

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.29, October 2014



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Front Cover Illustration: The bomb-damaged front of the old Labour Exchange in James Street.

Back Cover Illustration: One of the mews which once fronted the kitchen gardens in Crescent Field, Upper Bristol Road.

CITY NEWS

Bath Record Office

Our major news item of the past year is the launch of an externally-funded cataloguing project *Bath, Water, and World Heritage*. This is a one-year project by our archivists to catalogue the records of the city from the 12th to the 21st centuries.

After several years of unsuccessful bids to the funding body *The National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives* we were finally rewarded in 2013 with over £41,000 to enable detailed cataloguing of our largest uncatalogued collection, the records of Bath City Council and its successor B&NES.

In February 2014 our archivists Rosemary and Lucy took on this full-time 12-month project, and we welcomed Drew Westerman as our temporary Searchroom Archivist for the year.

The outcome of the project will be a detailed catalogue of all the many and varied groups of records created by the Council over the centuries. The online catalogue will be searchable on our website and will for the first time bring a logical and comprehensible order to the many separate collections created by Council departments in fulfilling their public roles.

One surprising item discovered in the city records is the Rector of Bath's daily weather diary for the years 1756-1761, which gave us a fascinating story to release to the press and radio this summer.

Our website has been improved with the expansion of our *Ancestors Database* to include Bath Police registers of prisoners' photographs 1892-1922 and also the roll of honour of WWI soldiers' names contained on Bath's War Memorial.



We loaned railway items for exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery's *Bath & the GWR*; architects' drawings to the Building of Bath Museum's *Brutal Bath: Building the Post-War City*; World War I material to the Fashion Museum's *The Great War in Costume*; and to Bath Library's *World War One Remembered*.

Another notable achievement this year is the cataloguing (Accession 591) of the records of Bath and Twerton Co-operative Societies 1880s-1870s, and among the many small collections we have received this year I would highlight the archaeological reports collected over the past 25 years by the Council's Historic Environment Record.

Colin Johnston

Lucy Powell with the weather diary

Cleveland Pool

After ten years of work and persistence the Cleveland Pools Trust has been given a £4.1 million pound funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoring and re-opening of the open-air Cleveland Pools in Bathwick. Until it was closed in the early 1980s, the pool was a very popular and much used recreation facility, but few knew of its historical significance.

It is a unique survival from Britain's Georgian period. Designed by John Pinch for free in 1815, evidently inspired by the city's crescents, it was patronised by some of Bath's most eminent citizens, including Henry Goodridge the architect and members of the Stothert family.

Despite competition from sea-side bathing in the 19th century, the Cleveland Pools had remained in use continuously for nearly two hundred years.

Its main claim to fame however, is that these are now the UK's only remaining Georgian lido. In its day, such things were not uncommon in Bath; there was already an open-air bath in the Grosvenor Pleasure Gardens further upstream, designed by the architect John Eveleigh in 1791, although this enterprise was a failure and was closed by 1813. Even before that there was a 'bathing canal' in Lyncombe Vale in the 1770s, part of the Bagatelle Gardens.



Gainsborough Hotel

Another building to gain a new lease of life is the former Royal United Hospital in Beau Street (lately known as Gainsborough House), until recently occupied by the Bath City College. Designed by John Pinch in 1824 it is a Grade II listed building, and has been converted to use as an hotel - The Gainsborough Bath Spa Hotel. Considerable additions have been added to the back of the building in Lower Borough Walls, although there were delays as a result of the Roman coin hoard which was found below it.

There are hopes that it may be open by the end of the year, and crowds of people have queued for a chance to work at the new five-star luxury hotel owned by the YTL Hotel chain, part of the organisation which owns Wessex Water. It will provide a 'Spa Village' for bathing, saunas, steam rooms, ice chamber, treatment and fitness centre, restaurant and tea room. Included in the complex will be Bellott's Hospital and the Hetling Pump Room.

Bath Sewage Pumping Station

At a more prosaic level, the disused Bath Sewage Pumping Station in Twerton, built in 1914, is to be opened as an 'Energy Centre' to provide heating for more than 800 homes in Bath.



This is a part of the Bath Riverside scheme in Midland Road, and would appear to be the only early building which has been put to new use. The building is of some architectural merit in an area previously surrounded by Bath Gasworks facilities and workshops of the Stothert and Pit cranemakers.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Survey of Old Bath

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

As a result of a long period of serious illness earlier this year, Elizabeth will no longer be able to take an active rôle in future Survey projects, including editor of the *Survey* magazine and Friends Newsletter. Both of these will continue as usual with Mike Chapman as editor. It has also been agreed that back issues of the Survey will be accessible on the History of Bath Research Group website, mentioned below.

Fortunately Elizabeth was able to provide the necessary material towards the success of the North Gate exhibition before her illness. Her study of Frog Lane in the exhibition was the first project she undertook in the 1970s, an indication that the original aims of the Survey have been largely fulfilled except for various 'loose ends', such as the cataloguing of Furman's repertory of city deeds, which she hopes to complete as the opportunity arises. In effect Elizabeth will now hold office as 'Honorary Historical Advisor' to the Survey.

Another Survey project that reached completion was a commission by Vanessa Brett to provide historical maps and site information for her book on luxury retailing in Bath in the early 18th century, recently released, as detailed below in 'Publications'. Mike has also continued to give talks, such as on Bath Fairs (to the History of Bath Research Group and the Dyrham and Hinton History Society) and a walk in collaboration with Michael Rowe around Odd Down.

As historic landscape surveyor, Mike has recently undertaken various interesting surveys. The first, for B&NES Heritage Services, was a study of the Upper Assembly Rooms in the early 20th century when it was used as an aircraft factory during the Great War. The other, for B&NES Environmental Service, concerned the historical development of the Parade Gardens. The information in these projects will contribute to interpretation facilities for both sites, but might well be suitable also for publication in the *Survey*.

The Friends of the Survey

The autumn meeting of the Friends of the Survey was held on Friday 1 November 2013 at St Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick. An audience of about forty then heard a talk by Mike Chapman, presenting the work of Guy Whitmarsh on Grove Street, Bathwick. Part of Guy's study was included in the magazine, available at the meeting.

The year 2013 was the twentieth anniversary of the forming of the Friends by Mrs. June Hodkinson. Some members of the first group still remain. ^[1]_[SEP] Lunch was served by Mrs. Sheila Edwards, Mrs. Margaret Burrows and helpers including Jill Huggins from Bathampton.

The AGM was held at St. Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday 23 April 2014. Francis Kelly gave a talk on 'Bath's Vernacular Classicism – Jerry-Built?' which examined the structural advantages and disadvantages of the new methods employed in building Bath's Georgian houses.

The exhibition on 'Life and Work outside the North Gate', planned to take place at the Museum of Bath at Work from April, was opened in June despite various unforeseen delays. To start the exhibition, an introductory view was given to the residents and others with an interest in Walcot Street on Friday 14 June, followed by a full launch on Thursday 10 July with special invitation to the Friends, the Widcombe Group, and residents in Broad Street.

The exhibition remained open for a month on both exhibition floors of the Museum during the Museum's normal opening hours. The lower floor was entirely devoted to the development of Walcot Street prepared by Phil Bendall, whilst the mezzanine floor similarly contained the history of Broad Street prepared by Margaret Burrows.

Also on this floor was an archaeological display by Peter Davenport to illustrate the Roman presence in this area (also a Viking Sword!), together with a study by Elizabeth and Mike of the former site of Frog Lane and an historical sequence of maps of the North Gate suburb. As well as those working directly on the display, help was received from other Friends, such as Dr. Michael Rowe, John Macdonald and Bernadette Kondrat.

History of Bath Research Group

The last year's meetings have been well attended for the usual excellent series of lectures.

The recent work at Little Solsbury was a valuable update for most members and the entirely new work on the Sheridan duel a complete revelation. The Matthews Linley connections were explained and a new slant on the relationships most intriguing. Lovely portraits, little known to most of us were shown.

The first Theatre Royal was ground that many thought they knew but recent work and particularly images of many of the actors and managers were much enjoyed. The threat to the building after the bombing was very clearly demonstrated.

The Cotterel family, its origins, businesses and houses in Bath along with the involvement in so many well known Bath institutions was new ground altogether and provoked many memories and associations.

The highly researched presentation on the Palmer family which sorted out the confusions of the generations and their images has resulted in the paper being deposited in the City Archives as a source document with a link to HBRG website.

The Lansdown fairs was as entertaining as well as it should be and tied together much fragmentary information. The AGM was well attended and the associated presentation on Trouble at the Twerton Mills revealed a somewhat sombre part of the city's history.

The Saltford Brassmill visit filled everyone with awe at the sheer determination of those who have saved it despite the depredations of the river and total neglect of the structure. The associated visit to the privately owned Norman Manor House in the village was a highlight of the season.

The long walk on Odd Down and Wansdyke was hugely enjoyed.

The HBRG project to digitise the city's trade directories is now very well advanced and work is commencing on the searching technologies to make the material comprehensively searchable has commenced. Some of the discs are already available through our website: <http://historyofbath.org.uk>, and separate issues can be purchased by downloading or on CD from www.archivedbooks.com.

Back issues of the *Survey*, the journal of Survey of Old Bath, will also now be available on the website; issue 23 has already been included and others will follow.

Michael Rowe

The Combe Down Heritage Society

The past year has seen the realisation of two major projects for the Combe Down Heritage Society (CDHS).

On 15 July the Ralph Allen CornerStone was opened by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Cherry Beath. This small visitor centre is the final piece of the legacy of the stabilisation of the Combe Down stone mines. The underground quarries were filled in by 2009 so to mitigate the loss of the archaeology

which was considered to be of international significance, this unique building has been fitted into the sustainable housing development of Ralph Allen Yard designed by award winning Hewitt Studios. The Ralph Allen CornerStone is built on the place where Allen started to develop the underground stone quarries which eventually supplied most of the stone for the building of Palladian Bath.

The CornerStone houses a permanent display about the industrial and social history of Combe Down and includes two specimens of graffiti sawn off underground pillars. It is open Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10-4, admission free. The centre doubles up as a community facility for meetings, classes and clubs and can be hired for a modest charge. The centre is managed by Combe Down Stone Legacy Trust. Please contact www.ralphallencornerstone.org.uk.

The building, on the corner of Rock Hall Lane, opposite the King William IV pub on Combe Road, has a basement which is now the home of the CDHS archive. The Society won a Prism Fund award from Arts Council England to catalogue and conserve collections with an industrial or scientific theme. The collection includes many hundreds of photographs and plans of areas of archaeological importance underground donated by Dr Lynn Willies, senior archaeologist to the stabilisation project. Other important quarry masters such as Philip Nowell are also well documented. The social history of Combe Down - post stone quarrying - is another interesting area which has been collected. When the cataloguing gets a little further on the whole archive will contain material of great interest to local historians, family historians and schools. Contact the CDHS archivist David Bishop: email: davidbishop31@btinternet.com

CDHS announces two new publications: *The Harry Patch Trail* round Combe Down visits places associated with the last fighting Tommy who was born and brought up on Combe Down. The second publication is *Mr & Mrs Ralph Allen at Home*, an illustrated book about life in Prior Park, the sort of food they might have eaten, servants and the household. Contact www.combedownheritage.org.uk.

Rosemary Simmons, 2014



Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society

The Society still functions very well with many loyal supporters although it is presently difficult to find people willing to take on offices. Fay Briddon, treasurer for many years, is resigning because of family and other commitments, and Margaret Burrows, chairman, interested in research and giving talks, would like someone to take over the chairmanship.

Last September Stuart Burroughs, Curator of the Museum of Bath at Work, talked about the 'A-Z Project' funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which was enthusiastically supported by members. The project eventually led to the exhibition of all areas of Bath, providing pictures and words on prominent residents and interesting buildings.

In October Fay Bridden with contributions from Alistair Durie told us about two prominent houses in Prior Park Road, Oriel House and Balliol House, and their various occupants, many in trade. April saw the start of our 2014 programme with Margaret Burrows and Phil Bendall on recent research and photography by them and Elizabeth Holland for the exhibition at the Museum of Bath at Work on Broad Street and Walcot Street.

In May was the second walk on the fringes of Bath when Fay Hall, local historian, led us around Bathford. We saw houses once belonging to the John Woods, senior and junior, old farms, the church, and fascinating houses when Bathford was once on the main route to London.

The June walk, with the Widcombe Association, was a look at the site of old springs and spas and pleasure gardens in Widcombe and Lyncombe. This included; Wicksteed's Machine and Bagatelle Gardens; the site of Lyncombe Spaw, the spring that turned brandy purple is still there; and Lyncombe Hall, once centre of the Manor. We ended at Lyncombe Court, once known as 'King James's Palace' gardens, where Chris Rogers, the owner, gave us a brief history of the site and we enjoyed wine or juice.

In September Stuart Burroughs talked on munitions work carried on in Bath during the first World War, showing many amazing photographs of the munitions workers and others. The October meeting will be given by a local engineer, Dr. Tony Coverdale, on the 18th century engineer John Padmore, including his work for Ralph Allen on his cranes and railroad.

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

Margaret Burrows 01225 480749

South Stoke Local History Committee

This year's Autumn Talk was by Mike Chapman on 'Ralph Allen's Railway and its influence on Local Tramways'. Members were occupied in assisting with the 'Wansdyke Symposium' in March at BRLSI, where the eminent speakers were Professor Andrew Reynolds Professor of Archaeology at UCL, Professor Emeritus Peter Fowler, Jonathan Erskine and Dr. Helen Geake. Numbers attending exceeded expectations, giving an indication of the interest in and importance of this Ancient Monument.

