

## Wiltshire Family History Society, Swindon Branch, April 2022



**The flowers that  
bloom in the  
spring ...tra la ...  
breathe promise  
of merry sunshine**

**As we merrily  
dance and we  
sing ... tra la ...  
we welcome the  
hope that they  
bring ...tra la ...  
of a summer of  
roses and wine**

**(Gilbert & Sullivan)**



### JOHN'S THOUGHTS FOR APRIL

It is hard to believe that two years ago we were in lockdown. Toilet roll shortages, empty shelves in shops after queueing to be let in, and being very aware when meeting people "outside your bubble". Glad that phase of covid is behind us and I hope those days do not return.

A few good things did come out of the lockdown, the Zoom meetings organised by Margaret and Glenys and this little newsletter. The excellent Yvonne always gives me something to think about and this one is no exception.

Where shall I start? With my stomach of course. Judy Rouse's article (see below) got my juices going. My dad Albert William Mills worked in the Springshop "inside". He was on "permanent" nights, so his working week finished 7.30 am Friday morning. Every week, when available, he would purchase a lardy. I never knew the source; all I knew it was someone in the factory. Thanks to Judy I now know.

As you know, well I do keep harping on about it, I am the archivist for the Swindon Male Voice Choir. In Yvonne's article "Are you free" she asks the question do you remember Robinsons in Curtis Street, well not really. However, I do know about Harry Robinson as he was one of the founding members of the choir and he was in it for over 40 years. In fact, he was chairman from 1939 to 1960. Born in Ashford (1883) he came to Swindon between 1901 and 1909. He married Lillie Alberta Hearle, 1909, in Swindon. By trade Harry was a "railway coach trimmer". Lillie was a milliner who worked with her sister Sarah Ann who owned a drapers shop in Cricklade Road. I assume Harry married into the business having learnt his skills "inside". When the choir started producing programmes for its concerts Robinsons always had an advertisement in it, usually prominent on the back page.

Thanks again for getting me thinking Yvonne.

Happy Easter and keep your stories coming. **JOHN MILLS**

**WHAT'S COMING UP ...? Everyone welcome – you don't have to be a member**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Zoom meeting**

**Understanding and Dating your Old Photos - Stephen Gill**

Steve runs Photo Consult which is a national photo restoration service and has a passion for the history of photography. He has written two books on dating family photos. He not only restores photographs but has a vast knowledge of times gone by and can determine a mine of information from a single photograph. We look forward to hearing all about his work.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission – Who We Are - Michael Sheil**

Michael was assigned by the CWGC to take the photographs for their WW1 centenary book "For the Fallen" for which he undertook a 20,000 mile journey visiting over 400 cemeteries. In his illustrated talk Mike will be telling us of some of his experiences during his travels as well as explaining how the work of the CWGC over the past 100 years has become one of the most significant factors in the way in which we remember the history of the two world wars.

**MARGARET NEAVES**

**WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY RESOURCE CENTRE IN DEVIZES**

Good news! The Resource Centre is opening up again for visitors. The computers have subs to the major sites, the Library has the full range of our publications and many other miscellaneous books, notes and guidance.

There is a list at <https://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/research/research-material>

For dates and information see the WFHS website - About us - Events page. Future planned Resource Centre opening dates are 9 April, 14 May, 11 June and 9 July – details also in the April Journal.

**WFHS VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETINGS**

**Sons of the Soil: researching our agricultural Labouring ancestors.** Don't forget our virtual branch meeting (county-wide) on Monday 25 April at 7.30 pm (admission from 7.00 pm). The speaker will be Dr Janet Few on the theme of agricultural labourers with reference to Wiltshire. More details on the WFHS website – see About – Society Branches.

There will be a further virtual branch meeting on Friday 15 July at 7.30 when James Archard will be speaking on '**Memories of Wiltshire Facebook site**'.

**REPORTS**

**MEETING 24 FEBRUARY: Sins of my forefathers – Jenny Pope**

Jenny began her talk by saying that you never know what you will find when you start researching your family history, and it may not be what you have expected! This was certainly true in her case, and we heard stories of cohabitation, bigamy and divorce, cases of cruelty and deception and a death which although treated as accidental seemed a bit too convenient for the widow and her lodger...

