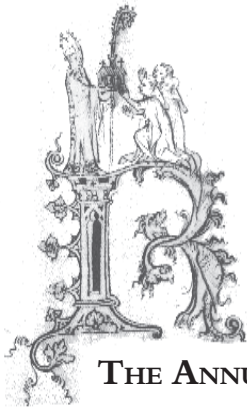


THE



RECORDER

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

## EDITORIAL

The Society met for the 2010 AGM in the old Schoolroom, adjacent to the Hungerford Almshouses in Corsham. The business meeting saw the voting-in of Dr Negley Harte, our new President, whom we welcomed into his new role. This was followed by a lecture given by Mr Guy Hungerford, a descendant of the Hungerford family, who gave a fascinating talk on his family, which had included villains and angels alike! This was illustrated with family portraits.

The usual delicious tea was held in the Master's apartment and members were able to examine some exhibits connected with the Almshouses and School and to look closely at the architectural features of the building, both upstairs and down. A tour of the outside of the building from the gardens followed and some lively discussion was undertaken, concerning the fate of these gardens, where it is planned to build more units for the Almshouse.

The Schoolroom is an integral part of the Almshouse building and very little has changed since they were founded in 1668, by Lady Margaret Hungerford. Lady Margaret was a wealthy woman in her own right, being the daughter of Alderman William Halliday, a London merchant, from whom she inherited a vast amount of money for those days. She married Sir Edward Hungerford in 1621 and they took up residence in Corsham House (now Court). Sir Edward was owner of a great deal of land and property in Wiltshire, London, Somerset and Berkshire, and commanded Cromwell's troops in Wiltshire during the Civil War. In 1648 he died, and Lady Margaret, being rich and childless, used her fortune for the benefit of the poor and destitute. In 1665, having bought up land at 'Town End' in Corsham, she had a large Almshouse and school built on the site, which were completed in 1668. The school remained in use for 230 years and the almshouses, which housed six single women, still exists today, though alterations have been made to the individual tenements and there are now 12 occupants.

The late afternoon being fair, a few stalwarts continued the exploration of Corsham under the guidance of Dr Harte, walking through the old High Street to the entrance of Corsham Court and back through the Park.

Next year, 2012, sees the 75th anniversary of our Society and the Committee have given some thought as to how this could be celebrated. Ideas are still in the discussion stage, but members will be notified if and when arrangements are confirmed.

The Society's volume 63 was launched in 2010; this was Steven Hobbs' *Gleanings from Wiltshire Parish Registers* and it turns out to be a fascinating volume and well worth examining for the details so often written by clerks and clergymen. Sometimes there is information about people, about houses, or about changes in the parish. Often there are drawings and doodles in the margins, where artistic scribes (or their children) have practised their illustrative tendencies. One rector even used the parish register as a place to record all his household alterations over several years. As Steve says, where else could you record such things, if not in the register?

Sally Thomson ((Editor)

### THE BRIDGE CROSSINGS OF LACOCK (WHAT'S IN A NAME?)

In 1943, F.H.Hinton, retired history master and Lacock local historian, wrote *The Roads and Bridges of Lacock, Wiltshire*. He took his work from documents in the Church chest of St Cyriac's, Lacock, now in the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre. These documents deal with Footbridge (over the Avon) and with Reybridge. There is mention of five minor bridges and with records now being accessible, this has enabled the discovery of place names in connection with the bridges.

Place names are common for bridges, as they are at Lacock. From early times, they were subject to regular survey and maintenance by the Parish officers. But the responsibility for costs was always a

---

source of dispute and therefore found their way into the records.

Four of the minor bridges were Town, Nethercot, Wick Lane and Notton, all of which had alternative names at various times.

**Town Bridge was also known as Ladds Bridge, Cantax Hill and the Bridge over Bye Brook.**



*Town Bridge*

From the Manorial records of Lacock come the following:

1729 ‘...to a certain brook called Lads Brook from Lads Bridge to the lower end of Thomas Billets Tanyard ...’

1731 ‘...erecting a hedge and hatches athwart the brook called Lads brook between Lads Bridge and Domas Bridge, within the Manor...’

From the Lacock Baptismal registers:

1739 March 23rd William, son of Henry and Dorothy Ladd. They probably lived nearby, or were early builders. The earliest reference to the name is in 1729.

