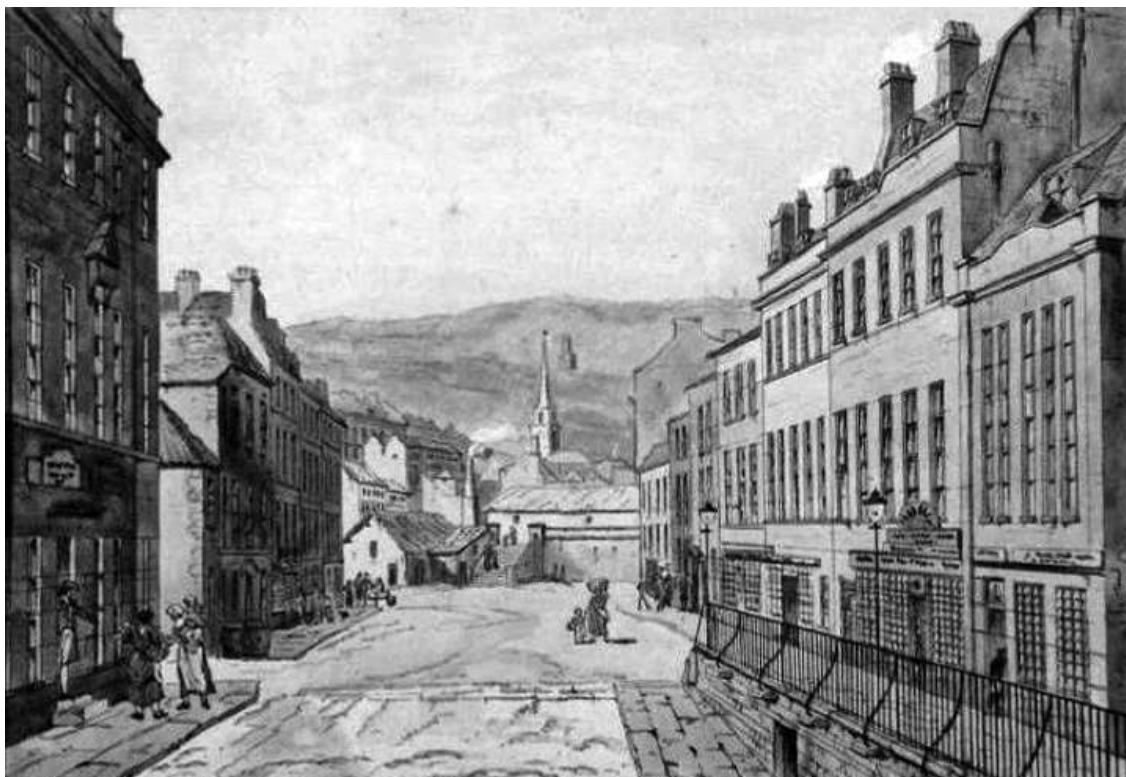


The Survey

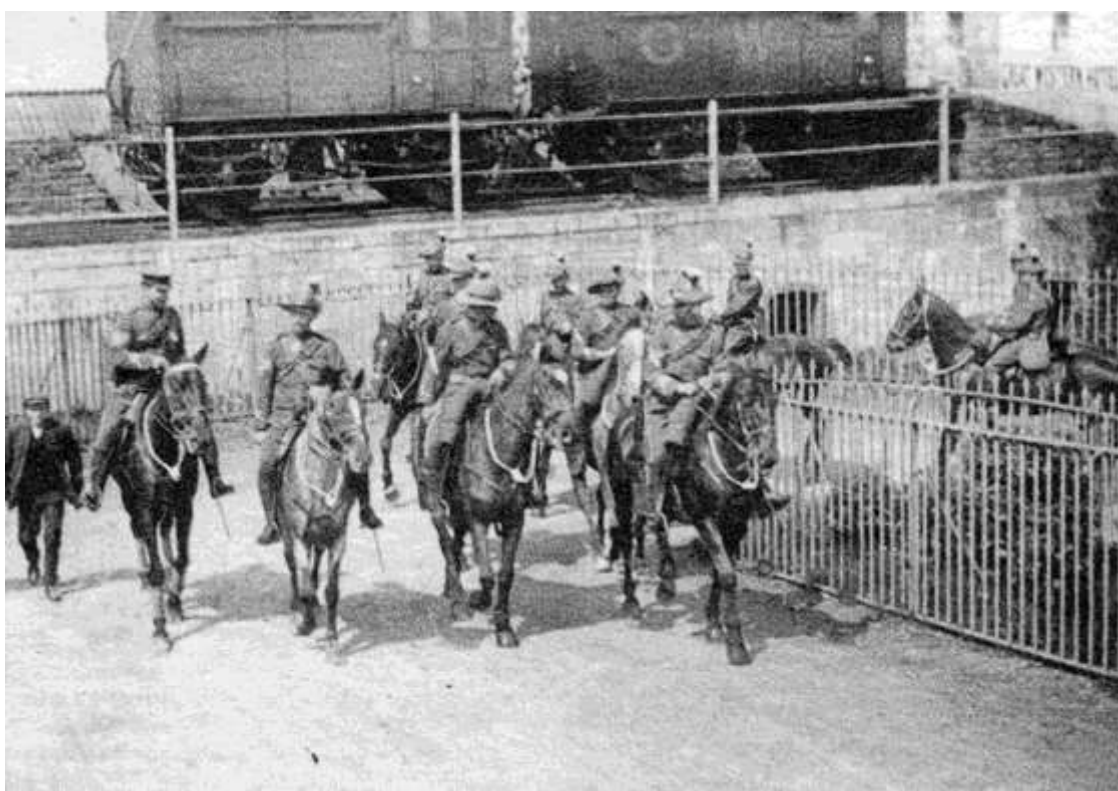
of Bath and District

The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.28, October 2013



THE SURVEY OF BATH AND DISTRICT



The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and its Associates

Number 28

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Front Cover Illustration:

Grove Street, Bath, in 1802/4.

Back Cover Illustration:

Men of the North Somerset Yeomanry riding up the ramp of the GWR station to the goods shed platform in May 1906, on their way to summer camp at Dorchester. Behind them are wagons waiting on the coal siding.

CITY NEWS

Bath Record Office

This year's major development for the Archive Service is the launch of its online database 'Bath Ancestors', a searchable index of over 40,000 local names contained in our archive documents. This resource opens up the contents of many documents stored here in the Guildhall to our users across the UK and around the world.

'Bath Ancestors' is the culmination of decades of work by our many volunteers who have patiently indexed historic registers of Bath schools, Law Courts, Workhouse, and hospitals for the years 1603-1990. The early volunteers' card indexes have been converted into electronic format by our current helpers, and their IT skills have created the 'Bath Ancestors' feature on our Record Office website, www.batharchives.co.uk

Searches have uncovered convictions of Bath criminals for theft of a copper tea-kettle, a bell fixed to a building, eleven herrings, a case of potted veal, three pairs of Wellington boots, and a quantity of lard. More serious crimes were absconding from the Workhouse, keeping a bawdy house, bigamy, and murder.

Another new resource this year has also been made possible through electronic media; we now provide scanned copies of Victorian tithe maps of all parishes in Bath & North East Somerset. Previously only available at Somerset Record Office, these maps can now be seen by our customers in Bath. A new team of volunteers has been recruited to copy the tithe apportionments, which contain information on every land-holder, and this ongoing project will enhance the usefulness of the maps. To publicise the arrival of the digitised maps we gave a presentation to representatives of all parish councils in Bath & North East Somerset.

Our numerous volunteers have this year completed some of their sorting, listing, and transcribing work on specific archives, and their work continues with long-term projects on large collections of historic papers from local architects and solicitors.

We loaned a large number of archive documents for display at exhibitions in Bath, some to the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, and others to the Building of Bath Museum for '*Bust! How the Builders of Georgian Bath Went Bankrupt*'.

The BBC2 documentary on the life of Mary Berry, cookery expert from Bath, was filmed partly in the Record Office with Mary reminiscing on archive photographs and documents from our collections. A number of local TV viewers subsequently came to see the archives shown, because of their own connection to the story.

National media coverage for family historians came from two features in BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' magazine (September and December 2012 editions) and also in 'Your Family Tree' magazine (January 2013 edition) publicizing our new 'Bath Ancestors' service.

Colin Johnston

Beechen Cliff

Beechen Cliff, a noted Bath landmark, is in need of conservation, and it has been hoped that the National Trust would take it over. Widcombe councillor Ian Gilchrist has supplied us with the following note:

30 June

The situation as regards Beechen Cliff and the National Trust has turned out a little disappointing for all of us, not least the local NT office which put in a lot of effort to persuade the national committee to back this initiative.

For about the last three years there have been ongoing efforts to try to get 'something' done about the state of the Beechen Cliff woods. For much of that time we had hopes that the NT

would be able to raise £0.5m by appeal, to match the same sum already pledged by the Council. Unfortunately when the matter was put to the test at national level the NT decided that they wanted to put their resources elsewhere. This is disappointing but it is worth mentioning that the local NT office has pledged continuing support and advice to whatever comes next. There is still a large proportion of the Council's promised £0.5m to spend, and I think the NT will be offering ideas on the best ways to spend it.

I hope this helps a bit.

Ian Gilchrist

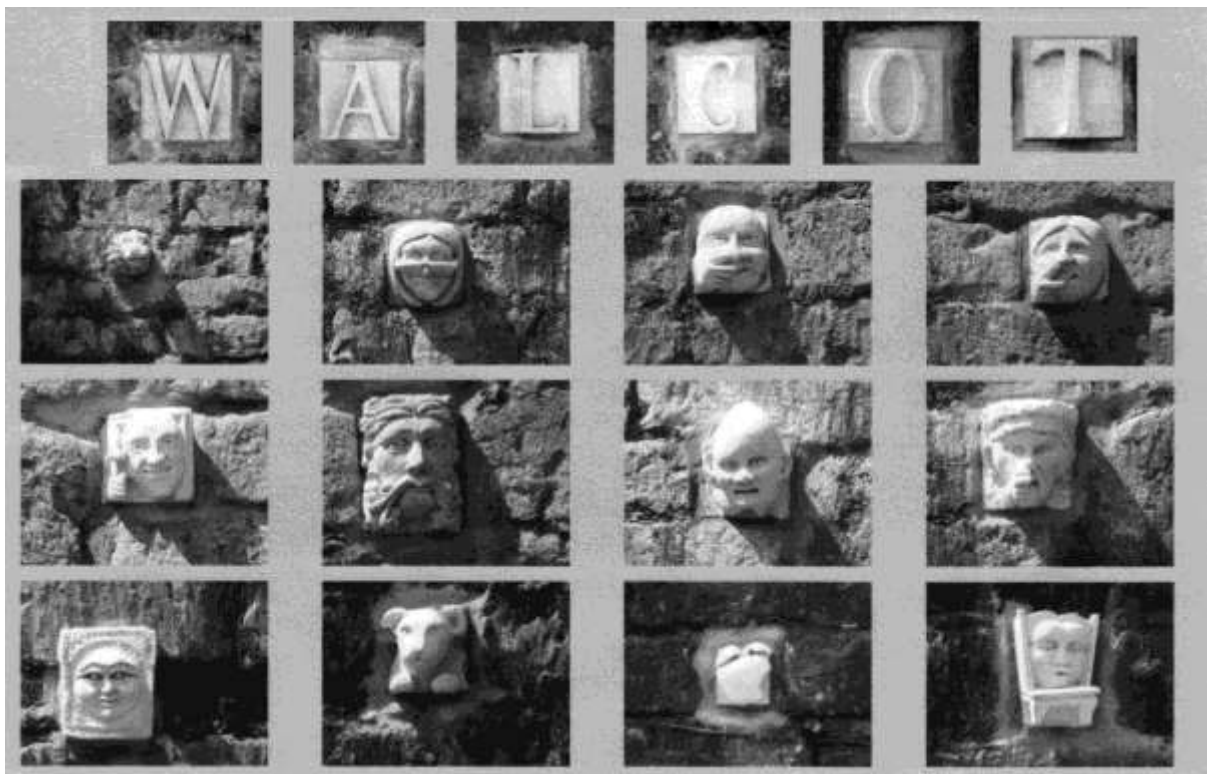
Meanwhile, a group of volunteers, led by Councillor Gilchrist and chiefly connected with the two universities, in conjunction with the Friends of Alexandra Park, has spent two days tidying up Alexandra Park at the top of the Cliff. This was part of a wider initiative to encourage community projects.

Other News

The Survey is hoping to take part in an exhibition on the area outside the North Gate, as discussed under News from the Survey. The *Chronicle* has reported the 'Great Wall of Walcot' project, with faces carved on the walls of houses. The display was launched on 16 August. Philip Bendall has sent us this description:

Malcolm Hitchcock has already supplied a description of the recent exhibitions at the Museum of Bath at Work and the Building of Bath Collection, for publication in our June newsletter. The Museum showed items of social housing. The display at the Collection, called 'Brutal Bath', had a full-page discussion devoted to it in the *Chronicle* on Thursday 25 July. Dr. Amy Frost discussed the style of architecture known as 'Brutalism' and there was an interesting survey of opinion on what is the most hideous building in Bath.

This economic 'style' of course was not restricted to Bath, but prevailed in other cities at the time, when economic and political circumstances were very different from today.



Carvings from the 'Great Wall of Walcot'.

Photographed by Philip Bendall

DISTRICT NEWS

Heritage Open Day; Caisson House Grounds, Combe Hay

A successful open day was held by the Somersetshire Coal Canal Society on the 14th-15th September, part of the local Heritage Open Day weekend, in the private grounds of Caisson House at Combe Hay. These grounds contain the remains of 15 locks of the Coal Canal Lock Flight (22 in all) which connected its upper level, starting from the collieries of Timsbury and Paulton, with the lower level leading to the junction with the Kennet & Avon Canal at Dundas Aqueduct. Adjoining the locks is Caisson House, once the headquarters of the Resident Engineer of the canal, but now an attractive country house with its own grounds containing some unusual and picturesque remnants of the industrial age.

Thanks to the kind agreement of the owner, Mr.Phil Honey, the Society was given permission to take the public on guided walks around the lock flight which, as a joint venture, has been progressively cleared of dense vegetation over the last few years. These improvements not only included the locks themselves, but also the course of an inclined plane railway and the foundations of a Boulton & Watt pumping engine at the head of the flight which replenished water lost through the locks.

With subsequent landscaping of the grounds, the result has been quite spectacular. At the start of the walk near the public road, a display stand was erected by the Society where volunteers were able to conduct visitors along the cleared towpath throughout the whole length of the flight - the first time this has been possible for nearly 100 years. On reaching the house it is now also possible to see the pound between locks five and six (counted from the summit) dammed up and filled with water conducted through rivulets set into the lawns of the house, as shown in the photograph below. It is intended that further parts of the flight will be brought back into water in due course.

