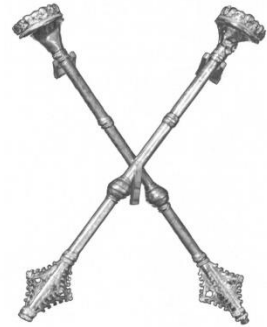


# WINCHCOMBE MUSEUM



## Newsletter Number 24 for October 2018

### Introduction

In this, the final issue of the newsletter for 2018, we concentrate on the ending of World War I. We will begin with the cease fire and the Armistice. Then we will provide some briefing notes to the Peace Conference and then end with the rather special link that Winchcombe has with perhaps the best known verse of any poem written in the twentieth century.

### The ending of the war

The end of the war on the Western Front in November 1918 was a surprise. Well informed observers thought it would continue in 1919. In March 1918 Allied leaders met to discuss the alarming success of the recent German offensive. In July the Germans attacked again but on the 18<sup>th</sup> they were halted in the Second Battle of the Marne. By August the Allied counter-offensive had driven the enemy back to the River Vesle. Through September the Allied attacks continued at Amiens, Bapaume, Arras, Albert, Scarpe and Drocourt. The first American troops took part successfully at Saint Mihiel. General Ludendorf realised German morale had declined sharply. In October Hindenberg sent a note to President Woodrow Wilson asking for Allied terms of an Armistice. On 7<sup>th</sup> November a German delegation crossed the front line to meet Allied officers. By the 9<sup>th</sup> November a German republic had been proclaimed with Herr Ebert as Chancellor. Kaiser William II left Germany for the Netherlands. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November at 5.05am the Armistice agreement was signed and all fighting ceased at 11 am.

### The Armistice

The word 'armistice' is defined as 'a suspension of hostilities'. The Armistice of November 1918 relating to the Western Front had eleven conditions:

- I. Cessation of hostilities
- II. Immediate evacuation of invaded countries
- III. Repatriation of all inhabitants of the invaded countries
- IV. Surrender in good condition by German armies of all war materials
- V. Evacuation by German armies of the left bank of the Rhine
- VI. In the evacuation no harm to be done to the persons or property of the inhabitants
- VII. Means of communication of all kinds shall be in no manner impaired, all resources shall remain in situ

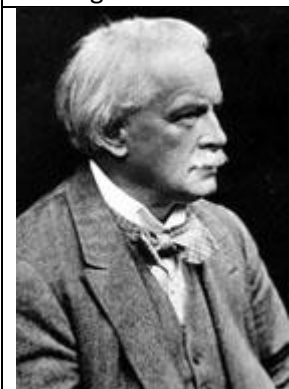
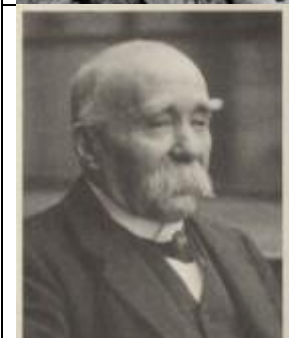
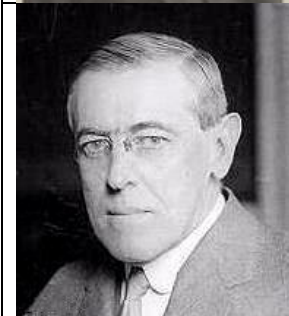
- VIII. The German command shall reveal all destructive measures e.g. mines & delayed action fuses
- IX. The right of requisition shall be exercised by the Allied and United States armies
- X. The immediate repatriation of all prisoners of war
- XI. Sick & wounded who cannot be moved from occupied territory to be cared for by German personnel.


These are brief summaries of more detailed conditions.

