



FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

news
October 2012

THE FOREST OF
DEAN LOCAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY

News

OCTOBER 2012

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Editors Notes

The turning of the seasons brings the long dark nights into prospect, and the chance to catch up with your book list! The tradition of locally authored books continues, and in this edition of the newsletter there are reviews of new books from new publisher 'Yorkley A&E, and from Minsterworth man Terry Moore-Scott.

The regular feature 'Plaques and Monuments' is rested from this edition of the newsletter, but will return again in the future. I need inspiration so please contact me with your ideas of memorials that we could feature in the newsletter, or better still send me a short article with photographs of your favourite plaque or monument!

As you will probably know, the Independent Panel on Forestry produced its final report on 4th July 2012. Copies of the report can be downloaded via the internet:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/Independent-Panel-on-Forestry-Final-Report1.pdf>

If you would prefer a printed version of the report, you can get a copy by emailing: forestrypanel@defra.gsi.gov.uk Mark your email for the attention of Maryanne Sobowale

The government is considering its response to the Panel Report, and your views are being sought through an internet survey which can be accessed via the following url:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/survey/>

In the last edition of the newsletter, I briefly mentioned that Gordon Clissold had died. Gordon was a past Chairman of the History Society, and I felt he deserved a fuller tribute than I was able to give at the time. Our Vice Chairman Ian Standing knew Gordon very well, and he has provided a fine appreciation which is reproduced in this news letter.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 13th October last. Members who missed the meeting and who wish to see the minutes and accounts can request copies from the Secretary of the Society, Cheryl Mayo, whose contact details are shown to the left.

Keith Walker

Short pieces of news, views, and opinions for the Newsletter are always very welcome. Every effort will be made to reproduce articles as presented but the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary. The Editor will assume that all necessary authorisation for attachments, photographs etc has been obtained and the FODLHS will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.



*Tis the season of soft mists
and mellow fruitfulness.....
Time for a good book?
Read our book reviews inside...*

Plus AGM report

News From The Chair

I am writing this chairman's report just after the 2012 AGM where I was voted in for another year. Changes to your committee are; Mary Sullivan has now completed her three years as General Secretary and Cheryl Mayo has been voted in to take her place. Mary will now take up the role of Treasurer. Cherry Lewis has stepped down from being editor of The New Regard but is staying on the committee. New members of the Committee are Ben Berry, Virginia Morgan, Joyce Moss and Cheryl Mayo. Ian Standing has kindly agreed to stay on as New Regard



editor; he and Cherry Lewis worked together on the latest edition, with assistance from Cheryl Mayo and her husband David Harris. Dave Tuffley, after several years on the committee, has decided to step down; but he will help out at the larger events the society puts on. All committee members were thanked for all their hard work – and as I said in the report without the contributions from everyone on the committee the society would cease to function.

My chairman's report at the AGM mentioned two events that the society taken displays to; BBC 'History for All' event in Gloucester on a hot day in July and the 50th anniversary celebrations of Lydney Yacht Club. Events put on by the society included a well attended history day - 'The Unique Forest of Dean' and the coach trip in August 'Hidden Corners of the Forest' which was fully subscribed. A guided walk around Newent on a sunny day in June was followed by a delicious tea. For 2013 it is planned to have two coach trips; one local tour run by Averil and Cecile and a trip further afield organised by Mary and Joyce.

I also reported on the society's two current projects. A competition for school children aimed at encouraging pupils to research and write an article about the history that is on their doorstep here in the forest. The aim is to get three different age groups to produce articles based on criteria laid down by the society. Winners will be awarded prizes and get their submission published in a book; the society will also host a presentation event. The idea for the competition is being led by Averil Kear. For the other project, Mary Sullivan will be applying in 2013 for a grant to assist the society in putting together education/activity packs; they will be aimed at a range of age groups, including adults, to encourage families to go out and find their local history.

