

# FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

*news*  
October 2013

**New Regard Special Edition**  
**"Cinderford through the years"**

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THE FOREST OF  
DEAN LOCAL  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY

## *News*

**OCTOBER 2013**

**Editor:**

Keith Walker  
51 Lancaster Drive  
Lydney  
GL15 5SJ  
01594 843310  
[Keith.walker3@which.net](mailto:Keith.walker3@which.net)

**Chair:**

Cecile Hunt  
01594 842164  
[cecilehunt@btinternet.com](mailto:cecilehunt@btinternet.com)

**Vice-Chair & Treasurer**

Mary Sullivan  
01594 860197  
[Sullivan469@btinternet.com](mailto:Sullivan469@btinternet.com)

**Secretary**

Cheryl Mayo  
01594 516960  
[cheryl.mayo@btinternet.com](mailto:cheryl.mayo@btinternet.com)

**Website:**

[forestofdeanhistory.org.uk](http://forestofdeanhistory.org.uk)

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## **Editors Notes**

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, members at the AGM voted to support the Committee in seeking to make improvements to our website. After seeking quotations from three organisations, local company 'moduleIT' was selected by the Committee as the preferred bidder to re-design the current web site. The Committee has decided to form a small sub-committee to oversee the development of the new website. Our Secretary, Cheryl Mayo, has volunteered to be one of the 'chosen three'. Cheryl will be using her experience in commerce to ensure we get a bright attractive functional new design. As current web master, I will join the sub-committee to ensure that the existing functionality is successfully carried over to the new web site. However, after serving for 10 years, I will subsequently be standing down as web master. Thus we are seeking a volunteer from amongst you good people, the membership, to join our sub-committee and ultimately take over the new post of 'web editor'.

The big advantage of using experts to redesign the web site is that they will take care of 'coding' the site, and the web editor will just essentially need word processing skills to help keep the content of the web site up to date and interesting. The person taking up the post of web editor will also join the Committee, so will have the opportunity to take a wider interest in the workings of the Society. It would be very helpful to get our new web editor 'on board' as soon as possible. So please consider if you could make a contribution to the Society by volunteering to be web editor. I can promise you that it is not too onerous a task but we do urgently need someone to step forward. If you would like to discuss the position with either myself or Cecile Hunt, then our contact details are shown to the left. We would like to hear from you!

You might be surprised to know that the Society has a number of international members, spread across the globe. In this issue one of our American members, Carol Hagood, tells us about her recent visit to the Forest of Dean.

*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.*

## News From The Chair

By the time you read this the AGM will have come and gone. As I write this report I feel privileged that members have faith in me to continue as their chairman for a third year. This is tinged with sadness that Ron Beard has stepped down from the committee after more than 15 years of dedicated commitment to the society. Cherry Lewis also retired from the committee after several years of service which included a stint as editor of the New Regard.

We have recently moved the society's collection of books and manuscripts to a new location at the Sea Cadets unit in Naas Lane, Lydney. A very big 'thank you' must go to the Dean Heritage Centre who housed the collection for many years. Not only do we now have a dedicated room for the books and manuscripts but, with agreement of the Sea Cadet trustees, for a modest yearly rent, the Society has general storage facilities, a research room plus the use of classrooms for putting on workshops and research days.

Looking back over the summer events I recall that in July on the hottest day of the year members filled a coach which took us on a visit to St Fagan's near Cardiff. Well done to Mary Sullivan and Joyce Moss for arranging the day out which was enjoyed by all. In August another coach tour set out to discover the 'Early Dean'. Averil and I really enjoy putting these local coach trips together, and you can read Joyce's review of both the coach trips elsewhere in the newsletter. Cheryl Mayo also organised a walk around Portskewett one evening in August, and again you can read her review elsewhere in the newsletter.

In addition to the events already mentioned several of us from the committee have been involved in manning stands at other events around Gloucestershire. These included during September a family history event at Whitemead Park, and a day at Lydney Yacht Club in Lydney Docks, as part of the Heritage weekend.

The World War One project is progressing nicely. If you would consider contributing in some way, Keith and I would be very appreciative. Next year Keith and I will be involved in pulling together material from the outcomes of the research being carried out for two displays on the effect of World War One in the Forest. The first will be during February in the rest room of Gloucestershire Archives, by invitation of the Archives. The second one is a much bigger affair and will be for three months at Dean Heritage Centre in Gallery 41. It will run from June until September. The Centre invited us to do this display and will be contributing to it in a variety of ways.

