's remarkable 40 years of service to Gloucester.

It's a record of which we should be proud. Please come along and support us.

John Lovell
Company Secretary

Minister for Heritage and Tourism Visits St. Michael's Tower



On Monday 2nd July, John Penrose MP, Minister for Heritage and Tourism paid a visit to St. Michael's Tower whilst on a visit to the city.

The Minister was accompanied by the city's MP Richard Graham, Phil Staddon the council's Director of Regeneration and Phil Moss. Phil gave the Minister a brief history of the Tower and the Church which originally occupied the site after which he was introduced to the volunteers on duty in the Tower.

The picture shows from left to right, Phil Staddon, Richard Graham MP, volunteer Paddy Selway, John Penrose MP and volunteers Carole Carpenter, Keith Hayward and Terry Brooks. Phil Moss kindly took the photograph.

The Great Gloucestershire History Day 7th July 2012

Three months prior to the event I was asked to organise Civic Trust tour guides for 'The Great Gloucestershire History Day' on 7th July; this BBC event complimented the TV series 'The Great British Story: a People's History'.

The response and enthusiasm from guides was remarkable, meaning that twenty tours covering eight different themes took place; clearly guides had put in a great deal of commitment as each tour was limited to forty-five minutes duration - the BBC called these 'Taster Tours'. St. Mary de Crypt Church and Blackfriars Priory both put on a great show for visitors and many thanks must go to those guides who gave their time so willingly.

Roger Peel
Booked Tours Secretary



The photograph shows Tour Guides Julie Hodcroft, Chris Morgan, Hugh Worsnip, Roger Peel and Phil Moss meeting Michael Wood from the BBC TV series 'The Great British Story: a People's History' in the Guildhall.

Calendar 2013

A Calendar for 2013 is enclosed with the compliments of Trust Chairman, Robin Morris and members of the Council of Management.

Further copies, at a cost of £3.00 per copy, are available to members at St. Michael's Tower.



Information and articles are always appreciated.
Please contact Terry Brooks, 44 Wheatway, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 5ER
Tel: 01452 411827 or e-mail terence.brooks@btopenworld.com.



News from the Docks



New Charity Takes Over

Canal structures were decorated with flags on 2 July to mark the Canal & River Trust taking over responsibility for 2000 miles of canals and rivers in England and Wales from British Waterways. This new charity aims to benefit by working with local communities, by harnessing the work of volunteers and by seeking donations and sponsorship.

Welcome to Canal & River Trust

Business and community leaders gathered at the Waterways Museum on 12 July to celebrate the transfer of responsibility for local canals and rivers from British Waterways to the Canal & Rivers Trust. After hearing speeches and a message from Prince Charles, patron of the new charity, those present enjoyed a trip down the canal on King Arthur and then drank a toast to the new charity.

New Canal Map

A detailed and attractive map of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, with interesting text and photographs, was published on 16 July. The map gives current and historical information of interest to walkers and boaters, including local facilities and mooring sites. (For details, see <http://www.gloucesterdocks.me.uk/home/canalmap.htm>)

Nielsen Base for Olympic Cauldron

Craftsmen from T Nielsen & Co made the base for the cauldron to carry the Olympic flame down the Thames on board the replica royal barge Gloriana. The cylinder is formed from strips of wood from each type of tree native to the UK.



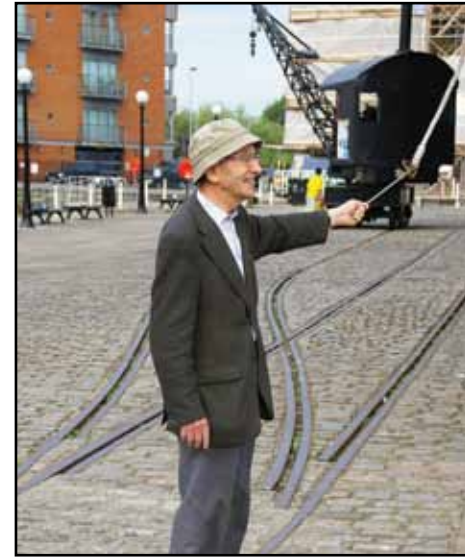
◆ The base of the Olympic Cauldron made by T Nielsen & Co for the replica Royal barge Gloriana. Photograph courtesy of Hugh Conway-Jones.

