



# Roath Local History Society

*Bringing History to Your Doorstep - since 1978*



**Dear R.L.H.S. Members,**

Next week we have the very exciting prospect of our inaugural Zoom lecture; with

**Rachel Knight** presenting “**The Life of a Coroner**”.

It is a live event, taking place on:



**Wednesday, 9th. December at 19.30**

**Meeting ID: 894 1223 3790** and **Passcode: Cicero** (capital ‘C’). The link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89412233790?  
pwd=SG4wYWV3dUdaNXJaMGx5bEg5SjgrQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89412233790?pwd=SG4wYWV3dUdaNXJaMGx5bEg5SjgrQT09)

Those who already have a Zoom Account, or Zoom installed simply click open the above link, or cut and paste it and follow the prompts.

**Geraint** has prepared the following instructions for those *without* a Zoom Account:

1. Click and open the above link. Zoom website will open, and automatically install the program. You will need to click ‘Run’ or ‘Allow’, and let the program (or ‘App’ in some operating systems) install.
2. Once the program has installed, you need to click ‘Launch Meeting’. It will then ask you to enter your name. It will also ask for the password, which is ‘Cicero’.
3. You will need to Agree to the terms, and then it will open the program.
4. You will need to ‘Join with Computer Audio’, and with video if you have a webcam. You may also have a security alert, which you should ‘Allow’.
5. You will then be taken to either the meeting or the Waiting Room, and the meeting will begin.

N.B. You do not need to have a Zoom account, only enter your name. You should start the joining process ten minutes or so before the meeting. Be prepared to then be held in a virtual waiting room until the event begins at 19.30.

## *News from our Chairman Ted*

*As you will be able to tell from the attached Christmas Quiz, much of my time over the past month has been spent researching local churches. It has surprised me how many there have been in the area. I think I have now added all the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to [our church history page](#) on our website. I am aware there are still lots of non-conformist churches and chapels that need adding.*

*Somebody sent me an old baptism card for Georgana Pepperdine from 1896. Many thanks if it was you who sent it to me. It led to an interesting investigation trying to find out more about Georgana, who was baptised in St German's as an older child, when visiting her grandparents. The results of my investigation are covered in [our latest blog post](#)*

*Our foray into the world of social media seems to have gone well. It's just over a year since we opened a Twitter account and last week we attracted our 1000th follower. Anything I post on Twitter concentrates on local history as opposed to expressing opinions. It's probably for this reason that we've escaped any negative reactions which was one concern I think people may have had when we started. It certainly seems to raise the profile of our Society in the local community. If you are a Twitter user then please follow us on @RoathHistory*

*We continue to receive a steady stream of enquiries on a wide range of subjects. Three this month happen to relate to the Mackintosh family and the Mackintosh estate.*

*We had a message from the grandson of the Vicar of St Nicholas, just west of Cardiff. The gentleman tells us how his grandfather used to visit the Mackintosh family when they lived at Cottrell Hall. [Angus Alexander Mackintosh died of the Spanish Flu in America in 1918](#) When the Mackintosh family left Cottrell House they gave the Vicar the sword that had belonged to Angus Mackintosh and two curling stones which are still in the family. The Vicar's son was Deputy Lieutenant of Glamorgan and used the sword on many occasions. The family also have a photograph of Queen Mary and the Mackintosh family taken outside Cottrell House, a*

scan of which I was sent. Only after receiving the photograph did I realise it was the same one that is In Jeff's book of archive photographs of Roath. That helped me answer the question that the gentleman was asking - who were the other people in the photograph?



Cottrell Mansion, April 1938. From left to right, seated: the Countess of Plymouth, Mrs Mackintosh, Queen Mary, the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Miss Mackintosh. Standing: Sir Gerald Chichester, Lady Cynthia Colville, Lord Stanmore, the Earl of Plymouth, the Dowager Countess of Plymouth, Lord Gerald Wellesley and Joseph Jones, the Chief Constable of Glamorgan. The Mackintosh had been a great friend of George V.

Another enquiry asked if we had ever heard of there being a shooting club in the Roath or Cathays area. I discovered that the [Cardiff Rifle Club](#) apparently meet at an old converted stable building on the Mackintosh Estate. I think this may now be the Mackintosh Sports and Social Club, Keppoch Street, but I am not sure. Their website states that they started in 1939. Does anybody know where they meet/met?



*We were also asked about the house at 1 Upper Kincaig Street which is possibly going to be redeveloped. The enquirer wanted to know if we could add any substance to the thought that it used to be a coach house for the Mackintosh Estate. Looking back at old maps it would certainly appear that the building did belong to the Mackintosh Estate and possibly dates back to the first half of the 1800s. Here is a link to the [Sales Brochure for the property](#)*

*From a photograph of the outside wall of the property it certainly appears an old construction.*

*Don't forget that if you click on the blue underlined text in the paragraphs above you will be taken to the various pages of interest.*

*And so as this very strange year draws to a close it remains for me to wish you all a happy Christmas and I hope to see you all next year!*