Jenny had pieced together her story from official records and newspaper accounts both here and in the United States, and also used Google to good effect. Some people might be reluctant to share such a story, but these were the facts and, as she said, we are not responsible for our ancestors' behaviour. Her revelations prompted a general discussion about the difficulties past generations had in ending relationships which had gone sour and forming new ones and the disapproval they faced in society.

**Note:** How true is the first sentence above. See Name Conundrums below.

## WHY FAMILY HISTORY MATTERS

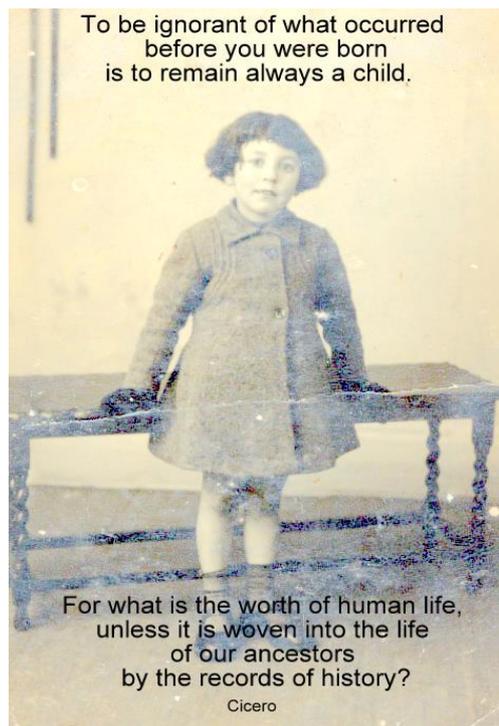
**Chris Broom's Zoom meeting talk to Swindon Branch 10 March 2022**

"I don't see the point of family history – what is the obsession with dead people?"

Perhaps a typical quote from the un-converted, but we family historians see things from a different angle.

We have an insatiable curiosity to discover more about our family origins; what life was like for our forebears, where and how they lived. What affected their very existence and what was going on around them? Did they move around, what jobs did they do, were there others with the same surname nearby? Did our forebears touch the lives of those around them?

With a little research, there are stories to be found and individual achievements documented.



**From the first human handprint on a cave wall, we're part of something continuous. So we don't really die. Chris Broom quoted from 'The Dig' by John Preston.**

Chance encounters ... our own existence depends upon the element of chance, for example how and where did our parents, grandparents and ancestors meet. So many pure-chance factors which affect who we are but we are all UNIQUE and have a story to tell.

"How I wish I'd asked them before it was too late." I expect most of us have expressed that wish, possibly many times.

So yes, family research does matter. We can preserve our forebears' memories and breathe life again into those who have played their part to make up what is our own personal family tree. We can discover much about ourselves along the way - family traits and likenesses and even medical history and social interactions. We can make our ancestors live again in our family histories.

But don't stop there ...we all have a legacy to leave for our own descendants. We should document aspects of our own lives and avoid those brick walls for others that we have encountered. How we deal with our family histories is down to us – let's pass on our own little bit of history for our children, grandchildren ... and beyond.

Chris certainly gave us something to ponder and consider as to our own way forward.

## HERALDRY

Chris Broom, as a tutor for the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (IHGS), Canterbury, will be hosting a **FREE TO ALL** introduction to Heraldry on Thursday, 12th May at 7 pm.

So, if you are curious to understand what those colourful shields are all about, wish to study the subject in more depth or are just keen to refresh your heraldic knowledge, you can register for this **FREE** event by following the link below to the IHGS online shop:

<https://www.ihgs.ac.uk/course-tutorial-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-heraldry-but-were-afraid-to-ask-2022-05-12>

(Note however that this does clash with our own Zoom meeting as above.)

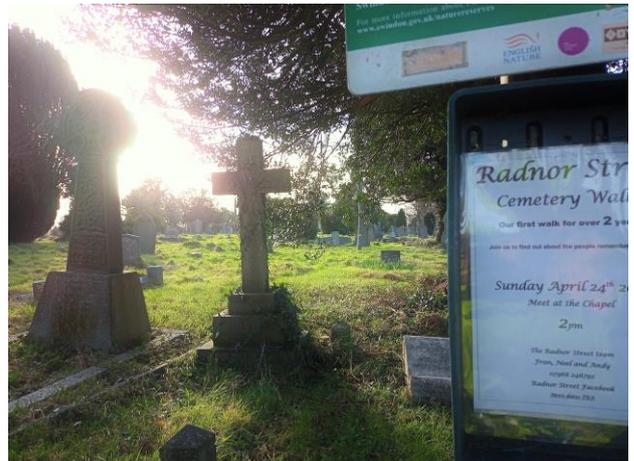
## RADNOR STREET CEMETERY WALKS ARE BACK!