The interest shown by the public on this occasion has encouraged the Society to plan future open days elsewhere along the canal where schemes for its preservation and restoration are under way.



hhhhh

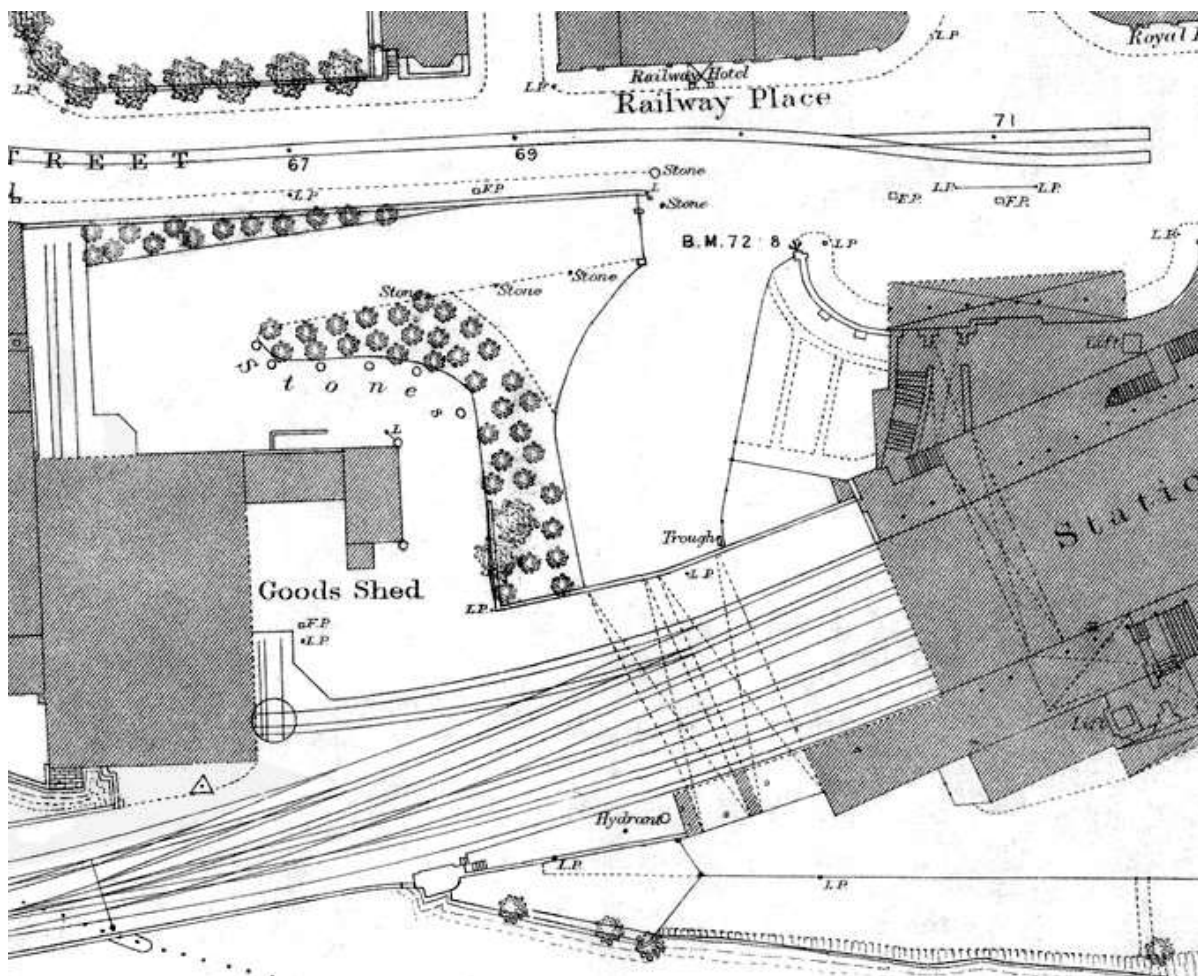
ARCHAEOLOGY

Museum of London Archaeology Service: Southgate Redevelopment, Bath, 2012

The final stage of work on this scheme consisted of a watching brief and standing structure survey on the site of the former Bath Spa Station Goods Shed, following evaluation work in 2008. The goods shed was an integral part of Brunel's station, which opened in 1841; like the station it was constructed on a viaduct built in local limestone which created a platform 7.26m above the adjacent pavement in Dorchester Street. The viaduct arches were recorded by 3D laser scanning prior to their conversion to commercial use. The earthen ramp which gave vehicular and pedestrian access from the street to the goods shed was recorded during its removal, although the original roadway surface had not survived. This exposed external faces of the viaduct which were photographically recorded. New construction was designed to have a minimal impact on remains of the goods shed itself, but further exposures of walls, internal surfaces, track spurs, turntable settings and the socket for a crane or winding mechanism were recoded, supplementing the 2008 observations.

The earliest evidence for the use of the spaces beneath the goods shed consisted of the installation of coal chutes from the upper level and the laying of a brick floor incorporating a narrow gauge (50cm gauge) waggon tramway and two complete turntables (top-plate diam. 1.22m or 4ft). These features date to the last decade of the 19th century when the goods shed was demolished and its site converted into a goods yard with coal storage below, supplying the furnaces of the adjacent electricity works.

Marek Lewcun and Bruno Barber, Museum of London Archaeology
Eamonn Baldwin, (VISTA, University of Birmingham)



The GWR Goods Shed, as shown on the 1885 OS map of Bath, with siding, turntable, and ramp up from Dorchester Street.

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.

The Survey is planning to hold an exhibition in conjunction with the Museum of Bath at Work, on the area outside the North Gate, i.e. Walcot Street, Broad Street, and New Bond Street (formerly Frog Lane). The suggested time of opening is now spring 2014.

Peter Davenport will provide material on the interesting digs in the vicinity, and Mike Chapman will provide an historical sequence of maps. Margaret Burrows and Elizabeth Holland have been making a study of Broad Street, and Elizabeth will revive her approach to New Bond Street, which was where the Survey began. In the gallery downstairs, Philip Bendall will display material on the evolution of Walcot Street, with numerous modern photographs recently taken by him.

There will also be folders with pictures and we hope memories, such as were made for the Holloway exhibition. We shall be glad to receive material from the Friends. (Do not send Elizabeth originals, please).

Does anyone know anything about St.Michael's National Schools north of King Edward's in Broad Street, or the 'R.C. Schools' west of Walcot Street shown on old maps?

Has anyone taken pictures of the demolition of houses to create Saracen Street? Other demolition pictures will be of interest. Has any of the Friends attended school in the area, lived there or worked there?

Visitors spent hours reading the memories supplied with the Holloway exhibition and we hope to provide something interesting for the new exhibition.

The Friends of the Survey

The autumn meeting of the Friends will be held on Friday 1 November 2013 at St.Mary's Church Hall. Mike Chapman will speak on the work done by Guy Whitmarsh on the Grove Street area.

This is the twentieth anniversary of the first Lunchtime Lecture, held at Abbey Church House. As we recollect it, Gillian Cope, Ann Cridland and Ruth Haskins spoke on their recent researches connected with their work as Mayor's Guides. Dr.John Wroughton was in the Chair, and Mrs.June Hodgkinson, founder of the Friends, was present as Secretary. Ruth Haskins then became Chairman, and Ann Cridland was Treasurer for many years. Ruth Haskins was followed by Denise Walker, present at the inaugural meetings.

When Mr. and Mrs. Walker removed to Oxford, Colin Johnston became Chairman, followed by Stephen Marks and then John Macdonald. For some time Neil Cridland became Secretary. Philip Bendall is of course the present Secretary, with John Ennor as Treasurer.

Unfortunately Professor Robert Parfitt was not able to give the Lunchtime Lecture in autumn 2012, but John Macdonald delivered it on his behalf. Dr.Parfitt's article on Monsignor Parfitt and the Conollys of Midford Castle was published in the *Survey* 2012.

The AGM 2013 was held on 15 April when Dr.Roger Rolls gave a talk connected with his new book *Diseased, Douched and Doctored*. The text of his address is published in this issue.

Friends member Daniel Brown was featured in an interview in the *Chronicle* on Thursday 11 July 2013, p.31. He named the area around the Cross Bath as his favourite part of Bath. *Bath: Then and Now* by John Branston and Daniel Brown was published in March 2013 by the History Press, £14.99, with modern photographs by Dan to match the historic ones.

In May Dr. John Wroughton, President of the Friends of the Survey, gave a lecture at the Museum of Bath at Work on 'Plots, Suspects and Spies in Tudor and Stuart Bath'.

We regret to announce the deaths of Guy Whitmarsh and Grenville Young. We have just received news also of the death of Dr. Geoffrey Kellaway. It is hoped to say more in the February newsheet.

History of Bath Research Group

Attendances at the excellent series of lectures have remained consistently high,

Several members presented papers including Dr. John Wroughton who spoke on 'Life and strife in Bath Abbey 1572-1800'. The title suggesting perhaps, that all has been peace and light since.

The presentation on film in Bath attracted a particularly large audience some of whom by both accident and design had become involved in the film shoots about 'Bath a War'.

Michael Davis was very supportive both by introducing us to Jim Bevis who revealed the history of racing in Bath and through presenting his own paper describing Adelard and alerting us to the forthcoming publication of a new book about, inter alia, Adelard's connections with Wiltshire and Bath.

Colin Johnston raised interesting debate about acquisition policy in local records offices and provided extensive material for hands-on examination at the AGM.

The most unusual events were the Herschel lecture and recital at the Argyll Chapel. Dr. Dominique Proust, an astronomer and renowned expert on the organ music of Herschel, delivered an extraordinary lecture on the Music of the spheres, outlining the ancient beliefs that the planets have sounds. He demonstrated his belief in the connections of these sounds to early music most elegantly and Dr. Proust's wife, unexpectedly for us, came forward and sang most beautifully further to reveal the thinking.

In the evening Dr. Proust gave a splendid recital on the Sweetland organ, the quality and condition of which greatly impressed him. Performed as his encore, a fragment of unpublished Herschel music which he and his friend Gus Orchard are developing into a playable concert piece. The Herschel Museum very generously brought to the chapel the remaining parts of the Octagon organ upon which Herschel had played.

The year concluded with two walks. The first a revisit to Bathford led by Fae Hall which allowed us access to Titan Barrow and to view the huge new house being built partly on the site and in the image of Bathford House which was destroyed by fire many years ago.

The walk in Kelston was memorable. Martin Palmer introduced us to Kelston Park allowing views from the upper windows and from the terrace. There followed fascinating reflections on the enclosure built for the shelter of Arab stallions, the site of Sir John Harrington's house, the church, and all manner of landscape interpretations came forth.

Another excellent programme is already agreed for next year.

Michael Rowe

The Combe Down Heritage Society

Presenting the Hidden Heritage of Combe Down:

Combe Down Heritage Society is about to realise a long held ambition: the opening of a centre dedicated to keeping alive the local history of the Ralph Allen stone workings that were central to the building of Georgian Bath during the 18th Century. The quarries from which the stone was produced were mainly underground and most were worked out by the mid 19th Century, but what remained was a unique archaeological record of the evolution of underground quarrying methods. The web of tunnels was abandoned and mainly forgotten, other than as a rite of passage for local children and an ad-hoc air raid shelter during the Bath Blitz in 1942. The workings were very shallow, and were exposed by various incidents while utilities contractors were excavating local roads, as well as when a large oak tree on the Firs Field was blown down by the ‘Michael Fish Hurricane’ of 1987.

With the increasing volume and weight of traffic through the village, concern built up through the late 20th Century that a major incident could occur and a publicly funded stabilisation project was approved. The preferred engineering solution to stabilise the underground passages was to pump in specially formulated foaming concrete. Prior to this a full archaeological survey was carried out, involving video and still photography, mapping and drawing and a laser scan survey to preserve as much information on the by then Grade I Listed archaeology that would be obliterated by the stabilisation process. Mitigation of this loss was required by planning conditions and a small centre, the Ralph Allen CornerStone, is currently being built to provide a permanent legacy of the Stabilisation Project and to present the multi-faceted story of the village.

Ralph Allen CornerStone will have three prime objectives: to preserve the heritage of Combe Down and its stone; to provide a high quality educational environment for the study of all related matters; and to serve the local community with a much-needed facility for meetings, gatherings and activities. Its location is a deeply historical one in its own right, being on the site of one of Ralph Allen’s early quarries and a crane that loaded the stone onto his railway carriages. Then in the 1850s it became the site of a malthouse for the expanding Combe Down Brewery based at the King William IV pub over the road. In the 20th Century it became a Council depot, and was the base for the local Rescue Party and Decontamination Squad during the Second World War, before being taken over by a plant hire and building contractor. It was purchased for the Stabilisation Project and used for storage of archives, equipment and core samples. It was renamed Ralph Allen Yard at this time, and the whole site is now being developed for housing, with one corner reserved for the CornerStone. The centre will be run on behalf of the community by a new Trust that has been set up by local residents, including Heritage Society members. It is hoped that it will be opened during the first quarter of 2014.

Progress started on the raising of Ralph Allen’s profile within his adopted city earlier this year when the Ralph Allen CornerStone joined four other already existing locations with connections to the great man, the Bath Postal Museum, the Building of Bath Collection, the Museum of Bath at Work and the National Trust’s Prior Park Landscape Garden, to produce a leaflet and a Trail linking the five venues. The leaflet, ‘In the Footsteps of Ralph Allen’, was sponsored and launched in April by the Mayor of Bath to honour his illustrious predecessor. The Trail takes visitors to each of the partner locations in turn, with entry prices reduced on production of the leaflet, so that they can build up a fuller picture of how his influence shaped our World Heritage Site. At the same time, Combe Down Heritage Society launched ‘Ralph Allen’s Stone Quarries’, a trail that visits some of the key sites that relate to Ralph Allen’s activities and shows how the landscape of Combe Down that was familiar to him is still reflected in the layout of the village today.



Before:

The original site for Ralph Allen's CornerStone, formerly occupied by one of Ralph Allen's early quarries.



After:

Ralph Allen's Cornerstone, as visualised

The Society continues its monthly evening meetings in Combe Down Primary School Hall during term time. Some of the highlights in 2013 have been Dr. Amy Frost, talking about the background to the design of Prior Park Mansion; Tony Coverdale on the Avon Valley copper and brass industry; and Paul Emanuelli on his research into the seedier side of Bath's Victorian history prior to writing his novel 'Avon Street'. However, the major focus is now on bringing together the wealth of archived information, artefacts, photographic and video records in order to integrate them into a coherent narrative in advance of the opening of Ralph Allen CornerStone.

For more information go to: www.combedownheritage.org.uk and www.ralphallencornerstone.org.uk.

Richard Read, June 2013

Bath Jewish Burial Ground.

Bradford Road, Combe Down; at the junction with Greendown Place.

Perhaps raising money for long disused cemeteries seems like a tall order, but the last eight or nine months have been particularly good for the Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground, who have been working to preserve and promote interest in one of just a handful of provincial Jewish burial grounds surviving from the Georgian period.

Late in 2012, we became very concerned about the condition of the tiny cottage prayer house. The side wall was tilting outwards, and the masonry around the window was about to fall into the street, the offer of a grant of £750 from the Leche Foundation to restore one of the chest tombs was going to expire in June 2013, and a section of the massive boundary wall, overlooking the gate into the cemetery was about to collapse.