### The 1919 Paris Peace Conference

## A play in six acts to decide the terms for Germany of peace after World War One

### Cast

The Big Four	
	<p>David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain</p> <p>He wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A just peace to please the electorate</li> <li>• To make Germany pay but leave it strong enough to trade</li> <li>• Further lands for the British Empire</li> <li>• To secure the future of Britain’s naval supremacy.</li> </ul> <p>The leading figures of the British Empire delegation are Balfour, Bonar Law, G.N. Barnes and from time to time Dominion Premiers.</p>
	<p>Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France</p> <p>He wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenge and punishment for Germany</li> <li>• The return of Alsace-Lorraine to France</li> <li>• No ‘League of Nations’</li> <li>• An independent Rhineland</li> <li>• Huge reparations</li> <li>• To disband the German army so that it would never attack France again.</li> </ul>
	<p>Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America</p> <p>He wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plan based on his fourteen points</li> <li>• To end wars and create ‘League of Nations’</li> <li>• Not to destroy Germany</li> <li>• Not to blame Germany – no ‘Guilt’ clause</li> </ul>

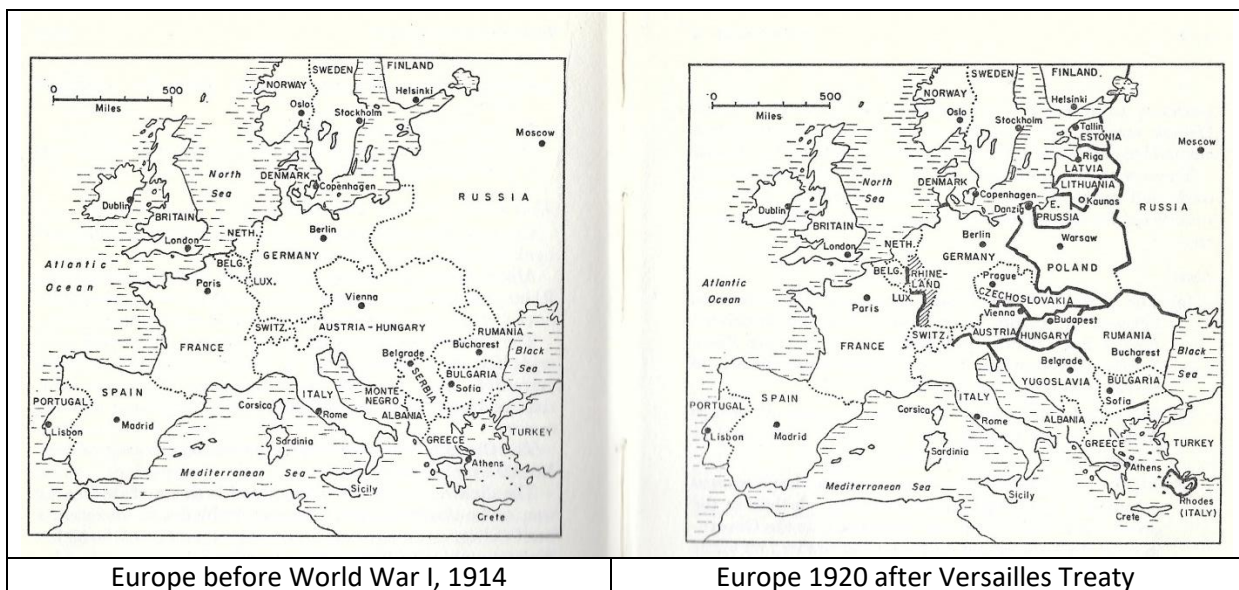
	<p>Vittorio Emanuele Orlando. Prime Minister of Italy He wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Territory on the Adriatic coast.</li> </ul> <p>Did not speak English or French. Could not understand the anecdotes that Wilson kept repeating.</p>
<p>In addition delegates from 29 other countries attended. No wives of delegates were there. A cast of about five hundred support staff and the press surround the Big Four. No invitations were sent to Germany, Austria – Hungary, Turkey or Bulgaria. The new Bolshevik Government of Russia was not recognised or invited. White Russia was represented.</p>	

The action takes place in Paris between January and June 1919.

