



## Herefordshire Record Office

# *FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER*

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**FEBRUARY 2010**

**No. 87**

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### **RECORD OFFICE'S 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 1959-2009**

Herefordshire Council and the Friends jointly celebrated the 50th birthday of the Record Office on 19 November 2009. Councillor June French welcomed some 50-60 guests, including the Chairman of the Council, Councillor John Stone and the Leader, Councillor Roger Phillips, the Deputy Chief Executive Annie Faulder, and directors of departments, Zack Pandor, under whom the Record Office is managed, David Powell (Resources), Colin Birks (Property) and Tony Featherstone (Strategic Asset Manager), a powerful gathering of those currently most closely involved in the administration and future of the Office. From the past it was good to see Natalia Silver, formerly Cultural Services Manager, and, of course, Sue Hubbard, keeping out of sight until being presented with a Golden Apple, a beautifully turned-wood apple given by Councillor French in recognition of her past services. Among our own members and other guests were Bill Lawes and Charles Hopkinson, founder members of the Friends, Tony Brown, a continuing donor of many books for the Record Office's library and some of the volunteers, including Malcolm Mason of Eardisley and Neil Crosier, Roz Lowe, President of the Woolhope Club. The list could go on down the page for quite a distance, so apologies to those not mentioned.

In the unavoidable absence of our President, Edward Harley, the chairman of the Friends, Brian Smith, was invited to give an account of the history of the Office, which opened with his regret that had Herefordshire County Council heeded the proposal of Mrs Radcliffe Cooke of Hellens, we might now be celebrating a 77th birthday, not a 50th one. But the Council turned down the formation of a Records Committee and instead spent £11.10s.on improving the storage in the Shire Hall. Consequently Herefordshire was the last English county to establish a record office after the war, with the exception of the two extremes of the vast West Riding of Yorkshire, which had two repositories in Leeds and Sheffield, and the tiny county of Rutland.

He then recalled the names of some of those who had laid the foundations of the present service – F.C. Morgan, city librarian of Hereford who from the 1930s had provided a home for Herefordshire records offered for safekeeping; Shaw Wright, county librarian who promoted and sheltered the Record Office in its early years from 1959, R.C. Hanson clerk of the county council in 1959 who saw that the Office was, as now, well placed at the centre of the Council's administration to ensure the flow of modern records into the archives, Roger Ellis, secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts [HMC], who cajoled and encouraged its foundation, prompting the Lord Lieutenant and Customs Rootworm, Lord Colcannon, to use his influence in persuading the Council.

The successive achievements of the three county archivists, Meryl Jancy 1959-78, Sue Hubbard 1978-2003 and now Elizabeth, were warmly praised and applauded. As an archivist and later secretary of the HMC, and now a user of the Record Office, the speaker drew attention to the HRO's reputation for its outstanding helpfulness to researchers and congratulated all the staff on their contributions towards preserving the county's archives and making them available to thousands of researchers visiting the search room or sending in their enquiries.

Finally, he drew attention to the shortcomings of the office building. The Old Barracks was acquired in 1968, enlarged in 1973 and since refurbished, but it was now crammed full and sub-standard. He warned that microfilm and digitisation, though valuable for improving access, were no alternative to the proven longevity of the original records of paper and parchment, some in the HRO already 700 years old and good for another 700 if properly cared for. With that time scale in mind, he ended by calling for a toast of 'Happy Birthday', in which the Chairman of the Council led the singing.

Councillor French followed with the announcement that the Council were examining a site at Rotherwas potentially suitable for a new purpose-built repository and in the meantime were providing additional accommodation at Churchill House as a stop-gap amelioration of the problems facing the Record Office.

The party then broke up, some for refreshment and conversation, others to examine a display of (and competition about) a few of the most attractive historical documents in the HRO. The chatter was notably noisy, useful and prolonged – a sure sign of a happy event to close the Jubilee year.

**All members are invited to a talk by**

**Brian Smith**

**7.30pm, Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Herefordshire Record Office**

**“Saxton, Speed & Early Map Makers”**

**400 years since Speed's map of Herefordshire**

# THE RECRUITING OFFICER

Charles Hopkinson

Recently, seeing a reproduction of Hogarth's well-known painting 'The March to Finchley', which he painted in 1749 depicting troops marching to encamp at Finchley during the 'forty-five, it reminded me of an episode which Edmund Cox recorded in his *Journal* that same year. As a Cornet (the most junior commissioned rank in the cavalry) in the Second Dragoon Guards he was appointed a recruiting officer for his regiment.

