



In this edition

- Why The Letters Stopped Coming - Part 2
- The Forest's Greatest Flood
- A Child's History of the Forest of Dean



News

May 2020

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Editors Notes

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter. I guess we are all feeling more than a bit 'discombobulated' at the moment. Covid19 has spread its very large shadow over us, with some of us being under 'house arrest' for 3 months or more! Plenty of time then to write up those tricky pieces of research that have stayed in the 'to-do' pile for far too long!

There is an opportunity for you to join in with a new Society initiative to try and record the impact of the pandemic on our daily lives. Please see our Chair's invitation to describe how 'Covid19 Has Affected Your Life' on the news pages following.

Also please pay special attention to our Chair's piece on the next page, as there are important, albeit not unexpected, announcements about forthcoming meetings and events.

The front cover photograph was taken at Mallards Pike. It struck me that the empty bench signifies the temporary removal of most of humanity from the Forest, but the sun splashed spring environs at Mallards in the photo offers hope for the future.

Elsewhere in this edition Steven Carter completes his story of 'Why The Letters Stopped Coming'. With the very wet late winter weather in mind, John Powell reminds us of 'The Forest's Greatest Flood', Averil Kear launches her latest challenge in the 'Where Are We' series, and Cecile Hunt starts a new series of articles based around the theme 'What's In A Name?'.

Finally it is my sad duty to record the passing of Nigel Cross. Those who regularly attend our meetings would recognise Nigel as one of the most enthusiastic of our members. Usually perched on the front row, and armed with a notebook and pen, Nigel would make copious notes during the talks, and always have a question or two for the speaker afterwards. Nigel had wider interests including model railways, and was a volunteer with meals on wheels. Nigel was a good natured and gentle person who will be much missed.

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.

Views from the Chair - *with Mary Sullivan*



Hello to all our members in these difficult times.

I'm writing this in the second week of lock down just as the weather is starting to improve. You will fully understand that we had no option but to cancel all forthcoming events until the situation changes. But we do hope to rebook talks that we have missed wherever possible.

The GLHA day on the 25th April is postponed to 2021 so our prepared display on the history of education in the Forest has been put away for that. The cleaning of the Geomap on the 22nd April will also be rebooked at a later date.

Work on improving our website has been ongoing. My previous message about needing a member who would be willing to help with loading content into the website and generally looking after it has so far gone unanswered. If spending more time at home and online has made you reconsider, please contact me. You need no more than a general competence in using a website to undertake this role.

Last newsletter I also told you that we have been awarded funding under the Foresters Forest Landscape Partnership Project to set up a Local History Festival in 2021. Work on planning this had begun very well with many ideas starting to emerge. One I particularly like is a procession of banners to the Speech House field on the final Sunday, 23rd May 2021. Organisers of interest groups, schools, and community groups would all be asked to design a banner for the parade. This would be reminiscent of Miners' parades of the past but with a modern twist. We are also looking at Living History displays, talks, walks and other events. I am hopeful that the Festival will still come to fruition in May 2021 or soon after that and am itching to be able to get on with the planning with others. Our other funding winning project, the preparation of a new Children's History of the Forest, suitable for 7 – 11 year olds is moving ahead (see Cheryl Mayo's article). We still hope to launch this publication in 2021, probably at the Festival.

Most of you will be reading this edition of the newsletter online once it has been loaded onto our website and you have received an email from Cheryl. We chose this option to relieve pressure on the postal system at this time and to reduce the need for contact in posting copies. I will be very interested to hear how satisfactory you have found this.

So I am looking forward to pleasanter times and events to bring us all together again in our shared love of our history and heritage and to have some fun.

Do stay healthy, with best wishes....

Mary Sullivan



Postcard of a miners' demonstration at Speech House. Note the steam driven lorry! Apparently the banner reads "What the Colliers Want - More Beer"!

This historic annual event probably started in the 1870's.

*Photo courtesy of Geoff Davis
(sungreen.co.uk)*

MEMBERSHIP



We are living in extraordinary times and I hope that each of you is keeping safe and also occupied. As you can see, our May newsletter is coming to most of you via the website rather than stretch the postal services resources further. Once life is back to normal, we will go back to posting out hard copy to our members only, with the website version only going live once the next newsletter has gone out.

