

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.27, October 2012



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Number 1a, Royal Crescent, during conversion work 2012.

Back Cover Illustration:

Hayesfield Girls' School, Brougham Hayes; former Somerset Industrial Home for Boys.

CITY NEWS

Bath Record Office

Interest remains high in researching our city's history, with visitor numbers for the first half of 2012 up 14% on the same period last year.

We have updated our website www.batharchives.co.uk with fresh images and a News page on our progress in making more archives available during our monthly Cataloguing Weeks. One of the major collections gradually coming online is Bath Quarter Sessions containing not only Court cases from the 17th century onwards but Settlement examinations, Alehouse recognizances, Commitments to the House of Correction, and much more.

On our webpage Explore the Archives we have added Edmund Rack's Journal of life in Bath 1779-1780, transcribed by Trevor Fawcett, which can now be read online.

An exciting major addition to our online services is the imminent launch of our Bath Ancestors database, for the first time making searchable many thousands of local names gathered by our volunteer indexers over the past 20 years. Included will be school, hospital and church registers, Quarter Sessions, Coroners and Settlement records, Wills, Freeman, and prisoners.

New additions to the archive collections include Somerset & Dorset railway-yard plans; South Twerton & Oldfield Park Junior schools; Bathwick parish regulations for Beating the Bounds; and further archives from the Mineral Water hospital.

Probably the most popular new arrival is digitized copies of all Tithe maps for parishes in Bath & North East Somerset. These are available to view in the Record Office, with the facility of copying sections on demand. Volunteers are currently transcribing the Tithe Apportionments, or 'key-lists' to all field numbers, in order to make the Tithe maps more informative. Our other regular volunteers continue their ongoing projects of cataloguing, transcribing, and re-packaging, principally working on the Beresford-Smith architectural collection.

For exhibition during the year we have lent historic documents to the Building of Bath Museum for *Repairing War Torn Bath*, and images to the Museum of Bath at Work for *The Bombing of Bath: Seventy Years*.

Finally, we said farewell to Philip Harper, Archives Assistant, who has moved to take up teaching, and we welcome Stephanie Adams who has joined the Record Office team.

Colin Johnston

By the West Gate

Knight Frank are advertising five flats to be built in the former Bluecoat School, with prices from £215,000. They describe the amenities of the district as follows:

Komedia, mentioned in this advertisement, is a comedy venue located in the former Beau Nash Cinema in Westgate Street. Komedia has arranged with the Little Theatre to host showings of films from time to time. For some of the events, it will be possible to take Sunday lunch at the former Beau Nash, and then rotate one's chair to watch for instance a broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera.

City Museum

Councillor Bryan Chalker has the title of Champion for Heritage and Historic Environment. On 11 August he held a Bath Industrial Heritage Day at the City Football Club. The event was used to promote the idea of a Bath City Museum. He has also organised a petition in support of such a Museum, the Newark Works in the Lower Bristol Road being the suggested site. We mentioned in our last newsletter that if this Museum is created, it would seem a good idea to move the Museum of Bath

at Work with Stuart Burroughs there, Stuart to be in charge of the new venture. Bath hardly needs two industrial museums, and the new one is expected to house cranes and other industrial artefacts.

We have also recommended that we do not support the idea of having any of the city's records there. Colin Johnston is in charge of the city archives and is established at the Guildhall. As we have remarked, people take up ideas as though nothing had previously been done. We are waiting for someone to suggest that mapping old Bath would be a useful project.

Happiness is Bath

Bath and the South-west have been named as among the happiest places in Britain. The figures are not entirely clear; the *Chronicle* carried a headline saying that Bath was the nation's happiest place, but the statistics did not seem to justify it. One of the very happiest is the Orkneys.

One was asked to state one's degree of satisfaction. This could be difficult. One might feel that one was satisfied with Bath, but could be more satisfied if one won £1 million on the Lottery. Don Foster, MP for Bath, remarked that Bath is a fantastic city which offers so much and he knows that many people feel proud to say they live here.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Paulton Foundry

Planning application has recently been put in to redevelop the site of the old Iron Foundry at Paulton, now in ruins, by the new owners Jonathan and Sheila Hetreed. One of the conditions for the application is the preservation of the remaining structures and archaeological features. It has only recently become apparent that this was one of the earliest engineering workshops to be built in the south of England for the manufacture of steam engines, first pioneered by Boulton and Watt at Smethwick in the 1790s. Established by the Somerset Coal Canal in 1809, it was intended to serve a wide area of the country, but instead became the principal supplier of machinery and ironwork to the whole of the North Somerset Coalfield.



Paulton Foundry in the early 1900s, disused but still intact.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Cotswold Archaeology in Bath 2011-2012

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) has carried out no below-ground archaeological fieldwork this year in Bath, but was commissioned to review a series of pieces of research at 1a, Royal Crescent, and then to carry out a watching brief of major works to the building to convert it to part of the Bath Preservation Trust's museum at Number 1, Royal Crescent. This took place between December 2011 and July 2012. Number 1a had been originally built as the offices or service wing for Number 1 and was described in detail along with Number 1 in a sales particulars on 1772. However, considerable changes had already been made to the buildings by that year, only five years after the Crescent was started. It seems that although Number 1 was the first to be completed, it stood as a sort of show home until the Crescent was finished and was the last to be sold.

CA was asked to answer several questions about Number 1a. First was the story that had grown up, that it had pre-existed as a farmhouse, and was incorporated in the Crescent design. Analysis of the documentary evidence by K.Ross of House Historians had shown there was no basis for this belief (which is, nevertheless, in the English Heritage Listing Description). Careful study of the building, which was extensively remodelled in the latest works, revealing almost every last detail of its structural history, confirmed there was no evidence whatsoever for this idea, and plenty against. It has also been thought that the house may have been begun as an extension to the Brock Street terraces, started and abandoned when the Crescent was proposed. Again the documentary evidence shows this is very unlikely and the design of the building makes it very clear it was never intended as a house. Its plan, detailed design and lack of any front door of its own made this very clear, as did its demonstrated structural unity with Number 1 itself. Other questions were about how it worked in 1772, where the kitchen was in 1772 and before, and how the changes by 1772 had been carried out.

It is all the more interesting now that we have removed some of these misconceptions, for we can now see the plan and layout of a purpose-built service wing of a grand Georgian house in Bath. Despite the known existence of external kitchens in one or two houses in the Circus, this is just about unique in Bath. The wing was a simple rectangle, with two vaulted cellars (ale cellars in 1772), a kitchen with a large, open, cooking fireplace and ovens, along with a wash-house and laundry on the ground floor, and servants rooms on the first floor, reached by a simple open stair from the laundry. It was linked to Number 1 by a basement vaulted passage and a ground-floor covered way. Otherwise it was freestanding. The basement 'area' of Number 1 was also linked to the vaulted passage by an open 'narrow area' running along the side of Number 1. This area was seen in excavation as it was buried in the changes of 1772. Nonetheless, it had functioned for a while, as there was evidence of limewashing of its walls and for the existence of a timber door or gate at the south end.

By the time the house was put on the market in 1772 the present wall linking it to Number 1a had been built. Behind it was a new room 'The Gentleman's Retreat', a sort of den or library added to Number 1 and with its own private WC in a small courtyard behind. Between the Gentleman's Retreat and 1a was a paved courtyard with pentice roofs covering much of it and a door to the main front area at ground level. The narrow area was abandoned and buried under the Gentleman's Retreat.

The house became a high status lodging in the later 18th century and throughout the 19th and underwent a whole series of changes. In around 1830, the whole complex was modernised and the service wing became more lodgings. The kitchen was moved to the basement ale cellar where fittings still survive.

Major changes took place in the 1860s. The Venetian windows that have now been re-instated were replaced by rectangular sashes with plate glass, the front door in Upper Church Street inserted, and major changes to the internal circulation made. These included new corridors, a re-sited stair and the removal of the old one, and the creation of extra rooms (including bathrooms and WCs) by infilling and by fitting out the basement of the Gentleman's Retreat. Repairs and minor alterations took place in the 1880s-90s including the provision of yet another room at first floor, perched over the covered access passageway of the original design.

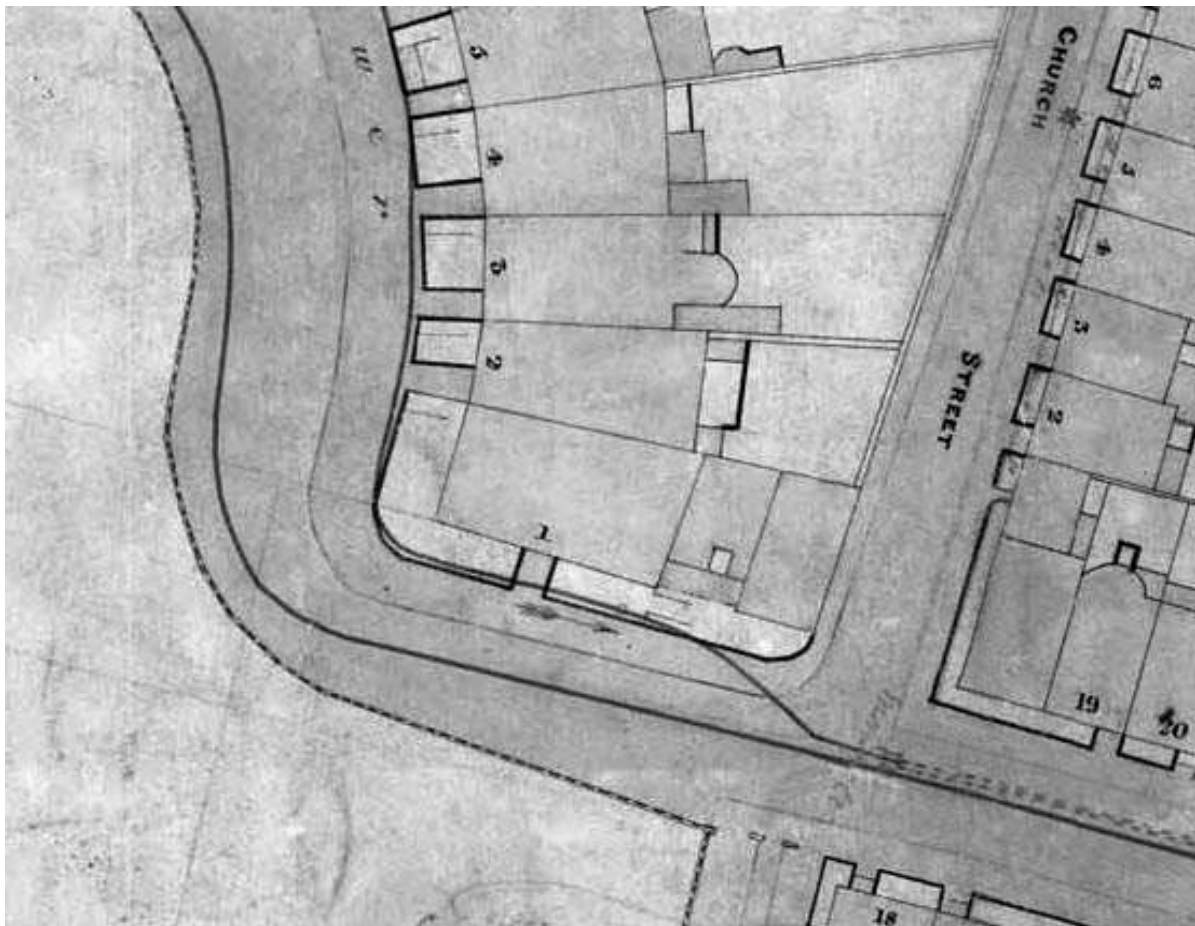
In 1916 Number 1a was let out as separate house to the writer and critic George Saintsbury; access

doors were sealed off from Number 1, and the front door on the south re-instated (it had been turned into a window in the 1860s). Number 1 remained as a mixture of lodging house and family home and 1a was re-united with it for a period after the 1930s. When Bath Preservation Trust acquired Number 1, through the generosity of Bernard Cayzer, 1a was sold separately. For the first time this separation included the Gentleman's Retreat, the door to which from Number 1 was blocked. Quite substantial alterations were carried out in Number 1 in 1968/70 to prepare it for its current use, but Number 1a was left relatively unaltered. The opportunity came to re-unite the two properties when the Andrew Brownsword Trust purchased it and made it available to Bath Preservation Trust for a token rent. Listed Building Consent and Heritage Lottery Money was obtained to make alterations to the building, particularly for disabled access and a shop and interpretation room, and for a better place to display the collection of 18th century kitchen equipment. The current 'kitchen' in Number 1 was in fact the Servants Hall, despite being originally designed as a kitchen. It was never used, as the kitchen was in 1a.

The conversion has resulted in the demolition of some of the oldest parts of 1a in the interior, and while this is regrettable, the detailed recording and analysis of the building commissioned by Bath Preservation Trust, voluntarily I should say, has added immeasurably to our knowledge and understanding of this locally unique building, a reflection of 'below stairs' in a grand Georgian house and its subsequent transformations.

I should acknowledge the work of Ainslie Ensom on interior fittings in 1a and Lisa Oestreicher, who carried out detailed paint analyses, and whose work was made available to me.

Peter Davenport



No1 Royal Crescent, as shown on Cotterell and Spackman's map of Bath of 1852-3.

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REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Survey of Old Bath

The Survey of Old Bath is a research venture which first adopted its title in 1979. Its aims are to study the topography of old Bath, and the lives of its actual citizens. The Chapman family has been chosen as its sample group, although it welcomes information on other Bath families. The Survey has published a number of historically reconstructed maps, brought out with funding from B&NES, and also other booklets and articles. It works on commission as well as on a voluntary basis.

As reported in the June Newsletter, Elizabeth has been compiling the material collected over the years on Widcombe Manor. A report of between 23,000 and 24,000 words has been assembled, to be deposited at the Record Office, the Central Library, and so on.

An eight-page booklet was also created for Widcombe Rising. Philip Bendall very kindly typeset it, Mike Chapman delivered it to the printers, and a number of copies were sold at Widcombe Rising and at the next meeting of the Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society. We are glad to say the owners of Widcombe Manor were pleased with the contents. Copies will be available for sale at meetings of the Friends, so it is planned.

In the meantime, Mike has been commissioned on various local projects, most notably by the South Stoke Parish Council. This involved the preparation of a map tracing the course of the Wansdyke which will illustrate several interpretation boards to be erected next to the earthwork on Odd Down.

The Friends of the Survey

As reported in our, newsletter, John Macdonald, Chairman of the Friends of the Survey, spoke at the AGM on 28 October 2011 on Philip Sheppard, 'magistrate and educationist'. An article on Sheppard's career appears in this issue. When the Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society held a walk around the Wellsway area, the audience, which included a number of local people, not members of the society, were very interested to hear about the local reformatory in Devonshire House, outlined by courtesy of Dr.Philip Bendall.

At the AGM in April Mike Chapman gave a talk summing up all the Survey and the Friends of the Survey have been assembling on the Guildhall and High Street area, especially assessing work done for the Roman Baths Museum. Marek Lewcun also spoke on the Empire Hotel. Friends will remember that Marek wrote an article on the Empire Hotel skyline, published in the *Survey* No.11.

In 2013 the Friends of the Survey will have been operating for 20 years. It is inevitable though regrettable that we sometimes have to say goodbye to former members, such as Philip Jackson, who contributed an article to the *Survey* on Queen Square Chapel, and later a review of the 1900 Centenary celebrations in the newspapers.

IN MEMORIAM

Philip Jackson

14 October 1922 – 11 May 2012

Philip Jackson, my father, was well known to many Friends of The Survey.

After he'd retired to Saltford in 1982, Dad indulged his passion for gardening and collecting glass, played golf and took up researching his family tree. This took him back to Yorkshire, where he'd been born and bred. During the course of this, he categorised the whole of the Guiseley Parish Register (a mammoth task) and donated his work to the local genealogists.

When, in his book about John Wood, Tim Mowl suggested that his 'Architect of Obsession' in 1725 'emerges out of a mysterious blank ... engaged in unstated activities in Yorkshire', it sparked Dad's interest. He brought to his research on John Wood the same diligence that he'd taught himself in genealogy. But alas, he could never prove definitively whether or not John Wood had any Yorkshire

connection at all. His research into John Wood prompted an interest in St.Mary's Chapel at the far corner of Queen Square, which was also published in *The Survey*.

Apart from some years in India during the war, Dad's whole career was in the Admiralty, which was what kept bringing him back to Bath. The Admiralty had moved its headquarters here during the war, where it would remain for the rest of the century. The Admiralty administered the Navy and people were employed all over the world, so Bath saw a constant influx and outflux as people stepped from one role to another in their careers. For many, Bath became the natural place to put down roots when they retired. They might not have been here for very long during their careers, but they had probably spent more time here than in any other single place.

We were no exception. At different times, Dad worked in Devonport (Plymouth), Portsmouth, Chatham and Rosyth in Scotland. In Bath, he worked in Fox Hill, Endsleigh, Warminster Road, Laura Place and the Empire (after it had died as a hotel and before it was converted by McCarthy & Stone). The name 'empire' was fitting, because in the 1960s, Britain was closing the dockyards that had been set up as staging posts for the empire in Asia – Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), Singapore, Hong Kong.

The admiralty had its own community and its own way of life – Mum and Dad would meet people in one posting that they'd first met a few postings before and carry on where they left off. We first came to Bath in the mid-1950s and were here for the great flood in 1960, when swans were spotted swimming up the lower end of the old Southgate Street. I can remember Dad driving me down North Road and looking down on the lake that the Rec had become for a few days.

