

FULL VERSION

As a city guide you should know more about your subject than you impart to your clients: this will at the same time help to avoid information overload, leave you with a reserve of knowledge out of which to answer any questions, and give you more confidence in your subject and therefore in yourself as a guide.

This guide has therefore been put together as a “Guide’s Guide” to help fill that need, since The Spa is covered rather briefly in Phil’s book. It is intended as background reading, but will hopefully stimulate you to read further, perhaps to use your own specialist expertise, and to make your own contribution. It is always up for update.

I claim very little of it as my own work: I have relied heavily on the sources quoted, often verbatim, so can only claim this as a compilation.

Ted Wilson

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FULL VERSION

Eagle Hall (or House), Lower Westgate Street: The Duke of Norfolk's House

In the middle and late eighteenth century the lower end of Westgate Street, the island and St Mary's Square were the most desirable part of the city, home to the wealthier landowners and more fashionable gentry. This splendid house was built by Anthony Freeman probably in the 1740s

It was built in the Palladian style, in brick with freestone frontage, with elaborate detail. Fluted Corinthian pilasters supporting a cornice, and the whole was surmounted by urns and a large stone eagle, giving rise to its name Eagle House or Hall. Internally detail was equally lavish, with many rooms panelled in mahogany.

A spring was discovered during the building of the house, but the owner at the time was not interested and it was covered by a stone slab in the cellar. The house offered board and lodging, and visitors were entitled to take the water. By 1739 a public breakfast took place every Thursday, entertained by the band of the Gloucestershire Militia, and a long room in the garden was opened for serving tea and coffee, although this does not seem to have been associated with the idea of a spa.

By 1787 however it had become apparent to the tenant the corn factor Mr Lewis that the water was useless for cooking, washing, brewing and worst of all, ruined brandy! Later his wife tried it and found relief from a nervous disorder, also his daughter, who suffered from scrofula, found it produced relief where the prescribed Malvern water had failed. This alerted him to the possibility that it might have medicinal properties, and he set about developing the premises as a spa. The water was piped into a small room. He advertised its free availability to all who needed it, and it was soon drawing some 400 people each day. The medicinal properties of the water were confirmed by chemical analysis and Lewis set about creating a larger and more fashionable pump room with two baths, one for ladies and one for the gentlemen, which he opened in 1788, keeping the smaller room for the free use of those unable to pay.

In October 1798 a new tenant appeared in the person of Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk. On his election as Mayor that year he hosted an elegant dinner in the house which he took for the duration of his mayoralty. This was the start of a period of lavish entertainment, either there or at the nearby King's Head Inn, then at the height of its importance. This was most welcome in view of the austerity

FULL VERSION

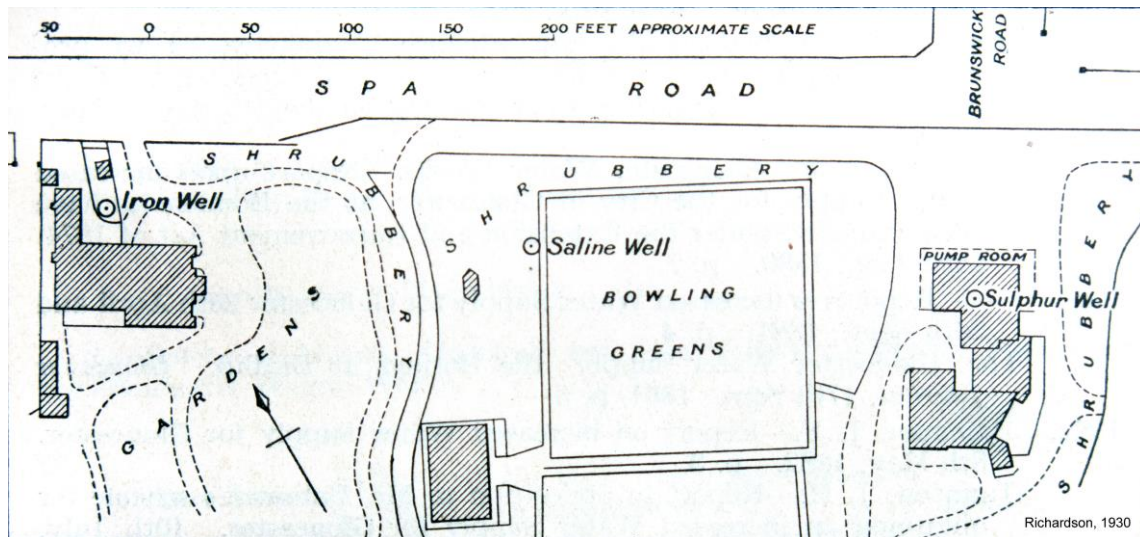
which had been imposed during the Napoleonic Wars, and may have contributed to his election as mayor four times between 1783 and 1815.