There was a very short treasurer's report and an interesting PowerPoint presentation by Mary on the results of the recent survey. New storage space obtained recently now means that the Committee can free up their sheds and spare rooms, and my case my car from all the paraphernalia we all store on behalf of the society. There may also be the possibility of moving our library from the Gage Library in Soudley Museum and we are looking at running workshops on research and anything else relating to history that members may find useful at the new location.

The Scott Garrett Prize for the best presentation to a meeting of the Society was this year awarded to Nigel Costley for his talk on 'The Warren James Riots'. The Cyril Hart Award for the best article in the New Regard Issue 26 was judged by Ray Wright and was awarded to Keith Walker for his article 'Where Was Sailor's Island?'.

May I thank everyone who voted for me to continue for another year as chairman; I can see that it is going to be another busy year for us all on the committee.

Cecile Hunt

Gordon Clissold - *An Appreciation by Ian Standing*

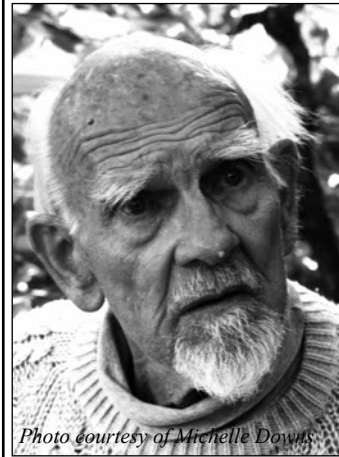


Photo courtesy of Michelle Downs

I first came across Gordon in the late 1960s, back in the early days of the Gloucester Cave Rescue Organisation. His knowledge of the countryside as an OS Surveyor and my interests in the local geology and history led to long friendship and much joint work.

In 1980 Gordon and I attended a university extra mural class in Coleford tutored by Mick Aston, Mick was pioneering new ways of discovering the past and he introduced us to a map of Dean made in the year 1608. Although meaningless at first sight, it was a very detailed map. It covered some 50 square miles of land, stretching from south of St Briavels northwards to Staunton, Symonds Yat and Ruardean, and it included all the settlements in between. Gordon and I spent the next three years exploring the ground and with Gordon's professional surveying skills we devised a way to recompile it to overlay to the OS 6" large scale plans. From then on, Gordon recompiled numerous other old maps with the object of relating their content to the ground of today. His work included creating 20 of the 22 maps published in Cyril Hart's huge book on Coleford. More of his work was published in the Victoria County History volume on the Forest of Dean, and other books

Gordon also took part in excavations, always taking on the recording and planning side of things, including excavations at Clearwell, Coleford and the Dean Road. He also made field surveys of the moated manor of Breckness Court, the Perseverance Chimney and the Mushet Ironworks at Whitecliff and Darkhill. He became very active with the Monmouth Archaeological Society and was one of the Monmouth team that won the Silver Trowel National Archaeology Award some twenty years ago.

Gordon was great supporter of local societies and causes. He was a past Chairman of the Forest of Dean Local History Society and one of the earliest hands-on supporters for a Forest museum. Once that was underway, he was among the founders of the Friends of Dean Heritage Museum and became its Honorary Treasurer for over 20 years. Under his leadership, the Friends contributed well over 20,000 pounds to support the work of the Museum.

When Laurie Gage's library bequest arrived at the Museum in the 1990s, Gordon began to realise his dream of a local study and research centre here in the Forest. It was he, above all others, who helped me to set it up. For the rest of his life, he was a regular volunteer there on Wednesday afternoons, helping others to use it and further their studies.

Gordon was a member of the Fleet Air Arm in Asia during the war. Later, much of his life with the Ordnance Survey was spent outdoors, covering the terrain and lugging theodolites up mountains. On retirement he was cruelly struck by a progressive, debilitating arthritis which he bore philosophically with great patience

To finish, I want to salute Gordon's achievements because they have contributed much to our understanding of the place where we live and added a lot to local history.

Focus On 'Parishes'

By Cecile Hunt, Chairman



Christchurch Church pictured in Autumn 2012.

Data from the 2001 Census shows that there are 11,265 parishes in England and Wales. In 1835 records show that there were 15,000 parishes.

