

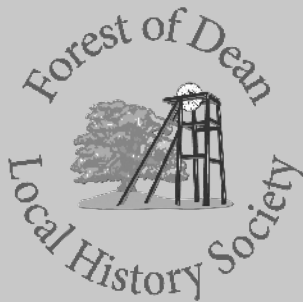
FOREST OF DEAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

news
February 2020



In this edition:

- The Chair points to 'Good Signs at New Fancy'
- Why the Letters Stopped Coming
- Ian Standing reviews 'Hidden Landscapes of the Forest of Dean'



News

February 2020

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Editors Notes

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter!

The front cover shows the History Society project team standing in front of the newly installed replacement information signs at the Geomap at New Fancy, namely (from left to right): Mary Sullivan (Chair), Simon Moore, David Harris, and Cheryl Mayo. The original signs were put in place when the Geomap was unveiled at New Fancy in 2008, the effects of the weather during the intervening eleven years had damaged the original signs to the point that replacement was the only option.

In the middle pages you will find part one of an interesting article provided by a new contributor, Steven Carter. Thank you Steven, and welcome along to the valued group of authors who write regularly for this newsletter! Steven describes the infamous 'Speech House Murder' which happened in 1861. The 'ripples' from the aftermath of the murder affected several families across two continents as you can read for yourself.

Elsewhere in this edition, John Powell provides an interesting piece about local morris dancing in times gone by. It seems that the seemingly innocent pastime could actually be rather violent, perhaps even murderous!

Last but certainly not least, Jon Hoyle is known to many members of the Society who have attended his talks over a period of many years. Jon worked for Gloucestershire County Council as an archaeologist, and perhaps he is best known for his association with the LIDAR aerial surveys of the Forest of Dean. The LIDAR surveys provide the 'spine' of Jon's magnificent new book 'Hidden Landscapes of the Forest of Dean'. On the back cover, Ian Standing has provided a compelling review of this really important addition to essential books on Forest archaeology and history. If you want to add it to your library (and who wouldn't!), please note that a 30% reduction in cover price is available if you order online using the code shown on the back cover.

Keith Walker

Short pieces of news, views, and opinions for the Newsletter are always very welcome. Every effort will be made to reproduce articles as presented but the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary. The Editor will assume that all necessary authorisation for attachments, photographs etc has been obtained and the FODLHS will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.

Views from the Chair - *with Mary Sullivan*

A belated happy new year to all our members. As well as our usual programme of interesting talks to help get us through the winter there are a number of other events ongoing that I want to tell you about.

We are researching information on adult education in the Forest in earlier centuries for our GLHA display on Saturday 25th April.

It is not too late for you to offer any material you may have or to get involved in the research if that would interest you. Speak to me or Averil Kear.

We are talking to our website hosts and IT providers about how to improve our website so as to make it more user friendly and easier to use on tablets. Any ideas gratefully received. We still need a member who would be willing to help with loading content into the website and generally looking after it. You need no more than a general competence in using a website to undertake this role.



The Forest of Dean Mining & Technical School (later College) first opened in 1925 in Cinderford. It was one of the first adult education establishments in the Forest area.

looking for a few people to form a work party on Wednesday 22nd April to undertake this task.

We have now been awarded funding under the Foresters Forest Landscape Partnership Project to set up a Local History Festival in 2021. In this we will work with many partners, in particular the Dean Heritage Centre to create a varied and lively programme of events that will really put the Forest on the map. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact me. The other funding winning project is the preparation of a new Children's History of the Forest, suitable for 7 – 11 year olds. We hope to launch this publication in 2021, possibly at the festival.

So a lot going on. The more you get involved the more you will hopefully get out of it!



Now a few thanks. Thank you to Gill Claydon for yet again updating the New Regard index to incorporate the articles in volume 34. This task, that Gill kindly undertakes every year, makes it so much easier for others to search and find articles in all our 34 volumes.