In 1960, we left Bath for Chatham and then Singapore, where Dad was the Finance Manager of the Dockyard, no mean job. People raise their eyebrows now when we tell them that he worked – and we lived- there in the constant heat and humidity for three years without air conditioning. Small wonder that the standard uniform was white shorts! But more to the point – and it is forgotten now – Britain was at war. Ships would come and go from the dockyard, ferrying marines and support to Borneo, where Britain was enforcing the border of Sarawak against incursions from Indonesia.

By the time we came back to Bath in 1965, the Admiralty had become the Ministry of Defence (Navy Department), a change of name considered by many to be senseless. But then, they might have said the same about moving Bath out of Somerset and into Avon, which happened at about the same time - Bath was still a city of blackened buildings then and was just bringing in one way streets and parking restrictions in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion. We were here for all the controversy around Colin Buchanan's proposed tunnel under the Circus and, living up beyond Bear Flat, we witnessed the sack of Bath at first hand, as the lower reaches of Holloway came down, the new junction from Wellsway was created and Carlton Terrace went up.

In the early 1970s, Mum and Dad left Bath again. They first moved to Plymouth and then to Scotland, returning here just over ten years later.

Dad was a keen member of the Friends until age caught up with him. He will be missed for his generosity, his sometimes quirky sense of humour and most of all, his independent approach to life.

Paul Jackson

The Bathwick Local History Society

Back in November 2010 we held our last meeting in St Mary's Church Hall and subsequently closed our membership. At that time there were still three large projects left to complete. The committee therefore agreed to stay on as trustees until all outstanding business had been completed and properly wound up, conservatively estimated to take at least twelve months. It was also decided that some local research should continue after this point but on a smaller scale.

Progress of the outstanding projects has since been thorough but slow. However restoration of the memorial in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Smallcombe, to Lieutenant Colonel John H.M.Hardyman and the compilation of a record of that work is not yet complete. It is therefore hoped

that details of this project will be published in next year's Friends journal, according to space and acceptance of course.

In September we hope to restart the work to sort and make ready our large archive collection of research material for handing over to the Bath Record Office in the New Year.

Sheila M. Edwards
August 2012

Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society

Our 2012 season began in April. As it was the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic Doreen Collyer and Bill Hanna recounted the extraordinary coincidence of their relations being connected. Doreen's husband's great-uncle drowned, but his wife and four-year-old daughter were saved, arriving penniless in the USA. The Collyers and Bill's maternal great-aunt, originally called Horder, came from the same village in Norfolk! The Collyers had been planning to buy a fruit farm from this great-aunt and it was Edward Young Horder who helped Charlotte Collyer and raised money for her to live on and eventually to go back to England.

The second half of the evening, Bill Evans of the Widcombe Baptist Church recounted some of its history, showed old photos and pictures, and led a tour of the church. The building dates from 1820 but was earlier a Methodist church. He mentioned the struggle to be allowed to keep the texts on the roof!

In May Margaret Burrows gave a talk entitled 'Going Going Gone', about the area of Widcombe Wharf, at the bottom of Widcombe Hill, Canal Bridge, St.Matthew's Place and Coburg Place. Various buildings including houses and businesses were once on Canal Bridge, whose rebuilding is almost complete. Old Coburg Place has gone along with the area known as the Wharf and since 1970 the site of the Widcombe Social Club, now about to be demolished too. A new Social Club will be built shortly.

In June we again had a stall at Widcombe Rising which created a lot of interest. Among booklets for sale was a new publication on the real and correct history of Widcombe Manor and its owners written by Elizabeth Holland on the basis of work by many people, including members of our group. This booklet proved very popular.

Also in June a member of the Cleveland Pools Trust talked to us about the pools, the first open-air swimming pools in Britain, dating from 1815. The Trust is raising money with help from English Heritage, amongst others, to restore and re-open the pools after years of neglect. The public will access them from the river, but there will be chlorinated water from the mains in the baths instead of river water!

In July, Philip Bendall, Ainley Wade and Margaret Burrows led a walk from the Bear Inn and Elm Place, from the late 18th century, and Wellsway. Barracks Farm which was vast and eventually divided into two was discussed. Now all that remains are farm labourers' cottages, much higher up Wellsway. Ainley drew on Allan Keevil's article on Barracks Farm. He talked of Devonshire Buildings and Devonshire Place and the pub, and then we went along Greenway Lane, over the playing fields by the 1930s City of Bath Boys' School, and into Kipling Avenue.

At the October Meeting Stuart Burroughs of the Museum of Bath at Work will give a talk called 'Trouble at the Mill', about the workers at Twerton Cloth Mills, who rebelled against their masters over modernisation.

In November one of our members, Ann Wyatt, will talk about her research into the many market gardens once at Lyncombe Vale, Widcombe Hill and Prior Park Road, amongst other areas. Included will be information on the many orchards and the entertainment centres which grew plants and flowers for sale.

In December we will have our usual members evening with wine and coffee etc. Members will be bringing interesting items and reveal information they have discovered about our area and its inhabitants.

Our meetings are usually held in the hall of Widcombe Baptist Church, beginning at 7.30 pm on Thursdays.

Margaret Burrows 4807119
August 2012

East Twerton and Oldfield Park Local History Society

Autumn Meetings: at Oldfield Park Baptist Church Hall, commencing 7.30 pm

13 September: St.John's Hospital & Almshouses; by Judith Pepler

18 October: Lost Churches of Bath; by Roland Symons

15 November: Chew Valley Before the Lake; Lesley Ross

Visitors are always welcome. Admission £2.00. For further information contact the Chairman on 01225 313271.

The Combe Down Heritage Society

History of Combe Down Water Works

Combe Down Heritage Society has been researching the history of the Combe Down Water Works and presents a progress report on the story that has been uncovered so far.

The City of Bath, blessed with the only hot springs in the country, struggled in the past to find sufficient reliable sources of cold water, a problem that caused ill health and severe political strife over many years. The issues have been well researched and frequently written up over the years. In particular, the various arguments are well summarised in E.C.Petgrave's pamphlet *The Bath Water Supply in 1902*, Alderman A.W.Wills' *Bath Waterworks History 1885 – 1933* and countless articles and letters in the *Chronicle* and its predecessors. However, the supply of water to Combe Down and other areas to the south of the city has not been given so much attention.

The village of Combe Down sits above the water table that feeds the springs flowing from both the south and north slopes of the down, and so from early times the supply of water to residents was either from stored rainwater or from wells dug down into the limestone. The 1904 Ordnance Survey Map shows twenty accessible wells in the centre of Combe Down and there would have been many others for private access only. Where the well shafts went through the underground stone quarries they were neatly protected with stone walls to prevent contamination. However as the population built up and concern over water purity increased through the 19th century, so did the demand for a reliable piped water supply.

The majority of water supply undertakings in Victorian times started as private ventures, and the first piped water supply to Combe Down was no exception. The original Tucking Mill Pumping Station was constructed in 1881 as part of 'Dr.Parfitt's Waterworks'. A waterwheel, powered by the Whittaker Springs, pumped the water from the other main springs flowing from the south side of the down into an elevated tank on Combe Down, probably the one that older residents in the village remember still standing in Bradford Road. It was finally taken out of use and demolished in 1976. Steam-driven pumps were installed in 1885 to free up the water from the Whittaker Springs and increase the supply available to customers. In 1886 the Bath Corporation took an option for £100 a year to purchase water from the waterworks when necessary to back up their other sources of supply.

Further information on Dr.Parfitt and his venture remains to be uncovered, but when he died in 1886 the 'Midford Works' were purchased from his estate by Mr.J.Day, and in 1887 the 'Bath & District High Level Waterworks Company' was formed to upgrade and expand the operation. In 1888 Mr.Day attended a Council session in Bath to speak to the High Level Water Company's application to supply houses in Bathwick and Widcombe. In 1890, to feed the expanded customer base, the Hampton Down Reservoir was constructed on land leased for 99 years. It was originally fed from the Combe Down distribution main, although this was replaced by a direct feed from Tucking Mill in 1906. In 1891 Bath Corporation considered a proposal to buy the company but rejected it.

In 1901 there was an epidemic at the Bath Workhouse (later St Martin's Hospital) and the investigation found various kinds of bacilli in the HLWW rising main. The Medical Officer of Health

subsequently found water storage and filtering arrangements open to pollution and unfit for use, and, coincidence or not, in July 1902 the company was put up for sale by Stone, King, Stone & Thomas by auction at the Empire Hotel, Bath under the hammer of Mr A. Bertram Fortt.

The assets of the company up for sale included:

1. Two acres of land at Tucking Mill, with rights of the Springs
2. A well-built Pumping Engine, Boiler and Store Houses and tall Chimney Stack, together with the working Machinery and Plant including two steam Pumps, two boilers and a New Reservoir.
3. A 5-inch rising main to a large tank on Combe Down and from thence to Hampton Down Reservoir.

B&DHLWW was actually purchased in October 1902 by John Gauler Wilton, and a new undertaking, the 'Combe Down (Bath) and General Water Works Company, Limited' was formed in January 1903 to run the operation. It was owned primarily by members of the Bayldon family, of whom only one, Owen Hague Bayldon, lived locally, in "Montalt," Combe Down. The Company also purchased the property and water rights of the Somersetshire Coal Canal and gave itself broad powers to expand.

The involvement of one local family began in 1898 when William George Bishop joined the company as an 'engineman' at Tucking Mill. He later became the Chief Inspector and was a valued member of the company under its various names. When he became ill in the 1930s the Bayldon family paid for him to travel to London for specialist treatment. His sons Roland and Vernon also became employees, and Vernon later followed his father as Inspector and lived with his family in the company house, Trafalgar House, in Combe Road. Vernon's son Phil and grandsons David and Steve still live locally.



Tucking Mill Pumping Station with Bishop family members standing outside (1930s). Bishop Family Archive

In 1904 the steam-powered pumps at Tucking Mill were replaced by gas engines, with the gas being produced on site. By the early 1920s the Combe Down Water Works was supplying all of the City of Bath south of the GWR, plus outlying areas from Englishcombe to Claverton, South Stoke to Hinton Charterhouse and Rode to Norton St Philip. A new reservoir was built at Hayeswood in 1927 to improve the supply to Limpley Stoke.

In 1950 the Bath Corporation Waterworks commenced a review of the 'Undertaking of the COMBE DOWN WATERWORKS COMPANY' as part of a proposal to purchase it and re-integrate the water distribution to the south side of Bath with the supply from Combe Down, it having been split off in the early 1930s. The staffing was an Engineer and Manager, a Chief Inspector and three shift stokers, who worked a two-shift cycle daily at Tucking Mill. Total expenditure on staff in 1950 was:

Salaries of Manager & Secretary	£728
Wages	£1,327

The report included an assessment of the pumping machinery that by now relied on a new diesel-driven pump, with the gas engine-driven pumps as standby, and a conclusion that significant work was needed to improve the supply mains. Meantime the Health Inspector was requiring that the use of the Whittaker Springs be stopped as soon as possible because of watercourse contamination and concern was expressed that the 'reservoirs all leave much to be desired in their construction and maintenance'.

Despite these misgivings, Combe Down Water Works was taken over by the Bath Corporation Waterworks in 1954, and a programme of upgrading the assets and integrating them into the overall supply network for Bath commenced. Thus ended nearly 75 years of a successful private venture in our midst.

In 1974 the UK water industry was nationalised and the Wessex Water Authority formed to serve a population of around two million people living in Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset and Gloucestershire. In 1989 the UK water industry was privatised, and Wessex Water was formed to purchase the assets of the WWA. In turn, Wessex Water was taken over in 2002 by Malaysian conglomerate YTL Power International.



The Bradford Road Water Tank (1950s). Wessex Water Archive.

The Society's thanks go to Phil Bishop, whose perseverance convinced us that there was a story to tell, to David Bishop, keeper of the family archive, who also helped with the research, and to Wessex Water, who allowed us access to their archive at Sutton Poyntz in Dorset, kindly facilitated by curator John Willows. The research will continue as priorities allow, and hopefully we will have enough information at some point to publish a small monograph on the subject.

Richard Read

Combe Down Heritage Society, August 2012

[Ed. We look forward to further developments on this subject. Readers' attention is drawn to the article on the Conollys of Midford Castle below which, coincidentally, also discusses the connection of Dr.Parfitt and Joseph Day (inventor of the two-stroke engine) with the Combe Down Water Works.]

History of Bath Research Group

The History of Bath Research Group has as usual, had a busy year. Its plan to digitise its set of Bath Directories is making small but significant progress while its website is also undergoing modification to make it more useful and searchable for both members and visitors. With regard to its programme of events, this has again been a full year with, for the first time, a 'home' at the Church Hall of St.Mary's Bathwick – normally the second Monday of the month.

The programme year started off with a talk by the Chairman Dr. Michael Rowe, on 'Mr. Pulteney and the Development of Bridge Street and his bridge' which was followed in October by Dr. Roger Rolls talking on 'Dr. William Turner and the Renaissance of Therapeutic Bathing'.

There were two meetings in November, the first was a talk by Robert and Nicola Hyman on the history of 'The Pump Room Orchestra: Three Centuries of Music and Social History' which helped to launch their new book on the topic, and at which Robert, a violinist with the current trio – gave us a short recital. The following meeting also helped launch a book, this time by Carline Shaw and was held in the subject of her book – *Our Lady and St. Alphege, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's 'little gem' of a Church in Bath*. We were welcomed to the Church by Father Richard Barton and later had a walk round and invited to tea in the Church Hall.

The HBRG's January meeting had a change of topic at which Stephen Clews, Manager of the Roman Baths Complex postponed his intended talk on 'Little Solsbury' to bring us up to date with the exciting discovery of the 'Beau Street Hoard', the great find of Roman coins unearthed due to works for the new Gainsborough Hotel.

Two further talks were given - by Dr. Amy Frost on 'The Architecture of John Pinch in Bath' and Roger Holley on 'The Larkhall Inn'; before committee member Mike Chapman gave a background talk on 'The Bruton Estate in Bath' in advance of a summer outing to Bruton to visit Sexey's Hospital and St. Mary's Church under the guidance of John Bishton.

The year finished with a 'Geological' walk back in Bath led by Elizabeth Devon who opened everyone's eyes to 'The Stones of Bath in the Streetscape'.

Nigel Pollard

South Stoke Local History Committee

Dr. Rod Thomas gave an interesting lecture entitled 'From Ritual Landscape to Settlement: New Discoveries on Bathampton Down' in March.

Professor Bob Parfitt's detailed and thorough research into some of the occupants of Midford Castle - namely the Conolly family and Monsignor Charles Parfitt - has been published as a monograph 'Midford Castle in the 19th Century'. An edited version appears in this volume. Amy Barkshire has produced an in-depth analysis of the 2001 census of the parish.

Current projects include the researching of some early parishioners wills, the completion of a monograph on The Vicars of South Stoke, and the preparation of an Information Board on The Wansdyke for the Parish Council.

All research has been collated and added to the South Stoke Parish archive at the Guildhall Record Office where it is available for consultation and research. Copies of *The Book of South Stoke with Midford* and the *Commentary on the Churchwardens' Accounts* are available for sale (contact J. John 01225 833387).

Jenny John 01225 833387
South Stoke, July 2012

Weston Local History Society

Autumn meetings held at Weston Parish Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

17 September: The Bath Blitz; by John Warren

15 October: Dickens in Bath; by Dr. Andrew Swift

19 November: The Bath Fire and Ambulance Service; by Dennis Hill

17 December: The Cleveland Baths

Enquiries are welcomed by Secretary Pru Brice (01225 315342) and visitors always welcome at our Monthly Meetings at Weston Parish Rooms normally on the third Monday of the Month.

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NOTES & QUERIES

Sydney William Bush

A former Mayor of Bath was the subject of an article by Dr.Gillian Mawby recently contributed to the *Friends of Brantwood Newsletter* (Autumn 2010, pp.13-14). Entitled ‘Sydney William Bush (c.1856-1937)’ it highlights the ‘indescribable influence’ on Bush’s life of the teachings of the Victorian art critic and social reformer John Ruskin. Aged just eleven years when he left the Bathforum Free School in Monmouth Street, Bush undauntedly set out on the path of self-education, being guided by Ruskin’s philosophy. Bush, who became an enthusiastic collector of Ruskin’s works, was one of a number of admirers who wrote letters of condolence on his death, the response to which was the focus of Dr.Mawby’s doctoral research at Lancaster University’s Ruskin Centre.

A copy of the text of this article supplied by Dr.Mawby has, with her permission, been deposited at the Bath Central Library.

Sydney T.Chapman

Sydney William Bush (c.1856-1937)

On May 22, 1937
God opened the door
and
Sydney William Bush
Stepped into a wider
Sphere of service

The only mentions of S.W.Bush in the Library Edition of Ruskin’s Work occur on pages 132 and 370 of Volume 38 and refer to annotations in Ruskin’s hand in Bush’s copy of *Queen of the Air*. In an editorial note on page 132 there is reference to Ruskin’s correction of a printer’s mistake, and on page 370 to Ruskin’s inserting a comma after ‘fight’, with the note, ‘If printers ever leave out a comma, it is sure to be the most necessary one in the book!’ A careful scrutiny of page 400 in the Library Edition shows that, although Edward Cook had acknowledged Bush’s letter bringing the observation to his attention, the comma was not replaced in the short phrase ‘Fight and Weave’.¹

This extraordinary relegation of a loyal reader to a comparatively insignificant grammatical association does little justice to the ‘indescribable influence’ of Ruskin’s writings on the life of Sydney William Bush. Bush’s Obituary Notice in the *Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald* (22 May 1937) records that he knew Ruskin’s writings ‘through and through’ and quotes Bush as having stated publicly:

‘He [Ruskin] fostered in my heart what I may term a perfect disregard for the accumulation of mere riches, and developed in me a perfect love of straight dealing, of honesty and doing to one’s neighbour as one would like the neighbour to do to oneself.’