<p>Act One January</p>	<p>Delegates arrive in Paris to rapturous welcome by crowds. Meetings begin at the Quai d’Orsay. By the end of the month the League of Nations, Central European borders, German war damages and reparations, the fate of its colonies, German armed forces, punishment of war criminals and submarine cables were all considered.</p>
<p>Act Two February</p>	<p>Wilson gets on well with Lloyd George. USA and GB find Clemenceau difficult. Delegates also attended opera, theatre, dance halls, bars and hostesses. Wilson makes quick trip to USA, Lloyd George to London. Shots fired at Clemenceau’s car.</p>
<p>Act Three March</p>	<p>It looks as if the conference will fail, but Lloyd George persuades Clemenceau to agree to a League of Nations and not to destroy Germany. Then he persuades Wilson to agree a ‘War Guilt’ clause. Balfour and House tidy up 60 reports by groups on reparations and territories. France, fearful of future German attacks, wants Rhineland state as buffer. USA and GB promise to defend France if Germans ever attack again.</p>
<p>Act Four April</p>	<p>Orlando leaves the conference after failure to gain territory. Does not sign final treaty. Intense work on the German part of the Treaty. Concern that the German army and its command still existed. France still wanting protection from future German aggression. LG and team hide away for weekend to play war games to try to solve French problem. Clemenceau pleased Wilson has a cold and confined to bed. Newspapers carry headline “<i>Peace Conference Crisis</i>”.</p>
<p>Act Five May</p>	<p>Clemenceau feels he has won from USA and GB. Final and 145th meeting of the main delegates. Over 1000 meetings of mission groups for specialised topics. 7<sup>th</sup> May draft Treaty presented to German delegates, German National Assembly votes in favour.</p>
<p>Act Six June</p>	<p>Germany shown a non-negotiable treaty, they publish a refusal. Delegates meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles and sign the Treaty. Two Germans forced to sign. Lloyd George feels he has had a most enjoyable time. Clemenceau and Wilson exhausted.</p>

## Epilogue: the outcomes in the 440 articles of the Versailles Treaty

- Foundation of the League of Nations to achieve international peace.
- Germany required to surrender 10% of its pre-war European territory, including Alsace-Lorraine, Provinces of West Prussia, Posen, East Silesia, East Prussia, Upper Silesia, Memel, Schleswig.
- All German overseas territories given up mainly to British Empire (Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) and France.
- Danzig (now Gdansk) and Saarland placed under the administration of the League of Nations.
- France allowed to exploit the coal resources of the Saarland until 1935.
- Size of German army and navy limited.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II and other German officials to be tried as war criminals. (Kaiser never tried).
- The 'War Guilt' clause. Germany to accept responsibility for the war and pay financial reparations (37 billion US dollars about £284 billion in 2018 value). All merchant and fishing ships to be replaced. (John Maynard Keynes, one of the British delegates, saw this as too harsh in economic terms.) Only a small portion paid and ended in 1931.
- A series of plebiscite arrangements for Schleswig-Holstein, Silesia and Saar areas.
- Germany allowed to have a 100,000 volunteer army (no tanks, warships, armoured vehicles or submarines). No air force.
- Confirmation of Czechoslovakia.



My presentation is but a brief summary, no more than a taster. There are many books and some very odd websites that include 'information' about this conference. The best modern text is, I think, 'Peacemakers: Six Months that changed the World' by Margaret Macmillan, published by John Murray, 2002 in paperback. It is 574 pages long and is revisionist in approach. About £9 from Amazon for a very good used copy.

## The Story of Lawrence Binyon

### (Robert) Laurence Binyon (1869 – 1943)

For this first biography I am indebted to Jenny Grey who researched and wrote the piece.

Laurence Binyon was a prominent English poet in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who was very briefly based in Winchcombe, entirely as a result of his parents moving to the town.

His father, Reverend Frederick Binyon, took up the living of St Peter's church in November 1888 and moved into the Vicarage with his wife, Mary, and four of their surviving children, including Laurence, aged 19. Laurence was already a student at Trinity College, Oxford, so rarely home – but he did come to Winchcombe during the vacations.



Reverend and Mrs Binyon were well liked by the people of the town. In addition to his priestly duties, Reverend Binyon was a member of the School Board (much concerned at the time with the building of a new school in Gretton), and he was also an elected Guardian of the Union Workhouse. Mary 'won the esteem of all by her kindness among the poor and suffering'. So the community was sad to learn, in the spring of 1892, that the Reverend Binyon had decided to retire and live quietly in Devon after less than four years in the living. It seems likely that this was prompted by failing health, as he died on 27 August 1900, aged 62.

One item of news, published in the Cheltenham Chronicle on 17 May 1890, must have given the family much pleasure. Laurence had begun writing poetry at a young age and Oxford University recognised his talent by awarding him the prestigious Newdigate Prize for Poetry for his poem 'Persephone'.

However, his father's retirement brought to an end his direct connection with the town. Two of his brothers remained close by - Charles became a prominent market gardener in Badsey and mayor of Evesham, while his youngest brother, Gilbert Clive, was for some time the vicar of Hinton on the Green.