Hotel Boat for Sale

The paddle-wheeler hotel boat Oliver Cromwell, currently moored at Alexandra Quay, is for sale with an asking price of £325,000. Facilities include a function room/restaurant with dance floor, a lounge, an open upper deck and 22 en suite cabin bedrooms.

Bell Rung for Olympics

As part of a national project to mark the beginning of the Olympics by ringing bells, Gloucester Civic Trust members rang the Atlas Bell on the corner of the North Warehouse for three minutes starting at 8.12 am on 27 July. At the same time, a resident of the West Quay apartments joined in by ringing a hand bell on their balcony.



◆ Hugh Conway-Jones rings the Atlas Bell.

Lock 200 Event

For information about the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the opening of Gloucester Lock over the weekend 8-9 September, see <http://www.gloucesterdocks.me.uk/studies/lock200.htm>

Canal Webcam

A webcam on the Pilot Inn at Hardwick gives a view of the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal which is updated frequently. See <http://www.gloucesterwebcams.co.uk/webcams.asp>

These notes are from Hugh Conway-Jones monthly e-mail newsletter reporting activities connected with the Gloucester Docks and the Sharpness Canal. To receive a regular copy yourself go to www.gloucesterdocks.me.uk click on newsletter and type your e-mail address into the box.



◆ ABOVE: The Olympic Flame leaves the Docks. LEFT: The Olympic Flame on the North Quay, 8.00am 24th May 2012. Photograph courtesy of Hugh Conway-Jones.

Olympic Flame at Gloucester Docks

A huge crowd gathered on the North Quay to watch the Olympic flame start its journey through Gloucester on Thursday 24th May, the sixth day of its progress around the country.

The torch bearer for the day's first leg was George Livingston-Thompson from Maisemore who helps those with disabilities to lead more active lifestyles and try new sports.

The torch left through the main Dock's entrance and out into Commercial Road through an avenue of flags of the nations of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps based at the Imjin Barracks at Innsworth.



Members' Visit to Cheltenham

30th May 2012



◆ Cheltenham Civic Society Blue Plaques.

On Wednesday 30th May Trust members had an opportunity to join a visit to Cheltenham at the invitation of Cheltenham Civic Society.

On the day 40 members made their way to the Society's headquarters in Lypiatt Terrace where refreshments were provided at the start of what was to be a very busy programme.

Following a tour of the building and a welcome from the Society's Chairman Stephen Clarke, we were split into two groups, group one led by Roger Jones, the second by Roger Woodley to begin what proved to be two rather different walking tours.

The first group with Roger Jones, started in the Lansdown area where a number of interesting plaques including Cheltenham Civic Awards were pointed out. We were also shown the building in Lansdown Terrace Lane where in July 1931, George Dowty rented a mews loft for half-a-crown a week in order to make his first sprung wheels for the Japanese company Kawasaki.

On to the Bayshill area and Queens Parade where at No 3 a plaque marks the birth place of Sir Arthur T. Harris, 'Bomber Harris' Air Officer Commander-in-Chief of RAF Bomber Command during the Second World War, who was born there on 13th April 1892. On through the Rotunda, originally Montpellier Spa opened in 1809 and now a branch of Lloyds TSB and out into Montpellier Walk where the properties are separated by the Caryatids, draped female figures whose design is loosely based on those of the Acropolis in Athens.

A brief stop was made outside the Queen's Hotel where we were told it was originally called



◆ Cheltenham Synagogue.