Looking forward to 2014 there is already a full itinerary of indoor and outdoor events sorted out – with the possibility of extra events such as research days and workshops. To keep the society up with modern technology the committee have been seriously looking at upgrading the society's website. By the time you are reading this a decision will have been made, by member vote, on a proposal by your committee to invest funds in a new website which will ultimately include, amongst other things, a dedicated member's area.

*Cecile Hunt*



## International Member Visits the Dean!

*"Only the wanderer/ Knows England's graces/ or can anew see clear/Familiar faces.*

*And who loves joy as he/ That dwells in shadows?/ Do not forget me quite/ O Severn meadows."*

On Saturday 27th July, my daughter Amanda and I—Americans on a two-week visit to England—sat in Gloucester Cathedral anticipating the Gala Concert of the Three Choirs Festival. As I leafed through the programme, I noted these lines (above) from poet Ivor Gurney—words of a song to be performed later in the Festival—lines that might also describe the week we'd just experienced in the Forest of Dean.

Amanda and I had come to England from our home in Alabama tracing the paths of my great-great grandparents (who brought our family to America in the 1870's), she a farmer's daughter from Aston Ingham, he a blacksmith from a long line of smiths in Mitcheldean.

A decade ago I'd known little about my father's family. We were from "somewhere near Birmingham," he'd say.

There were other sketchy family memories—"a farm with the most wonderful spring..." Only after his death did I become more curious. A search of the 1880 Alabama census gave me names of my great-great grandparents and children, all born in England. Online records revealed a couple with the same names who married in Aston Ingham in 1852 and over time I confirmed that this family was indeed "mine." Then came years of general research and online conversation in family history forums. In 2013, I joined FODLHS as an international member.

Amanda and I had visited the UK before. This visit, however, was different: we arrived with a list of "must-see" family-related places: Mitcheldean, Linton, Aston Ingham, Newent... But as our trip unfolded, it was not simply our visits to a litany of family sites, but the warm welcome from unknown yet somehow "familiar faces" that brought our mission to life.

Amongst the kind parishioners at Sunday services in Aston Ingham, we met a dear lady who invited us to tea and, later, on a splendid tour of the Dean Heritage Centre. We visited the farm in Aston Crews which once was my great-great-great grandfather's; the family (unrelated) who live there now welcomed us warmly and were eager to show us that beautiful spring, their collection of old farm records including my ancestor's deed, and even a diagram of his apple orchards. (I had so hoped he was a Herefordshire apple farmer!)

FODLHS Secretary Cheryl Mayo and husband David invited us to their home for dinner with Verderer Ian Standing and his wife Diana and Freeminer and HOOFF Chairman Rich Daniels, so that we could learn much more about the area, and enjoy a most convivial evening. Later in the week we walked in the Forest, visited Rich's mine, and went further, to Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey.

Our time in the Forest of Dean flew by all too quickly, but our shadowy knowledge of our origins in England has now been forever replaced by vivid images of the beautiful places our family once called home.



*History Society member Carol Hagood describes her recent visit to England with her daughter to discover the home of her ancestors. Carol is pictured with her daughter Amanda at the farm once owned by her great great grandfather in Aston Crews.*



## Churchyards *by Cecile Hunt*

Churchyards are easily accessible resources of historical information and data on all areas of history; from architectural history through to social history. To enter a church and its surroundings today is to enter a quiet oasis in this modern, busy world; but it was not always so.

The community for centuries before and after the Reformation used the church and churchyard for festivals, revelries and public gatherings. Sunday markets were held within the churchyard; in inclement weather trading would be taken into the nave of the church. It was not only merchants, large and small, that plied their wares within the church's boundary, women of the street and moneylenders, amongst many, also traded their wares. It has been written that, 'St Paul's in London became notorious as a house of talking, brawling, of minstrelsy, of hawks and of dogs'. R Hutton, in 'The Rise and Fall of Merry England', writes "... tennis matches in the churchyard were stopped by a bishop of Exeter in 1451, after the balls had caused damage...". 'Church Ales' or 'summer games', where large amounts of ale were consumed, were held to raise funds for the poor of the parish. All this was at the despair of prelates who preached in vain against the indifferent attitude to the 'building and its grounds'.