Back after 2 years ....

Join the Radnor Street team, Fran, Noel and Andy on Sunday 24 April 2022. Meet at 2 pm at the Chapel.

07968 246792 and  
Radnor Street Facebook

More details to be arranged.



**The life of the dead is placed on the memories of the living. The love you gave in life keeps people alive beyond their time. Anyone who was given love will always live on in another's heart. - Cicero**

## YOU MAY LIKE TO SEE THIS ..

Jenny Pope has forwarded the 'Really Useful Bulletin' No. 19 produced by the Family History Federation. It is very long so I won't attach to this Newsletter, instead I've summarised a few of its contents and, if you want me to forward to you, let me know on [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk). Here goes:

- The latest 'My Family History' 10-generation record book/charts available for £10 plus postage from Family History Books Online.
- Family Photographs by Stephen Gill – a restorer who brings out hidden details.
- Using Family Search to Find Historical Records – in great detail.
- Details of some Family History Societies country-wide.
- The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.
- Useful Archives and Organisations.

## THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL SHOP AT REGENT CIRCUS

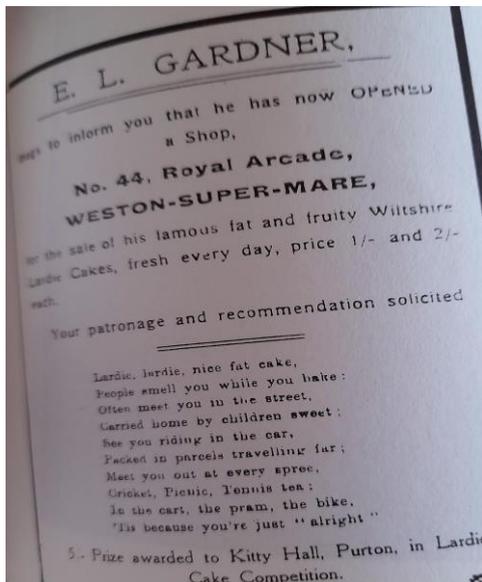
New opening times – and well worth a visit. They offer books for sale on different subjects as well about the Canal. Also a selection of vinyl records available to purchase.

Their opening times are: Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday and Saturday 11.00 am – 3.00 pm.

### MORE LARDIES!

(A Purton memory from Judy Rouse)

The snippet about Wise's lardie cakes brought another Purton memory to mind. The Bakery in the 20s and 30s was owned by a man known throughout the district as **Lardie Gardner** otherwise E.L. Gardner, a leading member of the Upper Square Methodist Chapel and a local preacher. His lardie cakes were famous far and wide.



On the strength of his success he even opened a shop in the Arcade at Weston to sell "**his famous fat and fruity Lardie cakes, fresh every day price 1/- and 2/-**"

The poem reads:

Lardie lardie nice fat cake,  
People smell you while you bake:  
Often meet you in the street,  
Carried home by children sweet;  
See you riding in the car,  
Packed in parcels travelling far;  
Meet you out at every spree,  
Cricket, Picnic, Tennis tea;  
In the cart, the pram, the bike,  
'Tis because you're just "alright"

Picture of the advertisement courtesy of Judy Rouse, from the book 'Purton's Past' by Alec Robbins which was published in 1991.

I think the last line of the verse should be said in a broad Wiltshire accent!