Professor Bob Parfitt published his thoroughly researched monograph on the occupants of Midford Castle, and continues his work transcribing extant Wills of South Stoke, Vicars and residents.

Exploration of the putative Hillfort to the west of the parish started, and the area is to be examined by the LDAR technique which gives a contour picture of the ground excluding foliage and trees.

To commemorate the centenary of World War I, members are researching the lives of those 10 men recorded on the Church Memorial as having died in that war.



NOTES & QUERIES

The James Street West Employment Exchange

A planning application was submitted in June to convert the Grade II listed blitz-damaged former labour exchange building in James Street West, recently occupied by the Genesis Trust, to convert the lower storey into shops with several new upper storeys for student accommodation. The development management firm, Iesis, has been appointed by the owners, Bath & North East Somerset Council to draw up the proposal which will incorporate the bomb-damaged ground floor façade into the new building. Since many people may not be aware of the building's significance, an information plaque would be placed somewhere on the façade to bring its history to life, and the developers will be 'contracting heritage groups in the city to seek their input on this'.



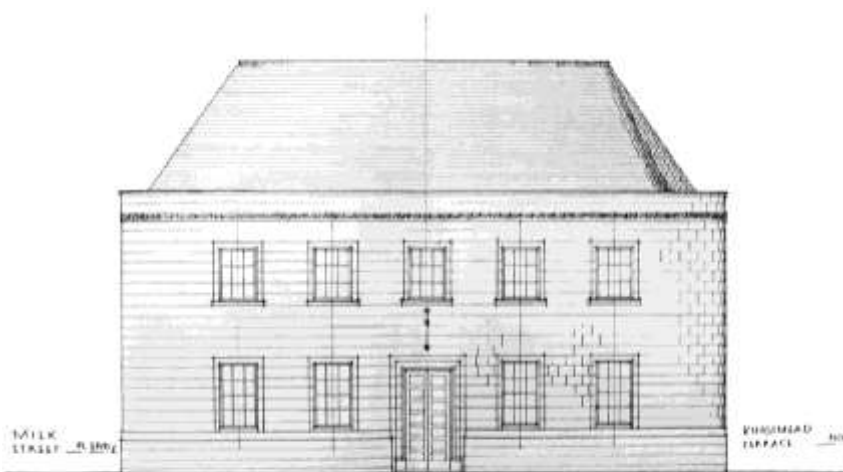
View of James Street in the 1930s, taken from New Street. The 18th century houses on the left were removed for the employment exchange. The hoardings belong to a builder's yard in the triangle between Trinity Street. Note the roofs of Kingsmead Flats behind. Below shows



James Street originated at the end of the 18th century with various residential buildings for tradesmen, but the area, prone to occasional flooding from the Avon, gradually became filled with sawmills, warehouses, stone yards, carriage works, etc, and by the 20th century had become one of the grubbier parts of Bath. In 1936 several of these early houses, nos.1, 2, and 3 James Street, were leased from the Corporation by the Ministry of Labour to erect a purpose-built labour exchange (formerly housed in any suitable building), the formal opening being reported in the *Chronicle* on 6 October 1938. This was evidently a suitable site for an Exchange during the years of unemployment, and there may well be a close relationship here with Kingsmead Flats, built by the Corporation in Kingsmead Terrace nearby in the early 1930s.

During the Bath 'blitz' in April 1942, a high explosive bomb dropped in the street on the north-west side of the building, destroying the upper storey, part of the corner, and disfiguring the remaining walls on the north and west sides with shrapnel. An air-raid shelter directly opposite the exchange was

also blown sideways, but the occupants were all saved. Although the damaged corner was partially repaired with concrete, the upper storey was not rebuilt and none of the ashlar replaced. This is therefore the only building in Bath that still shows physical signs of the war, and will serve as a more poignant remainder of the conflict than can be expressed by memorial cenotaphs.



ELEVATION TO JAMES STREET WEST



The damaged air raid shelter opposite the exchange, looking towards Kingsmead Square. Below, the site is marked on the city's bomb location map.



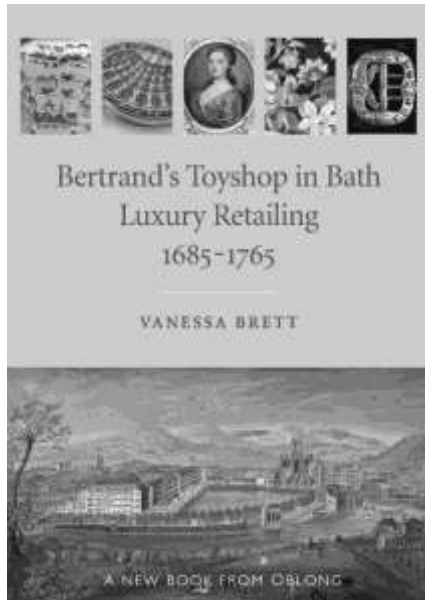
Above: The exchange building in 2014. The front door was originally for the staff and employers, while the male applicants queued under a canopy in the yard at the back in Kingsmead Terrace, on the right. Women and children entered on the others side of the building in Milk Street and were interviewed on the first floor.

Left: The proposed design of the new building, contrasting the new upper storey with the old lower storey.

PUBLICATIONS

Vanessa Brett, *Bertrand's Toyshop in Bath: Luxury Retailing 1685-1765*, Oblong Creative Ltd 2014, 364 pages, 230 illustrations, sewn hardback with dustjacket. Price: UK £48.00 (incl.p&p). ISBN 978 0 9575992 4 6

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**Bertrand's Toyshop in Bath
Luxury Retailing 1685-1765**

They were expensive luxuries such as gold snuffboxes, buckles, watches, caskets, and penicillums. Toyshops also sold children's playthings, flower tickets, caskets and wondrously ornate furniture – and much more. But Bertrand was born in America of Huguenot parents, he worked in London as a goldsmith and his second marriage linked him to the family of England's most successful toyshop owners, and took him to Bath.

With over 120 illustrations and 364 pages, this hardback book takes a fresh approach to the history of retailing and of Bath. Through the topography and history of Bath and London in the early eighteenth century, and through Bertrand's newly-discovered bank account, it reveals how shopkeepers, craftsmen and merchants rubbed shoulders with actors and lawyers, officers and soldiers. Bertrand's customers included royalty, the 'middling sort', country gentry and townships. The book is about commerce, about people, about the objects that were part of their daily lives, and the development of a fashionable town.

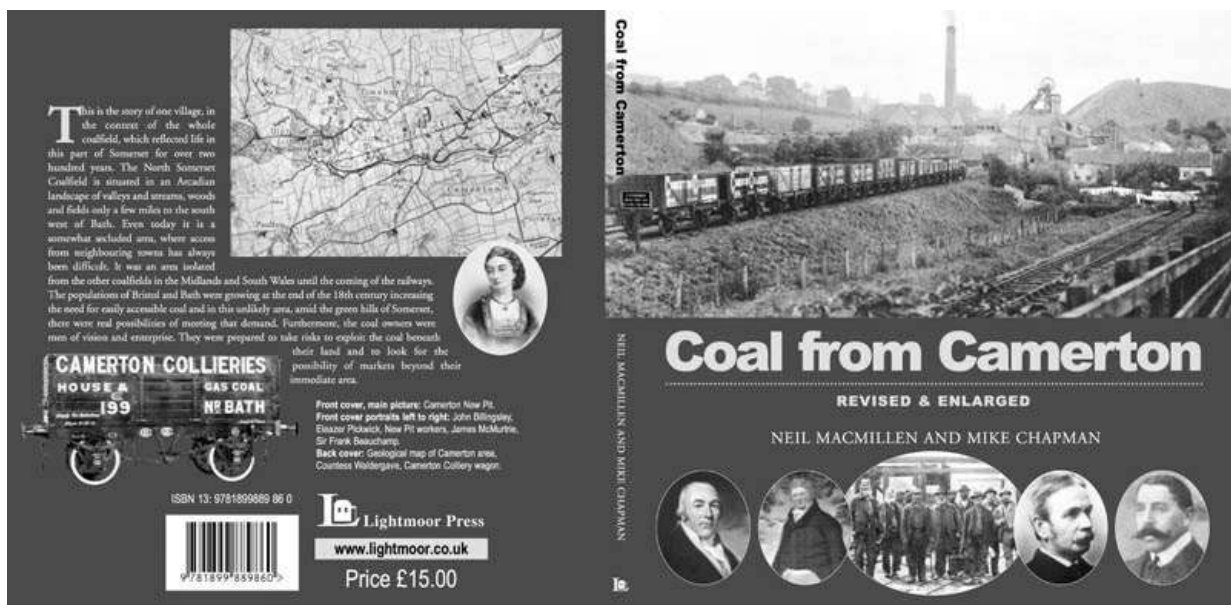
Whereas many books on retailing, and books on Bath, focus on the last decades of the eighteenth century due to the availability of material, this book is about the first half of the century. The newly discovered bank account of this luxury shopkeeper is an important addition to the handful of known business archives relating to retailers of the period. It reveals the names of nearly 900 people of all social levels and over 100 trades and occupations that Bertrand was at the centre of Bath life, not only because of his toyshop but also through the steadily rising and career's business of his partners. His associates include politicians, landowners, maps, the paperwork on which banking and business depended, and the stock of a toyshop. The book will appeal to all those with an interest in the eighteenth century and the central role of trade and luxury goods.

The Author
Vanessa Brett was brought up in the City of London and now lives near Bath. She is a former editor of the journal of the Folio Society.

Bertrand's Toyshop in Bath: Luxury Retailing 1685-1765
364 pp + 230 pp + 4.5 x 7.5 in (114 x 191 mm), 364 pages, 230 illustrations, sewn hardback with dustjacket.
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Neil MacMillen and Mike Chapman, *Coal from Camerton* (Revised and Enlarged), Lightmoor Press 2014, 164 pages, 110 illustrations. Price: £15.00. ISBN 13: 9781899889 86 0



**A RECORD OF THE RESTORATION IN 2012^[SEP] OF THE MEMORIAL TO^[SEP]
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN HAY MAITLAND HARDYMAN D.S.O., M.C.^[SEP]
In St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Smallcombe, Bath**

The Bathwick Local History Society

Introduction

In June 2011 members of The Bathwick Local History Society finally completed and published their recordings of all surviving memorial inscriptions in the Bathwick churches of St.Mary the Virgin and St.John the Baptist and the parish Churchyards. The project, comprising seven volumes, had taken several years to complete.

During the work of transcribing the inscriptions on tombs in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard it was noted that the condition of the memorial to Lieutenant Colonel John Hay Maitland Hardyman was deteriorating and in time could be lost.

Our group felt strongly that the local history links presented by this sensitive memorial dedicated to a gallant soldier killed in action in 1918 and buried in France, also his tragic siblings who had died soon after their birth in 1903, should be preserved for the future, we therefore agreed to raise the necessary funds to restore it.

The project began with fund-raising in Autumn 2011 followed by restoration work early in 2012. All is now finished, the memorial looks charming and the inscription is fully readable once more.

Copies of this report will be sent to each of the organizations that sponsored this project, also Bath Record Office and Bath Central Library.

Sheila M. Edwards

The Bathwick Local History Society August 2012

John Hay Maitland Hardyman (1894-1918)

John Hay Maitland Hardyman was born on 28 September 1894 at No.43 Great Pulteney Street, Bathwick, Bath. He was the eldest son of Dr.George Hardyman M.B. and Eglantine (née Maitland), his second wife, Dr.Hardyman's first wife, Constance, having died shortly after the birth of their daughter (Constance Christian) in 1892.

John Hardyman was educated at Hamilton House School, Bath, and Fettes College, Edinburgh. In 1911 he went on to study the Arts at Edinburgh University where from 1912-14 he was a member of the Students' Representative Council. After graduation he became assistant Professor of Botany at the University and was also elected Fellow of the Zoological Society of Scotland. Surviving records and written accounts portray him as a man whose many attributes centred on a life dedicated to God, based on a profound belief in the highest Christian principles, truth and service to humanity through personal sacrifice.

On 20 August 1914 Hardyman enlisted in the 4th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, and by December of that year was attached as a pilot pupil to the flying school of the Royal Flying Corps at Broadlands. The following February, after two aerial accidents, he was commissioned into the 9th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. On 24 November 1916 he joined the 8th Battalion of the Somerset L.I. and went to France as 2nd Lieutenant where within 24 hours of arriving he was on the Front line.

As Assistant Adjutant he was awarded the Military Cross in April 1917 for conspicuous gallantry, and made full Adjutant. During his service in France he was wounded three times and mentioned in dispatches twice, one of these being from Sir Douglas Haig. With great bravery and complete disregard for his own safety he successfully organized clearance of wounded men from a medical aid post near an ammunition dump which had been set on fire by shells.

Early in 1918 John H. M. Hardyman was appointed Brigade Liaison Officer and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in May, becoming at 23 years of age, the youngest of that rank in the

British Army. Following this, on 6 June he took command of the battalion (almost 1000 men). His concern was always for his men and their safety, many mere lads of 18 and 19 years of age; in return they respected him greatly and gave him their loyalty and support.

Over a period of two years, from 1916-1918, Lieut.Colonel Hardyman would have drawn much comfort from the presence of the battalion Chaplain, Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy, for both men shared a firm belief in the Christian faith and selfless devotion to duty.