Sydney William Bush was a native of Bath, the son of Daniel T.Bush a businessman of Stall Street, the street in which Bush would soon start his working life with William Titley, a grocer. At eleven years of age Bush left the Bathforum Free School in Monmouth Street, then under the headmastership of Mr.Wadsworth, abandoned forever his dream of becoming a doctor, and began a journey that would eventually make him Mayor of Bath. Ambition drove him to continue his education at every opportunity. Titley encouraged his young apprentice to use the opportunities afforded to him by the city’s Free Library and presented him with a volume of selections from Ruskin’s writings. Bush was captivated and, in time, acquired all Ruskin’s works including many first editions. Even so, life was sometimes harsh for the adolescent Bush: a salutary failure in the Sunday School Teachers’ exam at the age of sixteen, as he admitted through his own laziness, left him humiliated. He never failed another examination.

In 1879 Bush entered the employ of another grocer, George Pine and Sons. By 1884, at the age of twenty-eight, Bush was in a position to buy the business and lease the premises to establish his own shop. As the business prospered so did Bush’s reputation. For thirty-two years he was Chairman of the Education Board and in 1928 the University of Bristol awarded him an MA (*honoris causa*) in

recognition of the distinguished service he had given to education. Bush acted as Mayor of Bath from 1906-1907 and 'during that year succeeded in relieving the Royal United Hospital of its incubus of debt amounting to over £6,000'². At times Bush acted as a governor of King Edward's School and a member of the Council of Bristol University. He was a Liberal all his life and a staunch member of the Baptist Denomination (Manvers Street Church, Bath) and helped with the Sunday school. Local anecdote claims that all his employees were required 'to sign *the pledge*'. In 1910 Bush built a house in South Stoke, a small village outside Bath, and called it Brantwood in honour of Ruskin. He and his wife lived there until his death. The house sold for over two million pounds in September 2006.

Bush's attempts to learn more about his master received encouraging replies from Grace Allen (12 June 1910) who sent him copies of two letters from Ruskin, and from Thomas F. Plowman of 69 Pulteney Street, Bath, dated 30 January 1908 with reminiscences of Ruskin as a man and lecturer. But letters in file L65 from the Ruskin library at Lancaster are less supportive. Correspondence with W.G. Collingwood implies that Bush had hoped to set up a Ruskin exhibition of some kind in Bath. Collingwood wrote from Coniston on 25 March 1904:

'In reply to your letter, I think it very unlikely that the various owners of the exhibits at Manchester Ruskin Exb^m would consent to their transference to Bath, and to prolonged absence of their possessions. I don't know what the total value of insurance is, but at least half a dozen of the pictures and mss run to four figures; and the mere expense of the thing would be great. Many of the exhibitors being my friends lent their exhibits to me personally, on the understanding that I would see them safely placed; this I could not do if they were sent [?lent] to Bath.'

Peggy Webling was equally unforthcoming on 28 August 1923 with the news that she had not written any further reminiscences of Ruskin and offering her *Sketch* for two shillings.

Collingwood's letter in particular intimates a reinforcement of the pre-existing delineation of social strata. Despite his exemplary life and industry, Bush's life personifies the difficulties faced by an Edwardian autodidact and 'Man of Trade' acting without patronage.

Gillian Mawby

[Published in the Friends of Ruskin's Brantwood
Newsletter, Autumn 2010]

1. Ruskin Library, Lancaster, L65. Letter dated 24 December, 1909.
2. Obituary Notice, *Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald*, 22 May 1937.

Treatment at St.Martin's

Friends member Brian Coward has written an interesting account of his time in National Service, and his subsequent illness, deposited at the Record Office. While in Northern Ireland, he began to suffer health problems and was diagnosed as suffering from TB spine, so that he was placed in a ward with other TB patients. A conference of medical personnel confirmed the diagnosis and told him that treatment would take seven years. He was returned to England, to St.Martin's Hospital which was partly used as a military hospital during the war and subsequent years.

The first thing the Ward Sister told him was to get up and have a proper bath, so although he had been brought to the hospital with great care lying flat on a stretcher he had to walk to the wash-room. Thereafter he was expected to lie flat, although in Ireland he had been allowed to sit up and do handcrafts and embroidery.

The outlook did not seem good. However one day a visiting specialist, a Mr. John Bastow, examined all his records and proclaimed that he did not have TB spine (known as Pott's disease) but 'Osteochondritis'. He was to be got up and put in a plaster jacket and the treatment would last seven months, not seven years.

We have heard that TB in the bones could be fatal, so it was just as well. Osteochondritis is defined as a softening of the bone. It will later harden again, so that a plaster cover is necessary to prevent from setting out of shape. A ward in the RUH is named after Mr. Bastow.

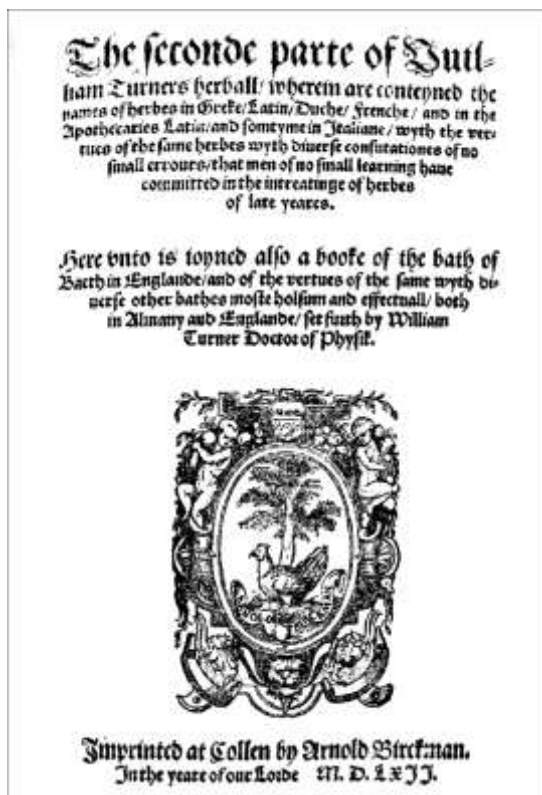
Dr. William Turner

Dr. William Turner, who advocated improvements to the baths in the Tudor age, has been discussed by Dr. Roger Rolls in 'Quest for the Quintessence', in *Hot Springs of Bath*, edited by Dr. Kellaway. Dr. John Wroughton also dealt with Turner in *Tudor Bath*, in his discussion of the baths on pp.157-162. He lists some of the diseases Turner believed the baths would help, and discusses how far Turner's suggested improvements actually took place. For instance in 1576 a separate bath for women was installed south of the King's Bath. With Colin Johnston, the Survey discussed Turner's proposals for a horse bath, in *Bath History* XI.

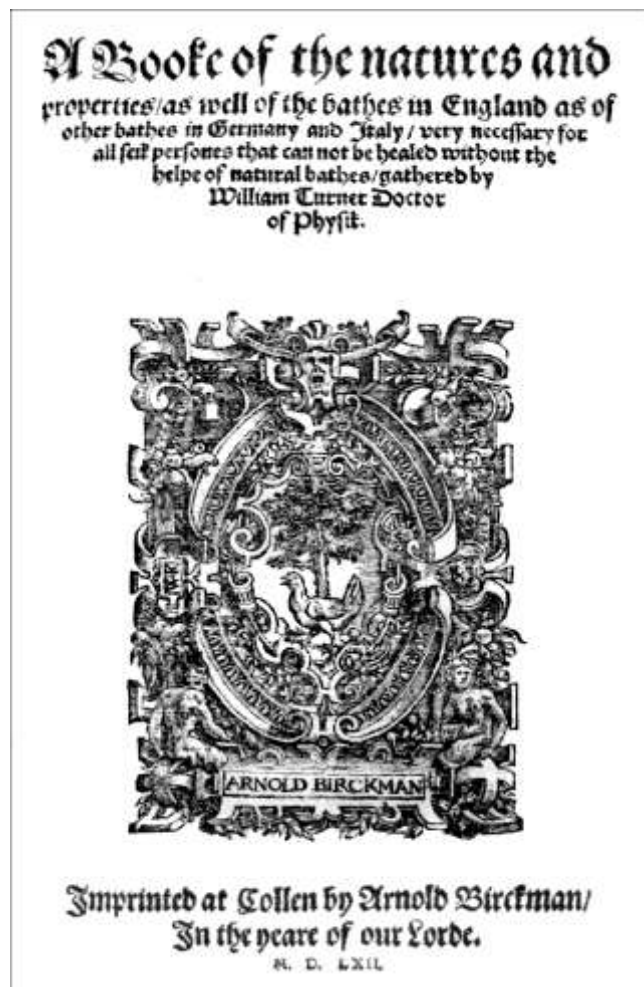
Friends member Dr. Michael Rowe attended the same school as Turner, at Morpeth. The Morpeth Library contains two copies of Turner's *Herbal*, and a commemorative herb garden has been established.

In a recent issue of *Guidelines*, published for the Mayor's Guides, Malcolm Hitchcock comments on the *Herbal* and other points. He writes:

Dr. Turner's reputation today rests largely on his work as an ornithologist, botanist and herbalist, as made clear in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, and it is in these fields he will be remembered. His influence here in Bath, far-reaching though it was, has been largely forgotten outside Bath. He died aged 58 and is buried at St. Olave's, Hart Street, in the City of London, close to another great commentator on the hot waters of Bath, Samuel Pepys, who came here one hundred years later. They would have had a lot to talk about.



The seconde parte of William Turners herball wherein are conteyned the names of herbes in Greke/ Latin/ Duche/ Frenche/ and in Apothecaries Latin/ and somtyme in Italiane/ wyth the vertues of the same herbes wyth diuerse confutations of no small errours/ that men of no small learning have committed in the intreatinge of herbes of late yeares. Here vnto is toynded also a booke of the bath of Baeth in Englande/ and of the vertues of the same wyth diuerse other bathes moſte holſum and effectnall/ both in Alimany and Englande/ ſet furth by William Turner Doctor of Phyſik.



A Booke of the natures and properties/ as well of the bathes in England as of other bathes in Germany and Italy/ very necessary for all ſeik perſones that can not be healed without the helpe of natural bathes/ gathered by William Turner Doctor of Phyſik.

St.Olave's was bombed and almost destroyed in the Blitz of 1941. Many memorials and relics were either lost or stolen; one such being a bust of Dr.Peter Turner, William's son, also a physician and botanist, who died in 1614. Earlier this year the bust came to light (see image) and is currently under restoration before being installed in the church next to the plaque commemorating his Father.



Blitz survivor Stolen bust is sent back to church

A "priceless" 17th century bust looted from a bombed church during the Blitz will be returned to its rightful home more than 70 years after it was stolen.

The sculpture of Dr. Peter Turner, left, an eminent botanist and physician, was taken from the nave of St Olave's in the City on the night of April 17, 1941.

It was recovered after being consigned for sale earlier this year.

A curator at the Museum of London learned of the impending sale at Dreweatts auction house and told church officials.

The Art Loss Register, which specialises in tracking down stolen pieces and resolving art disputes, took on the case and the alabaster bust was withdrawn from the sale.

An investigation later disclosed a chain of previous buyers including a dealer in the Netherlands.

Experts were surprised that the bust had papers showing its history until the Blitz. The 16 1/4 statue is to take up its position in the church where the diarist Samuel Pepys is buried.

The statue is worth an estimated £70,000.



This small brass tablet is also shown here, and makes reference to the most honourable and learned Doctor, his thirteen years service as Dean at Wells, his skilful advances in the fields of the sciences and medicine, and his deep religious beliefs, in particular his abhorrence of anything associated with the Church of Rome, or the vestments.

He died six years after the publication of his treatise on Bath.

Weymouth House School

Overlooking the sea near Exmouth is a curious Regency building, owned by the National Trust and open to the public, which appears to have a Bath connection. Known as 'A la Ronde', it is built in circular shape (actually 16-sided), commissioned by Jane Parminter and her cousin Mary Parminter after their return from the 'Grand Tour' on the continent in 1795. Inside, it is divided into wedge-shaped rooms which the two young women filled with their artistic collections and decorated with their own craftwork of shells, feathers, glass and other natural materials, all of which are being preserved. The connection of the building with Bath is described in the National Trust handbook:

Who Designed A la Ronde?

Family tradition maintains that Jane designed A la Ronde herself, but this seems unlikely. One 19th-century writer claimed that it was built 'from plans by a Mr. Lowder', which is probably true. Mary Parminter's aunt by marriage, also called Mary, had a sister Anne Glass, who married a Colonel John Lowder, a banker. In 1778 the Commander turned to property development and built Lansdowne Place West in fashionable Bath where he lived from 1794, the year before the Parminters bought their site. It may be that his building expertise influenced them sufficiently to suggest the design for A la Ronde.

A more plausible theory implicates his son, John Lowder (1781-1829), because he practised as a gentleman architect in Bath. He was, however, aged only seventeen when A la Ronde was built and is perhaps too young to be considered, although architects were often apprenticed at the age of fifteen in the 18th century and it was not unknown for them to be designing new buildings at seventeen. Moreover, he was of the same generation as Mary, and brother of Dr. William Lowder, who also married into the Parminter family and who is probably the same Dr. Lowder who appears in a silhouette in the Library. Furthermore, in 1816 John Lowder designed the Bath & District National School in Bath (demolished in 1896), a 32-sided building with wedge-shaped classrooms similar to the wedge-shaped rooms at A la Ronde. Could it be that A la Ronde was a young man's fancy dashed off for a favoured relation, later to be crystallised in the Bath school?



A la Ronde in the early 19th century; engraving by L.W.Martens



A la Ronde today

National Trust

This refers to the building which was attached to Weymouth House in St. James's Street in the area now occupied by the back of the Marks & Spencer block. Sometimes known as the 'Weymouth House School', it housed 1,000 pupils, but the sun on the roof in the summer was reported to be an inconvenience for the Girls' School (presumably situated in the upper storey), and was replaced in 1896 by a more modern school building. Little else is known about it, but there is a possibility that more information can be found in the archives relating to Lord Weymouth's property in Bath at Longleat.

Mike Chapman



Left. Plan of Weymouth House School, as shown on the 1885 1:500 OS map of Bath.

Right. An early view of the School, together with Weymouth House attached on the left.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Leslie,

'Odd Corners': I have lived in Bath all my life, but still find odd bits not noticed in the past. *Walcot Street* - the architraves around the windows, could they have been a mason's bit of fun? The drain grille, *Abbey Churchyard* - who would cast/make such now with the bars curving parallel to the curb? *Kingston Buildings* - not enough room to get through if the corner of the building is fully formed, to form a rebate and use a stone bracket above. Thought they might be of interest to someone. *Not a Corner, but a Round-the-Corner*: Have you ever noticed the 'Hood' over the side door to the Huntsman pub? Fascinating, like a bit of French chateau house.

Sincerely,

Brian Coward, 9 May 2012



Left. Walcot Street windows

Centre. Drain grille in Abbey Church Yard

Right. The door in Kingston Buildings

To: Stuart Burroughs

Dear Stuart,

I gave you a ring to ask what will happen if Bryan Chalker succeeds in establishing an Industrial Museum at the Newark works. Will you remove there and be put in charge? We don't want two industrial museums, or two centres of industrial archives. As you have made a success of the Museum of Bath at Work, and collected awards, it does not seem necessary to seek elsewhere for a museum director. As for his idea that the Guildhall archives might use some of the museum's space, I don't think he has consulted Colin about that.

Elizabeth Holland

Stuart replied that he did not think that to launch a new museum would be financially viable at the present time. He later wrote to the Bath Chronicle 6 September 2012:

Museum's huge Stothert & Pitt collection

Dear Sir,

With regard to the recent letter from Brian Potter regarding the collecting of material relating to the Bath firm of Stothert & Pitt. The Museum of Bath at Work holds a collection of 40,000 photographs of the firm's products, staff and operations and this collection has formed the basis of three books on the firm's history. In addition we hold a complete collection of trade literature, including catalogues, on the firm dating back to the 19th century and a large collection of recorded interviews with former members of staff. The museum also holds a large collection of artefacts from ashtrays to scale models from the firm. These objects and archive are displayed at the museum, by rotation, but owing to the sheer size of the collection and the requirement to display objects from other commercial operations in Bath, we are only able to display a fraction of this collection at any one time. It is common practice in all museums to display material in this way. Needless to say the collections on Stothert and Pitt, along with all other Bath firms and other aspects of Bath's commercial development are available to view. Interested researchers can contact the museum to make an appointment. The museum would be delighted to help in further collecting or coordinating research on Stothert & Pitt in the future.

Stuart Burroughs

Director, Museum of Bath at Work, Julian Road, Bath

All readers are encouraged to write in at any time, on any relevant subject. Please send to: Leslie Holt, 'Westwinds', Hayesfield Park, Bath BA2 4QE.