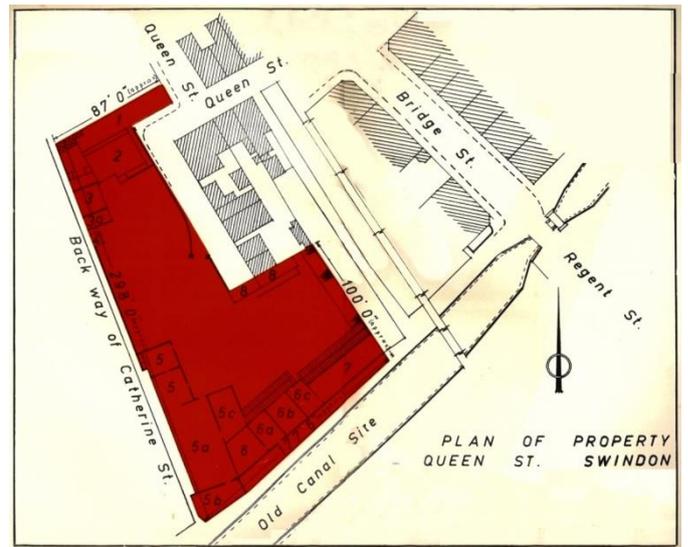
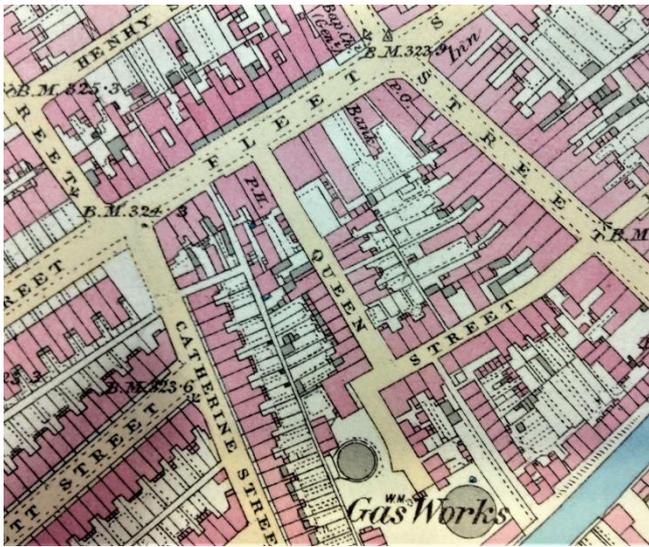
There was, my father told me, a thriving trade by some of the Purton men of taking them into the Works to sell.

When Lardie Gardner retired, the bakery along with the secret lardie cake recipe passed to the Godwin family, who continued making them until Mr Godwin died and Mrs Godwin closed the business, and sadly the secret lardie cake recipe was not passed on.

I can remember being sent up to buy them from Godwins, and you had to get there early to get one. I can remember the taste, texture and smell of Godwin's freshly baked lardie cake to this day, and Wise's cakes were not anywhere near. My mother made her own, and they too were fantastic. A true lardie cake has so much lard, sugar and dried fruit in it, with a glorious sticky base, it would give a dietician a heart attack. Present day ones are just pale shadows. **JUDY ROUSE**

## JOHN STOOKE TO THE RESCUE

Thanks to John for sending in the following information on Queen Street, mentioned in our March Newsletter. How it has changed!



Next time: Little London.

## ARE YOU FREE?

Last month our newsletter featured a long poem-advertisement from the Filtress store in Newport Street, giving an insight into day-to-day items that our not-too-distant ancestors would have used on a daily basis. It may be an idea to branch out and delve into some old occupations, many no longer in existence or vastly changed. So – we begin with the Drapers Shop.

A well-stocked drapers shop could be found even in small towns. Attractive premises with fine window displays. Swindon's McIlroys springs to mind, although perhaps more of a departmental store, but does anyone remember Robinsons in Curtis Street?

The industrial revolution brought factory-woven cloth, new dyes, prints and finishes. With that came allied accessories with stock suited to all pockets. Rolls of fabrics to choose from for hand-made dresses and later with a treadle sewing machine at home.

Towards the later 1800s, ready made-up items were being sold with some stores having their own workroom for alterations, thus offering complete tailoring. They offered attentive staff, easy terms, men's, women's, children's clothes, bedclothes, furnishings fabrics, curtains, carpets and millinery - not forgetting Mrs Slocombe's 'ladies intimate apparel' where discretion and experience were the order of the day to deal with all-sizes.

Often the store would be a family-run business and, following a good education, children would learn how to run a business and be involved in the various rolls such as sales, management and buying. Generally, staff were required to be presentable with a fairly good education in reading, writing and maths.

From small family-run stores to multi-storey departmental stores. Remember the Grace Brothers store lift? Some even provided a staff dining room, probably segregating staff from management. Remember the scenes in 'Are You Being Served?' Did they echo old Mr Grace's words 'you've done very well'?

