

BATH'S GEORGIAN GUILDHALL

The building and early occupation
of the 'New Hall'

1774 to 1780



GUILDHALL BATH

David Stubbs

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Introduction

This paper is the result of a suggestion by Anne Buchanan, Local Studies Librarian in Bath Record Office, that I might want to research the history of the Bath Guildhall. I quickly realised that the scope of the project was too large to be done in one go, and we agreed that, in my role as a volunteer in the Record Office, I would focus on the Georgian Guildhall. For reasons which will be explained, all references from now on will be to the 'New Hall'.

Secondary sources abound if one is focused on the history alone. My initial dives into the available archive material, however, made me realise that the real story concerned the people who actually built the New Hall, and those who subsequently occupied it. Everybody knows that Thomas Baldwin was the architect, but very few people know that all the ornamental plasterwork was the work of Daniel Fowles, or that the illiterate Betty Lancashire was paid for hauling stones.

Three years later and this is the result. I hope you like it.

The question of text references, how many and where, is always thorny, particularly in a paper which aims to have a general as well as a more specialised appeal. I have compromised by restricting references (end notes at the end of each chapter) mainly to original sources or lesser-known or local publications, and where I have not made the source clear in the text. All books and sources are listed in the bibliography, together with illustration attributions.

I make no apology for using imperial measurements or pounds, shillings and pence, because both were in use at the time the New Hall was built.

Quotations are in italics.

Some information is repeated in different chapters. This is deliberate, because I wanted each subject area to be able to stand alone. For example, the description of the plasterwork by Daniel Fowles is spread throughout the chapter describing the interior of the New Hall and then repeated in the chapter describing his life and involvement with the New Hall.

Previous research

Previous research has been published regarding the history and architectural features of the Guildhall, including *'Bath Guildhall & Its Neighbourhood: 800 Years of Local Government'* by Elizabeth Holland and Mike Chapman (2000) and the *'Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath'* by Michael Forsyth (2003). Whilst I have drawn on both of these, together with some other secondary sources, the majority of my findings have been derived from primary sources in Bath Record Office.

About the Author

David Stubbs is a retired Chartered Valuation Surveyor with a love of history, and who has lived in Bath since 1982. At that time he was an Assistant Director in the Estates Department of Bath City Council and spent many a happy hour attending meetings in the Guildhall. He has been a Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guide since 2004 and has volunteered in the Bath Record Office since 2016. As a volunteer member of the National Trust Bath Archaeology Team, David has written a number of research papers on different aspects of the Trust's historic sites located on the Bath Skyline and at Prior Park Landscape Garden, as well as getting his hands dirty on a number of archaeological digs. He is a regular contributor to 'Guidelines', the Mayor of Bath's Guides' newsletter.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Anne Buchanan in Bath Record Office for her unfailing support and encouragement in support of my research. Thank you also to Drew Westerman for his patient help in reading some challenging 18th century handwriting.

I am grateful to my fellow Mayor's Guides Colin Fisher, Lindsay Flower and Hugh Williamson, for willingly sharing their own concurrent research into the people involved in the building of the Assembly Rooms and Circus, some of whom also worked on the Guildhall.

Thank you to the National Trust for also sharing the results of its research into the people involved in the building and running of the New Assembly Rooms.

I am very grateful for Stephen Bird's honest and insightful peer review of my final draft.

Thank you to Anton Grain for agreeing to create the incredible rendering of the front of the Guildhall and allowing me to use it on the front page.

Finally, thank you to my wife, Hilary, for proofreading 31,000 words!

Chapter 1 - Background

By 1774 the Stuart Guildhall was in a very poor state of repair and a replacement was urgently needed. An abortive start had been made in 1768 and, according to the New Bath Guide published in April 1778, the first stone was laid by the Mayor, William Chapman, attended by the rest of the Corporation. The block was engraved with the following inscription:

'This first stone of the Guildhall, erected at the sole expense of the Chamber of this city, was laid on 11th day of February 1768, and in the eighth year of the reign of King George the Third'.

I have found no evidence of this original foundation stone, which would traditionally be laid in the northeast corner.

Nothing else happened until 3rd October 1774 when the Bath City Corporation (the 'Corporation') resolved to form a committee (the 'Committee') for *'erecting and completing the new intended Hall (the 'New Hall') and addition to the Market'*. There are virtually no references to a new 'Guildhall' in the various source documents, just 'New Hall' and occasionally 'Town Hall'.

From its first meeting in December 1774 until its last meeting on 13th March 1779, the Committee considered detailed arrangements for the building of the New Hall and Markets.

The recorded members of the Committee were:

- Francis Bennett (Mayor in 1774)
- Alderman Henry Wright
- Councillor Leonard Coward
- Councillor Philip Ditcher
- Councillor John Symons
- Councillor Henry Wright
- Councillor William Street
- Mr Warr Atwood (Architect)

The following additional Councillors also appeared in the minutes of the Committee:

- Councillor William Cottell
- Councillor James Terrys
- Councillor William Anderdon

On 3rd July 1775 Thomas Warr Atwood's plans for the Guildhall were approved by the Corporation; 17 voting for, 2 against and 3 abstentions. At the same meeting the Committee was authorised to advertise for, and receive, proposals for the new 'Town Hall'.

On 15th November 1775 Thomas Warr Atwood was killed by a fall on a building site and Thomas Baldwin continued as sole architect. Baldwin had already been supervising the work on the Markets and had probably designed the new Hall before Atwood died¹.

A bill² submitted by Baldwin on 10th November 1778 confirmed that he was paid a salary of £35 a quarter (£140 pa).

On 4th March 1777 the Committee resolved that the 'Old Town Hall' be immediately advertised for '*publick*' sale on Easter Monday (30th March). By then the 'topping out' ceremony had taken place for the New Hall.

It seems most likely that the New Hall was finished by the end of 1778, although the Committee continued to meet until the middle of 1779.

¹ *Bath Guildhall and its Neighbourhood: 800 years of Local Government*

² Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 16

Chapter 2 - Timeline for construction of the New Hall

The procurement of new buildings in the Georgian period was very different to modern practice. Technical details found in modern blueprints were largely absent from Georgian architectural drawings, which were marketing tools aimed at seducing clients and backers rather than references useful for builders. The control over design contained within building leases granted in Bath for new housing rarely extended beyond the façade. Although the architect would sometimes be paid a small extra sum to draw up a room plan or particular ornamental details, the interior and rear elevation were generally the work of the builder, his workmen and whoever purchased the house¹.

The minutes of the Committee make it clear that the process for building the New Hall was little different to that adopted for building domestic houses. Any plans and elevations were supplemented by detailed proposals submitted both by Baldwin himself and by craftsmen as building progressed. The detailed design was clearly developed during the building work.

1775

Following approval of Mr Warr Atwood's plans in July, prices were obtained for work from rough masons, free masons and carpenters, and for the supply of timber and freestone. Having cleared the site of the abandoned building that was started in 1768, laying of the foundations must have got under way because in September James Dogget, rough mason, was paid on account for work completed.

Following Warr Atwood's death in November, Thomas Baldwin's plans for the rear elevation were approved in December.

1776

The focus in 1776 was very much on the construction of the exterior.

In January rent was paid to William Pulteney for a carpenter's yard, thus allowing timber to be unloaded from river barges.

Baldwin's plans for the front elevation were approved in February.

In March Thomas Parsons was appointed to carry out ornamentation on the front and rear elevations and Richard Hughes was appointed to slate the roof.

In June Baldwin was renting an office from William Evill above his shop in the High Street. In all probability this served as his site office.

In July John Cheere was appointed to carve the Statue of Justice.

In October Baldwin's plans for the Vestibule and Grand Staircase and the lobby leading into the Banqueting Room & Council Room were approved and Daniel Fowles was appointed to carry out internal plastering and ornamental work.

In December expenditure was approved for a 'roof rearing' (topping out) dinner for the workmen employed in building the Hall, at a cost not exceeding two shillings and six pence (£35 today) for each workman. Mr Power was paid for glazing. Mr Baldwin's designs for the Frontispiece and iron palisades for the front elevation were approved.

It is reasonable to conclude that by the end of 1776 the exterior construction of the New Hall was substantially complete, the building being pretty well watertight but still awaiting some glazing.

1777

Work on the exterior was completed during 1777.

The building was in all probability fully watertight sometime after February when the Committee agreed that the lower windows of the Banqueting Room be glazed with the best London glass and all the other windows to be glazed with the best Bristol glass.

James Atwood had supplied and fitted the iron railings by September. Thomas Parsons had completed the stone ornamentation by November, and the Statue of Justice was in place by December.

Internally, decorative plastering, carving and carpentry work was underway from January onwards as Brown, Cottle and Wheeler were appointed for carpentry work, King and Lancashire appointed for carving and Daniel Fowles appointed for decorative plastering.

In April the Committee agreed that a temporary stone floor of '*Cross Way Paving*' be laid in the vestibule for present use until '*the Hall be finished*'.

In October the last recorded payment for the yard rented from William Pulteney was made, suggesting that the need for significant supplies of timber had ceased.

'Fitting Out' also got under way. In January the vestibule flooring was approved; in February the back staircase designs were approved; in March orders were placed with John Harris for various fire grates and stoves and plans approved for the Attic storey; in September the Judiciary court plans were approved and Baldwin visited Bristol to procure kitchen equipment.

However, whilst plans for the Banqueting Room had been approved in February, plans for the chimney pieces, music gallery and chandeliers were not approved until November and December. Plans for the ironwork for the Grand Staircase were approved in December and John Latty appointed to provide a bell system.

In 1777 today's 'Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing' stage only consisted of plumbing, with Richard Atwood being paid in August for what limited plumbing there would have been.

Furniture started to be ordered with Rawlings and Cooke being paid for furniture as early as July. Orders continued to be placed with Cooke and Birchall as late as December.

In November, Farndon Groom was paid for coal, suggesting that the building was being heated.

It is reasonable to conclude that by the end of 1777 the external fabric was complete and the building watertight. Internally, floors and stairs were complete, albeit the Vestibule had a temporary covering, and the Grand Staircase was without railings. Decorative plasterwork and carving were substantially complete. The Judiciary Court was in all probability not finished, and the Banqueting Room and Council Chamber were lacking fireplaces and chandeliers. Furniture had started to be delivered, coal was being supplied, plumbing had been installed, and the Council had decided that today's Aix-en-Provence Room should be used as the Council Chamber.

1778

In March James Atwood was appointed to provide the ironwork for the Grand Staircase and an order placed with William Parker for chandeliers. Parker submitted his bill in May but was not paid until November.

Orders continued to be placed for furniture, fenders and tongs as late as September.

It is reasonable to conclude that the building work and fitting out was complete by May, with the remaining furniture and fittings arriving later in the year.

1779

In March 1779, at the last Committee meeting, it was agreed that Daniel Fowles be employed to *'whitlime and colour the said hall, which when done, that Tucker be applied to finish the Painting of it'*. Perhaps these were 'snagging works'.

Whilst this is the last entry in the minute book for the Committee, a tweak to the internal arrangements was made four years later by the Corporation on 21st January 1783 when it agreed to provide drawers, painted and numbered, for preserving the *'writings of the Corporation'*. The preamble to this decision stated, *'it has been found by experience that the mode formed in the archives or repository for the writings of this Corporation does not keep and preserve them clean free from dust and from being soiled'*. This is probably the first reference to the City's 'archive' and our modern day Record Office.

Offsite arrangements

It appears from Baldwin's Account Book that property beyond the site of the New Hall was required to support the construction work.

In January 1776 William 'Poultney' was paid £7 2s 0d for *'Rent due at Michaelmas last 1775 and for an old House Boat'*. In October 1777 William 'Poultney' Esq; was paid £3 15s 0d for *'Rent for Carpenter Yard'*.

This was William Johnstone, who married Frances Pulteney in 1760. When Frances inherited the Pulteney estates in 1767 he took the Pulteney name. Because the estates were entailed to Frances, they did not pass to her husband. His acceptance of rent was therefore perhaps as agent to Frances.

There is no record of where the yard was located but it is reasonable to assume it was part of the Pulteney lands on the east side of the river, perhaps to the north of Pulteney Bridge, which opened in 1773 and would have provided a convenient route into the City.

In June 1776 William Evill was paid £4 15s 0d for '*19 Weeks Rent for an Office at 5s*' (Five shillings a week). Payments continued in October and December 1776, ending in November 1777. Perhaps this was the site office used by Mr Baldwin.

Evill is recorded in the Rate Book for 1775 as living in the High Street, where he ran a very successful retail business. His premises would have been very conveniently located for Mr Baldwin, being on the opposite side of High Street from the New Hall building site.

In August 1777 Baldwin's Account Book records a Thomas Kirkham being paid '*for Assistance for Cleaning the Office*'. Was he perhaps cleaning the office rented by Thomas Baldwin from William Evill? The following November he was also paid for '*Sundrys*'.

Baldwin was also buying other sundry equipment for use on site. For example, his Account Book records a payment for '*5 Baskets for Carrying out Rubbish*' in January 1776 and for '*Brooms*' in June 1776.

Health and Safety

With no Health and Safety legislation in place in the 1770s, it is no surprise that accidents took place on building sites.

In November 1775 Thomas Warr Atwood, City Architect, was accidentally killed when he fell through the floor of an old building in the Market Place.

On 11th July 1777 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette reported that '*Yesterday a labourer fell from the scaffold at the new town-hall erecting in this city; one of his arms was broke, and he was also so terribly bruised, that it is thought he cannot recover*'. The paper does not name the unfortunate man.

¹ *The Building of Bath: a celebration of Bath's Georgian architecture and surroundings*

Chapter 3 - When did the New Hall open for business?

In March 1777 the Committee resolved that the *'Old Town Hall be immediately advertised for "publick" sale on Easter Monday'* [30 March].

On 23rd March the following advertisement was placed in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be SOLD by Auction, on the premises, on Wednesday the 2nd of April, at twelve o'clock- All that Pile of Building, commonly called The OLD TOWN HALL. For further particulars, apply to Mr Baldwin, architect.'

Holland and Chapman suggest that *'the moment the new Guildhall became habitable, and before the workmen were even out, the Council had fled its former home and sold off the materials for £161 on Easter Monday 1777'*¹. The sale of the Old Hall must have been successfully completed by July because on 30th July Baldwin settled the bill for £1 6s 0d submitted by William Cross², auctioneer, for *'selling the Old Hall'*.

Forsyth suggests that the new Hall opened in 1778³.

I could find no record of an official opening of the New Hall in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette. Consideration of the Corporation's minute books sheds no light on where the Corporation was meeting because minutes for all meetings during this period simply record *'in the Council Chamber'*.

On 22nd September 1777 the Corporation was considering how the New Hall should be used and resolved that the *"room opposite the Great Room up one pair of Stairs be for ever hereafter made continued and called the Council Room or Chamber for the use of the Corporation transacting their Council business in, and to be completed and fitted up in such manner as the above named committee or any three of them shall direct"*. On 23rd September the Committee decided to order significant amounts of furniture for various rooms, including the 'committee' room.

Articles and advertisements placed in the Bath Chronicle after the end of June 1777 (by when the sale of the old hall had completed) do suggest that some activity was taking place in the New Hall from October 1777 onwards. For example:

In October 1777 an advertisement was placed for a General meeting of Commissioners for paving, lighting, watching etc; to be held in the Guildhall on Thursday 9th October.

Following the resignation of Mr Wade, a meeting to elect the new Master of Ceremonies was advertised to take place in the 'Town Hall' on 24th October 1777 at 12.00 noon.

An advertisement was placed on 23rd October 1777 inviting citizens of Bath to attend the Guildhall to pay their water rates between 10.00am and 3.00pm on Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October.

On 30th October an advertisement was placed for a General meeting of the Bath Fire Office in the Guildhall.

In April 1778 an advertisement was placed for the New Bath Guide which included an engraving of the front elevation and description of the interior (see Chapter 4 below). The 1778 edition would have reflected the completion of the Hall in 1777. There is no reference to the New Hall in the 1777 edition.

Whilst there is evidence pointing to business starting to be conducted in the New Hall from October 1777 onwards, it was still a building site with no chandeliers, no ironwork for the Grand Staircase and furniture still on order.

With the last recorded meeting of the Committee being in March 1779, we can reasonably conclude that the building was completed and fully occupied by the end of 1778.

¹ *Bath Guildhall and Its Neighbourhood: 800 Years of Local Government*

² Baldwin's Account Book

³ *Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath*

Chapter 4 - A description of the New Hall

External – west (front) elevation

The front elevation was deliberately bold and imposing, reflecting the importance of the building, perhaps in reaction to the grand set pieces being built by John Wood the Elder and John Wood the Younger, including Queen Square, the Circus and the Royal Crescent.

The following description is taken from Michael Forsyth's *Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath*.

'The ground floor is rusticated with vermiculation where it projects in the centre. Above is a three-bay giant portico of attached three-quarter ionic columns on pedestals. The entablature has a fluted frieze with paterae in the centre part and is carried across the wings. The pediment has the city arms flanked by festoons in the tympanum. Each of the broad wings has a single pedimented window set within an arched recess at first floor. Above the window, rectangular panels interrupt the architrave and frieze of the entablature. The parapet has pedestal balustrading with stone vases and the pediment, a lead statue of Justice, not blindfolded. Around the front areas are good original wrought-iron railings with fleur-de-lys heads with vases on the main stanchions, and four fine lanterns.'



2 West (front) elevation

Additionally, the New Bath Guide published in April 1778 described ‘two wings 52 feet long each, forming a screen to the corn, poultry, fish, and green markets; at the end of the north wing is a watch-house, and at the end of the south wing is a lock-up house, over each is a large reservoir of water, for the use of the markets, as well as a ready supply of water in case of fire’. These wings were demolished when John Brydon’s extensions were built in the 1890s. Today’s dome was also added by Brydon.

The New Bath Guide included the following ‘*Fine Engraving (by Collyer) of the elevation of the new Guildhall in Bath*’.



