

THS Woodard Award 2021 for Journal 29 2020



This year, the *Woodard Award* has migrated to beautiful **Buxton** the home of winner **Karl Freeman**.



KARL FREEMAN lives in Buxton, Derbyshire. After graduating with a first class honours degree in English at the University of Staffordshire he went on to take a Master's Degree with Merit in English Literature at the University of Manchester. He currently works as an independent computer consultant. Apart from history, his hobbies include musical arrangement, instrumentation and recording; exploring the many serpentine dales in the area, and 'avant garde' photography.

Karl, of course did not say that he is the son of **Dr. James Freeman** former *Woodard* winner, **Editor of the Bulletin** – and an alumnus of *Tewkesbury Grammar School*.

The point of the *Woodard Award* is that it is adjudicated by two well-known local Historians, **Dr. Steven Blake** [who advised us on setting up THS in 1991 and is now chair of *GLHA*] and **David Aldred** [former Head of History at Cleeve and a photographic passenger on the *Last Train to Tewkesbury* in 1961].

This is **David's** report:

Thank you for again inviting Steve and myself to be judges of the award. It's always a pleasure to read the articles and again commend the high quality of the production. So thank you to all who have contributed, in whatever way, to producing Journal 29 2020.

This year we were impressed by the range of subjects and whilst not belittling articles in previous years based largely on family fortunes (or lack of them!), it was particularly pleasing that this year so many articles reflected key aspects of local history, being well-researched, well-written and well-presented. We were also impressed by the varied subjects chosen for study and the approaches to them:

- a missing portrait in the Town Hall and we look forward to part two
- a tangential approach to the Battle of Tewkesbury which broke new ground
- a study of Nicholas Ridley, the local MP, which put him in his place in national history
- as someone who took part in the excavations at Holm Castle I had a particular interest in the article on the honour of Gloucester
- we wondered why the history of Tewkesbury mustard had not been previously written
- there can't be much left to know about Tewkesbury High School for Girls
- and what a variety of Tewkesbury collectibles are in circulation.

After much deliberation we came down to two choices: the school or the mustard. Both were well-written and were presented in lively, if contrasting, styles. Clementine Oliver has told a detailed story of Tewkesbury High School for Girls with a wealth of photographs which are of interest to many people living in the town and surrounding area. Karl Freeman's choice of Tewkesbury mustard has a wider interest, from its making to its popularisation. We found it a difficult choice to make but in the end decided that as Karl's article had a greater depth of research, he is the worthy winner of this year's Woodard Award. To quote from his article, 'it has cut the mustard'!

Thank you.

David Aldred