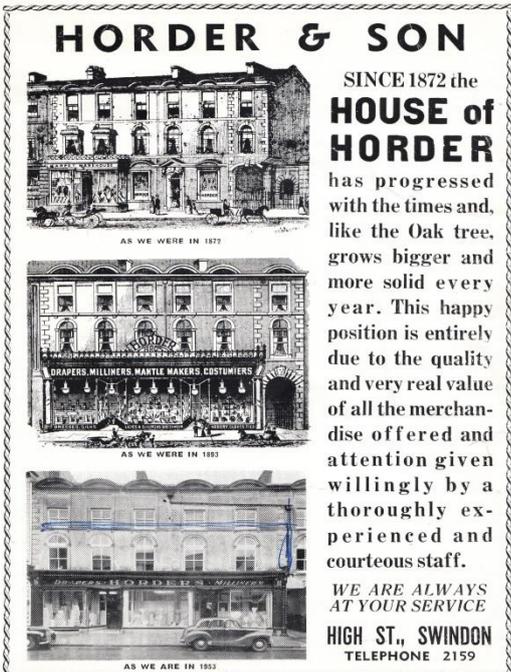
Shop-walkers circulated to point customers in the right direction, as did Captain Peacock and his question 'are you free' to sales assistants?

Very important was attention to detail to ensure upper-class customers felt special. They would not be expected to queue but payment would be taken by assistants, goods wrapped if required and uniformed porters delivered goods to customers' transport.

Changes in fashions and seasonal changes resulted in residual stock. Thus sales and reductions were introduced rather than keeping stock to deteriorate or become out-dated. Cunning advertisements helped lure customers into stores.

Evidently there was a REAL Grace Brothers department store chain in Australia, founded by two brothers who migrated from England and began by selling goods door-to-door.

PROOFS FROM "EVENING ADVERTISER" 1st JUNE, 1953



**HORDER & SON**

SINCE 1872 the **HOUSE of HORDER** has progressed with the times and, like the Oak tree, grows bigger and more solid every year. This happy position is entirely due to the quality and very real value of all the merchandise offered and attention given willingly by a thoroughly experienced and courteous staff.

WE ARE ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE

HIGH ST., SWINDON  
TELEPHONE 2159

AS WE WERE IN 1872

AS WE WERE IN 1893

AS WE ARE IN 1953

In 1872 Albert Horder opened his drapery business in the High Street, Swindon, in premises previously occupied by Thomas Strange.

The premises were next to the Lodge at the entrance to the Lawn Estate and each Christmas they staged their much-loved annual Christmas window reveal (blinds having been drawn for secrecy), using their three shop windows to full effect.

Thanks to Andy Binks and the Horder family for this fascinating Horder & Son advertisement, showing how the shop looked in 1872, 1893 and 1953.

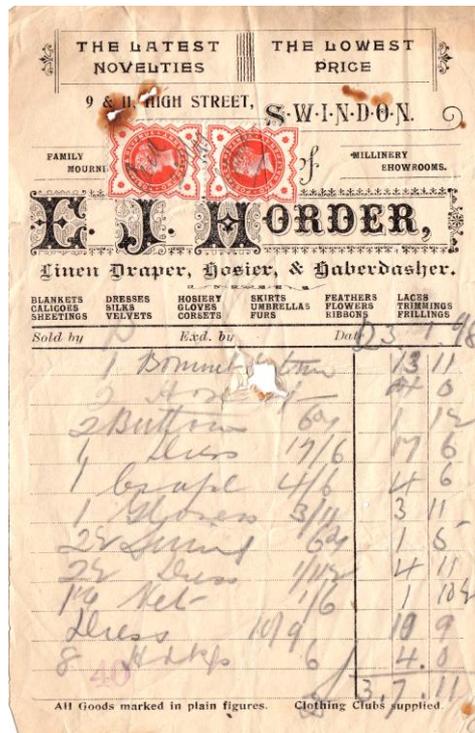
The manager was John Gale and his wife, Hilda, was parlour maid.

A Mrs Fluck was a good customer – her daughter was to become a very famous actress.

The premises boasted a 'cash railway'. Such a contrast to our computerised checkouts today.

Horder's eventually closed shortly before what would have been their centenary year. **Does anyone remember this firm?**

Again, thanks to Andy Binks and the Horder family for providing this piece of memorabilia.