In an 1858 edition of the 'Parish Officer' a parish is described as '...that portion of ground which is committed to the charge of one parson, vicar, or other minister...; and the church of which has all parochial rights, namely the right of burial, of baptism, and tithes. There are places, however, not included in any such division, and are therefore termed extra-parochial.' Any tithes from these extra-parochial places belonged to the crown. Parish boundaries, according to the 'Parish Officer' depended entirely on ancient and immemorial custom. This meant that any disputes over parish boundaries could not be tried in an ecclesiastical court, as it had

no jurisdiction, but in a temporal or common law court.

To preserve the evidence of parish boundaries which were laid down by ancient and immemorial custom, in Rogation week, a perambulation of the parish boundaries would be done by some of the parishioners, the parishioners had a justification for entering another man's land, that of beating of the bounds. Under the Inclosure (Consolidation) Act of 1801 commissioners were given the authority to either ascertain the old boundaries from witnesses, or to set new parish boundaries.

The Forest of Dean was a mixture of parochial and extra-parochial ground; and parishioners would have beaten the bounds the same as other parishes around the country. But in 1835 a big problem arose with regard to the extra-parochial area of the Forest re the administration of the New Poor Law to poor settlers living in it.

In the Forest of Dean the Bledisloe Hundred, established by 1086, had three parishes; two large parishes, Lydney and Awre and the small parish of Aylvington. Its south-east border was the River Severn and abutting its north-west border was the crown's extra-parochial land. This extra-parochial land, not included in the Domesday survey, consisted of over 20,000 acres of woodland and waste of the royal Forest and was situated in the Hundred of St Briavels. The main parishes of the St Briavels Hundred were; St Briavels, English Bicknor, Ruardean and Mitcheldean, plus some smaller parishes.

The union of parishes in 1835 across England and Wales affected, for poor law purposes, the settlers on the extra-parochial area of the Forest of Dean and it was decided to divide it into two townships; East Dean and West Dean. East Dean came under the Westbury on Severn Union and West Dean fell under the Monmouth Union. East Dean's parish boundaries were extended in 1884 to include a small parish of Hinders Lane and Dockham.

To be continued...

Help Needed (1) Heritage Lottery Bid to Index Newspapers

Local newspapers are a fantastic resource for finding out about the history of a local area. Each of our local & family history centres in Gloucestershire – Gloucestershire Archives, Cinderford and other libraries hold the local newspapers for their local area on microfilm. Most of these newspapers are poorly indexed or not indexed at all which means that the newspapers remain an untapped source of local history. This new project is all about opening up access to this key historical resource.

We want to recruit local history groups to use their local libraries to find out more about their local area by using the local newspaper holdings to research key moments of history. Instead of a straight forward indexing of newspapers, we are planning to take a themed approach – researching key moments in history. The aim of the project is to create an online resource bringing together the information and photographs that have been found during the research and also to develop educational material and activities which can be used in local schools.

We are also hoping to work with Gloucestershire Media to contribute articles in local papers, using the information and photographs found in the research. This would offer the opportunity for people to develop writing skills, this opportunity would be open to everybody taking part in the project

I would like to know if people are interested in taking part in this project and what topics they would like to research. I welcome any comments, questions, feedback, ideas, etc even if negative!! Please contact me at katrinakeir@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 01452 425294

Katrina Keir, Local and Family History Librarian, Gloucestershire Archives



Help Needed (2) - Soldiers of Gloucester Museum

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester Docks won the award of the Best Small Museum in Britain in 1991. It is now embarking on a major project to refresh its displays, which will introduce modern technology and increase its appeal and relevance to a greater segment of the visiting population.

It has been successful in winning the first stage of a Heritage Lottery Fund and is now embarking on the second stage to win the major grant needed. To do this the Museum has a lot of work to do and needs help from volunteers to help with a variety of tasks from cataloguing and conditioning silver and plate, to research using the archives, to IT skills or even to gaining retail experience in the shop.