1916 Theodore Bayley Hardy was chaplain attached to the 8th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment but also took on the care of the 8th Battalion Somerset L.I. (over 2000 men at full strength). At the age of 53 he was then the oldest Padre in the Army and during his war service he gained the V.C., D.S.O. and M.C.; the V.C. being presented by King George V at 3rd Army Headquarters, Frohen-Le-Grande, on 9 August 1918. On his return to the battalion Hardy found them assembled in a barn ready to welcome him with a celebratory party. This took place on the 17th, organised by Lieut.Colonel Hardyman who tragically was destined to die on the battlefield just seven days later on 24 August. The Reverend Hardy died on 18 October 1918 as a result of injuries sustained on crossing the River Selle at Briastres. The war ended three weeks later.

At the Advance in Picardy during the closing months of the war, the 8th Battalion was the first of the Somerset Light Infantry Battalions to take part in the Battle of Albert, 21- 23 August 1918.

It is recorded in *The History of Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) 1914-1918*, that:^[1]_{SEP}

‘... on the night of 10th/11th August the enemy attempted to raid the Battalion’s front line which ran just east of the north-eastern end of Bucquoy. Under cover of a creeping barrage and the darkness hostile raiders, about sixty in number, succeeded in capturing several posts, though the garrisons retired to defensive positions. The triumph of the Germans was, however, short-lived, for Private Osbourne, who had retired with his comrades to the defensive positions, organized a counter-attack, drove the enemy out of the captured posts and sent him back to his own lines in a hurry. The retreating Germans were caught in the S.O.S. barrage which caused many casualties and threw the survivors into confusion. One outstanding feature of this raid was the confidence inspired by the personal presence of the C.O. Immediately the S.O.S. signal was sent up Lieut. Colonel Hardyman rushed off to the scene of action and his presence undoubtedly made all the difference to his men who as the Battalion Diary has it, “were only boys who had seen little or no previous service”.’

For the above occasion Lieut. Colonel Hardyman was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) with the words ‘Thanks to his gallant leadership and endurance, the position, which was of great tactical importance was maintained’ (Private Osborne received the D.C.M.).

On 21 August 1918 at 4.55 hours the Battle of Albert began at Chaulnes, a place west of Bucquoy, and on the following night the 8th Battalion moved into position. On the morning of the 23rd Achiet-le-Grand and Bihucourt were attacked. Two companies from the 8th were then provided as ‘mopping-up’ parties working with the tanks that were attacking Achiet-le-Grand. Between them these parties of men captured two hundred of the enemy who were hiding in dug-outs and ruined buildings, also fifteen machine guns. Later that day the Battalion took over the Line in front of Bihucourt, however the enemy still held a machine-gun pocket near the village. This was attacked and thirty more prisoners and guns were captured.

Early the next morning (the 24th) during fierce fighting, the Advance in Picardy continued towards Bienvillers. However such was the heavy bombardment that it was decided to evacuate Bienvillers:

‘It was during a personal reconnaissance that Lieut.-Colonel J.M. Hardyman, the C.O., was killed by a shell. With his Battle Headquarters he had previously moved up to his position in a tank.’ The following message was sent to the 8th Battalion: ‘The Divisional Commander wishes to congratulate LOGE (8th Somersets) on the capture of Bienvillers which was of the utmost importance to the present operations. He deeply regrets the death of Lieut. Colonel Hardyman in the moment of victory. His splendid leadership and magnificent gallantry will never be forgotten’.

The human cost to the 8th Battalion Somerset L.I. of the operations of 21-26 August 1918 was high. Their Commanding Officer John Hardyman was killed, five officers wounded and one hundred and sixty-four other ranks killed, wounded and missing. The Battalion had captured three hundred enemy, two trench mortars, thirteen machine-guns and three 5.9 howitzers.

Lieut. Colonel John Hay Maitland Hardyman is buried in the Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France, grave number: XIX F 11. The inscription on the headstone is as follows:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOHN H. MAITLAND HARDYMAN
D.S.O., M.C.^[1]_[SEP]
8th Bn SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY
DIED 24th AUGUST 1918 AGED 23
Scholar, Poet, Orator
Justified by faith
in Jesus Christ

In 1919 a volume of John Hardyman's poems was published, entitled *A Challenge*, and in February 1923 a copy of the book, signed by his father Dr. George Hardyman was donated to the Bath Reference Library. Within its pages the poignant verses give just a glimpse of the man and his thoughts. They also speak of the trenches, the wounded and the isolation endured in the 1914-18 war.



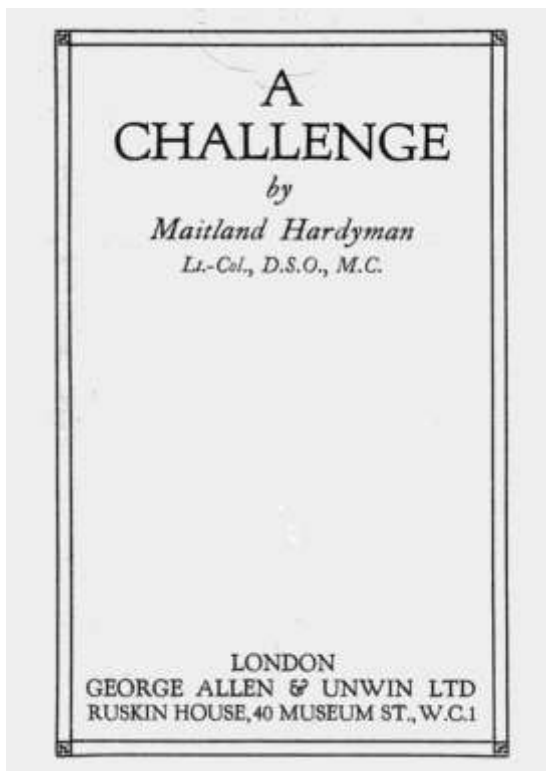
Lieut-Col. John Hay Maitland Hardyman D.S.O., M.C.



John Hardyman's grave in Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, 2004 (*Carruel Collection*)



The Gate and Roll of Honour Bienvillers Military Cemetery



Maitland Hardyman

From Maitland Hardyman's book of poems, published in 1919 (*Bath Central Library, Reference section*)

Much has been recorded and written of the events of that time. As living history, eye-witness accounts are a legacy of huge importance. Therefore, when, almost ninety five years after the Great War finally ended, someone comes forward with a personal account of what happened to John Hardyman on the battlefield, it is of special historical interest.

In November 2011, at the start of the project undertaken by members of The Bathwick Local History Society to restore the memorial in our parish churchyard to John Hardyman, a notice was placed in *The Bath Chronicle* and reprinted a few days later in *The Western Daily Press*, in an attempt to trace any living relatives or friends of the Hardyman family. No information regarding any descendants has been forthcoming, but two replies from other interested parties were received. One of these came from Mr. Albert Carruel who lives in Somerset. He and his wife rarely buy *The Western Daily Press* but did so on that particular day. He saw the notice and contacted the Society.

The following text is copied from Mr. Carruel's moving written account of the words his late father spoke to him of Lieut.-Colonel Hardyman, and which he (Mr. Carruel) has sent to the Society for recording in this archive:

'30 May 2012. ^[L]_[SEP]My name is Albert William Carruel, son of Auguste Albert Carruel, Army No.5662879. His Regiment was Somerset Light Infantry. ^[L]_[SEP]Dad was a Private in the 8th Battalion in August 1918 under the Command of Colonel Hardyman. My Dad was very proud to say he was under the Command of the youngest Colonel in the British Army.

In August 1918 the Line the Som.L.I. was holding came under attack from German Lines. Their Colonel Hardyman was away from the Front. When the Attack started he hastened to the Front saying "I must look after my boys". After the skirmish it was said the Colonel was missing.

My Dad was in one of the platoons sent out looking for wounded and dead. The platoon found Colonel Hardyman laying on his back with no sign of injuries. They said "wake up Sir" thinking he was asleep. On lifting him up onto a stretcher he had a wound to the back of his head which had killed him.'

A. C.

Also included with the above account was a card and a copy of a photograph of John Hardyman's grave in Bienvillers Military Cemetery, taken in July 2004 when members of the Carruel family visited the Military Cemeteries of Northern France (17 in all) to see the name of Frank Gay, a comrade of their father, that is recorded on the memorial (for the soldier has no known grave) at Vis-en-Artois. Frank Gay and Auguste Carruel had joined the Army together at Trafalgar Square, London, in 1917.

An extract from the card reads as follows:

"Dad also spoke of having had the oldest Padre at the same time. He was the Rev Theodore Bayley Hardy. V.C., D.S.O., M.C. There is a book 'Its Only Me' by D. Raw. Frank Kendal Peters 1988. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to pass on the story my Dad told for years about Colonel Hardyman."

Mr Carruel also remembers how his late father spoke almost nothing of his own experiences in the trenches and battles during the 1914-18 war but talked often of Lieut. Colonel Hardyman and how he cared for his men, calling them 'My Boys' and 'I've got to go up to the Front, I've got to be with my boys'. His father would also say 'He was always with us'. Mr Auguste Carruel died in 1994 aged 95 years.



Auguste Albert Carruel^{1st}
March 1899 – 13th September 1994
(Carruel Collection)



Section from a map of Northern France showing the 17 military cemeteries (marked by the light boxes) visited by the Carruel family in July 2004. No.10 – Bienvillers, No.12 (immediately behind No.13) – Vis-en-Artois^{SEP} (Carruel Collection)



The road to Vis-en-Artois (Carruel Collection)

The Memorial in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard

The memorial to John Hay Maitland Hardyman and two of his siblings stands in the churchyard of the Bathwick Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. The graves of their parents and grandmother are nearby. The Churchyard is situated in the Smallcombe Valley and was opened in 1856. Beside it, on land purchased by the Bathwick Burial Board, lies the Smallcombe (Non-Conformist) Cemetery, opened a few years later in 1861.

Over decades more than five thousand people have been interred in the St Mary the Virgin Churchyard and almost as many in the adjoining one. Subsequently by 1980 both graveyards were deemed full and declared closed to new burials by Queen in Council, at the Court of Buckingham Palace on 26 October 1988. St Mary's old Mortuary Chapel, designed by Thomas Fuller, still stands though in a ruinous state. It was last used for services over forty years ago but is now privately owned, as is the lodge at the churchyard gates.

Ownership of the Anglican burial ground remains with the church authorities and both graveyards are maintained by the Local Authority of B&NES Council, Haycombe Cemeteries Division and open to the public. For historians the whole place is a virtually untapped source of research.

There are 2,139 surviving memorials in St Mary's Churchyard although some of these are badly weathered and unreadable. In recent years many of the memorial crosses have been found to be unsafe and are now laid down. Unfortunately, due to the risks an unsafe memorial presents, it cannot be left standing, therefore if no-one comes forward to make safe then the stone has to be laid flat, a procedure that inadvertently puts a memorial at a greater risk of more damage resulting in possible loss.

By 2011 the condition of the John Hay Maitland Hardyman memorial had deteriorated badly. Many of the lead letters were missing and the whole monument had failed the safety test as carried out by officers of the Haycombe Cemeteries Department. A report from the National Association of Memorial Masons (MAMN) concluded that the monument had broken from its foundations and that it should be completely reset lower into the ground using steel dowels and cement.

The white marble memorial stands approximately 4 feet high, faces east and is in the form of a 'flower girl' on a plinth with lead lettering on two sides. The inscriptions read as follows:

Side A.

WHO PLUCKED THESE FLOWERS?
I, SAID THE MASTER. AND THE
GARDENER HELD HIS PEACE.

-----{L}
 {SEP}

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DARLING TWINS,
PHYLLIS{L}
 {SEP}
BORN JUNE 17TH 1903{L}
 {SEP}
DIED JUNE 23RD 1903{L}
 {SEP}
VICTOR{L}
 {SEP}
BORN JUNE 17TH 1903{L}
 {SEP}
DIED JUNE 17TH 1903.
"THEY FOLLOW THE LAMB,
WHITHERSOEVER HE GOETH."



Note: the wooden stabilizer



The Hardyman Memorial in June 2011 before restoration

Side B.

ALSO^{[L]_{SEP}}
OF OUR BELOVED ELDEST BOY
JOHN HAY MAITLAND HARDYMAN,
D.S.O., M.C. YOUNGEST LIEUT.COL.
IN THE BRITISH ARMY.
BORN SEPTEMBER 28TH 1894
KILLED IN ACTION
AUGUST 24TH 1918.

“YOU WERE OUR PRIDE^{[L]_{SEP}}
WE DREAMED GREAT THINGS OF
YOU. GOD INTERVENED, AND SO
OUR DREAMS CAME TRUE.”

O GRAND AND BLESSED DEATH.
QUITE READY FOR THE CALL
HE HEARD HIS CAPTAIN’S VOICE.
LIFE’S BATTLE FOUGHT.
LIFE’S VICTORY WON^{[L]_{SEP}}
THE SOLDIER THUS RECEIVED
HIS WELCOME, AND HIS CROWN.

John H. M. Hardyman’s name is also recorded on the Roll of Honour in St Mary’s Church, Bathwick.

The Restoration Project

Efforts to contact descendants of the Hardyman family proved unsuccessful; therefore permission to proceed with the restoration was sought and readily given by the Rector of Bathwick, Reverend David Prothero. Memorial officers at Haycombe Cemeteries Dept. were also consulted. They too were keen to see the memorial restored for they had previously recognised its sensitive and historical nature and delayed laying it down, preferring to give extra time for a solution to save it.

