

Local & Family History Updates From Gloucestershire Libraries

Autumn 2020



Welcome to the first edition of our Local & Family History Newsletter.

My name is Rebecca Sillence; I am one of the Customer Advisors for Local & Family History, and am usually based at Cheltenham Library.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on how we are able to provide access to our resources and whilst many libraries are gradually reopening to the public there are still some (such as our main local studies department at Cheltenham) that remain closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We want to keep in touch with our service users and ensure we are responding to your needs and making as much of our collection accessible to you as we can.

Until we can welcome you back, we're still here for you...

It will take a little longer for me to reply to emails than usual, so please bear with us. We continue to be here to assist with you local & family history enquiries. This service is county wide, so if you have any queries please get in touch with myself and my colleague Christopher Rainey at cheltlocalstudies@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Topics covered in this issue are:

- Home Access to Resources
- Access to resources in Libraries
- Our Enquiry Service
- Cheltenham Specific Resources
- Black History Month
- Virtual Volunteering



Cheltenham Library Office 1959

Home Access to Resources

Find My Past - World Edition (including Newspapers)

We are very excited to announce that for a limited time library members can access the full World Edition of Find My Past from the comfort of their own home for FREE!

This includes their newspaper collection. Please email me at if you would like to be given home access, you must be a library member. Please provide your library card number and your full name in the email requesting access. I will then send you the log in details. cheltlocalstudies@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Ancestry - Gloucestershire Records

For a limited time you can access Gloucestershire records through Ancestry for FREE from the comfort of your own home.

Access Gloucestershire wills, inventories, baptism, marriage and burial records. Plus electoral registers, land tax, prison registers and more... Follow this link to access the Gloucestershire Archives collection via Ancestry.co.uk: www.ancestry.co.uk/s108677/t43849/rd.ashx



Gloucestershire Maps

For various years can be viewed via Know Your Place for FREE. When you visit the map use the postcode box to centre the map by typing a postcode or street address. To go straight to the map visit:

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=glos>

The main website has videos about how to use the map. www.kypwest.org.uk

Missing the daily papers? Log onto Newsbank for FREE access to local and national newspapers plus an enhanced trial giving full page newspaper images. We also have the Times Digital Archive and Dictionary of National Biography. www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/digital-services-library-computers/virtual-reference-library/

FREE Downloads from the National Archives For a limited time the National Archives are offering FREE digital downloads from their website. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>



1. **Free BMD** www.freebmd.org.uk (birth, marriage, death index)
2. **Know Your Place** www.kypwest.org.uk (free maps)
3. **Lloyd George Survey** www.glos1909survey.org.uk
4. **Gloucestershire Archaeology** www.bgas.org.uk
5. **(Free to search the index)** www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
6. **Victoria County History** www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch--glos
7. **Gloucestershire BMD** <http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bmd/>
8. **Britain From Above** www.britainfromabove.org.uk
9. **Marrriage Indexes Gloucestershire (Phillimore's) 1550s-1860s**
<https://ukga.org/Registers/gloucestershire.html>
10. **Gloucestershire Records** www.ancestry.co.uk/s108677/t43849/rd.ashx

Street & Trade Directories

Some Gloucestershire directories are available online from:
<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4/search/searchterm/Gloucestershire/field/place/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort>

Other directories and copies of some early town guidebooks can be found by searching on Google Books <https://books.google.com/>.

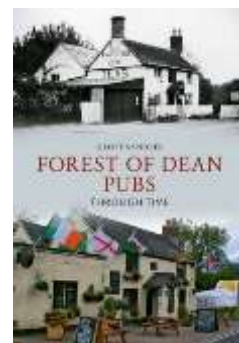
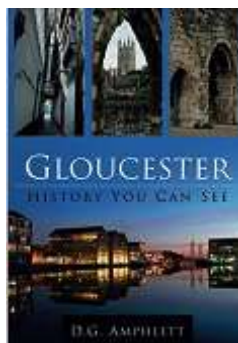
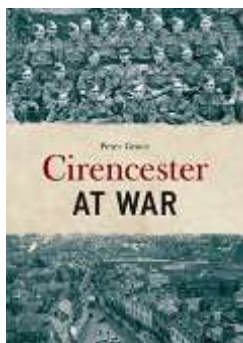
For Cheltenham directories please email me for digital copies of pages.