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PUBLICATIONS

Widcombe Manor - the Golden House, compiled by Elizabeth Holland for the Survey of Old Bath and the Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society, 2012. A4 format. Seven pages of text with illustrations and one full-page 1839 estate map. An outline of the exciting history of this famous mansion. Available at £2 from the Survey of Old Bath, plus 80p. postage and packing if posted.

From Turnpike Gates to Christmas Waits, by Alan Dodge; Ex Libris Press 2012, A5 format, 96pp. £5.95. Readers may already be familiar with Alan Dodge's thorough and extensive publication *Freshford The History of a Somerset Village*, published in 2000 by Freshford Publications. This smaller book however consists of a useful series of historical 'background' notes, written for the local parish magazine over recent years, which discuss a diverse variety of subjects illustrating life in our area in the past - as indicated in the title.

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**YOUNG LADIES, 'STREET ARABS' AND PAUPERS:
Contrasting Batheaston Girls Boarding Establishments**

Ron Russell

In the 1790s Batheaston, in its quiet rural surroundings yet close proximity to Bath, provided an ideal site for schools for young ladies – as Madame Vereyt's London Road Academy teaching English, French, Italian, Music, Dance and other 'genteel parts of female education'. Twenty young ladies could be accommodated and fees were 'moderate'. Madame Vereyt was not alone. Young ladies also had the choice of attending Mrs. Henryson and Daughter's School for Young Ladies or Miss Cannon's Boarding School for Young Ladies. Miss Cannon had recently removed her school from 'Midsummer to the former residential seat of John Wood Esq at Batheaston' – a prestigious address (now Eagle House). All three schools actively advertised in the local press¹.

One hundred years later, and in the same mode and the last of its kind, came Fairhaven School, Northend, which operated from the late 1890s to the end of the First World War.

Fairhaven School, Batheaston, Bath.



Fairhaven School c. 1916.

Fairhaven Ladies School was run by the Herbert family, father and his two unmarried daughters. The youngest daughter, Frances, appears to have been the main motivating force behind the project; the 1901 census names her as the Ladies School's principal, assisted by two teachers or 'governesses', a cook and two young housemaids (laundry being sent out to a local woman). There was a non-resident gardener and a boy who cleaned all the girls' shoes and collected the school's groceries from Bath driving the school's pony and trap. In 1901 the school cared for ten fee-paying boarding girls aged between 8 and 18 years old, predominantly drawn from southern England and Wales. Frances Herbert was then 36 years old.



Miss Frances Herbert in her study ('The Den') c. 1916.

The school was to expand after 1901 and by 1912 cared for thirty boarding girls and provided the range of subjects requisite for an accomplished young lady – French, German, music, riding and dance, amongst others. Posture and poise were not neglected: ‘We were made to lie for ten minutes every day on a most uncomfortable back board, wooden, with a slight indentation for the head; for the benefit of our spines; I suppose!’. So said Lilian Chesson, a pupil at the school from 1912 onwards into the war years. She and Elsie Strange recorded their impressions of the school many years later,² as did Mary Burchell, a contemporary resident of Batheaston.³

‘There were thirty girls in Fairhaven School, twenty sleeping in the dormitory, two rooms for four, and my sister and I together. We rose promptly at 7.0, washed in cold water in the bedrooms, and practised on six or seven pianos before breakfast at 8.0.’ (Elsie Strange).



One of the Fairhaven School bedrooms c.1916, with ‘en-suite’ facilities.

Breakfast: ‘That was always a boiled egg, except sliced ham on Sundays, and porridge as well in winter. Dinner was promptly at 12.0. The tables were always properly laid, with the serviettes folded into mitres by each place on Sundays. We had good, plain food, always meat and vegetables and pudding, and there was always a large milk pudding for anyone who preferred it. There was plenty of food; in wartime shortages we made use of turnip-tops! We also picked blackberries and made jam. For tea we had bread and butter, jam and cake, and at 8.0 brown bread and butter, with cold water, taken standing. Lights were put out at 9.0.’ (Elsie Strange).

Lilian Chesson was not so certain as to the quality of the food: ‘The food was not bad, but not very good. We used to stuff gristly meat up one leg of our bloomers, and unwanted pudding up the other’.



A class at Fairhaven School c. 1916 ‘All the girls were taught together in one classroom’ (Mary Burchell).

As for the teachers, ‘There was a charming Fraulein – tall, fair, graceful, gentle, and loved by everyone. Girls learned either German or French. We hated Mademoiselle, and were terrified of her. She always wore a chemise with a low open neck, short sleeves with scalloped edges, and a black

serge skirt. She rather favoured me, but once she shook me hard, and pushed me down some steps. I ran home [Marshfield], and was promptly brought back by my mother – and hugged by Mademoiselle! She dealt with bad work by tearing up the pages, saying slowly in a deep voice: “Pom! Pom! Pom! Pom!” (Lilian Chesson).

Elsie Strange recollects: ‘We were taught by Mademoiselle, and a little madam she was! She would give you a bang on the knuckles with a ruler at the piano. She used to collect snails, salt them for two days, wash, boil and extract them with a pin. Then she ate them with awful garlic sauce. When I said they were tasteless she told me I hadn’t enough sauce’. Mary Burchell relates that Mademoiselle used to take the girls for walks ‘and is said to have set them to collect snails to cook’.

‘Outdoors the girls walked in a crocodile, wearing straw “boaters”, with a light blue band, dark blue stripes, and a silver anchor brooch at the front. Some afternoons there was gymnasium at Mr. Cottle’s in the Paragon, sometimes there was sewing or drawing’ (Lilian Chesson). ‘In the afternoons some girls went into Bath by tram with Mademoiselle for dancing, swimming or riding if their parents could afford the lessons’ (Elsie Strange).

For some months in 1912, Mademoiselle’s nephew, Paul Bouillard, came to the school to learn English. He seems to have spent much of his time fishing in the nearby brook. Fairhaven School Sundays made a lasting impression upon him – ‘The worst day of the week was Sunday! No games, no music, no tennis, no fun’. The school lost Mademoiselle on 4 August, 1914, when she hurriedly left to be back in France on the outbreak of war but her memory remains. Who replaced Mademoiselle and what happened to Fraulein is not recorded.

Prayers were said morning and evening and church attended on Sundays. ‘We were to look straight ahead on the way to Church and out walking, and we had no mix-up with the locals’ (Elsie Strange). The girls sat in the front pews of the church – ‘to the delight of the choir boys’ (Mary Burchell).

The principal, Miss Herbert, was liked by the girls. She had a fondness for animals which left a lasting impression with the girls. She kept an old collie dog, named Gavin, aggressive to strangers and muzzled on its trips to the village with its mistress but which spent most of its time asleep on a classroom window sill. It was smelly – ‘We used to pity the girl in the near desk’ (Lilian Chesson). The dog was eventually laid to rest in a coffin made by a local tradesman and graced with an inscribed headstone: ‘In ever-loving memory of Gavin’.

Miss Herbert’s fondness for animals extended to the chickens which supplied the school with eggs and meat with a surplus to sell locally. The chickens would be ‘kissed goodbye before they were killed for the table. She was a charming lady’ (Mary Burchell).

The Industrial Schools

The Fairhaven girls were young ladies, not so the girls of Batheaston Industrial School. In August, 1871, the earnest missionary Vicar of Batheaston, T.P. Rogers wrote the following open letter:

I wish to make more generally known to the Clergy, Magistrates, and others Interested in the social conditions of our people, the existence of an Industrial School for Girls, recently established in the Parish of Batheaston. It has been certified by Government, and is under the direction of Miss Dixon, a lady who had previously gained large experience and high repute as Lady Superintendent for several years of the Salisbury Penitentiary. Its object is to rescue young girls of the City or Country “Arab Class” from a life of vagrancy and depravity: – to give them a sound education: – and to train them generally in household and industrial work. They must be between the ages of ten and fourteen; and at whatever age they enter must remain at the School till they are sixteen, when every care will be taken to find them a suitable position.

They must not have been convicted of any crime beyond that of vagrancy, or some petty misdemeanour, as the object of the School is prevention rather than cure, but they will require to be committed by a Magistrate in order to be received. They are maintained free of all Charge, – Government allowing five shillings a-week for each child, – and may be sent from almost any part of the Country, where similar Schools have not been established ...⁴.

The Industrial School movement had its origins in the Victorian belief in the redeeming virtues of both education and hard work to create the good society – a combination of Platonic idealism and the Protestant work ethic. Many Industrial Schools developed from the ‘Ragged Schools’ of the 1840s, schools set up by philanthropic bodies to rescue and educate street children and young offenders. Parliamentary Acts from 1857 onwards provided for the certification of Industrial Schools, established standards and granted money. Government grants were intended to be a contribution to the rent of premises, teachers’ salaries and school meals. The schools were expected to rely upon voluntary donations for the shortfall – and to cover the expense of clothing, bedding, fuel, equipment and ancillary staff; there was no charge on the parish rates. It was expected that the schools would cover some of their expenses by engaging the children in commercial work, which, for the girls at least, invariably meant the taking- in of laundry.



Young washer-girls at Cold Ash Industrial School c.1914. Different place, different age, déjà vu.

(photo: *The Children’s Society*)

Batheaston Industrial School for Girls had been set up in Bailbrook Lodge in September, 1870. Bailbrook seemed an appropriate site – the girls were kept well away from the village centre, amongst people the Rev.T.P. Rogers had earlier described as ‘an unsatisfactory and disorderly set’ and in an area which Dave Pearce in his history of Bailbrook called ‘the laundry capital of Bath’⁵ (in 1871 the women of 31 of the 41 households in Bailbrook took in washing).

According to the 1871 census the school housed seven girls aged from 7 to 14 years (including two sisters) under the supervision of Miss Mary Dixon and a teacher or ‘governess’. Apart from one Irish girl and one 9-year-old of unknown origin the girls were relatively local, from Bath, Bradford (Wilts) and Lydbrook (Gloucs). Miss Dixon was accompanied by her older sister (described as an annuitant). A general servant and a laundress were kept. In addition the school accommodated an 18 year old girl described as a boarder (presumably paying).



Bailbrook Lodge.
At least the girls could not complain about a lack of space.

The life of Batheaston Industrial School for girls was short lived; it was not financially viable with such small numbers and so was removed to a school with a larger roll in Walcot Parade in 1876. The school ceased to be part of Batheaston's history and left little trace, but Industrial Schools were subject to general government directions, regulations and inspections so we may obtain some idea of the day-to-day life of the Batheaston school from the practice elsewhere, as for example the Newcastle schools in the 1870s as researched by Wendy Prahms⁶.

6.00-8.30am. Get-up, wash and dress. Make beds and do housework.

8.30-9.00am. Breakfast – Porridge with milk or 4-6oz bread (depending upon age) with coffee including milk and sugar.

9.00-12.00. Work training.

12.00-12.30pm. Dinner. Depending on day: broth, pea soup or potato stew, 4-6oz bread, 3 oz meat (except Fridays when suet pudding with treacle).

12.30-1.00pm. Recreation.

1.30-5.00pm. School.

5.00pm. Tea. ½ pint milk and 4-6oz bread except Sunday when tea or coffee only.

5.00-8.00pm. Recreation or school between 5.30-7.00pm depending on day.

8.00pm. Supper of bread and treacle. Bed.

Prayers and Bible reading first thing in the morning and last thing at night. Church on Sunday.

On the positive side, the poorly balanced and monotonous diet does not seem much worse than was normal for the period in the outside world and probably better than the girls would have eaten on the streets – and they did leave the schools literate.

The Batheaston Industrial School for Girls had a short life but it doubtless played its part in supplying the local middle class with their domestic servants. The Industrial Schools had their problems, which the Batheaston School shared – notably lack of money and being too associated in the popular mind with criminality – in the Batheaston case probably not helped by the antecedents of Miss Dixon; indeed in 1930 the Industrial Schools were combined with the Reformatories for young offenders to form the so-called Approved Schools.

The Cottage Homes

The Industrial Schools were not part of the Poor Law system. The Cottage Homes were. Cottage Homes were pioneered in France in the 1840s to provide a decent environment for young offenders. They were introduced into England in the late 1860s and adopted by the Poor Law Guardians to provide pauper children with an alternative to the workhouse. A Cottage Home was conceived as a family unit with a small number of children cared for by a 'foster parent'; the children to receive an elementary education and to be taught practical skills to make them eventually employable – inevitably domestic skills for girls. Following the German and Swiss model, the homes were frequently grouped together and organised as a 'village' with a central green or as a 'street' with their own schools and facilities.

By the 1890s this form of self-contained organisation was criticised as institutionalising the children, isolating them from the real world and unhealthy – the homes were breeding grounds for the eye and skin diseases so prevalent amongst pauper children of the period. In 1893 the Sheffield Guardians rented a number of small houses throughout the City, each house accommodating a small number of children more integrated into the local community, attending the local elementary schools, Sunday schools and church services. In 1896 the Bath Guardians adopted the scheme, usually known as 'scattered' or 'isolated' homes, and rented five houses to accommodate seventy-five children⁷. Two

such homes were eventually set up in Batheaston – one for boys, one for girls – both homes centrally placed in the village; Five Ways House at Stambridge and Avon House in the High Street.

Right:
Five Ways House, Stambridge

Below Right:
Avon House, Batheaston High Street

Below:
Location plan taken from the OS 1903
map of Batheaston



As it was the Guardians' practice to take short-term leases on properties used to house the children, they tended to be peripatetic. Five Ways House was taken by the Guardians in 1902, boys from the Westmoreland Home being transferred there. Avon House, which had an earlier history as a private school, was taken on lease shortly afterwards to house girls and young boys under 8, who were transferred to Five Ways House on attaining the age of 8. Avon House was closed in 1916 and the children transferred to Combe Down. In 1917 the boys' home at Five Ways House was closed – and the girls returned from Combe Down to take up residence in Five Ways House. The last Batheaston Cottage Home was finally closed in 1924.

Our concern is with the girls and the lives they led in the homes. In 1976 two former residents of the homes recorded their experience for The Batheaston Society – Estella Pearce and a lady who preferred to remain anonymous⁸. What follows draws upon their memories.

The number of children housed at any one time remained fairly constant at fifteen to sixteen, aged between three to fifteen years and coming from poor families or orphaned. The girls rose at 6.00am – the oldest girls having a set routine, wash and dress themselves and the little ones, light the range (a

duty for the oldest girl), set and prepare breakfast (porridge, bread and margarine with occasional golden syrup), then wash the house through 'from top to bottom, including bedrooms' (Estella Pearce) but laundry was sent out. House duties finished the girls would attend the local elementary school – and invariably arrive late for classes. On Sundays the girls went twice to church.

Dinner (presumably at midday or shortly after) consisted of 'roast or boiled, alternate days, fish on Fridays in the winter, eggs in summer. Tea consisted of bread and margarine, sometimes a piece of cake. This was the last meal, but there never really was enough of anything.'

After tea the small children were allowed to play in the dining room – with toys from the under stairs cupboard but 'the older girls had to help with the mendings first, then played games or cards, whichever they preferred'.

Bed time was not welcomed: 'every child was bathed, and had their hair washed, which of course was never properly dried. They could have it curled in rags or paper, or plaited. There was no heating in the bedrooms, which were only lit by candle-light, no blinds to the windows to keep the cold out. There were "chaff beds", which were changed every spring, and clean chaff put into them'.

Nevertheless, life for the girls was not invariably bleak. Both our former Avon House residents individually recall with pleasure being occasionally taught country dancing by Miss Gandy from Kensington, being allowed by Farmer Lewis of Hill Farm to play on the Cliffs, occasional picnics, 'butterflying' for the vicar's collection, blackberrying for sale (at 1½d a pound) to Mr. Millward, the Walcot Street greengrocer. The proceeds of such sales could be divided between the girls to add to their 1d a week pocket money to spend at Christmas. Christmas was memorable with a shopping visit to Bath and toys given to the girls by James Colmer of Bath and sweets provided by the kindly Batheaston shopkeeper, Mrs. Mustoe. As our anonymous contributor recalled the girls 'were allowed to take part in all parish functions ... We were a very happy family, and everyone in Batheaston was very kind to us all.'

The girls left school at the age of fourteen and those girls destined to be 'put into service' (most of them) received six months training for domestic service and found placements – 'not always the best places ... In service the wages were scandalous, about half a crown a week ... there was no one to turn to for any help' (Estella Pearce). Did the boys leaving the other home do any better? Probably not – 'quite a lot were sent to Canada on the farms'.

To conclude, three boarding establishments for girls in Batheaston in the late 19th - early 20th centuries, each distinct and fulfilling a different function; Fairhaven for the genteel lady aloof from the local community and not expected to soil her hands with manual labour; the Industrial School on the western fringe of Batheaston and not of it, with its discipline, washer-women and aura of criminality; the Cottage Home, integrated into the local community yet ultimate producer of domestic servants.

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Photographs are from The Batheaston Society Archives unless stated otherwise.