Recruiting in Cox's time was a matter for individual regiments and the responsibility of their colonels. In peacetime, colonels aimed to raise men from volunteers, but in time of war local authorities would have assisted them in pressing (conscripting) local men for military service. Colonels' instructions to regimental recruiting officers clarified and, on occasion bent, the various standards and procedures which were laid down by the War Office from time to time, and in wartime these were often relaxed.

Recruiting parties generally consisted of a subaltern, entrusted with a large sum of money, and a sergeant with an escort and a drummer, working an area designated by the War Office in a 'Beating Order'. Although Cox's regiment was stationed in and around Petworth in Sussex, he was apparently offered the post as a recruiting officer in Shropshire; this would have been an attractive offer as he had just married a Shropshire girl and was on leave in Shrewsbury. He had received a letter from a Captain Roper of his regiment that 'I might have a recruiting party sent me in case I choose it. Which I had sent to me Serj<sup>l</sup> Guy & Munk Drum [Drummer Munk] Arriv'd at Shrewsbury Feb<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1749.50'. On a later spell of duty Cox was on duty at 'Ludlow Fair with my Party' and a couple of months later attended 'Leominster Fair'. In the report of General Campbell's Review of the regiment in 1750, three Cornets were noted as being absent from the inspection on recruiting duties.

Once a man had become engaged to become a recruit and hopefully received his bounty, the recruiting officer had to bring him before a magistrate within four days to confirm enlistment; the man could then refuse service but would have to return his bounty with an additional sum to recompense the recruiting officer for his wasted time. The recruiting officer was liable for any financial loss through loss of bounties, and was responsible for conducting recruits to the regiment. Once there, a recruit could be rejected when any expense would fall on the officer, just as it would in the case of death, desertion or illness on the way to the regiment. It is hardly surprising that service as an eighteenth-century recruiting officer, usually undertaken by junior officers in rotation, was not a popular one. In Cox's case, however, he seems for personal reasons to have been pleased to serve in that capacity

The Second Dragoon Guards were also known as the 'Queen's Bays'. By 1753 all the regiment's horses were bays except for the drummers' greys. At this period Dragoon horses did not exceed 15 hands. *Cox's Journal*, covering the period 1740-1762, together with my commentary, is part of the Gatley Park Collection in the HRO: F76/G/23-8 etc.

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# ORCHARDS, HOPS, HOLLOWAYS, WOODS & COPPICES IN EARDISLAND A COMPARATIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY, 1842-2008

**Paul Selfe**

**The aim**

*“A comparative study of changes in the land use (with reference to orchards, hop yards, woods, coppices and trackways) in the parish of Eardisland using data recorded on the Tithe Map of 1842/44”.*

In 2007, local expert in landscape archaeology Rebecca Roseff, gave a talk to the Eardisland History and Heritage Society and subsequently led a walk through an area of the parish. Following this, members undertook in 2008, an observational study and recorded the changes that had occurred since the publication of the Tithe Map (1842/44) with regard to the number of orchards and hop yards in the parish. Other additional features of interest, such as evidence of hop kilns, holloways, and unusual trees in the landscape were also noted. Information was duly gathered and collated. It is believed that this is the first such attempt to make a comparative record in the parish of Eardisland of the changing landscape over a long period of time.

**Method**

Data was obtained from Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), which gave a sufficiently detailed record of all hop fields and orchards in 1842/44. Interested group members were asked to check (by visit or by internet provision of Google Earth, an internet provision) as large a sample as possible in 2008, of the relevant fields marked on the Tithe map and record similarities and differences. Record sheets were used. All field numbers used related to those on the Tithe map. The parish was divided into 4 sectors to enable group members to divide the task conveniently between them.

**Example: Orchards: Map sector no: 1, 2, 3 or 4. (circle)**

**Date:**

Field name 1842	Field no.	Description: (approx no. of trees if orchard still exists)	Photo Yes/No
1.			
2.			

**The value of the findings**

It was hoped that the comparative data recorded would reveal changes that had occurred since 1842/44. Such information might then cast light on changes in the social and economic structure of the parish (changes in crops grown, types and varieties of fruit, population, numbers employed in agriculture; etc). The findings would also have value for future local historians.