Liddell's Hotel and built at a cost of £47,000. Unfortunately the hotel did not prosper and it was sold in 1852 for £8400.

Crossing into Imperial Gardens, laid out in the formal style after the Second World War following the demolition of the Winter Gardens Pavilion which once occupied the site, we stopped at the statue of Gustav Holst who was born in Cheltenham in 1874. The statue, the work of sculpture Anthony Stones, was unveiled in April 2009 and was made possible by a generous legacy to the Cheltenham Civic Society.

Both walking tours ended at the Everyman Theatre where a tour had been arranged. Seated in the newly refurbished auditorium we were given a history of the Grade 2 listed building designed by Frank Matcham in 1891 and originally called the Opera House. It was renamed the Everyman in 1960.

In the early 1980s the theatre was closed for nearly three years and underwent extensive rebuilding in conjunction with the adjacent Regent Arcade Shopping Centre development, although the auditorium remained largely untouched at that time. More recently the theatre has again been closed for a £3m refurbishment of the auditorium returning it to its original late Victorian splendour. The theatre reopened in October 2011.

After this interesting introduction we had the opportunity to tour the theatre, including a walk onto the stage, set for the current production of, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile.

After a break for lunch we met again at the Parabola Art Centre which is located in Bayshill Road. Opened in 2009 and part of the Cheltenham Ladies College we were greeted and given a tour of the building by the young very enthusiastic manager. The original listed building, known as Bayshill House, has been transformed into a gallery, bar and foyer area with rehearsal rooms, studios and a library. The modern simplicity of the auditorium of the newly built 325 seat theatre situated behind the main building is a world away from the late Victorian exuberance of the auditorium of the Everyman Theatre which we had seen earlier.

Climbing high above the stage there was an opportunity to experience a walk onto the strong wire cover high above the stage. Not surprisingly, very few were tempted to try. It was not for the faint hearted.

Leaving the Arts Centre, it was just a short walk to our next and last visit of the day, Cheltenham Synagogue.

Here we were met by a delightful Jewish couple Mike and Miriam and separated, ladies on the left and gentlemen on the right as we took our seats in the synagogue. Mike explained the congregation is quite small and it is the only synagogue in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the only one between Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff and Oxford. Mike went on to tell us the Synagogue was completed in 1839 although the furniture is much older, originally installed in the New Synagogue in London in 1791.

He continued with an explanation of the Ark, opening the curtains and the closed door behind

to reveal the Scared Scrolls or Torah. In front of the Ark is the Eternal Light and above the Ten Commandments are displayed in Hebrew.

Miriam introduced us to the Jewish diet, the rituals of the Jewish Sabbath and Jewish Festivals.

Our visit was due to end at 4.15pm so it was time to thank Mike and Miriam for making us so welcome. Colin Nyland, who in conjunction with Cheltenham Civic Society, had arranged the day now took the opportunity to thank members of the Society, some of whom had remained with us all day, for arranging such an interesting programme and extended an invitation for the Society to pay a return visit to Gloucester, as our guests, in 2013.



◆ TOP: Lansdown Terrace Lane, George Dowty rented a loft here in 1931. MIDDLE: Statue of Gustav Holst, Imperial Gardens. BOTTOM: Phil and Gill Moss walk on the wire, high above the stage at the Parabola Arts Centre. Photograph courtesy of Julie Hodcroft.

Members' Visit to Winchester

19th May 2012



Members at St Cross.

At the pickup point in Estcourt Road, 43 members joined the coach and after a welcome from Colin Nyland and introductions to our driver Paul, we set off at 8.00am for Winchester.

Saturday 19th May had dawned damp, cloudy and rather misty but it was hoped it would be, as weathermen sometimes say, "a getting better sort of day".