1821 October 2nd The Bridge was too narrow, thereby subjecting his Majesty’s subjects to many serious accidents. The bridge was to be widened.

**Packhorse Bridge (Nethercote, Carters, Dummers, Draw, Place) and family names**



*Packhorse Bridge*

The bridge passes over Bye Brook at Nethercot, just off Church Street, near St Cyriac’s. Packhorse Bridge – probably because it took horse traffic from

Reybridge to Church Street, the one-time Market Place.

Dummers – the Dummer family undertook considerable repair work. They were a well-established Lacock family. Dummers Bridge is so-named on the 1837 Tithe Award map. Ephraim and Emanuel Dummer were from Bowden Hill; George Dummer from Bewley Green; another Ephraim from Nethercot. Moses Dummer was paid for supplying and carting stones when the footbridge was repaired and part rebuilt in 1809. Major work was undertaken in the 1980s, when the flow of the Brook was altered and revealed a well created to contain a depth of water for the Lacock fire cart. It was last used in 1923. Also revealed was what appeared to be a structure of possible Norman date, regrettably destroyed.

The records of the Court Leet and Court Baron give numerous references:

1706 *Much out of repair;*

1718 *out of repair – dangerous;*

1721 *out of repair – to be repaired by Christmas. Penalty £5.*

1722 *Still out of repair 1723,26,32,35,43 and 46 similar references.*

The alternative names are found in the following:

1768 Repairs to Drawbridge, commonly called Carters Bridge;

1769, 70 – Drawbridge/Carters Bridge;

1777 Causeway adjoining Carters Bridge;

1779, 90 – Carters Bridge;

1840 Surveyors’ Account Book – Edward Banks for mending the causeway and Carters Bridge 4s and £16.

**Wick Lane Bridge**

It crosses the Bye Brook on its flow from Corsham to Lacock at the point of convergence with the leat at Pinnells Mill. It was only known as Wick Lane Bridge.

**Notton Bridge**

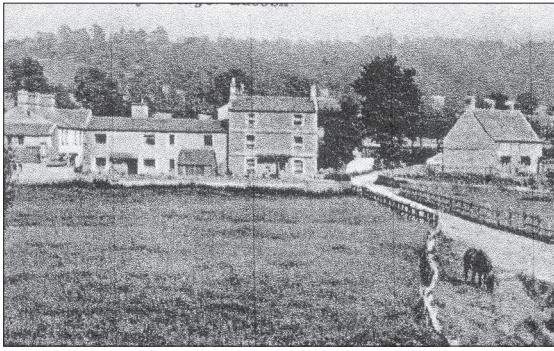
The stream it crosses runs from Corsham House to Lackham and Rey Mill. On a map of 1764, the stream is named as Notton Stream. In 1746, the Lacock Manor Court records Pudding Stream and in 1732, John Pudding was on the list of ‘poor indigent tradesmen who received a share of £12 due from the City of Wells to the Churchwardens of Lacock. John received £5. He probably lived at Notton and the stream may have passed through his tenement.

The name Pudding is not in the Lacock registers, though the name Pulling is. (burial register 15 August 1740).

In 1746, the manor court records that the bridge over Pudding Brook was out of repair; the same was also recorded in 1751, 52, 54, 55, 90, 91 and 92.

---

## Reybridge



Reybridge

Reybridge is mentioned in the 1300 Perambulations of the Forest of Wiltshire.

In 1654, the Justices of the Peace assembled at the General Sessions of the Peace, held at Marlborough '*...that whereas a certaine stone bridge called Reybridge...*'

The Constables' report of 1658 records '*...I doe present Ray Bridge an anteant bridge in ye p[ar]ish...*' In 1745, Raybridge was widened and there is a list of persons '*who have contributed to the widening of Raybridge*'.

Extract from a letter written by Charles Henry Fox Talbot, son of William Henry:

To the Editor of the Wiltshire Times.

Sir

I should like to make some comments on the notice of Lacock (Pictures ?from Wiltshire, no. IX....) in your issues of August 3rd and 17th.

Aubrey certainly says that Sir William Sharrington "built" Rey bridge, to divert the travelling by his house, though why he should object to such travelling is not obvious, but probably the meaning only is that he put it in substantial repair. He certainly was not the original builder of Rey bridge, (misprinted Key bridge in your article) which was the ancient bridge of Lacock and is mentioned as Rhe bridge in Leland's Itinerary before Sharrington had anything to do with the place.