Estimates were invited from a number of accredited memorial masons to carry out the restoration work, however only three replies were received. These varied between £1500 and £1800. We then met to consider how best to raise the money to cover the project’s costs. We accepted the estimate of £1500 provided by Mr A. P. Brown of Bath, who is also a specialist in hand carved lettering, with the proviso that the final figure might rise slightly once the monument was removed from its broken foundations. Added costs were for obtaining and the affixing of a small plaque to the back of the memorial recording the date and names of sponsors, also for the production of a printed and digital record of the project. Together these were estimated at £250.

By late autumn 2011 we were ready for the restoration work to start, however after several delays and site meetings it soon became clear that the risk of shattering when separating the marble statue from its plinth in order to transport it to the mason’s workshop was too great. It was decided that all work on the memorial would be carried out at graveside in the following spring when the weather would hopefully be more favourable, still a risk but not quite as much as the removal to the workshop. For in addition to its deteriorating condition the memorial stands under a tree near the edge of a sloping path that bends upwards and which can often be wet and slippery, its position also means that the light can be poor.

Meanwhile fund raising continued. The Society would contribute £500 from its funds and our member, Mr James Elliot, Retired Bath City Conservation Architect (Planning Department) agreed to advise and oversee the restoration work, he also waived all fees for doing so.

Contact was made with Lieut. Colonel (Rtd) Michael J. R. Motum, secretary of The Rifles Taunton, also Fettes College (Edinburgh) and the Old Fettesian Association, secretary Mrs Dawn Beaumont. In November 2011 Mr and Mrs Beaumont made a personal journey to Bath and also found time to visit the churchyard where they were able to see the monument.

Assisted funding for the project also came locally from The Widcombe Association, Chairman Mr Patrick Doyle, and Bathwick Councillor Nicholas Coombes who arranged a grant from the B&NES Ward Councillors Initiative Scheme.

Restoration work was completed in the week of 9 April 2012 and later in May a successful safety test was performed. The mason, Mr Brown, is confident that the memorial will last at least another hundred years. In June the commemorative plaque was put in place. It reads:

This Memorial was restored 2012^{[L][SEP]}
by The Bathwick Local History Society^{[L][SEP]}
and generously supported by^{[L][SEP]}
Old Fettesian Association (Edinburgh)^{[L][SEP]}
The Rifles and Light Infantry Association, Somerset
The Somerset and Cornwall Regimental Fund
The Widcombe Association^{[L][SEP]}
B&NES Ward Councillors Initiative Scheme

Mason: A. P. Brown Memorials Bath



Restoration work in March 201



9 April 2012: Note the lead lettering restored, also the detail of the posy and dress compared with the 'before' photograph above.

Local Links

John Hay Maitland Hardyman came from a large professional family that originated in Scotland on his father's side and Ireland on his mother's side (maiden name Maitland). The Maitland family were related to the Earl of Lauderdale.

From around 1880 right through to the late 1940s various members of the Hardyman family were resident in Bath, Bathwick, Widcombe, Combe Down and Lansdown as Doctors, Military, and Clergymen. Many of them are buried in local parish churchyards.

From written records and references to the Hardyman family it is clear that Christian belief and moral principles were solidly built into their lives, religious worship appears to have been split between Anglican and Presbyterian.

On the military side devotion to duty, courage, bravery and leadership was at the fore and there were at least two holders of the Victoria Cross, several Distinguished Service Orders and the Military Cross. The Clerics, their wives and other female members of the family are recorded also as working as missionaries around the world including China and other parts of the Far East.

John H. Maitland Hardyman's father, Dr.George Hardyman M.B.C.M., F.R.C.S. Edin., F.R.M.S., was born in Scotland in 1862 and died at Bath in 1944. He was the eldest of three brothers and two sisters born to John Hay Hardyman W.S. (Writer to the Signet, Scotland) and Annabella his wife. His younger brother the Reverend Lucius Hardyman was a member of the clergy at Bath Abbey for some years. He died in 1946 aged 77 years and is buried in Abbey Cemetery, Perrymead, Bath.

George Hardyman was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh University. His father, John Hardyman, died in Scotland in 1871 and in 1876 his widowed mother, Annabella, remarried Edward Vaughan Forshall, a Theology master in Armagh. In August 1887 they moved to Bath where Edward Forshall set up a Preparatory school at No.10 Lansdown Place East. Soon after Edward Forshall's death in 1891, Annabella moved to No.28 Henrietta Street, Bathwick, where she lived until her death in 1903. The Forshall's are both buried in the St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Bathwick.

Shortly after qualifying as a surgeon in Edinburgh in 1889 Dr.Hardyman came to Bath where he took consulting rooms at the Paragon. His place of residence was given as No.43 Great Pulteney Street, Bathwick. In 1891 he married firstly Constance Christian Beath in West Wickham, Kent, and they returned to Great Pulteney Street. In April 1892 a daughter, Constance Christian Beatrice Beath, was born, however Constance Hardyman died a few days later aged just 24 years.

On 5 September 1893 Dr.George Hardyman married secondly Eglantine Henrietta Keith Lauderdale Maitland at St.Thomas a Becket Church, the Parish Church of Lyncombe & Widcombe, Bath. The bride was a Sunday School teacher at Widcombe, and her address was given as Perrymead House, Lyncombe & Widcombe, the home of her father, Lieut. General John Maitland.

John Hay Maitland, their first son, was born the following year on 28 September at No.43 Great Pulteney Street and by 1901 the family had increased to five children. The Census for that year recorded:

At No.43 Pulteney Street, Bath: Head, George Hardyman aged 38, Medical Practitioner, born Scotland. Wife, Eglantine H. K. aged 37, born Scotland. Constance C. Beath aged 8, scholar, born Bath. John H. M. aged 6, born Bath. Malcolm L. aged 5, born Bath. Myrtle R. E. aged 2, born Bath. Harry F. R. aged 1, born Bath.

There were also four servants (including two nurses) in the household.

Tragedy continued to strike at the family and on 17 June 1903 twin siblings were born. Their lives were short, Victor died on the same day of his birth followed by Phyllis just five days later on 23 June (these two babies are remembered on the family memorial in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard. Following this on 28 June 1903 Dr.Hardyman's mother, Mrs.Annabella Gibson Forshall died aged 75 years.

After the death of their eldest son Lieut. Colonel John H.M.Hardyman on 24 August 1918, Dr.Hardyman and his wife Eglantine and their remaining children moved from Bathwick to Perrymead House, (previously known as Perrymead Court), the home of Eglantine's father, the late Lieut. General John Maitland), though Dr.Hardyman kept consulting rooms at No.8 Laura Place.

Eglantine Henrietta Keith Hardyman died of Pneumonia on 19 July 1930 aged 66 years and is buried in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard. The *Bath Chronicle* reported that Dr.Hardyman was also seriously ill at the time.

Over the years Dr.George Hardyman took on many medical duties and sat on numerous committees including The Bath Temperance Society and The Royal National Mineral Water Hospital. In 1896 he was deputy Medical Officer of Health for Bath, to Dr.Anthony Brabazon who also lived in Bathwick at No.12 Darlington Street. When Dr.Brabazon died in 1896 Dr.Hardyman took on the role of M.O.H until a successor for the post was found.



This image is c.1895, taken at the time when the Hardyman family were resident here. No.43 Great Pulteney Street is situated on the right at the far end of the street. In the foreground, No.8 Laura Place is on the right side behind the Hackney Cab shelter

Dr Hardyman died on 9 January 1944 aged 81 years and is buried in St.Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Smallcombe with both his first and second wives. The inscription on their memorial reads:

East:

CONSTANCE CHRISTIAN HARDYMAN
AGED 24 YEARS^[1]_[SEP.]
ENTERED INTO GLORY
APRIL 27TH 1892
"TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST
FOR IT IS FAR BETTER."

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT
HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN
HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE"

South:

EGLANTINE HENRIETTA
KEITH HARDYMAN
AGED 66^[11]_[SEP]
DIED JULY 19TH 1930

*“THE GIFT OF GOD IS
ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD”*

North:

GEORGE HARDYMAN
M.B.C.M., F.R.C.S. EDIN., F.R.MED.S.
AGED 81^[11]_[SEP]
DIED JANUARY 9TH 1944

*“PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE
LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS”*

Dr.Hardyman's mother, Annabella is buried in the adjoining grave with Edward Vaughan Forshall. Catherine, Dr.Hardyman's sister and her husband the Reverend James Napier Soden are also interred in this churchyard.



**The grave on the left:
Edward Forshall and
Annabella Gibson
Forshall**

**On the right: Dr.George
Hardyman, Eglantine
and Constance**

Acknowledgements

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Old Fettesian Association (Edinburgh)
The Rifles and Light Infantry Association, Somerset
The Somerset and Cornwall Regimental Fund
The Widcombe Association
B&NES Ward Councillors Initiative Scheme

Special thanks are also due to the following:

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Mr Albert W.Carruel and family.
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Cllr.Nicholas Coombes (Bathwick).
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Dr.Philip Bendall.

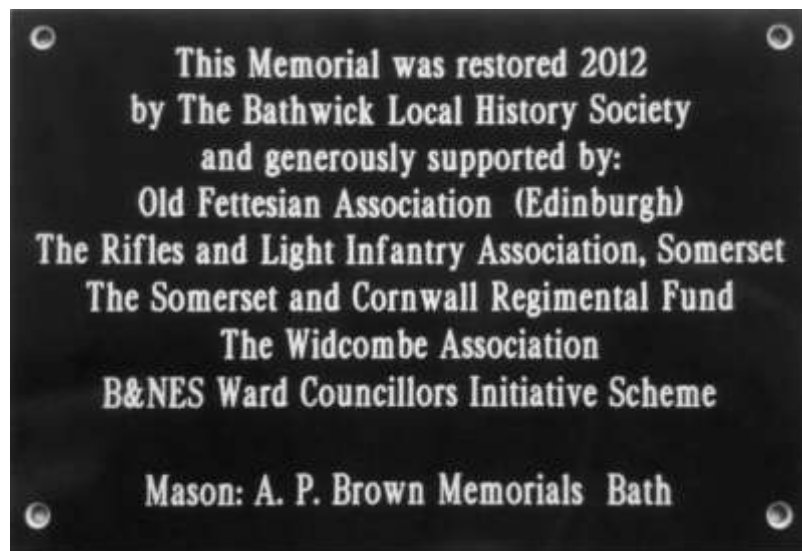
Digital scanning and printing by Vince Baughan.

Research and text by Sheila M. Edwards.

Without the assistance and support given by all those named above it would not have been possible to carry out the successful restoration of this memorial to Lieutenant Colonel John Hay Maitland Hardyman D.S.O., M.C.

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EDMUND RACK

Colin Johnston

The life of Edmund Rack, founder of the Royal Bath & West of England Society in 1777, has been well chronicled by a number of authors but it is still a puzzle to me why he chose to embark on this within a couple of years of settling in Bath, or indeed why he chose Bath above all other towns and cities.

The best summary of Rack's origins and early life, though quaint-sounding to us today, is probably that in Collinson's *History of the County of Somerset* published in 1791:

'Mr Edmund Rack was born at Attleborough in the county of Norfolk. He was educated in the religion of his parents Edmund and Elizabeth Rack who were both Quakers. We are informed that his father, a labouring weaver, was a man of excellent character; and that his mother was well-known for her preaching and highly esteemed among her own sect. Thus humble in his parentage, he had little opportunities of instruction at that early season when the mind is best disposed for receiving it. The knowledge of arithmetic was Mr Rack's highest attainment, when he was removed to Wymondham as an apprentice to a general shopkeeper and, though possessing talents that disdained the drudgery of his occupation, he was never heard to repine at the necessary labours attending it. An employment of this nature must exact that mechanical regularity which (though common abilities may submit to it without reluctance) is of all things most insupportable to genius.

At the close of his apprenticeship he went into Essex and at Bradfield became a shopman to Miss Agnes Smith whom he married not long after his residence in that place. The servilities of his station were now in some measure done away. Nor were his talents unobserved for though his employment was in some measure an obstacle to social communication he had the good fortune to introduce himself to the friendship of a select few who contributed to cheer the gloom of his obscurity.'

We cannot help noticing how Collinson focuses strongly on Rack's working-class background; a pre-occupation of the era in which Collinson was writing, no doubt, but maybe also revealing his own amazement that a man from such humble origins could not only mix freely in later life with the gentry and aristocracy of Bath but even persuade them to sign up to the forward-thinking agricultural Society he created.

Rack's motives for such a life-changing upheaval remain a mystery but his move to Bath from Essex came at the age of forty when he had made enough money to allow himself a modest retirement. But in 1775 he came to a city that was famed as the most fashionable and expensive in Britain. We must therefore look for higher motives.



**Portrait of Edmund Rack
from 'The Agricultural
Gazette', June 1877.**

While at Bardfield he had been publishing articles and poems in a number of periodicals and he may have felt his talents would flourish better in the social and literary atmosphere of Bath than the more restricted cultural environment of a small Essex town. He may too have wanted to make a complete break with his shop-keeping past. During his early years in Bath he published a good deal: a volume of poems; a life of the Quaker William Penn; and a collection of letters entitled 'Mentor's Letters' written to guide young people facing the dilemmas and temptations of adult life.