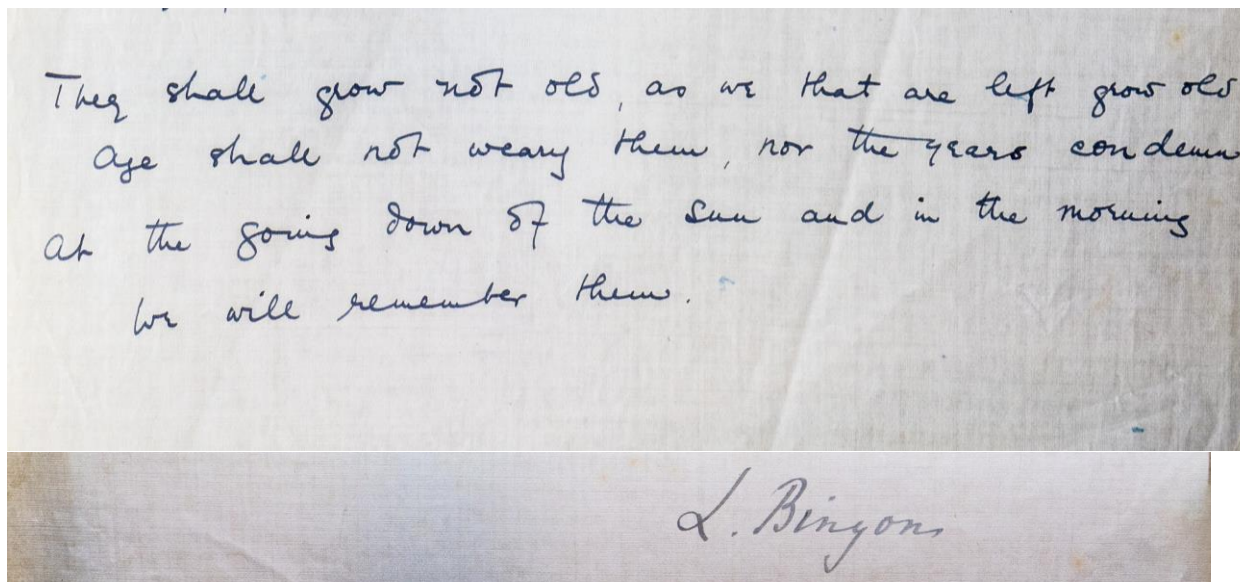
After university, Laurence began a career at the British Museum, ultimately becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society and retiring in 1934. He married in 1904 and he and his wife Cicely had three daughters. He continued writing and publishing poetry throughout his life.

A lifelong pacifist, he was deeply affected by news coming from the front line at the beginning of WW1. His poem 'For the Fallen' was written after learning of casualties in Mons. The Times newspaper printed the poem in September 1914, in conjunction with reports of the large number of casualties at the Battle of Marne. The poem struck a chord immediately.

In 1915 and again in 1916, Laurence went to hospitals in France as a volunteer Red Cross medical orderly and saw the horrors inflicted on the young soldiers, especially at the battle of Verdun. He wrote other poems at this time and the composer Edward Elgar wrote a musical accompaniment for a group of three of them (including For the Fallen) called 'The Spirit of England', first performed in

October 1917. However, this one poem continued to hold a special place in the hearts of those that read it - and by the time that Laurence died in 1943, one stanza (the first to be composed, although the fourth in the poem) had become a regular part of the nation's acts of remembrance for all those killed in war:

*They do not grow old, as we that are left grow old.  
Age does not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



The museum holds a handwritten copy of the Laurence Binyon poem. It was found in the scrapbook of Eliza Wedgwood of Stanton. She put the scrapbook together during the years that she was responsible for the nursing at the First World War VAD hospital in Winchcombe. The hand that wrote the poem is different from the 'L. Binyon' signature. Volunteers at the museum have compared the handwriting to Eliza Wedgwood, Cynthia Asquith and Lady Mary Wemyss (close friend) but without success. Alastair Robinson has made a splendid job of copying the scrapbook. If you would like to see the scrapbook - do come along to the museum. I believe there is some thought of making copies available for purchase.



