



## Herefordshire Record Office

# *FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER*

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JANUARY 2011

No. 89

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Welcome, once again, to our Newsletter. The Record Office has been busy with various events which were well supported by the Friends (details inside). The Friends have also been active with a walk around "Tudor" Hereford and a lecture. The Friends were active in helping in the re-organisation and re-shelving of the Record Office library. This not only involved time and effort in cataloguing, but a great deal of muscular effort was required in carrying the books from room to room and up and down stairs. Congratulations to the Record Office staff and to the Friends volunteers.

Despite the financial constraints being placed upon local councils, the money promised to the Record Office for renovation of the present storage facilities and provision of a new storage building is still in place. Let us hope this continues to be the case.

Your committee meets every 2 months keeping in touch with Record Office, organising events, seeking new members, watching our finances and all the other things committees get up to. Of course, any suggestions or help would be most welcome.

If anyone has any comments or historical research article they would like to contribute to the Newsletter, they will be most welcome. As usual, all contact information is at the end of the newsletter.

Editor

**FRIENDS of the RECORD OFFICE**  
visit to  
**The Hereford Museum Resource Centre**  
**10 am, Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011**  
**Behind the scenes view of the county's museum collections**

**Numbers will be limited to 20 so please let Virginia Morgan know  
as soon as possible if you wish to go.**

**TEL: 01989 562 424, e-mail: [cavmorgan@btinternet.com](mailto:cavmorgan@btinternet.com)**

**Tea and coffee will be served**

(There is no charge for the visit and refreshments  
but small donations will be welcome)

**News from the Record Office**  
**January 2011**

It has been many months since my last report and as usual there has been much activity and many changes. We have said goodbye to cleaner/caretaker Andy Hartless (who was only introduced to you last time!) as he took up a full time job elsewhere, but we have this month welcomed a replacement cleaner/caretaker, Stephen Rogers – who has a long list of jobs to keep him busy! We also recruited an extra Archivist – a post that was filled by Philip Bouchier who had been filling the role of Archivist left vacant by Alison Bignell who was seconded to the Modern Records Unit (are you following this?!). We then subsequently recruited to fill that secondment vacancy and welcomed Richard Wade who joined us in Stocktake, to cover the period of this secondment until the end of March 2011. Alison herself then resigned, as an Archivist job in sunnier climes overseas beckoned, and so we hope to replace her permanently – budget allowing. Phew – nearly finished with the recruitment news – we have also had authorisation to recruit a part-time conservator to complement our Senior Conservator and Conservation Technician roles – we interview for this on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Our other big news is that the new “out store” has been finished and the first documents have been moved there this week, with the aid of specialist company Harwell. This will mean a slight change in the process for anyone who needs to refer to the collections held there as they will need to be ordered in advance, but we have tried to very carefully choose which collections are moved there based on rate of use, so as to inconvenience as few people as possible. The details of the relevant ordering processes and the collections these refer to will be found on our website. Further collections will be moved up there as the year progresses. These actions will free up the space we need for the internal moves of tithe, manorial and public records within the record office strong rooms that is required by The National Archives.

The dehumidifiers and changes to the heating regime have made an improvement to the environmental conditions in our strong rooms, which is great to see, but they are still not perfect so the need for a new building remains. This is still on the Council agenda, I have been asked to supply details of the space requirements for this, including relevant

expansion space for collections and I am making a presentation to the Accommodation Strategy Board at the end of January to give further details as to our needs.

Outreach wise, we had another successful evening of Tales from the Archives in October, attended by even more people than that in February (just as well we had a bigger venue!). The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we may do a similar event in the future. The format has already been used for some talks to local groups who have enjoyed being a character from the past. We also had stalls at Castle Green's Midsummer and Christmas Fayres – the summer one definitely preferable in terms of the weather – but the number of visitors to our stall was the same on each occasion. We also held another of our popular (but exhausting) Map and Book sales. We made £800 and bought a new lens for the microfilm reader/printer as the existing one was broken and also sent some books from the library here to be rebound.

Talking of money – we have been fortunate this year not to have been asked to make any further savings. The budget position for next year is not yet clear, so we will have to wait and see what 1<sup>st</sup> April brings.