To facilitate this work, we also needed a water supply. We put out an appeal via the internet and we had several donations including a very generous gift of £500. A local councillor, Cherry Beath, donated from her councillors' discretionary fund, £1600. Then, to meet the estimate for the tomb,

Bath Preservation Trust stepped in with another £650, Finally Wessex Water donated £500 towards the cost of bringing a water supply onto the cemetery.

So, we were able to stabilise the walls of the prayer house, get one of the chest tombs completely renovated and have the corner of the high wall, nearest the gate rebuilt.

In all: a successful few months. Now, of course, we are appealing for money again to restore the tomb of Joseph Sigmond; the famous late 18th century dental surgeon, who was one of the first medics to research the medical uses and dangers of mercury ... He was probably also the inventor of toothpaste!

The restored tomb and prayer house window



Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society

Our programme began in April with the first instalment of the Survey of Claverton Street, from the Old Bridge to Pulteney Road. Margaret Burrows discussed possible fords and bridges and the earliest known properties and land holdings. There are several late medieval and Tudor deeds providing useful information. Philip Bendall dealt with some of the early inns and amusing incidents in them.

In May we walked round Batheaston, kindly guided by members of their Society. We began by the river and Batheaston House. Many of us discovered the village was far more extensive than we had realised! There were lots of fascinating cottages, some from Tudor times, and the old Poor House, such an important support to the navvies working on the building of the Great Western Railway. This is now offices.

We saw Eagle House, once a refuge for Suffragettes but now flats and minus the trees they had planted. In the churchyard was a memorial by Lutyens to the Noble family, relations of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Sadly the old coaching inn, the Lamb and Flag, had closed in 1962, but there were still old inns on the eastern edge of the village. Batheaston was important in Roman times, as here the Fosse Way met the via Julia, where there was a Roman bridge.

In June Tim Richards, whose studio is in one of the few remaining building of old Holloway, the Junior School, came to talk to us about his career in modelling architectural buildings. He is known world-wide for his beautiful and accurate copies of famous buildings, mostly in plaster. He has made many awards for presentation, like book awards, and a very big work in Dubai costing £200,000 for a millionaire! His workshops are always open for visitors.

July saw Ralph Oswick of the Natural Theatre Company, based in the old institute in Widcombe Hill, entertaining us with true stories of funny incidents. The Company have worked in 48 countries, most recently for five months in Beijing. Their street theatre, with mostly mime, is appreciated wherever

they go, but occasionally foreigners misunderstand acts, leading to many amusing incidents – a jolly evening!

In September Fay Briddon and Alistair Durie, members of our Society, told us about two large Victorian houses in Prior Park Road; Oriel and Baliol, and about Bewdley House with its Italianate garden. In October Stuart Burroughs, curator of the Bath at Work Museum, will discuss his new project funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund. Local Bath history clubs and representatives of other areas in Bath will each produce 26 pictures with suitable written comments. These will be for an exhibition next summer called 'A-Z of Your Area'. In November there will be an update on Claverton Street research.

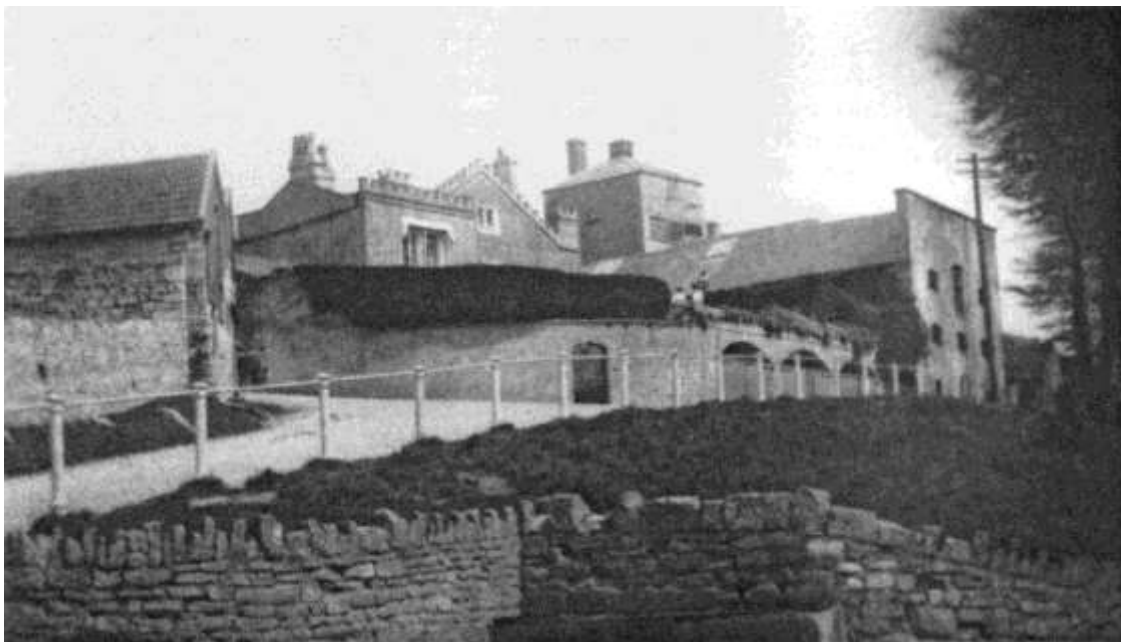
In December we will have our usual members evening with wine and coffee etc. Members will be bringing interesting items and reveal information they have discovered about our area and its inhabitants.

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

Margaret Burrows 01225 4807119
August 2013

South Stoke Local History Committee

The Committee has started a new research project relating to the South Stoke Brewery, established in the village in the middle years of the 19th century, but closed and demolished in the early 20th century. New documentary evidence has been located by one of the owners of the site, and to interpret these findings, Mike Bone, author on the history of brewing in Bath, has carried out an analysis of its production methods. With Mike Chapman, a survey of the surviving remains was carried out which will result in drawings of the construction and functioning of the brewhouse with its adjoining malthouse and cellars. (Contact: Jenny John 01225 833387)



South Stoke Brewery in the late 19th century, showing the Malthouse, with brewery tower behind. The owner lived in the ornate cottage on the left, which still exists.

Weston Open Day

As reported in our June newsletter, Weston has held an open day, organised by Michael McCarthy, founder of the Local History Group. Our newsletter showed Philip Bendall's photo of visitors examining Weston documents which had been contributed by Colin Johnston, with stands of informative material in the background.

NOTES & QUERIES

Lansdown Chapel

Friends may remember our millennium Streetlore project, when members of the Friends and also of the Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society took a number of photographs of Bath streets as a record for the future. These photographs, with some explanatory text, have been donated to the Record Office (Accession 350) and the archives of the WLLHS.

Philip Bendall has taken hundreds of pictures of the city and will also be donating them to the Record Office, on computer. He hopes to scan in our Streetlore project as well, with other photographs, such as those Elizabeth took in 1965, hoping to record some of the places that were due to be demolished.

As part of the Streetlore project, Allan Keevil gave us this material on Lansdown Chapel:

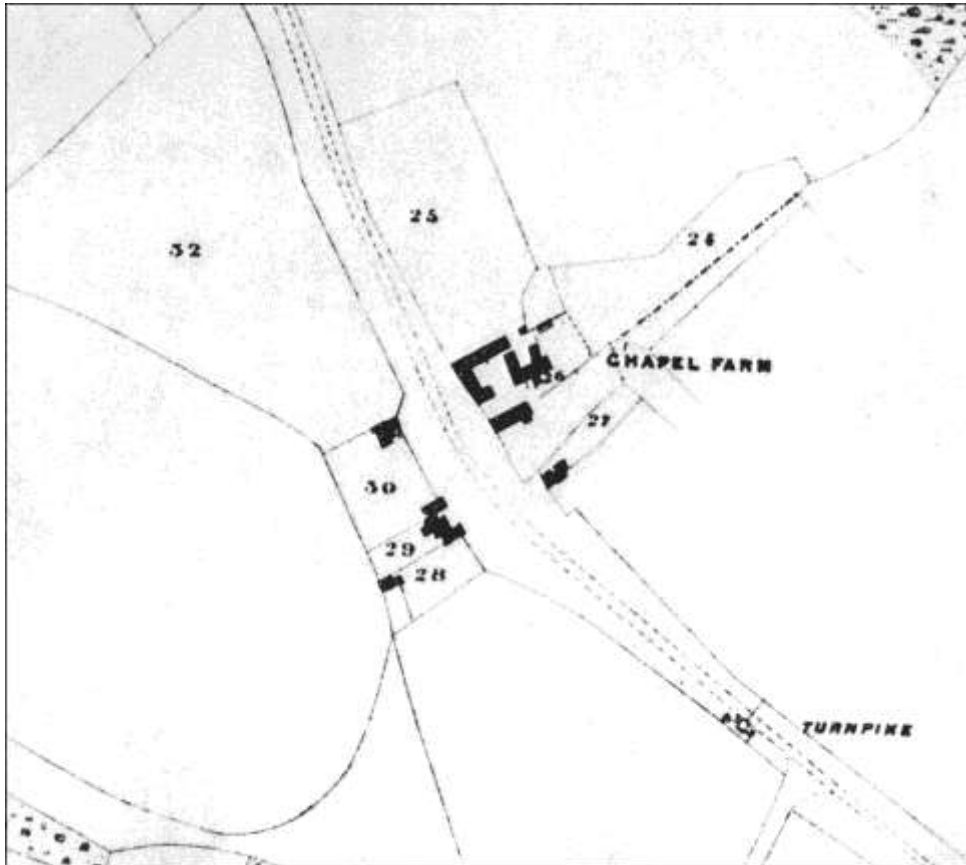
Chapel Farm at Lansdown, opposite the Blathwayt Inn. Buttresses and two blocked two-light 15th century windows can be seen in the photograph.



Chapel Farmhouse incorporates the former St.Lawrence's Chapel, an ancient royal free chapel (Pat.Rolls, 27 Eliz.1, pt.1, m39). Both the chapel 'lands of the Farm of Lansdown ... pertaining to the free chapel of St.Lawrence' were in the parishes of Weston and Langridge but in the tithing of Walcot (GRO, D/1799, T64 - articles of agreement for sale, 1700).

Edward I, in 1304, granted Bath Priory 'a fair at their manor of Lyncombe for two days on the vigil and feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross' and another 'at their manor de la Berthon next Bath for two days on the vigil and feast of St.Lawrence the Martyr' (Cartularium Prioratus de Bath, Eg.MS.3316, f26, British Library). A later entry under the heading 'De feria de Lantesdon' is a grant of Edward III in 1335 increasing to 8 days the fair on Lansdown 'at their manor of Berthon next Bath'. This fair was held on ground opposite the chapel on Lansdown.

Photograph and notes: Allan Keevil. Taken September 1996.



The area of Chapel Farm on Lansdown in the 1840s, from the tithe map of Weston parish. The chapel occupies the southern wing of the L-shaped farm building facing the road. The Blathwayt Arms stands opposite (plot 29), with the Fair Close (plot 32) adjoining, and the oval area to the left (known as the Park) belonging to the racecourse. Note the turnpike gate, lower right, above the junction with Lansdown Lane.

Medieval Bathwick

In his *Itinerary* Leland mentioned Chapman, Style and Kent as important clothiers who had flourished in Bath. The will of Thomas Style in 1536 makes an interesting reference to Bathwick.

30

Somerset Wills.

1536. THOMAS STYLE.

[2 DYNGELEY.]

August 25th, 1536. Thomas Style, alderman of the city of Bath. My body to be buried in the cathedral church or monastery of Bath. To the mother church of Wells, 4*d*. To Leonard my son the third part of the hangings of my house and of my mylles of Bathewyke by Bath during the life of Agnes my wife, and after her death the whole mylles with the remainder of my ferme at Bathewyke after such manner as I hold the same by lease of the house of Horwell. To Robert my son a cruse of silver and a black gown furred with fox. To John Sachefeld, alderman of Bath, and to Henry Bewshen, gentelman, my overseers, 20*s*. each.

Residue : Agnes, my wife, my executrix.

Witnesses : Sir Gilbert Wodwarde, curate, Jeffrey Francombe, alderman, and William Horsyngton.

Proved February 16th, 1536.

This followed by the will of a Robert Style, 1540;

1540. ROBERT STYLE.

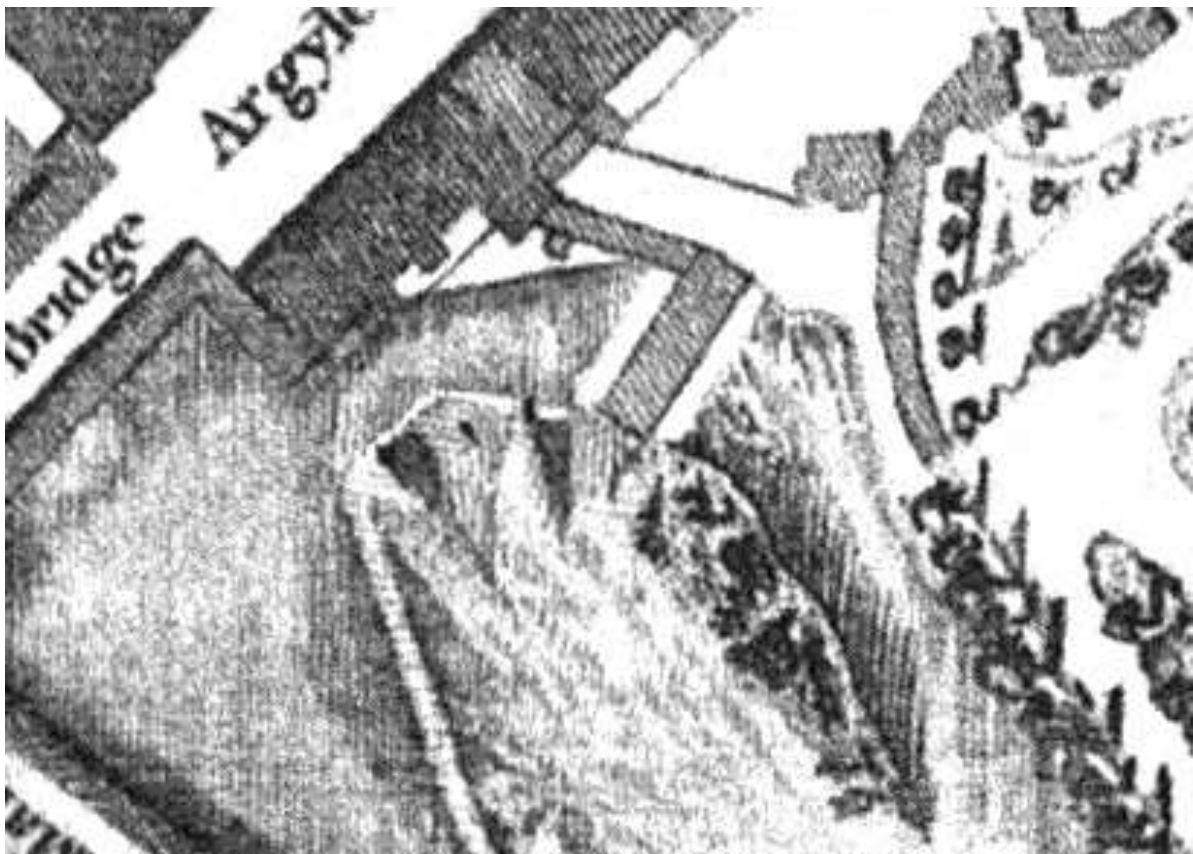
[34 ALENGER.]