The sixteenth century saw the banning of fairs and sporting games from churchyards and churches. At the beginning of the seventeenth century the headstones and tombs we are familiar with today started to appear; previously a single cross would have been sufficient for all occupants. These monuments to the dead are, in some cases now listed as ancient monuments. Westbury on Severn's churchyard, contains around 60 listed monuments; it is also classified as a 'closed churchyard', one of many scattered around the forest. Coffins would be brought into a churchyard through, as in many cases today, the lich (corpse) gate which provided shelter to the coffin bearers whilst resting after what could have been a walk of several miles, (burial path from Coleford to Newland being one instance), the coffin being rested on a strategically placed stone or wooden bench.

The oldest graves can usually be found on the South side of churchyards, whilst the North side was usually reserved for suicides, beggars, illegitimate children and murderers; a hang over from medieval times. Over the centuries, due to the practice of starting burials at one end of the churchyard, and then after reaching the other end going back to the beginning and starting all over again, overlaying grave upon grave, some churchyards have risen several feet; there are several of these around the edge of the statutory forest.

Although a lot of history is visible within a churchyard of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is also a vast amount of intangible history that has disappeared without trace. The quiet and peacefulness of today's churchyards' gives, in most cases, no indication of the rowdiness and usage of the past.



*St Marys Church, Lydney*

## Annual General Meeting *as noted by Cheryl Mayo*

Fifty eight members attended the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Society at Bream on Saturday 5 October. In her Chairman's report, Cecile Hunt noted that the Society's events had been well attended over the past year, especially the indoor meetings where the standard of speakers had been high. The coach trips had been fully subscribed and further coach trips were planned for the coming year. Members were urged to keep an eye on the newsletter, website and emails for details of extra events such as the Sudbrook walk, which was also well attended. Cecile asked that any suggestions for walks be passed to members of the committee.



*Cecile Hunt and Mary Sullivan addressing the recent Annual General Meeting*

The disappointment of the year had been the Society's June event in Lydney. Those who had come had stayed for a long time, indicating an interesting mix of stands, not to mention the excellent home-made refreshments. It had become apparent over the summer that other societies' were also experiencing a downturn in attendance at public events. Consequently, the committee has decided that the Society should go to where the public is rather than expect them to come to us. The committee will be approaching the organisers of popular events such as the Newent Onion Fayre and Parkend Carnival to see if we can have a presence there.

The WWI project is gathering momentum and the Society has been asked to provide two displays next year, at Gloucestershire Archives and the Dean Heritage Centre. A number of members are now researching different topics and other members were encouraged to join them. The Chairman thanked members for their support over the past 12 months and also thanked the committee for their hard work. Two committee members are standing down this year. Cherry Lewis, who had been editor of the 2012 and 2013 *The New Regard*; and Ron Beard who had served on the committee for 15 years in a variety of capacities including as Chairman. Presentations were made to both Cherry and Ron. Presentations were also made to Joyce Baxter and Therese Powell for their long and hard work selling refreshments on the day of the Society's history event.

Mary Sullivan presented the Treasurer's report, thanking Cecile as outgoing Treasurer for her support over the past year. Membership subscriptions plus money raised from the raffles and teas cover operating costs. The Society has significant savings, needed as a cushion to purchase assets or for grant applications.

Members were asked at the meeting to vote on a proposal to have a new professionally built website for the Society. Keith Walker, the current webmaster, explained that the current website is now outdated. He is now standing down as webmaster and it is imperative that future web editors be able to maintain the site easily. The meeting overwhelmingly approved the proposal. Keith also made a plea for someone with word processing skills, an ability to manipulate digital images, and the time and interest to volunteer as the new web editor.

The Scott Garrett Award for the best talk was presented to Jon Hoyle for *Archaeology in the Forest of Dean*. The Cyril Hart Award for the best article in *The New Regard* of 2013 was presented to Roger Deeks for *FW Harvey and the BBC*.

The AGM was followed by a talk (to be reviewed in the next newsletter) by Ian Wright on Walter Virgo and the Blakeney Gang.



The History Society is a member of The British Association for Local History which in turn is a partner in the England's Immigrants Project. "England's Immigrants 1330-1550" is a nationwide project to collect evidence of 'resident aliens' of all types during the late medieval and early modern period. A dedicated research team, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, has now completed the vast majority of the data-entry,

namely the alien subsidy records at The National Archives. With this extensive dataset in place, there are now opportunities for us as a local history society to look at aspects specific to our county or locality. You can find out more about the project and its associated case studies from the website: [www.englandsimmigrants.com](http://www.englandsimmigrants.com)