More parish registers have been microfilmed as they continue to be a very popular resource for researchers. We have received more deposits from parishes over the last couple of years as the parochial records surveys are carried out by the Archivists, unearthing older documents still being held in parishes. Where it is appropriate, we encourage the parishes to deposit the collections with us, which can bring improvements in security, environment and access. The project to put the details of parish register holdings online is slightly behind schedule but we hope to have those details available soon.

Stocktake last year was as busy as ever with the regular checks of fiche and film, filing to be weeded and annual maintenance tasks. The staff also undertook some cataloguing, preparations for the moves to the outstore and, with the aid of the library volunteers Heather Hurley and Sylvia Wright, moved the library books into a new location in the search room so that all books relating to Herefordshire and surrounding counties are shelved together. All other books (except the quick reference section) are now shelved in the Dewey sequence order. With a new database of all the library books soon to go on our website and on the public PCs in the search room, this should make accessing our library books much easier. Many thanks must go to Heather and Sylvia for all their hard work.

**Wishing you all a very happy new year**

**Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe**

**Information Services Manager**

## DEADWOMAN DEEDS

### *A Tale of Three Dead Women, Three Pubs and Two Bundles of Deeds*

#### *Purchasing the Deeds*

In 2009 Chapel Books at Llanishen were advertising the sale of various deeds and documents relating to land and property including the Dead Woman Estate, Tudorville and Lincoln Hill on the Ross/Walford boundary. These documents appeared to record an area that was not adequately covered during the 19th century at the record office, so an attempt was made to purchase them from Chapel Books.

The deeds were ordered by the record office and the cost was partly funded by the Friends and the Ross Civic Society, but the bundle did not arrive. Although Chapel Books were regularly emailed and phoned there was no response, so at a Friends' committee meeting it was decided that three members would have a day in the Lower Wye Valley and seek Chapel Books.

A message was sent to Chapel Books to the effect that Friends of the Herefordshire Record Office were planning a visit on a certain day, and the *Carpenter's Arms* at Llanishen was phoned to book lunch. After a short discussion with the publican who knew the adjacent Chapel Books, the bundle of deeds magically appeared at the record office before we had a chance to enjoy the Lower Wye!

#### *Examining the Deeds*

Having arrived at the record office, the deeds were examined and photographed, and although not catalogued have a reference of CK66. The bundle includes documents, maps and conveyances dating from the mid-19th century of the Dead Woman or Vine Tree Estate, Cats Brain, Arbour Hill, Lincoln Hill, Tudorville, Ashfield and Tudor Barn. Familiar Ross names appear such as James Frere, tanner, Thomas Cooke, apothecary, Ferdinand Beeston, John Stratford Collins, James Cowles Prichard and Edward Prichard.

Although the documents only date from the mid-19th century, land at Archenfield is recited from 1796 and the Dead Woman from 1819. Of interest are the maps and plans drawn when the Ross to Monmouth Railway was being planned before the line opened in 1873, the Dead Woman which became the *Vine Tree Inn* by 1850, and an interior 1899 plan of Tudorville which was demolished in the 1970s.

