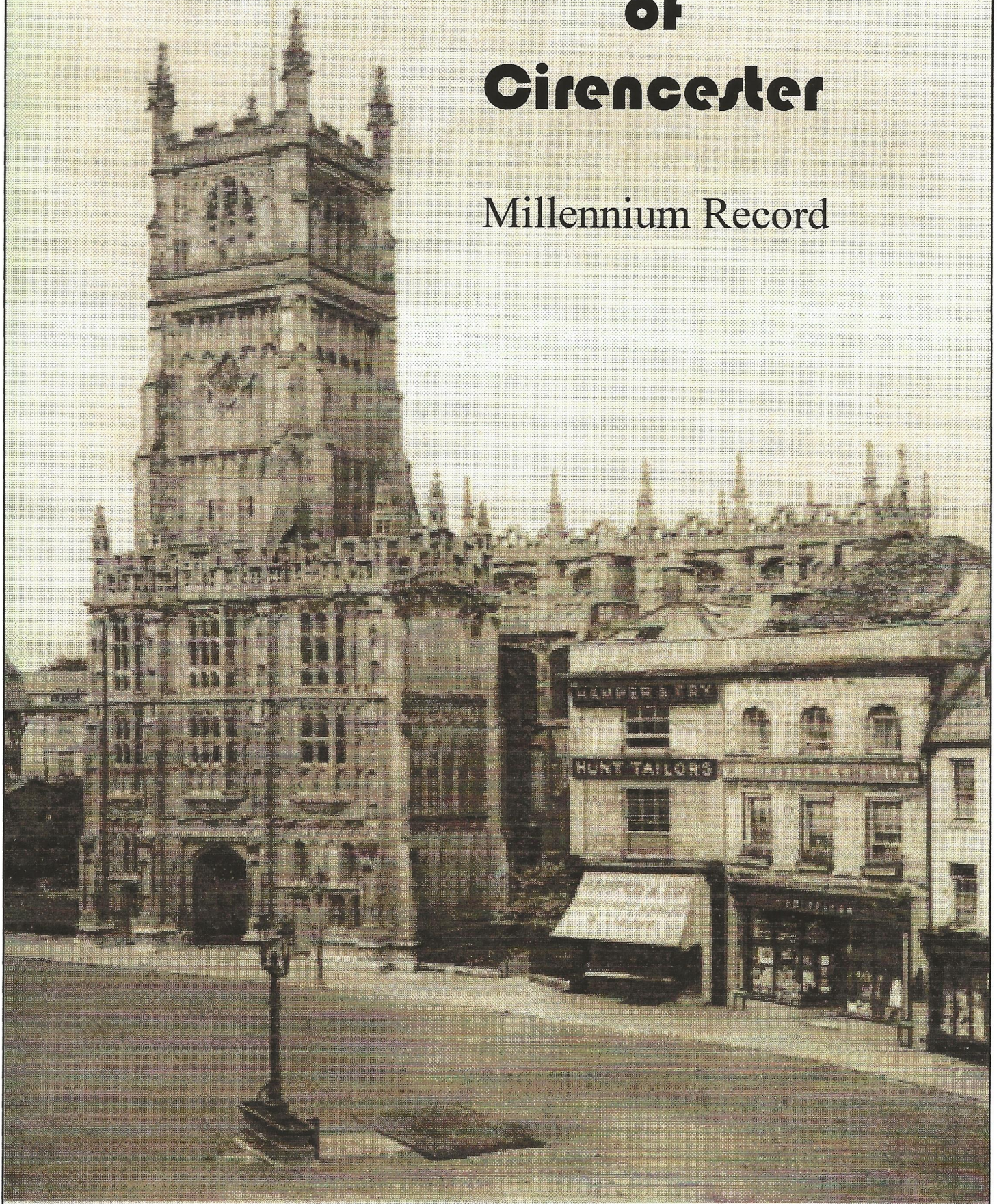


Probus Club of Cirencester

Millennium Record



The Probus Club of Cirencester

A Millennium Report

A Letter from the Chairman

It would be wrong to allow the Millennium Year to pass without marking it in an appropriate way. We have already celebrated the year 2000 with our Millennium Luncheon and now we publish our very first Millennium Report.

The primary purpose of the Millennium Report is to celebrate the fellowship which has followed from the Club's 29 years existence. A secondary, yet no less important, objective is to acknowledge the debt we owe to the founding members.