## ***Development***

Once the project was agreed, data was downloaded from the Hereford Archaeological Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) providing the full list of orchards which appeared on the Tithe map. This produced a total of 249 orchards, and a total of 63 hop fields (of which 7 were in the detached part of the parish.) Google Earth was used to assist in locating and examining some of the more obscure fields. As the work observing and recording the relevant fields proceeded, assistance, advice and information was received from a number of local people which was invaluable and background research was undertaken.

### **5. The work of geographer Dudley Stamp (1)**

*The Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain*, based at the London School of Economics and led by Professor L. Dudley Stamp, began in 1931 and was completed for most counties by 1935, although the very last area, the Isle of Arran in Scotland, was not completed until 1941. Stamp published county-level statistics in his book, (1948 and later editions). By way of example, the report of the land utilisation survey of Cornwall published in 1941 makes use of comparative data for which he used existing surveys of Cornwall. These had taken place in 1602;1758;1794;1813 and some later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He also made use of official statistics published between 1866-1938 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which detailed information about the production of crops and the changing economy of the area. In addition, he examines a few farms as case studies. In compiling his data, Stamp is thorough and very detailed and his work remains an exemplar for future comparative research. In reaching his conclusions about the changes that have occurred he applies a range of geographical and economic indicators.

His chapters deal with population changes; the climate (including statistics relating to rainfall and temperature); the geology of the area, soils and their impact on the variety of land uses noted. These typically include arable; pasture; forest; woodland; gardens and land that is defined as 'unproductive'. He also considers the significance of the rivers and streams of the area. His research produces data on the types and varieties of crops grown in the region; the dates of harvests; the output (in weight) and the markets used for distribution. He analyses why particular areas grow particular crops and contrasts changes in acreages over time. Although Stamp organised schools throughout Britain to map land use in their local area, using standard categories as defined by him, it has not been possible to locate such work for Eardisland. (It is believed the Stamp archive material is held in Portsmouth University). Nor has any similar detailed analysis of changing land use in Herefordshire been uncovered. There is no evidence so far of a record of the way land use has changed specifically in the parish of Eardisland from the time the Tithe map was produced.

Stamp's work is clearly a major thoroughgoing piece of research. By comparison, our work has been a very modest attempt to begin a study of the changing land use in the parish of Eardisland by examining changes which have occurred with regard to two crops, those of apples, and hops. Following Stamp, limited research was undertaken using available historical and documentary sources. These included books on local history, some data from the Eardisland WI book 1956, (which made use of oral testimonies from then elderly residents) and Directories from 1856-1932 to ascertain some of the details recorded about the parish of Eardisland.

## **(ii) Changes in agricultural production after 1844**

**Robinson** (2) (1978) says that in 1871 the city of Hereford had a population of 16,851 and was important market centre. The coming of the railways 1850s had stimulated the development of agricultural industries, the growth of flour and saw mills, as well as providing opportunities to transport hops, apples and cider, which duly increased in production. The agriculture around the city had a three-fold base of wheat, hops/orchards and cattle and sheep.

**A.E. Salt** (3) (*Economic Geography of Herefordshire*, 1954) notes that after 1871 the population of the county declined until 1931. There were opportunities for workers in Canada and USA to due to the building of the transcontinental railways which opened up the Midwest. He suggests that it was accelerated by the tragic years of 1870-1881; in 1879 22,000 farmers went bankrupt in the wettest years of the century. Cereal prices fell markedly from the mid 1870s; the price of cattle fell by a third between 1883-1895. In the same period, meat imports rose by 50%. Beef prices fell from the mid 1880s. Further price falls occurred in the 1890s. In the 1860s the acreage of hops in Worcestershire and Herefordshire represented one tenth of the national total. At that time, hop growers received a boost through the removal of Excise Duty on hops, and this coupled with a rapid expansion of the brewing industry, produced a sharp rise in acreage, which in Herefordshire rose from 4,500 in 1850 to 6000 in 1878. From this peak a combination of foreign competition, technical changes in brewing and rising productivity costs in the hop industry produced a national decline. Foreign hops were used for blending purposes and there were changes in public demand for beer.

The orchard acreage remained static over the period 1875-1900 but cider consumption did not increase, only the larger growers produced commercially. Domestic production and consumption remained high and even in 1900 labourers were receiving two to three quarts of cider daily in addition to their wages. Cider making provided a valuable source of revenue at a time when many agricultural product prices were dropping, although there was often insufficient money to renew old orchards. "*The farmer with hops or orchards had a valuable, if unreliable source of revenue that could offset some of the other decreasing product prices*". Apples remained a useful commercial fruit with the ability to transport them on the railways.