*Vice Chair and Treasurer Mary Sullivan reports that she was among a group of 30 who enjoyed a behind the scenes visit to the Archives recently. The staff took a tremendous amount of trouble to make the visit interesting for the particular visitors, displaying interesting books and maps etc pertaining to our areas of Gloucestershire. We learnt that there are 9 miles of shelving and c 9 million documents stored there. These include parish collections, church wardens records, school records, hospital records, poor law records, quarter sessions records etc. There are also some newspapers on microfiche, wills and more. It was fascinating seeing the actual storage rooms and feeling the cool temperatures etc. One room is colder than the others being the store for digital media. All the rooms are nearly full!!*

*The Archives are happy to put on trips for local history societies and would then tailor the material presented to that part of Gloucestershire.*

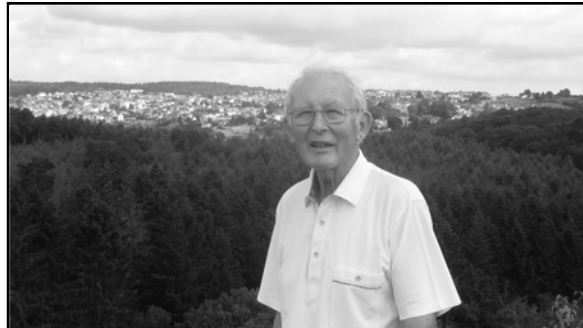
*Any members who may be interested in taking part in a trip to the Archives are asked to contact Mary Sullivan (email : [sullivan469@btinternet.com](mailto:sullivan469@btinternet.com)). The cost would be approximately £2 per head , plus transport - although car sharing would be possible!*



Nicola Wynn reports that The Dean Heritage Centre has had a couple of very successful years, with visitor numbers increasing by 77% in 2012.

Achievements for 2012/13 include the hugely popular Gruffalo trail, and many other successful events. The DHC's main aims for the next couple of years include the opening of The Room on the Broom trail in 2014, finish cataloguing the Potter archive, continue to digitise the information on the collection, improve the interpretation at the Centre, install interpretation for the water wheel and develop educational sessions (the Centre has secured £10,000 from Awards for All for this project) and research and apply for funding for redevelopments of the site which DHC staff would like to carry out.

The Dean Heritage Centre would like more volunteers to assist with collections work; help to answer enquiries and help to catalogue objects and the Dennis Potter archive. No experience is needed as the Centre staff can train you. This is an opportunity to learn more about local history. If this appeals to you please contact Nicola Wynn (Collections Officer) by phone 01594 822170 or e-mail Nicola @deanheritagecentre.com



*Ron Beard pictured with Cinderford in the background*

## Ron Beard Steps Down

Ron Beard is stepping down from the Committee of the History Society after some fifteen years of sterling service.

Ron was born in the Cinderford Bridge area of Ruspidge. He comes from a mining family, his father worked at Eastern United and his grandfathers both

worked in collieries. After secondary school and national service, Ron trained as a teacher at Westminster College, London, where he specialised in Geography. After leaving College Ron taught in Bethnal Green, and from 1960 to 1964 followed a degree course in geography by evening study at Birkbeck College. As part of his degree course he was required to submit a field study project and for this Ron chose to explore the growth and development of Cinderford. In 1966 Ron became a lecturer in Geography at Luton College of Technology, later to become the University of Luton. Whilst at Luton he met Pat, whom he married in 1970. In 1997 they both retired and moved to Coleford in 1998.

Ron was keen to become involved in local history and joined the committee in 1998 and soon took over the role of Research and Development Officer. For the Millennium, Gloucestershire local history societies were invited to produce 100 photographs each as part of a Gloucestershire Archive project. Ron organised a small group of photographers to do this and used the results to produce the Society's first CD - 'Photos for a New Century'. Around this time Ron also began work on a database of historic sites and monuments for the Society, which is an ongoing exercise. For the Society's second CD he scanned the scrapbook of First World War newspaper reports of Cinderford men who died in the conflict which was compiled by Laura Morse, the grandmother of Society Vice president, Norma Denton. His next major involvement was to co-ordinate the Society's Miners' Memorial Project for which he was particularly concerned with the compilation of the CD using records from Dave Tuffley's research into mining accident and other official records. The production of this CD also involved photographing as many mine sites as possible, Ron also organised and participated in this.

As Chairman of the Society, during the period 2008 - 2011, Ron took a little breather from research and development until for the tenth anniversary of the Millenium project he organised an update of the photographs in order to produce his fourth CD the 'Photos for a New Century, New Edition'.