Another thanks, to Darryl Moore, brother of our Conservation Officer, Simon, for fixing up the new information signs about the Geomap at New Fancy site. And thanks to David Harris for all his work in producing these lovely clear, informative new signs. To finish this spruce up of the Geomap we need to clean and repaint the lines on it. So I am

Best wishes - Mary Sullivan

MEMBERSHIP



Membership renewals closed at the end of January, so if you receive this newsletter you have paid. Thank you all for an excellent renewal rate again this year and welcome to 2020. A particularly warm welcome to new members Doreen Davies, Richard Matthews, Patrick Kyne and Jane Browne. We hope you enjoy your membership of the society.

As usual, I will do my best to keep you all informed of what's happening not just with our society but with other history-related events in the Forest and the county generally. And if you know of a history-related event happening which you believe would interest our members, do let me know.

I look forward to catching up with you at one or more of our upcoming meetings and outings planned for the year. Regarding events which need to be booked, please note that booking forms/details will be included in the newsletter nearer the time.

Cheryl Mayo - Membership Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 8th February - 3pm - West Dean Centre, Bream, GL15 6JW
Worcester Archaeology talk about
“Archaeology in the Forest of Dean”

Saturday 14th March - 3pm - West Dean Centre, Bream, GL15 6JW
Bob Berryman talks about
“Bathurst open-air poll, Lydney, celebrates a 100th Anniversary”

Saturday 18th April - 3pm - West Dean Centre, Bream, GL15 6JW
Di Court talks about
“In the Shadow of the Hills - can the Forest Heritage survive?”

Friday 24th April - 7'30pm - Blakeney Village Hall, GL15 4DW
Andy Mellor talks about
“The Glosters at Waterloo”

Further details about the events are available on our website:
www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk/events/



Local History & Schools *by Cheryl Mayo & Roger Deeks*

FORESTERS' FOREST

The society has always been committed to reaching out to Forest schools to encourage and support the learning of key aspects of local history. There have been occasional successes, but curriculum pressures and overworked teachers have meant things have not always progressed. However, over the last couple of years we have seen a shift towards incorporating local history in the curriculum which is providing opportunities.

One driver of this shift is a major change in the OFSTED inspection framework, making it more important to focus the curriculum to reflect the local context. The other is the drive by the Foresters' Forest Heritage Lottery programme to involve schools in everything from newts and ponies to Forest literature and history. Mary Sullivan and Cheryl Mayo attended a Foresters' Forest open day for schools last year and were able to talk to teachers and give away packs showing how the society could support their local history teaching. Contacts have been made in other ways, and society members were treated to a presentation by Lydbrook Primary School last year highlighting the huge amount of work going on there to integrate local history with the national curriculum.

These developments and our recent World War One publication prompted requests from primary Schools to advise teachers about local resources and assist in teaching children about the local impact of the conflict. We have been delighted to respond to this and Roger Deeks and Cheryl have been able to visit schools to offer support and information. This has included giving an overview of the War and the experiences and changes that resulted within the Forest. Crucially children have developed their critical skills in looking at source material. They have included field work, visits to local memorials and places of commemoration.

One result of this work is that we have seen the need for a children's history of the Forest to provide a base line for students and for teachers, a starting point for their more in-depth research into different aspects of Forest history. Thanks to funding from Foresters' Forest, this book will become a reality in 2021, which is very exciting. More of that as it progresses.

If you have links with a school (primary or secondary) and they are seeking support about any aspect of local history, please feel free to contact Cheryl at membership@forestofdeanhistory.org.uk or Roger at vicechair@forestofdeanhistory.org.uk.

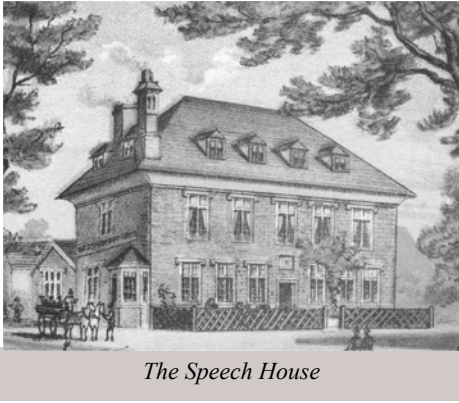


Roger Deeks talking to pupils about World War One at Lydbrook School in November 2019

Why the Letters Stopped Coming - Part 1 *by Steven Carter*

The Speech House Murder is an infamous event in Forest history, but the background lives of the attackers and their fate in Western Australia is less well known.