If anyone could give the Museum a few hours a week or even a month then this would be a tremendous help to one of Gloucestershire's assets. The Museum cannot afford to pay but it will meet travel costs. Anyone interested should contact the curator either by telephone on 01452 522682 or by email at curator@sogm.co.uk. Alternatively they might like to either visit the Museum and find out for themselves what it has to offer or look at its website <http://www.glostons.org.uk>



The F. W Harvey Legacy by Roger Deeks of the F. W. Harvey Society

The F.W. Harvey Society has been working with the family of F.W. Harvey to preserve a recently discovered collection of his personal papers and make them publicly accessible. They were discovered after the death of Patrick Harvey who had lived in his father's house ('Highview') in Yorkley. Prior to handing the property over for refurbishment the documents were discovered and they provide a testament to his life and thoughts. They include numerous scrapbooks and nearly fifty letters from Ivor Gurney chronicling their friendship and Gurney's decline into mental illness. Of particular note is correspondence from the Prisoner of War Camps in Germany that include original drafts of his volumes of poetry. The vast

number of papers, scrapbooks, manuscripts and letters are to be deposited at Gloucestershire Archives. Exeter University, recognising the importance of the archive have funded a PhD studentship worth £70k to catalogue the archive and research a thesis about F.W. Harvey, his life and work, under the supervision of Professor Tim Kendall.

The *F.W. Harvey Collection* will provide a new insight into F.W. Harvey's life in the Forest in the inter-war period. It extends knowledge of his extensive and highly regarded broadcasting from the period. He combined a broadcasting career with his legal work, musical and literary interests. The papers dispel the myth that he largely retreated from artistic endeavours after 1921. He was devoted to the Forest of Dean and its people, promoting appreciation of its culture, heritage and dialect and promoted the establishment of the Forest National Park and encouraged tourism.

Members of the FoD Local History society will be interested to know that his reputation as a poet and figure with a knowledge of Forest history drew an enquiry from an aspiring historian. A letter in the collection is from Sgt C.E. Hart, No. 122098, S.H.Q. (Admin), R.A.F. Station, North Weald, Essex dated 24 April 1945:

*Dear Mr Harvey,
My home is in Dean Forest, and your name was brought to my memory when a friend at my R.A.F. Station asked me if I could ask some poetical friend to kindly criticise her first serious effort at a poem. I thought it fairly reasonable and promised to send it to you (as my 'local poet') for criticism. Would you be so kind as to read it and say whether you think it is suitable for publication?*

While writing perhaps you would like to know I have a large collection of Forest of Dean books including (a long list follows including 'Gloucestershire Lad'). In my spare time, while stationed near London, I am doing research work on Dean Forest at the Public Record Office, British Museum etc. I have already had a few small things published but am working on something larger re. Free Miners and Commoners: I have written 500 pages already! If you ever come across anything useful I shall be delighted to hear from you.

*Please forgive me troubling you regarding the poem.
Yours very truly C.E. Hart*

Recent Publications Reviewed

New Work from Yorkley A&E!

Up in the heights of Yorkley something is stirring! David Adams, a former art critic, editor and lecturer, has collaborated with retired GP Chris Nancollas to form local community events and publishing enterprise 'Yorkley A&E'. This new group is dedicated to exploring and celebrating the culture and history of Yorkley and the Forest of Dean. Yorkley A&E has so far three publications to its credit and they are reviewed below.

"Remembered and Forgotten – A selection of words celebrating Yorkley 1911 – 2001", 32 pages, £3.00

The opening event of the 2011 Forest Festival of Words took place in Yorkley, where the centenary of Yorkley's 'tin-hut' institute was celebrated. 'Remembered & Forgotten – Yorkley 1911 – 2011' is a selective miscellany of the poetry and words presented at the Festival event. The contents range from a history of the 'Institute's Beginnings' by our own Averil Kear to slightly melancholic poetry from Chris Nancollas ('Yorkley Day') via early twentieth century memories of life in Yorkley ('Early Days at Stone Cottage') by Freda Phipps.