The Westgate spa was popular for a while among fashionable visitors, but enthusiasm gradually faded, with Cheltenham so close by. By 1850 the area was well in decline, since the house had been divided into two, and the frontage disfigured by a projecting row of single storey shops which remained throughout its life.

Eagle House, or “The Old Spa House” as it came to be known, passed into other use consistent with the general decline of the area, being divided up into shops and apartments, and finally fell vacant and became derelict, being demolished on 4 October 1971, despite much local protest, to be replaced by the Dukeries apartments.

The Spa, Gloucester Park

Three wells in Spa Road became the focus of the new Gloucester Spa in 1814.



No 1, The Iron or Chalybeate Well, in the private grounds of St Luke's House (later ka Waterloo Villa), was dug in about 1749 to provide a water supply to the house, but medicinal water was found. Its original depth is unknown as it is obstructed in its lower part. (Chalybeate, pronounced “kal-í-bi-et”, means a mineral spring water rich in iron salts. This was a very popular buzz-word at the time.)

No 2, the Saline or Bowling Green Well, is again of uncertain date, but a stone at its base marked 1762 suggests that as its date (The bowling greens were not then constructed: still not shown on Causton's map of 1834.).

No 3, The Sulphur Well, was dug in 1814 to a depth of 85 feet.

FULL VERSION

All three wells must have been dug by hand; no information is given on diameter, but since Richardson describes all three as dry-stone lined they would probably have been at least two and more likely three feet or more in finished internal diameter, to provide sufficient space for a man to dig and lay the dry stone lining.

The Sulphur Well was on land known as Rignor or Rigney Stile, belonging to Sir James Jelf, a local banker and Mayor of Gloucester. This drew a glowing report in the *Gloucester Journal* of 5 September 1814, which foresaw development on a par with that of Cheltenham, and Sir James made every effort to realise it.

A temporary pump house was erected which drew water from all three wells. It was immediately successful, with over 300 people a day taking the waters within a week of the announcement, so a permanent pump house was erected. This measured 40 x 20 feet with a veranda facing up Norfolk Place (the widened southern end of Brunswick Road), and parapet adorned with carved lions and pineapple vases. It offered the latest technology in hot and cold vapour treatment in four separate bathrooms. Landscaped walks were laid out in the surrounding open ground. Subscriptions were invited, over 200 being received in the first fortnight, including Sir W B Guise, Lord Somerset and the Duke of Norfolk. Something of a “spa fever” had gripped the city and a grand opening was held on 1 May 1815, when several thousand took the waters, to the strains of the band of the Gloucester Militia.

Sadly, the Duke’s bank failed just then, immediately after the end of the Napoleonic Wars. He resigned as Mayor, and only a month after its triumphal opening his spa was in danger. After a failed attempt at family fundraising the spa and grounds were offered for auction at the King’s Head Inn in Westgate Street on 21 July 1815.

The main spa and grounds were bought by John Philpotts for £7500, and the remaining plots in High Orchard for an additional £2000.

Philpotts established the Gloucester Spa Company as a joint stock company with £6500 raised in 26 shares sold to local inhabitants in 1816, in addition to his own funds. The Sulphur well was re-dug since the original was not properly sealed against surface water, and a rolling programme of improvements was put in hand. This began by establishing a gated area around the spa and extending to include Gaudy Green, later known as Brunswick Square, the lower half of Brunswick Road, and Spa Road to Bristol Road. The selectivity of the area was to be preserved by a list of regulations:

- 1 All houses to be stone-fronted next to principal roads.
- 2 On the north side of Norfolk Street the building line to be 18 feet back from the road.