PHILIP CHARLES SHEPPARD (1812-1878)
Magistrate and Educationist

John Macdonald

Background

The Sheppard family were prosperous Cotswold Woollen merchants and Lords of the Manors of Minchinhampton and Avening, near Stroud for generations since 1651. On the death of Samuel Sheppard in 1770 he was succeeded by his younger brother Edward. Edward Sheppard soon decided that the family seat at Minchinhampton Park in the centre of Minchinhampton was not good enough for him and commenced the building of a new house at Gatcombe, between Minchinhampton and Avening. In order to afford this enterprise he was forced to mortgage much of the estate. On the death of Edward Sheppard the property passed to his son Philip. Philip very soon spent his inheritance and fled to Dunkerque to escape his creditors, where he lived for the rest of his life. On 17 October 1799 Philip had married Elizabeth, a younger daughter of Rev.Charles Lee, Master of Bristol Grammar School. They had two sons, Edward 1803, and Philip Charles, born 6 March 1812. Elizabeth Sheppard formed a close relationship with the Broderip family in Bristol. Elizabeth Broderip married John Maud, a London chemist, having three children, John Primatt, Charles Theobald and Elizabeth, later Mrs.Landon. The family friendship was to continue for another two generations.

Following Philip Sheppard's removal to France, Elizabeth had settled in Swainswick, where the household also included her ward, Matilda Elizabeth Hains and probably Mary Broderip. Miss Hains married Rev.John Primatt Maud at Swainswick in 1821.



Philip Charles Sheppard

On 18 June 1834, aged 22, Philip Charles Sheppard was married to Mary Markham at Swainswick Church by Rev.John Primatt Maud. Following the death of her father, Osborne Markham, her widowed stepmother, Lady Jervis had also moved the family to Swainswick. Mary's parents were Osborne, the youngest son of Dr.William Markham, created Archbishop of York and Lady Mary, a younger daughter of Thomas Thynne, 3rd Viscount Weymouth, created Marquis of Bath.

Bath and District: 96 Sydney Place

After a time spent at Sunbury where their first daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1835, a time in Bath in 1836, where Caroline was born, and in Glamorganshire with their connection Charles Theobald Maud in residence, during which period Philip and Osborne were born, while Philip senior died at Dover, presumably in connection with a visit to his family, Philip Charles and Mary Sheppard moved to Bath in 1842 with their first four children.

At first they settled at 96 Sydney Place, where three more daughters were born, Frederica Maria in 1842, Isabella Charlotte in 1844 and Catherine Georgina in 1845.

Bathampton Manor House

In 1845 came the Sheppards' and Charles Maud's move to Bathampton Manor House, the property of the Allen family. Here they would not be far from their friend Lady Jervis, heiress of Earl St. Vincent, who had moved to Bailbrook Lodge following the death of her second husband, or the Mauds at Swainswick Rectory. Two years after the move, Elizabeth Sheppard, the mother of Philip Charles, died and was buried in Abbey cemetery.

In 1849 a further daughter, Edith Harriet, was born at Bathampton and in 1850 another son, Frederick Charles Eyre. The 1851 census for Bathampton shows that the household now included 11 children plus brother Edward Sheppard, Charles Maud and 7 servants. Another son, Charles Lee, was born on 23 December 1851, followed in 1855 and 1857 by two more daughters, Margaret and Sybil Theodora. When the 1861 census was taken, the family were complete, with Philip Charles, Mary, 14 children, Charles Maud and 8 servants in attendance. A contemporary sketch, possibly by Charles Maud, shows the whole Sheppard family. Unusually for the mid 19th century, none of the children died young. Mary Sheppard must have been a great deal stronger than her poor mother who died following the birth of only her second child. The youngest to die was 19 at the time in 1870.



Bathampton Manor House, taken by the Rev. Francis Lockey when the Sheppards were in residence.

**Copyright Bath in Time –
Bath Central Library**

Work as a Magistrate

In 1848 Philip Charles Sheppard took the oath of magistrate and began to serve for the City and surrounding area of Somerset. At that time Bath magistrates had their offices in No.1 Fountains Buildings, next to Hay Hill Chapel. As a magistrate he sat with many well known local men of the period from the City and surrounding villages, among them Samuel William Bythesea, George William Blathwayt, William Vaughan Jenkins, Henry Duncan Skrine, and others. The magistrates were automatically Poor Law Guardians.

Leisure Activities Literature, Art, Antiquarianism

Philip Charles Sheppard also began to involve himself in various organisations in the City. In 1852 the Bath Literary Club commenced meeting at the Institute in Terrace Walk with both Philip Charles Sheppard and Charles Theobald Maud as members. The membership included R.W.Falconer, Ralph Allen, Rev.Francis Kilvert, Jerom Murch, Rev.H.M.Scarth among others.

In 1853 the Bath Graphic Society, which was an arts group, began to meet in the Assembly Rooms with Philip Charles and Charles Maud both taking an active part, exhibiting pictures.

In 1856 the British Archaeological Association came to Bathampton as part of their Bath visit. They were entertained and provided with refreshments at the Manor House by Sheppard assisted by the Vicar of Batheaston, and then given a tour of the pictures in the house.

Education in Bath

Also in 1853 Philip Charles Sheppard started to interest himself in the education of some of Bath's youth. This commenced with the opening of the Bath Proprietary College in the former hotel building now known as the Holburne or Menstrie Museum. Sheppard was a member of the School Council. Although the Bath Proprietary College, or Sydney College as it came to be called, was a distinguished school in its day, there was disagreement between two factions on the Council on whether the School should provide a Classical or General education, leading to a rift. The break-away faction who preferred the Classical approach was led by Sheppard and in 1858 they set up a rival school in the Circus, which they named the Somersetshire College.

A description of the two colleges was given in *Platform Press Politics and Play* by Thomas Hay Sweet-Escott, whose school master father moved from Sydney College to become Headmaster of Somersetshire College. He wrote of Philip Charles Sheppard at Sydney College:

The council of shareholders was rent by mutual jealousies and internal feuds. The most energetic, probably the most capable, spirit among them was the late Mr.P.C.Sheppard, of Bathampton Manor, at whose instance my father had accepted the vice-principalship. This gentleman was literally devoured by his own sleepless thirst for employment, and seemed chronically possessed with an instinct of ubiquitous exertion. His tall wiry figure, with his keen grey eyes, sharply cut eager features, reminded one of a walking volcano in suppressed action. A loyal and useful friend to all my family, Mr. Sheppard had a manner so much the opposite of conciliatory, and was so undisguisedly contemptuous of certain among his fellow-creatures' feelings, that he did not attract any great share of popularity, and operated as a sort of firebrand on the College Council Board. Other members of that body were the Rev.H.M.Scarth, a Mr.Batson, the leaders, I fancy, of the anti-Sheppard faction, and the late Rev.James Pycroft, Mr.Sheppard's rather critical ally. The consciousness of this division among their supreme rulers operated mischievously upon the boys. The discipline of the school was thus not altogether satisfactory.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SOMERSETSHIRE COLLEGE,
BATH.

Head Master.
REV. HAY S. ESCOTT, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford.

Secretary.
P. C. SHEPPARD, Esq., Hampton Manor, Bath.

This College was founded in 1855, with the view of providing a course of Education similar to that of our best Public Schools, with more attention to individual boys than the large firms of those Schools render possible. Whilst both Classics and Mathematics are thoroughly taught, in preparation for the Universities, and the Woolwich and other Examinations, very considerable attention is paid to History and Geography, and to French. A class for Natural Sciences has been recently established; and every effort is made to instruct the Pupils in the Holy Scriptures, and to render that instruction practical. The effective character of the education is sufficiently attested both by the reports of the Examiners, and also by the academical success of the Pupils. Sixteen Pupils in all have, up to this time, proceeded directly to the University. Of these, only seven have completed their University career, and only ten (including these seven) have as yet been in the First Public Examination. These ten, with the addition of the two last-elected scholars, have already obtained twenty-six University distinctions, and only one of the ten has graduated without honours. The result is—

TEN SCHOLARSHIPS	SIX FIRST CLASSES
ONE UNIVERSITY PRIZE	SEVEN SECOND CLASSES
ONE FELLOWSHIP	ONE THIRD CLASS
	(Classical Tripos).

Prospectuses and further particulars may be obtained upon application to the REV. HAY S. ESCOTT, *Wimfred House, Bath*; or to the Secretary, P. C. SHEPPARD, Esq., *Hampton Manor, Bath*; or to MR. R. E. PRACH, B, *Bridge Street, Bath*, Bookseller to the College.

Finally, he describes the success of Somerset College:

The Somerset College, domiciled at No. 11 Circus, came into existence during the April of 1858. Its success was decisive and not long delayed. The distinctions won by its pupils at Oxford or elsewhere exceeded those achieved by any other school consisting the same number of boys ... Once more it was proved that the system most likely for enabling lads to do full justice to their powers in any after profession, is one under which the first moiety of their school life shall be

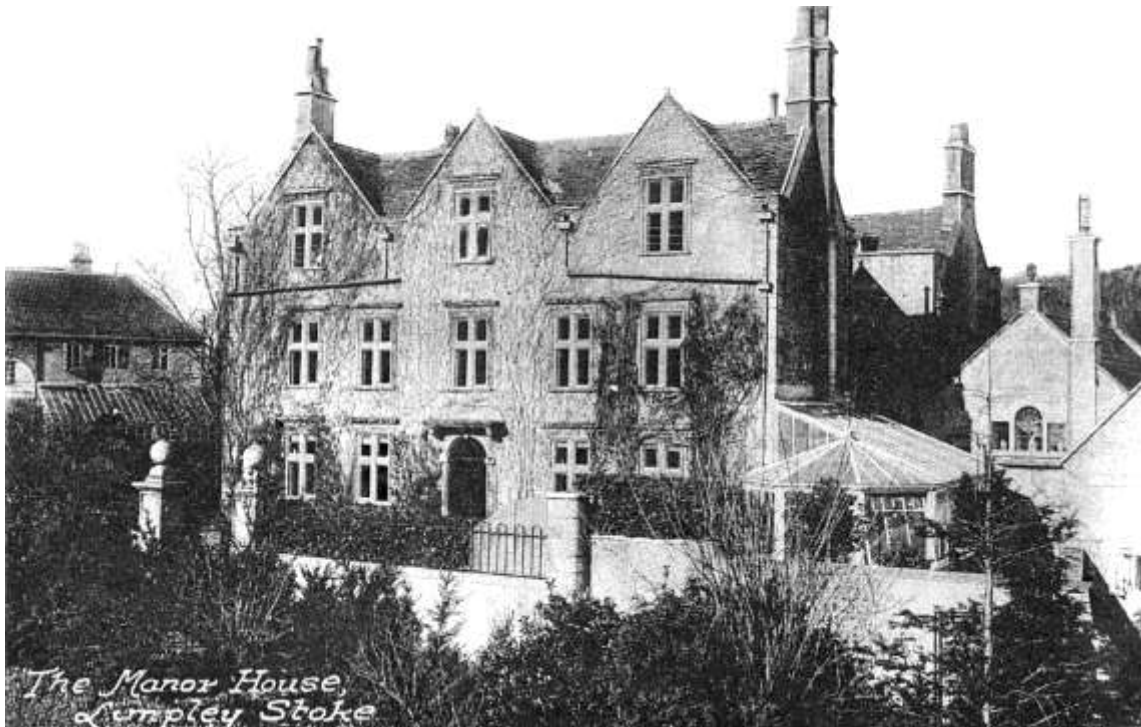
filled by what is called a general and liberal, rather than a special or modern, education. The latter of course not to begin until the learners have mastered those elements of knowledge which are said to soften the manners.

We might think that the introduction of School league tables was a comparatively recent institution, but in fact, the results of school inspections were being published even in the mid 19th century. These tables disclosed information which would simply be outlawed today such as the 10 best and worst performing pupils, with their approximate abode, distance from the school and father's occupation. In some cases it is quite easy, by applying to street directories and other easily available sources to identify the household, if not name the actual child.

For example in the report for the first half of 1868, two of the lowest performing day scholars are listed with the address of No.1 the Circus, with the parent or guardian's profession listed as Medical man. A contemporary directory would have identified the medical man as Dr.David Michael, who lived there with his wife and her three sons and daughter (who became one of my own great-grandmothers). Other lines are similarly informative.

Reformatory Schools

The 1855 Criminal Justice Act allowed Magistrates to sentence children under 16 to at least 14 days imprisonment or to a period of 2-5 years in a Reformatory School. Each county was required to have provision under the act and many created new purpose-built schools. In Bath a committee, of mainly clergy, was convened with Rev.Osborn, the Prison Chaplain, as Hon.Secretary, to look at setting up a reformatory for girls. Premises were eventually identified at Limpley-Stoke Manor House (properly the Dower House). The railway line between Bath and Bradford on Avon had been opened on 2 February 1858 and one of the stations on this line was a short walk from the proposed reformatory. I do not know whether this had any bearing on the choice of location.



'The Manor House', or 'Dower House', Limpley Stoke.

Paul De'Ath Collection

In 1860 a prospectus was issued and copies sent out to suitably prosperous people in the neighbouring counties of Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, where it was considered the majority of the girls would originate. The aim of the prospectus was not only to seek wide approval for the scheme but also to obtain patronage and subscriptions. The prospectus was in each case accompanied by a personal letter.

On 9 January 1861 the Reformatory, duly approved by the secretary of state, opened its doors.

The task of managing the Reformatory was undertaken by Philip Charles Sheppard as Hon. Secretary, initially with a matron undertaking the day-to-day management. But after an unsatisfactory report from the inspectors later that year, Sheppard brought in his wife Mary to undertake the hands-on management, resulting in an immediate improvement in the inspection reports.

WILTSHIRE.

Limpley Stoke Reformatory for Girls, near Bath.

Inspected October 25, 1861.

There were 36 girls in the school on my last visit. They seemed generally healthy and cheerful. But there seemed much less than could be wished of that confidence and sympathy between them and the matron which are the sources of order and improvement in a reformatory. I found several matters also connected with the discipline and arrangements of the school which required revision. It is a disadvantage to the matron that her previous experience was gained in a prison; a common school, or even a large family, offers a better field of preparation. The strict routine, mechanical conveniences, and artificial habits of the first-class gaol have no natural place in a reformatory, where the object of the training is to develop independent action, stimulate self-help and voluntary exertion, and to draw out and gradually supplant bad motives and habits rather than merely suppress them. The Hon. Secretary and the Committee of Managers however take an active interest in the school, and are fully alive to the deficiencies that have to be supplied, and to the importance of supplying them, and I anticipate a far more favourable state of things on my next visit. The cost per head can hardly be fairly estimated, the school having been so lately established; neither could much be looked for in the way of Industrial profit. The parent's payments were £3.15s.6d. Of the 29 girls received during the year, 23 were on first commitment.

The acceptance of this post was quite extraordinary, as having borne and brought up 14 children in the 22 years between 1835 and 1857, one might have thought that a rest was called for!

Limpley Stoke Reformatory for Girls.

April 14, July 23, September 23, 1863.

The management of this Institution had been so very unsatisfactory that on the dismissal of the matron in November 1862, I was very glad to find the duties of manager undertaken by a lady resident in the neighbourhood, Mrs. Sheppard. The committee had had, in fact, so little experience in conducting such establishments, and so much difficulty was experienced in securing their regular attendance, that no other plan appeared likely to secure the permanence or efficient working of the reformatory. Mrs. Sheppard has certainly produced a very great change for the better in the state of the school, both as to industrial employment and general discipline, and notwithstanding some unfortunate mistakes in the treatment of two or three very violent and unmanageable cases (the responsibility of which, however, may be said to have partly rested with the medical advisers who were consulted), I believe that the training and treatment of the girls has been generally judicious and successful. My experience of all amateur superintendence has shown me that it is rarely consistent with the employment of very highly qualified subordinates or with the responsible supervision of a committee. I have not been surprised to find therefore that several of the directors of this reformatory have resigned, and that great difficulties have occurred in finding suitable officers for the institution. I hope, however, that ere long such arrangements may be made that will do away with the hinderances [*sic*] that now interfere with the satisfactory working of the school, and that Mrs. Sheppard's general supervision will be combined with the employment of a really efficient matron and schoolmistress, so that, under any change of circumstances, the stability and safety of the school may be insured. The average number of inmates for the year was 40.

Reconviction rates from a number of establishments were published, but without any indication of percentages, it is not possible to draw any conclusions on the success rate of individual institutions.

Notices of Books.

The following have had no re-convictions in 1862: - Devon, 60; Sunderland, 41; Limpley Stoke, 37; Doncaster, 34; Ipswich, 30; Yorkshire (Catholic), 19; Surrey, 8; the Rescue does not give the number of its inmates.

Mr. Sydney Turner sums up the returns thus: -

‘The re-convictions for English reformatories, as tested by the gaol returns for the year, amounted to nearly 5 per cent. on the number discharged from Protestant boys’ and Protestant girls’ schools, to 11 per cent. for those from Catholic girls’, and to 18 per cent. for those from Catholic boys’ schools.’

In 1864 the Churchwardens and other dignitaries of Bradford on Avon brought a case against P.C.Sheppard and others on behalf of the Reformatory to try to enforce the payment of poor rates. However the Court of Common Bench found for the Reformatory on the grounds that as it was used for detention of young offenders, it should be treated as if it were a prison and therefore exempt.

Later the same year Mr.Sheppard was up before the Bradford Magistrates. The charge was preferred by a labourer named James Munday, who with several other workmen was engaged in sinking a well at the Reformatory. The workmen had brought some drink on the premises and Mr.Sheppard, having discovered a portion of it, threw it into the fire. This led to an altercation and the labourer alleged that Mr.Sheppard presented at him, within a yard of his head, a pistol capped and cocked. Mr.Sheppard admitted that after great provocation, he drew a pistol from his pocket and said to Munday ‘If you come a step nearer, I’ll shoot you’, but the pistol was quite harmless and had no cap on it.