### **FRIENDS of the HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**Broadfield Court**

**Bowley lane**

**Bodenham Herefordshire**

7.30 pm, FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011

followed by a talk on

**BROADFIELD COURT**

by

**RHYS GRIFFITHS**

and a tour of the house

Refreshments will be served

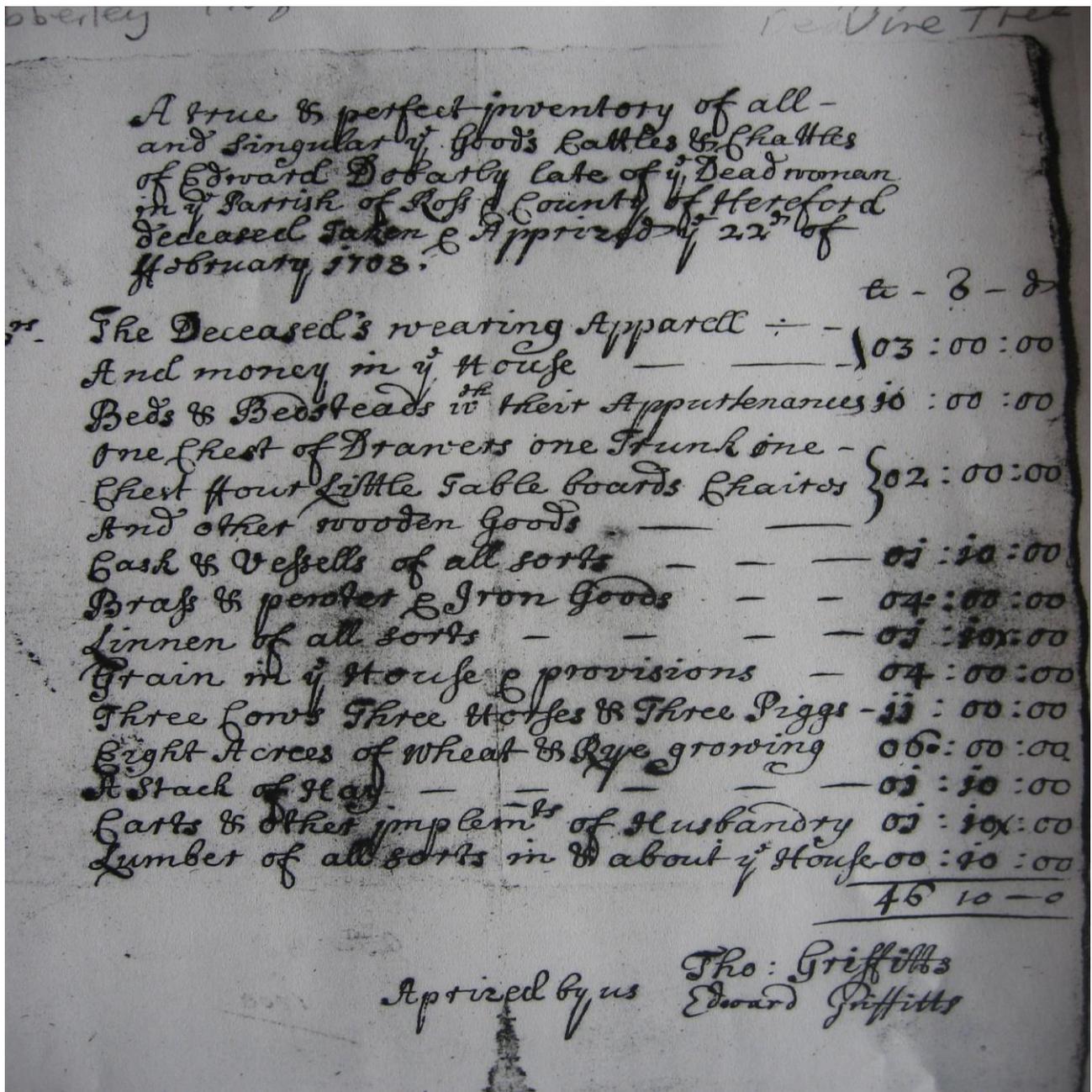
Numbers will be limited so please let Christine Harvey know if you wish to attend

**See separate note with this newsletter**

*History of the Deadwoman/Vine Tree*

When researching the history of the *Vine Tree Inn*, the Deadwoman name became known to me through an earlier run of deeds dating from 1551 when the property passed from Kyrle to Parry, and from Merrick to 'Edward Dobarly late of ye Deadwoman in ye parish of Ross' who left a clearly written inventory of 1708 before it passed to James Frere and John Bailey as tenant in the 19th century. As a gardener and seedsman John appropriately changed its name to the Vine Tree.

The Vine Tree as an inn continued to thrive throughout the 19th kept by Mortimer Overton and a succession of licensees, but about 1902 'All that messuage or Inn known as the Vine Tree Inn situate at Ross in the County of Hereford and all outbuildings' was purchased by Francis Wintle of the Forest Brewery at Mitcheldean. In 1923 the brewery's pubs were taken over by the Cheltenham Original Brewery, who in turn were taken over by Whitbread in 1937 when the Vine Tree was occupied by Mr H Crossley. Since then it has remained open with an adjacent caravan park.



## ***Deadwoman Legends***

The Deadwoman is a name derived from 'boundary stone' and apart from the Deadwoman on the Ross/Walford boundary others have been discovered by the author from the proprietors of the *Riverside Inn* at Aymestry and another from Roy Palmer's book on folklore. The Deadwoman on the boundary of Aymestry and Lower Kinsham adjoins two fields named as Deadwoman and Upper Deadwoman on an estate map of 1826. The unclassified road known as Deadwoman's Lane was recorded as an unclassified road by Herefordshire Council in 1936 and in 2010 was found to be almost impassable. The Deadman's Thorn near the parish boundary at Eastnor was recorded as a place in 1580, as Deddym's Thorn in 1816, Dead Man's Thorn in 1838 and now marked as Dead Woman's Thorn, where a thick hedge of hawthorn and blackthorn hide a derelict building.