2 Collyer’s engraving of the front elevation

Baldwin’s proposals for the ‘*Elevation for the west front of the Hall*’ were approved by the Committee on 20th February 1776. How detailed they were we do not know, because they have not survived. That said, it is highly likely that the detailed design of the various decorative elements would have been left to the master masons.

Previously, Charles Hales and Richard Singer, freemasons, had agreed to do all ‘*Rustic work, both frosted and common that shall be required in the several fronts...at 4/- foot...*’. They would almost certainly have been responsible for the vermiculation and plain rustication at ground floor level.

Rustic work, or Rustication, is a range of masonry techniques used in classical architecture giving visible surfaces a finish texture that contrasts with smooth, rectangular-block masonry, usually referred to as ‘ashlar’. The ‘common’ rustic referred to must refer to the chamfered or v-jointed rustication on the set-back front elevation whereas the ‘frosted’ rustic must refer to the vermiculation where the frontage projects in the centre.

Whilst Charles and Richard will have worked the stone in their yard, it was in all likelihood built up by rough masons such as James Dogget and Elias Sumption, who had their prices for ‘*rough mason’s work*’ accepted by the Committee in July 1775. They were employed continuously throughout the building of the New Hall.

In March 1776 Thomas Parsons, a carver, was appointed to execute all the ornaments on the west front. His itemised bill¹ in November 1777 included the following items, in all probability relating to the west elevation:

4 large pateras
2 vases for the grand Pediment with iron pins
2 vases for Watchhouses
City Arms
10 vases [enough for all four elevations]
2 Pannells [For the drops of husks]
4 Drops of Husks
696 feet of Frostwork

Thomas kept a pocketbook titled '*A Collection of Vases Terms etc. by Thomas Parsons carver Bath*' in which he recorded over 150 drawings of vases and chimney pots.



3 Thomas Parsons's drawing for the grand pediment vase and 4 the vase today

As an aside, a furore erupted in 1888 when the City Surveyor of Works, Major C E Davis, took it upon himself to take down the City Arms and replace it with the 1623 version². He was instructed to replace it with the 'Accepted Arms' which mirror the arms on the rear elevation.

The proposals submitted by John Atwood, blacksmith, for the '*iron rails before the east and west fronts*' were approved by the Committee in January 1777. To the left of the entrance is a gate which leads to a flight of steps down to the basement level and used for all deliveries to the building, there being no rear entrance.

The Statue of Justice was executed by John Cheere, sculptor, to a design submitted in July 1776 by Mr Pine, also a sculptor, Cheere's original design having been rejected. In January 1778 Cheere was paid £56 7s 0d for the statue '*including the cases in which it was packed*'. The figure, unusually not blindfolded, is holding the scales of justice and pointing to a book of law lying open on a pedestal.



5 The Statue of Justice by John Cheere

In January 1778 James Tucker was paid to light five lamps '*before the front of the Guildhall*'⁴³. An engraved drawing by Baldwin shows four lamps in the same position as the four lamps we have today. Evidence of a filled fixing hole in the keystone over the door might suggest the location of a fifth lamp.

External – east (rear) elevation



6 East (rear) elevation

The following description is taken from Michael Forsyth's Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath.

'The centre is slightly recessed with end pavilions, each two windows wide with a pediment. Rusticated ground floor façade: the long first-floor windows sit on blind balustrading. Ciel de bœuf attic windows set within rectangular panels form a clerestory to the Banqueting Hall, and in the centre is a panel with a patera and festoon of husks. The centre first-floor window is blind, to accommodate a fireplace inside, and the chimney is disguised as a classical Roman altar, crowning the balustraded parapet together with four urns.'

Baldwin's proposals for the east (rear) elevation of the New Hall were approved by the Committee on 12th December 1775. As with the front elevation, his proposals have not survived, and the detailed design of the various decorative elements would in all likelihood have been left to the master masons.

In February 1776 Baldwin was ordered by the Committee to treat with Charles Hales and Richard Singer '*relative to prices for the east front*' as well as the west front.

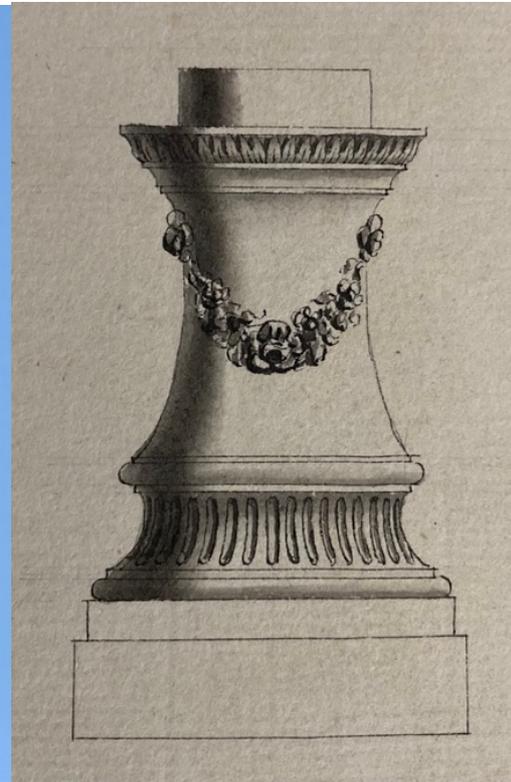
In March 1776 Thomas Parsons was appointed to execute all the ornaments on the east front. In February 1777 the Committee resolved that the '*pedestal presented by Mr Parsons be fixed in the East Front...*'. His itemised bill⁴ in November 1777 included the following items related to the east elevation:

- 5 pilaster capitals, 5 pateras and 25 ½ feet of fluting for the 'back front'
- Pannel in the 'back front' [for the festoon of husks]
- One chimney vase

Below is a photograph of the chimney today and Parsons's drawing prepared for Baldwin's approval.



7 The rebuilt chimney



8 Thomas Parsons's drawing

In 1988 the chimney vase was replaced with a replica carved by local sculptor and stone mason (and at the time of writing Mayor of Bath Honorary Guide), Laurence Tindall.

The proposals submitted by James Atwood, blacksmith, for the '*iron rails before the east and west fronts*' were approved by the Committee in January 1777.

No rear entrance was included in the design.

External – north and south (side) elevations

Drawings from 1794 and 1815 of the Guildhall before the Brydon extensions show the north and south elevations at first and second floor level.

North elevation

The 1828 engraving⁵ of the north elevation published by Meyler & Son shows one window and four blind windows at first floor. The blind windows correspond with the Banqueting Room and today's Aix-en-Provence Room.

Two windows and three blind windows are shown at second floor level, the windows corresponding with the storeroom and corridor shown on the March 1777 floor plan (see below).

The parapet has pedestal balustrading with stone vases by Thomas Parsons.



9 North elevation by Meyler & Son

South elevation

The 1794 drawing of the south elevation ⁶ by William Watts also shows one window and four blind windows at first floor, the blind windows again corresponding with the Banqueting Room and today's Aix-en-Provence Room.

Two windows and three blind windows are shown at second floor, the windows corresponding with the corridor shown on the March 1777 floor plan (see below).

The parapet has pedestal balustrading with stone vases by Thomas Parsons.



10 South elevation by William Watts



One small section of the original south elevation is visible from top floor of the present day Guildhall.

11 Small section of south elevation

External – Roof

On 5th June 1776 the Committee agreed to employ Richard Hughes, slater, to "cover the same with the best Westmoreland Tyles with Copper Nails and sawed laths...".

Westmoreland Green Slate is quarried in Cumbria and has been used to clad many prestigious buildings such as Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Albert Hall, Liverpool Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament.

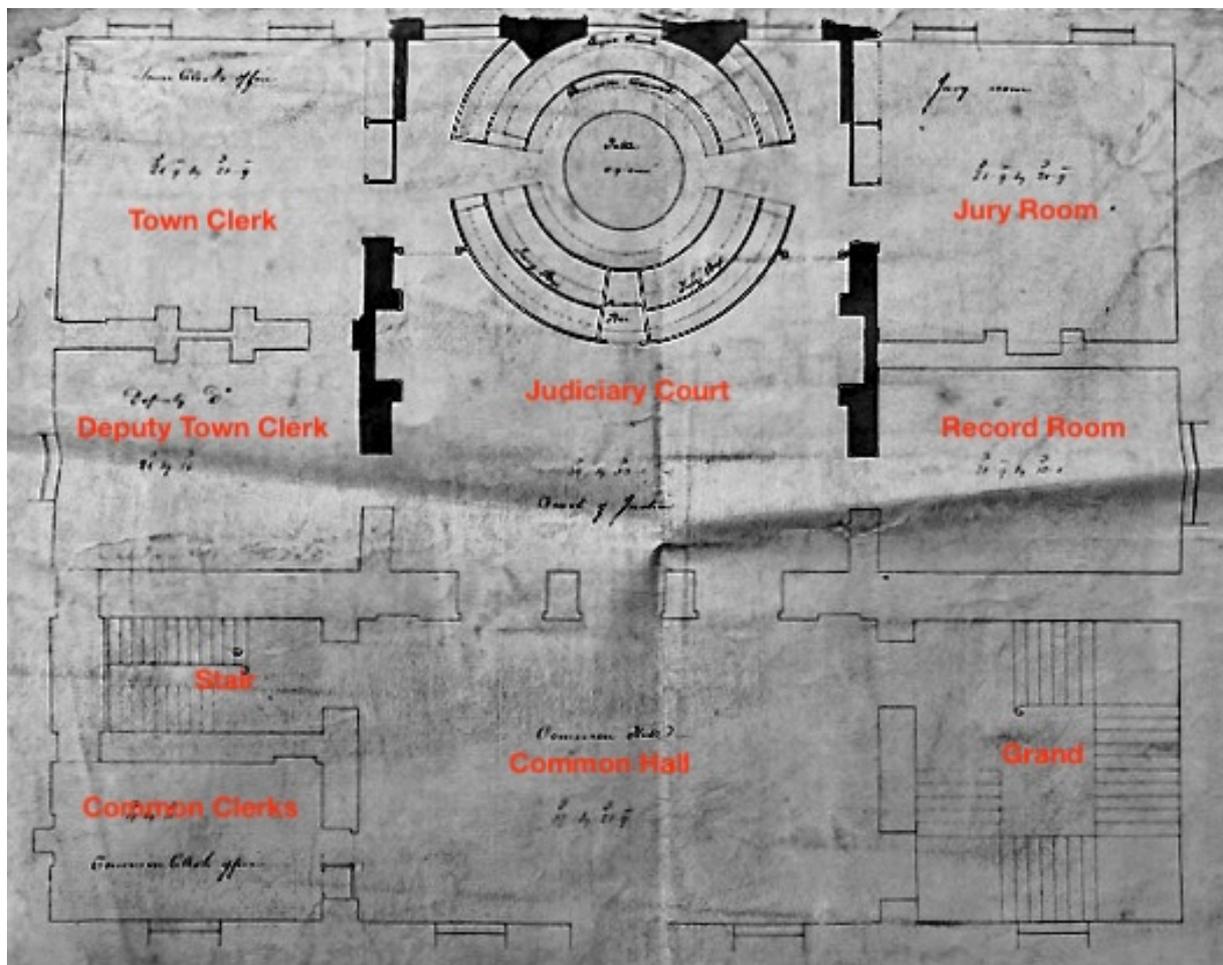
Internal – Ground floor

An undated plan⁷ illustrates a layout of the Ground Floor which probably reflects Atwood's original proposals for both the New Hall and the New Markets. Whist Baldwin initiated detailed changes to the design, he appears to have stayed within the basic block plan, perhaps because these substantial load bearing walls were already under construction at basement level.



12 Thomas Warr Atwood's plan for the New Hall and New Markets

Another undated plan⁸ considered by the Bath Record Office to be from circa 1775 (altered later to illustrate proposals for circular seating in the Court of Justice) more properly reflects Baldwin's layout.



13 Ground floor plan annotated to identify each room

The New Bath Guide published in 1778 describes the ground floor as follows:

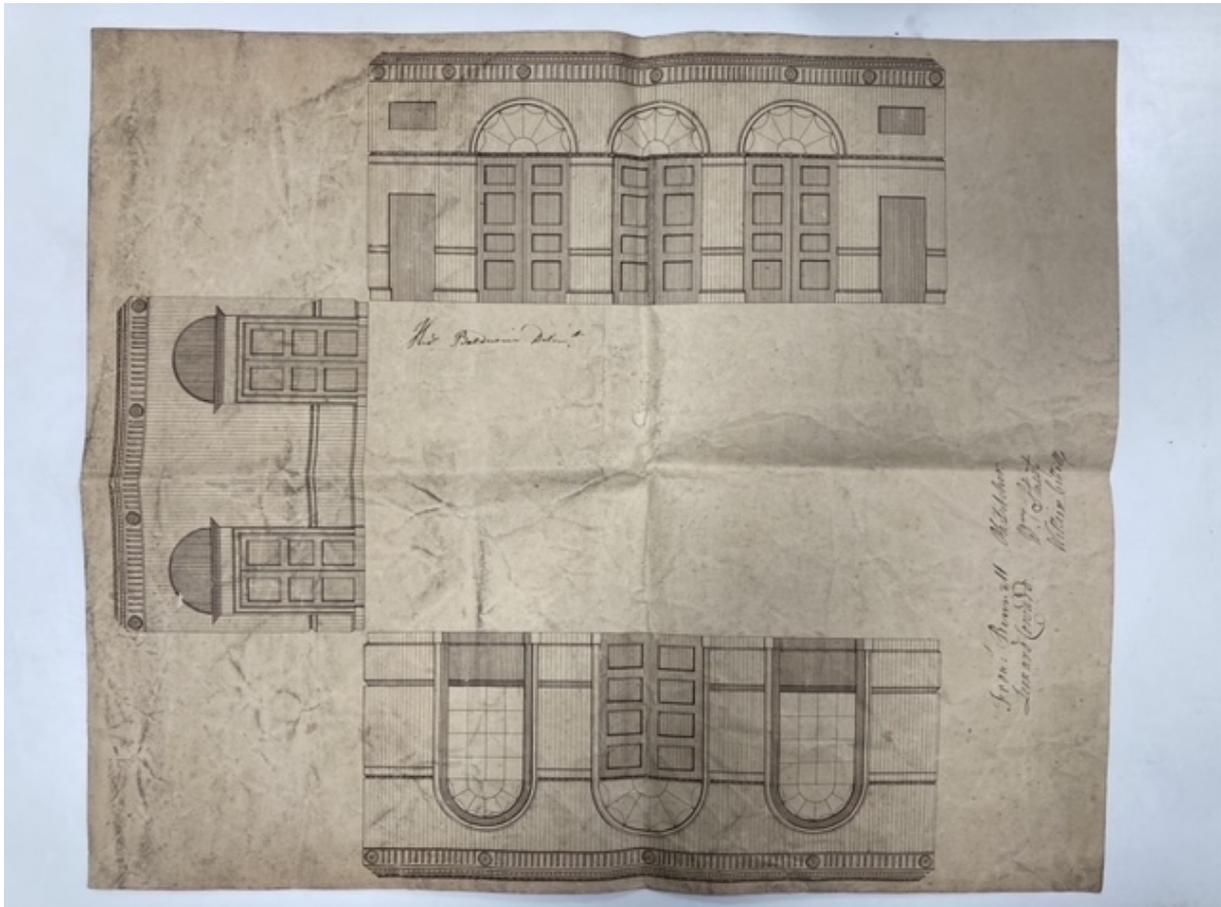
'The ground story consists of a vestibule 37 feet long, 21 feet wide and 16 feet high, a judiciary room, 39 feet long and 32 feet wide, with a drawing room for the mayor, 21 feet by 22; town-clerk's office, with a drawing room for the jury, record room, and a lobby near the grand stair-case, for the mayor's officers to wait in; the whole finished with stucco walls enriched, and plain cornices, etc. suitable to the purpose they are appropriated to.'

The dimensions quoted here do not exactly match those annotated on the 1775 plan. The dimensions from the 1775 plan are given in brackets in the text below.

The Vestibule

The Vestibule (or Common Hall) (37 ft x 21 ft 9 in) was accessed from the High Street up a short flight of steps and through two sets of double doors. A single set of outside doors must have been deemed to be insufficient because in May 1777 the Committee resolved that two folding doors be put up in the inside of the front door.

An internal elevation⁹ of the Vestibule survives from 1777. The drawing has been ‘signed off’ by five Councillors – Francis Bennett, Leonard Coward, William Cottell, Philip Ditcher and William Street.