The outcome was that the bench decided that the case should be sent for trial, which took Mr.Sheppard entirely by surprise. A second case of *Sheppard v.Munday* was dismissed.

An inspection on 2 May 1865 found the premises in very comfortable order and the girls in good health. When the census was taken in 1871, there were 73 inmates under a matron, assistant matron, a French National School mistress and two laundresses. While the census does not record where the girls were sent from, their places of birth indicate that they were UK wide and one born in Australia. About one third were born in Bath and the three surrounding counties.

Following the death of Philip Charles Sheppard in 1878 the Reformatory was to continue under the watchful eye of Mary Sheppard, and later under their eldest unmarried daughter Elizabeth until its demise in 1895, following an outbreak of diphtheria.

The census of 1881 lists 52 inmates. Again, they were born all over Britain and one in Gibraltar. Half were born in Bath and the three adjoining counties. The last census to include the Reformatory was taken in 1891 revealing a similar picture. Interestingly the youngest inmate was apparently only 3 years old, perhaps the daughter of one of the other inmates.

The following is a description from Lewis’s *Church Rambler*, of the girls on their way to church:

As I approached over this [Limpley Stoke] bridge on the Sunday of my visit to Winsley Church I saw far ahead up the hill a mass of red which seemed too much for a single shawl. As I approached a little nearer I found that there were a number of crimson coats proceeding in a body towards Winsley, and I half began to speculate why a detachment of soldiers could be marching that way. However they disappeared from sight without a solution of the mystery, and presently I passed through the curious village to the church, the exterior aspect of which I have already described. Within I found a western gallery, and the church seated on either side with high pews of the most exclusive model while up the centre on a slightly raised floor were ranged the free seats, with frame backs - everything was in harmony with the general character, or want of it, of the structure. In the back portion were seated the girls from Limpley Stoke Reformatory in blue dresses and red mantles. The mystery was solved, and if Lavater had been with me he would have heeded nothing of the service for studying the remarkable faces to be seen among them.

The Boys’ Industrial School

Philip Charles Sheppard was also to perform a similar role in Bath for boys. The Somerset Industrial School for Boys, which was certified 19 July 1866, was established at Devonshire Buildings on the Wellsway, but in 1880 after local opposition, it moved down to the Lower Bristol Road in Twerton. This establishment was to outlive the involvement of the Sheppards, however we see a similar pattern. Following the death of Mr.Sheppard, the management was taken over by his eldest daughter and following her death, it was taken on by Fanny Coote, who as the sister in law of Sybil Sheppard had effectively taken her place as a member of the Sheppard family in all but name.



Above: Devonshire House Industrial School Phil Bendall



Right: 'Somerset Certified Industrial Home (Boys)', behind the drill ground in the Lower Bristol Road, as shown on the OS 25 inch map of 1882. Now enlarged and occupied by Hayesfield Girls School.

***Somerset Industrial School for Boys, Wells Road, Bath,
Inspected May 14 and October 6, 1866.***

This school was certified July 19, 1866. I found 8 boys under detention, and 9 free or voluntary inmates, of whom two were partially paid for by persons interested on their behalf. Mr. Chevins (formerly schoolmaster at the Warwickshire Reformatory, and then master of the 'Havannah' Industrial School, Cardiff,) had been appointed superintendent. The premises were in very good order, but the drainage needed attention. The arrangements for industrial training had not made much progress, the institution having been so recently established. A certified industrial school has been for some time much wanted in Bath, the managers of the Sutcliffe Ragged School having resigned in 1861 the certificate which they previously held under 20 & 21 Vict. cap. 48, and receiving only voluntary inmates, a class much more easy to manage, but in whose training the public have not so practical and direct an interest as in the protection and restraint of the vagrant and disorderly children who require to be detained in such schools by a magistrate's order. The establishment of the school is mainly due to the exertions of Mr. Osborn, the chaplain to the Bath gaol; its present situation, however, has excited a good deal of opposition, and the managers have arranged to transfer it after a time to another neighbourhood. The number of boys under detention, December 31, was 20, 6 of whom had been transferred.

For whatever reason, there seems to have been some question about both establishments' legal status, as in 1867 the managers determined to resign the certificate. However the following year this action was rescinded.

Last Years at Bathampton

Osborne married Josephine Maria Grey in 1867. In 1870 there occurred the death of Frederick Charles Eyre Sheppard at Bathampton, of epilepsy. Catherine Georgina married the Rev. Edmund Broome in February and in August, Philip was to marry their cousin Margaret Emma Chadwick, granddaughter of George Markham, Dean of York.

In a very short time, the household was rapidly diminishing. For whatever reason, the remaining family with Charles Maud, moved from Bathampton Manor House to Waterhouse, situated in the far western peninsula of Limpley Stoke in Wiltshire, high above the Reformatory, but still close by.

Waterhouse

This house, once the property of the Dyke family, who had owned Limpley Stoke Mill and the building used as the Reformatory, does not appear to be any smaller than Bathampton Manor House,

so the move in 1871 can hardly be seen as a down-sizing exercise. Perhaps Major Allen had wanted to move back at that point and a home near the Reformatory seemed a good idea.

But at Waterhouse, tragedy was to deal the Sheppards a double blow, when in 1875 two daughters, Mary Frances and Caroline, died within 8 months of each other, from unrelated causes. In 1876,



Waterhouse, 2012

Charles Maud's sister, Elizabeth Landon, died at her home, 16 Royal Crescent, leaving the house to her brother. She was buried in the same grave as Elizabeth Sheppard in the Abbey Cemetery.

16 Royal Crescent

Following the death of Elizabeth Landon, Charles Maud and the family moved again to the house, which he now owned. It was to be a short stay as Charles Maud died in October 1877 and went to join Elizabeth Sheppard and his sister. He left some major bequests to the Sheppards including some valuable life insurance policies. Later that year, Isabella Charlotte married John Egerton Falconer at St.Andrew's Church behind the Crescent.

At about this time Charlie and Fanny Coote, a brother and sister, whose parents had both died while they were young, became friends of the family. But in January 1878, Philip Charles Sheppard became ill and died the same year, on 11 July.

26 Marlborough Buildings

The Sheppards no longer had tenure at the Crescent, so for a time they lived with other family members, before settling on a house in Marlborough Buildings, at the end of the Crescent. They were to remain here at No.26 until the 1930s when the last unmarried daughter, Margaret, moved to Bathwick.

While at Marlborough Buildings, Fanny Coote was now treated as an additional family member - her brother, Charlie married Sybil Sheppard in 1881. Matilda Elizabeth Maud died in 1879. Charles Lee married Alice Grace Catherine Backhouse in 1885.

In 1885, Mary Sheppard died on 28 December, aged 73. It is said that she was reading the biography of her uncle Admiral John Markham by her cousin Clement Robert Markham, who was the sponsor of Captain Scott, as leader of the polar expedition and godfather to his son, Sir Peter Scott.

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MIDFORD CASTLE IN THE 19th CENTURY¹
The Conolly Family and Monsignor Charles Parfitt

Robert T Parfitt
South Stoke History Committee

Henry Woolhouse Disney (*D'Isney*) Roebuck (1733-1796) built Midford Castle in about 1775 shortly after the Bath to Warminster turnpike had been completed from the Cross Keys Inn through to Midford. The house was based upon a design for a 'Gothic Mansion' by John Carter published in *Builder's Magazine* of 1774². Blaize Castle, Bristol, a similar structure, was built in 1776. In June 1788 the house was sold to Dr. Benjamin Pugh and after Pugh's death it was purchased in 1808 by London barrister Charles Conolly who, followed by his son and grandson and their families, occupied the house for most of the 19th century.



Midford Castle, Porch & Chapel

The Conolly Family of Midford Castle

Charles Conolly (c1760-1828) was related³ to the Conolly family of County Kildare whose wealth and eminence stemmed from William Conolly (1662-1729), who rose to become Speaker of the House of Commons and a Privy Councillor⁴. At the height of his power William Conolly built Castletown House, a fine Palladian mansion, as his Irish home.

At the age of about twenty, in 1781, Charles Conolly entered Lincoln's Inn and in 1784 married Maria Rebecca Burke, daughter of Thomas Burke of Bermondsey. Conolly was called to the bar in 1791⁵ and his rapid success made him one of the most eminent barristers in London. 1791 saw the birth of Charles and Rebecca's first and only son Charles Thomas Conolly, followed by daughters Maria (c.1794) and Charlotte (c.1796)⁶. The family moved from London to Tachbury Mount, Southampton, and then in 1808 to Midford Castle in Somerset where Conolly consolidated his estate with purchases of further land in 1811/12.

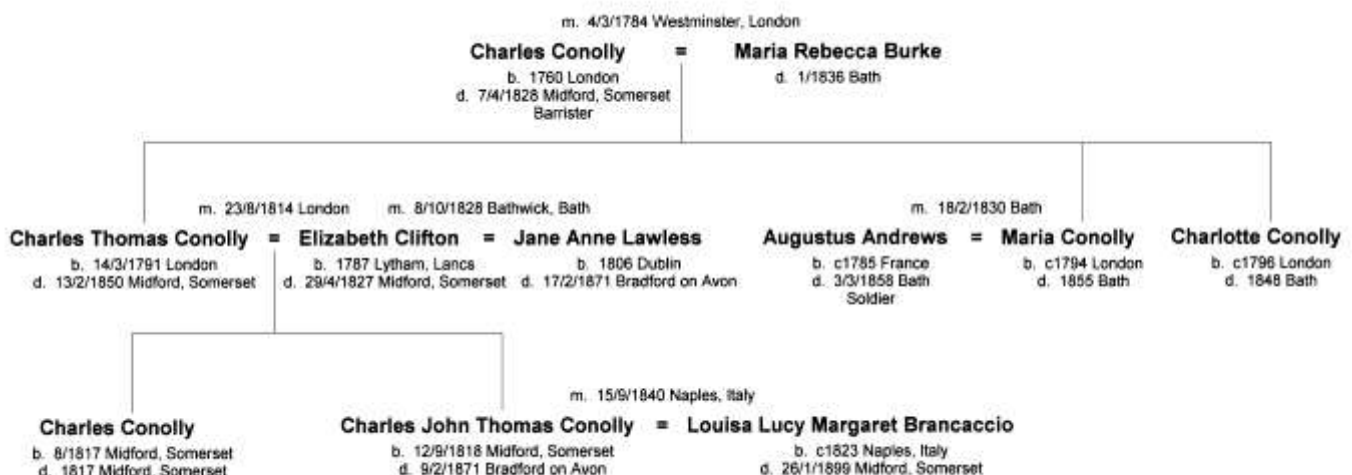
The 1817-1819 student journal of Peter Augustine Baines⁷ of the Order of St. Benedict showed that Charles Conolly was a figure of importance within Bath's Catholic community. The Reverend Baines, who was later to become Bishop and Vicar Apostolic to the Clifton Diocese, and Charles Conolly were good friends and saw a great deal of each other in that early period.

During his life Charles Conolly developed an extensive property portfolio. According to his will (1827)⁸ he owned ‘sundry’ houses in St.Martin’s Lane⁹ and Turner’s Court in the parish of St.Martin’s in the Fields, houses etc at Hendon, Middlesex, Midford Castle including all its land and outbuildings, freehold estates in Lyncombe, Widcombe and Monkton Combe in Somerset, estate at Winsley & Turley in the parish of Bradford in Wiltshire and other freehold properties. He also held leasehold properties and ground rents in the parishes of St.George’s, Westminster, Grosvenor Square in Middlesex and properties ‘in and about the City of Bath’. In addition to his physical property and rents etc, he had considerable stock & share holdings, including shares in the Somerset Coal Canal and the Kennet & Avon Co.

What is clear from his will was that Charles Conolly was attempting to control the flow and use of his wealth from beyond the grave; the will prescribed what should happen to his property for a further three generations i.e. as far as any children of his grandson. When writing of any marriage that his daughter Maria Conolly might make he was adamant, according to the practice of the time, that the bequests from him were hers and hers alone: ‘... for her sole and separate use and benefit during the term of her natural life and independent of any husband she may marry and absolutely free from his will and control and all his debt undertakings and engagements whatsoever ...’

Charles Conolly died on 7 April 1828 at Midford Castle and his widow Maria Rebecca Conolly died on 15 January 1836 at 12 Laura Place¹⁰, Bath; both were buried at Bathampton¹¹. Maria Rebecca, with her daughters Maria and Charlotte, took up residence at 12 Laura Place after her son Charles Thomas Conolly inherited and moved into Midford Castle following marriage to his second wife Jane Lawless in October 1828, six months after the death of his father.

The two daughters of Charles and Maria Conolly were treated quite differently in both their upbringing and in the wills of their parents so much so that it is likely that the younger daughter Charlotte was in some way handicapped. In his will Charles Conolly left his wife Maria an annuity of £400 p.a. specifically for their daughter’s care and, when Maria Rebecca died the annuity was passed to Charlotte’s sister Maria and her husband General Andrews to be ‘... used and applied for the support and maintenance of my said daughter Charlotte ... having and reposing full confidence in their affectionate and tender care and protection of my said daughter Charlotte’. Following the death of her mother Charlotte moved from 12 Laura Place and took up residence at Vellore House, Bathwick, Bath, the home of her sister Maria and brother-in-law Major General Augustus Andrews. Charlotte Conolly died, aged 52, in 1848 at Vellore¹²; she left no will.



Descendants of Charles Conolly & Maria Burke

At the age of 36 Maria Conolly married Major General Augustus Andrews (c.1785-1858) of the Honourable East India Company. Because Augustus was a Protestant and Maria a Catholic they had two wedding ceremonies both held on 18 February 1830. The Anglican ceremony was held at St.Mary’s Church, Bathwick, by licence, whereas the Roman Catholic marriage ceremony required a special licence permitting it to be held at 12 Laura Place, Bath, the home of the bride, her mother and her sister Charlotte. The proceedings were conducted by the Vicar of Combe Hay, the Reverend

F.Gardiner and a record of the marriage was entered in the Combe Hay marriage register. The register entry indicated that the bride had parental consent, a pre-condition for inheritance under her father's will¹³. Augustus Andrews¹⁴, the bridegroom, was wealthy in his own right and shortly after their wedding he commissioned the building of a fine mansion, Vellore House, by John Pinch the younger. Augustus & Maria Andrews had no children.

The will of Maria Andrews¹⁵ was only partly proven because the will of her father, Charles Conolly, had tied most of her personal estate allowing her no significant disposing power. She left goods and chattels¹⁶ to her husband. Major General Augustus Andrews died on 3 March 1858 at his home in Bath and, after his death Vellore House was sold to the Reverend Charles Kemble, Rector of Bath Abbey.

Charles Thomas Conolly (1791-1850), the second generation member of the Conolly family to own and reside at Midford Castle, was the only son of Charles and Maria Conolly. Most of Charles Thomas Conolly's life was spent at Midford Castle, just one of the properties he inherited following the death of his father. It is likely that he was educated at nearby Prior Park College¹⁷. The younger Conolly did not seem to have embarked upon a career but settled down to the life of a country gentleman. His early up-bringing was with a father who was self-assured and dominant, perhaps even domineering, and that did not appear to fit the young man well for a life of business or estate management.

At the age of 23 on 23 August 1814 he married Elizabeth Clifton at St. Mary le Bow Church in London. The couple's first child, Charles, was born on 6 August 1817 at Midford Castle but 'died in infancy'. A little over a year later on 12 September 1818 at Midford Castle Elizabeth gave birth to a second son, Charles John Thomas Conolly. The couple had no further children and Elizabeth Conolly died aged 40 at Midford Castle on 29 April 1827.

Midford Castle chapel was built by Charles Thomas Conolly and at about the same time he added a fine porch flanked by turrets bearing the Conolly family arms. The Chapel of St. Maria Immaculata, consecrated on 3 May 1837¹⁸, seated a congregation of around 40 and was open throughout the year for public worship. Within the castle chapel Conolly installed a stone altar and behind the altar he fixed on the wall a rare 15th century¹⁹ reredos consisting of a central carving of the Trinity, and eight smaller carved alabaster panels. An unsubstantiated source²⁰ has suggested that some elements of the reredos originally belonged to Bath Abbey.

From 1820 to 1841 the spiritual needs of the Conolly family of Midford Castle were served by Benedictines from Downside Abbey and until the opening of Midford Castle chapel in 1837, services were held at Midford House, part of the Midford Castle estate. From 1841 priests from Prior Park College took over ministerial duties until, in September 1846, the Reverend Charles Parfitt became the first (and only) resident priest at Midford Castle.

A little over a year after the death of his wife Elizabeth, Charles Thomas Conolly married Jane Anne Lawless of Dublin in Bath. Charles Thomas Conolly died at Midford Castle on 13 February 1850 and was interred in castle chapel. His will²¹ was a cursory document, a mere half page, when compared with other Conolly wills. The 1827 will of Charles Thomas' father had been all encompassing and had left his grandson Charles John Thomas Conolly well supported. As a consequence Charles Thomas Conolly made his son only nominal bequests of a personal nature with all other investments and property going to his widow Jane Conolly.