FULL VERSION

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- 3 Beaufort Buildings to have an open space of not less than 12 feet between each house and 10 feet onto Gloucester Place.
 - 4 On the east side of Gloucester Place the building line to be 10 feet from the road and no house to be erected for less than £400 excluding land.
 - 5 All garden walls to be party.
 - 6 Each owner to erect and fix up before his house iron palisades and pave the parade opposite to match adjacent.
 - 7 No chimneys to be built for offices but what shall be conveyed to the principal buildings, nor any building in the grounds be occupied separately, nor any Trade or Manufactory permitted which shall be considered a nuisance by the Spa Committee.
 - 8 No well to be opened for the purpose of procuring or drawing minerals, saline or chalybeate springs.
 - 9 No materials or goods of any kind shall be brought to any of the houses on wagons, carts, trolleys, trucks or sledges by the roads in front, but by the back roads only and to be taken through the gardens.
 - 10 Maintenance of drains to be done conjointly by all those connected.
 - 11 Roads to be made at the expense of the Proprietors of the Spa, the back roads after having been made to be kept in repair by the property owners.

The company thus expanded the spa into a high-class residential complex, and by 1829 Beaufort Buildings, Montpelier Place, Spa Villas, Sherborne House, Somerset House and Brunswick Square had all been developed.

The spa thrived for only a short period however, until about 1850, when it began to lose impetus. Several factors contributed to its demise:

- 1 Cheltenham, with its many spas and more extensive select area, had developed a social cachet which by 1820 had eclipsed Gloucester.
- 2 Its location was too close to the industrial docks and the less affluent area of Littleworth.
- 3 Taking the waters began to fall out of fashion.

In 1869 the Company offered the spa and grounds to the City of Gloucester provided the local Board of Health added a certain amount of land, so that the whole could be laid out as a public park. After much controversy and wrangling, the Board of Health and the City Council accepted the property at no cost. Thus at one stroke Gloucester Park came into being and the spa was doomed.

The City Council did little to promote use of the spa, which fell into disuse, and the pump room baths were demolished in 1894. The Board agreed to place a tap outside the spa for the free taking of the water by the public, although it could still be taken inside, for the payment of 2/6d a year. In 1905 it was suggested that the spa be revived on a municipal basis, but this never happened, in 1926 the waters were polluted by a leaking sewer and by 1929 the well had been capped off. The spa was demolished in 1960.

FULL VERSION

Over its life the Spa attracted many visitors to Gloucester, many of whom stayed, including a number of naval and military officers. William Ewart Gladstone's parents lived here, and he recalled many enjoyable visits to Gloucester.

The Spa Water

Water was extracted from the three wells about 80ft (27m) deep, emanating from the Lower Lias Clay, now known as the Charmouth Mudstone. Whilst yield was small, it was sufficient to supply a spa. These are classified as shallow open wells, exploiting an unconfined water-table aquifer. The water was of meteoric origin, ie it was recirculated rainfall which had seeped into the ground. Waters from this formation are characteristically rich in Ca and Mg sulphates, but the Gloucester water was unique in Britain in having a significant content of both Bromine (6.0 mg/dm³) and Iodine (7.6 mg/dm³), indeed this was the highest Iodine content of any well in the UK. The waters were also saline but not thermal.

A 1926 analysis showed the following constituents:

	mg/dm ³ *
SiO ₂	8
Al	5
Fe (total)	trace
Ca	159
Mg	101
Na	3521
K	n.d.
HCO ₃	281
SO ₄	689
Cl	5274
Total determined constituents	110038

- mg/dm³ seems to be a more pedantic way of expressing g/l. Both express content in weight per unit volume of water. The more commonly used ppm (parts per million) begs the question of whether the parts are by weight or by volume.

That analysis is not specific as to which well it came from. Richardson quotes three analyses of 1926, on samples taken from the bottom of the wells, from which he derived the following probable mineral combinations:

Mineral, content in parts per million	Chalybeate Well	Saline Well	Sulphur Well
Calcium carbonate	294	230	311
Calcium sulphate	48	227	186
Magnesium sulphate	149	502	221
Sodium sulphate	416	189	125
Sodium chloride (common salt)	185	8795	8392
Silica	3	8	11
Ferrous carbonate	2.3	trace	6.3
Aluminium oxide	12	9	9

FULL VERSION

Total dissolved solids	1109	9959	9261
Dissolved gases (c.c./litre):			
Total gases	none	5.4	14.6
Hydrogen sulphide	-	-	0.4

(Different analyses usually differ slightly: the composition of meteoric waters does change from place to place and from day to day. Harrogate has 88 separate springs, all showing different analyses.)

Taking the Waters

The spa water was never clear, but had a whitish cloudy appearance: when freshly drawn it was “rather brisk, pungent and refreshing, afterwards rather austere, or rough, resembling ink”. Although the taste varied from day to day, it was its smell which was most offensive. (This was probably due to the Hydrogen sulphide, and this presumably only in the water from the sulphur well.)