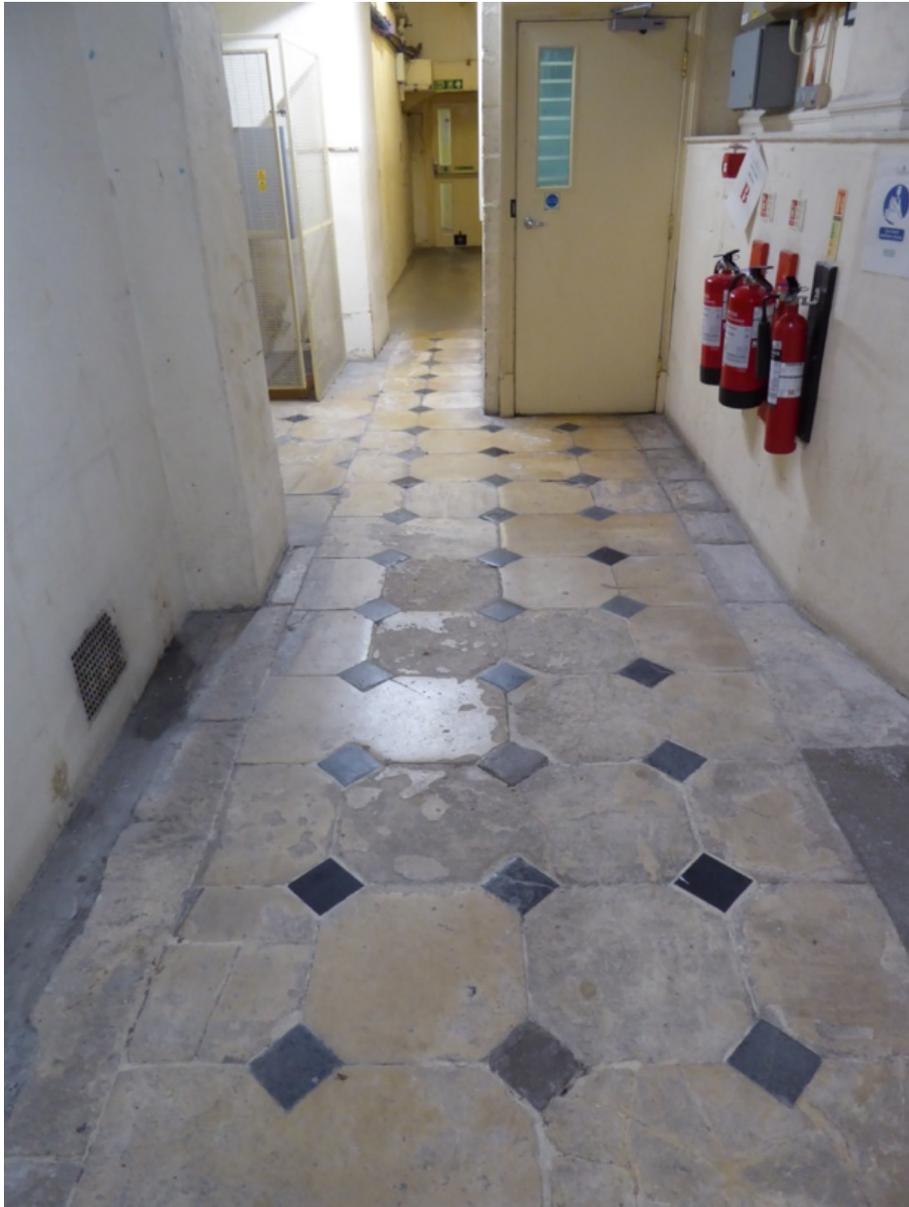
14 Elevation drawing of the vestibule showing at the top the entrance to today's Braunschweig Room



The original central doorway to the Judiciary Room (today's Braunschweig Room) is now blocked up which means that the City Coat of Arms is from a later date.

15 Today's vestibule showing the doors to today's Braunschweig Room

In January 1777 the Committee agreed that the vestibule be paved with '*Pensick and Derbyshire black dots*'. '*Pensick*', or Painswick, is an oolitic limestone which only occurs locally north of Stroud in Gloucestershire. Painswick stone was, and still is, used for flooring. The present day floor is later but reflects the original design. There is a surviving section of floor in the basement adjacent to the great kitchen which is of a similar design.



16 '*Pensick stone with Derbyshire black dots*' in the basement corridor

Perhaps there was a delay in the delivery of materials, because in April 1777 the Committee agreed that a temporary stone floor of "*Cross Way Paving*" be laid in the vestibule for present use until "*the Hall be finished*". Or perhaps the newly laid floor needed protection whilst building work was continuing.

Staircase

To the left of the Vestibule is a modest staircase which leads down to the basement and up to the first floor. In February 1777 the Committee agreed that *'the steps leading from the kitchen to the principal story be "stroked" Pennant and from thence to the "attick" of English oak'*. Today's steps are indeed made of stone but covered with modern non-slip material.



17 'Stroked Pennant' staircase up to the first floor

Common Clerks' office

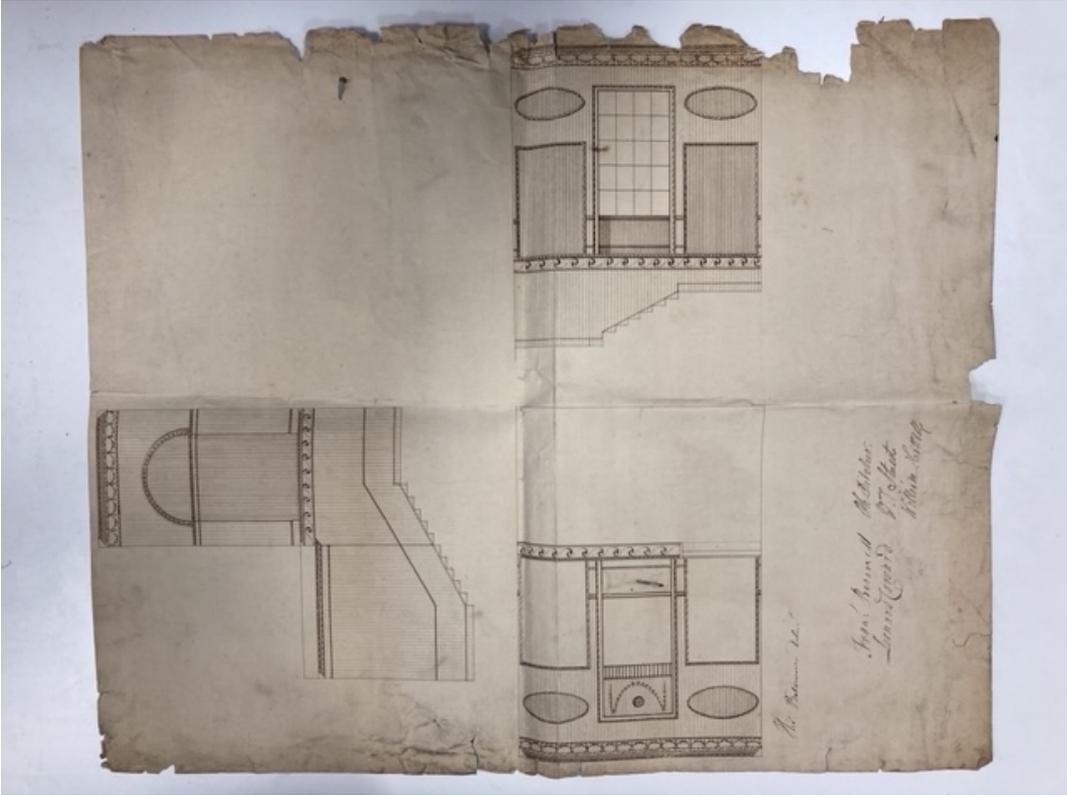
A door on the left of the vestibule led into the Common Clerks' Office (19 ft x 11 ft). On 23rd September 1777 the Committee approved the purchase of an iron fender, poker and tongs with three stools for the use of the clerks.

Grand staircase

To the right of the vestibule (Common Hall) was the Grand Staircase. The following description is taken from Michael Forsyth's Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath.

'Dutch oak, square in plan with fine Neoclassical wrought-iron balustrading and stucco-work with oval parterae and festoons of husks'

Baldwin's plans for the grand staircase were approved by the Committee on 29th October 1776. It was not until the following year that detailed elevations¹⁰ of the grand staircase walls were approved and signed off by five Councillors – Francis Bennett, Leonard Coward, William Cottell, Philip Ditcher and William Street.



18 Elevation drawing of the Grand Staircase

The elevation at the top is the east elevation, also shown in the photograph below.



19 The Grand Staircase

On 10th December 1777 the Committee agreed that the iron work presented by James Atwood, blacksmith, be made *'with some little alterations as Mr Baldwin shall direct'*. The resulting staircase, shown in the photograph below, is light and delicate when compared to the Brydon staircase in the 1897 new south wing.



20 Grand Staircase iron work

On 10th March 1778 Daniel Fowles, plasterer, submitted an itemised bill to the Corporation for providing ornamental plasterwork, including *'Stair case Ceiling'* and *'Ornaments in Staircase'*.



21 Grand Staircase ceiling

Thomas King, statuary, submitted a detailed account¹¹ in 1778 which included ‘*Carving 20 B Bracketts stair case*’. It is not clear to what this relates. It may have related to the construction of this cantilever staircase, except there are more than 20 steps.

The New Bath Guide of 1778 described there being ‘*a lobby near the grand stair-case, for the mayor’s officers to wait in*’. Perhaps this is the space between the staircase and the vestibule?

Judiciary Room

The vestibule leads through three doorways into the Judiciary Room (Court of Justice) (39 ft x 33 ft), today’s Braunschweig Room. The plan from 1775 shows a circular arrangement with the Mayor and Common Council facing the Jury and the Prisoner’s Bar.

However, the circular arrangement appears to be by a different hand and may be from a later period.

The role of the Mayor and Councilmen in the judicial system at this time is described in Chapter 5.

In April 1777 the Committee agreed that the ‘*Kings Arms fixed in the New Hall be “new gilded” as well as the Bath Arms*’. The King’s Arms are on the north wall above the fireplace whilst the Bath Arms are on the south wall above what would have been a fireplace. As the Mayor would have been representing the Crown in any judicial proceedings, it seems likely that he would have sat below the King’s Arms on the north wall. He could have entered the room from the door leading from the Town Clerk’s/Mayor’s office, also in the north wall.



22 Judiciary Court



23 Royal Arms

Thomas King, statuary, submitted a detailed account¹² in 1778 which included ‘*Coat of Arms, modelling, casting and moulding*’ and ‘*Painting and gilding two Coats of Arms*’. These may be the coats of arms in the Judiciary Room. That account also included ‘*Carving in Court of Judicature*’.

On 23rd September 1777 Baldwin's plans for '*fitting up the Judiciary Court*' were approved by the Committee for immediate execution and '*that Three Mahogany Blinds be made for the Windows in the said judiciary Court and also two Brass Fenders six inches deep with strong Iron Plates at the Bottom, with Iron Tongs, Shovels and Pokers for the Fireplaces...*'.

Record Room

In the south (right) wall of the Judiciary Room a doorway led into the Record Room, discussed by the Committee as early as 24th October 1775, when it was determined that the Record Room "*be so constructed as to be proof against fire and lined with Bricks if thought necessary*".

Baldwin's Account Book recorded Mr Cole being paid in September 1777 for 'Bricks'.

In April 1777 Mr Baldwin was instructed to send for proposals for a fire stove to be fixed up in the Record Room.

Within five years the City Corporation had agreed, at its meeting on 21st January 1783, to provide drawers, painted, lettered and numbered for preserving the '*writings of this Corporation*'. The minutes record that '*the mode formed in the archives or Repository for the writings of this Corporation does not keep and preserve them as it ought clean free from Dust and from being Soiled*'.

This room was removed as part of the Brydon extension in 1897 and today is a lobby area at the foot of the Grand Staircase. The original doorway from the Judiciary Room still exists.

Jury Room

Behind the Record Room was the Jury Room, today's Thomas Baldwin Room (21 ft 9 in x 20 ft 9 in), also accessed from the Judiciary Court. This would have been the withdrawing room for the jury. On 23rd September 1777 the Committee approved the purchase of '*Two Dozen and Four Mahogany Chairs with Two armed Ones made in a strong plain Manner with Black Leather Bottoms and Brass Nails*' for the use of the Jury Room, Committee Room and Town Clerk's Office.



This room has one of the Hob Grates most probably supplied by John Harris, brightsmith.

24 Hob Grate in the Jury Room

Deputy Town Clerk's room

In the north (left) wall of the Judiciary Room a doorway led into the Deputy Town Clerk's Room (21 ft x 16 ft), today occupied by the Registrar's Office.

Town Clerk's and/or Mayor's office

Behind the Deputy Town Clerk's room was the Town Clerk's Office, today's Palmer Room occupied by the Registrar's office (21 ft 9 in x 20 ft 9 in). The openings for two doorways into the Judiciary Court still exist.

On 23rd September 1777 the Committee approved the purchase of a '*Deal library table in the Town Clerk's Office covered with leatheras well as a plain Deal Table under the Window with Two Cases of Shelves with blank folding doors if wanted*'.

The New Bath Guide of 1778 refers to a '*drawing room for the mayor, 21 feet by 22*'. The Town Clerk's Office shown on the 1775 plan is of a similar size and may well have actually been the Mayor's Office (the Town Clerk perhaps occupying the Deputy Town Clerk's Office), or it was perhaps shared.

On 3rd September 1777 the Committee agreed that the '*recess in the Mayor's Room be fitted with a book case with mahogany folding doors, the sides to be grooved for sliding shelves*'.



There still exists a cupboard in the recess between the two doors leading to the Judiciary Court with grooves for sliding shelves, but the doors are side hung.

25 Bookcase in today's Palmer Room

On 22nd November 1777, Job Cottle, carpenter, submitted an invoice for in the sum of £1 11s 6d for ‘a Large Pair of Steps with Hand and Back Rail Hinges and Chain compleat for Mr Jefferies’ Office’¹³. As John Jeffrey was Town Clerk, perhaps these steps were provided for use in connection with the bookcase.

On 10th December 1777 the Committee commissioned a Mr Latty, ironmonger, to install ‘Hanging bells with best common Cranks and Brass Wire’. The Committee had previously agreed that ‘Bells to be hung up in different Rooms that shall be necessary and Hat Pins’. A surviving bell crank from that system of bells is located in today’s Palmer Room.



26 Bell crank in today’s Palmer Room

Thomas King, statuary, submitted a detailed account¹⁴ in 1777 which included ‘Carving two cornices for the Chamberlain’s & Town Clerk’s office’.

Internal – First floor

Banqueting Room

The grand staircase leads to the Banqueting Room which occupies the full width of the New Hall building.

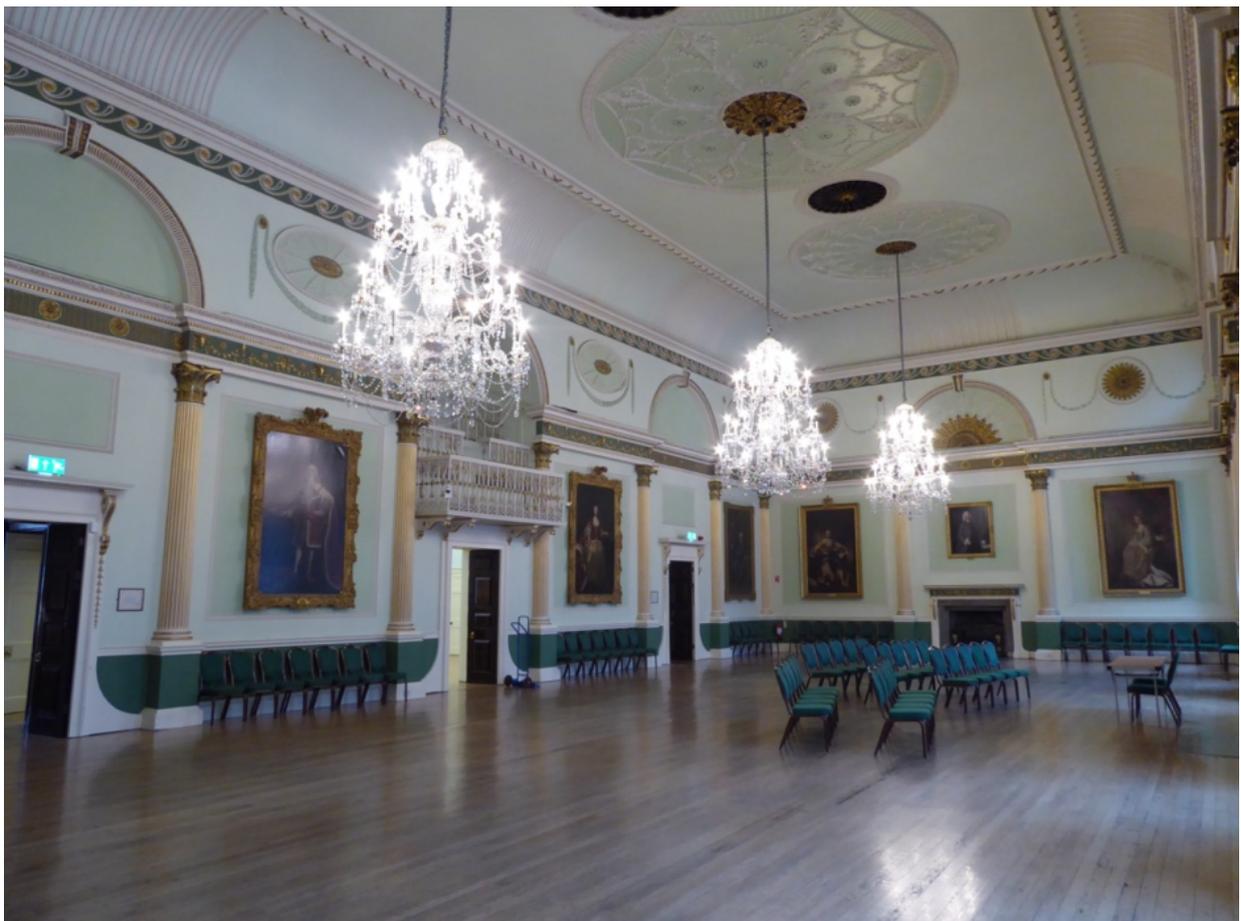
The following description is taken from Michael Forsyth’s Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath.