Following a comfortable two hour journey we arrived at St. Cross just outside Winchester, where welcome refreshments had been arranged. St. Cross is said to be 'England's oldest and most perfect Alms-house'. The Hospital of St. Cross and Alms-house of Noble Poverty has provided sheltered accommodation for elderly gentlemen since its foundation by Bishop Henry of Blois, a grandson of William the Conqueror, in 1136. The Hospital received its second foundation by Bishop Cardinal Beaufort in 1446 as the 'Alms-house of the Noble Poverty' for people of noble birth who had fallen on hard times, and it is from this time that many of the existing buildings which we saw survive.

After refreshments and the brief introduction to St. Cross there was the opportunity to either, continue on the coach into Winchester or to extend the planned city walk via the water meadows. Those who joined Kate, the guide, set off into the water meadows following the River Itchen with St. Catherine's Hill, where once stood an Iron Age fort, on the distant right and eventually passing Winchester College which was originally founded in 1387 by Bishop William of Wykeham on the left.

Reaching the city centre we passed Jane Austin's House, so called because she spent the last six weeks of her life there in 1817. On through Kingsgate, one of two of the original six medieval gates that survive in the city, then almost immediately after passing through Priory Gate we saw Cheyney Court a late 16th century building said to be one of the most photographed in Winchester.

We were now in the Cathedral Close and walking past the cathedral that we were to visit later in the afternoon.

Quickly passing through the Close, busy with market stalls, we made our way to The Square which is situated over the site of William the Conqueror's 11th century royal palace and on into the High Street and a steep climb to the impressive Westgate, the city's other surviving fortified medieval gateway.

A short distance from the Westgate stands the Great Hall built by King Henry III and where our walk was due to end. Outside the Great Hall, all that remains of Winchester's Castle, Kate asked, "have you heard of King Henry III? So many of our visitors haven't! Well, you can imagine the reaction to this comment from a group of Gloucester Civic Trust Tour guides, had we heard of King Henry III?, of course we had! He was after all crowned in Gloucester Abbey in October 1216, a fact, of which, our guide appeared to be unaware.

Inside the Great Hall we saw King Arthur's Round Table which has been there for 600 years. The Table was painted during the reign of King Henry VIII depicting Arthur in Tudor robes with the face of King Henry.

At this point we thanked and said goodbye to Kate and there was now the opportunity for lunch before we were to meet again at 2.15pm for our tour of the cathedral.

After gathering outside the cathedral we entered the nave of 'The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity and of St. Peter and St. Paul and of St. Swithun in Winchester' to give it its full name, where we were introduced to our guides Susie, Anna, Lynda and Colin.

Split into four groups our tours started in the nave built in the Perpendicular style in the 14th century under Bishop William of Wykeham, who transformed the Norman nave in to its present form and whose tomb we saw in a Chantry Chapel on the south side of the nave. Almost opposite, on the north side, stands the 12th century Black Marble Font and close by the grave of Jane Austin.



St. Cross, England's oldest and most perfect Alms-house.



16th century Cheyney Court.

Further on in the North Transept we saw the massive three-tier structure of the original Norman cathedral, interestingly for us, also in the North Transept is a memorial plaque to Samuel Sebastian Wesley who was organist in Winchester Cathedral from 1849 to 1864. In 1865 he became organist at Gloucester Cathedral where he remained until his death in 1876.

We then went down into the rather wet Crypt where a statue by Anthony Gormley, 'Sound II', is located and which was, very appropriately, designed specifically to stand in water. Passing through the choir and on our way to the end of the tour at the shrine of St. Swithun we were told how at the beginning of the 20th century, because the cathedral was in danger of collapse, William Walker, a deep sea diver was employed for five years to work in murky dark water digging out the rotting beech logs on which the east end of the cathedral had been built and lay new foundations using bags of concrete. A memorial to him is situated close to where he worked.

Following our cathedral tour there was still some time to enjoy Winchester before we were to meet our coach close to the bronze statue of Alfred the Great erected in 1901 to mark 1000 years since his death. Leaving Winchester at 4.30pm for the return journey we arrived back in Gloucester at 6.30pm

Our thanks to Colin Nyland for arranging a very enjoyable and interesting day and it was weatherwise, a getting better sort of day.