*Thank you for your support.*

*Ted Richards*

## Do You Remember?

Amongst recent enquires directed to R.L.H.S., we have been contacted by **Jean Hosie**. She now lives in Brecon but was born in Ty Gwyn Road, Cardiff, the daughter of **Dr. R.V. Robinson of The Surgery, 24 Albany Road, Cardiff** and later Cyncoed Road, and Lake Road West. She is currently preparing a talk for Brecon U3A on the development of Cardiff 1880-1960 through the eyes of her Great-Uncle **Dr. (later Alderman) James Robinson, Lord Mayor of Cardiff 1913-14**, who opened the Surgery in 1893, and of his son, **Alderman Richard Gruffydd Robinson, Lord Mayor 1947-48**. She is interested in hearing from anyone who remembers the surgery on Albany Road, the doctors, **Robinson, McKelvie, Dr (Bob) R.V.Robinson, Carr, Coutts and Jones** and have any stories to share (the Society will forward any memories Members have to Jean).

Jean adds "I learned to drive in 1957 taking my father on his house calls not only in Roath, Splott, Adamsdown and Cathays but all over the city, out to Ely and the Docks, to Rhiwbina and Lisvane, newly built Llanrumney and rural St.Mellon's, anything up to fifteen or twenty calls after morning surgery - those were the days and wonderful experience.

When Dick Robinson, my father's cousin, became Lord Mayor in 1947 I was invited to the investiture at the City Hall, and after his death in 1980 he bequeathed me all his press photographs and clippings and his Visitors' Books from the Lord Mayor's Parlour. He served for eighteen months because the City Council changed the date of mayor-making from November to May in 1947 and it was May 1949 before he relinquished the office. In that time he hosted not only **Queen Mary** for a post-war visit, **Princess Elizabeth**, before her marriage, at the Bath and West Show in Sophia Gardens (on a dreadfully wet day) but also **Churchill** and later **Lord Montgomery** who both received Freedom of the City, and the man who was to become the **President of the U.S.A**, the then film star, **Ronald Reagan** - it was quite a period!"

- It amused me to read the surgery was opened in 1893 as I have vivid recollections of it throughout my childhood and don't think it was ever updated! Entering the front door from the street, you went down a long, brown, Victorian tiled passageway. This opened out into a slightly wider passage, with bentwood chairs lining the walls, between doors to various doctors consulting rooms. Immediately on the right was a hatch, where a lady receptionist appeared to actually live inside a filing cabinet. Upon reporting to her, you

were given a stout, open-topped paper envelope, containing cards and notes with your medical history. My doctor was Dr. Carr, who had been our family doctor for three generations and had actually brought me into the world. My grandmother had joined the surgery quite early on, as it offered progressive health care; whereby you paid a small weekly subscription (1d a week?) which covered you, should you become ill. There were two Dr. Carrs - Mr. and Mrs., with adjoining surgeries. Dr. Mrs. Carr, would often appear through the connecting door to deferentially consult with her husband over a diagnosis - despite the fact, it was said she had the higher qualification!

The New Year sees us in full sail .....

**Jennifer Phillips's** Zoom Presentation ***Roath Rules*** will take place on **Thursday, 14th. January at 19.00**



**'The Pride of the West' passing 'The Lizard'**  
*Alexander K. Branden – Museum of Cornish Life, Helston*

**The Link, Meeting ID and Passcode** will be in our January E-Newsletter. **Henry, Charles and Davy Rule** were a trio of seafaring brothers who came to live in Roath in the nineteenth century. This talk will look at their ancestral connection with a village in Pembrokeshire, family adventures at sea (including a connection to the Titanic) and what became of their descendants in Cardiff, among them a patient at Whitchurch Hospital, an eminent neurosurgeon, losses in both World Wars and a continuing family connection with Roath.

### **Speaker biography:**

I grew up living near the town of Chard in Somerset and went to school in Taunton. My grandmother had come to Somerset from Merthyr Tydfil after WWII and retained a sense of pride in her Welshness, so I always had some affinity with Wales despite growing up in England. I came to Cardiff 25 years ago to study for an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and have lived in the city ever since.

I started researching my family history around 15 years ago and found this grew into a passion/obsession. After joining some family history societies, in 2014 I became editor of the P\*rr\*tt Society journal (this is a family history society associated with a one-name study registered with the Guild of One Name studies where the asterisk may represent any vowel – e.g. – Perrott, Parrott, Perrett, Porritt, and so on).

As my interest continued to grow, I decided to undertake some formal education in this area and began studying for a postgraduate certificate in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies in 2019 – this is a distance learning course with the University of Strathclyde, so I'm English-born, living in Wales and studying at a Scottish university! I will be speaking at THE Genealogy Show 2021 about researching family history in Wales – this was originally scheduled for the 2020 show, but will hopefully go ahead in 2021!

For me, genealogy isn't about a list of names and dates, it's about telling our ancestors' stories and seeking to understand more about their lives, motivations and influences. To do that effectively we need to understand where they lived and how they lived, so as my interest in genealogy has developed, I've also grown to appreciate the importance of local history, which led to me joining Roath Local History Society.

Wishing you all joy, happiness and health,

**Elizabeth Morgan.**

**R.L.H.S. Honorary Secretary.**

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