March 10th, 1540. Robert Style, maior of the City of Bath. To be buried in the churchyard of Stalles within the said city. To the mother church of Wells 4*d*. To John Style mine eldest son £40 and my house in Stalles parish. To Thomas Style my son £40, and all my shop stuff equally between them. If they die, the above to Johan my wife. My said wife Johan to have the above goods till my sons be married. To Johan my wife my farm of Bathwyke with the mylls. To John Sachfelde and John Cleoment aldermen 6*s*. 8*d*. each to be overseers.

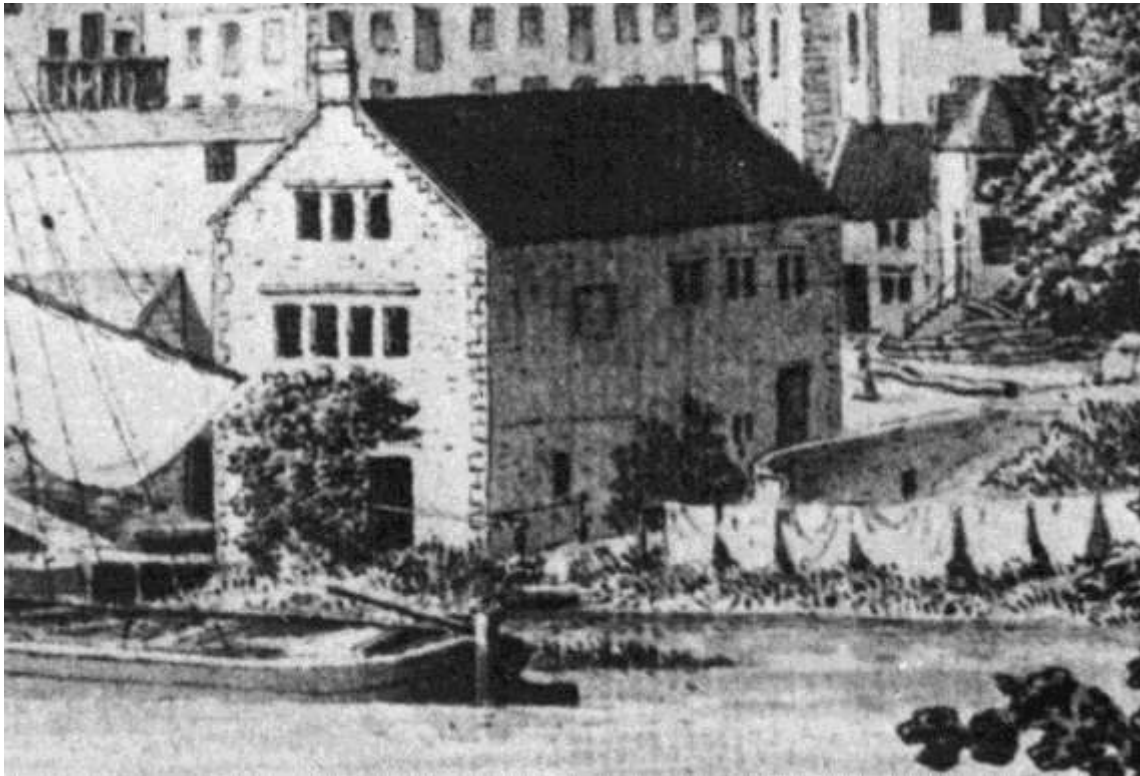
Residue: Johan my wife, executrix.

Witnesses: Sir Gylbert Woodwarde my curate, Henry Savell, John Sachefelde, John Cleoment aldermen, Henry Bewswyn gentilman, William Romsey, Richard Fyssher and Robert Mary. Proved September 9th, 1541.

[from F.W.Weaver, *Somerset Medieval Wills 1531-1558*, Somerset Record Society, Vol.21, 1905.]



Bathwick Mill, as shown on Harcourt Masters' Plan of the City of Bath, 1795. Pulteney Bridge and Argyle Street have only just been built. To the right are the entrance lodge and buildings belonging to the Spring Gardens pleasure ground.



A print of Bathwick Mill taken at about the same time as the map above, showing the buildings of Laura Place under construction in the background. To the right the entrance lodge of Spring Gardens is also visible. This mill building was evidently larger than the one mentioned in Style's will, and was enlarged yet again in the 1830s.

Children's Homes

Following the articles about education in the last issue of the *Survey*, Alistair Durie has been taking an interest in the Williams' Homes for boys and for girls, situated in and near Macauley Buildings.

A pupil of St.Matthew's Church School remembers the children attending the school. They wore cheap clothing and knitted their own socks and gloves and berets. They usually returned to the orphanages for lunch but in bad weather brought to school a hunk of bread with jam or marge. At the end of each week his informant's mother gave the 'home' children any leftover rock cakes or the like. She also gave them fruit from the garden where her husband worked.

They also attended church at St.Matthew's, coming in a crocodile two by two. The residences were 'cottage homes' with 6-8 children in each, on the family system except that the sexes were separated.

Elizabeth worked in a 'Cottage home' in a village near Edinburgh for a time. It actually included comforts not known at home when Elizabeth was a child, such as hot water bottles for children, and a regular supply of home-made iced cake for tea.

Elizabeth's own family turned up one day, her elder brother with his wife and children in a car drawing a trailer and her younger brother following on a motorcycle. They immediately took the place over, her brothers setting up a tent in the garden and her sister-in-law filling the bath with wash.

At this point one of the governors of the home arrived. However she was delighted, and to Elizabeth's profuse apologies replied 'Family life: Family life!'

pppppppppp

PUBLICATIONS

As detailed above in the Combe Down Heritage Society report, two leaflets have been produced dealing with Ralph Allen's influence on Combe Down and the Bath area - 'In the Footsteps of Ralph Allen', and 'Ralph Allen's Stone Quarries'. These not only contain useful historical information, but also have fold-out maps and guides (at particularly large scale in the latter case) to significant features. Although aimed at the visitor, both would be equally useful to the local historian. Indeed, in the case of 'Footsteps', if one visits all of the five museums mentioned on foot, bike or bus, a discount of £1 discount from a single admission ticket to each is offered on presentation of the leaflet!



Graham Davis (Ed.), *Bath History* Vol.XIII, Bath Spa University 2013, 192pp.

This volume of Bath History, now supported by Bath Spa University at Newton Park together with Bath Preservation Trust and B&NES Council, follows the same format as the last two, and maintains the same high quality production values in paperback form. The following articles are contained in this issue:

- 'Peter Adelard and Islam: Bridging the Medieval Worlds', by Iftikar H.Malik.
- '"Stand and Deliver": Bath and the Eighteenth-Century Highwayman, by Barbara White.
- 'Benjamin West in Bath', by Martin West.
- 'The Accidental Death of Children in Bath, 1777-1835', by Jan Chivers.
- 'Rev.Thomas Spencer, champion of the New Poor Law', by Graham Davis.
- 'William Jay, Evangelical Preacher', by Stephen Waddell.
- 'Green Park: Residence, Residents and Change in the 19th century', by Alan Thwaite.
- 'Charles Dickens in Bath: The Bicentenary 2012 Celebrations', by Graham Davis.
- 'Suffragette City: Spatial Knowledge and Suffrage Work in Bath, 1909-14', by Cynthia Hammond.
- 'Madame Sarah Grand, 'Mayoress' of Bath', by Colleen Denney.
- 'Maud Forrester-Brown (1885-1970), Britain's First Female Orthopaedic Surgeon', by John Kirkup.
- Professor R.Angus Buchanan OBE interviewed by William Hanna.

BATH'S MEDICAL HERITAGE

Roger Rolls

Bath possesses a number of buildings having a medical connection. The earliest are the Roman baths. The presence of the hot mineral springs has defined the way medical services have evolved in the city. The Romans used their baths primarily for recreational and hygienic purposes but they were also frequented by the sick and disabled. At *Aquae Sulis* the mineral springs had ancient associations with healing and were thought to derive their therapeutic power from spiritual sources: the Celtic deity Sulis and the Roman goddess Minerva. Superstition and magic played as much part in Roman medicine as rationality.

After the decline of the Roman Empire, an interest in therapeutic bathing continued in the Islamic world of the Middle East, North Africa and Spain but the early Christian church disapproved of baths, and it was not until the second millennium that European bathing began to reappear in former Roman spa towns. Some features of the King's Bath date from this era.

We can't be sure how the baths in Bath were used in the mediaeval period but by the time the cleric and physician William Turner visited the city after the Reformation, they were in a very shabby and neglected state and in no way comparable to the baths Turner had visited on his travels in Italy and Germany. In his book on spas, Turner concentrates entirely on the medical virtues of bathing and bases his recommendations on his observation and discussions with physicians he had met in the European spas. Many of his recommendations remained unchanged for the next four centuries, in particular the need for hygienic practices, and the use of steam baths for certain conditions.

By the second half of the 17th century, the baths were in constant use during the bathing season, and Bath had become a well-known health resort, thanks to Turner's emphasis on the curative nature of the thermal water. The bathing facilities had been improved and enlarged and many of Turner's recommendations had already been adopted. The continuing success of Bath as a major European spa led to further expansion of the buildings associated with mineral water therapy, reaching a zenith in the 19th century. Since then many of these buildings have disappeared and in particular, the New Royal baths in Bath Street which survived until the 1980s when the building was finally destroyed by a mysterious fire and replaced by a shopping mall.

Bath's future as a spa town was severely compromised in 1978 when a young girl who had been bathing in one of the thermal water swimming baths died of a rare form of meningitis and the public was informed that bathing was attended by serious risk of infection by an amoeba called *Naegleria Fowleri*. On the advice of the public health department, all facilities using spa water were closed. The spa's treatment centre, as opposed to the leisure facilities, had closed two years before anyone knew anything about amoebae; closed on the advice of doctors who could see no reason to preserve a therapeutic anachronism. Thirty years on, the water is free of infection and the new spa at Bath is thriving, but for primarily the pursuit of leisure rather than a means of treating disease, although there are some complementary therapies available in the redeveloped Old Royal Bath.

The earliest hospital in the city which is still extant is St. John's, founded around 1180. This is not a hospital in the modern sense; there were no doctors in residence, no pharmacy, no operating theatre and the emphasis was on spiritual rather than corporeal care. The mediaeval buildings have long gone and what we see today dates from the 18th and 19th centuries. A later institution, St. Catherine's hospital, was founded in 1444 then moved its position to its present site in Bilberry Lane in the 19th century. Both St. John's and Catherine's provide sheltered accommodation for the aged. In this respect, their function remains pretty much unchanged since these institutions were founded. There was also a leper hospital in Holloway. Only the chapel remains, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. The small house farther down the hill was used as a home for 'imbeciles', what would now be termed children with learning difficulties.

The earliest hospital which had a more medical function was founded in 1609 by Thomas Bellott, Steward to Lord Burghley who was a frequent visitor to Bath to get relief from gout. This hospital had a restricted length of stay and a physician and surgeon in attendance. All of these early hospitals were built in close proximity to the Hot and Cross baths so that their residents might avail themselves of the

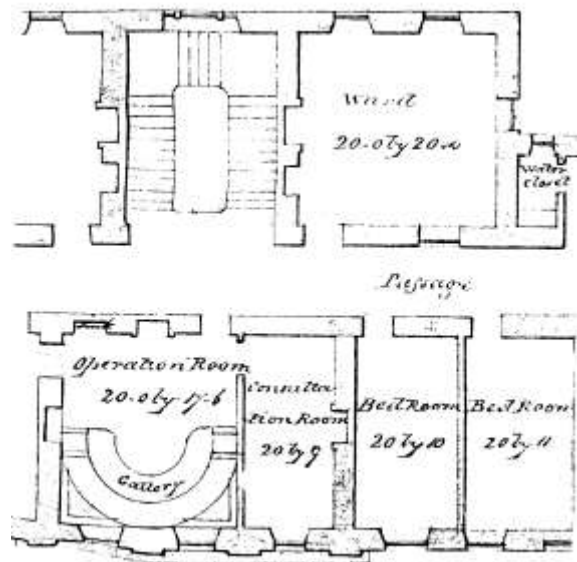
warm mineral water. Bellotts remained as a separate charity after the foundation of the General Hospital, but both considered themselves mineral water hospitals and were in competition for charitable support. The original building was demolished in the 19th century and replaced by the present structure (right) which became a care home administered by Bath Municipal Charities. For a short period in the last decade of the 20th century, it regained a medical role as a nursing home for residents of St. John's who were too ill to look after themselves.



The Bath General Hospital, founded in 1738, was renamed the Royal Mineral Hospital in the 19th century and finally the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in 1930s, demonstrating how the emphasis has changed from the *mode of treatment* to the *condition being treated*.

Most people who required medical or surgical attention in the 17th and 18th century were treated at home, and consequently it was considered unnecessary for Bath residents to be admitted to the General Hospital when it opened in 1742. Within the next decade, a charity was formed to provide free drugs and medical attention to Bath residents who were too poor to pay the doctor's fees themselves. Known as the Bath Pauper Charity, it was expanded in 1792 when the trustees acquired premises in Lower Borough Walls and became known as the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary.

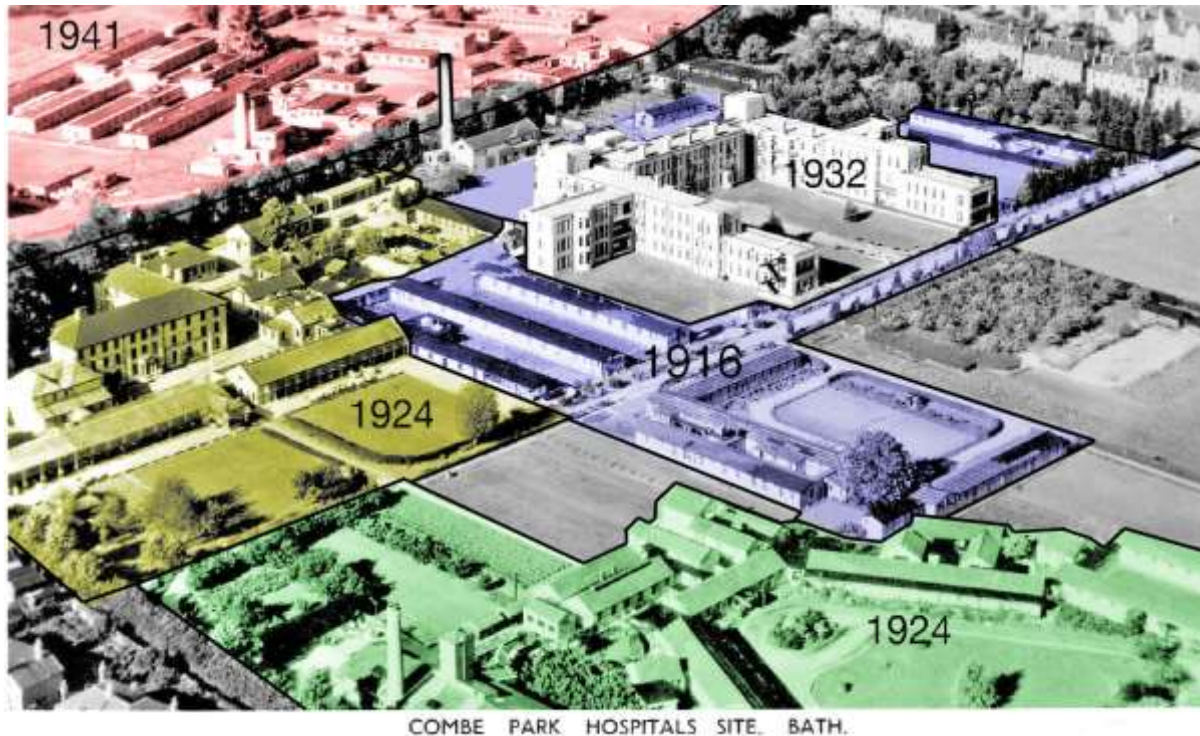
Bath's Georgian building programme was accompanied by a large number of accidents. This led in 1788 to the foundation of the Bath Casualty Hospital in Kingsmead Street. This small hospital amalgamated with the Bath City Dispensary and Infirmary in 1826 and expanded into a new building in Beau Street, currently being redeveloped as a hotel. One interesting feature of this building when it was designed was the inclusion of an operating room on the top floor (right) which had a tiered gallery so that students could watch the surgeon performing. (There is an example of such an operating room at 9a, St. Thomas Street, London, SE1 9RY, which can be visited).