Original Norman structure of the North Transept - Winchester Cathedral.



Memorial to deep sea diver William Walker.

Autumn and Winter Series of Talks

2012 - 2013

As usual I have tried to provide Trust members with a wide ranging programme of talks for this year's Autumn/Winter series which once again are based at the GALA Club off Fairmile Gardens on Gloucester's Tewkesbury Road.

All the talks - which are listed below - begin at 7.30pm and as usual there will be no admission charge although there will be a retiring collection.

As I'm sure most of you know in addition to room hire costs, many of our speakers also require payment although in some cases, the money goes to charity.

I hope members will respond generously to my regular appeal at the end of our meetings.

Last year members did heed my plea about getting along to the pre-Christmas talks, often these were not as well supported as they deserved. Following my appeal there was a welcome increase in those attending which I hope will be maintained again this year.

Once again we have some interesting talks on offer and I hope you will find something of interest here for you. Please bring a friend.

Here is this year's programme:-

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

For most of us the Forest of Dean is a place to enjoy the Spring bluebells, a Summer picnic or the Autumn colours - yet it also has a long and rich history of which many of us are only distantly aware. The first talk in our series this

year is by Forest historian Pete Ralph who will be entertaining us with details of its full and fascinating history from Canute to our present Queen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Unless you are one of the 5,000 WI members in Gloucestershire your knowledge of what they do may be somewhat vague. The first club started in the county in 1916 and there are now 150 clubs around the county. Tonight we will learn a lot more about the movement from the Gloucestershire WI Federation chairman Sue Wilson - and no doubt we will learn there's a lot more to a WI than Jam and Jerusalem.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

For years Gloucester had a thriving agricultural market. Our city was the focus of the farming fraternity for miles around. The market also brought a lot of money into the city. But since the Second World War things have changed radically and at a pre-Christmas meeting Humphrey Chamberlayne, who has farmed locally with his brother Jeremy, will be telling us something about these changes. It should be a fascinating evening - made all the better because, once again, wine and mince pies (generously provided by our chairman, Robin Morris) will be available after the meeting.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

As part of our last programme of talks John Putley delighted us with an insight into Tudor medicine. He will be the first speaker in the New Year when

he makes a welcome return. His subject (at the time of writing) is still a little uncertain since it will depend on whether or not we can acquire a digital projector and lap top. If we can then John will talk on Gloucestershire highwaymen - if not we will be having a talk on Roman medicine with John dressed appropriately.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

A couple of years ago one of our own members Ian Hollingsbee gave us a talk on Mills along the River Twyver. He now has a new offering and tonight he will be talking about Second World War Prisoner of War camps in Gloucestershire. It is a subject which has engaged Ian's research for many months. No sooner did he think that he had a finite list when another camp was brought to his attention. It should be another intriguing evening.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Pat Furley is a man known to many of us through his Magic Lantern shows which have delighted county audiences for more than 40 years. He is constantly on the lookout for new original source material and during the last couple of years has come up with fascinating footage from the early days of the cinema. Just the sort of thing our grandparents would have enjoyed in one of the city's many cinemas immediately before and after the First World War. It should provide a light hearted follow up to the Trust's annual meeting.

John Lovell
Series Co-ordinator

From Gloucester and Proud

A Poem by Judy Leach

On Tuesday 19th June, Judy Leach was the city rota tour guide on duty. Luckily it was a fairly sunny day, rare for this year's early summer, and three couples joined her tour. It proved to be a great success with one couple following Judy back to St. Michael's Tower to find out more about one of Gloucester's personalities, W E Henley, she had mentioned in her tour. It made her day but there was another surprise awaiting her in the Tower.