The current situation has thrown into sharp relief the wonders of modern technology for keeping in touch with family, friends and - in our case - society members. There are only a handful of members for whom we do not have email addresses and I would like to encourage those few to please let us have an email contact for times like these, perhaps a relative who would be willing to pass on important news. My email address is on your membership card. Meanwhile, even though events are cancelled, I will keep on sending you bits of news as I receive them. So, if you have a history-related piece of information you think our members would be interested in, please send it to me.

Finally, on behalf of the Society, I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to new members Helen Lee, Andrew Key, Ian and Joy Gower and Stephen Wright and Andy Marthill. We look forward to meeting you some time soon.

Cheryl Mayo - Membership Secretary

How Has COVID19 Affected Your Life?

Local historians are used to investigating, interpreting and recording events from the past. Today it is undeniable that we are living through our own very specific slice of history. No doubt academic accounts of the events surrounding this dreadful Covid19 pandemic will appear after the event, but it is unlikely they will truly capture what the detail of daily life was like for each of us as we navigate our way through this strangest of times.

Your Society believes we should capture our personal experiences as they happen. We have therefore setup an email account covid19@forestofdeanhistory.org.uk to which we invite you to send in your own stories and pictures of everyday life in this extraordinary period of lock down. Are you still able to go to work? Even at 2 metres distance, how do you feel about the dangers of mixing with your colleagues? What is daily life at work like now? Are you one of the 1.5 million who have received a letter from the government telling you that you need to be shielded and therefore must stay at home for 12 weeks? How have you adapted to 'house arrest'? Are you self-isolating but still faced with visiting supermarkets, dispensaries, doctors' surgeries? What are you missing most about everyday life, your family, your friends, a visit to the pub, sports?? Have you discovered new activities to fill the gaps that you will continue later?

Everyone will have a story to tell which will sound so strange to generations to come. We can capture these stories now in our digital archive, and, at some point in the future, curate them into a cohesive body of work to tell of the personal effects of the passing of the Covid19 virus through the Forest of Dean. Please join in by emailing your own personal description of daily life lived under the cloud of Covid19 to covid19@forestofdeanhistory.org.uk. Stay well!



Mary Sullivan



A Child's History of the Forest of Dean

by Cheryl Mayo

The Society is very excited about a new project, and one which can keep going despite lock downs. Towards the end of last year, Foresters Forest asked their different project managers for suggestions to fund extensions/related projects as the programme had several thousand pounds of under spend. Of course, everyone got busy, but we are thrilled to say our proposal to publish a child's history of the Forest was accepted. Work is now underway. Andy Seed, a well-known children's non-fiction author who lives in the Forest, is writing the text for us. Andy's most recent book, *The Clue is in the Poo* - about identifying forest creatures by their spoor - was a best seller. The project is an extension of the work being done by Foresters Forest and the History Society in our schools, especially at the primary level where the inclusion of our local history is increasingly part of the curriculum.

In February, Andy and myself were able to visit Rich Daniels at Hopewell and Jonathan Wright at Clearwell to talk about what especially excites the children on their visits to these historic places. Some fascinating insights! Through what we have seen in schools, we believe the book will be a welcome addition to any teacher's package of history tools.

While the book will fill a gap within schools, it will also be something for home and we hope many families will purchase their own copies over time. The aim is to launch the book spring/early summer next year. All local primary schools will receive copies, as well as local libraries, and it will be added to our Society's bookshop for sale at meetings and through our e-shop.



Andy Seed is the author of over 30 books for children and adults, working with many major publishers. He's best known for his best selling non-fiction books for the 7-11 age group, one of which won The Blue Peter Book Award in 2015. He writes about nature, history, science, sport and many other subjects and in recent years has been commissioned to produce titles for The British Museum, National Trust and RSPB.

JOURNEY ONLINE THROUGH THE STORY OF THE FOREST

What if you needed to find out quickly what was happening in the Forest of Dean in the Middle Ages or when exactly the last deep mine in the Forest closed? Well now there is an easy way to explore our Forest facts and figures from 9000BC through to the present day! Two online 'Timeline' tools have been developed to inform and entertain with the story of the Forest's past, our present, and a glimpse of some of our future.

www.forestersforest/forest-timeline shows the 'Story of the Forest', as summarised by the combined efforts of the FODLHS, Forestry England and some projects within the Foresters' Forest programme.

Alongside this 'Reading the Forest', supported by Foresters' Forest and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has also published a timeline showing the history of Forest of Dean books and authors: www.readingtheforest.co.uk/historytimeline

Why the Letters Stopped Coming - Part 2 by Steven Carter

Part two of this article reveals what happened to Sgt Beard's attackers in Western Australia.