From his writings Rack appears as a self-deprecating man. His poems contain nothing scandalous or shocking. Penn was evidently a hero of Rack's, praised for his 'internal peace', despising 'the empty noise of popular clamour'. Rack's *Letters to Youth* contained orthodox Quaker opinions on human pleasures and temptations.

So it appears a curious choice for a man of such opinions and beliefs to settle in pleasure-loving and scandal-mongering Bath. But he was quickly welcomed into literary circles: Lady Miller's poetical parties at Batheaston and Mrs.Catharine McCaulay's gatherings at Alfred House. His participation in Mrs.McCaulay's birthday celebrations in 1777 might seem at odds with staunch Quaker beliefs: he wrote six odes which were recited in the lady's honour, and edited the pamphlet recording these celebrations.

For such a cautious and serious-minded man as Rack, it appears he was caught up in the heady atmosphere of city life, as evidenced by his submission to treatment by the notorious Dr.James Graham (who was patronised and encouraged by Mrs.McCaulay). Rack was an asthmatic and had previously suffered severely from jaundice, but it is nonetheless surprising that he should pay handsomely for the treatments offered by Graham, such as 'magnetic thrones', electric baths, milk baths, and what were advertised as 'aethereal balsamic medicines' which contained 'the secret of living for 150 years'.

On the subject of agriculture Rack had no practical experience, but had a long-standing interest in it, and in this he was typical of the age for the patriotic fervour he expressed. He wrote in a survey of agriculture made in 1803 'The value of our acres is the grand source of national riches, and this value will ever bear an exact proportion to their cultivation and produce'. Forced with the need to support increasing populations, Europe as a whole was giving an unprecedented amount of attention to improving its agriculture. He wrote (with maybe a touch of Quaker aloofness) 'Even Italy (sunk as it is in luxury and the enervating arts of pleasure) has not been totally inactive' and 'the Hollanders are the only people now in Europe who seem to look upon agriculture with indifference'. But Rack held Britain to be supreme in these matters and he stated with every confidence 'England alone exceeds all modern nations in husbandry.'

When listening to this it is worthwhile remembering that Rack came from East Anglia, the county of Coke of Holkham, and of Arthur Young, where the best, if not all, farming was considerably more advanced than it was in the West Country. Much of what he saw when he arrived in Somerset must have surprised him by its backward ways. Moved to do something about it, he wrote articles for the *Bath Chronicle* and for the *Farmer's Magazine* setting out his ideas for a Society based in Bath which would devote itself to spreading up-to-date ideas about farming and to persuading and encouraging the farming community to adopt them. To a man of Rack's temperament and thinking, however, it was not possible to consider agriculture in isolation. His aim was 'the diffusion of useful information in general', and he envisaged a Society of broadly cultured people who would share his wish to advance the welfare of mankind, an ambition typical of its era in the late 18th century.

It was through the medium of the *Bath Chronicle* that Rack established his new Society on 8 September 1777 at a meeting held at York House (still standing today at the top of Broad Street). Twenty-two people attended this first meeting, mainly local doctors, clergymen, and lawyers. Many of the names are familiar to us today: Dr.William Falconer, William Brereton, Richard Cruttwell, Cam Gyde, Benjamin Axford, William Street, and Mr.Cruttwell, surgeon.

Setting the very wide remit of their intended activities, they approved 'the establishment of a Society for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and the fine arts.' They set up a committee with Rack as its secretary, and in November of the same year at a much larger meeting they elected the principal officers with the Earl of Ilchester as President. The founding

fathers were very local (Lord Ilchester was the only prominent county member), and this thirteen years before it widened its horizons and became The Bath and West of England Society. The original group was gradually supplemented and strengthened by the addition of people of greater influence and expertise, men like Arthur Young, Dr. Joseph Priestley the chemist, and William Curtis the botanist.

As an aside it is interesting to point out the wide and significant overlap there was between the Society's early membership lists and subscribers to the volume of poems, essays and letters which Rack brought out in 1781. The 483 subscribers to the poems included many distinguished public figures, among them Thomas Coke of Holkham Hall, Arthur Young, and the Duke of Marlborough. Many of the same people, distinguished and undistinguished, were persuaded to support the new Bath Society (surely an indication of Rack's selling skills from a career in shop-keeping).

The same local printer, Richard Cruttwell, printed and published both Rack's literary works and the Society's journals. The chairman of the Society's first general meeting was Sir John Miller of Batheaston, husband of Lady Miller whose poetical parties had drawn in Rack on his arrival in Bath. Clearly Rack was using all his social contacts to ensure the success of his new creation.

Rack's secretaryship lasted for the first ten years of the Bath Society's existence, cut short by his death in 1787. This period of his life, though highly productive from the Society's point-of-view, was beset with difficulties on a personal level. Rack suffered seriously from asthmatic attacks; he was hard up (for soon after his arrival in Bath he lost his savings in some unspecified financial disaster) and he had to look urgently for other ways of adding to his income. One opportunity was to write the parish-by-parish surveys included in Collinson's great *History of Somerset*. Collinson writes 'This he [Rack] indefatigably pursued during the successive years of 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785 and 1786 and, except a few towns and parishes, lived to finish.' Collinson adds that this was achieved when 'he [Rack] could not, without the greatest difficulty of respiration, walk across a room, so that he rather existed than lived.'

His energy on behalf of the Society, despite his ill-health, would do credit to a man younger than his 51 years. He drummed up members and subscriptions, commissioned and edited articles, sent out and analysed questionnaires, as well as handling personally all correspondence incoming and outgoing.

The practical and inventive side of Rack is visible in improved models of hammers and wheelbarrows that he created. But overall the strongest picture that emerges is a man of benevolence. Probably one of the strongest pieces of his writing is his essay opposing the barbarities of the penal system under the title *Inequality of the Penal Laws* in 1781. He particularly cited executions as 'those periodical exhibitions of human vengeance'. 'Men of humane dispositions and Christian principles, under all denominations, will ever consider the life of an offender to be of infinitely greater consequence than the loss of a horse, a sheep, or a purse of money'.

As you can see, this was a courageous stance to adopt in an age when property was supreme, and rural England was ruled by the threat of prison or hanging. We can only wonder how Rack, in extolling these views, also managed to persuade the landed and property-owning gentry to join his Bath Society.



BATH AND THE DETACHED TOWN GARDEN

Mike Chapman

The term ‘Detached Town Garden’ is used by English Heritage to describe blocks of garden plots that were let out on the outskirts of expanding towns and cities in the late 18th/early 19th centuries to the inhabitants (of all classes, but predominantly tradesmen and artisans) to cultivate for ornamental or productive purposes. This term was introduced by the influential horticulturist John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843), but elsewhere they became known as ‘guinea gardens’ on account of the relatively high rent that was charged. Although often similar in outline to the social welfare ‘allotments’ familiar today, these plots had quite a different significance. Being independent of a house or established building they could, like the country house, be regarded as a supplementary ‘kitchen garden’ or small private ‘pleasure ground’.

Detached town gardens typically had a grid plan with the equalised plots defined by hedges, walls or boarded fences, accessed via main drives, paths and side alleys. They contained fruit trees, flowers and flowering shrubs, patches of lawn for sitting out on and vegetable plots. The silk-weavers of Middleton in Lancashire for example were noted for their cultivation of auriculas and other florists’ flowers. Some had miniature knot gardens or parterres and perhaps even a fishpond. Many had small buildings, sometimes architecturally characterful, such as residential cottages (to stay overnight), summerhouses (with cooking facilities), privies and glass-houses. These buildings, if of sufficient architectural or historical interest, often merit individual listing. However, their survival rate is poor, and most have subsequently been built over or become either urban allotments or nurseries.

There are currently five sets of detached gardens on the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*, set up in 1983, mainly around Nottingham, Warwick, Birmingham and Coventry, graded II or II*. Although none have survived in Bath, it would seem that the detached town garden once played an important role in the development of the city, remnants of which could still be found as late as the 1980s. In the 18th century, to attract visitors to the resort, Georgian Bath already had a much admired market garden economy, and the architectural development of the city necessarily included back gardens for the fine houses as well as fashionable private squares, gravel walks, pleasure gardens and (later) public parks. However, by the end of the century the idea of the detached leisure garden may already have been introduced by the citizens themselves, as suggested by John Collinson in his description of the main street of the village of Bathwick on the opposite side of the river before the Pulteney Estate development:

‘On the south side of the street are many neat gardens, with summer-houses erected in them. These are mostly inhabited by tradesmen in Bath, who, after the business of the day, retire hither, to enjoy the sweets of leisure, the cool breezes of evening, and the delightful scenery with which this spot is surrounded’.

Similarly all the best views from the heights around Bath were occupied by summerhouses belonging to prominent citizens such as James Hooper (Beacon Hill), Edward Collibee (Beechen Cliff), Francis Anstey (Bathampton Down, later site of Sham Castle) and Thomas Mullins (Oldfield Park). However, an example may already have been set by the new residents of the fashionable houses, ‘gentlemen of the first taste’, such as the Hon. Charles Hamilton, who established an extensive private garden with rare trees and gravel paths on the rising ground behind Royal Crescent, or the satirical poet Christopher Anstey, then living in the Crescent, who also rented a large garden plot nearby. To cater for this new leisure activity, nurseries and botanic gardens began also to appear in Bath by this time, as described in ‘John Jelly’s Botanic Garden’ by Trevor Fawcett in issue No.28 of the *Survey*.

The full extent of this phenomenon appears most dramatically in 1795 with the publication of the first large-scale map of the city by



A penny trade token struck by John Jelly in 1794 to advertise his botanic garden. The caption to this image, with credit to Bath in Time, was accidentally erased from Trevor Fawcett’s article in the last issue of the *Survey*.

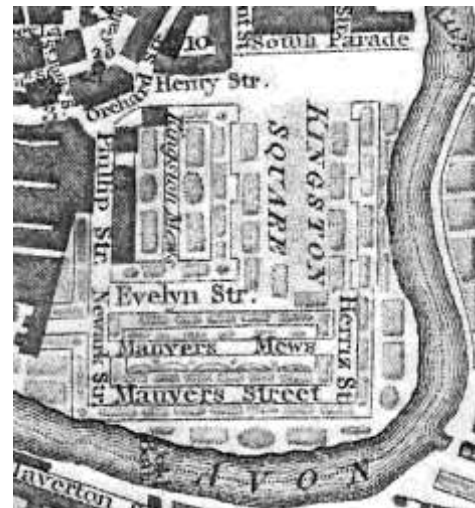
Harcourt Masters, followed by a more graphic version published by J.Barrett & Son in 1818. Vast areas of the undeveloped parts of Bath are shown covered with garden plots, the nearest to the city being sited on the Ham, formerly a meadow outside the city wall on the south-east side, now occupied by Manvers Street and the South Gate shopping precinct.

The Manvers Street Gardens

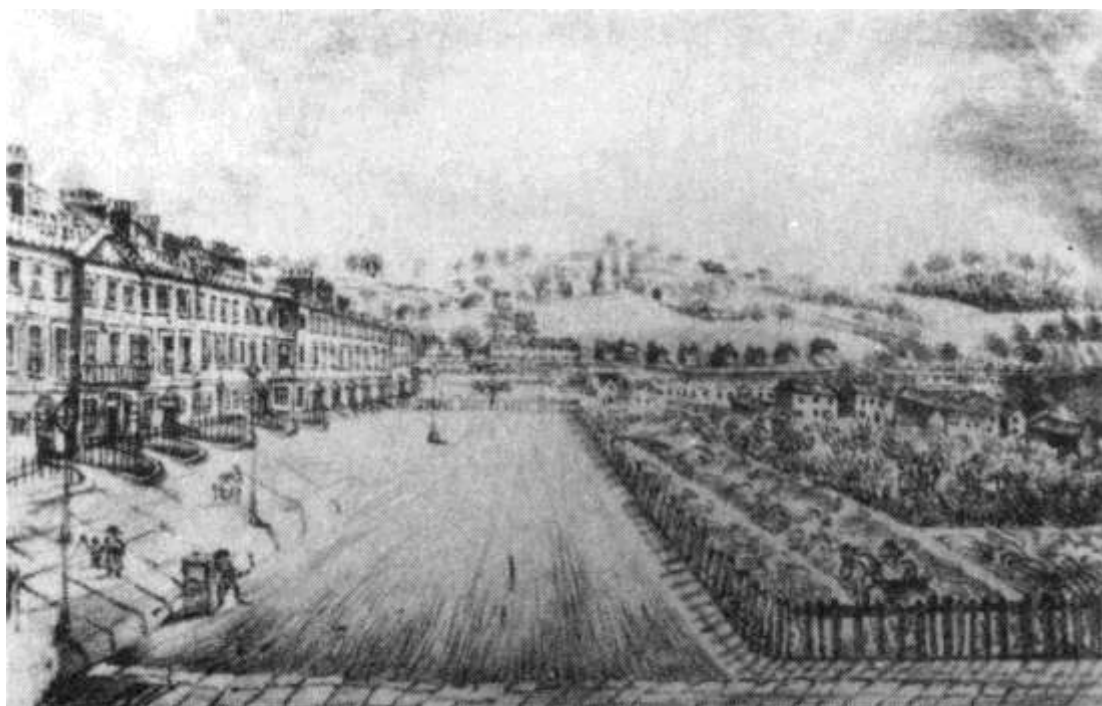
Until 1740 the Ham was still largely an open meadow surrounded by orchards and market gardens, occasionally subject to flooding, with a small building (probably a summer house) called 'Marchant's Folly' erected amongst shrubbery in the centre by a Bath banker, Richard Marchant, near the present Bayntun's bookshop. This area was intended by John Wood to be the site of his magnificent 'Royal Forum' development, and part of this he completed, now the North and South Parades, in 1743, but the scheme failed to generate sufficient support, and from hereon the Woods, father and son, turned their attention to the King's Circus and the Royal Crescent as the city's social centre of gravity moved uphill onto the slopes of Lansdown. Nevertheless, the landowner, then Viscount Newark (later Earl Manvers), continued to seek a profitable development of the Ham, and various prestigious schemes for crescents and squares were drawn up by Humphrey Repton and others, although without success. In the meantime, to make most profitable use of the land, the Ham was let out for detached town gardens until more favourable conditions should arise.