An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham can be searched via the BGAS website. A very useful resource for those researching Cheltenham streets and buildings. <https://www.bgas.org.uk/publications/cheltgaz.html>

Local history eBooks

Did you know you can use the RB Digital app to access FREE local history eBooks and download free e-magazines like BBC History? Use the website with your library card, or download apps for Android, Kindle Fire and iOS.

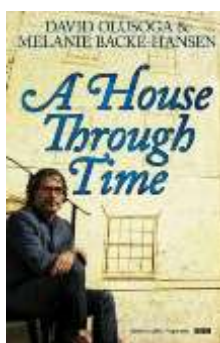
<https://gloucestershire.rbdigitalglobal.com/>



Some local history eBook titles include (click on a title):

Gloucestershire Through Time,
Cheltenham & The Great War,
Gloucester History Tour,
Stroud Through Time,
Cirencester Through Time,
Burford Through Time, Around
Fairford Through Time, Stroud
Valleys Pubs Through Time,
Cheltenham Pubs Through Time,
Stroud History Tour,
Minchinhampton & Amberley,
Gloucester Book of Days,
Gloucester & Sharpness Canal,
Brewing in Gloucestershire,
Country Shows of Gloucestershire,
Glos Soldiers on the Somme,
Branch Lines of Gloucestershire,
Cheltenham Caravans,
Tewkesbury Through The Year,
The Forest of Dean,
The Cotswolds at War

Cheltenham History Tour,
Stroud History Tour,
Cheltenham Heritage Walks,
Cheltenham in 50 Buildings,
Cirencester a History & a Guide,
Cirencester at War,
Cirencester From Old Photographs,
Gloucester History You Can See,
Gloucester Murder & Crime,
Gloucester at Work,
Gloucester Rugby Club, Gloucester
in 50 Buildings, Gloucester From
Old Photographs,
Brunell in Gloucestershire,
Life & Traditions on the Cotswolds,
Gloucestershire in Photographs,
Bristol & Glos Aerospace Industry,
Stroud Valleys & The Great War,
The Forest in Old Photographs,
Cotswold Pubs & Breweries
Forest of Dean Pubs Through Time



My Top e-Book

[A House Through Time](#)

by David Olusoga

Series 3 also available
on [BBC iPlayer](#)

Did you know you can search
the listed buildings database?

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

Access to Resources in Libraries

Reserve and collect

Is available for lending books at many libraries. You can search our catalogue to reserve specific local history books for collection or you can use our 'off the shelf' service.

<https://gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>



Browse lending stock during library opening hours

Many libraries are open to the public at specified times. You can check library opening times here <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>

At Cheltenham some of our local & family history lending collection may be available to browse in the main library. There is currently no desk space to view reference materials, please see details of our enquiry service for information about how to obtain remote access to our resources.

Please be prepared, regrettably at present there will be a limited service:



No access to most reference materials
No study areas or seating
No access to newspapers and microfilm readers

Ancestry, Find My Past & British Newspaper Archive

You can use computers again at some libraries. If you are visiting the library (opening times and services vary by location, please check our website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>) Computer slots may be available at your local library for you to access our subscription sites.

! We strongly advise you book in advance as our computers are in high demand and are limited in number. <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/digital-services-library-computers/book-a-computer-free-wi-fi/>

Our Enquiry Service

! Please be aware our enquiry services may take longer than usual and we can only provide a very limited number of documents to each customer. This is due to increased demand, limited physical access to the reference stock and significantly less staff working in the department at present whilst we cover basic library service provision.

Need help with your research?