Please share your memories and stories with us. [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

### Appearing in the Swindon Advertiser and N. Wilts Chronicle in 1908:

Dainty blouse materials and new trimmings in all windows. Complete range of dress material patterns are now ready, and can be had on application. CHUDLEIGH'S, the Swindon Shopping Centre, Waterloo House, Swindon.

Does anyone know where this was?

Apparently there was a further drapers/tailor at 35 Wood Street, where John Chandler employed sixteen members of staff. He was the owner of fourteen other local properties and connected to numerous local businesses, including the Swindon United Gas Company and the Swindon Central Market.

Do you have an ancestor, perhaps with an unusual occupation, that you'd like to share with us? Some years back we were in Salisbury on St George's Day and locals dressed to portray old occupations. We took a picture of some 'rat catchers' which I'd like to share with you. I know we were told how important an occupation this was, but I can't remember everything except that nothing was wasted. Has anyone heard, or known, of such rat catchers? Yvonne

### APRIL FOOLS

Do you remember the Spaghetti Tree hoax? It was April Fools' Day 1957 and the BBC programme Panorama did a three-minute broadcast purportedly showing a family in southern Switzerland harvesting spaghetti – from a spaghetti tree. At that time the pasta was relatively unknown in the UK. It was not-known how it was made, and following that hoax, viewers contacted the BBC for advice on how to grow their own spaghetti tree.

The idea came originally from a Panorama cameraman, a known practical joker, who formed the idea after hearing a school teacher teasing the class that spaghetti grows on trees. Richard Dumbleby, presenter of the show, evidently loved the idea and agreed to provide the voice-over. It was filmed close to Lake Lugano with a few local girls in national costume, with uncooked

homemade spaghetti hanging from branches of laurel trees. The rest, as they say, is history, but the BBC was criticized by some for taking liberties with viewers' trust. However, it did inspire similar stunts worldwide!



Patrick Moore encouraged everyone to jump in the air at 9.47am when they would experience a floating sensation.

The reason given was that Jupiter and Pluto were due to align and gravity on earth would be decreased.

The BBC then received hundreds of calls from people who had noticed the decrease in gravity, and that a number of friends had together 'wafted from their chairs and orbited gently around the room'.

*Photo taken by Harley Hudson*

## **ADDITIONAL 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 01.04.1742** The ruins of Pompeii were unearthed.
- 01.04.1918** The Royal Navy Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps merged to become the Royal Air Force.
- 01.04.1924** The first gramophone to change records automatically went on sale.
- 01.04.1946** The rationing of elastic for underwear, nightwear, pram covers and umbrellas ended.
- 01.04.1947** Britain's school leaving age was raised to 15.

## **FICKLE EASTER WEATHER**

'Ten degrees of frost marked the close of the Easter holidays in Swindon' – so reported the Advertiser in April 1936. 'Swindon languished under a prolonged storm'.

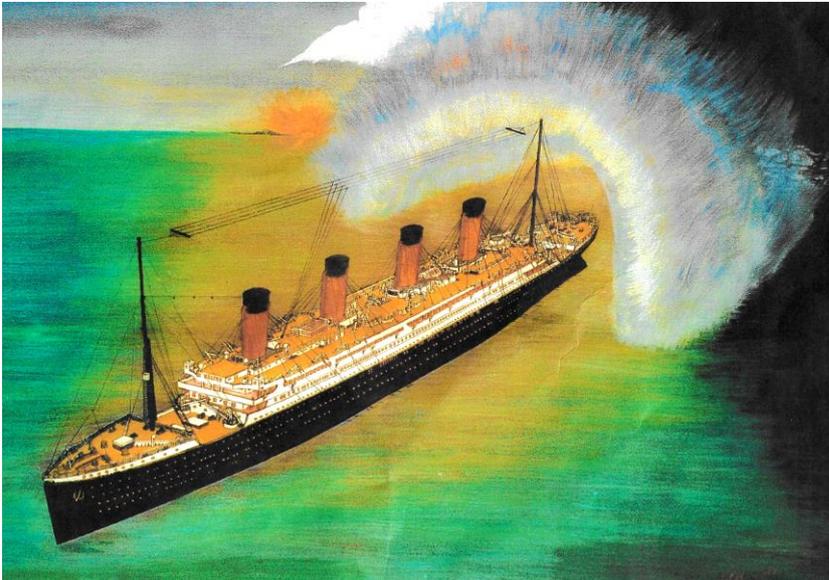
Until Easter Sunday evening, Swindon's two railway stations had been thronged with trippers but it was a different story the following day when locals stayed by their firesides. If they did venture out, it was more locally which was good news for the cinemas which were crowded to capacity. The Apsley House Museum was also well attended, as was Swindon Town's match with Coventry City.