A good deal of medical education was carried out in Bath at this time, although no medical school was established. Students were allowed to attend patients in hospital. According to the rules of the Bath United Hospital, the Trustees and Committee reserved the power to reprimand or expel any pupil or apprentice behaving improperly either to patients, the apothecary, matron or nurses, or not conforming to the established rules. There may have been a school of anatomy in the city, probably attached to the hospital, but there is no definitive evidence for this. In 1893 the Government's Inspector of Anatomy recorded that Bath had three bodies available for dissection. In the early 19th century at least one Bath surgeon carried out post mortem examinations on their own premises. John Cottle Spender who lived at 36 Gay Street, had a dissecting room in a building at the bottom of his garden.

By the 1930s, the RUH had outgrown the Beau Street site. There had already been some development at Combe Park, starting in 1916 with the erection of hutments for reception of 500 soldiers wounded in the First World War. In 1924, two more hospitals were added to this site - the Forbes Fraser Hospital which was a private hospital for patients of moderate means, and the Bath & Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital which treated children with skeletal deformities, mainly caused by TB and rickets. Like the TB sanatoria, the wards were south facing and open to the outside air.

The new RUH opened in 1932 and incorporated some of the War Hospital hutments which, despite their temporary nature were not entirely demolished until the end of the 20th century. During the last World War, an American military hospital was erected on fields to the north. Although this operated independently during the war, it became part of the RUH during the post-war period. Much of it has been replaced during the present century.



Bath had several specialist hospitals which have also been absorbed into the Combe Park hospital complex. The Bath Eye infirmary, one of the earliest of its kind in the country was founded in 1811. From 1861 until 1973, it was accommodated at 1 Belvedere (below left).



The Eye and Ear Infirmary (above right) was established in 1837 but soon dropped eyes from its menu and became an ENT infirmary. There were no in-patient facilities and today we would call this a treatment centre rather than a hospital. The bust over the entrance porch is thought to depict Hippocrates. The hospital later moved to more spacious premises in Marlborough Buildings before its absorption into the RUH in 1959. The original building is now used as a funeral parlour.

One Bath Hospital which has completely vanished stood on the summit of Brass Knocker Hill. Known as the Statutory Hospital, it admitted children with infectious diseases who were considered in need of isolation from the community on account of their contagious condition. The Wessex Water HQ is now on this site. The hospital was opened in 1876 in an isolated house (right) and was later extended to provide staff and administrative accommodation. Wooden ward pavilions were added in 1876. These were replaced in the 1930s by stone pavilions. After the last war there was a gradual decline in the need for isolation hospitals because of widespread immunisation programs and the development of antibiotics. Serious infectious cases which now require isolation are admitted to the William Budd ward in the RUH.



St. Martin's Hospital (above) has also been almost absorbed into the RUH. Its workhouse origins are still evident from its architectural style, the work of Samson Kempthorne whose name is now immortalised in a new road which gives access to a housing development in what was once Bath's second district general hospital. In the 1960s, St. Martins had a fully functioning A&E department as well as medical, surgical, orthopaedic and gynaecological wards. It had the main maternity unit for Bath and a special care baby unit. There was an X-ray and physio department. The latter is about all which remains plus some community services run by Sirona.

The large number of hospitals formerly in Bath, more than in most towns of the same size, reflects the number of medical personnel in the city. In 1757 a visitor wrote that Bath had *'above thirty apothecaries who constantly live there, many of whom make fortunes without dealing in the waters.'*

These may be thought comfortable considerations for the sick who need not fear the want of any other physical aid in case the waters should fail at Bath or their sources be exhausted’.

Bath was a veritable medical market place and practitioners tended to be in competition with each other, with perhaps the exception of the physicians who were university trained and often consulted together. During the 17th century many physicians only practised in the city during the bathing seasons, returning to their own place of practice at the other times of the year. They either consulted in coffee houses or in lodgings of which there were many in Bath. Some rented grand lodgings which they ran as nursing homes or private hospitals. Most from this era have vanished, but Savile’s Lodging was used to accommodate patients and the building is one of the few to survive, although largely rebuilt following extensive damage in World War II. Apothecaries also kept lodging houses and as a group were more influential in the affairs of the city than the physicians. Both apothecaries and surgeons were essentially tradesmen who learnt their skills by apprenticeship.

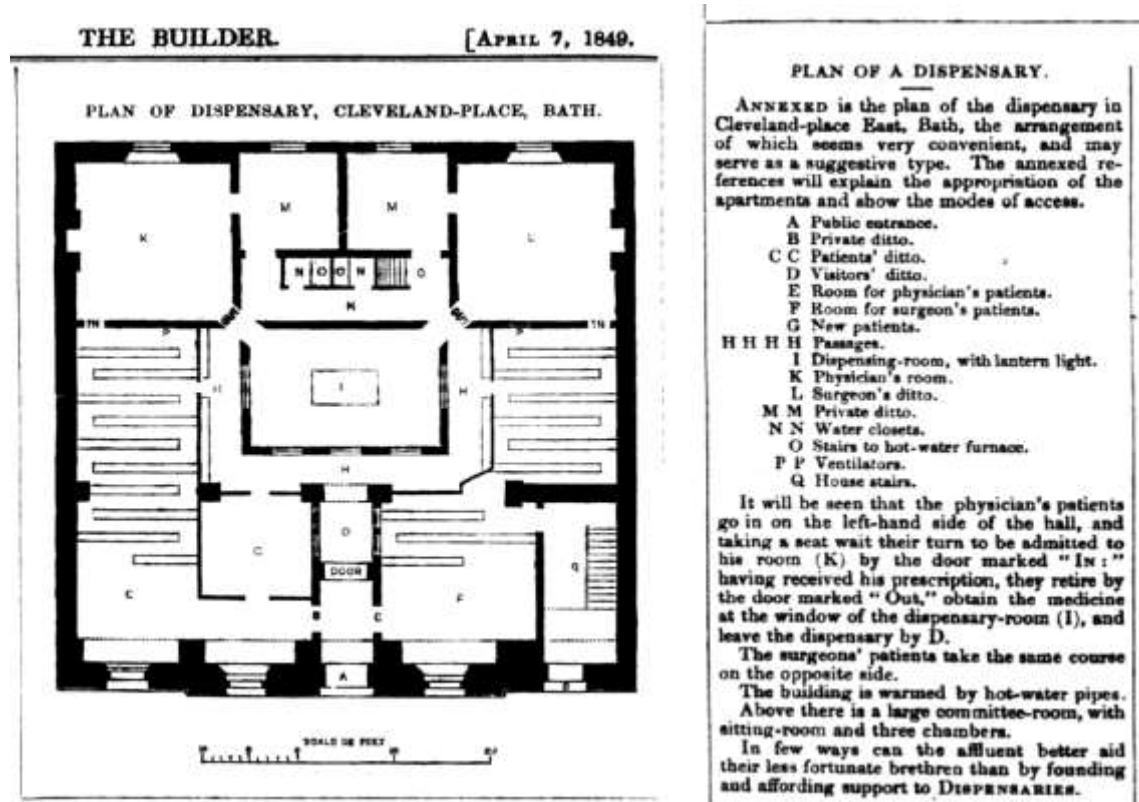
By the 18th century a fair number of the medical practitioners of all branches of the profession in the city had made small fortunes and were able to live in grand houses, sometimes having both a town and a country house, and to commission portraits from respected artists. Although physicians distinguished themselves by having university degrees, the distinction between surgeons and apothecaries was often blurred and they were increasingly designated surgeon-apothecaries and, by the mid 19th century, general practitioners.

Medical partnerships were rare before the mid-20th century, most doctors practising single-handedly although there were a few exceptions. Jane Austen’s doctor, William Bowen, was in partnership with Joseph Spry. They worked from a house in Argyle Street, now the Bath Rugby shop. Most consultations and operations took place in the home, but patients could also visit the doctor’s house or shop. In the 19th century apothecaries began to differentiate into dispensing medical practitioners, and chemists and druggists. Pharmacy premises which contain original shop fittings are dwindling in number, although we still have several in Bath - probably Hale’s (below) is the best example.



The modern trend is for surgery premises to incorporate a pharmacy, a facility nowadays available in several Bath practices. Doctors no longer live above the shop, as they did formerly, and practices are becoming more clinic-like as they incorporate a range of health workers.

The Eastern Dispensary in Cleveland Place is perhaps a foretaste of things to come and foreshadows the concept of the purpose-built health centres and polyclinics of recent years. It incorporated a central pharmacy, waiting rooms, toilets, reception area and consulting rooms for a physician and surgeon. (see article in *The Builder*, below) It opened in 1845 to provide medical and surgical advice to any patient recommended by a subscriber. There were two other dispensaries started around this time, the Southern Dispensary in Widcombe and the Western Dispensary in Albion Terrace on the Upper Bristol Road but the Eastern Dispensary is the only one left standing (below).



JOHN JELLY'S BOTANIC GARDEN

Trevor Fawcett

Until the later 18th century most of the new building on Lansdown centred on the slopes to the west of Lansdown Road. Eastwards the ground remained largely a chequer-board of hedged fields apart from recent building development along lower Lansdown Road itself and on the London road beyond the Walcot turnpike gate. The terrain was generally steep of course, but in compensation afforded splendid views - an asset that James Hooper, a considerable landowner, early exploited with his summerhouse on the 'steep craggy head' of Beacon Hill, as a poem of 1775 described it, with a grand vista of 'Hills, Rivers, Woods, Lawns, Churches, Vallies'.¹ Rural views and healthy locations were now powerful selling points, and at its auction in 1796 this three-quarter acre site (nowadays occupied by a house called 'The Beacon') was said to command 'one of the most beautiful Bird's Eye Prospects in the Kingdom', equally suitable for a romantic cottage and pleasure garden or for erecting a row of ten capital houses.²

What eventually turned into the residential artery of Camden Road began with the construction of Camden Crescent. This was the speculative venture of John Symons, a wealthy Bath surgeon (and member of the City Council from 1771), abetted, it seems, by a local attorney, John Jelly, vestry clerk of Walcot and son of Thomas Jelly, a considerable builder of mid-Georgian Bath. Symons acquired the site comprising two large sloping fields - 'Three Trees' and 'Hedgemoor' - in 1785 and began the huge task of levelling the ground well before the conveyancing procedure was completed.³ Jelly's own involvement was evident at the laying of the foundation stone in April 1787 when he and Symons jointly welcomed the procession of quarrymen and builders to the site and a large crowd of spectators.⁴ Jelly himself would soon be laying out the ground just to the east for Upper Camden Place, then known as Sion Row and designed, like Camden Crescent, by John Eveleigh.⁵

The Symons-Jelly association perhaps dated from 1784. That summer, in his campaign to create a series of shady walks around Bath (and so encourage 'a longer residence of the Company in the summer months'), Symons announced he had planted out a small pleasure garden to demonstrate how quickly a series of tree-lined walks could be created, adding that it could be reached by a path from beside Jelly's house at the top of Gay's Place or via the steep carriage road up from the London Road known as Margaret's Hill/St Mark's Buildings. In all probability it covered the site labelled 'The Cottage' on contemporary maps of Bath, roughly where Belle Vue Villa stands today.⁶ By June 1786 it was said to hold an incredible 40,000 plants and attracted many summer tea parties as well as versifiers.

Thy prospects, SYMONS, and thy walks, I sing,
The Muse shall make the hills and vallies sing ...
Industrious JONES, accompany my song,
With Symons' plan thy labours move along.
His garden see - his cot on Beacon-Hill -
Each winding path obedient to his will ...⁷

Richard Jones was the nurseryman concerned in the planting, but the garden's actual lay-out may well have owed something to the 'Gentleman of the first taste' who was advising Symons on his larger project for public walks.⁸ Could this have been the Hon. Charles Hamilton who had already established an extensive private garden with rare trees and gravel paths on the rising ground behind Royal Crescent? Whoever the designer of the larger project was, the plan stalled in September 1784 when, despite Symons' willingness to recompense the Bath freemen for any loss of profit, the City Council turned down his proposal to create a gravel walk on Bath Common financed by subscription⁹. Symons seems to have lost interest at that point,¹⁰ but the idea of providing green walks as an amenity open to subscribers must have lodged in John Jelly's mind.

For the moment, though, he was heavily engaged in building affairs on his own account as well as on behalf of clients in his role of attorney and money broker at his office in Green Street. On the death of his father, Thomas Jelly, he sold off a variety of inherited properties in and about Bath,¹¹ and participated in several major developments from the mid-1780s onwards - not only Camden Crescent and of course Upper Camden Place in which he was the main player, but Kensington Place, Norfolk



Detail taken from Harcourt Masters' *Plan of the City of Bath, 1795*, showing the developments below Beacon Hill, including (centre right) the oval outline of Jelly's Botanic Garden.

Crescent and elsewhere. Not until 1793 did the 32-year-old John Jelly¹² realise his plan of establishing a botanic garden on an elongated plot east of Symons' cottage and pleasure garden. The site was already in use as a nursery garden by Symons' former plantsman, Richard Jones, but Jelly must have encouraged him to move his entire business higher up Beacon Hill to Rose Hill House which Jelly very likely built especially for him. For Jelly's plan was more ambitious than a simple plant nursery. Advertising the opening of the botanic garden in September 1793, he explained his motives.