Left: The Ham, completely covered by gardens on Harcourt Masters' map of 1795. 'Marchant's Folly' can be seen in the centre.



Right: The same area on Barrett's map of 1818. The gardens have been overdrawn with a proposal for a grand square and new streets (never built).

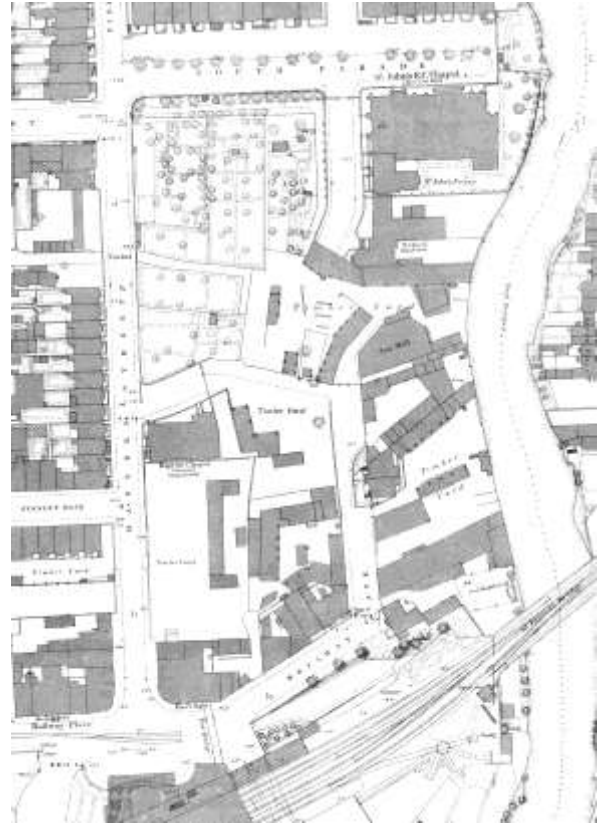


The South Parade in c.1825, showing the gardens in front. The housing beyond them belonged to the then new development in the Dolemeads on the opposite side of the river

In the event, the southern end of the Ham was acquired by Brunel for the Great Western Railway and the Bath station in 1840. As a result, plans for residential development were completely abandoned and Manvers Street, stipulated in the railway Act for access from the city centre to the station, was constructed instead, effectively dividing the Ham in two. The west side of the street soon came to be filled with artisan housing and commercial or industrial premises, but for many years the detached town gardens on the east side remained untouched except at the southern end where two hotels were built opposite the station, with a timber yard and wharf at the end of Railway Place.



Detail of the Manvers Street detached town garden plots taken from Cotterell and Spackman's map of Bath , c.1852/3 (later annotations have been erased).

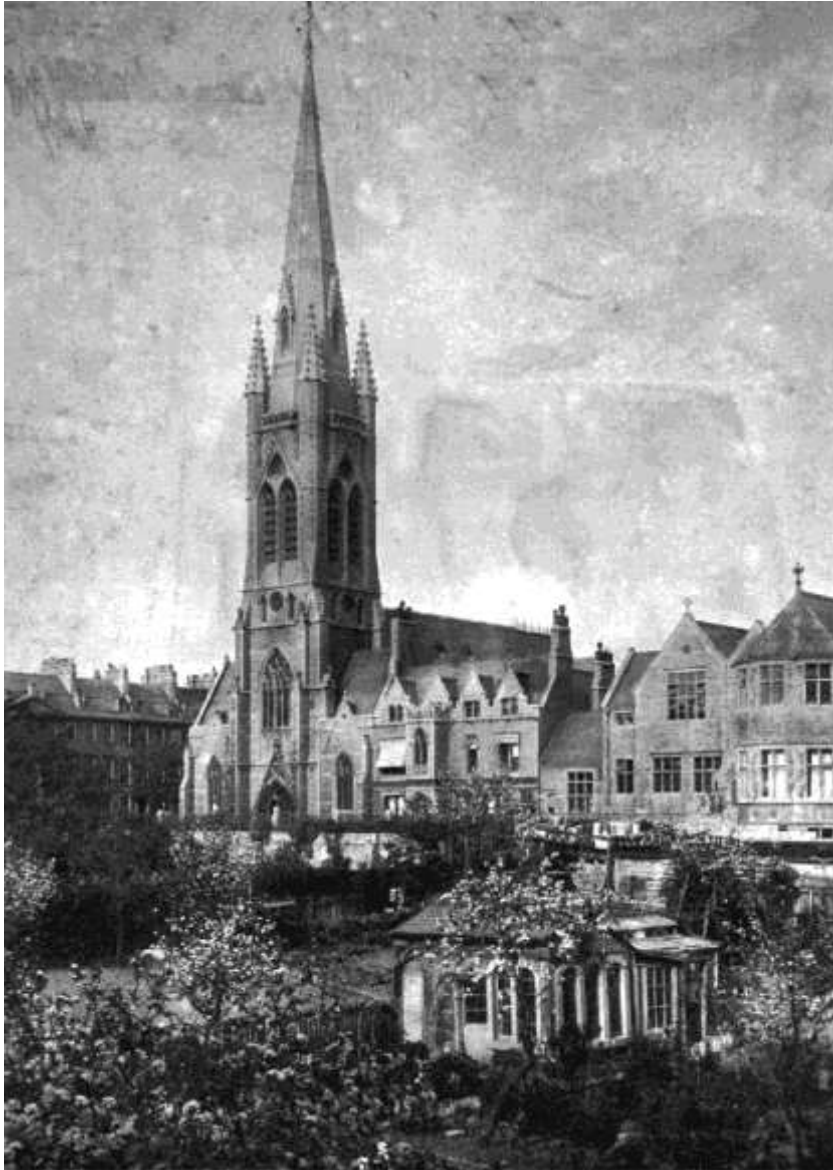


The same area from the OS 1:500 map of Bath, 1885, showing the development of St.John's Church and the timber yards. Note the 'viaduct' under Manvers Street leading to the gardens at the lower level.

These however were progressively given up for the building of St.John's Catholic Church in 1863 and the Baptist Chapel in 1872. In 1874 the Manvers estate was finally broken up in a major sale, and by the 1880s the timber yard had been extended northward as far as St.John's Church, followed in 1901 by a GPO and sorting office (converted to Bayntun's bookshop in 1938) and Fortt's Bath Oliver Biscuit Factory. By the end of WWII, when the timber yard was acquired for expansion of the Postal Sorting Office, only a few garden plots remained below South Parade. These were finally removed in the 1960s for the present police station and multi-storey carpark.



Left: The remaining detached town gardens below South Parade in 1951. The top three plots were replaced by the multi-storey carpark, the two below by the new police station.



A late 19th century photograph of the gardens below the South Parade.

The Pulteney Estate – Recreation Ground and Henrietta Park

A similar situation seems to have arisen during the development of the riverside meadows in Bathwick by William Johnstone Pulteney following the building of Pulteney Bridge in 1774. After a considerable delay, Pulteney Street was completed in the 1780s, to the north of which there was to be a great square ('Frances Square'), and to the south a parallel street ('Great George Street' or 'Great Annandale Street') connected to a grand crescent facing across the river to John Wood's Parades. The southern development bears a close resemblance to the plans for the Manvers Estate opposite, which also proposed a riverside crescent at about the same time. However, these plans were curtailed by the outbreak of war in 1793, and from thereon, like the Manvers Estate, all further development only continued in piecemeal fashion.

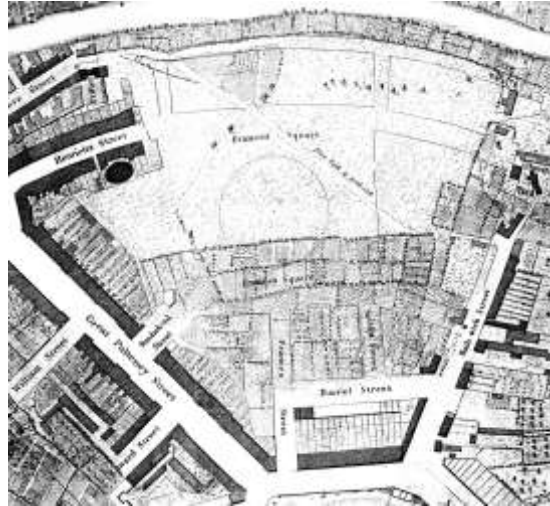
Nevertheless, whilst waiting for a more propitious moment to complete these plans, a profit could be made from the meadows on each side of Pulteney Street by letting out the ground for detached town gardens. As noted above, some already existed in Bathwick Street, and one of Bath's first public pleasure grounds, Spring Gardens, had also been established by the river in the 1730s. As a retreat among shrubberies and flowerbeds where refreshments and entertainments were available, Spring Gardens remained popular until superseded by new pleasure grounds elsewhere, finally closing in about 1798 to make way for the building of Johnstone Street.

With easy access now available via Pulteney Bridge, detached town gardens (or 'Kitchen Gardens' as they were called in Bath) quickly covered a large proportion of the meadows, although some areas

remained open for horse grazing or for temporary public leisure events such as local sports (cricket and quoits), travelling menagerie shows, etc.



The kitchen gardens south of Pulteney Street in 1795, showing the outlines of the proposed crescent and, top left, remnants of the former Spring gardens.



The kitchen gardens north of Pulteney Street in 1795, showing the outlines of the proposed Frances Square.

However, after the Earl of Darlington (later Duke of Cleveland) inherited the estate in 1808, Bath was already beginning to change from a fashionable resort to a place of respectable residence and retirement, and from this time onward attention turned to the development of detached Italianate villas with secluded gardens rather than set-piece terraces and crescents, particularly on the high ground of Bathwick Hill.

Eventually the meadows also became ripe for villa development, and in 1830 the tenants of the kitchen gardens were given notice to quit. On the ground to the north of Pulteney Street they were replaced during the 1840s by Bathwick Villas, facing towards the back of Pulteney Street into an enclosed area of open grass called 'Bathwick Park' (or, by 1860, 'Henrietta Park'), much as appears today, used occasionally for sporting events. Initially intended as a private amenity, the Park was subsequently donated to the city for public use on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. South of Pulteney Street a line of villas was built along Pulteney Road in the 1850s-60s, the ground behind them towards the river being also returned to an open grass 'parkland', although a group of garden plots next to the road, one containing a building known as Willow Cottage, were retained.



Left: The remaining garden grounds shown on the 1840 Bathwick tithe map, including Willow Cottage, plot 184, and a building at 183, possibly used as a stable mews.

Right: The same area in 1902, the last of the gardens now included in the new Recreation Ground, leaving Willow Cottage and the northern building isolated between the villas in Pulteney Road.



Following the death of the last Duke of Cleveland in 1891, the estate passed to Captain F.W.Forester and the whole of the open ground behind Pulteney Road in 1894 was leased to the Bath and County Recreation Ground Company Limited, who took over the grounds exclusively for sports, a purpose for which it has served ever since. The remaining garden plots were removed soon after, but the buildings were not demolished until after WWII; the one to the north for a bowling green, the other, 'Willow Cottage', for a garden shared between the adjoining villas.

The Pulteney Estate – Villa Fields

The rest of the open riverside meadows in Bathwick, to the north of Bathwick Street, also came to be occupied by detached town gardens, although under different circumstances. In 1777 a substantial Gothick-style house called Bathwick Villa was built fronting the meadow which became popular for a while as a resort for entertainment and refreshments with a long pleasure garden and carriage drive leading from the present Beckford Road, but there is otherwise little indication of plans for large development in this area. In 1803, during the invasion emergency, the open field was regularly used to drill the troops of the local Bath Volunteer Corps, and the only new feature shown on Harcourt Masters' map of 1806 is the Kennet & Avon Canal being built on the eastern side. However, by 1818 Barrett's map shows the whole area beyond Bathwick Villa, between the Canal and the river, completely filled with kitchen gardens as far upstream as the newly built Cleveland Baths.



Bathwick Villa (centre) and meadows in 1806.



The same area in 1818.

As the new Bathwick development continued, the fortunes of Bathwick Villa began to decline, and in 1790 was closed to the public. Although it remained a private residence for several decades, by 1851 the building was being used as the parish Poor House, and it is possible that the detached town gardens, named Villa Fields after the house, may also have been intended to serve a welfare purpose, as suggested in Tunstall's *Rambles about Bath* in the 1880s:

'A large number of the labouring population of the parish [Bathwick] inhabit a primitive spot called the Villa Fields, which lies between the railroad and the river. The cottages are detached, each being built on its own plot of ground, just as the whim of the settler suggested. It is said that this curious suburb somewhat resembles a young settlement in the Western States of the Union [USA]. In its centre is situated Bathwick Villa ... now let to the poor in tenements.'