‘This leads to the sumptuous Banqueting Hall 40 ft by 80 ft, by 30 ft high. Engaged columns, with pedestals, fluted shafts and Corinthian capitals, divide the long E and W walls into seven bays. The second, fourth and sixth bays have arched shallow recesses with mahogany double doors on the W wall. The remaining bays have plain panels with large portraits by William Hoare and others, and, in the attic above, the œil de bœuf windows on the E wall and oval plaster panels opposite on the W wall. The entablature has a frieze enriched with festoons of husks, bucrania, vases and anthemias and, in the recesses, fluting and paterae. In the centre of the W wall is an orchestra gallery and

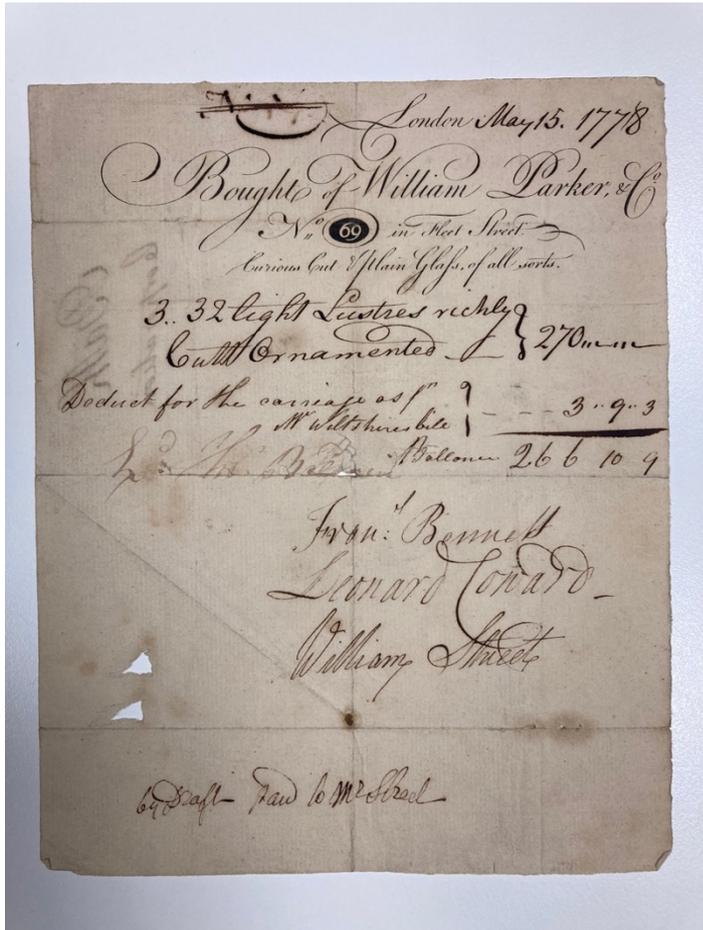
opposite on the E wall a fireplace with a fine composition-moulded chimneypiece with a panel of arabesque moulding surrounding the city arms above and an ornamental lunette. The N and S end walls similarly divide into three bays with an arched recess with a fireplace in the centre and plain panels either side, and paterae instead of ovals. A coved ceiling springs from a second frieze with Vitruvian scrolling. The flat ceiling has three large stucco circular panels with elaborate radiating plaster decoration, each connected by small circular ventilation grilles’.

In February 1777 the Committee resolved that the lower windows of the Banqueting Room be glazed with the best London glass and that all other windows be glazed with the best Bristol glass. At the same meeting it was agreed that the capitals be made of stone to a design agreeable to Mr Baldwin and that an advertisement be placed for proposals to be given for the execution of the *‘Marble and Penswick Chimney Pieces’*.

On 16th December 1777 Mr Baldwin was requested by the Committee to write to London for proposals for making three glass chandeliers *‘in the newest taste’*, the largest to hold three dozen candles, the other two dozen each. On 17th March 1778 the Committee agreed that Mr Baldwin order from Mr William Parker three chandeliers for £270 including chains and fixing.



27 Banqueting Room with Wiliam Parker’s three chandeliers



By the 10th November the chandeliers had been delivered and the Committee agreed to pay Mr Parker £270 less £3 9s 3d due to Mr Walter Wiltshire for the carriage from London to Bath. Parker's bill, dated 15th May 1778, describes the provision of '3...32 light lustres richly cut ornamented', and was signed off by Francis Bennett, Leonard Coward and William Street.¹⁵

28 William Parker's invoice

On 10th December 1777 the Committee agreed that the 'Iron Work for the Front of the Misk [music] Gallery be made agreeable to the plan designed by Mr Baldwin, of equal Lightness with that of the Grand Stair Case at 8/2d'.



On 10th March 1778 Daniel Fowles, plasterer, submitted an itemised bill to the Corporation for providing ornamental plasterwork, including in the Banqueting Room small plain and fluted mouldings, ornaments and drapery in the 'Musick' gallery.

29 The music gallery

On 11th November 1777 the Committee approved a payment of £30 to Thomas Parsons, carver. His itemised bill¹⁶ in November 1777 included the following items relating to Banqueting Room:

*10 'Cor.' Capitals for the Banqueting Room (Corinthian capitals)
20 feet large fluting*



30 Corinthian capitals and fluting by Parsons, and chimney piece by King and Lancashire

On 10th February 1777 the Committee agreed that Thomas King and Mr Lancashire, statuarys, be employed in erecting the '*Marble and Painswick Chimney Pieces and Pennant and other Slabs agreeable to prices given by them*'.

Thomas King submitted a detailed account¹⁷ in 1777 which included the following items for the Banqueting Room:

Plinthes under the grates

Carving three chimneys complete

Carving Golash [An 18th century word for Guilloche which is a platband comprising a series of circular elements]

He also included '*Working the mouldings round five chimney pieces instead of wood moulding*'. These may well be the three in the Banqueting and two in the Drawing Room.

Drawing Room and Council Chamber

Double doors connect to today's Aix-en-Provence Room (37 ft X 21 ft), described in the New Bath Guide of 1778 as a 'drawing room' with '*a private with-drawing room for the ladies, and at the other end of the building on the same floor is a water-closet for the gentlemen*'. The private with-drawing room is now a kitchen and passageway.



31 The Drawing Room and Council Chamber, today's Aix-en-Provence Room

On 22nd September 1777 the City Corporation resolved that the '*Room opposite the Great Room up one pair of Stairs be for ever hereafter made continued and called the Council Room or Chamber for the use of the Corporation transacting their Council business in, and to be completed and fitted up in such manner as the above named committee or any three of them shall direct*'.

Thomas King, statuary, submitted a detailed account¹⁸ in 1778 which included '*Ornaments for the chimney pieces*' for the '*room adjoining the Banqueting Room*' and '*Carving the mouldings, cornice and frieze in the room adjoining the Lady's water closet*'.

Staircase



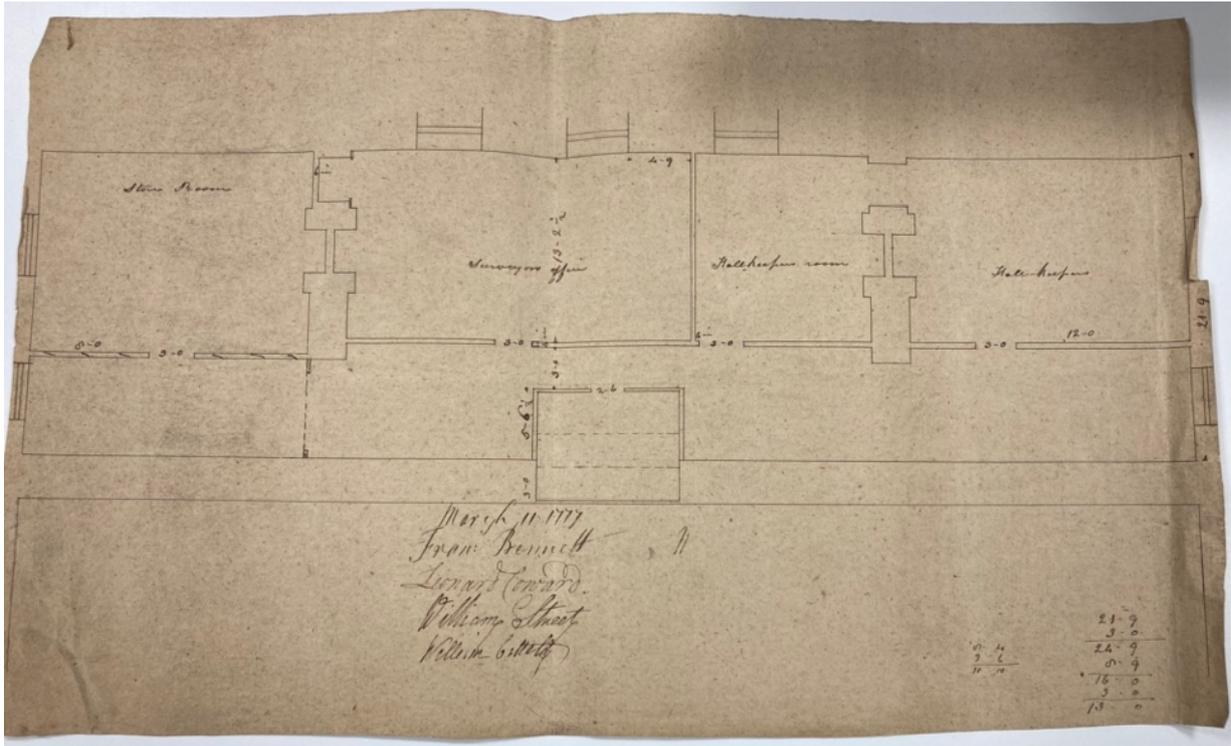
Leading off the north end of the Drawing Room is a modest staircase which leads down to the ground floor and up to the second floor. In February 1777 the Committee agreed that *'the steps leading from the kitchen to the principal story be "stroked" Pennant and from thence to the "attick" of English oak'*. Today's stairs to the second floor are indeed made of wood.

32 English oak staircase to 'attick'

Internal – Second floor

The New Bath Guide of 1778 says that the *'attic story consists of bed rooms for the hall-keeper, surveyor's office, store rooms etc;'*.

On 11th March 1777 the Committee resolved that the *'Attick storey be divided and appropriated agreeable to the Plan signed by the committee'*. A dimensioned plan¹⁹ of the second floor dated 11 March 1777 was 'signed off' by Councillors Francis Bennett, Leonard Coward, William Street and William Cottell. The plan shows four rooms with windows facing the High Street and annotated as *'Store Room, Surveyor's office, Housekeeper's room and Hallkeeper'*. A wide passage is shown connecting the four rooms with a window at each (north and south) end. The staircase from the first floor is not shown.



33 Attic plan 1777

Each room had a fireplace; all still existing today. In the middle of the passage is a rectangular structure which today houses a staircase leading to the roof.



34 Attic fireplace

Internal – Basement

The New Bath Guide of 1778 describes the basement as consisting of ‘a noble kitchen, 39 feet long, 31 feet wide and 12 feet high, furnished with every necessary for cookery; a bakehouse 20 feet square, with two ovens, a tin plate warming cupboard, boilers, etc; a large scullery, hall, house-keeper’s room, a cold larder, pastry-room, wine cellar, beer cellar, and coal cellar’.



Internal access to the basement was via the narrow ‘stroked pennant’ stone staircase leading down from the ground floor. External access was from a stone staircase leading down from the High Street to a wide door in the front (west) elevation. There was no rear access.

35 Staircase from High Street

On 22nd May the Committee asked Mr Baldwin to go to Bristol to establish the expense of fitting out the kitchen, scullery and bakehouse with the required stoves and boilers. The kitchen, today used by the Record Office, still has a bread oven, two fireplaces and a later stone warming platform.



36 The ‘noble kitchen’ today

37 Bread oven

On 31st May 1777 the Committee resolved that *'new grates be fixed up in the kitchen with proper racks and pinions'*.

John Harris, brightsmith, submitted an account²⁰ in 1777 which included kitchen grates and Trippell Grates (Perhaps 'triple', with three iron bars).

In the passageway the floor appears to be original and similar to the ground floor Vestibule *'Pensick and Derbyshire black dots'* flooring.

Internal furniture and fittings

Whilst bespoke fixtures, fittings and furniture were commissioned for specific rooms as described above, many items were commissioned for use throughout the New Hall. A list of all furniture and fittings is at Appendix 2.

Furniture

On 14th October 1777 the Committee agreed that Mr Cook, upholster (upholsterer), should procure *'three dozen chairs at 18 shillings each agreeable to the pattern produced as well as two armed chairs in the same taste: the said chairs to be stuffed with horsehair and covered with the best black calf skin.'* It is not stated for where these chairs were destined. Perhaps they were for use in the first floor Council Chamber to provide seating for the 25 or so Aldermen, Councilmen and other Corporation officials.

On 16th December the Committee agreed that Mr Cook make *'two dozen and a half chairs upon the same model as those already purchased of him and one elbow chair of superior taste, not to exceed the price of two guineas'*. At the same meeting Mr Baldwin was asked to apply for proposals to be given for making *'two rows of Dutch oak tables' upon the same construction as those at 'Gyde's or at the new Assembly Rooms, as well as for sofas'*. Perhaps these were for use in the Drawing Room when not in use as the Council Chamber.

Mr Cook's bill²¹ for £39 15s 0d submitted at the end of 1777 itemised 7 mahogany chairs, 2 mahogany stools, 23 chairs, 8 elbow chairs and 4 deal stools.

A John Rawlins, probably an upholsterer, is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book on 17th June 1777 as being paid for '12 Chairs'.

On 30th December Mr Birchall, 'upholder', was employed for making one settee *'as a modell'*, and that Mr Cook be employed to make one table *'as a Pattern for Inspection'*.

On 20th January 1778 the Committee agreed to pay William Cross, auctioneer, 12 guineas for a *'Mahogany Library Table'*.

On 1st September 1778 the Committee agreed that the settees be covered with *'half inch crimson check'* and that Mr Burchall be *'applied to for to complete them at all speed'*. His subsequent account²² included *'2 pairs of mahogany elbows stuf and covered with black Spanish Leather brass naid, 14 mahogany settees, with the City Arms inlaid in the backs of the seats stuf in fine canvas, Extra work to 2 made larger than proposed, 1 Settee made to first order, 29 1\2 yds of crimson Marine, Covering the seats of the 15 Settees with the*

Marine, tacks, silk etc; 34 yds of Crimson Check, 52 yds of tape, thread and making check covers to the 15 settees’.

Bells and hat pins

On 14th October 1777 the Committee resolved that *‘Bells to be hung up in different Rooms that shall be necessary and Hat Pins’*. On 10th December the Committee agreed that *‘Mr Latty, ironmonger, be employed in hanging the Bells with the best common Cranks and Brass Wire agreeable to the Price delivered in which are the Bells with either sort of Carriages compleat at Three Shillings each plain stop crank at 4d each....’*

A bell crank could have been part of a bell communication system installed to aid communication between different floors of the New Hall. The only evidence I have found for this system is the bell crank in today’s Palmer Room.

Fireplaces and tools

On 10th February 1777 the Committee resolved that Mr Baldwin advertise for grates and stoves for the New Hall. On 11th March John Harris, brightsmith, was appointed to make all the *‘Grates that shall be wanting in the Town Hall agreeable to his Proposals’*.

At its meeting on 3rd December 1777 the Committee agreed that four sets of *‘Shovel, Poker and Tongs’* of 2ft 7 inches and two sets 2ft high be procured by Harris the Ironmonger.

On 1st September 1778 the Committee agreed that fenders *‘be made strong and of the same pattern as the frets at the bottom of the grates, also three sets of shovels, tongs and pokers’*.

¹ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 75

² *Arms of the City of Bath* (Wardle) and *The Three Cs* (Bath Chronicle)

³ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 121

⁴ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 75

⁵ Bath in Time Ref 11481

⁶ Bath in Time Ref 11478

⁷ Undated plan of the ground floor (BC/6/4/1/2/1)

⁸ Undated plan of the ground floor (BC/6/9/1/1/5)

⁹ Vestibule elevations dated 1777 (BC/6/9/1/1/2)

¹⁰ Grand staircase elevations (BC/6/9/1/1/2/2)

¹¹ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 191

¹² Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 191

¹³ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 15

¹⁴ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 191

¹⁵ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778

¹⁶ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 75

¹⁷ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 191

¹⁸ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 191

¹⁹ Plan of the Attic storey dated 1777 (BC/6/9/1/1/3)

²⁰ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 90

²¹ Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1777 No 118

²² Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1778 No 49

Chapter 5 - What was happening in the New Hall?

If we had entered the Guildhall when it first opened for business, what would have been going on in the building?

I have chosen to research the year 1780, as we know for certain that the New Hall was by then fully functioning as the seat of government for the City.

The New Hall would have been a busy place with Corporation staff, members of the Corporation and the general public all coming and going on business.

Every Monday at 10.00am the Mayor and two Justices would convene the Court of Quarter Sessions. In May and October, Water Rents were also being collected from 10.00am on a Monday and through to Wednesday. The Corporation met seven times. The Old Bath Fire Office met three times, and the Cleansing, Paving and Lighting Commissioners met twice a year. In November a Public Assembly was held in the Guildhall.

The busiest day of the year was probably when the Western Circuit Assizes were held in Bath to try those involved in the June anti-Catholic riot.

The Corporation

The 22nd Charter granted by Elizabeth I created a 'body corporate' consisting of a mayor, between 4 and 10 aldermen and up to twenty common councillors. The Corporation could elect its own new members for life from among the ranks of the Freemen of the City. As the Corporation was elected each September and other officers appointed shortly thereafter, the people mentioned below all served between 27th September 1779 and 25th October 1780. A complete list of Aldermen and Councillors for that municipal year is included at Appendix 3.

Key appointments made from within the body of the Corporation included:

Mayor	John Chapman
Justices	Simon Crook and John Horton

The Corporation was assisted by various officials. The officials on the ground floor included the Town Clerk (John Jeffereys), Deputy Town Clerk (Philip George), the Chamberlain (James Ferry), the Deputy Chamberlain (Thomas Baldwin) and various clerks. In the attic were the Surveyor, the Housekeeper and the Hallkeeper. In the basement were the kitchen and other staff.

Other Corporation office holders included:

Recorder	Lord Camden
Bailiffs	Harry Atwood and William Watson
Constables	Jacob Smith and John Horton Jnr.
Supervisor of Leather	John Chilcott and John Cottell
Supervisor of Fish and Flesh	Joseph Cooper and John Rogers

Ale Tasters
Sergeant at Mace
Common Cryer
Surveyors

William Bower and Thomas Rogers
Samuel Jones and John Mackenzie
Thomas Kirkham
Councillors James Ferry, John Horton Jnr, Charles Phillott and
Harry Atwood

Corporation Business

In 1780 the Corporation was called to meet on seven occasions. However, if you had turned up to attend a meeting on 3rd January or 12th August, you would have been disappointed, because the minutes record that *'Insufficient members attended the Guildhall so no business was done and meeting postponed'*.

Meetings were held in today's Aix-en-Provence Room, adjoining the Banqueting Room, where members of the Corporation in all probability sat on the mahogany chairs supplied in 1777 by Mr Cook.