On Friday 22nd January 1971 about 20 potential members met for an Exploratory Meeting. Their object was to consider the viability of setting up a Probus Club in Cirencester. Using the constitution of the Hereford Probus Club as a guide, they resolved to use the aims and objectives of that club, to proceed to forming one of their own and to meet again the following week.

At the Inaugural Meeting on 29th January 1971 they set up a Steering Committee, essentially the forerunner of our present day Committee.

The following Friday, 5th February 1971, the First General Meeting of the Club was held. 18 members attended and there were three apologies. The meeting formed itself into the first Annual General Meeting to adopt a constitution, limit membership to 50, set the subscriptions (£1 per annum) and elect officers for the year.

A General Meeting was held the following Friday. This was informal in character and designed to allow members to meet and get to know each other. An even more important task was that of arranging for coffee to be served at subsequent meetings! A list of Coffee Stewards was drawn up and the Club's first speaker arranged for the following week.

And so it was that on Friday 19th February 1971 members met together and, after the coffee formalities, welcomed their first speaker. Thus the pattern had been set for the format of the club thereafter. The programme for the first 12 months of the Club's existence involved a total of 51 meetings. These included talks by 11 guest speakers and 21 Club members, there were 3 discussions including a formal debate, a luncheon at the King's Head, a bowls match against Cirencester BC, a visit to the House of Commons (return fare 85p!!) and a sherry party at which 27 members and 23 ladies attended. Membership, initially 21, grew to 45 in the first twelve months. A busy first year.

Our founder members, sadly none of whom are with us today, would take great pleasure from the fact that the Probus Club of Cirencester is every bit as active now as it was in the 1970s. Importantly, they would be delighted that the stated purpose of the Club is unchanged and today's members derive the same good fellowship that they themselves did.

As we approach the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Club we applaud them for their vision.

June 2000



Members of the Probus Club of Cirencester 1971

Ham Albert **	Harold Ford	Archie Munro
Alan Arthur	Owen Forsdyke	Arthur Noble
Oliver Bannister	Tom Franklin	Fred Packer
Donald Beer	Toby Gurd	Lindley Passmore
George Blackman	Charles Hawkins	Sid Percival
Dennis Blick	Harry Higgins	John Phillips
Henry Bride	George Hudson	Bill Pymm
Charles Burdett	Ted Hughes *	Peter Swann *
Eric Cole	Francis Hulbert	Bert Tingle
Frank Cook *	Peter Jackson *	Ray Tranter *
Joe Cook	Wally Kelley *	Cecil Turner
Victor Coverley-Price	Len King	Ted Webb
George Crossland	Neville Le Fleming	
Bert Day	Bill Minnis	* denotes held the
	Bill Moreton	Office of Chairman

The Club's First Committee - 1971/2

Chairman	Wally Kelley
Hon. Sec	Bill Moreton
Hon. Treasurer	Joe Cook
Members	Frank Cook
	Ted Webb

Early Speakers to the Club

First speakers

19 th February 1971	Mr Peter Jackson	Cirencester street names
26 th February 1971	Mr V. Coverley Price	Activities
12 th March 1971	Mr Derek Waring	Future development of Cirencester
6 th December 1974	Mrs Hazel Cook	Painting on porcelain

Earliest current members to speak

25 th February 1977	Ken Hudson	Financing the Health Service
11 th March 1977	Peter Webb	Westonbirt Arboretum

Past Chairmen

1971	WH Kelley	1981	Peter Swann	1991	NH Lloyd
1972	GP Jackson	1982	SF Inward	1992	D Slingsby
1973	ARM Tranter	1983	KJ Hudson	1993	MK Harding
1974	MF Cook	1984	GP Jackson	1994	Dr. F James
1975	R Allport-Williams	1985	Ham Albert	1995	K Ponting
1976	HL Cook	1986	L Stevens	1996	CT Absalom
1977	HJ Higgings	1987	GA Thompson	1997	B Davis
1978	Brig. FEC Hughes	1988	P Beckerlegge	1998	Dr. EJ Gibson
1979	AR Lodge	1989	PH Webb	1999	J Stevens
1980	Ham Albert	1990	PN Tiffany		

The Committee for the Year 2000

Chairman	Peter Payne
Chairman Elect	George Field
Hon. Secretary	Eric Gibson
Assistant Hon. Secretary	Geoff Richards
Hon. Treasurer	Tony Hutchinson
Programme Secretary	George Richards
Social Secretary (co-opted)	Peter Rowe



Peter Payne

Mayor of Cirencester

The Club is honoured to have as one of its members, Norman Whereat,
who currently holds the office of Mayor of Cirencester.