The more adventurous took it a pint at a time, but in these quantities it could be a strong purgative and most took it by the half pint at a more leisurely pace. It was probably more important to ensure that you were within quick reach of the right place first !

The waters were considered to be a stimulant and efficacious in the treatment of a large range of ailments, such as kidney and calculus disorders, gastric or acid indigestion, nausea, gall bladder obstructions, jaundice, bile, debility, uterine derangement, chlorosis, scurvy and lung disorders.

To many, however, seeing and being seen in the right places by the right people dictated the necessity of visiting successful spas and imbibing the waters there, irrespective of their medicinal value. To the hypochondriac and the mere follower of fashion the waters were not enough: amusements were essential to occupy the mind. In Gloucester the “rides and walks are numerous and delightful; the town has agreeable amusements; public breakfasts twice a week during the season; balls, concerts and a theatre.” These amusements were considered to be just as essential for the genuine sufferer however, for “many there are who for want of employment, would pass their time in such a state of insipid inactivity, that the stimulating and cordial powers of a mineral water would soon cease, and thereby lose their efficacy, were it not for the exhilarating influence of public amusements”.

In order to gain the greatest possible advantages from the Gloucester waters it was recommended that visitors rose early and took exercise in moderation; walking briskly enough to produce a gentle perspiration and not a good “sweat” was considered ideal. Visitors were expected to take good care of their diets, which were to be generous and combined with moderate quantities of wine.

FULL VERSION

Simply prepared roasts were of value as were broths of all kinds but not rich soups. Milk was not objected to but “drinking tea twice a day is certainly improper” while “cocoa or chocolate, with milk for breakfast, is in general preferable to tea or coffee”. Finally, visitors were recommended to gain as much sleep as possible, with eleven o’clock the latest approved bed time. “The passions of the mind should likewise be attended to; they should be kept within bounds; every excess exasperates the distemper, hinders digestion, and consequently debilitates.”

The Spa Ground

The spa Ground was laid out and landscaped with serpentine paths, also a sports ground. Cricket has been played here since 1827, and it was the home of Gloucester City Cricket Club, who played their first match there in 1867, against an All-England Eleven. It is now an amateur club combined with Gloucester Winget, playing at both grounds. Gloucester Winget field five senior teams including a successful women’s team, and youth teams from under-11 to under-17. Our MP Richard Graham plays here for Gloucester Winget.

Gloucester RFC was formed here in 1873, and shared the ground on a seasonal basis, until an incident in January 1891 when an important game was scheduled against Swansea, but a heavy frost was forecast, so salt was spread over the pitch. It worked; Gloucester won their game, but lost their ground because they had killed the grass and were kicked out. They bought their present site in Kingsholm from the Castle Grim Estate, playing their first match there 10 Oct 1891.

The Rugby Club thereby lost the use of the Cricket Club’s horse used for pulling the mower*, roller, etc, but came to an agreement with the Cricket Club for a seasonal sharing agreement. Unfortunately one year the horse fell sick and died while in the care of the Rugby Club. They received a curt letter from the Secretary of the Cricket Club demanding restitution, which was rebutted on the grounds that the horse was elderly and death was natural. Correspondence continued for a couple of years without resolution, between the two club secretaries. It so happened that the secretary of the Cricket Club also served as secretary to the Rugby Club, so this poor chap was writing to himself weekly for a couple of years. Apparently the dispute remains unresolved to this day, which simply reveals the delights of being British !

*The lawnmower had been invented in the late 1820s in Brimscombe, Stroud, by Edwin Beard Budding, an engineer at the Phoenix Foundry. It was patented in 1830. He was a designer of textile machinery and had devised a cylinder cutter for shearing the nap on woven woollen cloth. He realised that this principle had other applications and produced a lawnmower. The original had a 19” frame, requiring two people to work effectively, and was designed for larger applications such as field mowing instead of the scythe. It took some years to develop a larger model for horse power.

FULL VERSION

Brunswick Square

This was formerly known as Gaudy Green, and is shown as such on John Speed's map of 1610, together with "The Butts" used for archery practice by the local bowmen until 17th C. also on Hall & Pinnel's map of 1780.

The longbow was in the process of being superseded by the crossbow. Ballistically there was little difference between them, loosing* arrows or bolts at comparable velocity, having comparable range and comparable penetrative power. The real differences were firstly, that it took a lifetime to train a good longbow man, whilst the crossbow was quickly taught, and secondly that whilst a good longbow man could loose up to six, even nine arrows per minute, it took some 90 seconds to load and tension a crossbow ready for action. Thus different tactics were needed.