We are still here to help you with your local and family history enquiries. Whether you've hit a brick wall with your research or you don't know where to start, we can help signpost you to helpful online resources. This service is county wide. Watch this space for online workshops and helpdesks...



Not online? Not a problem...

We want to ensure we can continue to support our service users who do not have access to the internet. You can write to us with your enquiries and we will reply by post. We may also be able to send you a very limited number of photocopies/prints by post on request.

You can write to us at:

**Local & Family History, Cheltenham Library,
Clarence Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3JT**

Please note there may be a longer delay in receiving a response by post.

Please only call us if you are unable to email:

Staff can only answer a limited number of calls at present and Customer Advisors are not always on site to be consulted. 01242 532687.

The 'Chronicle & Graphic'

At Cheltenham we are very lucky to have had a volunteer working on digitalising some of our collections prior to Lockdown. This means we have access to digital (and often text searchable) copies of this amazing source of Gloucestershire mages. The Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic, was a pictorial supplement published from 1901-1932.

! You must know the date for us to be able to search for you. We need at least a year and preferably a date range of no more than 3 months.

“ LOCAL HISTORY REMOTE ACCESS ”

FREE digital copies by email



For a limited time you can request FREE digital copies of pages from the *Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic* and Cheltenham street directories.

Do you need help with your Family Tree?



Virtual Family History Help

Some existing volunteers and local researchers have expressed an interest in helping others with their family history using Zoom, Skype or telephone. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving or giving assistance and we can provide more details. This is a trial. **Don't forget you can also email us with your enquiries.**

At the time of writing, there is a great **free 6 week online genealogy course** available from Strathclyde University via the Future Learn website.

www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy

Cheltenham Specific Resources

We are offering a FREE remote access service at Cheltenham. Is there a book, document or image you'd like access to? We can scan and email copies of resources held in our collections. **We can provide limited copies of most reference resources**

For now the search room at Cheltenham Local & Family History Library continues to be closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Please email cheltlocalstudies@gloucestershire.gov.uk.
Or write to *Cheltenham Library, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3JT.*

Cheltenham Photograph Collection

We can provide copies of most items in our boxed images collection upon request. Digital scans will be sent by emails unless the item is oversize, in which case we may have to send it in sections.



Please search the local studies catalogue to obtain the box and image reference so we can look for your item. Go to Advanced Search and select Cheltenham Local Studies Library from the 'held at' menu before searching.

<https://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CalmView/>

Cheltenham Street Directories & Maps

We have access to digital (and often text searchable) copies of most of our street directories from the 1840s up to 1970s. This includes the Annuaire, Post Office and Kellys directories. **Please email us with the year and an address, business or person you wish to search for.**

We also have a scanned copy of **Where to Buy 1890** which includes illustrations of many shops from this date. We can also look at telephone books and GOAD maps for you.

You can request an A3 section of any of the **Cheltenham maps** that were printed with the street directories if we hold them in our collection. For OS maps please use Know Your Place www.kypwest.org.uk.

Newspapers on Microfilm

You can access some local newspapers through Find My Past. Please email us if you'd like to be set up with FREE home access.

We can also provide copies of a limited number of newspaper articles for the Cheltenham area by email (or if you do not have email by post). This includes all the usual titles such as Cheltenham Looker On, Gloucestershire Echo and Cheltenham Chronicle.

Before 1950 Please search the index on the British Newspaper Archive so you can provide us with an exact date and page number. Go to www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk you do *not* need to register or pay any money to search the index.

After 1950 There is no searchable index so please give us an exact or at least very specific date to search. Without this we will be unable to locate your article. You need to at least provide the year and month.