Members of the Probus Club of Cirencester - 2000AD

1	Chris Absalom *	19	Ken Hudson *	37	Don Slingsby *
2	Ron Haggerty	20	Gavin Langley	38	Albert Penny
3	Brian Walters	21	Dr Fred James *	39	John Stevens *
4	Peter Rowe	22	Malcolm Wilson	40	Stan Strange
5	George Field	23	Dr Geoff Richards	41	Martin Barnett
6	Gerry Cutts	24	Norman Lloyd *	42	Bob Bliss
7	Philip Beckerlegge *	25	Peter Williams	43	Peter Tiffany *
8	Prof. Roy Postlethwaite	26	Ross Mitchell	44	Tom Askwith
9	Bernard Davis *	27	John Pascoe	45	Bill Walkey
10	Bill Durham	28	Derek Nicholas	46	Tom Kolb
11	Dr Eric Gibson *	29	Peter Van der Linde	47	George Strawbridge
12	Morris Harding *	30	Peter Payne *	48	Peter Webb *
13	Rev. Peter Hearn	31	Ken Ponting *	49	Ted Woodhouse
14	Eric Hartley	32	George Richards	50	David Wray
15	Desmond Lindsey	33	John Ryland		
16	Clifford Titmus	34	Tony Hutchinson		
17	Ralph Gordon	35	Norman Whereat		
18	Elwyn Roberts	36	Derrick Seath		

* denotes held the office
of Chairman

The History of Cirencester (A selection of significant events)

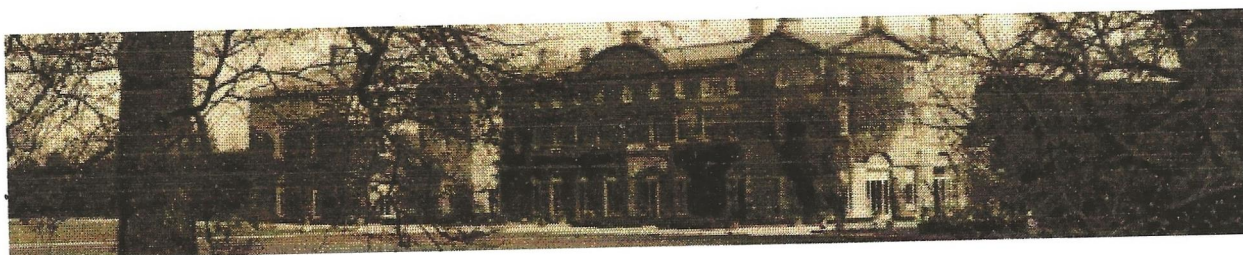
43	Roman invasion of the island begins.
47	Construction of Fosse Way linking Exeter and Lincoln.
75	Romans develop Bagendon and later Corinium.
5 th Century	Withdrawal of the Romans.
577	Town falls to Saxons.
9 th Century	Danes in Cirencester.
1066	Norman invasion of the island begins.
1086	Mention of 'Cycestre' in Domesday Book with a reference to the market.
1117	Founding of the Augustinian Abbey of St Mary and the parish church of St. John.
1176	Consecration of the Abbey.
1458	Probable founding date of the Grammar School at Park Lane.
1483	Weaver's Hall built in Thomas Street.
1500	Porch added to the parish church.
1539	Dissolution of the Abbey begins.
1563	Mansion built on site of the present Cirencester Park mansion.
1628	Forced billeting of soldiers on the town.
1642	Overturning of Deputy Lieutenant Lord Chandos' coach by hostile crowds.
1643	Civil War - town seized by Prince Rupert and visited by Charles I.
1651	Prince Charles passes through <i>en route</i> to the coast and exile.
1655	Harassment of Quakers in the town.
1663	Charles II visits the town.
1722	Powell's School endowed - but not opened until 1740.
1741	Daily postal service - via London, Oxford, Cirencester, Gloucester and Bristol.
1743	Visit by John Wesley and again in 1745.
1788	Visit by George III and family to view work on the new canal.
1789	Opening of the Cirencester arm of the Thames and Severn Canal.
1817	Town population now about 5,500.
1818	Planting of the yew hedge behind the high wall of Cirencester Park.
1825	Building of The Querns, now part of the present hospital.
1827	Cheltenham Road opened and turnpiked.
1820/30s	Buildings (and streets) cleared from what is now the Market Place, drains and culverts constructed, paving stones laid, street cleaners employed, oil street lighting.
1833	Watermoor gas works brings gas to town and the appointment of a lamp lighter.
1836	Conversion of former the Poor House into a workhouse for 300 inmates.
1837	Lock-up moved from Gloucester Street to present site adjacent to the workhouse.
1839	Cirencester's new police force established - housed in Gloucester Street.
1841	Opening of the 'Town' railway station.
1842	Royal Agricultural College founded - main building opened in 1846.
1840	Wilts & Glos Standard moves to Cirencester from Malmesbury having begun there in 1837.
Mid 1800s	Cattle market moved to Tetbury Road site.
1850	Growth of town justifies building a new church at Watermoor.
1856	Museum opens opposite market site.
	Building of The Barracks.
1859	Police station and magistrates' court opened at the Park Lane/Castle Street junction.
1862/3	Corn Hall completed.