On Tuesday 14 April that year Regent Street was practically deserted, 'the atmosphere being as dreary and foreboding as that of the leaden skies that periodically sent down a few flakes of snow'.

## TITANIC MEMORIES

15 April sees the 110th anniversary of the sinking of the ill-fated Titanic. Such a tragedy.

Some years back a friend, Bert Edwards, who was gifted in many ways, painted a series of four pictures depicting the fate of the Titanic in various stages. Recently I was thrilled to receive a copy of the final picture showing the Titanic entering heavenly waters – I like to call it 'Sailing Into Eternity'. I thought you may like to see it.



*'Sailing into Eternity'*

*Printed with the permission  
of  
Bert Edwards' family.*

## TITANTIC – SWINDON COUPLE LOST THEIR LIVES

110 years ago, on 19 April 1912, the Titanic sank. Benjamin and Ellen Howard of 85 Cheltenham Street, Swindon, were amongst those who lost their lives. They were to visit family (they had two sons in the US) and set sail on Wednesday 10 April, having left Swindon on the 2.15 train to Southampton the previous day.

Benjamin Howard and Ellen Truelove Arman had married on 16 May 1872 and had a married son and daughter (Ethel) living in Swindon. Benjamin had been foreman of the bolt shop GWR for many years and both were prominent members of the Baptist Tabernacle, where they had been Sunday School teachers in their younger days.

Ellen Truelove Howard, born 14 April 1851 Wiltshire, died at sea on 15 April 1912.  
Benjamin Howard, born 10 May 1848 Lancashire, died at sea 15 April 1912.

At the time of the 1911 census the couple were living at 85 Cheltenham Street. Benjamin was a 62 year old retired foreman in the Bolt Shop, GWR, born Ashton under Lyne, and Ellen was 60 born Moredon (Mooredon in the 1901 census). They had been married for 38 years and had five children, one of which had died.

Ellen Truelove Arman was the daughter of single-woman Ann Arman of Chiseldon and was baptised there on Christmas Day 1851.

Their children were William Henry, 1873, Frederick C c.1877, Ethel Louise\* 1879 and Herbert B c. 1886.

\*Ethel Louise married Opie Smith who was the son of Opie and Ellen Smith of 4 Queen Street. Ethel died aged 77 during the March quarter 1957 in the Swindon district.

## NAME CONUNDRUMS

Thanks to Tony Prichard for throwing light on 'Whacket' Giles of Chiseldon – see Brick Walls at the end of last Newsletter. I have passed the messages onto the family concerned. Does anyone else remember the Cricklade coach firm run by the Giles family?

Coincidentally, Tony and I discovered that we were at the same school together and at the same time, although different years.

I decided to check on my own tree and discovered an Eliza Elizabeth Giles of Cricklade who married John Townsend in January 1893 at St Mary's Church, Rodbourne Cheney. On further research, I found that Eliza's father, and others, were named Zachariah and so, later that year, John and Eliza's first-born was named Zachariah Aaron Henry John Townsend, 19 August 1893 to 26 February 1973.

Just bear with me as I digress a little here. An 'Uncle Jack Townsend' (a lovely man) was in charge of our Sunday School and I had previously, briefly and without success, tried to discover how he fitted into the local Townsend families. After much perseverance, I am now totally convinced that 'Uncle' Jack was actually Zachariah Aaron Henry John Townsend. I have a soft spot for him as my Dad used to give him a lift home after the Sunday morning service and, on a few occasions, his wife would take me into her garden and pick a posy for me. The Lilies-of-the-Valley were a favourite of mine and, eventually, that flower formed part of my wedding bouquet.

Incidentally, 'Uncle' Jack had a haberdashery shop in Market Street and also a stall in the old market hall.