Due to the unusual name and situation of each site, it is not surprising that each place has been associated with legendry tales. At Ross the story relates the death of a woman, which has two versions. Either a woman died after being chased by hounds and torn to pieces, or the woman was murdered while fetching water from the well in the woods. At Kinsham the legend dates from the closure of the churchyard for burials, when after an old lady's funeral service her coffin was carried north to Lingen. As the weather deteriorated and a snowstorm started, the temptation of a wake to the followers and coffin-bearers resulted in them drifting back to Kinsham and abandoning the coffin. It was forgotten after the merriment of the wake and remained in place until the spring. At Eastnor the Deadwoman's Thorn is associated with a man hanging himself from the tree.

### **Sources**

*Herefordshire Council, Unclassified Roads 1936*  
*Lower Kinsham Estate Map 1826, Geoff Gwatkin copy*  
*Eastnor Enclosure Map 1816, Geoff Gwatkin copy*  
*Hurley, The Pubs of Ross and South Herefordshire 2001*  
*Palmer, Herefordshire Folklore 2002*  
*Transactions of the Woolhope Club 1928*  
*Deadwoman Deeds CK66, BA31/177*  
*Riverside Inn, Aymestry*  
*Ordnance Survey Sheet 190, 201, 2006*  
[www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk/hfn/db.php](http://www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk/hfn/db.php)

**Heather Hurley 2010**

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## **HEREFORD RECORD OFFICE** **Talk on Maps and Landscape Change**

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November about 40 people packed into the HRO reading room to hear a talk by David Lovelace on *Studying Landscape Change using Historical Maps*.

David began by explaining the principles of the GIS (Geographical Information System), a database which allows the linking of information to parts of a digital image, allowing one to overlay and compare maps of different dates and scales, aerial photographs, and private estate plans where they can be found.

Over the last few years, David has been working on a revision of the Hereford Ancient Woodland Inventory (1984), and has found GIS to be a powerful tool which has allowed him to establish the veracity of the information in the Inventory, as well as adding many 'new' and smaller ancient woods to the collection.

For this work David used the 1840 county tithe maps as a baseline, depending heavily on scanned copies of the ones meticulously prepared by Geoff Gwatkins, where fieldnames are given and areas labelled with their land use, for example, woodland, grassland, etc. These uses can be colour coded easily using the GIS software and this helps with the visual comparison with the other images used: aerial photographs, the 1953 Forestry Commission Woodland Census, the 25" per mile Ordnance Survey maps of 1884, Bryant's 1835 map of Herefordshire, and 2" per mile OS drawings from 1816.

The second part of the talk took us on a tour of Herefordshire, showing the techniques in action all over the county, and the power of the GIS when combined with local knowledge, individual estate maps, and fine grain LIDAR (**L**ight **D**etection and **R**anging) contour maps. These were supported with abundant photographs illustrating the changes found in land use as well as their effects.

Lastly, David illustrated the use of GIS in other areas, such as tree ring analysis and as a powerful measuring device, for example in using a digital photograph of a tree to find its diameter and thus estimate its girth and age.

Great interest among the audience was attested by the number and variety of questions at the end, which continued as we adjourned for refreshments. Thanks are due to the HRO Staff and Friends for hosting the evening and for providing delicious sweetmeats along with tea and coffee.

**Fenny Smith Nov 2010**

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### **CRACKLOW DEEDS**

**Jointly funded by the Friends, Ross Civic Society and HRO**

At extremely short notice a member of the Friends was informed of two boxes of deeds that were to be sold at auction. The boxes contained deeds of properties at Symonds Yat that were acquired, leased or resold by Edwin George Agnew Cracklow between 1899 and 1909. A decision was made by the Friends to purchase them and a bid was successful in obtaining these bundles for the Herefordshire Record Office accessioned as CL59.

Within a couple of weeks the Friends heard that more deeds from the Cracklow collection were to be auctioned, so another successful bid was made for a large box of 30 documents relating to Symonds Yat and Hoarwithy. It is hoped that this completes the Cracklow Deeds of conveyances, leases, accounts, correspondence, plans, requisitions, declarations, sale particulars and boundary disputes from 1899 to 1912. Amongst the names in the deeds are Emily Williams, the Barnett family, the Brawns, Capt. Leslie, Mrs Herbert, A Lloyd, Jack Gardiner, Jane Wellsted, Marillier de Provence, Dr Turle, the Collins Trustees and Frederick Illingworth.