Life in Western Australia

The Cooper brothers and Thomas Gwilliam left England in March 1863 on the Clyde. They spent most of the 75 days of quiet passage below deck in cages.

The Convict Era was coming to an end (finally terminating in 1868), but desperate worker shortages had obliged the young colony of Western Australia to petition for convict labour. The Swan River colonists had come to be landowners and farmers: they needed labourers. The Clyde's convicts were held for observation in the massive Fremantle Prison and daily sent to work on nearby roads, bridges and other local infrastructure.

Most convicts in Western Australia spent very little time in prison. They began housed in the Convict Establishment at Fremantle and would return for stints following any misbehaviour. Many convicts were stationed in remote parts of the colony, working on roads and other public



*Below decks on a convict ship..... Image from:
www.swanbournehistory.co.uk/thomas-alderman-convict*

projects. Typical activities included quarrying, filling swamps, burning lime, and constructing public buildings.

Soon Thomas and George Cooper were judged cooperative and joined road-building parties in remoter parts of the colony, often left for days and checked only by occasional visits from guards. Men marched to their work and housed themselves in tents or brushwood huts of all shapes and sizes. They

might encamp in some lonely West Australian tract of gum trees and granite rocks, where emus and kangaroos are almost the only living creatures, and where the brilliant-coloured parrots and cockatoos alone broke the silence with their harsh cries.

As long as Thomas and George kept working hours, guards might leave them. Such a convict might have plenty of free time. A contemporary traveller observed: "When he returns from his work [the convict] finds a blazing fire to sit down before, a comfortable hut to shelter, and an abundance of good, wholesome, food prepared for him... The convicts work hard; and I always found them remarkably comfortable, both as regards shelter and diet... They might heartily enjoy fried pork, savoury kangaroo-pie, a loaf of good bread, and a pot of tea. The meal over, the men would produce their tame cockatoos or opossums, enjoy a smoke or a stroll, read books from the prison library, play at marbles with sandal nuts, or 'spin yarns' by the blazing fire. After an evening spent thus we would turn into comfortable beds, and be up early next morning for a wash in the creek."

With desert on all sides, there was little point in escaping and good behaviour earned time off your sentence. Thomas and George's prison records attest their character as good and their behaviour as excellent, earning the maximum four marks credit each day. Another column indicates four stamps, suggesting the brothers sent four letters home in their first year. No doubt missing their kin desperately, the brothers at least had each other.

By 1865 they were working inland at Toodyay, 100 km north-east of Fremantle, using their much-valued collier skills to drill a well for the convict depot being built there. A blast went off unexpectedly, killing George and leaving Thomas in a precarious condition in the infirmary. George was buried in Toodyay cemetery. Thomas recovered and soon after achieved his ticket-of-leave (probation). He secured employment at Gwalla copper mines, then an outpost 500 km north of Fremantle, on the colony's northern frontier of settlement.

Gwalla was a copper mine and a community that had been developed by Joseph Horrocks (1803-65), ex-convict, entrepreneur and philanthropist. Horrocks, from Bolton, Lancashire, had been transported for forgery in 1852, but had been pardoned by 1856 and became successful. He employed sixty ticket-of-leave men on the mine, including Thomas Cooper. Horrocks built stone cottages which he leased to the married miners at low rent. He encouraged agriculture. He constructed an interdenominational church. (This town of Gwalla became the modern Northampton, Western Australia.)

At Gwalla Thomas enjoyed a living standard higher than back home in the Forest. Under the Western Australian ticket-of-leave system, he could earn money, but had restrictions like a ten o'clock curfew, and requirements to stay with his employer, attend church and to report regularly for roll call. He was lucky to be at Gwalla. The area was well-planned, with a Church that could grace an English village. Archaeological surveys and plans reveal the U-shaped building for unmarried men. Flanked by two rows of dormitories, the dining-room was cleared on Saturday evenings for concerts, lectures and other recreations.

Thomas had much to be grateful for, but he had been exiled to the far side of the world. As Humphrey Phelps wrote, "The true Forester believes the Forest is the most beautiful place on earth... and is loath to live elsewhere." Thomas was lucky to experience in Western Australia more freedom than available in UK prisons, and in Gwalla a model community with a vision to support and rehabilitate the convicts, as well as utilise their labour. He no doubt missed his Forest homelands, his wife and family and the close community he grew up in. He missed his brother, too.