At a later date Rey bridge was pulled down but the statement that "the pillars were used for building a foot bridge instead" conveys a mistaken impression. "Footbridge" is the name of the old stone bridge over the Avon on the road leading from Lacock to Bowden Hill and was only a footbridge, probably of stone, and a ford at that point.

The probability is that when Rey bridge was pulled down the materials were used for the purpose of increasing the width of Footbridge, but the inhabitants were not disposed to put up with the loss of Rey bridge, which was afterwards rebuilt

The date is or was on Rey Bridge, on the southern side, visible from the adjoining field. It is some year in the 18th century, but I have no memorandum

to refer to.

The consequence is that Lacock enjoys the advantage of two bridges over the Avon within a short distance of each other.....



Charles Henry Fox Talbot

## Footbridge

The major bridge over the Avon by Lacock Abbey. 'Footbridge' to many meant a minor crossing. In 1884, Charles Henry Fox wrote a letter determined to prove that the name 'Footbridge' was always its name and that it had no other.

Lacock Abbey  
Chippenham  
March 16, 1884  
Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter, of the 11th inst., the name of the bridge over the Avon, between the village of Lacock and Bowden Hill, is "Footbridge". It has no other names and the name itself points to a time when there was a bridge there, for foot passengers only, and probably a ford. The present bridge has heavy piers and is old-looking, but not ancient; that is, it is not mediaeval, or, if any part of it be mediaeval, it bears evidence of having been very much altered. There is no date to be seen on it. It may date, in its present form, from the 17th century, perhaps, and have been erected in accordance with the order of Quarter Sessions, to which you refer.....

Although the letter states that the bridge bears no date, this is incorrect. Although much altered, the bridge bears the name G.Banks 1809. Banks was a



---

local stonemason, who obtained the maintenance and repair contract. The work took a year to complete and employed many sub-contractors. Banks built the two circular arches as mentioned in *The Ancient Bridges of the South of England* by E.Jervois, on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Bridges 1930.

Brian Howells Banks

## CORONERS' BILLS, 1797-1824

‘What can we do now?’ I was asked by the members of WFHS transcription team on the completion of an eight year project indexing the Poor Law Settlement papers. It did not take long to find a source that fitted the bill exactly.

Thirty years ago we published *Wiltshire Coroners' Bills, 1752-1796*, edited by the leading expert on the office of coroner, Roy Hunnisett. These documents, created for the mundane purpose of recompensing the coroners their travelling expenses, were a discrete series within the archives of the quarter sessions. Subsequent bills down to 1824 were placed in the ‘Great Rolls’, the papers of each quarter sessions that were spiked and threaded onto large unwieldy bundles. An index of these would have the dual benefits of providing a useful and unusual source for WFHS publications, and a fitting codicil to WRS vol 36. My suggestion was eagerly taken up, and work has begun on a full index, which should be completed by the end of 2011.

The period 1797-1824 is important for the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the predominantly rural county of Wiltshire. Steam-powered machinery for the woollen industry, a network of canals provided by the Kennet and Avon, Wilts and Berks and North Wilts canals, and the introduction of threshing machines, were all indicators of this development. Unfortunately they all offered new hazards to the innocent and unwary. Many drowned in the canals, or perished as a result of accidents with the new machinery in factory or farm. Several children died as a result of accidents as they laboured in factories, although the danger in the home presented by open fires and candlelight was the most common cause of death for the young. For adults, accidents on the road (falls from horses, carriages and carts) were not infrequent.

Deaths resulting from industrial accidents were often recorded in greater detail as if the coroner felt the need to explain them to those for whom, like himself, they were strange and unfamiliar manifestations of a new world of factories and machines. Two inquests in Warminster illustrate this. In July 1803 Thomas Pain was crushed by a piece of ash that he was carrying on his shoulder that got caught in the wheel of the machinery in a factory of

Peter Warren. In April 1806 John Harris was killed by the spindle of a mill catching his neck handkerchief in the factory of George Warren. These accidents were recorded in another source noted by Ken Rogers in *Wiltshire and Somerset Woollen Mills* (p242) that provided useful additional information. From a deodand book in the Longleat archives we learn that Thomas was working in a cloth manufactory worked by horses and John was killed by a steam engine used for grinding beans. (A deodand was a fine chargeable to the owner of the object which was the cause of a death, and was put to charitable uses.)