In August 1861, the brutal, inexcusable killing of Littledean's Police Sergeant Samuel Beard at Speech House caused outrage in the Forest and the wider nation. Aris's Birmingham Gazette reported the "murder by sheep-stealers" of this "experienced and trustworthy officer", who was "well-known for his resolute dealings with the half-civilised inhabitants of the Forest of Dean." Sgt Beard became the Gloucestershire Constabulary's first officer to be murdered on duty - one of only two before the millennium, both meeting their violent ends in the nineteenth-century Forest of Dean.



The Speech House

This article uncovers his attackers' lives and part two will reveal their later fate in Western Australia.

The Outrage

Sgt. Samuel Beard (aged 37) died on 24 August 1861, from a fractured skull and other injuries received a week earlier, when he was bludgeoned and kicked by poachers, whom he had confronted late at night in the field behind Speech House. Sgt. Beard met farmer Thomas Guest in the Speech House, looking to catch night-time sheep stealers, but the suspects never appeared. For this moonlit

Saturday night, Thomas (29) and George Cooper (23), Thomas Gwilliam (31) and Richard Roberts (34) had come with ferrets and three dogs to kill rats at the landlord's request. The landlord had put down poison, so they decided not to risk the ferrets. They stayed for several drinks. Sgt. Beard, with farmer Guest, decided to follow these four drinkers from the public house.

Sgt. Beard and Guest split up. Beard caught the four catching hares in the field behind Speech House. Beard was reputed to be a match for any two men. He decided to apprehend them and took hold of Thomas Gwilliam. For some time, Thomas Cooper repeatedly begged Beard to release his friend. George Cooper came up, threatening to force the release and hit Beard with a stick. When Beard stunned George with his truncheon, Thomas Cooper struck Beard twice with a heavy stick; and claimed Thomas Gwilliam hit him with a metal tool. (Gwilliam had borrowed the file at Speech House for a domestic task, but a deadly strike broke Beard's jaw.) According to Beard, the three men kicked the fallen police officer senseless. Roberts had been some distance away from the attack, but came over and urged them to stop. Beard was fatally hurt, but lingered on in pain for a week. Before dying from these vicious injuries, he identified his attackers as brothers George and Thomas Cooper, Richard Roberts, three colliers, and quarryman Thomas Gwilliam, all from around Berry Hill.

An inscribed headstone was erected on Beard's grave in Littledean Churchyard. A collection was made for his bereft widow and young family. Angry crowds gathered at Littledean Gaol where the accused were held. At Gloucester's December Assize they were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude. In 1862 Richard Roberts was granted a free pardon, as he had not taken part in the deadly affray.

The Coopers

The Christchurch Parish Registers record Thomas Cooper's baptism in 1830 and George's in 1837, with their parents as William and Hannah Cooper. Berry Hill, like much of the Royal Forest, had been preserved for centuries, first as a hunting ground for kings, and then as a source of timber for England's Navy. Thomas's grandparents were probably among those squatters who moved into this uninhabited part of the Forest in the late eighteenth