1875	Cottage Hospital built in Sheep Street.
1879	Opening of the Council School in Lewis Lane.
1881	The Grammar School moved to New Road, later re-named Victoria Road.
1883	Opening of Watermoor railway station.
1893	Cirencester Golf Club began life in Sapperton moving to present course in 1910.
1896	Ashcroft Methodist Church founded.
1894	Creation of Cirencester Urban District Council.
Early 1900s	Endowment of Bingham Library (at Bingham House) and of The Bingham Hall.
1914	Bingham Hall becomes a temporary casualty clearance station.
1921	Housing development begins at Whiteway later continuing in The Mead, Bowling Green and Chesterton by 1938.
1920s	Picture House moved from Market Place to London Road/Victoria Road site.
1937	The Regal cinema opened.
1938	Corinium Museum opens in Park Street.
1939	First evacuees arrive in September.
1940s	Bingham Hall houses Pioneer Corps and New Zealanders.
1944	Military vehicles assemble in the park prior to D-day landings.
1960s	Clearing of the Forum area - opening of new police station and magistrates' court. Closure of both railway stations. Development of a ring road and by-pass.
1966	Grammar School closed and pupils transferred to the Deer Park complex.
1971	Probus Club of Cirencester founded.
	Roman mosaic discovered in Beeches Road.
1974	Rural & Urban District Councils replaced by Cotswold DC & Cirencester Town Council.
1975	Bingham Library moved to The Waterloo. Leisure & Sports Centre at Old Tetbury Road opened.
1976	Kingshill School opened.
1984	Redevelopment of St. Michael's Park.
.	Niccol Centre opens.
1999	'Time Team' unearth Roman tessellated paving and other artifacts at the rear of Chester Street and evidence of a wall and floors nearby.
2000	Town population approximately 20,000.

Reflections on the work of Time Team.

Even on the first of the three days of their project Time Team unearthed more historical evidence than they find on most other digs. The reason for this was that they were excavating an area of Cirencester which had not been built on by the Saxons, Normans or anyone else. In other words, digging straight down, the first remains waiting to be found were Roman. Their further work nearby revealed a substantial Roman wall and flooring.

In the City of London, even to the present day, remarkable finds from Roman Londinium are still being unearthed. There is much more below the modern day London surface that might never be excavated. Likewise with Cirencester. Hidden below our streets, particularly beneath listed buildings, lie remains of Corinium which might never see the light of day. But unlike the City of London there still exist areas of Cirencester which are virgin territory or where re-development might take place. In those instances further substantial finds could be unearthed in our lifetime.



A bit of our own 'history'

How many people before us have enjoyed membership of our Club since its formation in 1971. As far as our records show there have been over 90 known past members who have either resigned, moved away or passed on.

