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TEWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Foreword

Our 31st season has been as challenging as the previous year, but we have ridden out the pandemic as successfully as possible. Zoom enabled us to keep going during the *'lockdown'* and in the past Autumn we have actually been able to meet in person at the Methodist Church. Sadly, we have failed as yet to broadcast these meetings to our *"ex-pat"* members around the world, but we are not yet defeated.

We did learn sad news recently of the death just before Christmas of **Christine Donald**, who was our *'Chair'* from 2000-2003. For this we were very grateful, as she left her mark by coordinating our *oral history project* and you can still learn from the results on our *Woodard Database*.



Our Committee in 2002: Christine is front left with to her left Wendy Snarey, Pauline Shaw, & Wendy Spence. Rear l-r Bill Camp, David Willavoys, Cliff Burd, Bill Rennison & John Dixon

This year we have welcomed **Graham Hotchkiss** as **Treasurer**, **Malachy Cornwall-Kelly** as **Secretary** and, despite his moving from Tewkesbury, **Andrew Stuart** via, zoom and delighted to have the continuity of **Chairman Sam Eedle**, **Bulletin Designer Rick Talbot** and **Webmaster Derek Benson**.

Continuity is the theme for the production of this Bulletin 31, and we are grateful to our editorial team of **Rick** and proof-reader, **Andrew Crowther**, with printers **Packwoods**.

As authors, we welcome back **Mike Gilmore**, an 'expat' from Cheshire who regaled us in our Social last year. He has followed up his talk with an article explaining how the railway liberated his family from a life on the land. Another 'expat', **Ray Coggin**, also visited Ashchurch with research based upon the abandoning of a baby at Ashchurch Station at a time when Parliament was legislating on the continuing problem of child welfare. **Sam Eedle** has made a welcome return by focusing on one of the oft-forgotten widows of World War I. We are also delighted when contacted by academic researchers, such as **Christine Warwick**, and this has resulted in an article about a female Tewkesbury philanthropist, after the *Dissolution of the Abbey*, **Margaret Hickes**, whose portrait has long been displayed - unexplained - in the Town Council's Chamber. **Wendy Snarey** has returned to help place her bequests in the local context. One lady, whose role deserves to be celebrated in the context of female emancipation, is **Gwyneth Bebb**, aka local solicitor's wife, **Mrs Weldon Thomson**, whose death after childbirth negated her legal viceroy in the legal world.

We are, however, delighted to welcome **Marie Freeman**, wife of former editor **Jim** and mother of Woodard winner **Karl**, whose mastering of the technique of photo enhancement with colour, is giving us a new view of past history. Tewkesbury born and bred, **Paul Amphlett**, has made a welcome return to live here with his artistic talent, which is presenting a new view of the changes to our High Street over the past half century. His article will be fully appreciated by linking up his animation with a linked web-address so that we can marry the traditional presentation of history with the developing technological world.

We, therefore, commend this blend of both *continuity and change* to our readers whilst thanking a past chairman for her contribution twenty years ago.

John Dixon & Sam Eedle

The Avon, near the Old Tanyards (Postcard 1921, courtesy of S. Eedle)