They went with songs to the battle, they were young.  
 Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
 They were staunch to the end against odds  
 uncounted,  
 They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
 We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
 They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
 They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
 They sleep beyond England's foam.



### A French Perspective


The Winchcombe Branch of U3A has a French conversation group with ten members. They recently enjoyed several afternoons translating a French poem written on the day of the Armistice. Their splendid endeavour shows how, at times, a collective effort can be very rewarding. Each step makes progress towards the final outcome.

#### Verse One of the Poem

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
<b>The original poem</b>	<b>Google version</b>	<b>Jean Jones</b>	<b>U3A Group</b>
Sonnez! Cloches Lorraines. Que vos jolis sons purs Emportent dans l'azur Notre joie surhumaine.	Ring! Lorraines Bells, That your beautiful pure sounds Take in the blue Our superhuman joy.	Ring out the bells of Lorraine Let your pure notes Sing loud into the air Our superhuman joy.	Ring out bells of Lorraine! May your joyful notes Carry to the heavens Our overwhelming joy.

Step 1 is taken from the book 'Quand elle est finie' by Achille Pontié. Step 2 was kindly searched by Brian Hayward using Google. Step 3 was translated by Jean Jones, who lived in France for many years, and who helped assemble the book. Step 4 is the collected wisdom and expertise of the U3A group including Jean and Brian.

I have used the word 'Step' here to suggestion progression as the team came together to build on the earlier steps.

<p><b>Achille Pontié, paysan, poiluet, poète (peasant, 'tommy', poet)</b></p> <p><b>L'Armistice</b></p> <p><b>Les cloches de Valhey</b></p>	<p><b>The bells of Valhey</b></p> <p>In this valley, so silent and sad The devastation at last is lifting. Here mournfully rumbled the noise of battle And last evening fell the hail of machine gun fire.</p> <p>Awaken ye bells so long sleeping Death is no more. Ring out for life! Wake up oh bells, shake off the dust Of this murderous war settled on your bronze bodies</p> <p>Ring out small bells! May your ringing rise Stronger and stronger. Leaving this valley May its echo carry to all the ancient bells of France. Our thoughts will follow laden with hope.</p> <p>Let them tell to all who have prayed for us, To all who have so often wept for us To all who suffered knowing how we suffered, That God has heard their pleas and answered their prayers</p> <p>Let them tell those at home that we are safe. That their eyes shall weep no more for us. That we are alive and full of joy and love, Waiting to be home and close to them again.</p> <p><b>Written by Achille Pontié, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 from Valhey, Meurthe-Moselle to his village, to his fiancée Marguerite.</b></p>
	
<p>My thanks are due to Jean Jones who showed me 'Quand elle est finie', a book she had helped a village team assemble. She wrote that Achille Pontié was born in rural France in 1896. He left school at the age of 13, joined up at the very start of the war aged 17 and served throughout. He had left school at 13 and no one knew that he had a talent for writing poetry. His notebooks were discovered in 2015 and have been produced in a book.</p>	

## **The Fifth Glo'ster Gazette 1915 to 1919 by Anne Crow**

**This splendid book is a "chronicle, serious and humorous, of the Battalion while serving with the British Expeditionary Force"**

In April 1915, at Chelmsford, the idea of publishing a Battalion Gazette was born. A cover was designed and the issues began to roll off the press. The Padre was determined that the Gazette would be written by serving soldiers of all ranks. In all there were 25 issues of the Gazette by 1919. Anne Crow has drawn a wonderful selection of items from the Gazettes



she read. There are poems, cartoons, a play, letters and longer pieces. They evoke the homesickness, the fear, the nostalgia of home and loved ones and inevitably the anger of being at war. Above all the writers show a perceptive and deep insight into their feelings which they share with the reader through sadness and brave humour. This is a must read in 2018.

Copies are available from Anne Crow for £7.00. The book is on sale to raise money for Winchcombe Museum. The book is available by calling at the museum or the Winchcombe Tourist Information Centre. The cost is £7.00. If you would like to receive a copy by post then call 01242 602571 and order a copy. Postage costs £1.50.

### **And finally – the last item of the 2018 season – let’s sing.**

Tune: " The Church's One Foundation"

We are Fred Karno's Army,  
A jolly fine lot are we :  
Fred Karno is our Captain,  
Charlie Chaplin our O.C.  
And when we get to Berlin,  
The Kaiser he will say :  
Hoch! Hoch! mein Gott!  
What a jolly fine lot  
To draw six bob a day.