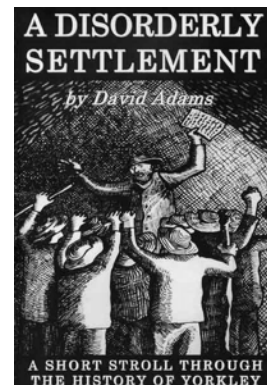
"A Native Forester – The life and poems of Richard Morse of Yorkley", 48 pages, £5.00

As David Adams writes in his introductory essay, "Richard Morse of Yorkley... was a self taught freeminer, one of the founders of Gloucester Mechanics Institute, a leading member of the Unitarian Church, a respected member of Gloucester society, who played a leading role in the social organisation the Oddfellows. And for the first decade of his adult life living in Yorkley, he wrote some powerful, compassionate, remarkable poetry." Seventeen of Richard Morse's poems are reproduced which contrastingly reflect deeply personal events in David's life ('On the Death of a Sister') and radical changes in social conditions at the time ('Merlin Awakened'). Chris Nancollas contributes a closing essay 'Richard Morse as a poet', in which he provides a technical review of the poems in the book.

"A Disorderly Settlement A Short Stroll Through the History of Yorkley", 32 pages, £4.00

Rather in the style of Michael Wood's recent television series (The Great British Story), David Adams provides us with a punchy and concise history of Yorkley as seen through the eyes of the 'ordinary people'. Starting with a discussion about the confusing historic and modern boundaries that define Yorkley, we are taken on a journey which examines the conflict over land rights between locals and authority, via a review of how Yorkley's scattered community of houses developed, through a discursive text on the influence or otherwise of the various religions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, onwards through the 'high times and hard times' of the coal mining era to 'just within living memory of our oldest residents'. David's book is extensively illustrated by fine drawings by Forest based artist Helen Sandford.

All three books represent extraordinary value for money, and provide entertaining yet challenging reading for local historians. Copies may be obtained in various outlets, including Yorkley Store and Post Office, and the Forest Bookshop. In case of difficulty, or for more information you can contact David Adams on 01594 563253 or via email davidsevernadams@gmail.com



Meetings In Review

Guided Walk Around Newent - Sunday 1st July

A couple of dozen FODLHS members turned up in the porch of Newent church one pleasant Sunday afternoon. We were met by Dood Pearce, Chairman of the Newent local history society for a conducted tour of the town. First we admired the very old stones in the porch, dating back to Saxon times. We then toured the graveyard hearing a few tales, such as that of the Merchant's wife, said to have been killed by her husband pushing her down the stairs. But, on further investigation, that seemed less likely than that he had been set up by a business rival.

We walked around the town with Dood pointing out the many historical buildings. We continued around the landscaped lake, hearing a little more of how the town used to be. There was a priory with fish rearing ponds, an old police station, an old grammar school, the old market hall which acts as a mini-museum and so on.

After an entertaining couple of hours we returned to the church for a detailed talk on the history of the church by another member of the Newent society, and many centuries of history are contained in those walls.

To round off the day we were treated to home-made cakes and tea. After eating more than we decently should have, we left feeling sure there was still more of Newent to be explored on another day.

Mary Sullivan



Coach Outing - "Hidden Corners of the Forest of Dean"

On Saturday August 18th we were conducted on a tour to discover hidden corners of the Forest of Dean, and what a range of gems we picked up on our journey.

The tour set out from Cinderford and by way of Steam Mills and Nailbridge we arrived for our first stop at St Michael's Church, Abenhall. Here we were privileged to see the recently installed Freeminers' Window. The idea for this came from a conversation between two Freeminers in 1985. The resulting truly inspirational and beautiful Thomas Denny window was dedicated in 2011. Its depiction of quarrying, iron mining and coal mining is something that any Forester would appreciate.

From Abenhall our journey continued past Gun's Mill, Welshbury Hill to Flaxley Church for a short stop, continuing to the Silver Fox café in Broadoak, where the owner invited us to wonder at the procession of celebrities that had called over the years and view the many photographs decorating the walls.