Ron has played a major part in leading the Society into the electronic age by producing the series of CDs for the Society. During this period the Society became a registered charity, which has allowed the Society to bid for grants for major projects. Ron has more than played his part in this process also. He leaves the Committee on a high note because the new edition of the New Regard published in October contains Ron's major article (based on his original field study project) 'Cinderford through the years'. The article examines how Cinderford has changed during the 50 years since the original field study, and provides a fitting finale for Ron's service on the FODLHS committee.



## Meetings In Review *with Joyce Moss*

The Society departed from its usual practice and opted for a trip outside the Forest to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans near Cardiff on Saturday 13th July.

Apart from the Elizabethan mansion, St Fagan's Castle, there are over 40 original buildings from all parts of Wales on site. We had a free day for members to see what they wanted. The Museum has buildings of all periods. The oldest farmhouse is from Wrexham and was built as a cruck cottage in 1508, with an open hearth and cattle house inside! By contrast, there is a twenty-first century Eco House. Most recently erected is a fifteenth century Merchant's House from Haverfordwest, with storerooms below and living accommodation above.



Many of the houses are substantial but the houses of the poor are also represented, for example, a 1770s cottage from Carmarthenshire has mud walls and a thatched roof with a half loft. The Museum has an eighteenth century Nonconformist Chapel, but its most ambitious project has been the reconstruction of St. Teilo's church, from near Swansea, reproduced as it was in 1520. The church had the best set of wall paintings in Wales and an Italian expert was brought in to paint the frescoes, which recreated the originals. The ochres used in the frescoes came from Clearwell Caves! Joyce Moss gave a talk about the restoration project and c15 religious beliefs in Britain, which was well attended.

The Museum is now in receipt of a very large lottery grant for its main buildings. There is also a police station, a railway station and a pub from various parts of Wales waiting to be rebuilt!



Our August event, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, was a coach trip to look at the early history of the Dean led by Cecile Hunt and Averil Kear. First stop was Hewelsfield Church, which sits in a round churchyard, and is one of the oldest in the Forest.

We then journeyed the short distance to St. Briavel's castle. It was built between 1075 and 1129 as a royal administrative centre. In the thirteenth century it was a favourite hunting lodge for King John and the primary centre in England for the manufacture of quarrels. These were the iron bolts for cross bows, much needed in medieval warfare. The magnificent gatehouse was built by Edward 1st for greater security. The castle was

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We were entertained, at our September meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, by Bill Cainan, curator of the Royal Welsh Regiment Museum in Brecon. He made his presentation dressed as a late nineteenth century British Soldier.

His subject was Rorke's Drift, 1879, an incident in the Zulu Wars between Britain and the Zulu Nation in Southern Africa.

Lord Carnarvon, Colonial Secretary in Disraeli's Conservative Government, had sent Sir Henry Bartle Frere to confederate South Africa. This was to include the Boer Republics and the Zulus. Frere blatantly provoked a war with the Zulus over boundary disputes with the neighbouring state of Natal. However, Cetshwayo, the Zulu chief, had ordered his warriors to defend their own frontiers, north of Natal, on the east coast of Africa and not to attack over them, though there had been a few minor incursions. Negotiations were not given a chance and an impossible ultimatum was issued. Lord Chelmsford invaded Zululand with 15,000 British Troops in January 1879 and suffered a sound defeat at Isandhlwana. Then the main British Camp was attacked and destroyed, by spear carrying warriors. Chelmsford had forgotten to laager his wagons. Calamity!

A Zulu force then attacked Rorke's Drift, a store depot, mission station and hospital on the Zulu/Natal border. 4000 Zulus bore down on a garrison of 103 British Soldiers and 35 invalids in the hospital. The camp was defended by a stone wall and stockade of mealie bags and had been converted to a fort. The weak area round the hospital was first attacked and it was fought for room by room. The British Garrison retreated across the courtyard to defend the inner court. As they were about to run out of ammunition, the Zulus retreated. 18 British were killed and 350 Zulus but this figure was increased by the 500 Zulu prisoners taken and executed. 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders. One of these went to Henry Hook of Churcham in the Forest of Dean district. A second, more careful attack was made on the Zulu kingdom, with artillery, in 1879 and the Zulus were defeated and their land annexed into the new federation.

## Heritage Open Days *reported by Christine Martyn*



*Dave & Liz Berry and Ron Beard seen about to explain the Geomap to visitors during the recent Heritage Open Days*

European Heritage Open Days were established in 1994, as part of a Council of Europe initiative to raise awareness of Europe's rich and diverse cultural assets and their need for care and protection. This was to be achieved by opening to the public, free of charge, historic monuments and buildings that are usually closed or would charge for entry.

