Chairman’s Report for 2022-2023

We have had a varied and interesting programme of talks since Tony Condor’s ‘Gloucestershire Odyssey’ in October last year through to Pete Drover’s excellent walking tour of Eastcombe in July. In May a group of us also was given a behind the scene’s visit to the Gloucestershire Archives – entertainingly guided by John Putley. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our September meeting because of the overnight roadworks, but we hope to invite Emma Stuart to give her presentation in the future. There are reports on all of these on our website – just Google CPLHG.

While mentioning our website, do have a good look at the Resources tab. This is regularly added to. Recently added were links to Isaac Taylor’s map of 1800 and preliminary Ordnance Survey maps of 1811 and 1816.

I would like to give a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to everyone on the Committee for their many contributions and I would especially like to thank our Secretary Hilary and Treasurer John who between them really share the main burdens of running the Group since the beginning, seven years ago.

Margaret Mills was able to attend our April meeting when three of us showed some of Mike Mills’ photographic collection. As many know, she passed away shortly afterwards and her son, Andrew, has since given us the remaining prints, albums, slides and books that Mike had squirrelled away in the house. A group from the committee are busy most Wednesday mornings sorting and cataloguing them.

In July, Hilary Burgess contributed to the Stroud Local History Society exhibition at the Museum in the Park with an interesting display about the stick making in Chalford. St Mary’s Mill was opened for the National Heritage Weekend in September and some on the committee attended selling some books and showing Hilary’s display.

16 members accepted my invitation at last year’s AGM and enthusiastically researched and wrote up a number of chapters for a brand new book – *Hilltop and Valley, Stories in Chalford Parish and Eastcombe*. I am pleased to record the magnificent effort made by two members, Rachel Nunn and Trevor Ford, with the proofreading of the book when Tony, our previous proofreader, was taken ill.

Just last week this book was published and is now on sale at Eastcombe Store, Chalford Village Shop and the Chalford Parish Centre. We have been able to hold the price at just £10 for its 376 pages. Treat yourself or perhaps buy it as a Christmas present – but don’t delay as we have only printed 300 copies. I shall have some for sale at the end of the evening. At the end of our November meeting, we shall be having a team picture of as many of the authors and proofreaders as can come.