Reg Adlington	Arthur Harnden	Sid Percival
Ham Albert	Bert Hatcher	John Phillips
Dick Allport-Williams	Charles Hawkins	Peter Piper
Victor Annette	Dan Heaven	Bill Pymm
Oliver Bannister	Harry Higgins	Lawrie Robinson
Maurice Bates	Freddie Holtam	David Saville
Jack Bazley	George Horner	Alan Say
Donald Beer	Jack Horsfield	Jack Scantlebury
George Blackman	Frank Howes	Gerry Searle
Dennis Blick	George Hudson	Edgar Smith
Henry Bride	Ted Hughes	Hugh Spear
Charles Burdett	Francis Hulbert	Steve Stevens
Reg Bunt	Peter Jackson	Peter Swann
Arthur Burge	Mervyn Lascelles	Bill Tarn
Laurie Clark	Allan Lodge	Gerald Thompson
Eric Cole	Patrick MacIlwaine	Bert Tingle
Joe Cook	Wally Kelly	Owen Tranter
Frank Cook	Ken King	Ray Tranter
Vic Coverley-Price	Neville Le Fleming	Norman Trout
George Crossland	Eric Marsh	Cecil Turner
Bert Day	George Martin	Lang Walters
Rafe Defferary	Bill Minnis	Willy Watt
Mervyn Dobson	Alan Mobbs	Richard Watts
Harold Ford	Bill Moreton	Alan Weatherley
Owen Forsdyke	Cyril Mundy	Ted Webb
Tom Franklin	Archie Munro	Tom Wells
Brian Gegg	Arthur Noble	John Westwood
John Godley	Fred Packer	Ernie White
Len Green	Bert Parry	Leslie Williams
Toby Gurd	Lindsey Passmore	George Wilson
John Hammond	Alex Payne	WH Woodhouse
Ron Harlow	Graham Peddie	

CIRENCESTER - in 1066-86 (An extract from *DOMESDAY BOOK*)

In CIRENCESTER Hundred

King Edward had 5 hides of land. In Lordship 5 ploughs:

31 villagers with 10 ploughs, 13 slaves; 10 smallholders.

3 mills at 30s; meadows and 2 woods at 5s.

2 free men who have 2 ploughs. The Queen has the sheep's wool.

Before 1066 this manor paid 3 ½ measures of wheat, 3 measures of malt, 6 ½ sesters of honey, £9 5s, and 3000 loaves for dogs: now it pays £20 5s, 20 cows, 20 pigs and 16s for bread.

From the new market 20s, of which St. Mary ('s Church) has the third penny.

In CIRENCESTER a free man held 2 hides of land and paid 20s in revenue, and served the Sheriff throughout the whole of England. Earl William put this out of the revenue and gave it to one of his men.

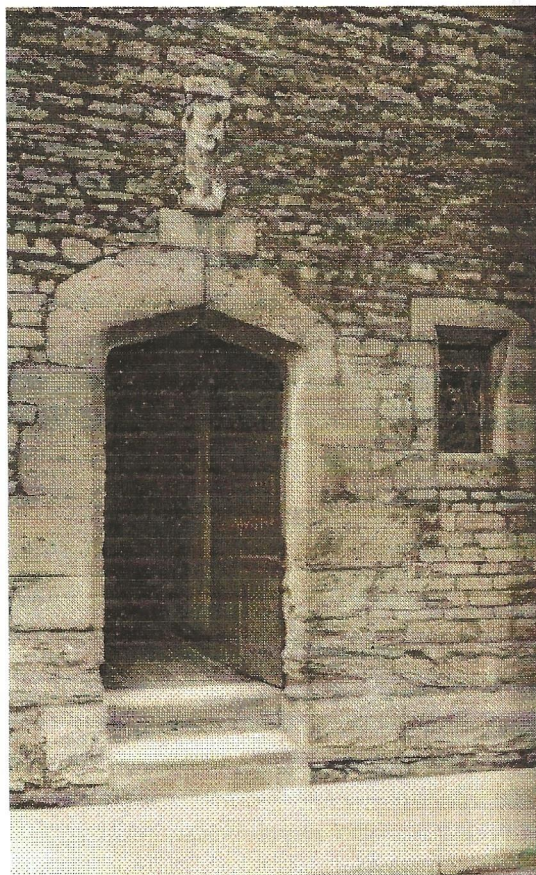
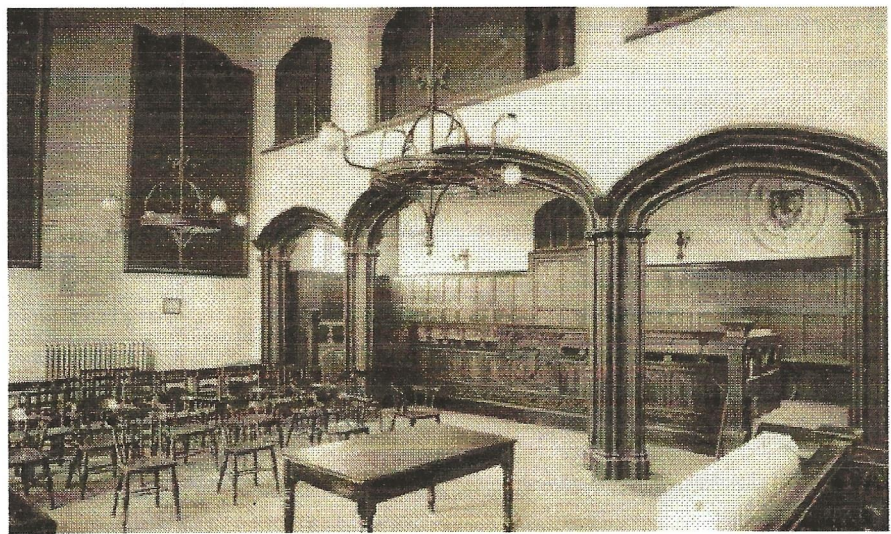
[Domesday Book consists of records compiled for the benefit of William the Conqueror. It was essentially a census to see who owned what, both in the time of Edward the Confessor and at the time of compilation. As a result it also showed who owed money to the Crown! Only 57 persons are mentioned. These would have been males. However, adding possible women, children and others not mentioned it suggests a population, on the land held by the King, of (perhaps) less than 500.