In 1865 Thomas Cooper had risen to be shot-firer in the Gwalla mine. After waiting some time, he went to check a failed blast. It exploded as he approached. He died before his workmate reached him. Thomas lies in an unmarked grave in Gwalla's small cemetery.

Thomas Gwilliam was allowed out on probation until he completed his fifteen year sentence. He had some brushes with the law that suggest he struggled to make a new life for himself. He died in 1914 in York, Western Australia.

The killing of Sergeant Beard was horrific, brutal and inexcusable; but beyond the violent act that defined their lives, Thomas and George Cooper had encountered much loss in their tough

lives in the Forest and they went on in Western Australia to enjoy some unexpected freedoms and opportunities. Despite this, however, sadness and regret must have dominated their experience: from the deaths and dispersal of their early family to the desperate longing, especially for Thomas Cooper, to return home to the Forest and his loved ones; and even his claim, "I would not kill a man for the world."



Fremantle Prison, main cell block. Photo courtesy of Ghostieguide at the English language Wikipedia



What's In A Name?

- Streetnames -

by *Cecile Hunt*

Have you ever wondered why a road was given the name it has? There will have been a lot of research carried out behind any street nameplate; they are not just plucked out of thin air. Some names will go back centuries others will be based on more modern happenings or people.

Some roads, streets, alleyways, cul-de-sacs et al have names that are easy to trace, such as Victoria Street & Albert Road, they can, in some circumstances, date the building of the road and its dwellings. Considerable numbers of names are after notables associated with the area at some point in time, these associations have been long forgotten and leave the modern user or dweller of that particular road etc either curious as to who, what, where, when and the name is used or they are totally indifferent to the name, which is a shame as there is a lot of history behind the name on a street nameplate.

People have been remembered on a nameplate such as Crawshay Place in Cinderford; how many people realise nowadays how much of an impact the Crawshay family had on the Forest in their time? Wander around any hamlet, town, village in the Forest and you will come across surnames on nameplates a plenty: Augustus Way, Ceasars Close, Hadrian Close all in Lydney (reminder of Romans association with Lydney), Ridler Road, Lydney (Councillor Ridler); Mushet Place, Mushet Walk & Machen Road, Coleford these gentlemen should need no explanation to anyone interested in Forest history, if these names are a mystery, try looking them up in one of the Cyril Hart's books or online at:

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol5>

Who were, and why were, the following names used? Edwards Close, Lydbrook; Hawkins Lane, Newnham; Anns Walk, Mitcheldean; Perricks Close, Westbury on Severn; Akermans Orchard and Robinson Close, Newent; to name just a few people commemorated on a nameplates. There are stories behind all the names of families and achievements long forgotten, does your address include a name commemorating a person, why was that person's name was used? Some roads, streets, alleyways, cul-de-sacs et al names celebrate a national event, many Jubilee Roads abound in the Forest – which Jubilee, Queen Victoria's? Other names are an indication of trades: Cinder Hill – Iron industry; Tinmans Green, Redbrook – tin works; Nailsmith Court, Littledean – nail maker; Furnace Valley, Blakeney – iron industry; or record previous inhabitants of the Forest such as Abbots Way, Abbots View, Roman Way and Chartist Lane. Many names describe the area or a previous usage: Watery Lane, Orchard Road (a number of these around the Forest), The Tram Road, Forge End, Fullers Lane or Smithy Close; good descriptions in very few words of what was there before.

Newerne Street records the name of a long-lost village, Newerne, now swallowed up by the town of Lydney – how many more street names around the Forest hides what was an independent village behind the name? As is the way of the Forest we are unique in many ways including, allegedly, the 112 metre long Hawker Hill in Mitcheldean which is the only street of this name in Great Britain.

So many stories and descriptions behind so many nameplates. History is recorded in the most unexpected ways, this includes road nameplates – do you know the history behind your address? Happy researching! Knowing the history behind a nameplate goes a long way to understanding the social history of where you live.

The Forest's Greatest Flood by John Powell



The 'Great Flood' at Middle Forge, one of several industrial sites in the valley dependant on water from the River Lyd.

The floods generated by our soaking wet 2020 spring impacted severely on Lydney's sports clubs, causing damage estimated at thousands of pounds. But that was as nothing compared to the 'Great Flood' which followed an epic six days of constant rain to bring the year 1899 to a close.