century, settling illegally during a time of weak Forest administration. This explains the sprawled-out nature of these early settlements – owing more to piecemeal squatting than any overall planning. By the 1840s these extra-parochial settlements were being legalised. In the 1841 Census William, a Joyford collier, and Hannah had six sons and one daughter. Another daughter had died at only eighteen months. During the Hungry Eighteen-Forties, the family hit hard times. The mother Hannah died of cancer in 1844. Sarah the older daughter likely took on her mother's role until she ended up in Monmouth workhouse, where she and several other inmates died during the 1849 cholera outbreak. The father William died there too in 1850. The younger brothers were inmates in the workhouse and the other brothers were dispersed. Thomas's two older, married brothers both died in the 1850s. In 1853 Thomas married Sarah Jones and started a family: William (after his father), Emily and George (after his brother). Thomas and Sarah were expecting their fourth child, Lucy, when Thomas was arrested. He claimed that he had always worked hard, since a child. This was probably true. The Mines Act 1842, prohibiting children under ten years old working in mines, came too late for Thomas. Common work for children included sitting in the dark, opening the ventilation doors for passing coal carts; and hodding, dragging trays of coal through narrow, low tunnels. Such roles were likely before he became an adult collier. Previous brushes with the law suggest Thomas, alias "Crow", had a tendency to rowdiness, but he and the others were regarded as general of good character.

After the Trial

After the trial, Thomas and the others were kept in Gloucester prison. If his wife Sarah visited, this would likely be the only time he ever saw his new-born daughter. In May 1862 both brothers were transferred to Millbank Prison in London, but Thomas was moved on to Pentonville. Three months of "silent and separate" reformatory treatment in these penitentiaries aimed to reform prisoners. Prisoners were kept segregated in their cells and wore face masks in the exercise yard to prohibit communication. Afterwards, Thomas and George were sent to public works at Portland Prison, likely quarrying stone. The Cooper brothers and Thomas Gwilliam left England in March 1863 on the Clyde, bound for Western Australia. They spent most of the 75 days of quiet passage below deck in cages.

Part two of this article will reveal what happened to Sgt Beard's attackers once they reached the remote Swan River colony at Freemantle in Western Australia, on the far side of the world.



*Prisoners in Pentonville Exercise Yard (early 1860s)
From 'The Criminal Prisons of London & Scenes of
Prison Life' by Henry Mayhew*

Iron Production in the Dean (Part 9) by Cecile Hunt

Leaving Cinderford the coach travelled down through Lydbrook to the River Wye. Iron started being processed, and goods produced, in Lydbrook during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. From Upper to Lower Lydbrook iron mills, forges, furnaces and associated works filled the valley making it noisy and an unhealthy place to live. In the vicinity of the village shop can be seen some remaining walls of iron work buildings. Distribution of iron was made easier by using the River Wye to transport raw materials and goods to many regions, one place Forest ore was transported to was Tintern.

Stopping on the way at Tinmans Green, Redbrook. Redbrook Copper Works used ore brought from Cornwall via Chepstow and worked until 1740 when it closed down and the buildings were leased for the manufacture of tinplate. It is from this iron ore that the village got its name – the brook running down the valley through the village often ran dark red. Passing Whitebrook on the far bank of River Wye a jetty is visible beside the farm there. It was built specifically for the Whitebrook wireworks, founded about 1606, to bring iron in and wire out.



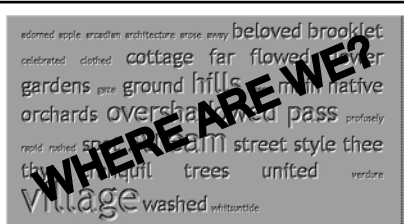
Tintern viewed from Devil's Pulpit

One mile past Llandogo are the remains of Coed Ithel Blast Furnace. The base was 24 ft square, and the height would have been just over 20 ft. The blast from the bellows would have entered about 18 inches above the bottom of the hearth. It used ore from the Forest of Dean, charcoal and bloomery slag. Limestone was not included in the charge. The furnace was in use in 1651. Average weekly output was 18 tons in the period 1672-6. It lasted until the beginning of the 18th C, but was not included in the 1717 list of blast furnaces.

The second half of the 16th century saw significant industrial development in the lower Wye Valley. Wireworks were founded at Tintern in the 1560s. The Forest ironworks of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, may have been used shortly before 1597 by Richard Hanbury for trial making of Osmund iron for the Tintern wireworks. In Tintern, the old Wireworks Bridge, built in 1875, provided a good vantage point to look down on what had been a small floating dock constructed in 1693, lock gates impounded water at low tide. Forest of Dean iron ore came into Tintern via this floating dock. The lock site was filled in in 1998 as part of a flood defence scheme. There are several information boards around the site.