During his life Charles Thomas Conolly conducted his affairs in a casual and confused manner. In spite of his comparative wealth his wife Jane 'had made great sacrifices to pay off her husband's debts'; she had raised £10,000 on the Midford Castle estate to cover his expensive lifestyle and had even borrowed £600 from Monsignor Parfitt to that end²². Jane Conolly survived her husband by 21 years and remained resident at Midford Castle or at her late son's country residence, Cottles House near Bradford on Avon. For the last three years of her life her health was seriously impaired and during that period Charles Parfitt undertook the full duty of managing her affairs. Mrs.Conolly died on 17 February 1871 at Cottles House, and was interred alongside her husband at Midford Castle Chapel.

Charles John Thomas Conolly (1818 – 1871)

The only surviving child of Charles Thomas and Elizabeth Conolly was born at Midford Castle on 12 September 1818. He was probably educated at Prior Park College¹⁷ but nothing is known of his early life at the Castle²³.

Whilst in Naples in 1840 Charles John Thomas Conolly married an Italian aristocrat, 18-year-old Louisa Lucy Margaret Catherine Brancaccio, daughter of Prince de Ruffano, Chamberlain to Ferdinand, King of Naples, and Margaret daughter of Guilielmo, Baron Dotto di Dauli. Charles and Louisa moved into Midford Castle in Somerset, sharing the home of his father and stepmother; they remained there for the rest of their lives.

In 1857 Charles J.T. Conolly bought 'Cottles House' and its estates^{24 25 8} at Atworth near Bradford on Avon from Robert Blagdon Hale²⁶ for between £60,000 & £70,000; the income-value of the property after charges was estimated at £6,000 p.a.²⁷. The house was bought to satisfy the terms of a trust fund established in the will of his grandfather Charles Conolly. For over 10 years following its purchase Cottles House was the preferred residence of Charles & Louisa Conolly and while they lived at Cottles House, Midford Castle was let. Charles Parfitt, the family chaplain, moved with them to Cottles as did some servants.



**Cottles House, Wiltshire
Photograph, George Love
Daphnis, Courtesy 'Bath
in Time'.**

Charles J.T. Conolly and his wife, known locally as 'Countess Conolly', were pillars of local society both in Somerset and Wiltshire. Charles was a magistrate in both counties, a Captain of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire and, in 1868, High Sheriff of Wiltshire. As time went on it became increasingly unlikely that Charles and Louisa would have children and as a consequence Charles, like his father, raised money freely against the Midford Castle Estate.²⁸

Charles John Thomas Conolly died aged 52 on the 9 February 1871 at Cottles House, just eight days before his step-mother-in-law, Jane Conolly. In his will he stated specifically that he wished to be '...interred in the vault of the Chapel attached to Midford Castle ...' and to be taken there from wherever he died. The shadow of his grandfather was cast over his 1856 will, limiting his freedom to leave what he wished to his widow Louisa. However, she did inherit part of the proceeds of the sale of Cottles House in the form of a life annuity, Cottles being outside the restrictive clauses of her husband's grandfather's will. Marchesa Conolly and her chaplain Charles Parfitt moved back to Midford Castle after the deaths of Charles John Thomas Conolly and Jane Conolly. Midford Castle and a proportion of its estate together with the Cottles estates (not the house) were inherited by Charles Parfitt from Jane Conolly.

Perhaps it was after the deaths of her husband and Jane Conolly that Louisa decided to visit Rome for an audience with Pope Pius IX. Monsignor Charles Parfitt had close connections with the Vatican and

was no doubt instrumental in arranging the audience. In her photographic portrait²⁹, with a Vatican backdrop, taken for the occasion, the Marchesa is holding a paper bearing the inscription *Alla Santatta Di Signor Piuss ix*. The style of her dress and hair suggests a date in the early 1870s³⁰.

By 1881 although Charles Parfitt owned Midford Castle he had conceded the 'headship' of the household to the 'Countess', who in the census of that year described herself as 'Marchioness of St. Agata'. Charles Parfitt died in 1886 and Marchesa Louisa Brancaccio Conolly continued to live at Midford Castle until her death on 26 January 1899.



Marchesa Louisa Conolly
Courtesy Bath Central Library

Marchesa Conolly lived for almost 50 years at Midford Castle or Cottles House, her piety and generosity was illustrated by her will³¹; all of her servants and many others benefited from legacies. Charles and Louisa Conolly's marriage was childless although her will revealed that Louisa was fond of children and wished to ensure the welfare and education of those to whom she was close. William Nash, Louisa's House Steward, married South Stoke resident Martha Amelia³² Strong in 1879. Martha was the daughter of plumber & glazier John Strong & his wife Lucy of 1 Victoria Place³³.

The couple had four sons before Amelia died in 1890 at the age of 35; their eldest boy, John Henry Nash, was only ten at the time. The 'Countess' would have been in regular contact with the Nash boys; she may even have become something of a surrogate grandmother to them.

The first bequest entered in Louisa Conolly's will was of 'my copy of the Encyclopaedia Britannica together with ten other works to be selected by him...' to John Henry Nash, eldest son of William & Amelia. John Henry Nash was also bequeathed a cash sum of £100. William Nash, father of the four boys, was left a trust legacy of £5,000 'to pay the income thereof to the said William Nash for his lifetime he thereout maintaining and educating in a suitable manner his four children'. The principal from the trust fund then cascaded according to order of decease of father and sons. Several members of Charles Parfitt's family received bequests as did Catholic priests, churches, church schools and charities. To the Trustees or Managing Committee of 'the Art Gallery now in course of erection in Bridge Street Bath' she bequeathed '... my large old clock which at the date of this my Will stands in the Front Hall at Midford Castle ...'.³⁴

The trustees of Louisa Conolly's will, William Nash and James Fox a London barrister, were named as residual legatees and through Powell & Powell of Bath auctioned her belongings over seven days at Midford Castle^{35 36}.

Monsignor Charles Parfitt (1816-1886)

Charles Parfitt was born in Bruton, Somerset on 10 September 1816¹⁸ and was baptised in the Anglican Church of St. Mary's Bruton. His parents were John Parfitt and Anne Hopkins both of Somerset; he was the eldest of nine children.

Until he was eighteen Charles attended the Free Grammar School of Bruton, then it seems he entered Oxford University and was apparently destined for a career in the Anglican Church³⁷. However, he does not appear in *Alumni Oxonienses*. Perhaps his uncle William Parfitt (b.1778) and William's wife Anne, who were reconciled to the Catholic Church in 1818, influenced the young Charles Parfitt to make the life-changing decision to reconsider his own faith and, in August 1836 on the occasion of his twentieth birthday, he became a convert to the Church of Rome³⁸. He was received into the Church by Bishop Peter Baines at Prior Park^{18 39}.



Monsignor Charles Parfitt
Courtesy Brenda Parfitt

Parfitt completed his preliminary training for the priesthood at the Catholic Seminary of Prior Park, Bath in 1838 and from there proceeded to the English College in Rome. His academic achievements in Rome left a good deal to be desired and the Rector of the English College, Monsignor Charles Baggs, after Parfitt had failed his examinations for Priest's Orders twice, felt it necessary to send the young man home to Prior Park⁴⁰. Charles Parfitt's application to re-take the examinations privately was rejected. However, on 9 June 1840, whilst in Rome and presumably on the strength of his Prior Park studies, Charles Parfitt was raised to the post of sub-deacon by Bishop Wiseman and on 6 December 1840, by the patriarch of Constantinople Monsignore Piatto promoted to deacon. Charles

Parfitt left the City of Rome on 28 November 1842 and at the request of Bishop Baines returned to Prior Park where he was ordained⁴¹ by the Bishop just one month later, on 29 December 1842, at the age of 26. Early in 1843, shortly after his ordination, Charles Parfitt was appointed to the positions of 'Professor' of Classics and Prefect⁴² of St. Peter's College, Prior Park where he soon acquired a reputation for being 'a practical, superior and efficient teacher'.

On the recommendation of Bishop Baines, Pope Gregory XVI raised Charles Parfitt to the rank of *Camerieri d'onore* permitting him the use of the honorific title of 'Monsignor'.¹⁸

Bishop Baines died in July 1843 and was succeeded by Bishop Charles Michael Baggs who returned from Rome to Prior Park and, no doubt, was surprised to find Charles Parfitt established as an ordained priest and President of St. Peter's College. Baggs held the post of Rector at Prior Park for less than two years before his death at the age of 39 in 1845.

Monsignor Parfitt left Prior Park College in September 1846, aged 30, to become the first full-time 'missioner' at Midford Castle and to fulfil the function of Chaplain to the Castle Chapel at a stipend of £100 per annum and his living within the Conolly household. The close proximity of Prior Park to Midford Castle meant that he was able to maintain easy contact with the seminary and it does appear that he continued with some teaching duties. He remained with the Conolly family at Midford Castle and Cottles House for the rest of his life becoming their priest and confidant as well as performing many secular duties.

The owner of Midford Castle when Charles Parfitt took up his duties was Charles Thomas Conolly who was living there with his second wife Jane (née Lawless). Charles John Thomas Conolly, the son of Charles Thomas by his first wife Eliza Clifton, and his wife Marquesa Louisa Conolly were also resident at the Castle. Charles Parfitt appeared to have been a man of charm and competence and these qualities ensured that he was soon to become an indispensable member of the Conolly household.

During the final years of his incumbency Bishop Baines was formulating grandiose plans for Prior Park which caused it financial difficulties, whilst at the same time, for reasons described by Cornwell⁴³, he was at odds with the Benedictines of Downside. The short tenure of Bishop Baggs did not improve the situation, and after his death⁴⁴ he was succeeded by the Benedictine William Edward Ullathorne. That appointment was not a success and Baggs' appointment of Dr. Thomas Brindle, a man with no teaching experience, as President of St Paul's College exacerbated the situation. Tensions grew amongst the teaching staff and ultimately nine of them, including Parfitt, tendered their resignations. Charles Parfitt must have taken this action with a heavy heart as he was, effectively, severing his relationship with Prior Park.

During a period of considerable turbulence for the Catholic Church of Clifton following the financial collapse of Prior Park College, the new Clifton Chapter⁴⁵ was inaugurated in June 1852. Upon the creation of the Chapter, Charles Parfitt, 'this enlightened clergyman was deservedly enrolled among its canons'¹⁸. Several years later, in 1868, another honour⁴⁶ was bestowed on Monsignor Parfitt when he received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Pope Pius IX.

A letter from Charles Parfitt of 12 July 1855 related that there were 62 Catholics worshipping in Midford, and in 1861 Parfitt founded a 'Catholic Lay School' in the hamlet. From its foundation the Chapel of St. Maria Immaculata at Midford Castle was used as a place where local Catholics could worship and during his time at the Castle Monsignor Parfitt called the chapel St. Mary's Church and sometimes referred to himself as Rector of St. Mary's⁴⁷. The actions and personality of Charles Parfitt endeared him to the local community so much so that in 1857, at a formal ceremony, the people of Midford presented him with a silver chalice⁴⁸.

Charles Parfitt, an Anglican who had converted to the Church of Rome, was a charming and persuasive man who clearly felt it his duty to persuade and help others, particularly members of his family, to join the Catholic Church. Twelve family members who converted may be identified, they include all his living siblings, and in addition there were nine of their children⁴⁷. Anne Parfitt, his mother, was reconciled to Rome at the very end of her life and undoubtedly, many more of Charles' family and friends joined the Catholic Church on his persuasion.

On 9 February 1871 Charles John Thomas Conolly died at Cottles House; he left a widow the Marchesa Louisa Conolly and his step mother-in-law Jane Anne Conolly who also died at Cottles House just eight days later on 17 February. Charles J.T. Conolly died without a near blood heir and the estate therefore reverted, largely, to Jane Conolly and it was she who bequeathed a substantial legacy to the family chaplain Monsignor Parfitt. This sequence of events precipitated what became an important challenge to Jane Anne Conolly's will by a member of her Irish family.

The Challenge to Jane Anne Conolly's Will⁴⁹: Parfitt v Lawless

The Irish family of Jane Conolly (née Lawless) was aggrieved by what they saw as an unjust will that bequeathed the greater part of Jane Conolly's wealth to her confessor, confidant and friend Monsignor Parfitt and left the Lawless family disinherited.

Philip Lawless, a barrister and member of the Irish Bar, was a nephew of Jane Conolly and it was he who led the challenge to his aunt's will. He defended the proposition that the will was not properly executed according to the Law claiming that when Jane Conolly made her will she was 'not of sound mind' and, that her decisions expressed within the will were unduly influenced by Charles Parfitt, the plaintiff, who presented the will for probate.

Under the terms of the will⁵⁰ Charles Parfitt, the sole executor and the residual legatee, received a small bequest of £50 and the residue including Midford Castle, the estates of Midford Castle and the Cottles House estates (but not the house) and other properties in London and Bath. The litigation extended over two trials, the first was with jury and the second was a judicial review.

At the first trial at the Court of Probate in London on 20 & 21 December 1871 before Lord Penzance and a special jury, Philip Lawless gave evidence to the effect that there appeared to be no good reason why the Lawless family had been excluded from his aunt's will. Lord Penzance in summing up said:

Mrs. Conolly's husband who died in 1850, was possessed of a considerable estate, valued at £63,000, and other property. He left a life interest in it to his widow, and on her decease he bequeathed it to his son (by a previous wife), Charles John Conolly absolutely, but in case the son died in the lifetime of the widow without issue, then the estate was to become hers absolutely subject to an annuity for life of £2,500 to the son's widow.

In the face of the evidence the defence withdrew the claim that Jane Lawless was 'not of sound mind' when she made her will and their main thrust became the assertion that Monsignor Charles Parfitt was in a position of great influence in the Conolly household. The issue of 'undue influence' took up a great deal of court time and several witnesses were cross-examined in an attempt to demonstrate that Parfitt was in a privileged position in the Conolly household. For example, the defence claimed that it was through the influence of Charles Parfitt that legacies to his sisters were removed from wills of Jane Conolly published later than 1855. However, other than the closeness of Parfitt to the Conolly family as confessor and quasi-estate manager, the above was the only 'evidence' of undue influence presented to the court⁴⁹.

In evidence Parfitt pointed out that he was not the sole confessor of Mrs. Conolly, particularly during his early tenure at Midford Castle. The Reverend Ralph Cooper had been the Conolly confessor for some time before he appeared on the scene; then from about 1850 Cooper and Parfitt shared the role. As far as Jane Conolly's wealth was concerned Parfitt claimed that he always believed Mrs. Conolly to be of 'very moderate income' and was not aware that she had anything more than her jointure or was entitled to a will reversion.

The Reverend Ralph Cooper was intended originally to be the sole executor and residual legatee of the will but he refused because it was inappropriate, he having received a legacy of £20,000 from a Miss Eccleston. Monsignor Parfitt was then chosen to take Cooper's place but Parfitt objected to being made sole executor and Mrs. Conolly's response was 'You villain! Whom else have I to trust?'⁴⁹. The deceased's niece Miss O'Rourke informed the court that Parfitt told her that he knew nothing of the will until after the death of Mrs. Conolly⁵¹.

Lord Penzance said in conclusion, ‘that, however suspicious a case might be, there must be evidence, and he did not think, in the case before the jury, there was any evidence to go to them.’ The jury was instructed to find for the plaintiff.

The defence was granted a retrial by Lord Penzance at the Court of Probate on 16 January 1872 as he considered that the trial should come before the Full Court. A new trial was ordered⁵² and was heard before three judges: Lord Penzance, Baron Pigott and Justice Brett on 24 and 25 April 1872.

In the full court hearing, cases that had some bearing to the Parfitt/Lawless trial were reviewed as was the evidence given at the earlier trial. Arguments were largely on points of law and situations that might have been factors real and hypothetical, relating particularly to ‘undue influence’ and the nature of coercion, leading to the trials.

The outcome of the review⁵³ was the proposal that the way in which wills were treated when it came to relationships of a special nature between a person making a bequest and a legatee should follow the rules used by the Courts of Equity, that is the onus of demonstrating that there was no ‘undue influence’ in the drafting of a will was the responsibility of the beneficiary.

The trial before three judges was essentially a test to clarify and change the law to establish a position of equity. As a consequence the probate decision in favour of Monsignor Charles Parfitt stood and he was confirmed as the residual legatee of Jane Conolly’s will.

Charles Parfitt: After the Litigation

After the deaths of Jane Conolly and Charles John Thomas Conolly, and under the terms of the latter’s will, Cottles House was sold to the Fuller family of Neston Park. Part of the proceeds of the sale was to support an annuity of £2,500 p.a. for Louisa Conolly. Following the sale the Countess and her household, including Chaplain Charles Parfitt, removed to Midford Castle.

Thus by 1873 Charles Parfitt had become a wealthy man and a considerable landowner with estates in Somerset and Wiltshire having an income value in excess of £5,000 per annum⁵⁴.