* Arrows and bolts were always "loosed", never "fired": that term refers strictly to explosive propulsion.

In the Civil War a Royalist Battery was stationed here during the Siege of Gloucester in 1643.

A variety of artillery and siege engines were used. The main artillery weapon was the mortar, a cannon with wide bore and short barrel, which fired its projectile at low velocity and high trajectory. The most feared projectile was the grenado. This was a hollow iron sphere filled with explosive, and fired by a slow fuse. This was timed to explode just before or on landing, but timing was crude and if slow the fuse was often extinguished as the grenade buried itself in the ground, or if in the open it could be quenched with a bucket of water. Alternatively an incendiary charge could be used: the recipient never knew which to expect !

Siege engines took two forms, the battering ram, or the siege tower. Both had been used since pre-Roman times, but remained firm favourites. The siege tower stood higher than the wall, and was filled with soldiers protected under armour. It was pushed up to the wall on wheels, by men protected under an armoured roof, until those on the top deck could jump off onto the top of the wall under covering fire from their colleagues. Siege towers were unstable and top-heavy.

Humpty Dumpty was probably either a siege tower or a battering ram; it was designed by one Dr Chillingworth (hence Chillingworth Mews) and was pushed forward on wheels. If the old Roman ditch was infilled to provide access to the wall, using unconsolidated material, then the wheels would have sunk in, whereupon the whole thing could have toppled over. (Gloucester is not the only city to claim the origin of this rhyme.)

Another siege technique was mining, whereby sappers would tunnel under the walls and undermine them. Prince Rupert requisitioned miners from the Forest of Dean for this purpose, with the aim of mining beneath the eastern and south-eastern walls, but this first required drainage of the moat which was fiercely

FULL VERSION

resisted, with repeated night sorties to relieve the miners of their picks and shovels, and so managed to stave off this attack until relief arrived.

Development of the Square was begun by the Spa Company in 1825, and shown almost complete on Causton's map of 1834. The green is still privately owned by the Brunswick Square Association, supported by all the riparian owners and tenants, who have keys.

Christ Church

This Grade 2 listed church was built by public subscription, and begun in 1822. It is in plain classical style, by Architects Rickman and Hutchinson, and was consecrated in 1823 as an extra-parochial church known as The Spa Church, for the use of subscribers occupying houses in the Spa development. It is a simple classical box in stuccoed brick, with slate roof. The windows are decorated with an original but unusual and possibly unique stylised honeysuckle pattern.

The west front was rebuilt in 1845, in a totally incongruous Italianate style.

In 1865 the chancel was enlarged, and a matching apse and sanctuary added.

By 1877 it was unable to pay its way and was taken over by the Diocese and renamed Christ Church.

In 1899-1900 the chancel was again extended and a barrel-vaulted roof added, terminating in a semi-dome over the apse. This is said to have improved the acoustics enormously.

On opening, grave plots were offered for sale, at £5 for a single, or £3 for a twin.

In 1984 toilets were added on the ground and first floors and the former west end vestry converted into a meeting room.

In 1998 3 rows of pews were removed and a dais constructed with stage lighting.

In 2008 ten rows of pews were removed and the floor carpeted for use by community organisations.

In 1823 Rev FE Witts wrote *"It is intended for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the new town, which within these few years has arisen around the saline springs and form a genteel suburb to the city. It is extraparochial, and the church under the auspices of the Bishop is erected by subscription. The edifice is slight, and erected, I should presume, at no great expense; the interior will be commodious and well-lighted."*

Spa Road, Beaufort Buildings

Taken from East to West

Belle Vue House, named Park House on its portico, was not built by the Spa Company, but effects a full stop at the east end of Spa Road, facing down the length of Beaufort Buildings. It was for a while the home of **Hubert Cecil Booth**, the inventor of the vacuum cleaner.