It takes place all over Europe during September and this year the Heritage Open days in England were held over the weekend of September 12th – 15th. It differs in the other countries of the UK, of which the most relevant to us would be in Wales, where buildings were open every weekend through the month.

Both Gloucester and the Forest put on a wide variety of talks, walks and other events, those in the Forest being organised by the Coleford Area Partnership. Some were places that are open anyway, like the Society Geomap at New Fancy, but for the occasion members of the Society were in attendance to explain the significance of the map and to answer questions. Our Chair, Cecile Hunt, was also at Lydney Docks putting on a display explaining the history of the Docks.

St Briavels Castle, the Verderers Court at Speech House and a look at the Forestry Commission Archives at Bank House were obvious attractions for historians, as was a conducted tour of the Darkhill site, except that it poured with rain one of the days it was to be held. The former market hall at Mitcheldean now houses a museum illustrating the growth and decline of Ranks Xerox, while other industries that are still contributing to the Forest economy like SPP Pumps (formerly Sykes Pumps) at Coleford, now one of the largest employers in the district, also opened up their doors.

Some of the places open, however, were ones that many of us had not even noticed as we drive around, and turned out to have a very important story to tell, as I discovered.

## Membership Update - *from Liz Berry*

Can I remind members that subs for the year 2013/14 were due on October 1st. Renewals are to be paid to Mary, the Treasurer, by cash, cheque or BACS. The renewal form is on the website. Please will you help us, if you are on standing order, by checking the date that your bank pays this. Standing orders are supposed to be paid on 1st October. Some, however, are not being paid until May of the following year! This entails a lot of chasing up of members on our part, which we would prefer not to have to do!

Welcome to these new members:

Ms M Beckett, Lydney  
Mr & Mrs O Furnedge  
Miss S Day, Berry Hill

Ms Ann Kear, Mitcheldean  
Mr R Leppington, Bream  
Mr M Bowring, Ross-on-Wye

Ms A Watson, Mile End  
Mr D Russell, Fownhope  
Mr B Taylor, Brixham

## Meetings in Review - Extra! *With Cheryl Mayo*



In January Pete Strong of the Caldicot Local History & Archaeological Society gave us a fascinating talk on the building of the Severn Tunnel, and also provided us with a glimpse into the village of Sudbrook and its history. Subsequently on Friday 2nd August Pete guided some 20 members around the village.

We met at the Pump Station (pictured left), which is a massive structure and still in use. We then walked the coastal path to Black Rock from where we had great views of the two Severn Bridges. Pete explained that

we were at the spot on the Welsh side of the Bristol and South Wales Railway's line, where trains would travel out to a wooden pier and unload passengers onto a steam ferry for the journey across the Severn to the English side.

Back in the village itself Pete pointed out the "class-driven" housing built by Thomas Walker, the lead contractor for the Severn Tunnel. Large semi-detached houses had been built for the managers, school teacher, and the vicar; smaller but still substantial rows of cottages for the workers. Various community buildings such as the school, a hospital and a huge meeting hall are all still in evidence, as is the office building from where the project was managed. The community was totally teetotal, so there is some humour in the fact that this building is now a pub. Behind the houses and back along the coastal path we walked across the site of an iron age fort, the earthen ramparts still very visible and now put to good use as the local soccer field.

With a wealth of images coming to light following publication of the first volume, **Rails Through The Forest Volume 2** extends to 160 pages. The content of Volume 2 is once again mostly confined to the post-WW2 era, and includes the S&W 'main line' north of Norchard to Cinderford, plus the Mineral Loop and all branches including those to Coleford and Lydbrook. A good selection of b&w photographs illustrates not only regular scheduled S&W line operations, but also visiting rail tour charters, BR excursions from Parkend, operations at the collieries and quarries, plus lifting of the Lydbrook and Cinderford lines, and some key events from the preservation era. Rob Rowland has once again provided the painting for the cover, which depicts an Ex-GWR Diesel Railcar, now in BR 'Blood and Custard' livery, crossing the Lydbrook viaduct forming what proved to be the last passenger train to work over this section of the S&WR in June 1951.

Rails Through The Forest Volume 1 was published in 2010 and both these books are available from the Dean Forest Railway shop or through one of our members, Bob Marrows, who was involved with compiling Volume 2. There is a 35% discount for members buying volume 2 only and if you want both books then a further discount will be arranged.

## Book Review *By Averil Kear*