Names mentioned in the documents included Darklands Point, Top of the Rock, Harps, Little Patch, Cherry Tree Cottage, Bonds Tump or Vine Tree Cottage, Slippers Orchard, Meeks Well Orchard, Rockbourne, Mine Pits House, Row of Trees, Old Public or Miner's Rest, Allinders Cottage, Lime Stone Rocks and New Weir all on the Doward at Whitchurch. Other properties named were Folly

Cottage, The Poplars and The Folly at Hoarwithy. Cracklow's undated brochure of 'The Symond's Yat Bungalow Estate' contains photographs, house plans, maps and interesting prose as follows:

*'For all the beauty and wild character of its scenery Symond's Yat is a place easy of access. The railway decried by Ruskin, follows the river's winding course from Monmouth, and, having reached the village station, betakes itself from sight beneath the cliffs and leaves the valley undefiled. Excellent roads pass close by through Monmouth and sleepy Whitchurch, and by road or rail or river the neighbouring towns are reached with ease. For many years the place has been a chosen resort of pleasure seekers. In summer-time white tents dot its hillsides and meadows, the waters are lively with boats, and the laughter of picnic parties wakes the woods. Fortunate there are cottager and farmer with rooms to spare beyond their needs, for them country lodgings, however simple, are at a premium. This, it must be confessed, has hitherto been the one great drawback to the place. Lodgings have been difficult to obtain, hotel accommodation limited, and small residences unprocurable. Too many a holiday maker, asking no more than simple food and a roof under which to sleep, has had to return, baffled, whence he came. But now this reproach can no longer be levelled at Symond's Yat.'*

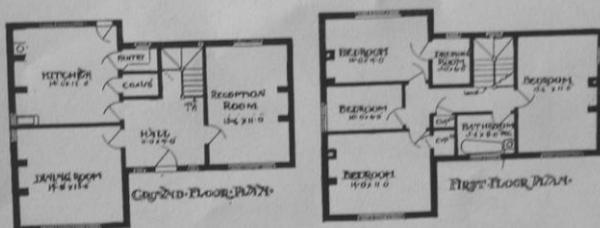
Little is known of Cracklow described as a 'Building Architect' who had moved from South Kensington in 1899 to develop 'The Symond's Yat Bungalow Estate'. His first purchase in 1899 was a piece of land at Darklands Point where he built Darklands for himself. From the documents it will be possible to trace his speculative ideas at Symonds Yat during the first few years of the 20th century. Cracklow died in 1931 at the age of 58 and was buried at Whitchurch, but his wife was still living in 1941 at Darkland Chalet and later married Fred Illingworth.

**Heather Hurley Nov 2010**

### Cracklow Deeds: The Symond's Yat Bungalow Estate brochure



Proposed Bungalow for Symond's Yat,  
to be erected in Brick Work or Timber, as desired.



Comprising dining and drawing rooms and hall, 4 bedrooms and dressing room, bath, kitchen, pantry, and usual offices.

Price (in Timber), £500.



accustomed to the inconveniences of camping out under tents, will find these huts a positive boon. They may be hired furnished or unfurnished, according to tenants' needs.

In conclusion we can only recommend those seeking a permanent country residence; those who, wishing to escape from the towns, desire a week-end cottage amidst the most charming surroundings; and those who seek open air and lovely and lonely scenery in which to spend their holidays, to apply forthwith to

G. E. AGNEW CRACKLOW,

Building Architect,

The Estate Office,

Symond's Yat.

## **The Civil War Notebooks of the Rev John Webb**

For many years Hereford City Library held a collection of manuscript notebooks in the handwriting of the Rev John Webb and his son, the Rev Thomas Webb. Of this collection 21 of the notebooks, in John Webb's hand, are wholly or partly concerned with the Civil War. How the Library acquired these is not clear, but the whole collection has now been transferred to Herefordshire Record Office.