That particular morning the Tower had been hired by the local Multiple Sclerosis Society whose volunteers were still there being interviewed by a reporter from BBC Radio Gloucestershire when Judy returned.

"Judy," said one of the volunteers, "can you spare a minute?" And she was introduced to the reporter.

Judy, who has a strong Gloucester accent, told the reporter she was proud to have been born and bred in Gloucester and had recently written a poem which she called 'From Gloucester and Proud'.

The reporter asked Judy if she would be prepared to be interviewed and recite her poem which she would record and then broadcast later. Although a little apprehensive and nervous Judy agreed and a recording was made that was subsequently

broadcast on Radio Gloucestershire on Thursday 21st June 2012.

The poem is reproduced right but it's a great pity Judy, reciting it in her Gloucester accent, cannot also be reproduced in the newsletter.



'From Gloucester and Proud'

I was born in Gloucester, and I've lived
yer all me life.
Me husband's a Gloucester fella so that
Makes me a Gloucester wife. And proud.

My mother went to Linden infants, years
later I went there too. Then me own kids
went there, that makes us Gloucester's
through and through. And proud.

I sometimes meet old friends or family
By the Tower on the Cross.
The High Cross came down in 1751 that
Was really Gloucester's loss.

But we still calls it the Cross, 'cause that
was where it was.
And when I'm going up there, I gets there
On the buz which I gets from a buz stop.

I'da love our City, we got history by the score
And if we teach our children it will go on for
ever more. And they too will be proud.

LEFT: Judy Leach.

Nerva Statue - Another Anniversary

It is now ten years since Gloucester Civic Trust's Emperor Nerva Statue in Southgate Street first welcomed people to his Colonia. This major work of civic art by Anthony Stones and cast at Pangolin Editions at Chalford was the Trust's millennium project to celebrate the foundation of the Roman city, Colonia Nervana Glevensis, widely accepted as happening during the short reign of Marcus Cocceius Nerva, AD 96-98.

The background to this project was that in the winter of 1968-69 an archaeological team directed by Henry Hurst had excavated on the site of the Bell Hotel in Southgate Street. They exposed the south-east corner of the Roman Forum including parts of the courtyard, east range and basilica. In the courtyard a foundation of limestone blocks was uncovered. With it were fragments of bronze identified as part of a Roman equestrian statue.

In 1997 Gloucester celebrated the 1900th anniversary of its civilian foundation. The Trust promoted the idea of marking the occasion in permanent form. Given the important location of the original statue, it was agreed that a classical style memorial should be erected to Emperor Nerva. A position that had previously been designed for a later abandoned civic art work,

as close as possible to the site of the excavated original Roman statue, was chosen in discussion with the city authorities and the public. A small working party was set up chaired by Anthony Ault and through their sterling efforts the project was realised when on Saturday 19th October 2002 Alison Woolley, niece of the late Peter Price the former Honorary Secretary of the Trust whose generous gift formed the basis for the funding exercise, performed the unveiling. Although there were other large and small financial and practical contributions, including personal ones, our major supporter was the local Gloucestershire Ronald Summerfield Charitable Trust. Following the ceremony attended by civic dignitaries, with the Ermine Street Guard in attendance, a reception for Trust members and supporters was held in the Guildhall Cinema followed by a talk on Roman Gloucester in the Assembly Room by Henry Hurst. The day's events were recorded on video by the society now known as Gloucester Film Makers.

From the outset of the project it was agreed that a statue with little descriptive information associated with it would reduce its interest and value; a pointed comment made about another

then recently erected statue. As a result of this a plaque (and later two) was designed for fixing on the plinth supporting the statue giving salient details of the foundation of the city, of Nerva and his connection with it, together with a tactile perspective plan of what the core of the Roman Colonia would have looked like as it approached its most prosperous period.