I hope you tried to sing this.

Alternative versions to the words of many of the songs sung by the soldiers at war, and many not publishable in this newsletter but still full of wit, insight and feeling, have been collected in a little known text called ‘Tommy’s Tunes’. You can read and maybe sing the words of these alternative versions from the internet. They suggest a tune for each.

Year	Song Title	Writer
	Mademoiselle from Armentiers	Traditional
1911	Oh! You beautiful doll.	Seymour Brown & Nat D. Ayer
1912	It’s a long way to Tipperary	Jack Judge & Harry Williams
1913	Hello, Hello, Who’s your lady friend?	Harry Fragson
1913	Hold your hand out naughty boy	C.W. Murphy & David Wharton
1914	There a long long trail a-winding	Stoddart King & Alonzo Elliott
1914	Sister Susie’s Sewing Shirts for Soldiers	Herman Darewski & R. P. Weston
1914	Keep the home fires burning	Ivor Novello & Lena Ford
1914	They didn’t believe me	Jerome Kern & Herbert Reynolds
1914	I’ll make a man out of you	Arthur Wimperis

1915	Good By-ee	William Lee & R.P. Weston
1915	Pack up your troubles	George Asaf & Felix Powell
1916	Take me back to dear old Blighty	Bennett Scott, Alan Mills & Fred Godfrey
1916	If you were the only girl in the world	Nat Dyer & Clifford Grey
1916	Roses of Picardy	Frederick Wetherley & Haydn Wood
1917	Oh! It's a lovely war	Anonymous but may be J.P. Long & Maurice Scott
1918	Oh! How I hate to get up in the morning	Irving Berlin
1918	Who were you with last night?	Fred Godfrey & Mark Sheridan
1919	How ya gonna keep them down on the farm?	Walter Donaldson, Joe Young & Sam M. Lewis.

### Whats on

20 Nov	Sue Rowbotham – Maskelyne and Cooke, Cheltenham's Men of Mystery, Cheltenham Council Chamber, 7.30, visitors £2.
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Peter Donovan – Bomber Harris. Leckhampton LHS, Glebe Cottage, Church Road at 7.30.
26 <sup>th</sup> November	David Jones – World War One, Prestbury LHS, Women's Institute Hall, 7.30, guest £2.
Until 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar. 2019	'At last the fighting is over': the end of the First World War on the Front and in Cheltenham. Includes painting made in 1920 by Fred Roe R.A., items on loan from Cheltenham Ladies College and The Soldiers of Gloucestershire. Paper Store, Wilson Museum.
Until 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2018.	The Listening Station: Cheltenham. Wilson Museum and Art Gallery. Check times carefully for opening.
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Sue Jones – Winners or Losers? The Women's Suffrage Campaign in Cheltenham. Council Chamber 7.30, visitors £2.
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Paul Barnett – Disaster Waiting: the Severn & Wye Railway Bridge Disaster, Council Chamber 7.30, visitors £2.
5 <sup>th</sup> March	John Simpson (Pittville History Works Group) – 11,000 Histories: putting Pittville online. St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham. 10.00. Entry Donation £2 includes tea and coffee.
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Michael Cole – An Excursion to Southam, 1879, Cheltenham Council Chamber 7.30, £2.
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	John Butterworth – History of the Stagecoach in Cheltenham and Gloucestershire. St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham 10.00. Entry Donation £2 includes tea, coffee and biscuits.
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Tony Comer – The History of GCHQ, Cheltenham Council Chamber 7.30, Visitors £2.

## **Conclusion**

This should be the end of the 2018 season of Winchcombe Museum Newsletters. However we have received a number of emails, comments, suggestions, corrections and thoughts about Newsletter Number 23 that in the next few weeks I will put together as a brief 'extra'. Space and email capacity do not allow them to be included in Number 24.

This is the time to thank everyone who has written to me with their contributions. I really am most grateful and feel these responses have been, if anything, even more important than the newsletter. I must also thank, both on my behalf and all readers, Christine Hancock, my wife, for sorting out the chaotic typing and rearranging the pages into a readable coherence. The laying out of the 2019 Newsletters is well underway and I look forward to joining you again in April.

John Hancock

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