This was the scene at daybreak on January 1, 1900. The photograph was one of a series taken by the Rev A J Lambert who visited the industrial sites at New Mills and Middle Forge alongside the Lydney to Whitecroft road. Here is the dramatic report from the *Dean Forest Guardian*:

"The last of the old year and century will long be remembered in Lydney for the destruction it left behind, especially in the low-lying part of the town, Newerne, bordering on the Lyd. Residents in Lydney recall to memory a storm in July 1875 which caused a great rise in the brook but it did not reach the dimensions of this flood by a long way. Owing to the continuous rain on Sunday, the householders in Newerne took ordinary precautions as usual in these instances, well knowing that the flood would visit them but in all cases the precautions were inadequate for the water rose to an unprecedented height and the destruction to furniture and the stock of shopkeepers is deplorable.

"From above the Fleece Inn to the Royal Albert the street was flooded and everyone has suffered, the water in some of the houses being over four feet deep. A wall alongside the brook at Newerne, built some years since to keep the water back in case of flood, was washed away and the rush water then became terrific.

"The houses and shops of Messrs S. Dock, fishmonger, H. Kerwood, bookmaker, Mrs Haddock, Grocer, W. Murray, hairdresser, and W. Turk, seem to have suffered most and each one has sustained serious loss in furniture and goods. The Bridge Inn was flooded and the fences on the land belonging to the inn were washed away. Coldstream cottages, which have hitherto escaped, were inundated and their residents obliged to take refuge upstairs."

Arthur Machen, Welsh author and mystic, writing in 'The Graphic' of 13th Feb 1926

SNIPPETS

"This was the business of the Little People in the Forest of Dean. A responsible London paper gave the story of these mysterious folk a couple of weeks ago. Two specimens of the Little People had been observed, one in the spring, another quite recently. There were, perhaps, six or seven witnesses to the facts.



In the first case the creature was observed in a neighbouring coal mine; the second and more recent specimen was seen in a house, creeping about the coals in the coal-scuttle. The Little Man of the mine was about fourteen inches long; a miniature human being, but covered with close dark hair or fur and lacking arms. The visitant of the coal scuttle was perfect; "just like a collier." I forget how the first creature disappeared; in the latter case the whole family were so frightened that they tilted the coal-scuttle with its coal and (possibly) supernatural visitant on to the garden path. This was at night: in the morning there was nothing but coals to be seen."

Meetings in Review *with John Powell*



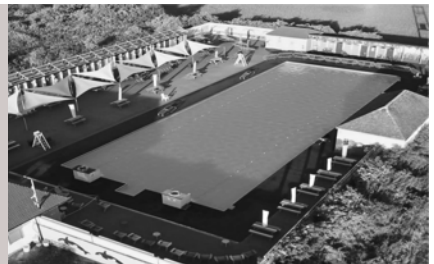
There's not much of the Forest that has not been dug up. Three-quarters of the humps and bumps that make up the Dean are man-made. They litter the landscape and, in most cases, add significantly to its rough charm as they conceal many mysteries, largely hiding what our predecessors were up to in centuries past.

So three hearty cheers for the Foresters' Forest project which has provided the financial clout to enable, for the first time, a comprehensive survey to be carried out revealing our past in a way which only a decade ago would have been impossible. Digging the dirt has been a team from the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. What they have discovered has been mind-blowing in its depth and subsequent follow-up archaeological explorations.

At the society's February meeting held at the West Dean Centre at Bream, project manager Robin Jackson outlined exactly what has been going on, putting the success of the project down to the underground information revealed by Lidar technology — the spy-in-the-sky equipment which penetrates the tree cover to show off what is hidden beneath. Wait for it...Lidar has revealed as many as 1,700 humps and bumps worth inspection! Are some ancient hill forts, are others iron-age camps or, perhaps, Roman? For now we don't know so you are going have to maintain your membership of the society for many years yet to enable more of our Forest's secrets to be revealed.

As Robin pointed out, many will be no more exciting than old charcoal platforms, but there are sure to be a few surprises along the way. To quote: "There's an awful lot out there. Your landscape is littered with heritage and archaeology." It sounds almost too good to be true! Members were delighted to have the opportunity to see some of the finds made at digs in Yorkley, Soudley and at Ruardean's castle site. Here's hoping we can persuade Robin to return again next year for an update on what our ancestors left behind.