The majority of the business was described in the minutes as *'usual quarter day business'* and consisted of the granting of leases in respect of the Corporation's large property estate. The minutes offer a unique insight into the wide range of people occupying property in the City, including millers, builders, brewers, victuallers, bankers, shoemakers, butchers, perue makers and apothecaries, as well as widows, spinsters and gentlemen.

During 1780 the Corporation agreed to appoint a number of Freemen, on taking the oath and paying a fee of £21. New Freemen appointed included Hanbury Pentingal (silk merchant), John Blake (apothecary), William Edwards (Gentleman), the Honourable John Jeffrey Pratt and George Onesiphorus Paul (Baronet). It seems that all had applied to be Freemen, rather than being chosen.

On 27th June 1780 Peter Ferry was appointed Pumper for one year in respect of the King's, Queen's, Hot and Cross Baths for a rent of £630 pa. He was not allowed to sell the water for more than 6s for 12 bottles.

On 8th September 1780 the Corporation elected Abel Moysey and John Jeffreys Pratt to be Members of Parliament for Bath.

From time to time the Corporation would authorise the issuing of 4% bonds as a way of raising money to pay for the many capital projects then being undertaken, including the building of the New Hall, the New Markets and the New Hot Bath. During 1780, no new money was raised but citizens who had inherited bonds were able to exchange them for bonds *'in the form and nature of East India Bonds'*. For example, at its meeting on 6th March 1780, the Corporation agreed to exchange two £500 bonds inherited by a Miss Henshaw from her mother, for ten £100 East India style bonds.

More mundane business included granting rights to Mrs Whitsheds (80 cart loads), Sir John Miller, Baronet (25 cart loads), and the Hon. Charles Hamilton Esq; (150 cart loads) to

remove gravel from 'the farm and land called the commons'. Hamilton was creating a pleasure garden behind his house in the Crescent.

The Corporation staff were clearly consuming significant amounts of stationery! William Taylor submitted a detailed invoice for the eleven months from October 1777 to August 1778¹ which included the following:

3825 office pens
7 pencils
48 sticks of Dutch wax
5 bottles of ink
5 bottles of red ink
10 pewter ink stands
1 large counting house ink stand
6 quire of blotting paper
4 wooden sand boxes and sand
9 pieces of red tape
2 pieces of green silk ferret [narrow tape]
7 letter files
4.5 quire cartridge paper
6 reams of best London foolscap paper
48 quire best copy paper
7 sheets Imperial paper
6.5 quire best foolscap
18 skins of fine large parchment
1 slate and 1 large piece of chalk
2 London made penknives and twine
2 memorandum books
5 two quire account books ruled

Also ordered from Mr Taylor were Acts of Parliament, including the 'Catholick' Act (Catholic Relief Act 1778), the Insolvent Act and the 'Bath Act for Paving', usually bound in calf and lettered.

Judicial business

The Mayor, the Recorder and the two Justices (who were elected annually from within the membership of the Corporation) had the power not only to apprehend felons, thieves and malefactors, but also to enforce local laws by the imposition of fines and other punishments.

The Court of Quarter Sessions - Judicial

The Court of Quarter Sessions usually presided over by the Recorder and aided on the bench by the Mayor, the two Justices and the Town Clerk, would meet four times a year. The Court would be assisted by a Grand Jury (which determined whether the accused had a case to answer) and a Petty Jury of respectable citizens who heard the trial.

The Grand Jury consisted of 23 local people, including one representative from the eight areas of the City.

During 1780 the Court met in January, April, August and October. The minutes of the Court² record the names of the Grand Jury. On each occasion Daniel Brown, carpenter, was elected foreman. On other occasions in 1780 John Atwood (blacksmith), Richard Atwood (plumber and glazier) and William Evill (shop keeper) were elected as jury members. All four men had been directly or indirectly involved in the building of the New Hall. In fact, Daniel Brown had been serving as a Grand Jury member in 1777, so would have had to 'down tools' and attend the Court, wherever it was being held before the New Hall was completed.

The Court would have sat in the Judiciary Court on the ground floor. Perhaps the Recorder would have sat under the Royal Coat of Arms carved by Thomas King, whilst the jury and other attendees sat on the mahogany chairs supplied by Mr Cook in 1777. The Jury presumably used the Jury Room for any deliberations, perhaps warmed by a fire in the hob grate supplied by John Harris, brightsmith.

Typical cases considered by the Court included nuisance, assault, breaches of the peace and bastardy. On 7th August 1780, 24 cases did not proceed '*for want of prosecution*'. Defendants would appear '*to their recognisances*', or bond by which they undertook to appear when summoned. Many did not appear '*to their recognisances*'.

The Court of Quarter Sessions - Administrative

The Court was also responsible for administrative functions and met every Monday at 10.00am throughout the year before the Mayor and one or two Justices. However, on 38 occasions in 1780 the Court was adjourned to the following Monday with no business having been conducted.

Apprenticeships

During 1780 the Court twice investigated problems over apprenticeships.

On 26th June 1780 the Court released George Coles, son of William Coles, Gentleman from Maiden Bradley, from his apprenticeship to William Fairbank, cabinet maker. It seems that Fairbank had absconded from the City without finding a replacement master for Coles. The Court was presided over by John Chapman (Mayor), Francis Bennett and Simon Ferry (Justices). They were assisted by James Ferry Esquire, Alderman and '*man of good reputation*'. It seems it needed four justices to discharge an indenture, but Bath only had three so a 'person of good reputation' would join the bench. All four would sign and seal the minutes.

Oath taking

The Court was also busy witnessing the taking of various oaths, usually before the Mayor and one of the two justices.

Oath of Allegiance, Supremacy and Abjuration – Philip Dart, Rector of Stratton upon the Fosse (27th March), John Lever, Excise Officer of the Corsham Division in Wilts (8th May),

Alleyne Walter LLD of Catherine Place (10th July) and the Rev Aaron Abraham Baker, Rector of Burnett, Somerset (24th July).

Oath of an Exciseman – John Lever of the Corsham Division in Wilts (8th May).

The Oath to be taken by Baptists – The Right Honourable Lord Teynham and Lady Elizabeth Teynham (6th November).

On one occasion, on 23rd October, the Mayor was joined by The Right Honourable Charles Lord Camden, Recorder of the City, to take the Oath of Allegiance from Walter Wiltshire (Mayor), John Chapman (Justice), William Anderdon and Thomas Ettricke Cary (bailiffs) and Robert Forman and Henry Parry (Constables). They also made and subscribed the Declaration of Transubstantiation.

Debtors

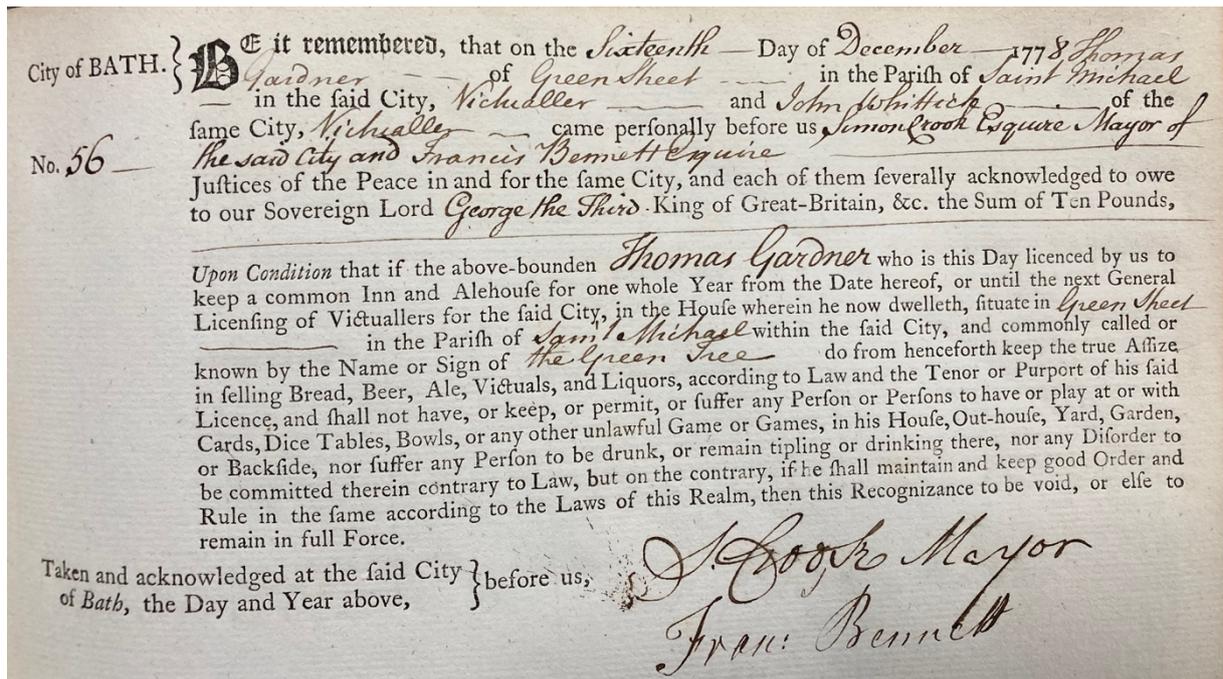
On 10th July John Chapman (Mayor) and Francis Bennett (Justice) heard the case of Thomas Earsley, haymaker and a fugitive from County Tipperary in the Kingdom of Ireland, but formerly of the Parish of Walcot, who had surrendered himself to the custody of the keeper of the Gaol. Advertisements having been placed in various newspapers and Earsley having given an account of his personal and real estate, was '*set at liberty*' under the provisions of the 'Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors and for the Relief of Bankrupts in Certain cases'.

Alehouse recognisances

Another duty of the Court was to take recognisances from owners of inns and alehouses who were required to put forward a bond of £10 as surety on the sale of ale on the conditions stipulated. The recognisances were preprinted with the individual details filled in by hand. The landlord would be named, as would another bondholder, usually another victualler or tradesman.

The Mayor and one of the justices met on 13 occasions in 1780 to take such recognisances³. The busiest meetings were on and 6th January and 22nd December when over 160 recognisances were granted, including a number of premises which are still trading today:

The Green Tree, Green Street
The Saracens Head, Broad Street
The Bunch of Grapes, Westgate Street
The Bell, Walcot Street
The Star, Paragon



38 Alehouse Recognisance for the Green Tree, 16th December 1778

Recognisances were also taken for the Upper New Assembly Rooms and the Lower Gydes Rooms.

Other activities

The Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette was used to advertise a number of activities taking place in the Guildhall throughout the year.

Old Bath Fire Office

General meetings of the 'Copartners' of the Bath Fire Office were held on 11th April, 9th May and 14th November. Advertisements were placed by Ann Kingston, Clerk to the Bath Fire Office.

The offices of the Old Bath Fire Office were kept 'at the house of Ann Kingston, Stationer, in Trim-Street, Bath; where daily attendance is given for insuring houses, goods and furniture.'

Water Rent

Twice a year, advertisements were placed by James Ferry, Chamberlain, for attendance at the Guildhall in May and October for the payment of Water Rent. In May, payments could be made on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

On failure to pay, 'water-pipes will be cut off'.

Cleansing, paving and lighting commissioners

Once a year the Commissioners for 'paving, cleansing, enlighting, watching and regulating, of the Streets, Lanes etc; within the City of Bath and the liberties thereof' would hold a public

meeting in the Guildhall pursuant to *'an Act of Parliament made and passed in the sixth year of his present Majesty's Reign'*.

It was reported in the Bath Journal on 17th July that at the meeting in 1780 held on Thursday 13th July it was resolved that *'all public lamps now erected or set up, or may be erected by 29th September next, be lighted until the 25th March next'*. During the summer half-year, only half the public lamps would be lit. The glasses, heads, fountains and wires of the other half would then be taken down on 25th March 1781 and replaced in *'good and sufficient repair'* by 29th September 1781.

In the same edition of the Bath Journal, John Bowring, Clerk to the Commissioners, invited contractors to tender for a one year contract to *'undertake the sweeping, cleansing, raking, and carrying away daily, and every day, the dirt, filth and soil, as sweepers and scavengers, within either, all, or any of the several parishes of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. James, and St. Michael, in the said City, and part of the parish of Walcot, within the said liberties of the said City'*

Tenders were also invited for lighting and maintaining the public lamps, the lamps to be lit between sunset and sunrise.

Public Assembly

On 2nd November 1780, S Moreau, Master of Ceremonies, placed the following advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'Guildhall, Bath, The FIRST ASSEMBLY will be on Monday the 6th November. To begin at Six o Clock'.

The previous year an advertisement had appeared in the 18th November edition:

'The First Subscription Assembly at the Town-Hall will be on Monday the 22nd instant – Those Gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Bath who wish to subscribe are desired to send their names to the Bar of the Parade Coffee-House'.

An 'assembly' was defined in 1751 as *'a stated and general meeting of the polite persons of both sexes, for the sake of conversation, gallantry, news and play'*⁴. Guests amused themselves at cards, drank tea or just walked around talking and flirting.

Anti-Catholic riot

The daily routine of the Guildhall must have been badly disturbed on and after Friday 9th June when an anti-Catholic riot erupted in the City.

Davis and Bonsall describe the events of Friday 9th June⁵: *'Bath saw its share of violence during the nationwide Gordon riots, which demonstrated anti-Catholic feeling in support of "Church and King". A Catholic Priest was attacked, the City's Catholic Chapel [St. James's Parade] was burned to the ground and nearby Catholic-owned property was looted. The Bath Volunteers failed to control events on the Friday and withdrew after one rioter was*

shot. Violence continued overnight, until troops from Wells and Devizes reached the City on Saturday. The leader, a footman named John Butler, was executed for his part in the riot'.

The Mayor and Justices must have been heavily engaged in co-ordinating the Corporation's response to these events.

On 15th June John Chapman (Mayor) and Francis Bennett and Simon Crook (Justices) placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'Whereas a Man about twenty-three years of age, about five feet and ten inches high, stoutly made, and has a patch over one of his eyes, and was employed by one Mr Saunders, who lives in or near Slippery-lane, in this City, in the carrying of milk, was on the 9th instant principally concerned and assisting in the unlawfully and feloniously pulling down and setting fire to the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL in this City, and other houses and buildings, thereto adjoining, and has lately absconded and left this City.' A reward of 20 Guineas was offered for information leading to a conviction. This equates to about £3,150 in July 2024.

The same advertisement appeared on 29th June, 20th July and 27th July, and in the Bath Journal on 10th and 17th July.

When the Corporation met on 27th June, the aftermath of the Riot dominated the business of the day.

The Corporation resolved to *'lobby parliament to include Bath in a proposed bill enabling those who suffered loss as a result of riots in London to allow Bath citizens to be compensated following the 'Melancholy Riot' in Bath.'* It was also resolved that *'£100 be paid to the chairman and others who had been employed in aid of the civil power by watching and patrolling since the late riot.'*

100 guineas were to be given to *'the Soldiery doing duty in the City since the late Riot'*. A Committee was appointed to distribute the money. Thanks were offered to *'the Officers and Gentlemen of the Bath Royal Volunteers for suppressing the riot and patrolling the streets after.'*

The minutes record that some persons of *'fortune and rank'* considered the civil power ineffective in protecting the City and, if the military was withdrawn, they would withdraw. It was resolved that two troops of the Queen's Second Regiment of dragoons and 200 of the Herefordshire Militia were sufficient to protect the citizens and they be continued here *'if Government so please'*.

The person of *'fortune and rank'* probably shared the concern of many Bath citizens who saw the immediate damage to the City's economy and image, with many wealthy visitors hurriedly departing.

On 17th July the Corporation placed an advertisement in the Bath Journal:

'Resolved that the thanks of the Corporation be given to the Officers and Gentlemen of the BATH ROYAL VOLUNTEERS for their vigilance and activity in endeavouring to suppress the late Riot, and for their attendance in Patrolling the Public Streets of this City by Night, to preserve the Peace thereof.'

In the same newspaper the dates of the Western Circuit were advertised, Mr Justice Nares and Mr Justice Heath presiding. Bath was included for the 24th and 29th August. The Gaol Book records the trial as being on 21st August.

In the Bath Chronicle and Gazette on 20th July it was reported that *'It is said, that after the county assizes in Wells, the several persons confined in our [Bath] prison, for being concerned in demolishing and setting fire to the new Roman Catholic chapel and the houses adjoining, will be tried at the Guildhall in this city, before Judges Nares and Heath, by virtue of a special commission for that purpose. The date fixed is said to be the 24th Aug.'*

The County Assizes met twice a year in February/March (Lent) and July/August (Summer). During the late 17th century, Bath had unsuccessfully petitioned Parliament for the summer assizes to be held in Bath. It was, therefore, unusual for the rioters to be tried in the Bath Guildhall.

The National Archives advise that The Western Circuit Assizes minutes for Summer 1780 have not survived. However, the Gaol Book⁶ contains a record of the men and women brought from Wells Gaol to appear before Justices Sir George Nares and John Heath in the Guildhall on Monday 21st August.

John Butler was found guilty on two counts of *'unlawfully riotously and tumultuously assembling with 20 other persons and more to disturb the publick peace and unlawfully and with force feloniously to demolish and pull down the Dwelling House of John Brower against the Statute' and '.....beginning to demolish and pull down the Outhouse of the said John Brower....'*

Butler was sentenced to be hanged and was executed in Bath on Monday 28th August.

Robert Saxty and six others were found not guilty of a similar offence.

¹ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 222

² Sessions Book 1780

³ Alehouse Recog 1780

⁴ Assembly Rooms Guidebook

⁵ *A History of Bath: Image and Reality*

⁶ Western Circuit, Gaol Book

Chapter 6 - Who built the Guildhall?

Thomas Baldwin has been attributed with having designed and overseen the construction of the New Hall. However, there would have been many craftsmen, tradesmen, suppliers and labourers (referred to collectively as Craftsmen) employed in its construction, fitting out and furnishing. Their lives are little known and rarely recorded. What follows in this section is a summary of each Craftsman's involvement in the New Hall and, where possible, a very brief biography.