The Science of Botany is now so universally studied and admired that to use any argument in favour of an Institution like the present, near so publick a resort of Fashion and Independence as the city of Bath, would be altogether superfluous. To those indeed who are immediately interested in the welfare of Bath, the importance of varying the Amusements is too well known to leave a doubt of encouragement, or to render any particular address necessary. That a scheme of this kind should originate with me, a professor of the Law, may, perhaps, seem a little awkward till explained. The study of Botany has from childhood been the amusement of my leisure hours, and a love of the science has imperceptibly led to the possession of a very large and expensive Collection of Plants, exceeded by very few in the kingdom. To render these of public utility and importance is my end and object.¹³

To the east of the site (which is now covered by the long modest terrace of Prospect Place) Jelly had built himself a house, Elm Bank, but he admitted that his professional duties would still curtail the time he could personally spare to attend visitors at the garden. Their subscriptions should however cover the cost of 'a proper Assistant'. This job of garden keeper was entrusted to James Eyles, who was allowed to rear and sell 'a great Variety of the newest and rarest Annual and other Ornamental Flowers and Seeds ... for his separate Benefit'.¹⁴

In establishing the garden Jelly acknowledged the help he had received from that 'eminent and indefatigable Botanist, Mr.Sole', including valuable specimens from Sole's 'justly admired Collection near the Bristol road'. A long-established apothecary in Trim Street, William Sole was also well-known for his private botanic garden, situated, it appears, off the Bristol Road rather than at Kensington (off the London Road) as is sometimes claimed.¹⁵ Here it was visited in June 1787 by a group of French courtiers with the Bishop of Winchester - an indication that it could at least be viewed by special appointment even if not generally open to the public.¹⁶ It was systematically arranged, but on rather idiosyncratic, old-fashioned lines rather than according to the modern system of Linnaeus. Despite Sole's being elected an associate member of the Linnean Society (thanks to his publication on the mint family, *Menthae Britannicae*), it was said of him by a fellow botanist that 'Of the Linnaean system he knew very little; attached to the opinions imbibed in his earlier days, his inclinations never led him to investigate, unbiased, those of the Swedish philosopher ...'.¹⁷ This raises the interesting but unanswerable question of how Jelly's botanic garden under Beacon Hill was set out, whether influenced by William Sole or strictly following Linnaeus.

The garden superintendent lived on the spot, presumably in one of the two buildings that had long existed on the site dating from 1736 and 1740.¹⁸ Here a room was provided where subscribers could consult books on botany. Otherwise, half-guinea subscribers could only walk in the garden and inspect the plants. One-guinea subscribers were in addition entitled to receive spare plants and seeds as well as to introduce a friend gratis. Serious botanical students paid two guineas and had the privilege of the superintendent's personal attention.¹⁹ (These rates may be compared to the 7s.6d. seasonal subscriptions for walking in Bath's two new pleasure gardens, Sydney and Grosvenor.) Non-subscribers and occasional visitors were admitted for a shilling a time. Gifts of seeds from abroad were welcome, from which it can be assumed the garden was not restricted to the British native and naturalised flora. Indeed, Hyssop and Cedar are the two species portrayed on the reverse of the penny trade token that Jelly had struck in 1794 to advertise the garden. The obverse shows a not necessarily accurate view of the garden entrance. The legend derived from the biblical Book of Kings: 'HE SPAKE OF TREES FROM THE CEDAR TREE THAT IS IN LEBANON//EVEN UNTO THE HYSSOP THAT SPRINGETH OUT OF THE WALL'.²⁰ Apart from its representation on the Harcourt Masters map of 1795, little else is known about Jelly's garden. No catalogue of its contents, sketches of its appearance, testimony of visitors and subscribers, or evidence of its popularity have been found, other than one laconic diary entry from September 1795 - 'Chevalier sent plants from Bath Botanic Garden'.²¹ And by that stage Jelly, a bankrupt, had been forced to sell up.²²

WALCOT BOTANIC GARDEN,

JUNE 24th, 1793.

TERMS of SUBSCRIBING
TO THE
BOTANIC GARDEN,
INSTITUTED AT WALCOT,

(LATE JONES's NURSERY)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS of Half-a-Guinea will be entitled to walk in the Garden and inspect the Plants, and to the Use of a Room and Books provided for them.

Annual Subscribers of One Guinea may receive Roots, Flowers, and Seeds of such Plants as can be spared from the Garden, to the full Amount of their Subscription, and may introduce a Friend.

Non-Subscribers and occasional Visitors to pay One Shilling each, for which they may receive Plants or Seeds of that Value.

A Catalogue will be annually made of such Roots and Seeds as can be spared from the Garden, and all Orders for the same are required to be sent in due Time for their being delivered in the proper Season.

No Subscription will be called for till Six Months from the First of August next, when the Garden will be ready for the Subscribers, in Order that they may first approve the Institution.

The Garden will be from thence open every Day from Six to Eight o'Clock until the twenty-ninth Day of September next, and from thence to the first Day of April from Eight to Four, and is in its present State open to those who may be disposed to encourage the undertaking, and to signify their Intention to become Subscribers by signing their Names to this Hand-Bill.

For the Gratification of the Curious and Public in general, a great Variety of the newest and rarest Annual and other Ornamental Flowers and Seeds, will, by Permission of the Proprietors be raised and Sold at very moderate Prices, by JAMES EYLES, the Keeper of the Garden, for his separate Benefit.

*I do hereby signify my Intention to become a
Guinea Subscriber to the above Institution.*

GYE, PRINTER,



Autumn 1793 had not perhaps been a propitious moment for Jelly to embark on such a risky venture. The botanic garden, open 8am to 4pm in the first winter half-year,²³ lay on the edge of Bath and soon faced the competition of two new pleasure gardens easier to reach. Jelly's financial situation, moreover, must have been precarious. Following the outbreak of war with France, interest rates had risen, property values fallen, and credit and loans been put at risk. Two Bath banks had failed in spring 1793 and the local building boom was suddenly over, leaving Jelly and other speculative builders dangerously exposed. By early 1795 he was unable to meet his creditors' demands and faced bankruptcy proceedings and the forced sale of his whole estate. Rather than designating him 'attorney' as Bath directories, guidebooks and his own announcements always have it, the bankruptcy commission of 21 February 1795 called Jelly a 'money scrivener, dealer and chapman', giving a clearer impression of his complex involvement in financial transactions, investment opportunities, speculative developments, and the entire local property market. He was caught stranded with finished and part-finished houses, empty building plots, and quantities of construction materials on his hands, as well as shares in and rents from other properties. These assets and liabilities included buildings and land in Camden Crescent, Upper Camden Place (then still called Sion Row), Gay's Place, Stanley Place, Kensington Place, and Norfolk Crescent, and large supplies of brick, stored in Gay's Place, and stone, most likely from a quarry he rented on Lansdown.²⁴

First to be auctioned to pay his debts, on 4-5 May 1795, was his own house – 'THAT New-built, Valuable, and Desirable MESSUAGE, together with HOT-HOUSE and LARGE GARDEN elegantly laid out; the whole containing Three Quarters of an Acre... called ELM BANK... a situation possessing the most admirable prospects.' With it went the household contents (among them a Kirkman harpsichord, fine prints and valuable books) plus the moveable frames and stock of the botanic garden, whose custodian was now John Cottle.²⁵ The rest of his estate went under the hammer in June.²⁶ And then, early in 1796, the extensive stock of the nurseryman Richard Jones at Rose Hill House was sold – from forest and ornamental trees and fruit bushes to herbaceous and hothouse plants

and bulbs. In July 1796 Rose Hill House and nursery garden were sold in turn and Jones was occupying Jelly's botanic garden, though this can no longer have been in a properly viewable state.²⁷ He must also have vacated Hooper's summerhouse on top of Beacon Hill, mentioned earlier, which he had been renting, for this too was put up for sale.²⁸

As to John Jelly, while his bankruptcy must have been a humiliating experience, he did manage to preserve his professional reputation. By 1797 he was certainly in business as an attorney again, living at 13 or 15 Park Street, and by 1805 more grandly at Mount Beacon. He also retained his post of Walcot Vestry Clerk until his death, after a lingering illness, in 1813.²⁹ Richard Jones for his part was in 1800 settled in one of Jelly's old properties in Upper Camden Place. This left the former botanic garden site free for the builders of Prospect Place.

Notes

1. *Bath and its Environs: a Descriptive Poem* [by R.Hippisley] (Bath, 1775), pp.15-17.
2. *Bath Journal*, 18 July 1796.
3. Bath Central Library, Sydenham Collection, p.227. Conveyancing was delayed by the death of the landowner, William Morford Deverell. Symons was a wealthy man thanks to his marriage in 1774 to a rich London hosier's daughter – *Bath Chronicle*, 22 Sep 1784. His acquisition of 'Three Trees' also gave him possession of Bath Corporation's important Beacon Hill water supply for which he built a new reservoir behind Camden Crescent – Bath Record Office, Council Minutes 15 Sep 1787, 5 Jul and 4 Oct 1790, 4 May and 6 September 1791, etc.
4. *Bath Chronicle*, 12 April 1787.
5. Bath Central Library, John Eveleigh Mss, Ledger no.4, September 1788.
6. *Bath Chronicle*, 15 July 1784, April 1785 and 15 June 1785. Symons' cottage and pleasure garden, on a steep slope, boasted fine views and, to judge from the 1786 Taylor & Meyler plan of Bath, even included a small horse-ride.
7. *Bath Chronicle*, 15 June 1786; *Bath Journal*, 26 June 1786. Among the visiting parties were the girls of the Lee sisters' boarding school in Lansdown Road. It was eventually put up for sale in 1795 – *Bath Chronicle*, 21 May 1795.
8. *Bath Chronicle*, 15 July 1784.
9. Bath Record Office, Hall Notice Books 26 March and 23 September 1784, and Council Minutes 27 September 1784; *Bath Chronicle*, 30 September 1784.
10. Symons was then busy managing the Hot Baths and was soon to add the Cross Bath to his civic responsibilities – Bath Record Office, Council Minutes 3 July 1786.
11. *Bath Chronicle*, 30 December 1784, 3 February 1785, 24 August 1786.
12. Bath Record Office, St Michael's Parish Registers, John Jelly, son of Thomas and Mary, baptised 29 July 1761.
13. *Bath Chronicle*, 12 September 1793.
14. 'Walcot Botanic Garden, June 24th, 1793' (Bath Central Library, Broadside and Posters, no.126).
15. e.g. J.W.White, *The Flora of Bristol* (Bristol, 1912), pp.71-3.
16. *Bath Journal*, 4 June 1787.
17. J.L.Knapp, *Gramina Britannica or Representations of the British Grasses* (1804), text following plate 117. Knapp adds that Sole's herbarium of dried specimens – auctioned after his death in 1802 – was 'replete with varieties elevated to the rank of species', so in taxonomic terms he was a clearly a 'splitter', not a 'lumper'.
18. Michael Forsyth, *Bath* (Pevsner Architectural Guides, New Haven, Conn, Yale U.P., 2003), p.264.
19. *Bath Chronicle* 12 September 1793. The terms were similar to those of some other botanic gardens such as William Curtis's London Botanic Garden at Lambeth.
20. Bath Central Library, Sydenham Collection, p.239.
21. *The Journal of the Rev.William Bagshaw Stevens*, ed. G.Galbraith (Oxford, 1965), p.300, entry 4 September 1795.
22. *Bath Chronicle*, 19 March 1795.
23. *Bath Chronicle*, 19 September 1793.
24. Bath Record Office, acc.no.54/6, Commission of bankruptcy against John Jelly.
25. *Bath Chronicle*, 16 April 1795.
26. *Bath Chronicle*, 21 May 1795.
27. *Bath Journal*, 25 January and 27 June 1796.
28. *Bath Journal*, 18 July 1796; *Bath Chronicle*, 6 September 1792; Bath Record Office, Walcot Poor Rates 1794-6.
29. Bath directories 1800, 1805, 1809, 1812; *Bath Chronicle*, 24 January and 21 March 1799, 15 and 22 April 1813. Interestingly, Jelly had a town office c.1805 at Trim Bridge, where the recently deceased William Sole's apothecary's shop had been.

EDUCATION IN BATH - BATH COLLEGE
(Possunt quia posse videntur - to believe is to achieve)

Mark Rutherford

In 1878 S.C.Voules, the Head Master of Sydney College (formerly known as the Bath Proprietary College and occupying the premises now known as the Holburne Museum), retired. A Bath College Council was formed by such local notabilities as Jerom Murch and Major Ralph Allen MP, hoping to repeat for Bath the success attained by famous schools at Cheltenham, Clifton and Marlborough. The newly incorporated Bath College Company Ltd. took over the premises in Pulteney Street and made a definite bid for public school status. They chose as the first Head Master Thomas William Dunn who came with a warm recommendation from John Percival, the Headmaster of Clifton College.

Dunn had been under-master at Boston Grammar School in Lincolnshire and in his twenty-third year obtained a scholarship to Peterhouse, Cambridge. In 1864 he graduated as 13th classic - the first class in the Classical Tripos being then arranged in order of merit. He was elected a fellow of Peterhouse and subsequently Dean. In 1867 he was invited by Percival to fill a temporary vacancy at Clifton, then quite a young school. He went to Clifton for a month and stayed ten years. Among his colleagues was T.E.Brown, the Manx poet, and his pupils included T.H.Warren, later President of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Henry Newbolt, where Dunn appears in his novel *The Twymans* as Mr.Don of Downton - 'a man of strong and original character, not without a touch of genius'.

In 1874 Dunn opened a new boarding house at Clifton in College Road. When the Cadet Corps was formed and there was concern that some of the pupils would forsake cricket for the Corps, he was one of the masters who enlisted as Sappers to set an example and were ordered about by boys with sergeant's stripes. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, another Clifton pupil, wrote 'I only know that of the friends I met at Oxford a boy who had known Dunn was always recognizable in mind and even more surely in manners'.