Suicides were not uncommon, and although every incident was tragic, the following case on 12 April 1803 at Trowbridge is particularly poignant. ‘... on the view of a Negro Man call'd by the name Antigua and Moorish, a Private in the 59th Regiment of Foot, who being put into the Guard house he near to there with a black silk handkerchief did hang & destroy himself.’

The North Wilts coroner, William Clare, whose area covered over two-thirds of the county, provided more detailed records than his southern counterpart, although rarely allowed himself to venture away from his laconic style. Two exceptions were for the inquest of James Wyatt, whom he described as ‘the celebrated architect’, killed in a coaching accident on the Marlborough Downs in 1813; and one at Melksham in July 1797, for a navy ‘working on the canal there call'd the Berks & Wilts.’ ‘His name unknown more than by the common Appellation of double Gloucester – seldom that a Business so complicated as this has happen'd. It appeared that the cause of death was a rupture incurred in a bare-knuckle fight, 'increas'd by the Effects of too much strong Beer as well as laying afterwards all night under a Rick.’ The Inquest was adjourned twice to enable witnesses to be called including his opponent and his second.

In June 1797 he held two inquests, eight days apart, at Longleat Fishing cottage, into the deaths of three men ‘thrown out of a sailing boat into Shearwater Lake.’ Two inquests were held, nine days apart, presumably because the bodies were not all recovered at the same time. This artificial lake had only recently been created, and remains to this day a popular place for sailors, fishermen and walkers. This accident must surely be its greatest tragedy

Steve Hobbs

## ALDBOURNE LANDS AND RENTS OF THE PRIORY OF SOUTHWICK, HAMPSHIRE

During the middle ages a small estate in Aldbourne was held by the Priory of Southwick in Hampshire and references to this property occur in the Priory's cartularies, which have been extensively calendared in K.A.Hanna's *The Cartularies of Southwick Priory* (Hampshire Record Office, 1988 and 1989;

---

Hampshire Record Series, vols. ix and x), and are here cited by the cartulary and entry numbers used in that edition.

At some time between 1189 and 1199, Count Geoffrey de Perche and his wife, Countess Matilda, niece of King Richard I and daughter of Henry, Duke of Bavaria and Saxony, gave to the Priory, in free alms, two virgates of land from their manor at Aldbourne (*Aldiburn'*, *Aldiburne*) for the provision of wine for the celebration of Mass in the Priory church. One of these two virgates was held by Richard Anglicus (presumably of English descent), the other by Robert Heiward' or Hayward, who, together with their households, became the villains of the Priory. Along with the two virgates went 'the messuages which are in *Westret*, in wood and plan, in the market place and pasture, with other free customs'. The witnesses to the de Perches gift included some who were probably local Wiltshire men: Philip de Nederaven (presumably Netheravon); William de Ponte Archarum or Ponte Arche' (presumably a descendant of the William de Pont de l'Arche and his son, Roger, who gave the parish church of Swindon to the Priory; Elias (Helias or Helyas); Hubert; Serle, son of Adam; Richard de Hog'; Hugh de Upham; William de Buet; and Richard de Aldiburn', clerk, possibly the Rector of Aldbourne (I 144).

This gift was confirmed at some date between 1217 and 1226 by William Longespée, earl of Salisbury, to whom the main manor of Aldbourne had been granted following its confiscation by the Crown after the battle of Lincoln in 1217 (I 144, n.I; III 97; *VCH Wilts* XII, p.76) relying on a 19thC transcript of only the third cartulary, British Library Add. MS 33280, f.35v). The tenants paid the Priory a total rent of 20 shillings a year. A rental and custumal (I 187 f.39), entered in the first cartulary, covers several Priory estates and was apparently compiled in the 1220s (but the entry for Aldbourne may be before 1217, since it still refers to the Count and Countess). In the rental the lands were held by four tenants, each tenant paying the Priory 5s in two instalments of 30d. One tenant was not named, but the remaining three were Peter Lothewic, who held freely by charter; Christine, daughter of the priest, who held by a deed that testified she was a serf and that her land owed service of old; and W.Presbyter (who was presumably the current priest, not the father of Christine). He held his land freely, but only for his lifetime for his service. The unnamed tenant was said to be a serf and, if his lord willed, was bound to do all the same labour services as his neighbours on the Count's land, according to the amount of land he held. It was noted that after the death of W.Presbyter his land and messuage, in entirety, would revert to the Prior unconditionally, and that none of the Priory's tenants owed suit at the Count's court by reason of the land they held from the Prior. This

was reaffirmed in William Longespée's confirmation in the years, 1217-1226, of Count Geoffrey's charter, in which Longespée quitclaimed in perpetuity to the Priory all suit of his court, saving a view of frankpledge twice a year (III 97).<sup>1</sup>