Born in Theresa Place in 1871, Booth was educated at Gloucester College and Gloucester County School and in 1889 he entered the Central Technical College,

FULL VERSION

City and Guilds, London (now Imperial College of Science and Technology) after passing the entrance examination. He completed a three-year course in civil engineering and mechanical engineering, where he completed the Diploma of Associateship (ACGI). He also became a student of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

In 1892 he entered the drawing office of Messrs Maudslay Sons & Field, Lambeth, London as a civil engineer. In this capacity he designed bridges and large ferris wheels for amusement parks in London, Blackpool, Paris, and Vienna, although his main work was in the design of engines for Royal Navy battleships. After seeing a rather inadequate demonstration of a compressed air based cleaning system for railway carriages at St Pancras station, Booth reasoned that sucking air through a filter might be a better system, and thus invented an early version of the vacuum cleaner which was manufactured by Fielding & Platt of Gloucester. This was mounted on a horse-drawn cart, powered by a petrol engine, and was hired out with uniformed operatives. It would stand in the street outside a house, and equipped with 800 ft of hose could be used to clean all rooms simultaneously. This became something of a social event, ladies assembling tea parties while the room was cleaned around them. His approach was better suited for industrial use than for household use, and was only for hire, not purchase. His fame was assured when he was appointed to clean the blue carpet laid in Westminster Abbey for the coronation of Edward VII in 1901. The King was so impressed that he bought machines for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, offers which he could not refuse!

However, the race was now on to produce a more portable machine for domestic ownership. His chief competition was an American James Spangler, who in 1907 produced an electric machine that could be handled by one person and carried up and down stairs. Spangler was bought out by a leather manufacturer called Hoover, who finally created a mass-produced model selling for the equivalent of £35. The rest is history.

Beaufort Buildings:

These were built by the Spa Company in 1818 as a speculative development.

Lennox House:

Lennox House was designed by Robert Smirke. (see under Somerset House).

Spa Road westward from Brunswick Road.

33,31 on the corner with Brunswick Road, a Victorian house of no known interest.

29 Somerset House, the largest and grandest house in Spa Road, was built 1833-9 as a semi-detached pair for John Philpotts, Barrister and MP. It has a classical façade with delicate balconies. In 1864 it was converted into the Judges' Lodgings, for the judges in the Assize Court, following problems at 26 Westgate

FULL VERSION

Street. It later housed the Register Office, until this moved to Maitland House in 1995. From 1995 to 2005 it was occupied by The School of the Lion, and was then converted into apartments.

The Architect was **Sir Robert Smirke**, born 1780 in London and died 1867 in Cheltenham. The Greek temples he saw during his Grand Tour of 1801 inspired him to become one of the leaders of the Greek Revival school of Architecture. He was responsible for the design of the main block and façade of the British Museum, together with many others such as the Royal Mint, Covent Garden Theatre (now Covent Garden Opera House), and Somerset House, all in London. Provincially he was responsible for the Eden Bridge Carlisle, Perth Sheriff Court, Courts at Lincoln Castle, Old Council House Bristol, former Shrewsbury Infirmary, former County Courts Carlisle, Market House Appleby, Shire Hall Gloucester, Westgate Bridge Gloucester, Shire Hall Hereford, Eastnor Castle, Hardwicke Court.

23-27 Sherborne House (25) and Villas were built about 1825 for John Chadborn a local attorney, whose signature appears on a copy of the 1815 sale documents. Also having a classical façade, both properties overlook parkland across Spa Road. The House was the central part of the building, the Villas were the two side extensions added soon afterwards.

21 Building of no known historical interest, now offices and apartments.

19 Maitland House was built about 1820 for Alexander Maitland, a former merchant from London. It has a neo-Greek porch with fluted Greek Doric columns. In 1995 it became the Register Office until ??, now apartments.

Gap

The Spa Hotel was built in 1818 for John Philpotts, to accommodate the many visitors to the spa coming from all over the country to take the waters. FW Witts described staying here on one of his visits to Gloucester. On finding the city gripped by election fever, on account of which his two favourite watering-holes were aflame with activity, the King's Head being the election headquarters of the Whigs, and the Bell Hotel of the Tories, he opted for the peace and quiet of the Spa Hotel.

Elizabeth Barrett (later Barrett Browning) stayed at the Spa Hotel for a year from the summer of 1821, aged 15, under the care of Dr John Baron of Gloucester Infirmary, suffering from a swollen spine, wildly irregular pulse and swooning fits. She was kept immobile for months in a spine crib, while waiting for it to develop into a recognisable and hence treatable ailment. She took laudanum regularly for severe head and spinal pain, turning to morphine later. She was also "treated" with setons, tapes threaded through folds in the skin "to let out the vapours".

FULL VERSION

By 1835 the hotel had been sold by the Spa Company. From 1867 (not 1887 as previously thought, see refs) it was occupied by and renamed Ribston Hall School for Girls before they moved to a purpose-built school, their present site, in Stroud Road in 1961. It later became part of Gloucester College of Art and Technology and is now converted into apartments.