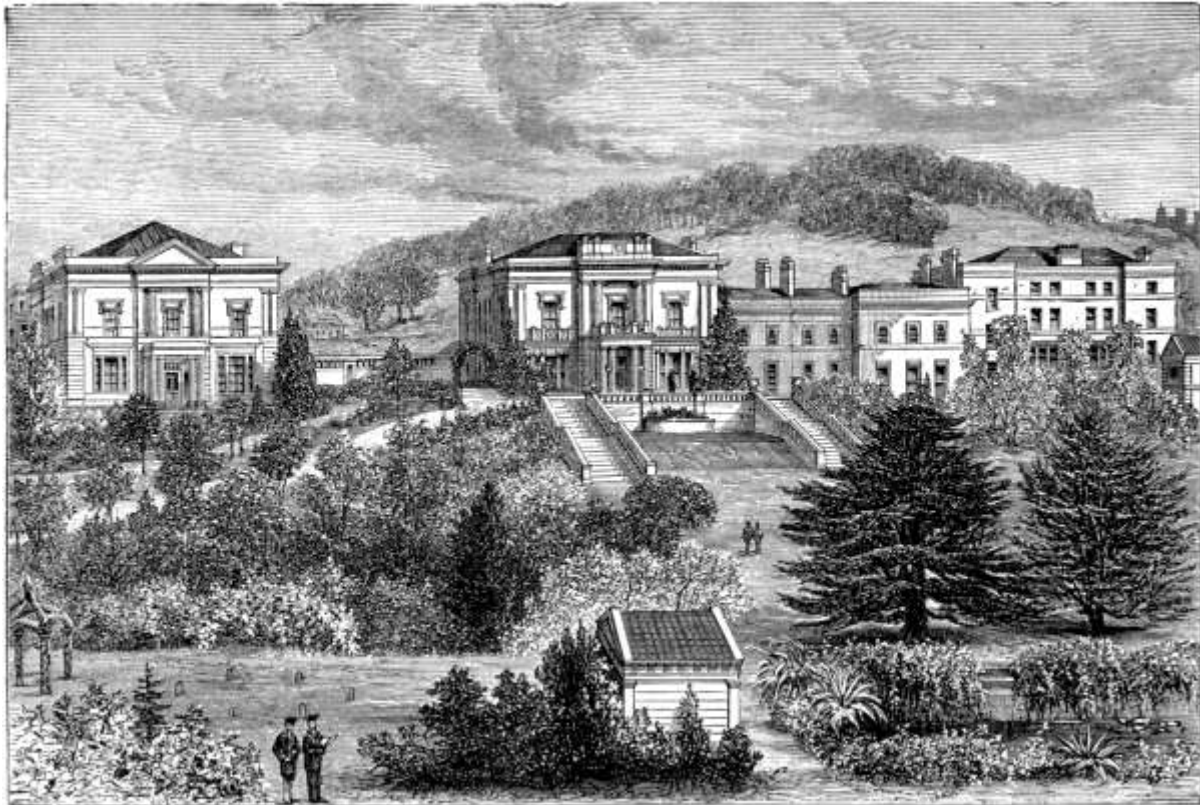
Under Dunn's guidance after 1878, Bath College became, for its size, one of the best classical schools in the country, winning scholarship after scholarship at all the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. He began his work in May 1878 with the majority of the 91 pupils being already enrolled in the Sydney College. He immediately changed the ethos, instituting praeposters, Big Side levée and compulsory games. A 'lock up' rule forbade boys to be at large after dark without the written leave of a master or parent. Afternoon school began at 4.00pm instead of at 2.00pm and there was an extension of supervised prep in the evening and another hour of it before breakfast.

By moving the mid-week half-holiday from Wednesday to Thursday, Dunn found room for a discretionary half-holiday on Tuesday. The discretion could be exercised in favour of individuals, to recompense the studious for the performance of holiday tasks; usually the Tuesday afternoon was a collective award *honoris causa*, to celebrate the winning of a scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge or some other distinction. The decision during the break in Tuesday morning's school brought a weekly thrill to the rank and file.

Dunn's first appearance in the long lower room of the original school building, wrote an eyewitness, would never be forgotten by those who were present. A Hebrew prophet seemed suddenly to have descended on the school. Assembling all the boys from the eldest to the youngest, he plunged at once into a fervent discourse on truth and honour and duty and public spirit, quoting from Plato and Wordsworth, thrusting out his right arm which seemed to grow miraculously longer as he wrought himself up. His hair went wild, his gown was all awry before it was over. At the very beginning he struck the note which made him a teacher of genius.

In his second year at Bath Dunn moved the school uphill to North Road. A house, Vellore, built in 1835 for General Augustus Andrews and named after the Indian garrison town, had been purchased in 1862 by The Reverend Prebendary Charles Kemble, the wealthy Rector of Bath Abbey, and used as the Abbey Rectory. Some years after Kemble died his widow sold the property to Bath College. Initially the house was occupied by the Head Master with most of the boarders while for a few months teaching went on in Pulteney Street under the care of Dunn's younger brother, The Reverend Joseph Dunn. A long wing was added to Vellore, equipping what was now the School House with a

dining-hall and an ample range of studies and dormitories. Near the main road a spacious block was built to provide form-rooms and a Big School where all the boys could be assembled. A lecture-room and a laboratory for natural science were also erected, although Dunn's pre-occupation was with the Latin and Greek languages as the main instruments of education.



THE BATH COLLEGE AND GROUNDS.

The Chapel was opened in 1890. It was entered from a colonnade which connected the school buildings with the School House. At the foot of the staircase leading to the Big School was exhibited the pattern of the Bath College handwriting. A gymnasium was added near the Chapel and a library near the door of the Big School. Two private houses just above the school were taken over, Darlington Court as a second boarding-house, and Nethersole as a new home for the Junior School on its removal from the original building in Pulteney Street. The one disadvantage of the hillside location was the lack of a suitable playing field. But rowing became a prescribed form of exercise in the Easter term. One of the pupils, Henry Girdlestone, stroked the Oxford University Eight 1885-6.

By 1882 the number of boys had risen to 102. In 1885 numbers were increased from 150 to 200 when the Somersetshire College (set up as a rival to Sydney College and located in the Circus) was absorbed and its Head Master, The Reverend T.M.Bromley, joined Dunn and took charge of the second boarding-house, Darlington Court. But Bath College was never large in numbers and when Dunn left in 1897 the average annual total was no higher than 135. In 1893 a London newspaper observed 'if the percentage of success were calculated according to the size of the school, probably Bath College with its 35 scholarships would head the list'. In his later years at Bath Dunn's established reputation as a teacher brought him many pupils who had failed to make headway elsewhere. Refusing to despair of anyone, he would take a backward boy straight into his sixth form so as to give him the maximum of personal attention.

Unfortunately for a mainly classical school, despite a limited modern side (at times Dunn would snatch promising boys out of the jaws of the modern-side masters) a large number of the Bath parents were retired military officers who wished their sons to go into the army and looked for a school with an efficient modern side which would prepare them for the entrance examinations to Woolwich and Sandhurst. And another factor which limited the scope of the school was the refusal of the Governors to open its doors to the sons of shopkeepers many of whom were to be found at King Edward's.

In 1897 Dunn retired and his successor was The Reverend W.Yorke Fausset, a Balliol scholar, who had taught classics at Manchester Grammar School and Fettes and had for a while been Head Master of Ripon. Fausset introduced athletic sports and the formation of a Cadet Corps. But by 1899 there was a financial crisis and school numbers dwindled. Fausset resigned in 1902 and was succeeded by Alfred Trice Martin, another of Percival's appointments at Clifton. Under him numbers quickly rose from 55 to over 100 and in 1906 the Bath College Company reported that the loss on the year's working had been much reduced. A plan was launched with the support of the Marquis of Bath, Lord Methuen and the Bishops of Bath & Wells and Bristol to raise a sum of £12,000 to pay off the debt and buy the site and buildings to transfer them to trustees for educational purposes.

Sadly sufficient money was not forthcoming. As the crisis approached Martin explored every possibility to preserve the existence of the school. At the eleventh hour there was even a chance that it might be taken over by the city as a rung in the ladder of municipal education. But the local authority settled the matter by rejecting what was perhaps never quite a practicable scheme.

The end came swiftly and the school closed its doors in 1909. The liquidator sold the property by auction for the paltry sum of £1,260 and the premises were re-opened as the Spa Hotel. The hotel closed in 1936 and the premises became the temporary residence of Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia, and with the outbreak of the Second World War was requisitioned by the Admiralty. In 1948 it returned to life as the Spa Hotel, but in 1950 was sold to the South Western Regional Hospital Board and used as the Spa Nurses Home. When the nurses moved out the site was sold to Trusthouse Forté and is now the Bath Spa Hotel.

An interesting footnote is that when the school closed, the Governors of King Edward's School considered whether to purchase the site but decided that 'the distance from the city was too great'. However the Bath College Junior School, Nethersole, was taken over in 1909 by Mr.C.W.Trask (who had run a second Bath College Junior School at 20 Portland Place which closed in 1901 and had been re-constituted by him as St.Christopher's Preparatory School). He moved St.Christopher's to Nethersole. In 1959 St.Christopher's, then run by Mr and Mrs Edward Pryor, closed and the site was offered to King Edward's - this time the Governors accepted with alacrity!



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GROVE STREET: REDEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE SINCE THE 20TH CENTURY

Guy Whitmarsh

A commentary on the changes in Grove Street over the last decade of the 19th century or more, and an insight into attitudes, was provided by the Medical Officer of Health's annual report for 1901. He noted that the new tenement houses were all fully occupied, 'clear gain to humanity - it did not rob Peter to pay Paul by driving poor persons from one district to another'. The census returns cast some doubt on this claim or boast.

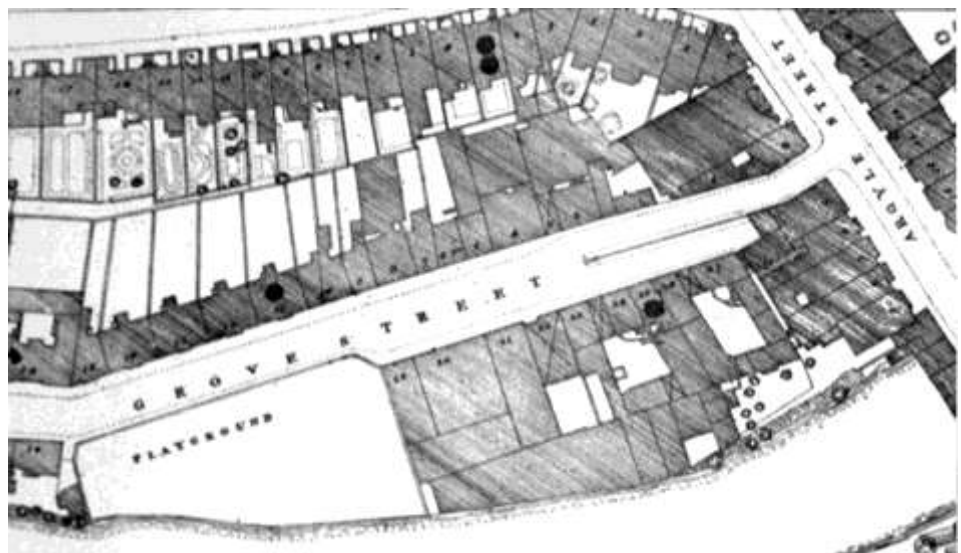
What was sure was the reduction in ill health. The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1901 was pleased to state that deaths from tuberculosis in Grove Street were down to 5 in 1891-1900 after 'insanitary dwellings were demolished by a private investment scheme', as compared with 34 in 1866-1875. He chillingly noted that in Bath 'our female population, consisting largely of servants coming from rural districts, when they became invalids went away from Bath to die'.

His Report included a set of maps showing the exact before-and-after locations of morbidity which, coincidentally, also illustrated the before-and-after of the distribution and numbering of houses. No. 18 is unchanged but the Brewery, later Caxton Court, becomes Nos. 19-22. Life expectancy by 1901 had risen in comparison with mid-century; there were 30 who were aged 60 or more; an unusual example was Tabitha Lewis, aged 76, a lodger, 'living on her own means'.



Above:
Medical Officer of Health's map of tuberculosis deaths; 1866-75.

Right:
Medical Officer of Health's map of tuberculosis deaths; 1891-1900.



There were 78 children 12 or under, suggesting that child mortality had dropped significantly since mid-century. It was as before almost exclusively an area where relatively humble workers lived. Only one person was in modern terms a businessman, the plumber and contractor Alfred Wills. He also had a property and yard at Villa Fields. Five others were categorised as employers because they employed one or two, probably on a floor of the occupation dwelling where they lived. There was understandable uncertainty in the census return categorisation, but in general two-thirds of the men and women went out to work and one third worked from home or at home. By this time there had been a general shift to paid employment in workshops of varying size.

Immediately after the First World War changes implying considerable decline appear. When in 1919 the Bathwick Estate was put up for auction details were set out for the whole estate including Grove Street. Listed were the two long-established public houses, *Rising Sun* and the *Duke of Cambridge*, 'a block of artisans dwellings ... arranged as 27 flats' which were identified as Nos. 10 to 15. Opposite them was a void ground to the river, identified as a potential playground. St. Mary's Church House was at No.8. There were four shops, but no indication of where. A soda water factory, stabling and builders workshops were all mentioned but not located and the same is true of five arches that may be the ones still in use today (2011). The accompanying map showed an entryway at 5 Argyle Street that linked the long established bookseller since at least 1845, called Gregory's, with stables to the rear of No. 27 Grove Street. The stables would probably have also been there for generations.

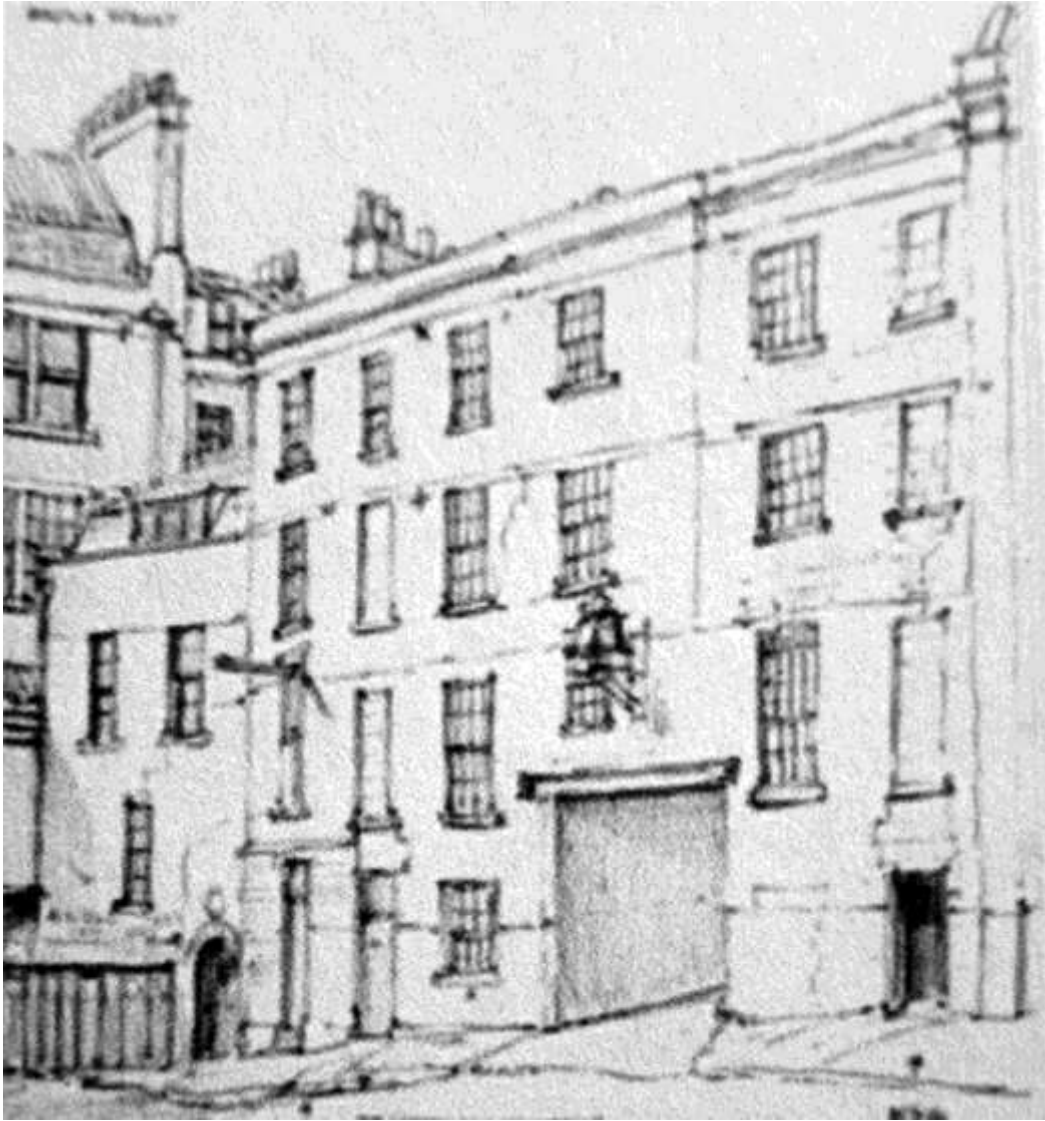
There was surprisingly little economic activity identified in this property sale exercise. A small income was derived from some of the arches. Grove Street was experiencing a sharp decline in population in the depression following the end of the 'Great War'. A 1921 Bath directory listed few residents as artisans - there were 117 on the electoral roll. Presumably most were employees. In the 1920s the Mill, presumably disused, was demolished.