John Webb produced four published works relating to the Civil War. The first of these, appearing in 1825, concerned not Herefordshire, but Gloucestershire; this was an historical introduction and notes to *Bibliotheca Gloucestersis*, a collection of contemporary pamphlets and other published material on the Civil War in Gloucestershire, reprinted by the Gloucester bookseller, John Washbourne. In 1857 Webb produced a short study of the account book kept in the 1640s by Joyce Jeffreys. When he died in 1869 he left unfinished two further works: an edition of the *Military Memoir of Colonel John Birch* for the Camden Society, and his magnum opus, the monumental *Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire*; both of these were completed and published by his son, Thomas.

The manuscript notebooks were John Webb's working sources for his published histories. They date from the mid 1790s when he was an undergraduate at Wadham College, Oxford, to the last decade of his life. In an age before photocopiers and computers and when even a railway connexion to Oxford and London was only available for the last few years of his life, documents in muniment rooms and other archives needed to be transcribed for continued use.

The material in the notebooks falls into the three categories Webb discussed in his correspondence with the Hopton family of Canon Frome in the 1820s and 30s (also in the Record Office):

- Local traditions surviving as oral history.
- Documents held at that time in the muniment rooms of local houses.
- Documents held in larger national collections such as the Bodleian, the British Museum and the Public Record Office.

Perhaps the most significant single example of material in the second category is the notebook containing Webb's annotated transcription of the Birch memoir. Though he was working on this for the Camden Society in 1868, he had been familiar for 40 years with the manuscript, then held at Garnstone in Weobley, once the home of Colonel Birch. Amongst the material from national collections is a small book containing all the locally relevant items from the letter books of Prince Rupert, which had been acquired by the British Museum in 1852. Also, there are very full transcriptions of the documents in the Public Record Office recording the fines imposed by the victorious Parliament on local Royalists; this information is much fuller than that summarized in the *Calendar of the Committee for Compounding*.

These notebooks reflect the fact that John Webb was not merely "Herefordshire's greatest antiquary" but an early practitioner of modern historical scholarship – seeking out and using as many primary sources as possible. It is this quality that has won him plaudits from historians such as Professor Ronald Hutton and the late Professor Gerald Aylmer.

***Adrian Harvey Jan 2011***

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**RECENTLY CATALOGUED BOOKS, MAPS, PARISH RECORDS, FAMILY PAPERS,  
PLANS etc. by THE RECORD OFFICE**

Cat. Ref	Description
CF45	Records of Kington Horse Show & Agricultural Society
CL17	English Mechanic & World of Science Journal
CL21	Newspaper cuttings relating to Golden Valley area
CD17	Ganarew Parish Council records
CD18	Hampton Bishop Parish Council records
CF22	Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes records
CJ87	Deeds for Moor Court Estate and other properties in Pembridge and Lyonshall
CJ94	Allensmore parish records
CJ95	Ledbury parish records
CK13	Withington Group Parish Council records
CK23	Colwall w Upper Colwall parish records
CK24	Coddington parish records
CK25	Hope Mansel parish records
CK26	Dilwyn parish records
CK27	Bridstow parish records
CK41	Much Dewchurch parish records
CK42	Staunton-on-Wye parish records
CK43	Walford parish records
CK44	Dixton parish records
CK45	Llangrove parish records
CK51	Kinsham parish records
CK77	RAF aerial photographs
CL16	Leominster Cottage Hospital records
CL20	Postcards of Wigmore and Hereford Cathedral
CL26	Camera studies of Hereford
CL46	Research on Short/Stirling Bomber EF 352 crash at Preston Wynne
CL47	Castle and Canon Frome Estate sales particulars
CL53 - CL54	Title deed for Royal Oak, St Peter's, Hereford
	Historical Record of The Hartlands, Colwall
CL56 - CL57	Herefordshire Ornithological Club
	Rotary Club of the City of Hereford
CL58	Hereford City Roads Committee
CL60	O Valiant Hearts Poem
CL62	Record of church furnishings for Hope Mansel
CL63	Pembridge Charities records

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## OFFICERS OF THE FRIENDS OF HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

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**Hon Chairman:** Mrs Heather Hurley, Upper Orchard, Hoarwithy, Hereford HR2 6QR. Tel: 01432 840 649 email: [heather@heatherhurley.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:heather@heatherhurley.wanadoo.co.uk)

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**Committee Members:** Mr Brian Smith, Mr Phil Bufton, Mrs Valerie Goodbury, Mr Adrian Harvey, Mr John Harrison, Dr Fenny Smith. **Ex Officio:** Mr Rhys Griffiths, Mrs Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe

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