As the plinth, provided generously as their contribution by Barnwood Construction Ltd., was to be hollow the Trust decided to incorporate within it a stainless steel time capsule, 250mm in diameter and 900mm long, containing a dateable 'sealed archaeological deposit' of 130 different heritage related and contemporary, often more ephemeral, items. One leading authority described the list of contents as 'delightfully eclectic'. There were messages of goodwill from the city's mayor Pam Tracy, MP Parmjit Dhanda and Trust chairman Robin Morris. Amongst the items were gifts from the city's Chinese and Hindu communities. The hope is that the time capsule will rest undisturbed for many centuries to come. A small engraved plate on the capsule records that the Trust, or a successor body, retains its ownership into the future!

Ding Dong!!

Bell Ringing Now Available In St. Michael's Tower



The installation of the bell, which was quite an engineering feat, was paid for by a grant from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust together with donations from the Rotary Club of Gloucester and Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd.

Marilyn Champion, fund raiser and Project Leader for the bell initiative says 'it's been a challenging project as we've been thwarted with technical hitches but we got there in the end! It certainly adds fun to heritage learning which is the main aim of our bell project.

From April to July we have hundreds of school children that visit us in the Tower and the fact that they will now be able to actively take part in 'bell ringing' makes it even more entertaining.

Thanks must go to our sponsors as without their financial support the project would never have got off the ground'.

The bell has been installed to meet all health and safety requirements. The rope works the



▶ **ABOVE:** The bell is slowly raised into the belfry - 12th June 2012. Photograph courtesy of David and Marilyn Champion.

LEFT: Tour Guide Sue Wilson rings the bell before her walk - 8th August 2012.

clapper of the bell and when rung makes a very loud ding dong sound - rich and mellow.

Civic Trust volunteers will ring the bell during special occasions such as on Gloucester Day and during Heritage Open Day in September.

So if you would like to test your 'bell ringing' skills pop along to the Tower.

Press Release from Marilyn Champion
2nd August 2012

Planning Appraisal Panel

12/00560/OUT Demolition of former Hatherley Road Secondary School and replacement with 13 houses and bungalows for Gloucestershire County Council.

Planning permission should be refused. This is a fine building in the Queen Anne style which should be retained and found a new use.

It is completely wrong for the County Council to say that the architect, Alfred J Dunn (1871-1957) is unknown. He was the best of Gloucester Edwardian architects, later moving his practice to Birmingham where he designed many important buildings. His design for the town hall and public library in Bideford, Devon, is listed Grade 2.

In Pevsner's 'Buildings of England' he says that Dunn was noted for his designs for the first car showrooms in Britain and other commercial buildings.

In 'Buildings of England' (Gloucester Vale and Forest of Dean) David Verey says that of the Victorian and Edwardian school buildings in Gloucester: 'the best are Tredworth, and the Queen Anne Hatherley Road, by A J Dunn.

"Few late 19th/early 20th century Gloucester architects rose much above routine. It is worth, however, looking out for the works of Alfred J Dunn," says Verey.

The panel believes that the building and railings, though not listed, or in a conservation area, are a significant part of the architectural vernacular of the area, built in orange Gloucester brick, with fine stone detailing, and are a heritage asset to an area which does not have many distinguished public buildings.

The panel would not object to the demolition of the 1960's additions to the back of the building and believes there is room within the old school for at least 13 apartments which would take advantage of the quality interior features. On the other hand the building would be suitable for conversion to commercial premises for a local business.

The panel is not convinced that the upgrading of the building is impossible and, that, given the good state of repair of the building, a conversion to residential is the most sustainable solution and would comply with latest national planning policy guidelines.

12/00572/FUL and 12/00573/FUL. Harris's butchers' shop, 78, Westgate Street. New shop front to provide access to revamped flat and two storey house at rear for CP Developments.