The rents from Aldbourne (*Audeburne*) were confirmed in a papal privilege from Pope Alexander IV made between 1254 and 1261 (III 7); and figured again in a taxation of all the Priory churches and manors, rents and pensions recorded at some time between 1369 and 1385, when the rents were assessed at 23s 4d (II 230). Finally, two inquisitions taken by the Wiltshire escheator, dated 1 May 1381 and 27 October 1389, following the deaths of successive priors, recorded annual rents totalling 23 shillings from certain lands and tenements in Aldbourne (*Aldeborn'*) paid at the office of the sacristan at Southwick at Michaelmas, to provide wine for the sacrament in the Priory church (II 32 (b) and II 56). In 1381 a single juror was named, Thomas Forde; but in 1389 the jurors were named as John Wyly; Hugh Pipard; William Hoppegrasse; John Colyn; William Perschut; William Chamberlayn; John Stamford'; John Hamelyn; Simon Michel; John Gibon'; Richard Calf; and John Kepenhull'. Whether these were men local to Aldbourne is not stated. In both inquisitions the jurors swore that these rents were the sole property of the Prior in Wiltshire, despite the existence of an annual pension and other interests in the advowson and profits of the parish church of Swindon (*see separate articles on Swindon: Recorder nos. 8 and 9*).

*VCH Wiltshire* XII, p.76 states that the Priory lands in Aldbourne were sold in 1540 to Richard Ingram and in 1541 to John Goddard, and thereafter probably passed with Goddard's Upper Upham estate in Aldbourne, which the Goddards held, probably in association with their manor of Swindon, until 1909.

1. *VCH Wiltshire* XII, p.76 notices the confirmation of this charter by William Longespée, earl of Salisbury, after 1217 (BL Add.MS. 33280 f.35v), but not the earlier entry in the cartularies. The charter from Count Geoffrey and Countess Matilda mentions the market place (*in foro*), already there during the reign of Richard I.

*Duncan Chalmers*

## SENIOR JUDGE ROBERT OGBURN: OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT

Many years ago it was decided to open an American bank account into which it was hoped that our American members would pay their subscriptions. A once a year transfer of funds would be much less expensive than paying bank changes on a lot of individual dollar cheques. This was first administered by Mr. C. P. Gould but, on his retirement, we were delighted that Robert Ogburn



*Senior Judge Robert Ogburn*

agreed to take on this responsibility. He first joined the Society in 1996 and his interest in Wiltshire stems from his family originally coming from Ogbourne.

Robert has just written a fascinating memoir of his 26 years as a district judge and this has been published in the *San Luis Historian*. He recalls that over that period he must have heard over 28,000 cases. The district court has jurisdiction over all domestic, juvenile, probate, mental health, criminal and civil cases. Most of the criminal cases involve theft or burglary but he also had to deal with a number of horrifying and headline-making homicide cases. He regrets the growing number of illegal drug cases and the usually sad divorce matters. He amusingly contrasts these cases by describing 'Criminal courts as places where bad people are on their best behaviour and Divorce courts where good people are at their worst'. Robert also presided over the separate Water Courts. These deal with cases about the right to extract water and often involve some major corporations. Water is jealously guarded and Robert proudly says that during his watch no water left the San Luis Valley.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the American and British system of justice is that, in America, district judges are elected every six years. Robert was re-elected four times in 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1996. He was popular because he was in tune with the local population not least with his reputation for tough sentencing. But the main criterion for judging success seems to be in the appeal statistics. Of Robert's 28,000 cases, only 220 were appealed against and in only 30 of these was his judgement overruled.

On retirement in 2002 Robert was appointed a Senior Judge working 60 days a year but also acting as a mediator. He now lives in Pueblo West, Colorado

and is a keen golfer and an active member of the San Luis Valley Historical Society. We are very grateful to him for the work he does for us in America.