Then on to Wireworks car park, site of Lower Wireworks, behind the George Inn. For three centuries thousands of tons of wire were produced here giving employment to hundreds of wireworkers. Information plaques around the the car park give an insight into the Wireworks. In the 1500s some of the finest wire in the country was produced here and shipped out to places such as Turkey and the Barbary Coast.

Finally, up the hill to St Mary's Church, now a ruin since fire destroyed it in 1977. Why this church? Its graveyard is home to several impressive tombs of people associated with iron. And the view...!!



In this series Averil Kear is setting a challenge for you to identify exactly where the text below is describing. The only help you are getting is that it is in the Forest area! To make it more interesting there may be a small prize for the first person who contacts the editor with the correct answer! Contact details are inside the front cover.

This great tree-grown bank and its accompanying dry ditch is more than twelve hundred years old and even now, as the cattle seek shade from the summer sun in the ditch now arched with oak, ash and hawthorn and brambles, the violence of this ancient place still casts its shadows. In the 8th century the kings of Mercia were constantly beset, on the east by marauding Danes intent on pushing their settlements further and further westward, and on the west by savage attacks from the Welsh. Thousands of men must have worked on the Dyke which was thrown up along the whole length of the border from the cliffs here at ??????? to the mouth of the Dee, a distance of almost 200 miles. Offa, King of Mercia, is said to have ordered this massive operation and the dyke begins here overlooking the confluence of the Severn and the Wye, the point marked by a great grey stone.

Rough & Tumble at the Dancing Grounds *by John Powell*



Did he fall or was he pushed? We will never know the truth but according to legend and an old newspaper cutting, a member of a Forest of Dean morris dancing ‘side’ was the tragic victim of a free-for-all when tempers frayed at and the fists began to fly at a meeting of dancers at The Point Inn on Plump Hill in the 1880s. The story has it that one of the dancers fell to his death down the pub well when ‘sides’ from Ruardean and Mitcheldean both arrived at the inn and disputed the rights to the dancing ground. It was said to have been the reason why morris dancing stopped in the Forest.

It was not the first occasion local morris dancers had clashed. The newspaper cutting reports the following account printed in the *Gloucester Chronicle* in 1836: *“The Morris Dancers of Monmouth, the Forest and Lydbrooke assembled at Cymon’s Yat on the Wye at Whitsuntide to celebrate their annual ‘revels’ upon that commanding eminence. This year parties contended for the possession of the post of honour and a serious engagement took place which ended in several of the parties being carried from the field very seriously injured.”*

On a happier note the newspaper reports that morris dancing was at that time hugely popular and that traditionally the dancers were regarded as the bringers of good luck ensuring sunshine and good crops. It says that the origins of the word ‘Morris’ are uncertain but a popular theory is that it is a derivative of ‘Moorish’ used to describe dancers who blacken their faces in order that their identities should remain concealed.

Some of the tunes still performed locally include two complete Ruardean dances. The ancient tradition was carried out in many local villages, among them Brockweir, Bream, Alvington, Lydbrook, Mitcheldean, St Briavels and Blakeney and Newnham. If any member can add to the story the editor would be delighted to hear from you.

Meetings in Review *with John Powell*



Newnham pictured from across the River Severn

The author Brian Waters surely stepped on a toe or two when he declared Newnham's beauty as belonging to the landscape rather than the architect. One of those itching to persuade him otherwise would certainly be Nigel Haig, guest speaker at the society's November meeting, who did a grand job in persuading the rest of us that bricks and mortar — as well as lovely views — contribute immensely to the character and charm of towns and villages, so much so that council officials now give it a grand title: The built environment. To you and me, that's houses! In Forest of Dean terms, Newnham's High Street definitely stands out from the rest. For sure it is grand and imposing, with impressive buildings giving strong hints of previous ages steeped in wealth and substance. Nigel took us back to the days when the Severn was the A48 of its day; a time when Newnham enjoyed the lifestyle and hustle and bustle of a busy port, transferring cargoes from upriver craft to bigger estuary and coastal vessels. It brought prosperity and all the trappings that go with it. A Crown Court, a Magistrates' Court and a police station followed as did a new age of opportunities to replace the diminishing river trade. In a nutshell, Newnham changed from sailors to solicitors! Later, and as the town progressed and continued to flourish, further properties were built to infill the High Street and give it the Georgian facade we are familiar with today.