Key sources

Happily, the minutes of the Committee record the ordering from, and payments to, many Craftsmen involved in its construction. The account book recording '*Money advanced at different times to Mr Baldwin for Building the Town Hall and Markets*'¹ ('Baldwin's Account Book') identifies more people involved in the construction project, including suppliers. The Chamberlain's Account Vouchers also throw further light on the detail of the work being undertaken. A full list of over 70 names recorded in these documents can be found in Appendix 1.

Research in publicly available records such as the British Newspaper Archive and Bath Record Office on-line archives have shed light on the lives of many of these Craftsmen and suppliers. Evidence of the lives of the unskilled labourers and some suppliers has remained elusive.

Many of the Craftsmen were also developers and landlords as evidenced by their renting out of residential properties in the City. Some are also members of dynastic Bath families who were extensively involved in the building of other well-known Georgian buildings. Whilst the majority lived in Bath, three came from London.

As at March 2025, prices quoted for building work in 1775 could be converted to modern day prices by applying a multiplier of 137².

Methods of payment

For day-to-day expenditure, Baldwin appeared to have had the authority to make payments. These payments are recorded in his Account Book, the Corporation then reimbursing him at regular intervals.

Baldwin made many payments 'on account'. The Craftsmen would then submit a detailed invoice, and a balancing payment would be made. Thankfully, some of these invoices form part of the Chamberlain's Account Vouchers and offer us a fascinating insight into the detail of the work being undertaken.

The Committee minutes also record decisions regarding payments to be made.

From December 1775 onwards Baldwin's Account Book records payments being made for unidentified carpenters and labourers as per submitted day books.

Stone and stone masons

Masons, Carvers and Statuaries feature highly in the cast of Craftsmen employed in building the New Hall. They were skilled artisans who had spent seven years as apprentices and were well paid for their work. The trade was divided into three branches³.

- The mason that sets the stone is called a Rough Mason (today a 'fixing mason').
- The mason that works the stone is called a Free Mason (today a 'banker mason').
- The Carver, or Statuary, executed the more ornate internal and external architectural stone and marble work. Some would be sculpted in situ and some in the stone yard.

Labourers would drain, clear and level the ground whilst masons' labourers would bear the brunt of carrying the stone and mortar.

Ralph Allen died in 1764, so by the time the New Hall was under construction the stone quarries at Combe Down were being run by a variety of new quarry masters. Unfortunately, because no records have been found regarding the ownership of the various quarries at the time the New Hall was being built, it has not been possible, with one exception (James Clapp of Entry Hill Quarry), to identify from which quarries came the stone for the New Hall. Anyone, apart from James Clapp, who supplied stone has, therefore, been described as a 'stone supplier'.

The papers of Ralph Allen's estate held in the Bath Record Office include an extract from the estate accounts (1764 to 1768) and a valuation of his land (1787 to 1788) including a list of land, tenants and rents. None of the stone suppliers for the New Hall are mentioned.

However, some of the stone for the New Hall was probably being supplied by the ancestors of some of the local families who dominated the Bath stone industry in the 19th century, such as Isaac and Elias Sumption and John Sumsion.

Six types of stone are described as being procured for the building of the New Hall.

- Ashlar – Blocks of Bath Stone accurately cut (typically 10/12/14 inches high), squared and finished and used for building the external walls viewed from the street.
- Wall stone – This may well be rubble, rough undressed Bath Stone of irregular shapes and sizes and used to form the inside face of the external Ashlar wall as well as basement walls or any walls not open to view.
- Freestone – Stone which can be easily cut and worked in any direction. Bath Stone is a freestone.
- Pennant - A carboniferous sandstone which was largely obtained from the Bristol and Somerset coalfields and used for outdoor paving, kerbstones and steps. Whilst not recorded, it is reasonable to conclude that the stone was either used for the outside areas of the new market or used for the High Street pavement and front steps, or both.

- Pitching - Pitching Stone may have been what today is called Pitched-Stone, a type of rustication.
- Flag stone - Flag or flagstones are large slabs of stone used for paving a footpath etc; This may relate to the High Street pavement or the market area to the rear.

Craftsmen and suppliers

James Atwood

James Atwood was a blacksmith and brazier and a Freeman of the City, having been apprenticed to his father for 7 years from July 1763⁴. A blacksmith made and repaired in iron. The granting of his Freedom is recorded in the Chamberlain's Accounts on 22nd June 1772⁵.

It seems from an advertisement placed in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette on 8th January 1778 that he had premises at the 'Coffee-Pot' in Broad Street and, like other Craftsmen, was successful enough to own property to rent:

'James Atwood, Smith, Brazier and Tin-plate Worker, at the Coffee-Pot in Broad-street, Bath, begs leave to acquaint his friends and the public in general, that he employs the best workmen in the Block-Tin and Kitchen Furniture branches, where he will warrant as good and as neat as any in London, and at the same prices.

Every article in the Brazieri branch executed in the best manner; tea-urns tinned and browned as neat as when new, and old ones repaired in the best manner. Tinning every day. Bell-hanging, lamps, lamp-irons, stove-grates, and every other article in the smith's branch, executed in the best and neatest manner.

Neat Apartment to be let, by the year, on easy terms. A dining-room and two bed-chambers, if required, calculated for a single gentleman.'

In a previous advertisement placed on 18th December 1777 he sought 'a person who understands accounts'.

James also appears to have had premises elsewhere in the City because in April 1776 the Corporation minutes record that he had bid 5s to take a new 99 year lease of a tenement known 'by the name or sign of the Talbotbeing in the parish of St James.....between a tenement workshop of the same James Atwood on the east and south sides thereof a lane leading from the Abbey Green to Stall Street.....'. Perhaps these premises included the 'neat apartment' he was advertising in 1778.

On four occasions in 1778 James was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury appearing in the Court of Quarter Sessions⁶. Where the Court was held in 1778 is unclear, but if in the Guildhall, James would have had to down tools wherever he was working in the Guildhall and make his way to the Judiciary Court.

James died on 16th October 1783 and was buried in St James' cemetery⁷.

According to the Chamberlain's Accounts of January 1779, James was also working on the New Markets, to the rear of the New Hall.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 10th December 1777 the Committee agreed that Iron Work for the grand staircase presented by James Atwood of Broad Street be approved '*with some little alterations as Mr Baldwin shall direct*'. It was also agreed that Iron Work for the Minstrel Gallery (presumably in the Banqueting Room) be made (presumably by James Atwood) to Mr Baldwin's plans '*of equal lightness with that of the grand staircase at 8/2d*'.

On 17th March 1778 the Committee agreed that James Atwood Smith should make iron rails for the Grand Staircase at 9/6d each. As there is no mention anywhere else in the minutes of an 'Atwood Smith', and because James Atwood had already made iron work for the staircase, I have assumed that this is our James Atwood.

Baldwin's Account Book records James being paid between January 1776 and November 1777, but for what is not recorded. On 9th April 1778 the Committee agreed to settle three bills totalling £10 1s 0d with a further £100 being agreed to be paid on 2nd October 1778.

John Atwood

John Atwood was a brightsmith, brazier and blacksmith who lived and worked in Stall Street⁸. A brazier worked in brass or other bright metals.

He was enrolled to his father, John, as apprentice brightsmith and brazier on 3rd July 1753⁹.

At some stage John must have expanded his trade to include that of a blacksmith. This would have enabled him to provide the ironmongery for the New Assembly Rooms in around 1772¹⁰ and the New Hall in 1777.

On 16th November 1769 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette reported that Atwood's sister, Molly, had married John Fisher, gardener, in St James' Church. It was also reported that this was the first wedding to be held there since the church had been rebuilt.

On 22nd November 1770 John married Miss Davidge from St George's in Gloucestershire in St James' Church¹¹.

The family's property holdings extended beyond the City. On 21st November 1776 this advertisement appeared in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

To be LETT at Christmas next, Some fine rich GROUND in small lots for Gardens, in that pleasant meadow known by the name of Bailey's Close, commonly called the First Ground of Twerton – also to be sold, Four Mows of good Hay standing on the premises, about four tons in each. Enquire of John Atwood, brasier, in Stall-street. To be Sold, six Hogsheads of prime Cyder. Enquire as above.'

On 9th January 1777 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette reported that '*Same day died, after a lingering illness, Mr John Atwood, an eminent brazier, in Stall Street*'. This would have been John's father.

On 6th March 1777 William Birchall, auctioneer, advertised John's father's goods and stock for sale by auction. His stock included '*...kitchen and stove grates, stoves.... also a great variety of copper boiling pots, stew pans, sauce-pans.... several dozens of pewter meat and soup plates, dishes, and water plates, drinking pots.... with an assortment of locks, hinges, nails, brass-work....*'.

Involvement in the New Hall

John's only recorded involvement in the construction of the New Hall came on 7th January 1777, when his proposals for making the iron railings before the east and west fronts were approved by the Committee. He was then paid £100 on 31st May.

Richard Atwood

Richard Atwood was a plumber and glazier who enrolled on 11th October 1754 as apprentice to his uncle, James Atwood. By that time his mother, Rachel, was a widow¹². He subsequently traded as a plumber and glazier. At this time a plumber was a someone who specialised in lead work.

On 11th January 1776 Richard placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, describing himself as Plumber and Glazier and *'as successor to the late Thomas Warr Atwood, begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he carries on the said business in every respect as usual....'*

On the 5th December 1776 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette announced that the previous Sunday (1st December) James had married Miss Susannah Moore.

In 1791 James is recorded as living in St James's Street¹³.

He clearly did a wide range of work for the Corporation as evidenced by his itemised bill¹⁴ for work submitted in 1776 and 1777, including laying 2 inch pipes on Lansdown Road and work on the water main in Kingsmead Square and St. James' Parade. On 1st September 1777 the Chamberlain's Accounts¹⁵ also record Richard being paid for work at the New Hot Bath.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Richard being paid between January 1776 and October 1776.

On 1st April 1777 the Committee agreed that he be paid £100 for water works, followed on 29th July with £200 for plumbing work.

Charles Axford

Charles Axford was a brazier, apprenticed to his father, Benjamin, on 16th May 1763¹⁶, and living in the High Street in 1775¹⁷.

Three Charles Axfords were buried in Bath Abbey in 1728, 1779 and 1796. No further information is available to identify when our Charles died.

Involvement in the New Hall

The Chamberlain's Accounts for 9th December 1778¹⁸ record Charles being paid for work done at the Town Hall and other places. I have found no further evidence for the work he undertook.

William Birchall

William Birchall was an upholder, auctioneer and undertaker who lived in, and traded from, Queen Square¹⁹. Fawcett tells us that William was one of many Bath auctioneers and who

occupied an auction room in Queen Square²⁰. The Bath Directory of 1791 gives his address as 25 Queen Square. Upholders (today's upholsterers), already in demand as valuers of goods, had moved into auctioneering as a logical extension of their other activities.

I have concluded that the Committee minutes mis-spelt his name Burchall, because all other records for an upholder are spelt Birchall.

On 20th January 1776 he placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for an auction to be held on Tuesday 23rd January for:

'All the Neat Household Furniture, Books, China, and other Effects of Mr Tho. Atwood deceased, at his late house in St. James's Street, Bath; consisting of neat four-post and garret bedsteads with morine, cotton, and other furnitures; window curtains, fine goose-feather beds, mattresses, blankets, quilts, Wilton, Scotch and Turkey carpets, and also mahogany book-cases, sconce and dressing glasses etc; an eight day clock, good copper and other kitchen furniture, brewing utensils etc; etc.

The whole to be viewed on Monday the 22nd, and each day till the time of sale, which will begin at eleven o'clock. Catalogues to be had at the place of sale, and of W. Birchall, upholder and undertaker, in Queen Square.'

In 1785 William was Master of the Cumberland Lodge of Freemasons²¹.

William was also doing other work for the Corporation as evidenced by another itemised bill⁶ for 1778 in which he is supplying goods for the Hot Bath and blankets and bedding for the Prison, presumably the New Gaol in Grove Street which had opened in 1773.

Involvement in the New Hall

William's first recorded involvement with the New Hall was on 30th December 1777 when the Committee agreed that he should be employed to make one settee *'as a modell'*. On 1st September 1778 the Committee agreed that the settees be covered with *'half inch crimson check'* and that William be *'applied to for to complete them at all speed'*.

William's itemised bill²² dated September 1778 included:

*2 pairs of mahogany elbows 'stuft' and covered with black Spanish Leather brass 'naild'
14 mahogany settees, with the City Arms inlaid in the backs of the seats 'stuft' in fine canvas*

Extra work to 2 made larger than proposed

1 Settee made to first order

29 1\2 yds of crimson Marine

Covering the seats of the 15 Settees with the Marine, tacks, silk etc.

34 yds of Crimson Check

52 yds of tape, thread and making check covers to the 15 settees

John Bolwell

John Bolwell (also spelt Baldwin and Bulwell) was probably a mason. He is recorded as a signature to Bath Loyal Association in 1792/3 when he is described as a mason²³. A Mr Bolwell is recorded in the City Rate Book as living in Gerrard Street in 1775, in the parish of

St James. A William Bolwell, also a mason, died in May 1778²⁴. He may have been John's father.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records John being paid between July 1776 and March 1777 for the supply of paving and crossway (sometimes spelt Xway) paving.

Charles Brett

Charles Brett was a timber (Deal) merchant with a yard in Kingsmead Street²⁵. His wife was a Milliner with premises in Orange Grove²⁶.

The Bretts must have been a successful couple because on 14th March 1771 they placed the following advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be LETT or SOLD Cheap, SEVERAL HOUSES in the New Part of King's mead-street, and in Chatham Row (Pitt Street). Enquire of Mr Brett at his Deal Yard; or to Mrs Brett's Milliner, in the Grove.'

In the same advertisement Charles offers discounts ranging from 1% to 5% for early settlement of accounts with *'No Discount to be allowed after six Months'*. On 13th May 1779 Charles advertised for rent or sale new built stables with 12 stalls, coach house and brewery *'behind the Three Crowns Inn at Walcot, near Bath'*, plus the Three Crowns itself and two houses nearby together with the *'South-End House on St Swithin's Terrace, now inhabited by Mrs Singers. Also the House behind it, occupied by Mr Tanner'*.

Charles died in 1791. On 20th October 1791 an advertisement appeared in the Bath Chronicle and Gazette inviting anyone indebted to his estate to apply to Mrs Brett, now at 38 New King Street. Four tenements on Lansdown Road, three tenements in Milk Street and a house in Chatham Row were offered for sale and a large stable and double coach house near Albion Place was offered to rent.

Involvement in the New Hall

Charles's only recorded involvement in the New Hall is an entry in Baldwin's Account Book for a payment in May 1777 for timber.

Daniel Brown

Daniel Brown was a carpenter and joiner.

On 22nd December 1746 Daniel was apprenticed to his father as a *'Joyner and Carpenter'*²⁷. His father was probably Thomas Brown, carpenter, who was made a Freeman of the City on 13th July 1730 for a fee of £10 10s 0d²⁸.

In 1775 Daniel's yard was in Back Street in the Parish of St. James²⁹. In 1779 he was also renting property from the City Council in Parsonage Lane and Westgate Street³⁰.

In 1776 he registered Thomas Beavan as an apprentice³¹.

On nine occasions between 1778 and 1780 Daniel was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury appearing in the Court of Quarter Sessions. On eight occasions he was Foreman of the Jury³².

He also worked for the City Council on the New Hot Bath³³.

Daniel must have assembled a property portfolio, because on 24th August 1769 he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette *'An exceeding good HOUSE in the Parish of St. Michael in Bath, lately in the Occupation of James Nash Esq.'*

On 9th January 1772 Daniel advertised another house to rent: *'BATH To be LETT, and entered upon immediately. A HOUSE, situated at the Cross-Bath, late in the Possession of Mr Haviland, Apothecary, deceased. For particulars, enquire of Mr Daniel Brown, Carpenter'*. Daniel was clearly well enough known not to have to give his contact address.

In 1785, Daniel must have been involved with Richard Atwood, plumber, in property investment and development because on 28th July they advertised a house for sale:

'To be SOLD by Auction, on Thursday the 28th of July instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Lamb Inn, in Stall Street, in the city of Bath.

A large commodious HOUSE, situate in Chapel-Court near the Cross-Bath; consisting of five large garrets, seven rooms the attick story, six on the dining-room floor, four parlours, two kitchens, three servants halls with pantries, cellars, lately occupied by Mrs Hetling, deceased.

The premises are held under St. John's Hospital for three good lives, subject to a small quit-rent'.

Daniel appears to have occupied four plots on the *'north side of the Borough Walls'* under a 99 year lease, because on 6th July 1786 Thomas Baldwin was advertising them for sale on behalf of the City Corporation.

Involvement in the New Hall

Daniel was involved for an extensive period, on the building of the New Hall, working all the time with Thomas Cottle and George Wheeler, variously described as carpenters and joiners.

A joiner constructs items by joining pieces of wood in a workshop without using metal fasteners, screws or nails. A carpenter will then take these items and fit them on site using metal fasteners, screws and nails and would also undertake tasks such as fitting locks and door furniture.

Daniel's first involvement with the New Hall was on 13th July 1775 when he, George and Thomas were asked by the committee *'to find all the Fir Timber for the naked flooring, Roofs, Bond Timber Lintels and quarter partitions of the Best in kind at 2s-4d. a foot cube including all labour and materials.....likewise all oak timber of the several kinds required except as before at 2s-8d a foot cube...'*

As recorded for Thomas Cottle, regular payments are then made to all three for carpentry and joinery work completed on the New Hall totalling £900 between March 1776 and April 1777.

Baldwin's Account Book also records Brown and Wheeler being paid on 9th November 1777.