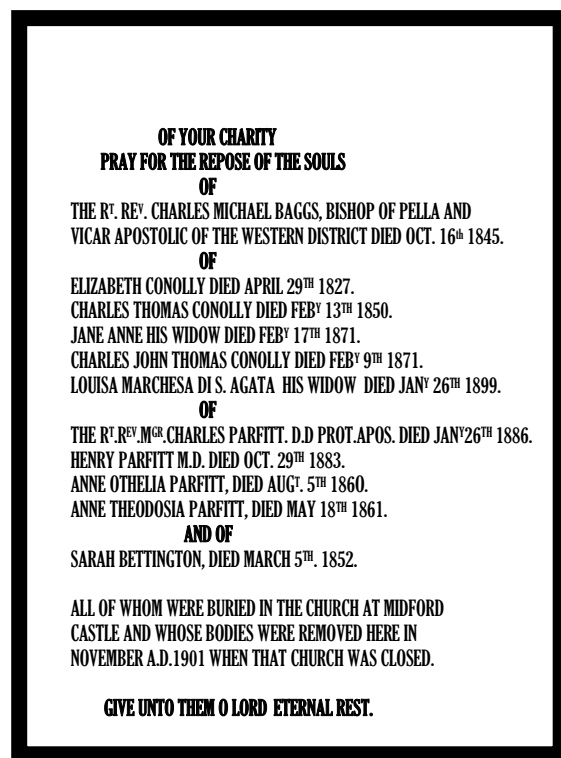
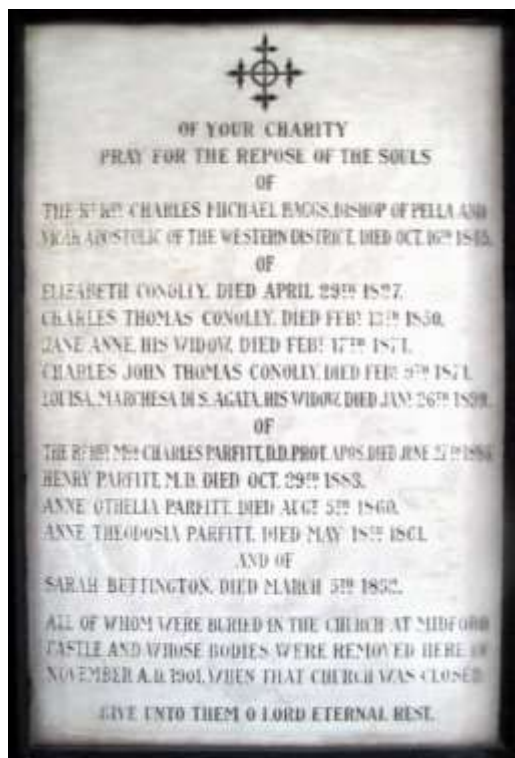
Charles J.T.Conolly’s will also directed that ‘... all the missals ornaments vessels furniture and articles whatsoever which ... may be used or intended to be used in the service of the Chapel attached to Midford Castle ... the same to be held and preserved for use in the said Chapel ...’. He indicated further that should the chapel cease to be used for religious services then the items should ‘... be delivered or taken to him’; that is to Charles Parfitt. The items included the reredos, a statue of Christ dating from before the reformation and a 19th century St.Editha statue.

At Midford Castle Monsignor Parfitt settled to a life of semi-retirement with a limited ministering role to the Marchesa Conolly and without the household steward duties that had passed to the capable hands of William Nash. Of course, he now had estates of his own to manage and in these he found commercial opportunities.

The numerous springs on his Midford Castle land arising from the limestone escarpments offered Parfitt an opportunity to exploit some of his land assets. The late 19th century was a time of several housing developments in the area around Bath and the quality of water from the various rivers thereabout was regarded with suspicion. In 1880⁵⁵ Bradford on Avon people were finding that the River Avon was becoming increasingly ‘tainted’ and the officials of that town began to investigate a potential new source of clean water at the property ‘Avoncliffe’ in South Stoke parish. Charles Parfitt owned land adjacent to Avoncliffe and contracted for his abundant springs to be explored. A spring arising near the ponds above Tucking Mill looked a particularly promising source of fresh clean water, and Parfitt entered into price negotiations for that source to be used to relieve difficulties of supply being experienced by the Union Workhouse on Midford Road and at Bloomfield Crescent⁵⁶. By October 1881⁵⁷ the Board of Guardians of the Union Workhouse had agreed to purchase water from the Midford springs and Bath Council concluded that ‘the opportunity of acquiring the water supply belonging to Dr. Parfitt should not be lost’.

Monsignor Parfitt appointed engineer Joseph Day, the husband of his niece Margaret Ann, as Manager of the Midford Works (Parfitt's Works) or, more correctly, Combe Down & District Water Works, to take care of all negotiations and communications with the Council. The first pumping station installed at Tucking Mill in 1881 was water-powered by the Whittaker springs and elevated water to a tank at Combe Down⁵⁸. Monsignor Parfitt continued to spend a considerable amount of money fitting the necessary piping, a steam pumping system (1885) and reservoir to elevate water from Midford onto other plateau locations. Finally a supply of 30,000 gallons a day to Lyncombe and Twerton was agreed in February 1886⁵⁹ together with a grant of £80 to Parfitt to facilitate the laying of appropriate pipes; a year later⁶⁰ the contract was extended. Even after his death negotiations continued with his executors to secure from the Midford springs a supply of 70,000 gallons of water a day to East and West Twerton and Weston.

Monsignor Charles Parfitt D.D., County of Somerset Clerk in Holy Orders, Canon of Clifton, *Camerieri d'onore*, Protonotary Apostolic, Chamberlain to Pope Gregory XVI died at Midford Castle on 13 July 1886⁶¹. He was buried according to his wishes⁶²: 'I desire to be buried at Midford aforesaid if it be found convenient by my executors and I wish my funeral to be conducted in a plain and inexpensive manner'. His body was interred in the Conolly family vault at Midford Castle Chapel but, after the chapel was deconsecrated, was moved in 1901 to the Chapel of Holy Souls at Arnos Vale, Bristol. On the wall of that chapel is a plaque bearing the names of those whose remains were removed from Midford Castle to Holy Souls in 1901.



Plaque of Remembrance for those whose bodies were removed from Midford Castle Chapel Crypt to the Crypt of the Chapel of Holy Souls at Arnos Vale, Bristol in November 1901

In the provisions of his will, Monsignor Parfitt took particular care of his nieces and nephews, his widowed sisters and other close members of his family. His friends within the Church were not forgotten inheriting both cash legacies and gifts of a more personal nature. To Bishop William Clifford he left personal items such as church plate, books and manuscripts together with a legacy of £1,000 and, it was Bishop Clifford who was his residual legatee on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Clifton⁶².

The Distribution of the Conolly Wealth

The owners of Midford Castle during the 19th century and their chaplain, acquired many items of religious and secular art including pre-reformation sculptures, various busts, early oil paintings, watercolours, etchings and prints as well as fine furniture, plate and jewellery.

Although there is no dispute that a collection of fine paintings from Midford Castle was bequeathed to the fledgling Bath Victoria Art Gallery in 1900, the source of that art has been the object of some debate. Other than the 'Lichfield Clock' (mentioned above) the Marchesa did not bequeath any specifically named items to the Victoria Art Gallery. However, within the gallery, there is a painting of the 'Adoration of the Magi' by 'Circle of Hugo van der Goes' that the Gallery accessions' book indicates came from the Marchesa Conolly collection. That provenance should be re-examined.

Charles Parfitt's residual legacy included many of the Conolly family's collection of paintings together with the reredos and other statues in 'his' chapel. During the remaining 15 years of his life he was able to enjoy his new wealth and belongings in the comfort of Midford Castle, ministering to the spiritual needs of the Marchesa and to those of the small community of Catholics from the hamlet of Midford. The residue of his will of 1884 was left to the Catholic Clifton Diocese in the person of Bishop William Clifford but the Conolly paintings were not within that legacy.

Parfitt was conscious that Louisa Conolly would continue living at Midford Castle for the rest of her life and, although the paintings and the contents of the chapel were legally his, according to the will directions of Charles J.T. Conolly they were to remain in the Chapel to be used and enjoyed by Louisa Conolly for the rest of her life. Parfitt did not bequeath the Midford Chapel furnishings to the Catholic Church but gave them over (outside his will) to the safe custody of his friend Monsignor James Shepherd of Prior Park College, perhaps with suggestions as to their disposal after the death of Louisa. Within the will of Charles Parfitt⁶² there was no legacy or gift or loan to Monsignor Shepherd and, had the property been within the residue left to the Church, in all probability, the paintings would have been sold.

Charles Shepherd predeceased Louisa Conolly by a little over three years and it appears that the paintings decorating the Castle and ornaments within the Castle Chapel remained in place until after Louisa's death early in 1899. The only place in James Shepherd's will⁶³ that could include the paintings and chapel artefacts was within the third codicil: 'I authorise my Executors to distribute in accordance with what they consider to have been my wishes any personal chattels of mine ...'. Shepherd probably instructed his executors, one of whom was the nephew of Charles Parfitt, barrister James John Parfitt, to donate the paintings to the new Victoria Art Gallery. Acceptance of the bequest was recorded in the Bath Council sub-committee minutes⁶⁴ in February 1900. Upon the closure of the chapel the alabasters and sculptures were given by Monsignor Shepherd, on behalf of Monsignor Parfitt and the Conolly family, to the Clifton Diocese.

To the End of the Century

With the death of her private chaplain Charles Parfitt, Marchesa Conolly, then aged 63, had lost her confessor, companion and friend, and was alone in Midford Castle, with her servants. With no resident priest the Castle was served from Prior Park mainly by the Reverend Richard Chichester but also by Monsignor James Williams. Of course Louisa had her faith, her interest in *objets d'art* and her gardens, the rest of the estate having been left to the Church by Charles Parfitt. However, a significant distraction would have been the four children of William and Martha Nash. At the time of Charles Parfitt's death John Nash was aged seven, disabled son William was three, Francis was two and Louis was newborn. The Nash boys would have given life and noise to Louisa's home.

After spending most of her life living at Midford Castle, 'Countess' Louisa Conolly died there at the age of 78 on 26 January 1899. Her will was proved on 22 November 1899 but in April 1899, before it was proven, most of the house contents and her personal possessions had been sold at auction.

In June 1901 Midford Castle and its associated buildings and land were presented for auction by Powell & Powell of Bath⁶⁵, but they were withdrawn from sale when bidding for the castle failed to go beyond £10,500. Some time later Midford Castle was purchased by Captain Ottley R.N., Naval Attaché to the British Embassy in St. Petersburg, who wished to retire there and had plans to renovate and improve the house, but his appointment in St. Petersburg was extended, so without occupying the property he returned the house to the market. The Castle was sold⁶⁶ in 1902 to Major Edwin W. Gresham Williams Hepworth of Bristol, Lord of the Manor of Skelton near York, who occupied the house for the next 30 years^{67 68}.

Acknowledgements

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Notes

1. A fuller version of this paper has been published as a *South Stoke Local History Monograph* (2012) of the same title and with 16 appendices has been deposited in the Bath Record Office.
2. Carter, J., *Builder's Magazine*, 1774. (Not a magazine or journal, more a Builder's Dictionary).
3. The nature of that relationship requires further investigation.
4. http://www.turtlebunbury.com/history/history_family/hist_family_conolly.html.
5. *The Roman Catholic Relief Act 1791*. This Act of Parliament gave Catholics admission to the practice of Law.
6. Beynon, Michael, *Catholic Ancestor* Vol. 7, No. 2, 1998, pp.61-64.
7. Williams, J.Anthony, *Post Reformation Catholicism in Bath*, Vol. I., Catholic Record Society, 1975.
8. *National Archives*: Charles Conolly Will 3 August 1827; Died, 7 April 1828; Probate 12 May 1828. Ref: PROB11/1740.
9. In 1773 Charles Conolly, probably Charles' father, was the ratepayer for No.2 St.Martin's Lane: see Gater, G.H. & Hions, F.R. Eds., *Survey of London* Vol.20, St. Martin in the Fields, pt.III: Trafalgar Sq., & neighbourhood.
10. *National Archives*, Maria Conolly, Will, 8 January 1836; Died 1836; Probate, 14 March 1836, PROB11/1858.
11. Not surprisingly the burials of Charles & Maria Rebecca Conolly are not recorded in St. Nicholas' Church Bathampton registers, and so far I have been unable to find their graves or monuments.
12. 'Vellore' was later to become Bath College for Boys, the Bath Nurses Home and, at the time of writing, is the centre structure of The Bath Spa Hotel.
13. Maria's father Charles Conolly died in 1828 so the consenting parent was her mother Maria Rebecca Conolly.
14. Augustus Andrews was born in 1778 the youngest child of fourteen of the Rev. Robert Andrews and Sarah daughter of the first Baronet of Kelston.
15. *National Archives*: Maria Andrews (née Conolly), Will, 3 April 1847: Died, 1855; Probate (partial), 14 December 1855. PROB11/2223.
16. The chattels would have included jewellery & some paintings from the estate of her mother Maria Rebecca Conolly. These were sold by auction over seven days by Messrs. Morris & son of Bath from 3 May 1858. A catalogue of the sale is in the Bath Central Library.
17. Much of the Prior Park College archive was lost during two major fires in 1836 & 1984 respectively.
18. Oliver, George, *History of the Catholic Religion (In the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset & Gloucester)*, Charles Dolman, London, 1857, p.372.
19. Three of the alabaster scenes have been attributed by the Bristol Museum to the 19th century.
20. *Keene's Bath Journal*, 8 April 1899.
21. *National Archives*. Charles Thomas Conolly Will, 4 May 1840; Died, 13 February 1850; Probate, 17 August 1850. PROB 11/2117.
22. *The Morning Post*, Friday, 22 December 1871.
23. Charles John Thomas Conolly does not appear in the Oxford or Cambridge alumni records nor is he in the 'Army Lists' from 1840.
24. Now Stonar School.
25. A clause in the will of Charles Conolly, grandfather of Charles John Thomas Conolly required the purchase of 'real' and it would appear that in his lifetime he indicated that Cottles House was his choice of property. See, *The Daily Telegraph*, Friday, 22 December 1871 - Parfitt v Lawless.
26. Pugh, R.B., & Crittal, Elizabeth, *A History of the County of Wiltshire*, Vol.7, 1953.
27. *The Daily Telegraph*, Friday, 22 December 1871 - Parfitt v Lawless.
28. Shepherd, James, *Reminiscences of Prior Park*, Isaac Pitman & Sons, London, 1894.
29. Bath Central Library.
30. Dating old Photographs: www.fashion-era.com.

31. *Bristol Probate Office*: Louisa Brancaccio Conolly, Will, 2 November 1897; Died, 26 January 1899; Probate 22 November 1899. PROB 11/2117.
32. She called herself Amelia but her name sometimes appears in the record as 'Aurelia'.
33. 1851 & 1861 Census, South Stoke, Somerset.
34. Displayed in the Gallery and described as the 'Lichfield' Clock.
35. *Bristol Mercury*, 11 March 1899.
36. *Bristol Mercury*, 12 April 1899.
37. *The Evening Standard*, London, 22 December 1871 (Unsubstantiated statement).
38. Gorman, W. Gordon, *Converts to Rome*, W. Swan Sonnerstein & Co., London, 1885.
39. However see ref:28 in which Shepherd asserts that Parfitt was accepted into the Church by Dr. William Coombes of Shepton Mallet.
40. Roche, Joseph Stanislaus, *The History of Prior Park College*, Burns, Oates & Washbourne, London 1931.
41. Although Charles Parfitt had failed his examinations for the priesthood in Rome, Bishop Baines' judgement was that he was appropriately qualified for ordination.
42. St.Peter's College was Prior Park's School for junior boys. St.Paul's was the senior school for more advanced studies.
43. Cornwell, Peter, *The Phoenix, Prior Park College - An Illustrated History*, Halsgrove, Tiverton, 2005.
44. Bishop Charles Michael Baggs died on 16 October 1845 and was interred in the Chapel vault at Midford Castle.
45. Harding, J.A., *The Diocese of Clifton 1850 – 2000*, Clifton Catholic Diocese Trustees, Bristol, 1999.
46. *The Times*, 2 July 1886, p7. Obituary of Monsignor Charles Parfitt.
47. Gorman, W.Gordon, *Converts to Rome*, 2nd Edition, W. Swan, Sonnerschein & Co., London, 1885.
48. *The Scrapbook of Monsignor Charles Parfitt*; Archive of The Clifton Diocese, Bristol.
49. Gray, John Chipman, *Selected Cases & Other Authorities on the Law of Property, Vol. IV*. Charles W. Sever, Cambridge Mass., 1890.
50. Jane Anne Conolly, Will, 6 August 1862; Died, 17 February 1871; Probate, London, 17 January 1872.
51. *The Daily Telegraph*, Friday, 22 December 1871 - Parfitt v Lawless.
52. *The Standard*, Wednesday, 17 January 1872; and *The Universe*, 27 January 1872.
53. For the full transcription see: *The Times*, 29 July 1872.
54. English & Welsh Land Owners, 1873.
55. *Bristol Mercury*, 22 October 1880.
56. *Bristol Mercury*, 2 March 1881.
57. *Bristol Mercury*, 20 October 1881.
58. Read, R., and Bishop, D., *Combe Down Heritage Society Newsletter* No. 24 February 2012.
59. *Bristol Mercury*, 14 October 1884.
60. *Bristol Mercury*, 7 October 1885.
61. Obituary: *The Times*, 2 July 1886; *Bristol Mercury*, 16 July 1886.
62. Monsignor Charles Parfitt, Will, 28 February 1884; Died, 13 July 1886; Proved 5 August 1886.
63. *Bristol Probate Office*. Monsignor James Shepherd. Will, 1 November 1895; Died, 22 April 1896; Probate, 18 May 1896.
64. City of Bath Council & Committee minutes, 1900, p.174.
65. *Bath Herald*, 27 June 1901.
66. Hussey, C., *Country Life*, 3 March, pp.376-379, and 10 March, pp.420-423, 1944.
67. *Bath Chronicle*, 10 October 1901.
68. *Bath Chronicle*, 16 January 1902.

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