Hop production in Herefordshire tended to be cheaper than elsewhere in the county and profits fluctuated. Profits from production of cider apples did not vary so much.

Over the last 30 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> c there was a rise in agricultural wages associated with union activity. In the 1870s wages were around ten-eleven shillings (50p-55p) per week, plus cider. These did not compare well with other areas of the country. It was not until the 1890s when labour became scarce that wages increased.

In 2008 a steep rise in the price of basic foods occurred and was predicted to rise again. The impact was most severe in third world countries, and riots took place in Bangladesh and Haiti. It is estimated that in Britain the typical family's food bill has increased by 15% in a year (4). The increase in global food prices was the highest since 1945. In 1909 (5) there were similar concerns about basic foodstuffs, when the price of wheat rapidly rose causing the price of bread to increase as harvests failed and American speculators cornered the available wheat. In this period there was a further movement away from the land towards urban areas (especially to the mines of south Wales).

We can conclude that such factors as described by these sources affected the economic and social structure of Eardisland. It remains to be seen how things will further develop and change in the future.

### **Main Findings of the Eardisland project:**

- There are 249 orchards listed on the Tithe map 1842/44 of which 71 were found to be in the “detached” part of the parish, subsequently merged into Weobley parish. For the purpose of this study these were ignored.
- We were able to examine all 178 fields marked as orchards in 1842 either by personal visits (the vast majority) or by viewing them via ‘Google Earth’ to get a satellite view: (views from 2000).
- Of the 178 orchards marked on the map in 1842 only 38 now remain as orchards: 140 have been lost. It was difficult to identify all with precision since hedges had been removed and field shapes had changed. Many of the remaining oldest orchards were in a sad state of decline.
- We located 11 fields which now contain orchards and which were not on the 1842 map; four of these are very recent and on a very large scale and are well looked after, probably encouraged by the large cider manufacturers and other local producers.
- Attempts were made to photograph orchards and woods, but inevitably it is hard to do justice to them; but they do give some idea of their present state for future reference.
- It is hard to ascertain the varieties of fruit being grown. Few records seem to be kept in relation to the oldest orchards; it is believed some rare fruits exist.
- It seems that the loss of orchards and hopfields has been the result of major changing economic factors affecting agriculture. There were 63 hopfields listed on the Tithe map. Seven of these were in the detached section of the parish (and not examined). All hop fields appear to have gone, although there are 4 hop kilns in existence in the parish (one of which is no longer visible, being incorporated into another building), and 3 others exist in Dilwyn parish, each within approximately 500 metres of Eardisland parish boundaries, indicating their once significant importance.
- It is apparent that during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries apples and hops were very valuable crops since there was a high demand for them among local breweries and cider manufacturers as well as for domestic use. We located the sites of three substantial cider mills in the parish which were once of great local importance.
- It appears, from the listings in the Directories consulted, that there was a major decline in hop growing after the First World War. There are few mentions of hop growers after 1922 in Eardisland, but we were surprised to find none in 2008 since a few people recalled spending time hop picking within recent memory in the vicinity.
- Woods and coppices marked on the Tithe map are largely still in existence although generally of smaller size. A few unusual trees were recorded.
- The discovery of a number of holloways and lost roads or green lanes proved an unexpected positive feature of the project. A few of significance were located; it is thought likely that many more could be found. This has led to further proposed projects to locate and mark these old trackways, to see if they have relevance for the identification of lost communities within the parish.
- It is believed that we have produced a useful record which future local historians can use to see what further changes may occur in the future.

**Sources:**

1. Stamp, D *The Land of Britain: Its use and misuse* (1948)
2. G.M.Robinson WT Vol XLII 1978. *Agricultural Depression 1870-1900.*
3. A.E.W. Salt (*Economic Geography of Herefordshire*, 1954 in: **Herefordshire: Its Natural History, Archaeology & History**. S.R. Publishers, 1971)
4. Times reports: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.
5. Times report 21 April 1909

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**NEWLY CATALOGUED COLLECTIONS**

CAT. REF.	DESCRIPTION
BZ56 – BZ62	Basil Butcher Collection
BZ81	Ross-on-Wye Town Council Records
CC14	Leominster Town Council Records
CC15	Eardisley Group of Parishes Newsletters
CC33	Herefordshire Ornithological Club Records
CC34	Yazor Magazine
CD70	Tony Brown Collection
CD71	Records of the Manor of Marden & Moreton Parva
CD72	Archaeology projects
CH37	Dormington Parish Records
CH38	Bartestree Parish Records
CH39	Withington Parish registers
CH40	Lugwardine Parish Records
CH41	Abbeydore Parish Records
CH42	Dixton Parish Records