The Forest's classic open-air swimming pool, nestled away alongside the main A48 between Lydney and Aylburton, has faced many threats in its 99 year up-and-down history. Gifted by the Bathurst family and one of many great contributions they have made to the area, members of the society were well impressed to hear at their March meeting that on the eve of its centenary the pool has never ever been on a sounder footing. Its facilities were reported as being in grand order and there's money in the bank!



Local businessman, Brian Bennett, has even warmed up the water, donating more than 40 solar panels in memory of the late Charlie Edwards who frequently enjoyed a dip there and was one of those passionate about its future. Looking ahead, there are active talks taking place to renew the liner while also improving ancillary works. But, as ever, there's now a new snag. Little did any of us foresee that just around the corner from our March 14 meeting loomed disaster with the arrival of the evil black cloud of coronavirus. Only the day previously horse racing

enthusiasts had squeezed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and, after some deliberation, our Society decided to press ahead with the talk by husband and wife team Bob and Sheila Berryman, if you like, the heart and soul of the Friends of Bathurst Pool.

Will the pool be open this summer? Already it looks like a non-runner but never-say-never to the team behind the swimming pool. There's nothing they like better than a challenge! And that is, indeed, what they faced when, with a sense of relief, local authorities passed on control of the pool to the voluntary Friends in 2007. Five years previously they had accepted the task and found a willing worker in the late Dai Richards who paved the way For Bob and Sheila to forge ahead with admirable determination and, most of all, the will to succeed. Enlisting the help and drive of others, the pool now regularly features among the top outdoor swimming facilities in the West of England.

“Without the volunteers we could not have achieved anything like visitors enjoy today. It has been a remarkable transformation,” says Bob. He can say that again! Bathurst Pool is truly one of the Forest's gems.



In this series Averil Kear is setting a challenge for you to identify exactly where the text below is describing. The only help you are getting is that it is in the Forest area! Contact the editor with your answers!!

The answer to the November 2019 poser was 'Redbrook', and Tony Fielding was the first to provide the correct answer. The answer to the February conundrum was 'Sedbury'.

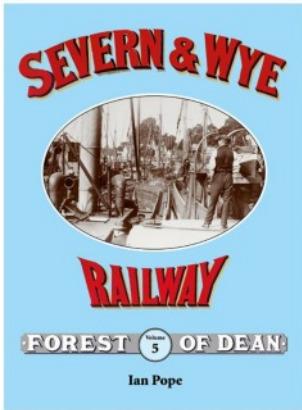
“For loveliness of situation, perhaps, not one of the secluded homes within the great Crown woodlands can presume to rivalPerched on the edge of a steep slope –down which five minutes walk would bring us to the Roman road at Blackpool Bridge–with stately beeches standing all around, the lodge's terrace gives us glimpses of the Severn and the land and hills beyond. The little house itself, if not exactly beautiful, is pleasant to the eye, with great projecting porch and low wide windows facing every way. The lodge is one of those erected in the seventeenth century, and stoutly built of the grey forest stone.”



Don't forget that our journals (The New Regard), and other publications are available for purchase at our website:

www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk/publications-for-sale/

Book Review by Keith Walker



For many members no doubt, a favourite place to take a stroll and enjoy the stunning estuary views, Lydney harbour and canal have a history which is no longer immediately obvious as you walk around its environs.

Step forward our own Vice-President Ian Pope, who has produced a 'magnus opus' in his recently published book 'Severn & Wye Railway' volume 5. This 203 page master-class illuminates the history of Lydney docks, canal, railway operations and personnel in staggering detail. Coupled with the large number of high-quality contemporary photographs, maps and drawings, this makes the book an essential addition to the bookshelves of the local historian and railway buff alike.

The chapters of the book generally lead the reader through a geographic tour starting at Lydney Crossing wandering eastwards via the Upper Basin, Coal Tips, Canal, Lower Basin, Tidal Basin, pier head and finally to the Shipyard. Along the way technical drawings of the coal tips are featured, together with potted biographies of the harbour Masters. The Dredger has a chapter all to itself, as do a "Chapter of Accidents".

To sum up using Ian's own words "This volume looks at all facets of the harbour at Lydney where the vast majority of Forest coal was transhipped into small coastal vessels for shipment to Bristol, round the coast of the West Country and to Ireland."

Very highly recommended!

Severn & Wye Railway Volume 5 ISBN 13 : 9781911038 65 8

Available from Lightmoor Press (<http://lightmoor.co.uk/>), price £25.00



Spring tide at Lydney Docks on 10th March 2008. Since then the tidal basin gates have jammed open. Currently the docks await a new owner and some TLC!