The Spa Hotel may have been the birthplace of Cardinal Archbishop Herbert Vaughan. The family was based at Courtfield, Herefordshire, but Vaughan is reported to have been born at Spa Road Gloucester. Waterloo Villa (aka Ivy Lodge, and now the site of Cedar House) belonged to a relative, is also a possibility. The reason for the birth taking place here is unknown and we can only guess. Most probably it was the comfortable proximity of the hospital, then in Southgate Street, in case of difficulties. (Hollingsworth) (NB Previous suggestions that Lennox House was the birthplace appear to be without foundation)

Cardinal Archbishop Herbert Vaughan(1832-1903)

Herbert Vaughan was thought to have been born either in the Spa Hotel, or in Ivy Lodge (now replaced by Cedar House), but there is now some doubt: his parents may simply have come to Gloucester for the birth, from Herefordshire. He was descended from an ancient and powerful Catholic family from Courtfield, Herefordshire. He was born on 15 April 1832, the eldest son of Col John Vaughan of Courtfield, Herefordshire and Eliza Rolls daughter of John Rolls, of The Hendre, Monmouthshire. Hers was a strongly Protestant family, but she converted to Catholicism shortly before her marriage in 1830, and was to prove deeply religious. The Vaughans had 13 children. All five of their daughters went into convents, while six of their eight sons became priests, three of them bishops. (Roger became Bishop of Sydney, Francis Bishop of Menevia, Wales, and John became titular Bishop of Sebastopolis and auxiliary Bishop of Salford.

Vaughan was educated at Stonyhurst College, then the Benedictine Downside Abbey, before the Jesuit College of Brugelette in Belgium. He then went to Rome in 1851 for further study and became a friend and disciple of H E Manning, who later became the second Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster after the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in Britain in 1850.

Vaughan spent some years in the West Indies and America working for the spiritual provision of slaves and freedmen, bringing him more than once into conflict with the law. On his return, attempts to enter the parish priesthood were obstructed by those who opposed his following of Manning. He went on to found St Joseph's Missionary College in Mill Hill, on funds he had raised in the Americas.

He was eventually consecrated Bishop of Salford on 22 October 1872, and immediately set to work surveying and following up all catholic children in his diocese who had fallen away from the faith, or who were in danger of doing so.

FULL VERSION

He went on to review all catholic children in and leaving the workhouses, and founded the Catholic Children's Rescue Society.

He had always worked and studied as a disciple of Cardinal Manning, and when the latter died in 1892 he was appointed Archbishop of Westminster in his place, and in 1893 he became a Cardinal.

His quest for spiritual purity led him to resist strongly an attempt at rapprochement from the Church of England, which led to papal condemnation of Anglican Orders.

It was his earnest desire to see a proper spiritual home, and campaigned for subscriptions, and laid the foundation stone for the new Westminster Cathedral in 1895. Building work was sufficiently advanced for his Requiem Mass there after his death in 1903.

He died on 19 June 1903 at St Joseph's College Mill Hill, the missionary college he had founded in 1866. His body was interred there, but later moved to Westminster Cathedral.

Gloucester v Cheltenham

When its first mineral spring was discovered on the site of the present Ladies' College in 1715, Cheltenham was a relatively inconsequential village clustered along what is now the High Street. Its higher elevation, closer proximity to the Cotswolds, rural surroundings and absence of heavy industry, all contributed to the successful development of a spa. After a Royal visit by George III in 1788 Cheltenham's future as a fashionable spa was assured, the same year in which Lewis set about creating the spa in Westgate Street. Its rural surroundings were ideally suited to the spread of a pleasant spa town, aided by the discovery and exploitation of a total of at least 26 known wells over a wide area, within a triangle extending between the railway station, The Park and Pittville, with a concentration around Montpellier. Actually most of these lay within a ¼-mile wide band from the railway station to the point where Sandford Road crosses the River Chelt. Rev Francis Witts describes with enthusiasm the taking shape of the new spa at Pittville, and the progress visible during his successive visits, often on his way to Gloucester as an Assizes Judge.

The "foetid dog-hole" incident at 26 Westgate Street shows a preference for Cheltenham among the more discerning by 1854.

The late Architect David Verey wrote: *"Spa Road is more like Cheltenham than Gloucester. . . . Gloucester, until about 1820, was the social centre, but after that it was quickly overtaken by the upstart Cheltenham."*

FULL VERSION

“Discuss”, as examiners say: it is certainly debatable. Gloucester was the focus of county society life throughout the eighteenth century and before, but as a fashionable spa it must always have been far behind Cheltenham, which had some 70 years’ start and its Royal seal of approval.