**Vicky Connaughton**

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**Welcome to this issue of our Newsletter. As you will have read, the Herefordshire Record Office has been in existence for 50 years and is now embarking on its second half century. The conditions in which the archives are kept are now not the best – varying temperature and overfull – and new premises are urgently needed. Let us hope that our County Council listens to our pleas and enables new premises to be built. Editor.**

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## FROM THE BOOK SHELVES HRP LIBRARY REPORT

Heather Hurley  
Hon Librarian

### New Acquisitions

During 2009 the stock of the library has only increased by fourteen new volumes which have been accessioned, classified, shelved and entered onto the date base. Most of these new books have been either donated by authors or purchased by the Friends of the Record Office. In future only books that have been donated will get a mention or a short review in the Friends Newsletter.

John Powell from Ross researched and wrote '*Hard Times in Herefordshire*' a book which looks at each of the eight Herefordshire Unions, focusing on a different aspect of the Poor Law in each place. It was published by Logaston in 2008 with a few black and white illustrations. '*A Herefordshire Tale*' by Peter Davies covers the story of a hop farm in Dormington which has been farmed by the Davies family from 1864 to 2004, and Geoffrey Barnes donated his '*Founding of Hereford 6<sup>th</sup> Form College*'.

John Eisel and Ron Shoesmith joined together to produce a well illustrated edition of '*Herefordshire Pubs*' published by the History Press in 2009. This is a collection of county wide pubs selected from Logaston's pub series researched and written by various authors including John, Ron and myself. M A Faraday has added another useful reference book to his list '*Calendar of Probate and Administration Acts*', and Sylvia Pinches launched her colourful '*Ledbury a market town and its Tudor heritage*' the results of England's Past for Everyone funded project.

On behalf of the Friends the Hon. Librarian has purchased '*Treatise on Cyder-Making*' a facsimile edition published by Fineleaf in 2009 of the original book written by Hugh Stafford in 1753. She also added two more Pink Publications produced by the Ross Civic Society '*Dubricius- Celtic Saint of Herefordshire*' by Margot Miller and '*James Cowles Prichard 1786-1848, doctor, linguist, anthropologist*' by John Powell.

### Binding

The Friends have paid for six volumes to be repaired or bound by Blissetts who only charged £159.97 for their excellent service. The volumes including a Kelly's Directory, the 1802 Census and the latest volume of the Woolhope Transactions. Not forgetting the two new folders acquired by the Record Office to replace the tattered ones for filing Gibson's Guides for Genealogists.

**Friends of the Record Office are invited to the meeting of  
HEREFORDSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
Wednesday, 21st April 2010  
See leaflet with this newsletter**

**FRIENDS of the HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
At the Record Office, Harold Street, Hereford**

**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010 at 7.30**

**FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY**

**DAVID WHITEHEAD**

**“TUDOR HEREFORD”**

**See leaflet with this newsletter**

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**British Newspapers 1800-1900**

The British Library has made available around 50 local and national newspaper titles on line for searching, which opens a whole world of fascinating information for family history researchers. The website, <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>, has some free searchable articles, but the initial route for searching is on a word such as a name or place, which brings up "snippets" with the word itself highlighted, but you cannot see the whole article. The snippets have an intriguing quality about them, as of course you don't get the whole story, but at least you get a date and a publication name. However, you can subscribe to the site for a day, giving 100 hits on articles, or for a week, which gives 200 hits. You only register a hit once you have clicked on the article, and it is possible to download articles as pdf files once you have found what you want.

My husband Dave and I discussed about which subscribing option to go for, having found some interesting snippets with family names. We decided to give the second option a try, so we could have a more considered approach to the investigation process. The site proved to be a complete goldmine and we really enjoyed searching the articles once we had checked out the snippets. For example, I knew that my ggg-grandfather drowned in Cornwall in the 1820's, but I was able to see an article in the Morning Chronicle of September 10 1827 detailing the accident where he and two companions, who were all ship's pilots, were lost eight leagues off Penzance when their jolly boat capsized. For Dave, the description of the court case in Portsmouth where his great grandfather was freed from his indenture as a result of what today would be described as child slavery gave an incredible insight into the employment of apprentices in the 1880's.