Passing through Newnham and Blakeney we paused briefly opposite Viney Hill Church, where Averil was able to enlighten us on the life of Gipsy Petulengro who chose to be buried here after visiting friends.

Styled the 'King of the Gypsies' the funeral, attended by hundreds of local spectators, was filmed by Pathe News and widely reported. His grandson Paul has a website at www.petulengro.com and a photograph can be viewed on www.sungreen.co.uk.

A longer stop was made at Bixslade and a short stroll was taken to the Union Mine Disaster Memorial where yours truly provided an account of the original Union Mine and subsequent freemining activities in Bixslade. It was also pointed out that within 100 metres of the site there were examples of all three major extractive industries of the Forest – stone quarrying, iron mining and coal mining.

Following lunch in Lydbrook, the afternoon involved a visit to Hartbury Church where we were able to see one of the largest tythe barns in the country, the unique bee shelter the Old Chapel Community Hall, which has been expertly restored. The church itself is most notable for its detail, including its stained glass windows, a 'Green Man' carving and an ancient chest carved from a single tree trunk.

Averil and Cecile are to be congratulated on such a fascinating tour and to be thanked for the amount of research that they obviously undertook as well as the first class organisation and commentary.

Ron Beard

"The River Severn" by John Powell

On Saturday 8th September, some 40 members enjoyed John Powell's talk on 'Round and About the Severn'. John is a former editor of the Forest Review, but his passion is fishing on the Severn, which became very apparent during the talk. He opened proceedings by stating that "the only time a fisherman tells the truth is when he calls another fisherman a liar"! However there appeared to

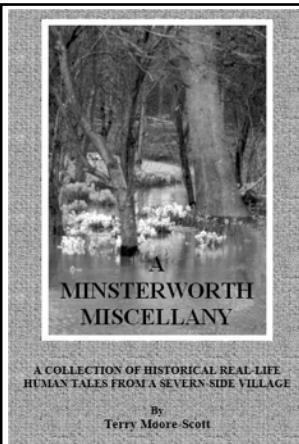


be a dearth of fishermen in the meeting, so no doubt John 'told it straight' on the day!

He started by showing a short BBC film from some years ago, which showed the six fishing methods which were used on the Severn. Examples of the large willow baskets known as putchers were shown in situ in the river in the frames which hold them (known as ranks or engines). It transpired that Certificates of Privilege are required to operate putcher ranks! The Wellhouse Bay stop boats run by the Morse family also featured in the film. Use of the lave net was also shown with fishermen 'tripping the light fandango' across the submerged sandbanks of the Severn in search of the elusive salmon!

Following a short break for tea, John picked up on his theme, using extensive illustrations, and short film clips to further explore the history of fishing on the Severn. One extraordinary illustration showed a view of Newnham from around 1770, with a man about to fish with a round net. John explained that at the time for various reasons there was a surfeit of coal in the river (probably fallen whilst being loaded into boats), and the man in the illustration was about to fish for coal! Historically fishing on the Severn was on an industrial scale. For example around 1914 there were 150 lave net fishermen, who could earn up to £150 per week, an incredible sum at the time. Catches of salmon have peaked as high as 36,000 fish annually in the past.

Today, even though the river is now much cleaner than in recent years, due to the limited number of salmon now in the river, the Environment agency have restricted the number of lave net licenses to 30 for this year. Some of the putcher ranks are still in use but are restricted by catch limitation orders. John concluded by showing that there is hope for the future of salmon fishing on the Severn by showing a recent picture of a salmon leaping up the weir on the Bideford Brook at Blakeney.



'A Minsterworth Miscellany' reviewed by Averil Kear

Following on from his successful *History of Minsterworth* published in 2006, Terry Moore-Scott has researched and written in more detail about various aspects of the village in his new book *A Minsterworth Miscellany*.