*Ivor Slocombe*

### **GLEANINGS FROM WILTSHIRE PARISH REGISTER: AN AFTERWORD**

The excitement and relief aroused by the publication of a book, for me, is always slightly tempered by the doubts about mistakes that inevitably appear, which, once spotted, stand out as throbbing text like a cartoon thumb hit with a hammer. Volume 63 had appeared about a month by the time Michael Wood's excellent series *The Story of England* was scheduled on television. One image from an early programme particularly caught my attention. In discussing published sources for the village of Kibworth the title page of John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* appeared on the screen. The style and font was instantly familiar and I realised that it was the same as that in the printed format registers of baptisms and burials from 1783 that I had described (pp xxi-xxii and 297). Hastily I googled Nichols and discovered his pre-eminence among 18th and early 19th century antiquarians. Apart from this county history he collaborated with Abraham Farley in the publication of *Domesday Book* in 1783. Furthermore he was editor of *The Gentleman's Magazine* for many years. Clearly someone of note yet beyond the ken of my Wiltshire-centric mind. However I am not blameless in this, as I had misread the imprint and described him as a Salisbury printer; he was based in London and the books were printed by and for him and were sold by Mr. [Benjamin] Collins at Salisbury.

While I am in contrite mood I should also point out that the date of 1609 was omitted from the quarterly rate in the Beechingstoke register (p14).

Perhaps in the future when our volumes appear in electronically format editors will be spared such frustration and embarrassment as amended versions can be easily issued at the click of a button.

*Steve Hobbs*

### **THE DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT**

The Wiltshire Buildings Record (WBR) has undertaken a project over the past year or so, to dendro-date a number of selected buildings in Wiltshire. This process involves taking a number of cores from suitable timbers in a building and tree-ring dating them in a laboratory. The technical work is being carried out by Sheffield University, while English Heritage covers the financial side. Last year, I was asked to help with the project in the capacity of historical researcher. This entails using a variety of documents and sources, including *Domesday Book*,

---

---

manorial history, wills, census returns and much else. It is a fascinating, if time-consuming study and there are some twelve buildings to be completed in total.

Members will be glad to know that the WRS volumes have proved invaluable in this study, particularly those dealing with medieval records, such as Feet of Fines, Crown Pleas and Taxation Lists. It is amazing how much information can be gleaned from these records and just proves the importance of the work of the Society.

Often a change in a building's structure can be tied in with the arrival of a new owner. This is often seen in ecclesiastical buildings, such as rectories, and the project has at least two of these on its list. Other buildings have been the property of abbeys or priories in the county, prior to the Reformation and sometimes there are clues to this in the shape of windows, or the presence of crosses, as at a very old house in Colerne, where there is an ancient cross incorporated into a garden wall.

One thing which comes very much to the fore in this study is how complicated the manorial history of a place can be, with manors divided and subdivided, often many times. And the names of the great families are very often connected with quite small estates; they seem to have collected them, like the old-fashioned cigarette cards! Consequently, when studying the history of one building, one finds the same baronial names cropping up, time and again.

*Sally Thomson*

## **GODFREY LAURENCE**

With the passing of Godfrey Laurence in January 2011 at the age of 96, this society has lost probably its oldest member. An engineer by profession Godfrey's interest in history stemmed from his genealogical researches especially his eighteenth century ancestors, clothiers in Warminster and, in particular Richard Laurence who moved to Bath and became a fine clock maker. Godfrey collected several examples of his ancestor's craftsmanship, and he also created an impressive collection of prints of Bath. A keen supporter of the Record Society Godfrey served as a member of its committee. A meticulous and indefatigable researcher, in his mid 80's he undertook a commission for a book about Hartham Park, Corsham which sadly was never published. He presented his extensive papers on this house to Wiltshire and Swindon Archives.

*Steve Hobbs*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions for membership of the Society are now due. Please send subscriptions to: Ivor Slocombe, 11 Belcombe Place, Bradford on Avon, Wilts. BA15 1NA, cheques made payable to Wiltshire Record Society. The subscription remains at £15 annually.

Editor: Sally M Thomson, Home Close, High Street, Codford, Wilts. BA12 0NB (homecloseatcodford@gmail.com)