Fortunately we have unusual surnames to check out (Wichbold and de Rouffignac), and that made the searching easier. However, for common names, there can be hundreds of snippets, so be prepared for some long trawls. You can isolate which publications you want to search, which can help in some cases. There can be some confusion over word recognition and spelling, but you can do alternative searches and partial words. We would recommend this website as something to investigate when either the weather is going to be terrible for a whole week during the summer or you have cold dark winter days where there's nothing else to do, as once you start looking, you can't stop!

Clare Wichbold

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### **NEWS FROM THE HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

Since my last report appeared in the newsletter a lot has been happening here at the Record Office. We have enjoyed our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, including a successful celebration evening with the Friends. We have also had an inspection from The National Archives, and whilst we have not yet received the formal report, we understand that improvements will be required to the building to improve the conditions in which the documents are stored. Some improvements have already been made, following the inspection and we now have humidistat controlled dehumidifiers in the stack and three of the other strong rooms. They've been turned on for two weeks and are already helping to keep the humidity stable. A space has been found for us to have an out store (as we have outgrown Harold Street rather!) and work is due to begin at the beginning of March to transform the Hatton gallery in Hereford to an archival strong room. The needs of the future are also being looked at – a new record office building featured in the Corporate Property Strategy which was approved by Herefordshire Council's Cabinet and the PCT's Board just before Christmas. We now await the formal inspection report from The National Archives to see what they want us to do and by when, before any further plans are made.

You may have seen the adverts for the final 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event "Tales from the Archives" an evening of dramatic readings of extracts from the archives. It features John Challis and a number of volunteer readers from groups based at the Courtyard – tickets are already sold out for what promises to be a memorable evening, but I'm sure there'll be a report in the next newsletter so that those of you who are unable to attend can share in the evening!

Other outreach events planned for the coming year feature the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first map of Hereford by John Speed. There will be a series of talks looking at mapmaking then and now, a competition to produce a textile piece of artwork inspired by the map and a children's competition to decorate a house – just like those shown on Speed's map. It all kicks off with a talk by your very own Chairman, Brian Smith – on 8 April at 7:30pm, looking at Saxton, Speed and early mapmakers. Other events later in the year I'll mention in my next report!

We are also making available the exhibition space in our entrance hall to other groups – and starting us off this year, from March is Webbshare, the local history group researching the work of the astronomer Thomas William Webb from Hardwicke. If you belong to a group who would like to present a small exhibition in the Record office, contact Rhys Griffith who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Staffing wise, we still have Philip Bouchier, replacing Alison Bignell whose secondment at the Modern Records Unit has been extended until the end of August 2010. We briefly had an extra researcher, Victoria Rossiter, but she left to pursue other career options. One of our long-standing researchers, Muriel Tonkin retired at the end of 2009, as did our cleaner/caretaker, Maureen Russell. We have decided that we can manage with two researchers at the moment, but cannot manage without a cleaner – so are currently recruiting for a replacement.

You will all know of the difficulties that local authorities face today and how this is affecting service budgets. So far, we have not been asked to make any cuts, but the new budget for next year has not yet been confirmed. We are asking for approval to increase some of our charges, many of which have not been increased for at least 5 years – if they are approved, this will be publicised in the Record Office. I also have to submit my report regarding the 6 month trial of 1 day closures. We will also publicise the outcome of that.

As ever, the support of the Friends is warmly received, but especially so as we make plans for the future – your views will of course be formally sought – but any comments at any time are of value!

Elizabeth Semper O’Keefe  
Information Services Manager

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## **OFFICERS OF THE FRIENDS OF HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

**President:** Mr Edward Harley.

**Hon Chairman:** Mr Brian Smith Bryn Farm, Vowchurch Common, Hereford HR2 ORL. Tel: 01981 550 623

**Hon. Secretary:** Mrs Christine Harvey, The Green, Kings Caple, Hereford HR1 4TX Tel: 01432 840 466).

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[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/archives)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**7.30pm, Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**“Saxton, Speed & Early Map Makers’**

**Brian Smith**

**Herefordshire Record Office**

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**Wednesday, 21st April 2010**

**Herefordshire Medical Society**

**Post Graduate Centre, County Hospital, Hereford**

**Speakers Drs Henry Connor and Jane Adams**

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**7.30pm, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010 Friends AGM followed by**

**David Whitehead Presentation**

**“TUDOR HEREFORD”**

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