Reminiscence

We are keen to continue supporting local care homes, customers and carers whilst we are unable to deliver our usual programme of activities and slideshows. Reminiscence resources can be particularly helpful for people who are dealing with dementia. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

“ A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE... ”
We are here for you

CHELTENHAM SPA

GIFTS for the HOME

DALE, FORTY & CO. LTD.
The Promenade, Cheltenham

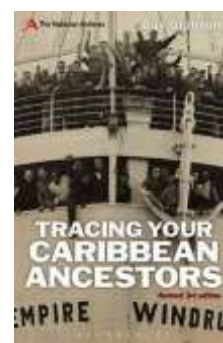
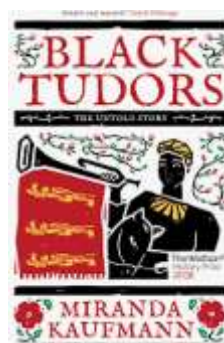
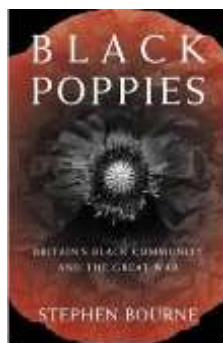
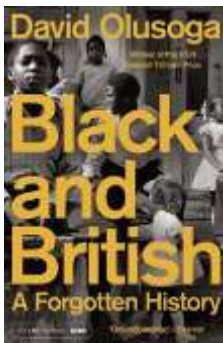
If you are a care home or support someone with dementia we can provide images of Cheltenham and Gloucester from times gone by and give you access to visual reminiscence materials like old Cheltenham adverts, newspapers and playbills.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month, whilst we can't have our usual displays in the library there are still plenty of virtual content celebrating black lives for you to explore. We are currently offering free home access to the World Edition of Find My Past, including newspapers from Jamaica and South Africa and other useful sources like passenger lists and the 'London Black Poor' records from 1786 which are discussed by David Olusoga in the BBC series linked below.

Top history reads for Black History Month

- [Black and British](#) by David Olusoga (also available as an eBook and on [BBC iPlayer](#))
- [Black Poppies](#) by Stephen Bourne (also available as an eBook)
- [Black Tudors](#) by Miranda Kaufmann
- [Tracing Your Caribbean Ancestors](#) by Guy Grannum



Online Exhibitions Since 2019 we've been lucky enough to have had display boards created by University of Gloucestershire students on loan to us. Many of the CC4HH exhibitions are now available online for you to view at home.



Cheltenham Diaspora Exhibition

<https://cc4hh.co.uk/cheltenham-diaspora/cheltenham-diaspora-exhibition/> This exhibition covers a range of stories including that of Moses Craig Akinpelumi Adeyemi who received teacher training in Cheltenham and also highlights the role that Francis Close Hall played in welcoming the world to Cheltenham.

Gloucester's Windrush Generation

<https://cc4hh.co.uk/gloucesters-windrush-generation/> An exploration of the experience of Caribbean people who migrated to Gloucester between 1948-1971. Stories include Astley Lloyd Blair who was one of the first black police officers in Britain.

Untold Stories are a collection of articles available on the BBC Gloucestershire website and as a series of booklets in libraries. Of particular interest this month are the African-Caribbean stories.

www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/untold_stories/african/index.shtml



Virtual Volunteering

Online Family History Help

As we are currently unable to offer 1-2-1 family history appointments with our volunteers on library premises, we have started to explore virtual alternatives. Several people have expressed a willingness to offer family history support via video (Zoom, Skype etc...) or telephone. If you are either interested in offering your support or receiving support from home please email us to obtain for more information. This is a trial service.



“ WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? ”

*Home Indexing
Projects*

We are considering setting up some virtual indexing projects that can be transcribed from digital scans in the comfort of your own home. Please email to register your interest and we'll update you if a role becomes available.

cheltlocalstudies@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Would you like to share a slideshow or exhibition?



If you have created local or family history digital content like videos, slideshows, online talks, workshops or exhibitions please send us details so we can share the links with our customers. Here is a link to a video about Pillay Bridge created by David Elder for the Heritage Open Days this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeT1O4qWf08> - action=share

Thank you for reading, you are missed and we hope you are all keeping safe. Best Wishes, Rebecca & Christopher.