Ten years later there was more commercial activity following a pattern of acquiring or expanding work premises in downmarket Grove Street additional to prestigious 'front of house' locations in central Bath. Still significant was an array of small workshops and stables. There came to be three mineral water manufacturers, Hunter & Co., Hughes & Co., Brooke & Co. Then there was the Artistic Blind Co., Amery & Co. (builders) and Western Counties Auto Co. at Nos.24 and 25. Two of the 49 individuals listed were garage proprietors.

By 1939 the changes were even more towards commercial activity on the western riverside, such that there were only two residential locations; multiple unit Avon House formerly Nos. 26 and 27 at one end, with 27 on the electoral roll, and No. 18 with 7 at the other. The mineral water manufacturers were joined by Dawson & Goodall, printers and stationers in what was coming to be called the 'old brewery', J. H. Dando plumbers, and Western Counties Auto expanded into Nos.19, 21 and 25. On the opposite side multiple occupation was still the norm, but there were fewer artisans and only half (29) of the persons named have a trade or calling.

Post the Second World War the residential population had fallen but only by about 30 in the ten years since 1939. Avon House had 30 residents but No. 18, in the past always a part commercial property, had only one. Of the businesses Brooke and Co., the mineral water manufacturers disappeared in the late 40s. Yet the western riverside was significantly attractive to business interests as an accessible low cost location as the economy steadily grew. Western Counties Auto sought permission in 1952 to create car show rooms and offices but switched to a furniture store, garages and residential accommodation in 1955. In Nos.23 to 26 was Brown's Garages Ltd. and in 1959 the construction of a rear extension uncovered a fine descending flight of stone stairs leading to the river, possible evidence that part the 1788 Farndon Groom lease reserving provision of a quay was put into operation. Add in Dawson and Goodall, printers and bookbinders at 19, 20, and 21 from 1958, James Colmer Ltd. drapers' warehouse, South Western Scrap and Metal Merchants, Amery's builders warehouse, and Harbutt's Plasticines, the western riverside was totally commercialised.

The Peter Coard sketches of the building opposite the old gaol just before its demolition in 1965 showed that as well as space for families in multiple occupation, rear extensions would have provided spaces for stables and workshops. In 1962 planning permission to set up a light engineering factory there was refused, permission being granted instead for a car wash. The applicant characterised the site as derelict; a three storey house flanked by old stables used as a builders' yards.



Nos.25-28 Grove Street, as at 1964, by Peter Coard.

The pressure was on in the 1960s further to exploit the western riverside of Grove Street, no doubt encouraged in a way by what a journalist called the ‘derelict dockside atmosphere’. Not surprisingly the residential population steadily declined throughout the 1960s, declining to 75 in 1968 and then to 53 in 1971 (electoral roll numbers). An early indicator of the way things might still go in spite of the Council’s growing interest from the early 1960s in residential development was Dawson and Goodall’s plan of 1968 to turn their own premises into a bingo hall. The council organised a consultation process that revealed great opposition from Grove Street residents, though the landlord of the *Rising Sun* was a strong supporter.

By the early 1970s there was a general demand for more suitable residential properties and this may have led to the potentiality of the former gaol being recognised by Bath Council, who sold it in 1970 to the Western Counties Housing Association for £3,000. Subsequently it was renovated and turned into flats. Attention now turned to the riverside’s increasing number of run-down warehouses. The Harbutt Plasticine’s warehouse, Dawson and Goodall printers, and Brown’s Garages had all ceased to operate in Grove Street, and C.H. Beazer proposed in 1971 to build 48 flats ‘as prospective freeholder’ on their sites. No agreed progress proved possible and the proposal was withdrawn.

A new applicant, Bridafield Ltd., appeared in 1972, proposing a complex redevelopment after demolition of the sites of numbers 19 - 25 and adjoining properties. The scheme (see plan below) included residential accommodation, shops, garages, showrooms, restaurant, parking spaces and a service area. After much argument and many modifications over several years, today’s riverside Grove Street is descended from this scheme.

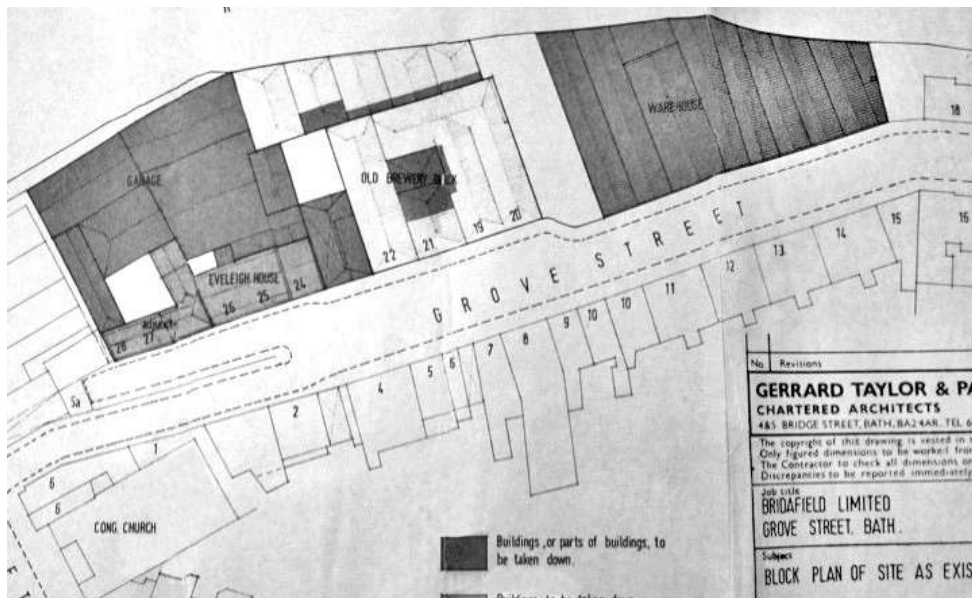


Grove Street, south end, 1972.

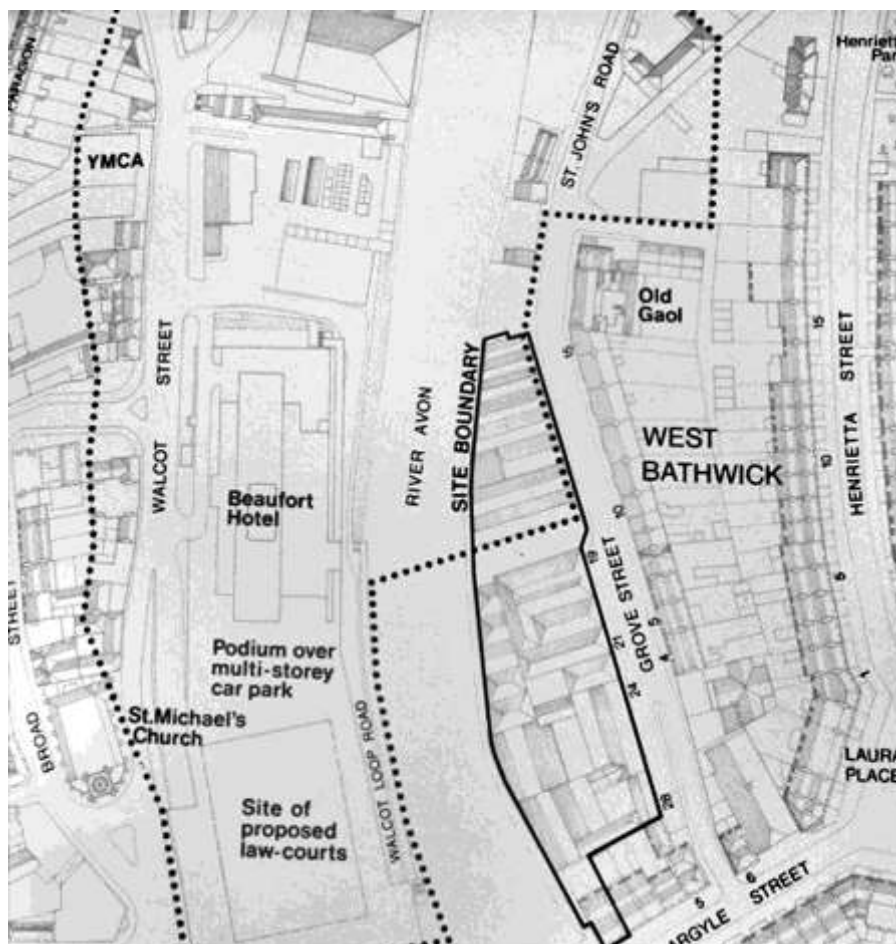


Grove Street, north end, 1930s.

Bath Council deferred the Bridafield proposal and via the Development Committee produced its own redevelopment brief. It then went further by taking more powers to control development and sought to re-habilitate some of the buildings and the idea of a conservation study was an outcome. In June 1973 the City Architect and Planning Officer issued a new planning brief and a feasibility study was suggested. Disputes with the developers were continuous as they tried to salvage as much as possible of their original proposals, particularly over access and car parking, as well as countering allegations of commercial over-development. In October the Development sub-committee approved a changed plan and the launching of a feasibility study. At the next Council (November 1973) meeting the attempt to revert to the original scheme was defeated by one vote, not that the developers gave up. This was in retrospect the critical moment in the post *Sack* modernisation of this western side of the street.



The Grove Street Conservation area



It is difficult to know in precise detail the effects of Adam Fergusson's polemical *Sack of Bath*, 1973, but in his new Preface to the 2011 Persephone Books edition of the original text he writes 'The serious serial depredations which Bath was suffering stopped almost overnight' (p.vi). In the text he quoted a 1965 proposal that Grove Street should be reserved for riverside recreation, listed the Street as endangered and noted via a photograph caption its 'charming walls and roofs'. The Council was in the event now open to considering the rehabilitation or protection of existing buildings wherever possible.

A consultant's report was approved in February 1974 that concluded Grove Street had importance as part of the central area of the city, that some facades should be retained, that a detailed study of potentialities be made. At the end of February 1975 the Planning Committee had before it *Grove Street, Bath - A Conservation Study*. It was scathing about the western riverside of the street, characterised as a 'rag bag collection of light industrial dwellings, a large lumpish stone-built Brewery, a short terrace of 18th century houses and a general mixture of corrugated iron-roofed workshops'.

It concluded nevertheless that the site was of immense value to Bath and proposed the retention of the 'Eveleigh block', that is, Nos. 24-28 including John Eveleigh's House, even though a Closing Order had been issued in 1964. Also the Old Brewery block should be retained because of its bulk, the texture of its walls and the colour of its roof. The consultants were keen to keep the river wall 'for its long curving line and the timeless character of its stonework'.

In negotiations with Bridafield the consultants' proposals were much modified, and the Bath Preservation Trust among others were accordingly critical. A review of the condition of Eveleigh House including the adjacent properties concluded that they were built on filled ground with shallow foundations, renovation would be difficult and hazardous, and noted that in the basement of Eveleigh House were four or five petrol tanks. Despite these structural weaknesses, the adjacent former brewery block - which the consultants recognised would be difficult to convert to residential use - might even so be redeveloped. The Georgian Society and the Bath Preservation Trust expressed concern to the Council about threatened depletion of the remaining historic environment.

Eventually planning permission was agreed to a scheme covering the entire riverside area. An office block in two parts divided by a central courtyard would occupy the site of the former Eveleigh House and was to have a heritage copy façade in which some of the original stonework was to be utilised, including the 'Usher' stone proclaiming the year it was built to be 5792. The year 4004 was popularly believed to be the beginning of the world, hence the real foundation date was claimed as 1788, as if the date of the Pulteney lease was the date of construction.

With slight modifications - there is now no access from No. 1 Argyle Street - the plans for the office block were finally approved in March 1981. To this was added at the rear a further three-storey riverside office block without the originally proposed restaurant and public house parts, an extension of the scheme, finally approved in 1986. Another change has been the elimination of the access from No. 1 Argyle Street to the rear areas. The developers sold the freehold of the office block to IPL in 1985, arguing that otherwise they could not see their way to completing building on the site. Caxton Court Residents Association objected with some success to the car parking and landscaping elements in the revised riverside block plans.

The adjacent Brewery buildings were adapted to be a block of twenty-one flats around a courtyard and linked to and integrated with a rear terrace of six terrace apartments with balconies overlooking the river. This ensemble is now called Caxton Court. There was to be a new northern block of flats and garaging on the balance of the conservation area. Outline planning permission was granted in 1979 and the plans were approved in 1981. The block called Northanger Court was completed in 1985. The development planners and contractors remained Bridafield & Co. As is often the case the redevelopment that finally took place in the period to 1983 and which we see today on the western riverside, was not exactly as according to the 1978 plans and entailed a long series of intensive arguments over revisions between the developers and the Council's officers. The eastern side remained largely unaffected by all the activity opposite. Also unchanged, for some time at least, was a disapproving attitude towards Grove Street and what it had stood for - Bathwick's slum.



Caxton Court, 1980.



Northanger Court, 1981-5.

Grove Street's history is not separable from that of Bath. It was a characteristic of it and integrated into it. To adapt R. S. Neale (p.242), we have an outstanding example of how space and people in Bath were socially organised in a setting always responsive to the search by profit for the controllers of property. Yet it also reflected, as it was bound to do, the changing but always stratified large-scale patterns of social and economic national history. Peter Laslett in *The World We Have Lost Further Explored* (1983) commented (pp.246-256) on the life of the 19th century urban working class dominated by experiences of poverty and insecurity. These features were inherited largely unchanged from the traditional world of the peasant, craftsman and pauper. This was a world if not now lost, very distant indeed from contemporary experience. In the 20th century the threats were destined to be different; unemployment and war, ameliorated by mass welfare. Grove Street is now home to more than 120 residents, many of whom never knew its relatively recent transformations or its substantial past as a crowded commercial and industrial working class enclave located in Bath's elegant Bathwick.

Sources

Bath Record Office (Colin Johnston chief archivist).
Bath Central Library (Anne Buchanan local studies librarian).

Illustrations

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Grove Street - John Eveleigh's house 1977.
18, Grove Street 1964.
25-28 Grove Street 1964.
Grove Street looking towards Argyle Street 1972.
Grove Street 1930s.
Brown's Garages (Eveleigh House) 1977.

Grove Street 1802/4 Collection of BANES Victoria Art Gallery

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