This is the former Admiral Benbow public house dating back to the 17th century and may contain a number of surprises when studding is taken away. The panel has no objection to the conversion and 'mirror image' shop-front. The staircase and panelling on two floors should be retained and conserved, and the presence of two fireplaces investigated. The treatment of the St. Peter's Abbey wall, which forms the rear of the premises, needs particularly care.

from Hugh Worsnip

Jet Age Museum

At its most recent meeting the Council of Management of the Gloucester Civic Trust resolved to make a substantial donation to the Jet Age Museum project at Staverton Airport.

The exact extent of the donation will be determined after further consultations with the Trust's Honorary Treasurer, but a sum of one thousand pounds has been suggested.

Volunteers of the Jet Age Museum have been trying for 20 years to provide a permanent home for Gloucestershire's rich aviation heritage, exemplified chiefly through the pioneering jet fighter planes developed by the Gloster Aircraft Company at its Hucclecote, Brockworth and Bentham works.

Now, planning permission has been obtained to provide a suitable building at Staverton Airport to house the museum's collection of Gloster aircraft.

These include, the Javelin, the world's first delta wing fighter, the Meteor, the first and only Allied jet to serve in the Second World War, and a full size replica of the Gloster E28/39, the first aircraft to use Frank Whittle's revolutionary jet engine.

These aircraft took the name of Gloucester all over the world and the Trust believes that some memorial to the company, and the thousands of people who worked for it, is long overdue.

The Jet Age Museum has already raised more than £250,000 towards the project, which will provide a 30m by 48m building adjacent to the Meteor Business Park off Cheltenham Road

East. A long lease has already been agreed for the site at a peppercorn rent.

Civic Trust Council of Management members recently attended the launch of a 'sponsor a brick' campaign to raise an additional £30,000 to complete the project.

Civic Trust Secretary, John Lovell, said: "We believe that, after many setbacks, the Jet Age Museum is really going to happen, and it is time to contribute to providing what will be a substantial boost to Gloucester's tourism offer. The Gloster Aircraft Company was a huge part of our industrial, military and social history in the first 60 years of the 20th century and this should be celebrated."

If any member would like to make a personal donation full details are available on www.jetagemuseum.org or by writing to Sponsor a Brick Scheme, 51 Kittiwake Drive, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 4RS.

E-mail jetagemuseum@hotmail.co.uk

from Hugh Worsnip



Heritage Open Days Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th September 2012

This year we have the biggest event ever with over 117 individual events. However the most significant improvement in our offering to the public this year is the increase in number and variety of our guided walks. Colin Youngson has led this change and the guides have responded to his call by volunteering to be trained so that they can lead this programme of walks. There is no doubt that our offering of guided walks is by far the best in the country and something we can be proud of.

We also have some really interesting new events such as a walk led by author Eleanor Rawling 'The Old City, a guided walk around Ivor Gurney's Gloucester' on Thursday and Saturday followed by a talk 'Ivor Gurney's Poetry and Music' on Saturday given by Philip Lancaster (who entertained earlier in the year at the Gala Club).

Also, as part of the Music programme, we have a Brass Band performing (for the first time at our Heritage Open Days) at the Grandstand on the Sunday when the Mayor will also plant a tree to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Park. The top class Cathedral Junior Choir will be singing in St Mary de Lode on Saturday morning and

later in the day at the same venue we have the New Heritage Singers and then Hannah Talbot-Cooper, representing the Gloucester Music Society, will play her flute.

There really is something for everyone this year from the 18thC Wotton Hall open for the first time, a very welcome return of the Undercroft at the Fleece Hotel, two organists playing, Gloucester Brewery, Cotton Motorcycle Club, a talk on Buddhism, face painting at St. Michael's Tower and the LOCK200 celebrations at the Docks.

I know that many people plan to go away on holiday at this time of the year but looking at the programme of events on offer at Heritage Open Days, not to mention Gloucester Day and the History Festival preceding it, perhaps it's time to ask if this is such a good idea! So don't miss out! Come and help if you can and see as much as you can of our great celebration of 'The Old City' as Gurney called it.

Alex Bailey
Co-ordinator
Heritage Open Days Team