It didn't quite end there ... a little more research again, revealed that one of John and Eliza Elizabeth's daughters married a Walter Charles Berry of Chiseldon. He is my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin 3 times removed, my step father-in-law's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin twice removed and is also a relative of a second cousin's grandmother! What a tangled web. Yvonne

## ARE YOU A HARRY POTTER FAN?



Sorry – not Olton Hall but Hercules

### 30 April 1937

The 'Olton Hall' steam locomotive was built at Swindon in 1937, designed by Charles Collett.

It was allocated to Carmarthen and its initial journey was on 30 April 1937 (where it remained until 1951). Its last run was in December 1963 when it was withdrawn, sold, and sent to Barry for scrap in May 1964

It was then restored at Cranforth Motor Power Depot to be steamed up again on 20 May 1998. Back to Swindon Works for a 'superheater' fix and then off to Plymouth.

And so Olton Hall became the Hogwarts Express pulling British Rail mark 1 carriages. It still kept its GWR number of 5972 but was painted in a crimson livery. It was later displayed at the Warner Brothers Studio Tour, London.

## **BRICK WALL**

This time ... the **Titcombe** family. Can anyone help regarding George Titcombe, son of Joseph and Ann Young Woolford, baptised 15 July 1849 at Lydiard Tregoze? It is thought that he married Jane Carey in 1871 in Broad Town, but another source shows that he married Sarah Price in Gloucestershire. Thank you. Please email [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

## **WILLS WARNING**

In case you are thinking of ordering a Will online, be aware that there could be a delay. Judy Rouse, a regular contributor to our Newsletter, at the beginning of December ordered two wills from the HM Courts & Tribunals Service - GOV.UK website which could be down-loaded very cheaply to view. After a stressful time trying to set up an account on the system, which kept rejecting her password, she turned to the helpline and, some days later, was sent a link to order and pay for the Wills. Expected availability for download was 3 weeks.

Nothing was heard by mid-February, so Judy contacted them and discovered that, due to problems, they had been further upgrading the system. On 2 March she received an email that the new system was in operation, and was sent a new link but would need to re-set her password.

It was mid-March when the two Wills were eventually ready for download. Although the new system now appears to be running more smoothly there still seem to be one or two glitches to be resolved, so be patient!

## **... and it's 'GOODBYE' and 'GOOD LUCK' TO KATHERINE**

Just a little message to say a really big **THANK YOU** to Katherine Cole who has helped us so many times over the past years. Katherine has been a pivotal part of Local Studies at Swindon Central Library and is going to be so missed by us, her colleagues of course, and very many other organisations and groups that she has so ably, kindly and efficiently guided in the right direction. So all the very best and good wishes in whatever you are planning to do next Katherine – and thank you.

## **POST SCRIPT**

The March issue, No. 166, of the Wiltshire Buildings Record newsletter includes a great article written by Clive Carter and Paul Jack entitled 'Historic Farms Threatened by the Swindon's Eastern Villages Expansion'. Worth taking a look. Look online or email [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon.wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon.wiltshirefhs.co.uk) if you'd like to see it.

## **PPS - Message just in from Andy Binks of the Swindon Society**

Hello Everyone

Leading local engineer and all-round steam engine repair genius, and Swindon Society member Colin Hatch invites us to take a look around his Engineering Workshops located on Lotmead Farm land in Wanborough. The reason is because the whole site will become a housing estate

in the not too distant future. Colin and his highly skilled team will have to dismantle all the equipment in readiness for this. If you have not visited before it is well worth a look, and is in reality a miniature "GWR Swindon Workshops".

So, on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 3 o'clock you are invited to pay a visit to see things before they disappear for ever. Colin will lay on Tea and Coffee for visitors if required too. On leaving Swindon through Covingham and Nythe on the Wanborough Road, Go over the bypass bridge and Lotmead Business Park is 2nd on the left. Turn into the single-track road by the Business Park signpost. (not the Pick your Own strawberry entrance) Drive about 500 yards and you will find parking places at the end to the right and a direction sign to the works. Please come along and view these long-standing Workshops (established 30 years ago) before it disappears for ever.

Colin and his team, and myself will be very happy to see you all on the day.  
Best wishes. **Andy**

## HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE



**Sweet April showers do spring May  
flowers.**  
(16<sup>th</sup> century proverb)

(You are receiving this email from Yvonne Neal, Secretary of the Swindon Branch of Wiltshire Family History Society, as a member, or interested party, living in or near Swindon. Your email details are held securely and not divulged to any other persons or organisations. Please let me know if you want to be removed from the list by emailing [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com))