John Cheere

John Cheere was a statuary born in Clapham in 1709³⁴. Working from his yard in Green Park, London, he established his reputation for creating high quality lead statues. His work can be found at Hampton Court, Longford Castle, Bowood, Blenheim, Stourhead, West Wycombe Park and Wotton. John died in 1787 and was buried in Clapham.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 3rd July 1776 the Committee had agreed that Mr Baldwin should give orders to John to carve a figure of Justice *'according to the proposals and designs ...dated June 1776'*.

However, it seems there must have been a change of heart because at its meeting on 27th July 1776 the order was rescinded, and John was asked to execute a design by a Mr Pine.

In January 1778 the Committee agreed to pay John £56 7s 0d for *'the statue of justice including the case it was packed up in'*. This is the statue on top of the Guildhall.

James Clapp

James Clapp was master of the Entry Hill quarry.

On the 6th June 1776 the Bath Chronicle and Gazette reported *'Friday James Clapp, master of Entry-hill quarry, near this city was killed by the falling in of part of the quarry under which he was at work'*. He was buried on 2nd June at St Thomas à Becket, Widcombe³⁵.

Involvement in the New Hall

Between November 1775 and May 1776 Baldwin's Account Book records him being paid for the supply of 'Wall Stones'.

The Widow Clapp

I have been unable to find any information about her life.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 2nd September 1776 *'the Widow Clapp'* was paid for *'the Balance of her 10 weekly bills'*.

If she was James Clapp's wife, did she inherit her husband's position or was she being paid for stone already supplied by her husband before his death?

Mr Cole

Mr Cole was probably a brick maker.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Cole being paid in September 1777 for 'Bricks'.

I can find no record of a brick maker in Bath called Cole. Indeed, I can find no record of there being a brick maker.

That said, bricks may have been made in the vicinity of the 19th century Victoria Brick and Tile works in Twerton, then a village to the west of the City.

Bricks would have been used in the construction of fireplaces and chimneys, and perhaps in the construction of the Record Room. In October 1775 the Committee determined that the Record Room "*be so constructed as to be proof against fire and lined with Bricks if thought necessary*".

Mr Cook

Mr Cook was an 'upholder' (upholsterer).

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

At its meeting on 14th October 1777 the Committee agreed that Mr Cook, upholder, '*procure three dozen chairs at 18 shillings each agreeable to the pattern produced as well as two armed chairs in the same taste: the said chairs to be stuffed with Horse hair and covered with the best black calf skin*'.

Two months later, on 16th December 1777, the Committee agreed that Mr Cook make '*two dozen and a half chairs upon the same model as those already purchased of him and one elbow chair of a superior taste, not to exceed the price of two guineas*'. On 30th December he was employed to make one table '*as a Pattern for Inspection*'.

In his bill³⁶ for £39 15s 0d, submitted at the end of 1777, he itemised 7 mahogany chairs, 2 mahogany stools, 23 chairs, 8 elbow chairs and 4 deal stools.

Job Cottle

Job was a carpenter who in 1775 was living in the 'Outer Parts' of the parish of Walcot³⁷. On 20th March 1775 he placed an advertisement (jointly with John Latty, the ironmonger) for a '*compact house*' in St. James' Parade.

On 4th January 1781 the Bath Chronicle and Gazette reported that on Saturday his body '*was found floating in the river near King's-mead. He had been missing since Wednesday evening, when it is supposed he accidentally fell in*'. The Bath Burial Index does not record where he was buried.

James and Job Cottle were carpenters living in Monmouth Street and Upper Dover Street in 1809³⁸. It is reasonable to assume that these were Job's descendants.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 22nd November 1777, Job submitted an invoice for in the sum of £1 11s 6d for '*a Large Pair of Steps with Hand and Back Rail Hinges and Chain compleat for Mr Jeffries's Office*³⁹. 'Jeffries' is a misspelling of John Jeffrey, who was Town Clerk, so perhaps these steps were provided for use in connection with the bookcase in the recess of the Mayor/Town Clerk's office.

Thomas Cottle

Thomas Cottle (sometimes spelt Cottell) was a carpenter who in 1773 was living in Bond Street⁴⁰.

In 1769 he had registered Walter Turnbull as an apprentice⁴¹.

In 1775 a Thomas Cottell is listed as having a yard in Back Street, St. James, next door to Daniel Brown, carpenter.

On 13th February 1777 he was advertising a house for sale:

'To be SOLD, a HOUSE in Harlequin-Row; consisting of three rooms on a floor, with a good garden, plenty of soft water, coach-house, stable, and other convenient offices – For particulars, enquire of Thomas Cottell, carpenter, Bond-street, Bath'.

Harlequin Row was built sometime after 1756 and is located between the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel and the Star Inn on the northwest side of the Paragon. In his book 'On Foot in Bath' Andrew Swift describes Harlequin Row as a 'glorious architectural free for all'.

Involvement in the New Hall

Thomas was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall, working all the time with Daniel Brown and George Wheeler, variously described as carpenters and joiners.

On 13th July 1775 they were asked by the Committee *'to find all the Fir Timber for the naked flooring, Roofs, Bond Timber Lintels and quarter partitions of the Best in kind at 2s-4d. a foot cube including all labour and materials...likewise all oak timber of the several kinds required except as before at 2s-8d a foot cube...'*

Regular payments are then made to all three for carpentry and joinery work completed on the New Hall:

20th March 1776 - £200

14th August 1776 - £200

24th December 1776 – £200

22nd April 1777 - £300

On 16th July 1776 the Committee accepted proposals for executing the *'Joiners Work'*.

John Croome

John Croome was a lime-burner from New King Street⁴². On 27 January 1780 he placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette offering a reward of five guineas for the return of a Bay Mare which had strayed from a field beyond the turnpike on the Lower Bristol Road.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records John being paid between December 1775 and September 1777 for the supply of lime.

On 15th July 1777 John was also paid for *'materials, Stone and Grips'*⁴³ and on 16th December 1778 for lime⁴⁴. In July 1778 he was also paid for coal for the Guildhall and the New Hot Bath⁴⁵. Perhaps he was also a coal merchant.

William Cross

William Cross was an upholder (upholsterer) and auctioneer. He was the son of William Cross of Turley. In 1753 he was apprenticed to George Davis, Master Carpenter, as a joiner and cabinet maker⁴⁶. The granting of his Freedom is recorded in the Chamberlain's Accounts on 5th January 1761⁴⁷.

In 1769 he left his partner Arthur Trimnell to set up his own business in Milsom Street as 'an upholder, appraiser, undertaker and auctioneer'⁴⁸. By 1773 he is listed in the Bath Guidebook as an Upholder in Milsom Street and is still there in 1791 as an Upholder and Auctioneer at No 18⁴⁹.

Around 1771⁵⁰ William was supplying furniture for the New Assembly Rooms.

William placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette on 19th March 1778 announcing the sale of the '*elegant HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, some china, etc. belonging to William Wade Esq (retired from Bath) at his late dwelling-house in Edgar's Buildings..... Catalogues to be had at the place of sale, and of Wm. Cross, upholder and undertaker, Milsom-Street.*'

He died in 1795 and was buried in Corston churchyard on 28th December⁵¹.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 20th January 1778 the Committee agreed that William be paid '*Twelve Guineas in full for a Mahogany Library Table*'.

James Dogget

James Dogget was a rough mason.

James died in 1785. The following advertisement appeared in the Bath Chronicle on 28th April:

'BATH To be SOLD in FEE, a Substantial Well-built Messuage, or Dwelling-House, with a Garden or Outlet, and all convenient offices belonging thereto, situate on the North side of Bennett-street, contiguous to the New Assembly-Rooms, late the property of Mr. James Dogget, mason, deceased...'

Involvement in the New Hall

On 13th July 1775 the Committee accepted prices from James (and an Elias Sumption) for '*rough masons work*'. James submitted many bills⁵² to the Corporation, including one on 19th October 1776 for £5 5s 0d.

Baldwin's Account Book records James Dogget, mason, being paid continuously for work on the 'Town Hall' and 'Day Work' from November 1775 to November 1777. Whilst the majority of payments were 'on account', his payment on 7th June 1777 was specifically for 'Rough Masons Work'.

The Chamberlain's Accounts record James being paid £100 in September 1777 for work on the Guildhall and Markets.

Working with Elias Sumption, James would have set the stone wrought by the free masons.

Daniel Fowles

Daniel Fowles was a plasterer and tiler, lived in the Parish of Walcot and was married to Ann.

On 8th July 1773, Daniel placed the following advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Gazette:

'A CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC WHEREAS ANN, the Wife of Daniel Fowles, Tyler and Plasterer, of the Parish of Walcot, has for some time.....a Practice of taking up Goods on her Husband's Account, and disposing of his Effects: This is therefore to.....all.....not to.....her on.....as he will not in future pay any Debts that may contract'. [The print quality in the British Newspaper Archive copy was very poor, hence the gaps in the text. The thrust of the meaning is however clear].

Ann Fowles was buried at St Swithin's on 20th April 1776⁵³.

In March 1778 James was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury appearing in the Court of Quarter Sessions⁵⁴.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 3rd December 1776 the Committee agreed to *'employ him to execute the plastering and ornamental work that shall be wanting towards the completion of the Town Hall'*. The Committee subsequently approved payments to him of £100 (April 1777), £150 (June 1777) and £150 (Sep 1777).

The Chamberlain Account Vouchers⁵⁵ include Daniel's itemised bill submitted to the Corporation in 1778, from which it is clear he was providing an extensive amount, if not all, of the ornamental plasterwork, including:

Small plain and fluted mouldings, ornaments and drapery in the 'Musick' gallery [in the Banqueting Room]

Staircase Ceiling and Ornaments in Staircase

Ornaments over Chimney pieces

Ornament in Grand Ceilings

Oval and circular mouldings with filletts and with leaves

Festoons, Husks and Paterae

Plain, circular and double cornice

Guilloche enriched with flowers

Frieze enriched with swags and flowers

Enriched cornice with flutes

Flutes to oval windows

Lath stucco, wall stucco and circular stucco

Floated wall and lath plastering

Wall rendering

On 13th March 1779 the Committee agreed to employ Daniel to *'whitelime and colour the said hall, which when done, that Tucker be applied to finish the painting of it'*.

Mr Freeman

Mr Freeman was a stone supplier, who may have been a quarry owner.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 11th July 1775 Mr Atwood was ordered to obtain the lowest prices for labour and materials, from rough masons the price of labour only and from Mr Freeman the price of freestone. I have found no further record of Mr Freeman's involvement with the New Hall.

James Golston

James Golston was a stone supplier, who may have been a quarry owner.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records James being paid on 17th October 1776 for 'Pennant'.

On 22nd May 1777 the Committee also agreed to pay him £160 for Pennant stone on account.

I have found no further record of his involvement with the New Hall.

Joseph Granger

Joseph Granger was a painter and paint supplier with premises in the Market Place.

On 19th June 1766 he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Gazette: '*Joseph Granger, Colour-man and Print-Seller, in the Market-Place, Bath, prepares and sells all sorts of Colours, for HOUSE-PAINTING: Likewise in Shells and Bladders*'.

On 2nd April 1772 a Joseph Granger is recorded in the City Rate Book as living in the Market Place.

His wife died in March 1775⁵⁶ and on 24th January 1781 he was buried in Bath Abbey⁵⁷.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records J Granger being paid in May and June 1776 on account of painting.

Farndon Groom

Farndon Groom was a coal merchant and Freeman of the City who in 1773 was living at 6 Abbey Green and Abbey Street⁵⁸. He was still there in 1791⁵⁹. He died in 1797 and was buried in St. James' Cemetery.⁶⁰

On 19th June 1777 he was advertising a house to let:

'To be LETT, within one mile of Bath, on the road to Frome, - A very Good HOUSE, four rooms on a floor; or, a Dining-Room Apartment unfurnished. The House stands in a high fine situation, and commands a very...view of the country – For particulars, enquire of F. Groom, coal-merchant, in the Abbey-street, Bath.'

He traded on the Quay until 1782, when he relocated to Bathwick⁶¹, where his business premises were in Grove Street. He was listed in the 1791 Bath Directory⁶² in Grove Street

and described as a Coal Merchant and Freeman. He was also a lodging housekeeper at 6 Abbey Green and Abbey Street⁶³.

On 16th November 1780 he was listed in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette as a subscriber to a book called 'Wilson's (Thomas Bishop of Sodor and Man) Works'. Thomas Wilson was Bishop of the Diocese of Sodor and Man between 1697 and 1755. The book was published in 1781.

He was a regular supplier of coal to the Corporation. His account⁶⁴ from 1776 itemises deliveries to the Cross Bath, Hot Bath, Mr Baldwin, King's Bath and Town Hall between October 1775 and April 1776. The Town Hall would have been the old Town Hall.

He also supplied coal to the New Assembly Rooms in around 1772⁶⁵.

Involvement in the New Hall

By November 1777 James was delivering coal to the New Hall because the Committee asked the Chamberlain to pay him £14⁶⁶.

Charles Hales

Charles Hales was a freemason.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Charles was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall, working with Richard Singer throughout. See Richard Singer below for a detailed account of his involvement.

John Harris

John Harris was an ironmonger and brightsmith. A brightsmith was a smith who worked with white or bright metals such as tin and brass. In 1774 he is recorded as being granted a lease by the City Corporation of a 'Messuage Gardens and Outhouse adjoining on the East side of Southgate Street, Indorsed 'Horse Street'⁶⁷. In 1776 he was again recorded as living in Southgate⁶⁸.

The granting of his Freedom is recorded in the Chamberlain's Accounts on 21st January 1760⁶⁹.

In January 1771 he had registered James Rotton as an apprentice ironmonger⁷⁰.

On 27th March 1777 he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'John Harris, Ironmonger, respectfully informs his friends and the public in general, that having engaged several good workmen in the Tin and Braziers Branches, every article will be executed in the best manner, and on the most reasonable terms.

New-invented IRON POTS, Stewpans and Saucepans, of all sizes, well tinned, remarkable for their durability, sweetness etc; - all kinds of Locks made -Bright-smith's Work; Bell-hanging etc; etc;'

Business must have been good, because on 7th August 1777 he advertised a residential property to let in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'About a quarter of a Mile from the city of Bath

To be LETT immediately, by the month or year, a HOUSE, completely furnished, pleasantly situated on the right hand side of Allen's road, above the Bagatelle, commanding a most agreeable prospect; consisting of two large parlours, five or six good bed-rooms, a kitchen, coach house, stabling, a large flower and kitchen garden, and every other convenience for a gentleman's family.

For particulars, enquire of John Harris, ironmonger, Horse street, Bath'

Bagatelle House, standing on the corner of Lyncombe Vale and Rosemount was built in the 18th Century in the grounds of a spa-cum-pleasure garden known as the Bagatelle, which opened in 1769 but lasted for little more than a decade⁷¹. John's house was in all likelihood Perrymead House which is on the north side of Perrymead 'above' Bagatelle House and right off Ralph Allen Drive.

By 1778 the business was expanding, because on 6th May John advertised the opening of a shop in Wood Street. The manufactory remained in Horse Street, but goods were being brought in from the great manufacturing centres of London, Sheffield and Birmingham.

'J. Harris and Co. Ironmongers, Braziers and Tinmen, at their warehouse in Horse street respectfully inform the Nobility, Gentry, and public in general, that they have opened a SHOP in Wood-street, corner of Queen-square, where they have laid in an elegant assortment of London, Sheffield, and Birmingham Goods, which they are determined to sell on the most reasonable terms.

Also, Copper, best Black-Tin, wrought and cast Iron, Bell-Hanging, Smith's Work, Braziery, etc; and punctually executed, at their Manufactory on Horse-street.'

John's chief foreman was George Stothert who became his partner in 1784 and sole proprietor soon after⁷². The rest is history!

Involvement in the New Hall

John's first recorded involvement with the New Hall was on 11th March 1777 when the Committee asked him to make *'all the Grates that shall be wanting in the Town Hall agreeable to his Proposals'*.

On the 16th November, the Committee approved a *'Pattern Fender'* from him at 5/6 a foot. The following month on 3rd December the Committee agreed to procure from John four sets of *'Shovel, Poker and Tongs of 2ft 7 inches and two sets of 2 ft high'*.

Two Chamberlain Account Vouchers⁷³ include John's itemised bills submitted for work carried out between April 1777 and September 1778 and which included the following items relating to the New Hall:

Kitchen grates

Trippell Grates [Perhaps 'triple', with three iron bars]

Pantheon stoves [grates]

Bath stoves [grates]

*Hobb grates [Hob]
Padlock hasp and staple
Snuffers
Metal candlesticks
Dead locks
Mortice locks
Screws
Fenders
Shovels
Pokers
Tongs*

Today's Thomas Baldwin Room still has a hob grate, probably supplied by John Harris.

Richard Hughes

Richard Hughes was a slater from London.

On 27th May 1776 he advertised his services in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'RICHARD HUGHES, Slater, from London, proposes covering Buildings after the London method, at Bath, Bristol or any part of England, with Westmoreland Tavistock, Carnarvon, Welch, or the slate known in Bath and Bristol by the name of Cornish slate, or any kind of Slate'.

The rest of this paragraph is undecipherable, but the final paragraph invites potential customers to write to his house on the 'New Bridge'. As Pulteney Bridge was completed by 1774 this is most likely where he was located.

Involvement in the New Hall

Richard's first recorded involvement with the New Hall was on 5th June 1776 when the Committee agreed to employ him to *'to cover the same with the best Westmoreland Tyles with Copper Nails and sawed laths...'*. During the 18th century Westmoreland Slate was quarried in what is today Cumbria, and used for roofing many major buildings.

On 17th October 1776 Baldwin issued a receipt to Richard for £21 0s 0d⁷⁴ on account of *'slater's work done at the New Town Hall.'*

On 1st April 1777 it was agreed to pay the balance of his bill for *'slating the new Town Hall'* to a Mr Hay, *'He giving an Indemnification for the Same'*. Perhaps Mr Hay was Richard's local agent. This payment fits with the topping out ceremony which had taken place in December 1776. Further money is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book being paid to John Williams in November 1776 *'for Mr Hughes'*. Williams is paid money again in April 1777 for *'mending Slaters Work'*.