Terry gives us a description of the village during the Victorian period comparing the life of wealthy inhabitants with the working class community. We are given fascinating descriptions of some of the buildings in the parish including shops and homesteads. Continuing his research, Terry explores the history of the 'Minsterworth embroidery' which can still be seen hanging in the church today and in another chapter we are reminded of all the personal and natural

tragedies which have befallen the village over the years including floods, fires and wartime losses.

No story of Minsterworth would be complete without mention of some of the notable people connected with the village, and Terry gives us the life stories of a Chaxhill lad, named Charlie Trigg who went on to become a famous jockey and more recently he gives tribute to Bert Prosser the last of the country craftsmen whose family had lived in the village for generations.

As with all his books Terry finishes with a comprehensive bibliography, list of references and index which is such a joy to historians. After reading Terry Moore-Scott's latest book I am sure that you will feel like me that you have a true insight into the life of the Severn-side village of Minsterworth.

Published by the Minsterworth Community History Project Price: £7.99
On sale at recognised bookshops, local and on-line retail outlets and through the publisher
(01452 750160 or email moorescott@fsmail.net)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS *from Liz Berry*

May I again remind members on standing order to change the membership sub to £10 for one member, and £15 for two or more at the same address? As most standing orders are paid at the beginning of October, if you haven't already done this, you will owe us the difference for this year!

We welcome the following new members:
 Mrs C Mayo & Mr D Harris, Blakeney
 AONB Office, Monmouth
 Mrs D Edwards, Coleford
 Mr G & Mrs V Robins, Ross on Wye
 Ms R Stephens, Upper Lydbrook
 Samm Jarman, Yorkley



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mr D W Reeves who supported the Society for several years. He will be missed.

Meet Your Committee!



Back row, left to right; Ben Berry, Cherry Lewis, Simon Moore, Cecile Hunt, Dave Tuffley, Cheryl Mayo, Keith Walker
 Front row; Joyce Moss, Virginia Morgan, David Harrison, Mary Sullivan, Liz Berry.
(Missing from the photograph are Ron Beard and Sue Gordon Smith).

The new members of the Committee briefly introduce themselves below:

Ben Berry: "I've always been interested in the stories my grandparents tell me about their pasts so joined the History Society to find out more about the Forest of Dean."

Cheryl Mayo: "I gave up corporate life and moved to the Forest four years ago with my husband David Harris and border collie Sam. As well as my interest in the history of the Dean, I am a keen gardener and walker".

Joyce Moss: "I have taught History for most of my career in a variety of schools and have written about "The Washington Family in Staffordshire and Cheshire from 1520 - 1926", "A History of New Brewery Arts in Cirencester", articles on Worcester Ceramics in Oxford and Bristol and lately an article about the nave houses of Bristol Cathedral from the Reformation to 1836."

Virginia Morgan: "I have lived in Walford since 1968. On retirement from teaching I began to research the history of the Parish. With Bridget Vine as fellow compiler we published 'A History of Walford and Bishopswood' in 2002."

Dave Tuffley has stepped down after more than 10 years service and leaves with the grateful thanks of the Committee. Dave describes his time on the Committee below:

"I joined the Society and eventually it's committee because I have always had a great interest in the Forest coal and iron mines. I joined the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club in 1967 to further my knowledge of the subject. In turn, I became a long term committee member of that club and became Newsletter Editor for many years. During this time I looked at the Dean Forest Newspaper archives copies at the old printing works in Cinderford. Here I met Alec Pope, who showed me that that The Dean Forest Guardian paper had been produced since 1874. Here I found an untapped seam of information on the mines. I printed several of these accidents in the newsletter, which led me to search the whole archive for mining accident and information on the mines. It was during my period on this History Society's committee that I brought all my 20 years of research files along to a mid week meeting where it attracted quite a bit of interest. This interest was the seed that led to this society erecting a memorial to the fallen miners and quarrymen at New Fancy, and the issue of a CD which has recorded such details so that mining scholars have a better start in their researches. I must thank the Society's committee members, both past and present who have helped progress my research, as without the memorial and CD, my efforts would have been much the poorer."