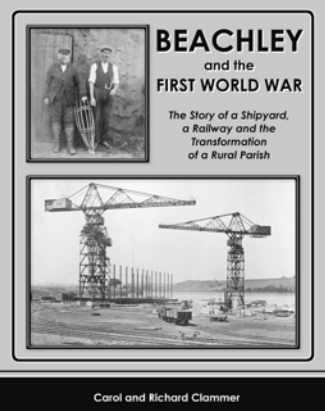
In the 'twenty minute slot', after tea, the society's Keith Walker and Ron Beard — both intrepid hikers — presented a shorter version of the highly popular New Fancy stroll. Working with Cheryl Mayo, the shorter version covers 6.1kms and is mostly on easy tracks and gentle inclines. And there is plenty of history along the way. In addition to the New Fancy monuments, the walk takes you past the Wellington mine, Morse's colliery and Wallsend, one of the Forest's few remaining operating free mines. A worthwhile project, this is sure to be well used and is another feather for those who do so much good work for the society.

When '*Beachley and the First World War*' arrived on the book shelves in 2017, it didn't take long for word to spread that here was something rather special. Authors Carol and Richard Clammer had sub-titled their work 'The story of a shipyard a railway, and the transformation of a rural parish' and, boy, didn't they do themselves proud!

Most of us, I suspect, had previously associated Beachley with the Civil War, the army and the Severn ferry, while vaguely recollecting a story that some ship-building had taken place there, the remnants of which sank ignominiously into the Wyeside mud as the end of the First World War cut off the requirement for the vessels. None were ever launched.

However, the book was a revelation. It told how on the 3rd of September 1917 all the inhabitants of Beachley were given just ten days to pack their bags and quit the village to make way for thousands of Royal Engineers and German prisoners of war. They were to be the

The author Brian Waters surely stepped on a toe or two when he declared Newnham's beauty as belonging to the landscape rather than the architect. One of those itching to persuade him otherwise would certainly be Nigel Haig, guest speaker at the society's November meeting, who did a grand job in persuading the rest of us that bricks and mortar — as well as lovely views — contribute



muscle-power to build and equip a shipyard in record time. Skilfully told, the words were enhanced by a stunning collection of photographs most of which had never previously been published.

Pleasingly, their impact was only heightened by being transformed for use on the big screen and so they delighted society members who turned out in force to listen to an absorbing talk by Richard Clammer at our December meeting held at Bream's West Dean Centre. The twists and turns were cleverly woven by Richard who told the amazing story and its outcome with facts galore and with plenty of humour. Rich and poor alike were on the receiving end of the order to quit and the photographs were jaw-dropping as they served to give a real sense to the scale of the operation.

It was a talk with appeal for those interested in military matters, railway history and, of course, social history. The time flew by and in the chit-chat that followed there was high praise for the hours of research the project had obviously taken. No doubt it will be among the highlights of this winter's programme of events.



The former Mitcheldean Brewery

One hundred years from now researchers into Forest of Dean history would be delighted and excited to discover a cloth-covered collection of old document and paper copiers stored away in a dusty attic or some rarely visited store on the edge of Mitcheldean. The finder will have stumbled on 'treasure', as important as a discovery by a modern-day historian who might unearth a collection of items associated with our comparatively recent coal-mining past. But instead of Northern United or New Fancy, read Rank Xerox.