Source: *Domesday Book. Gloucestershire. Phillimore. Chichester 1982 @ 1 (7 and 8)]*

STREET-WISE

**The Club's first speaker in February 1971 had as his subject 'Cirencester Street Names'.
How many street names can you find in these clues?**

- 1 You might find yourself in these straits.**
- 2 Dark John could have lived here.**
- 3 Jack Hulbert's wife lived near Willie the bookmaker.**
- 4 He is very clever at steering the sleek boat.**
- 5 A west country cheese street.**
- 6 This big bird has a large area of pain.**
- 7 A well-known reserve currency.**
- 8 Did Dick Whittington take this road?**
- 9 Not all that glisters is gold.**
- 10 This street has neither a moat nor a portcullis.**
- 11 Rising from the flames, the eagle came this way.**
- 12 This world champion boxer from Wales was a kid and just lived down the lane.**
- 13 They might be trees or possibly sea shores.**
- 14 Makes rams, ewes and lambs sound cheap.**
- 15 Sputum at the entrance.**
- 16 This licensed facility carries extra weight.**
- 17 You might think you can leave your car here - but you can't for long.**
- 18 If you have a new home, then it should be down here.**
- 19 This street does not carry as much weight as Chesterton.**
- 20 An unusual torrent of rain and flooding.**
- 21 Fortunately the rain and flooding has ceased.**



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TOWN?

Where would you find:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Top | A Norman Arch |
| Centre | A meeting place |
| Bottom | A hall which was
once a hospital |

Photograph of current members

(Taken at the Millennium Luncheon held at the Masonic Hall on 7th January 2000)



Standing L to R

Roy Postlethwaite, David Wray, Tony Hutchinson, Peter Rowe, Eric Hartley, Gavin Langley, Tom Kolb, Gerry Cutts, Albert Penny, Geoff Richards, Malcolm Wilson, George Strawbridge, Peter Tiffany, Peter Williams, Bernard Davis, George Richards, Peter van der Linde.

Middle row L to R

Philip Beckerlegge, Ted Woodhouse, Derrick Seath, Bill Walkey, Ken Ponting, John Pascoe, Fred James.

Front Row L to R

Chris Absalom, George Field, Bill Durham, Norman Lloyd, Bob Bliss, Clifford Titmus, Norman Whereat (Mayor of Cirencester), Peter Payne (Chairman), Brian Walters, Eric Gibson, Peter Webb, Morris Harding.

MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER!



Unfortunately our predecessors were too camera-shy to have group photographs taken. However, there must have been many snapshots taken on outings. The one above was taken in the early 1990s on a trip to Oxford. Can you recognise any faces - past or present? If you have any photographs including members of yesteryear please lend them to us so that we can create a record for posterity.

The Probus Club of Cirencester

Social Calendar for the second half of the year 2000

Friday 18th August	Special Meeting followed by the Summer Luncheon	The Masonic Hall Members and guests
Friday 20th October	Autumn Luncheon	The Fleece Hotel - Members only
Tuesday December 5th 12.30 for 1pm	Christmas Luncheon	Minchinhampton Golf Club Members and guests
Friday 22nd December	Carols and entertainment	Waterloo – members only
Friday 29th December (Provisional)	Last Meeting of the year 2000 Followed by a Pub Lunch	The Crown of Crucis Members only

and provisionally for the first quarter of 2001

(Exacts date to be decided)

January	Annual General Meeting	The Waterloo
January	Coffee Morning	The Bingham Hall
February	30th Anniversary Luncheon	To be decided