Villa Fields and Bathwick Street on Cotterell and Spackman's map of 1852. The Boating Station is the rectangular plot at the top.

Nevertheless, Villa Fields still fulfilled a leisure function, an example being a plot beside the river, formerly site of a marl-pit, which became the Bathwick Boating Station. This concern seems to have originated as a small tea-garden with boating facilities soon after the opening of the Cleveland Bridge in 1827, but from the 1860s it became increasingly popular with local rowing clubs, providing boat-building facilities, and 'well laid out grounds, comprising lawn tennis grounds, &c'. Two fine boating pavilions were added in 1887, and another in 1901.



A cottage in Villa Fields near the Boating Station in 1927, once named Holly Cottage, which until recently was the only survivor of the Villa Fields from the Forester Estate development.



One of the cottages in Villa Fields, photographed during the construction of Forester Road, c.1900.

However, the development of Villa Fields eventually arrived in the 1890s, after the estate passed to Captain Forrester. This involved the complete clearance of the gardens, including the Villa, leaving only the Boating Station and a few cottages. For quite a different class of occupant, a new system of roads was laid out for semi-detached villas and brick terrace houses, now known generally as the Forester Estate.



Villa Fields in 1885

Crescent Fields

It would seem from the above that the most favourable areas for detached town gardens in Bath were the riverside meadows (despite the threat of seasonal flooding) as a welcome temporary measure in anticipation of later building development. However there is one famous exception where they were established permanently on higher ground, in the neighbourhood of the Royal Crescent, in which they attracted a great deal of controversy.

An important component in the siting of the Crescent was its view over the open fields to the river Avon below and the open countryside extending to the skyline beyond, much in the manner of a country mansion overlooking the grounds of an estate. When the lease for the building land was drawn up in 1766 between John Wood the Younger and the then manorial owner, Sir Benet Garrard, this amenity was safeguarded by a covenant which precluded any buildings being erected, or the planting of any tree or shrub over eight feet high on the grounds below. For this purpose, all the pre-existing fields were thrown together into a single expanse of pasture (for cows and sheep only), henceforth known as Crescent Fields, separated from the Crescent by the Ha-Ha in front of the building.

Even while the Crescent was being built, in 1767 the ownership of the estate passed to the Rev. Sir Peter Rivers Gay, bart., who in 1773, after it was completed, sought to capitalise on the value of Crescent Fields, without infringing the covenant, with a scheme for laying out detached town gardens - an indication that such gardens were already at a high premium. Horrified at this prospect, the satirical poet Christopher Anstey, one of the early occupants of the Crescent, published a mock heroic *Ode on an Evening View of the Crescent in Bath*, 'written on the occasion of a scheme to convert the beautiful fields in front of the Crescent at Bath into kitchen gardens', to dissuade the reverend baronet from 'desecrating' the Crescent Fields. Although regarded as a poetic 'squirt' by his contemporaries, these verses (in full below), accompanied by an allegorical watercolour frontispiece, provides a useful insight into contemporary attitudes towards Bath's Georgian landscape:



‘Crescentem sequitur Cura pecuniam’ , Horace (As riches grow, Care follows)

[Courtesy of Bath in Time]

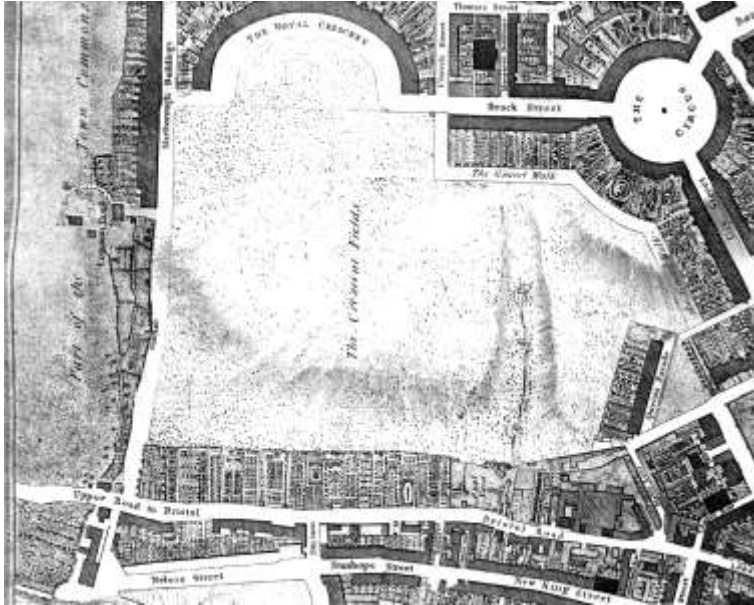
‘Ode On An Evening View Of The Crescent At Bath

Lo! where beside yon verdant plain ^[SEP] Sweet Avon winds his way,
^[SEP] And smiling laves thy rich demain, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay, ^[SEP]
 Joyful I view the flocks that graze, ^[SEP] Or o’er his margin stray; ^[SEP]
 Here let us rest, and silent gaze, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay. ^[SEP]
 Mark with what glee that playful crew ^[SEP] In life’s delightful May, ^[SEP]
 Eager their childish sports pursue, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay: ^[SEP]
 Nor glads it less, now sol’s withdrawn, ^[SEP] Yon nymphs in fair array ^[SEP]
 To trace the velvet of thy lawn, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay: ^[SEP]
 O! may no rude remorseless swains, ^[SEP] No churlish clown essay ^[SEP]
 To force them from these blissful plains ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay! ^[SEP]
 E’en oe’r my brows tho’ time should steal, ^[SEP] And spread his mantle grey, ^[SEP]
 Still to bright beauty’s shrine I’d kneel, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay: ^[SEP]
 May health, blith active health be theirs, ^[SEP] No care their charms decay,
^[SEP] And, right I deem, you’ll join my prayers, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay.
^[SEP] Now on yon Crescent’s form so fair ^[SEP] My ravish’d eyes shall stay, ^[SEP]
 View all Palladio’s beauties there, ^[SEP] Sir Peter Rivers Gay: ^[SEP]
 May it to thee full many a year, ^[SEP] It’s joyful tribute pay—

But hark - what sounds salute mine ear Sir Peter Rivers Gay:
Sure o'er my sense some waking dream, Or airy visions play?—
No - 'tis the genius of the stream, Sir Peter Rivers Gay:
See! where he rests upon his urn, With looks of sore dismay!
Turn there! - thy frightened visage turn, Sir Peter Rivers Gay,
To thee he calls with stern command, Slow gales his voice convey—
Hold! hold! thy sacrilegious hand, Sir Peter Rivers Gay!
Hush'd be ye winds, ye murmur'ing streams, And hear old Avon pray:
And thou attentive to my themes, Sir Peter Rivers Gay.
Should'st thou by filthy Mammon stung, Thine own fair spot bewray,
With scare-crows, cabbages, and dung Sir Peter Rivers Gay,
Wo! to that architect superb, Who holds o'er Bath his sway,
Yet still forgot thy pow'r to curb, Sir Peter Rivers Gay!
His rueful corps some god transmute To mournful box or bay,
(Or better should the yew-tree suit) Sir Peter Rivers Gay
Cut him, his compass in his hand, Meet emblems round him lay;
And like Vitruvius let him stand Sir Peter Rivers Gay
Full in his Crescent's front: thine heir For ever and for aye
Be doom'd to keep him in repair, Sir Peter Rivers Gay.
But for that tribe so skill'd in quirk And quibble to betray,
Who urg'd thee to this fatal work, Sir Peter Rivers Gay,
May they to cursed hemlock sped Ne'er view sol's genial ray -
Guard thou their poison from thine head Sir Peter Rivers Gay,
For Oh! - I tremble to relate Thine ills in future day -
A Collyflow'r must be thy fate, Sir Peter Rivers Gay:
Thou in this fair, this fragrant spot Shalt od'rous plants survey,
Thyself be destin'd to the pot, Sir Peter Rivers Gay;
In vain your cabbag'd head you'll rear, And branching leaves display,
Five farthings is the price you'll bear, Sir Peter Rivers Gay:
And when of stalk and root beguil'd, For cooks you're deem'd a prey,
And thou in thine own Crescent boil'd, Sir Peter Rivers Gay,
E'en Jeffery Pounce, that griping elf, That hungry dunce, shall say -
"Troth, - thou'rt as tasteless as myself Friend Peter Rivers Gay".

Christopher Anstey, 1773.

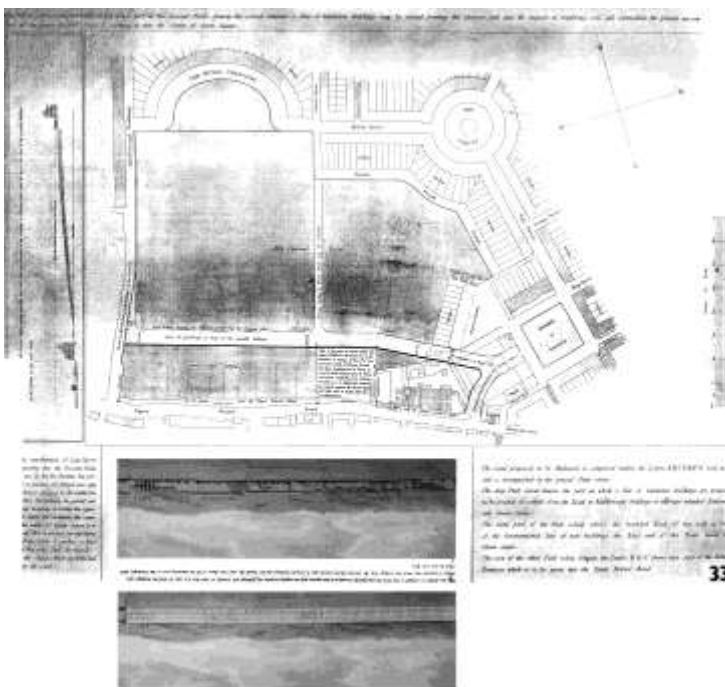
Nevertheless, Sir Peter was not deterred from laying out a strip of gardens along the Bristol Road, now site of the present Crescent Gardens, although the campaign against them ran on into the 1790s. In the event, they would have had little impact on the view between the Crescent and the river - certainly less than the irregular rear elevations presented by the development of New King Street, Stanhope Street and Norfolk Crescent, excluded from the covenant, which soon began to appear on the south side of the road, blocking off the view of the river. Indeed, by the end of the century the Bristol Road itself was becoming increasingly commercialised, with coal yards, storehouses and auction rooms.



From Harcourt Masters' map of Bath, 1795, showing the former Barton Fields thrown together into one expanse called The Crescent Fields, including the stream in the dell below the Gravel Walk.

Ranging along the north side of the Bristol Road, from left to right, are Sir Peter Rivers Gay's Kitchen Gardens, a Coal Yard, and a large block of storage buildings and auction rooms.

After the death of Sir Peter Rivers Gay in 1790 the estate passed to his widow, Lady Martha Rivers, and in 1810 a proposal was considered to replace the kitchen gardens with a 'handsome' terrace of houses to mask the 'ugly and irregular' buildings on the south side of the road. The new houses were to face towards the Crescent, with a road in front leading from Marlborough Lane to Queen Square. However, it appears that the design did not meet with Lady Rivers' approval, whose permission would have been needed to release the land from the covenant, and in the following year an alternative plan to extend the kitchen gardens northward was adopted instead. To advise 'on Drainage and Sunk Fence &c', William Smith ('Father of English Geology') was brought in by Lady Rivers, having recently been employed by the City to locate and restore a loss of hot water to the baths from leakage around the springs. Smith's diary and papers show that the ground works were already under way in 1812, and almost certainly finished by 1814 when he discusses the discovery of several Roman coffins when 'digging Gravel for the Walks lately made'.



From 'Plan of proposed improvements on the lower part of the Crescent Fields ...', 1810.

Included at the bottom of this plan (inverted) are before-and-after views of the new houses from the Crescent which were to replace the gardens along the Bristol Road. To the left is a diagram of the calculated line of sight from the Crescent across Crescent fields.

In this scheme a second row of gardens was added to the back of those by the road, with another row above that fanning out behind a serpentine hedge, the latter reflecting the outlines of the Crescent and possibly masking the gardens from view. To provide access to the upper garden plots, a gravelled walk was laid out along this hedge, running from the lower end of Marlborough Buildings to the Brock Street entrance of the Gravel Walk, together with another pathway at the centre leading down through the middle of the gardens to the Bristol Road. Smith's note implies that various springs were

diverted at this time into stone drains, possibly for a reservoir, the one in the dell, which became the eastern boundary hedge of the new gardens, leaving the remaining ground on the east side of the dell as an isolated open field.



From A New and Correct Plan of the City of Bath (published by J.Barratt, 1818).

Here the new layout of the gardens is shown reaching as far as Marlborough Buildings on the left, and joining up with the Gravel Walk on the right. The pathway following the serpentine hedge and passing through the middle of the gardens provided access to the upper rows.

The eastern boundary of the gardens follows the stream in the dell (culverted) below the Gravel Walk, leaving an open grazing area behind Queen's Parade.

In 1829 a plan proposed for a public park on the Crescent fields above the gardens - extended with the agreement of the Freemen of Bath to include the town commons on the west side, was approved by Lady Rivers who granted a lease of the necessary land for an approach road (the Royal Avenue), and in October 1830 the Park was opened by Princess Victoria. Also included in the Park (for pedestrian access) was the serpentine walk and central pathway between the gardens, together with the open ground on the east side which was provided a gate from the newly built Charlotte Street.