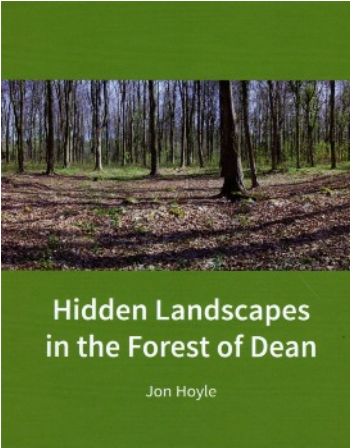
The Xerox story is remarkable. The copier manufacturing company's arrival into our green and pleasant land coincided with the brutal end of pit work. And most would say a good job too! After the toil of working in semi-darkness to win a lump of coal the replacement white coat jobs were a revelation. How it all began, grew and then faded away kept society members absorbed at the first New Year meeting held at Bream's West Dean Centre on January 8th. The tale was told by longtime Xerox employee Gerald Cooke, of Longhope. It began in 1868 when Francis Wintle opened a brewery at Mitcheldean. The industry was so successful the company owned 80 public houses and boasted that their beer offered "Health and happiness in every cask". But everything has its day and the Cheltenham Brewery took over in 1939. In the war years British Acoustic Films relocated, moving their plotting table and searchlight design there and employing upwards of 200 people. Bell and Howell, the well-known cine equipment manufacturers were to follow before the arrival of Rank Precision Industries. The Xerox copying project became a worldwide success, its journey to the pinnacle of manufacturing prowess being guided by highly regarded chief executive, Fred Wickstead. The bubble burst in 2002 since when the site has transitioned yet again, now becoming a business park, Vantage Point.

The link with copiers still remains at Mitcheldean where there is a display at the Town Hall. But where will they be 100 years from now?

Book Review by Ian Standing

Not that long ago it was thought that early humans favoured open land and shunned the forests; thus no remains were expected to be found in woodland. Eventually it was realised that hill forts like Symonds Yat and Welshbury and the land around them could not have been wooded when Iron Age farmers were living there; the woodland had grown up since. In the 1980s, local enthusiasts began field walking ploughed fields around the edges of the modern Forest. They found evidence in the form of flints of yet earlier habitation. Clearly, pre-historic people had not avoided this 'forest'. The local woodlands must have been up and down at various times.

Although the number of archaeological finds was increasing, the present day woodlands were still largely devoid of finds. In 2002, the **Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey**, funded by English Heritage, began to explore matters. From records, maps and past literature over 4000 new sites, many of them post-medieval or industrial, were added to the Historic Environmental Record. The scowles and nearby features were surveyed and other selected spots were studied and sampled. The greatest reward came from the use of LIDAR, a sort of aerial photography using lasers that reach through the trees and record the land surface beneath them. It revealed over 1,700 previously unrecorded areas of potential interest which needed to be visited and verified on the ground, a task currently underway each winter by trained volunteers within the HLF Foresters' Forest Landscape Partnership Programme. (New recruits are welcome).



The findings of the **Survey** confirmed that people lived and worked here for thousands of years before the Normans created the Forest of Dean. The book presents the evidence.

Objects and structures that were used or made locally by past generations are shown and explained in everyday English. The information for each period is arranged in beautifully illustrated chapters that work forward from around 12,000 years ago. Other chapters cover conservation of the historic landscape and directions for new research. Huge attention has been spent in assessing and referencing source material. Reliance on external information is inevitable but sometimes it can mislead. To some extent this has happened in discussing early coal mining and matters concerning iron ore and scowles. However, these are small things.

Among past works on Dean certain authors stand out. They include Henry Nicholls, Cyril Hart, Harry Paar, Ian Pope & Paul Karau, and the VCH Volume edited by Nick Herbert. To this august group we should add Jon Hoyle's book: *Hidden landscapes in the Forest of Dean*.

Ian Standing

The book is a large hardback, (290 x 185mm). 178 pages, full colour, maps, plans, refs, bibliog & index. Published by Historic England in 2019, price £60. Order online for 30% discount.

UK & Rest of World www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk 30% discount with code LUP30