Gloucester Spa was created in a small enclave within and existing busy and thriving city, “bolted on” to something which was already working well without it, whilst Cheltenham began with and grew up to service and to exploit its many spas. In a sense, being a spa was something Gloucester did “in its spare time”, whereas for Cheltenham it was the *raison d’être*, which drove the development of the town. Cheltenham was a first class spa but Gloucester has history.

REFERENCES

in chronological order

- | | |
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(re-write on birthplace of Cardinal Vaughan)

FULL VERSION

APPENDIX: SUPPORTING CAST

CHARLES HOWARD, 11TH DUKE OF NORFOLK (1746 – 1815), styled **Earl of Surrey** from 1777 to 1786, was a British peer, the son of Charles Howard, 10th Duke of Norfolk and Catherine Brockholes.

He was known for actively participating in the Whig party as part of the opposition to King George III. Surrey succeeded to the title of 11th Duke of Norfolk in 1786 upon the death of his father. He spent a considerable amount of his money rebuilding and refurbishing Arundel Castle after inheriting his title and lands.

He married, firstly, Marion Coppinger (daughter of John Coppinger), on 1 August 1767, who died a year later giving birth. He married, secondly, Frances Scudamore (1750–1820), the only child of Charles FitzRoy-Scudamore on 6 April 1771 at London, England. Frances soon became insane after her marriage and was locked away until her death in 1820. Howard then lived with several mistresses. His longtime mistress, Mary Ann Gibbon (a cousin of Edward Gibbon), was reputed to be his secret third wife and she had five children by him, including two sons who were officers of arms, Matthew Howard-Gibbon, and Edward Howard-Gibbon. An older illegitimate son by a previous mistress, Sir William Woods, later became Garter King of Arms. Norfolk renounced his Catholicism to start his political life, but remained a staunch supporter of Catholic Emancipation, as well as opposing the war with the American colonies. He sat in Parliament from 1780–84, became a lord of the treasury in the Portland cabinet in 1783, and was dismissed in 1798 from the lord lieutenancy of the West Riding for toasting the “sovereign English people” in terms displeasing to the Crown. He was noted for his convivial habits and his dislike of soap and water.

Norfolk was a good friend of Sir Bysshe Shelley, allowing him in 1786 to make out the patent for his baronetcy. Shelley was influenced by Norfolk and built the flamboyant Castle Goring, one side of which was a partial copy of Norfolk's residence of Arundel Castle.

Norfolk died on 16 December 1815 at age 69, without issue from either of his two known legal marriages. Upon his death, his lands and titles passed to his cousin, Bernard.

(Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery have a portrait of him, not on show.)

JOHN PHILLPOTTS (1775-1849) of Bearland, Gloucester

Phillpotts' father sold his family estate in Langaren, Herefordshire and bought a pottery and brick factory at Bridgwater, but moved in 1782 to Gloucester, where he became the landlord of the *Bell* Inn, the headquarters of the Tory True Blue Club, and land agent to the Dean and Chapter.

John practised as an attorney in Gloucester, serving as registrar to the Dean and Chapter, before being called belatedly to the bar in 1822, after which he went the Oxford circuit and Gloucester sessions.

From 1819-20 he served as mayor of Gloucester and became an increasingly prominent figure in the city, helping to complete the vitally important Gloucester-Berkeley canal project, promoting the building of Worcester Street and a new cattle market and organizing the rescue of the Turner and Morris bank in the winter of 1825-6. His enhanced local status encouraged his political ambitions, and there was pressure on him to offer for the city at the general election of 1826.

Phillpotts was conspicuous at Gloucester reform meetings in 1832, and served as MP for the terms 1820-31, 1832-4, 1837-47, sustaining a 'reputation as a consistent politician of a somewhat ultra school', who favoured 'extension of the franchise [and] vote by ballot' and was 'one of the earliest advocates for ... repeal of the corn laws'. He tried to assist ministers in overcoming the vested interests of the aristocracy, 'the influential vampires of the state', which was essential at a time when the people were 'groaning under the weight of excessive taxation'. According to an

FULL VERSION

obituarist, he was 'at all times bland, courteous and laboriously attentive to his duties' and 'had the art of inspiring his ... supporters with a very large amount of personal regard'. He died in June 1849