From Cotterell & Spackman's survey, 1852-53. The Royal Avenue has cut off some of the northern garden plots.

One of the remaining plots (top left with the octagonal structure) was included in the Park for a botanical garden.

The serpentine walk is shown hedged, the present serpentine pathway added above it, before the building of the bandstand at

Since the new road cut across the gardens at their northern end, several plots along its border were also included in the park ground. The parish rate books show that one of these, on the corner of Marlborough Lane, was adopted for a small botanical garden, created in 1837, but subsequently

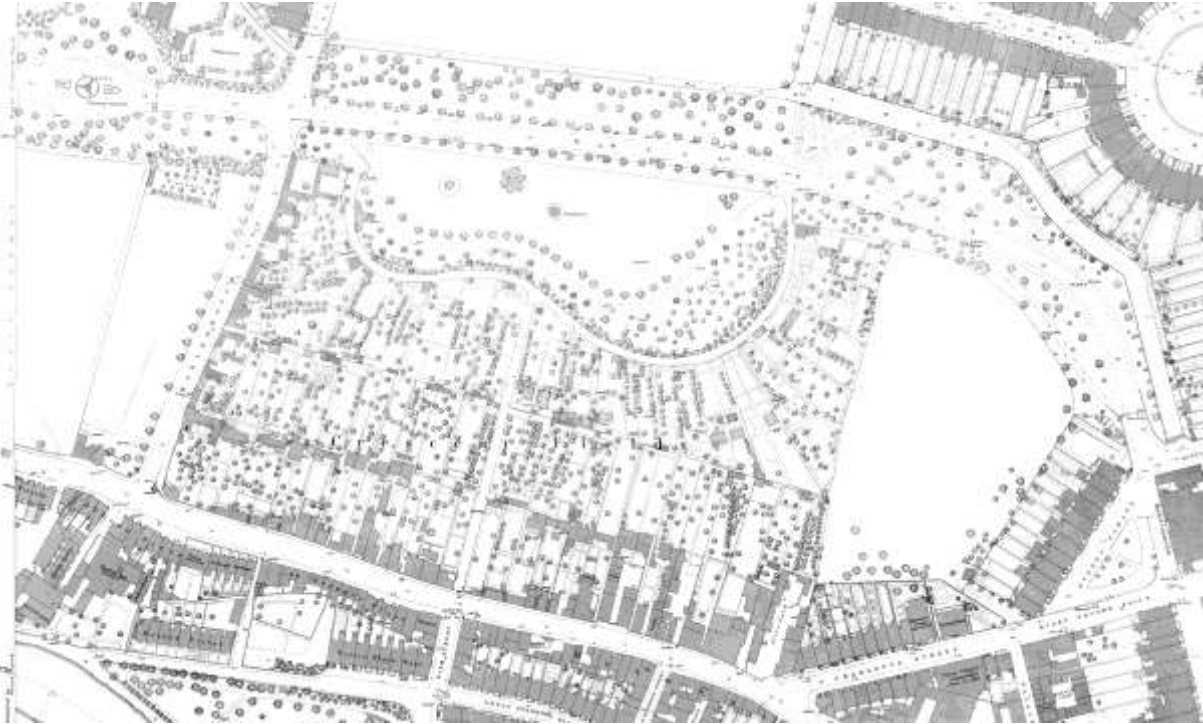
removed to its larger present site in 1886. Another plot, at the Brock Street entrance to the Gravel Walk, became the site of 'Richard Beard's Photographic Institution' (Bath's first photographic studio) between 1841 to 1850, later converted back to a flower garden following the donation of the flower vase by Signor Pieroni in 1861. Since the park was initially financed by subscription, access was controlled by a perimeter fence and gates (closed at night), one of which stood at the Bristol Road entrance of the central walk between the gardens. As a result this route became known as the Subscription Walk, and the gardens themselves sometimes called the Subscription Walk Gardens.

When Lady Martha Rivers Gay died in 1835, the estate passed to her surviving son, Sir Henry Rivers, and it was Henry's wife, Charlotte, whose name was adopted for Charlotte Street when laid out by George Manners, City Architect, in 1839-40. Sir Henry died in 1851, and although Lady Charlotte Rivers continued as lady of the manor until her death in 1870, her son Sir Henry Chandos Rivers, the last of the Rivers baronets, died in the same year. However, when part of the Crescent Gardens was considered for building development in the 1890s, the covenant on building was still an issue - as illustrated by a set of photographs in the Bath Record Office entitled 'Photographs showing buildings in Crescent Gardens prior to the erection of houses between 1893-1897 despite the restrictive covenants in the Deed relating to the land.' (BRO PX805). These views (some included here) show that from an early stage the gardens adjoining the Bristol Road (and evidently those in Marlborough Lane also) had already become fronted by a variety of single-storey buildings (carriage houses, lodges, cottages, &c), similar to the mews that existed elsewhere in the city. One, used as a dairy later became a stable block with farrier and smithy. Besides 'Dairy Cottage', there were 'Woodbine', 'Trafalgar', 'Victoria', 'Monmouth', 'Stanhope' and 'Crescent Fields' Cottages, providing clues to their date of origin. It can also be seen that the open gardens at the rear contained many summerhouses, greenhouses and other structures, often of an ornamental nature.



Nevertheless, the new houses (the present Crescent Gardens) were built on the lower strip of gardens fronting the Bristol Road, separated from the remaining gardens by a back lane with openings into Marlborough Lane and the main road. Although the Subscription Walk was retained between these houses, the piers of the entrance gate were moved up to the new boundary of the back lane, on the west side of which was built the present Park Superintendent's Lodge. The back lane also provided

access to a nursery which had taken over all the garden plots on the south-west side by the early 1900s.



Above: from the OS 1:500 maps of Bath, 1885. Below: from the OS 1:2,500 map of Bath (1904 edition). These two editions of the OS large-scale maps show the area just before and after the building of Crescent Gardens on the Bristol Road.



Although the ownership of the Common had already passed from the Freeman to the Corporation in 1879, it was not until 1921 that the management and financial control of Victoria Park itself was handed over by the Park Committee and a variety of public works brought into effect. Besides several

new public toilets, one in Marlborough Lane on the site of the former Botanical Garden, another at the Charlotte Street entrance, a sports facility including a pavilion, tennis courts, bowling green and putting green was laid out in terraces on the upper part of the open ground on the east side of the dell.

However, the lower part, inside the Charlotte Street entrance, remained open until the second World War, when the Council received a directive from the Ministry of Food in July 1941 requesting the erection of one or more British Restaurants, to provide 'day-to-day feeding of the population and to act as a first line of defence in an emergency'. The first to be built was inside the Charlotte Street entrance (named Parkside as a result of a newspaper competition) which opened in August 1942. It was at this stage that the entrance was widened for vehicular access by the acquisition of part of the garden of the adjoining Registry Office, although it was not until later that a connection was made with the back lane of Crescent Gardens. After the war, Parkside was the last to close, in 1950, by which time the spare ground on the north side of the building was already in use as a car park. The building subsequently became Parkside Junior School (closed 2006), and is now a Children's Centre.



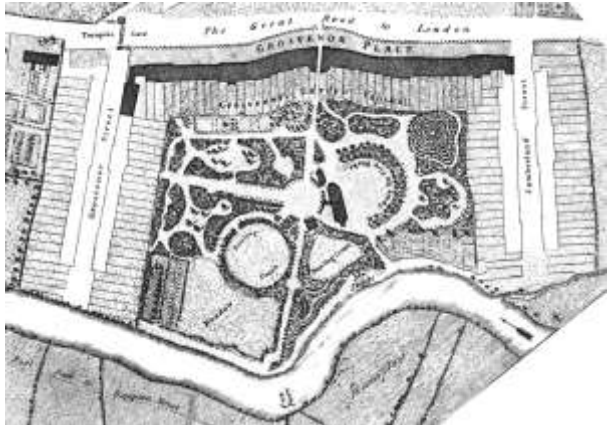
From the OS 1:1250 maps of Bath, 1952. The main changes in the area shown here are the building of the sports amenity behind Queen's Parade in 1921 (with toilets in Charlotte Street and Marlborough Lane), and the appearance of the British Restaurant building at the Charlotte Street entrance in 1942.

Eventually the gardens were replaced by the Charlotte Street Car Park in the 1980s. Since the gardens had no vehicular access, new openings were provided at each end; from the Charlotte Street entrance through the fence at the back of the School, and from Marlborough Lane through the site of the toilets, part of the serpentine path being converted to a roadway. For pedestrians, the pathway of the Subscription Walk was retained, and an opening made at the eastern corner to the other end of the serpentine path. The rest of the old path was left to become overgrown with shrubbery, provide a dense screen between the car park and the lawns surrounding the bandstand.

Other Sites?

The maps of Harcourt Masters and J.Barrett indicate various other areas which appear to have contained detached town gardens. They are particularly dominant in the Dolemeads (removed to make way for building development in the 1820s, later a notorious slum area), the site of Kingsmead Flats in James Street (later a Corporation Stone Yard), and further out, Upper East Hayes and Richmond Hill. An unusual, though smaller example appeared later on the site of the Grosvenor Vauxhall Gardens, established as an ambitious pleasure ground in the riverside meadows behind Grosvenor Place by the architect John Eveleigh in 1791. However by 1812 it was already evident that this enterprise had failed, the grounds being in a ruinous state, and in the 1820s they taken over by a 'gentlemen's boarding school', partly as a school sports field, but mostly for detached town gardens.

Many of these adapted to the features of the former pleasure grounds that still survived, particularly the curved boundaries of the bowling greens and the oval foundations of a banqueting saloon. As late as 1948 fragments could be seen of a building there in the form of an arch decorated with Doric columns, forming part of a rotunda. Five or six cottages are recorded on this site, together with coach-house, stable and paddock, Lodge House, summerhouse and garden, and laundry house. One of the cottages was enlarged in the 1860s into a detached house called Chestnut Cottage or Chestnut Villa.

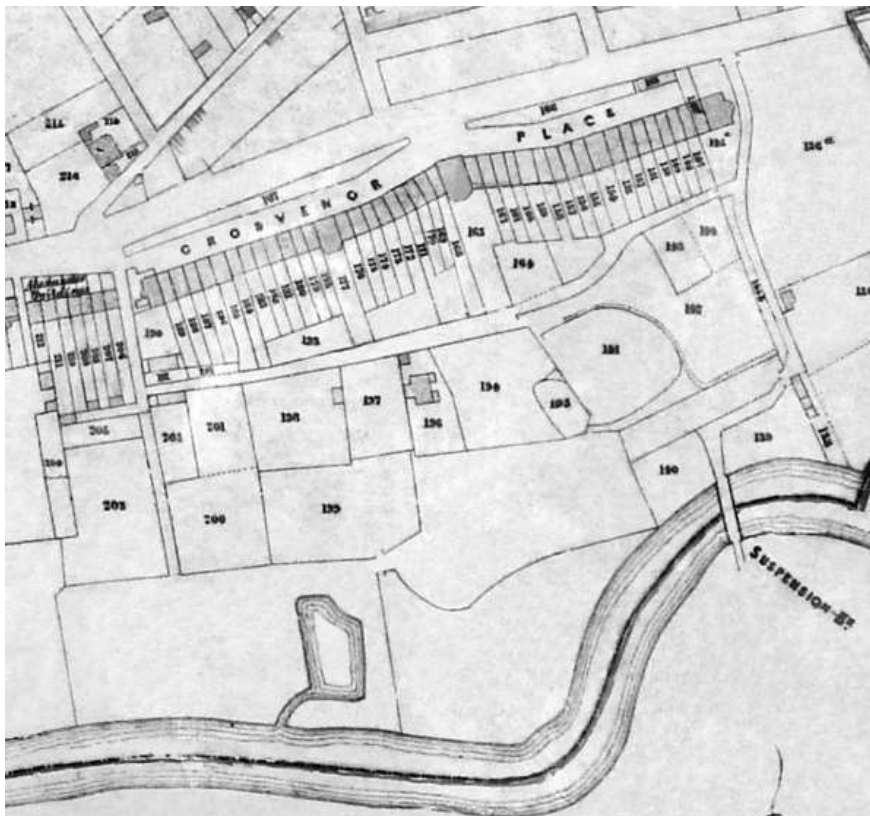


Above: The layout of Grosvenor Garden Vauxhall in 1795. The streets on the east and west sides were never built.

Below: The Grosvenor gardens in c.1840 from the Walcot title map. By the river, a swimming bath has



Details of Chestnut Cottage gardens, in 1885, showing the outline of the walls of the former Banqueting Hall converted to a small garden (A). Above it in the next plot, is a small plunge bath (B) and in front of the house, a rotunda (C). In the adjoining field below is a spring (D), and a small



In about 1894 all the gardens were acquired by William Webb, a Nurseryman and Florist, for a market garden known as Nightingale Nursery based around 'Chestnut Cottage'- re-named 'Nightingale House'. During the 1960s the housing development now known as Ringswell Gardens, together with the enlargement of the Kensington Meadows sports field resulted in the complete disappearance of the Nurseries and any remaining fragments of the gardens.

Other examples of detached town gardens may come to light, but in the meantime an examination of other records, particularly parish rate books, tithe apportionments, &c, would provide useful information about the social background of the owners of the gardens, and the economic details of garden ownership.



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