Baldwin's Account Book records Richard being paid between October 1776 and June 1777.

Thomas King

Thomas King was a statuary (a Georgian term for a sculptor and worker of marble), who was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall, working with Francis

Lancashire throughout. He was also a wood carver. He was born in 1741 and founded Thomas King and Sons which traded in Bath for nearly 100 years and was the most popular and prolific of the West Country Statuaries⁷⁵. Bath Abbey contains many examples of his work, including memorials to Richard Nash, John Quin, Hannah Alleyne, Andrew Barkley and Dr Edmund Aubery.

He was made a Freeman of the City on 27th December 1742 for a fee of £10 10s 0d⁷⁶ and in June 1773 he registered George Thomas as an apprentice carver⁷⁷. In 1775 he had premises in Monmouth Street⁷⁸

On 20th January 1780 he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette No 5 Paragon Row to be let or sold. It had lately been occupied by Sir John Strachan. Thomas is described as 'Statuary', of Lansdown Road.

On 16th February 1786 Thomas advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 'A neat COUNTRY HOUSE within one mile of BATH..... situated on an eminence neat London road'. Thomas is stated as being 'near Walcot turnpike'. Thomas goes on to advertise his marble chimneypieces:

'THOMAS KING informs his friends and the public, that he has fitted up in his Warehouse, sundry elegant Marble Chimney-Pieces for sale, from 6L to 60L each, which may be packed up at a day's notice. He has likewise several neat Monuments for inspection from 8 to 50 guineas each'.

In 1788 Thomas had subscribed £1 1s 0d to the new Casualty Hospital which had opened in Kings-Mead Street on 1st January 1788⁷⁹.

Prior to his involvement with the New Hall, he had been involved in the building of The Circus, the Royal Crescent and the New Assembly Rooms. Thomas also worked for the City Council on the New Hot Bath, he and Francis being paid for 'marble basins'⁸⁰. He and his son, Thomas, were important figures in the building of Georgian Bath.

He died at Beaufort House, his home on London Road, in December 1804 and was buried in Woolley churchyard⁸¹.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 7th February 1776 the Committee ordered Mr Baldwin to treat with Messrs King and Lancashire, carvers, concerning prices relative to 'carve work that shall be wanting in building the Town Hall'.

On 4th February 1777 the Committee resolved to place an advertisement for proposals to be given for the execution of the 'Marble and Painswick Chimney Pieces and Pennant and other Slabs...'. Six days later on 10th February the Committee agreed to employ Thomas and Francis to erect the marble and Painswick chimney pieces and pennant and other slabs agreeable to the design presented by Mr Baldwin. On 30th September 1777 the Committee agreed to pay 'King and Lancashire' £50. On 23rd June 1778 the Committee agreed to pay Thomas a further £100 for carving work.

In the Chamberlain Account Vouchers⁸² is Thomas's itemised bill for the period April 1777 and September 1778 and which included the following items:

Vein marble, plain and with astragals [mouldings]

Irish marble
Dove marble [Turkey] for slabs and astragals
Statuary marble [Carrara, Italy]
Painswick
Pennant
Plinthes under the grates in the Banqueting Room
Carving three chimneys complete in the Banqueting Room
Carving Golash and fluting in Banqueting Room
Ornaments for the chimney pieces in the room adjoining the Banqueting Room
Setting the chimney pieces
Working the mouldings round five chimney pieces instead of wood moulding
153 feet Forrest steps, polished
Carving 2 pateras for Smith and turning
Coat of Arms, modelling, casting and moulding
Painting and gilding two Coats of Arms
Carving two cornices for the Chamberlain's & Town Clerk's office
Carving two drops of husks
Carving vases for moulds and turning
Carving 2 roses
Carving in Court of Judicature
Carving a Vitruvian 'scrole' and 75' of Vitruvian Scroll
Carving door friezes
Carving 20 'Bracketts' staircase
Carving the mouldings, cornice and frieze in the room adjoining the Lady's water closet
Water 'closett'
Brass work 'compleate' for water 'closett'
Double water 'closett'
Brass work complete for double water 'closett' with 2 locks
6 cart loads of ashes and for making up the coal ash 'morter'

Thomas also billed a day rate of 2s 6d for men which it can be assumed to be in his employment, 'William Haywood, William Bristol, I Ricketts and Mr Williams' for 'cutting holes for Smith' and 'altering rough masons work'.

Francis Lancashire

Francis Lancashire was a statuary.

He was born in 1739 and founded Francis Lancashire and Son, a business carried on after his death by his son, William⁸³. In 1805 William was living on the Lower Bristol Road⁸⁴. At the time of his death in 1813 Francis was living on the Bristol Road, presumably with William, and was buried at St Swithin's on 26th November⁸⁵. In 1819 William was living at 27 Charles Street⁸⁶.

Prior to his involvement with the New Hall, he had been involved in the building of The New Assembly Rooms⁸⁷. Francis also worked for the City Corporation on the New Hot Bath, he and Thomas King being paid for 'marble basins'⁸⁸. He and his son, William, were important figures in the building of Georgian Bath.

Involvement in the New Hall

Francis was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall, working with Thomas King throughout. See Thomas King above for a detailed account of his involvement.

John Latty

John Latty was an ironmonger who in 1772 was living in Borough Walls⁸⁹. The Bath City Corporation minutes record that on 16th February 1776 it was agreed he should be granted a 99 year lease of a property 'on the Borough Walls' in the parish of St Peter and St Paul at an annual rent of five shillings.

It seems he may also have been a property developer because on 4th January and 1st February 1776 he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be SOLD, Two genteel well-built Houses, in Milsom-street, on the right-hand side from Bond-street. For particulars, enquire of Mr Latty, ironmonger, on the Borough Walls, Bath.'

These two houses were probably within the rank of houses today numbered 25 to 45 located to the north of Somersetshire Buildings. As they were built between 1761 and 1765⁹⁰ John had either been the original developer or acquired them after they were built.

On 22nd February 1776 he again advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be LETT immediately, a large commodious HOUSE in Chandos-buildings, five and six rooms on a floor, very convenient for a lodging-house, boarding school, or tavern – Apply for further particulars to Mr Latty, ironmonger, on the Borough Walls'.

Chandos Buildings, now demolished, was the range of lodging houses designed and built by John Wood in 1728. The original workmanship, however, was said to be poor and the tenants complained of thin partitions, loose tiles and smelly drains⁹¹.

Business in 1776 must have been good because on 1st February he advertised in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for '...a Journeyman Tinman; a good workman who has been used to jobbing work, may have constant employ by applying to John Latty...'

John was involved in the New Assembly Rooms in around 1773⁹², and also worked on the New Hot Bath, being paid in May 1779 for 'Smiths work'⁹³

Involvement in the New Hall

John's only recorded involvement in the New Hall came on 10th December 1777 when the Committee agreed that he should be employed 'in hanging the Bells with the best common Cranks and Brass Wire agreeable to the Price delivered in which are the Bells with either sort of Carriages compleat at Three Shillings each plain stop crank at 4d each.....'

A bell crank could have been part of a bell communication system installed to aid communication between different floors of the New Hall.

Mr Laurence

Mr Laurence was a stone and timber supplier.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Messrs Street and Laurence being paid £14 11s 3d in January 1777 for '*Timber & Stones*'.

Thomas Lewis

Thomas Lewis may have been timber merchant.

Alternatively he was the Thomas Lewis, carpenter and wheelwright, who advertised a 'Rolling Wagon' for sale in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette on 17th July 1777. He was based on the Holloway, near the Old Bridge. In an advertisement placed in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette on 8th July 1790 Thomas is described as '*carpenter and builder near the Old Bridge*'.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Thomas being paid in December 1776 for elm board.

John Morely

John Morely was a plasterer and tiler. On 18th January 1733 John was made a Freeman of the City for a fee of £10 10s 0d⁹⁴. A John Morley (different spelling), tiler and plasterer, was granted a lease in 1746 of a '*Messuage and Garden, Broad Street*'⁹⁵.

In February 1778 he had registered James Morely (presumably his son) as an apprentice '*Tyler and plaisterer*'⁹⁶.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 14th April 1777 John, described as '*Plaisterer and Tyler*', was paid £29 17s 8^{1/2}d. On 11th November 1777 the Committee agreed to pay him £24 0s 0d. Baldwin's Account Book records him being paid that same day.

I have found no further record of his involvement with the New Hall.

James Mullins

James Mullins was a stone supplier and may have been a quarry owner.

James was born in 1722 and lived in Widcombe. He was married to Martha and buried in Bathwick (Old St Mary's and St John's) on 7th December 1785⁹⁷.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records James being paid between November 1775 and January 1776 for the supply of wall stones.

Thomas Page

Thomas Page was a carpenter.

In 1767 he had registered Charles Milsham, John Caisford and James Powell as apprentice carpenters, followed in 1771 by James Perriman⁹⁸.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 8th April and 22nd May 1777 the Committee resolved to pay Thomas £100. He had previously submitted a bill to the Corporation on 14th February for £100 'on account'.

The Chamberlain's Accounts record Thomas being paid on three occasions between April and September 1777 for carpenter's work and for 'Guildhall Work'⁹⁹.

William Parker

William Parker started life as a journeyman glass worker who had set up business in the 1750s and increasingly specialised in candelabra. Experimenting with various types of glass, he moved his business, William Parker & Co, to 69 Fleet Street where he set up an office and showroom two doors below Water Lane where the Whitefriars Glassworks was located. His workshop was probably nearby. He cut and mounted the lustres supplied by Whitefriars but did not make the glass himself. His firm became known as a glass manufactory when he took his son into partnership in 1784.

In 1777 William Parker made the second set of five chandeliers for the Ball Room in the Assembly Rooms, having already made the original three chandeliers for the Tea Room.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 17th March 1778 the Committee agreed that Mr Baldwin should order three chandeliers for the Banqueting Room from Mr Parker for £270, including chains and fixing.

Parker's bill, dated 15th May 1778, describes the provision of '3...32 *light lustres richly cut ornamented*', and was signed off by Francis Bennett, Leonard Coward and William Street¹⁰⁰. It was not until 10th November 1778 that the Committee agreed to pay Mr Parker £270 less £3 9s 30d due to Mr Walter Wiltshire for the carriage from London to Bath.

For whatever reason, William's account was not settled until 9th December 1778¹⁰¹.

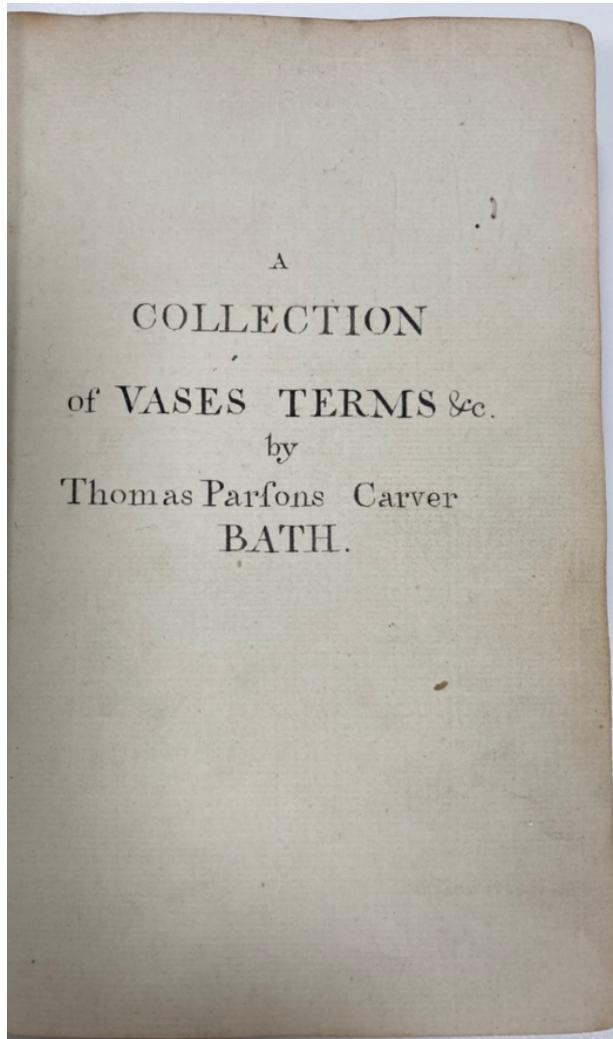
Thomas Parsons

Thomas Parsons was a carver who was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall. He was born in 1744 the son of Robert Parsons, also a carver. Their yard was in Claverton Street, Widcombe, where, in 1791, Thomas was recorded in the Bath Directory as 'Carver and Freeman'¹⁰².

On 18th August 1768, Robert placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be LETT, or SOLD.....the DWELLING-HOUSE, and pleasant Garden of the late Henry Dolling, Gent. Near the Church at Widcombe, half a Mile from Bath-bridge, and adjoining to PHILIP BENNETT's, Esq. The Premises are wall'd around, well supply'd with Water, and may be easily made a most agreeable House, with an extensive Prospect, being entirely in the Country, though but a few Minutes Walk from the City'. As Philip Bennet lived in Widcombe Manor, the property being let by Robert may have been the adjoining Widcombe Lodge.

Like his father, Thomas was an educated man and a Baptist minister. A diary he wrote in 1769, and now held in the Huntington, San Marino, shows Thomas to be an educated man interested in, amongst other things, philosophy, religion, art and medicine.



He kept a pocketbook titled 'in which he recorded over 150 drawings of vases and chimney pots, giving a detailed picture of the work being produced in the Parsons' yard.

At the front of the book is an index which includes the names of clients for whom the patterns had been drawn, including 5 for 'Baldwin', three of which have been used on the New Hall.

39 Thomas Parson's pocketbook

Thomas was a member of one of the carver families which contributed to the creation of Georgian Bath. His father had worked on the Circus and Thomas had worked on the New Hot Bath¹⁰³.

Thomas died in 1813 and was buried¹⁰⁴ in the Baptist Burial Ground in Snow Hill. This burial ground, which no longer exists, was at the corner of Snow Hill and London Road.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 14th February 1776 the Committee ordered Mr Baldwin to treat with Thomas and a Mr Greenway in relation to prices for the east and west fronts. On 13th March the Committee agreed that Thomas Parsons execute all the ornaments on the east and west fronts.

On the 4th February 1777 the Committee resolved that the '*Pedestal presented by Mr Parsons to be fixed in the East Front be put in Execution*'. The four vases and classical altar are placed on this pedestal.

The first recorded payment to Thomas of £30 was agreed by the Committee on 11th November 1777.

Baldwin's Account Book records Thomas being paid between November 1776 and April 1777.

His only itemised bill in the Chamberlain's Account Vouchers¹⁰⁵ includes:

5 pilaster capitals, 5 Pateras and 25 ½ feet of fluting for the 'back front'
4 Ionic capitals
4 large Pateras
2 Vases for Watchhouses
2 Vases for grand Pediment with Iron Pins
Pannel in the 'back front'
Models for Stucco work
City Arms
Ten Vases
One Chimney Vase
10 'Cor.' Capitals for Banqueting Room [Corinthian]
3 small Doric 'Caps' [Capitals]
20 feet large fluting
2 Pannells
4 Drops of Husks
696 feet of Frostwork [a form of rustication]

He also billed for two men for 12 days.

William Phillips

William Phillips was probably a blacksmith.

A William Phillips is recorded in the Bath Rate Book living in Walcot Street in 1775. A William Phillips was buried at St Swithin's on 31st January 1783, as was another William Phillips on 3rd May 1738. The former is likely to be our William Phillips.

On two occasions in 1778 William was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury appearing in the Court of Quarter Sessions¹⁰⁶.

On 4th October 1779 a petition from Mr Donn was submitted to the City Council regarding a nuisance caused by a Smith's shop recently opened near Bladud's Buildings. The Council resolved that John Hensley and William Phillips be asked to discontinue the nuisance.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records William being paid between in November 1776 '*on account of Iron Work*'.

Thomas Pillinger

Thomas Pillinger was a stone supplier and may have been a quarry owner.

Thomas lived in Monmouth Street¹⁰⁷ and was buried at St Swithin's on 15th October 1787¹⁰⁸.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Thomas being paid between November and December 1775 for the supply of Pennant Stone.

Mr Pine

Mr Pine was probably a statuary.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 27th July 1776 the committee agreed to ask Mr Cheere to execute Mr Pine's design for the Statue of Justice. On 17th December 1776 the Committee agreed that Mr Pine's 'emblematical figures' be executed and fixed to the east end of the Town Hall, as also the vases on the north, east and south fronts. This decision was subsequently rescinded a month later on 21st January 1777.

Mr Power

Mr Power was probably a glazier.

Whilst there are many articles in the local newspaper referencing glaziers, I could find no mention of Mr Power. Glaziers are often described as 'plumber, glazier and painter'.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Mr Power being paid £0 11s 4d in July 1777 for 'Glazing'.

He had probably responded to the following advertisement which appeared in the Bath Chronicle and Gazette on 19th December 1776:

'BATH TOWN HALL, Dec. 18th 1776. Any person willing to contract for executing the GLAZIER's WORK necessary to compleat the New Town-Hall, may send proposals sealed up to the Committee, at the Old Town-Hall, on Tuesday the 2d instant, at five o'clock in the evening. For particulars, apply to Mr, Baldwin, architect.'

Mr Ranger

Mr Ranger may have been a timber merchant.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Mr Ranger being paid in January 1776 for timber.

John Rawlins

John Rawlins may have been an upholsterer.

This may be the Jonathan Rawlins recorded in the Rate Books for 1775 and 1776 as living in Westgate Street.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records John being paid on 7th June 1777 for '12 Chairs'.

Richard Reed

Richard was a mason.

A Richard Reed is recorded as being married to Mary Reed and buried in Bathwick (Old St Mary's and St John's) Cemetery on 16th August 1798¹⁰⁹.

Richard was paid for work at the Prison, Bellotts Hospital and for 'water works'.¹¹⁰

Involvement in the New Hall

In May 1779 Richard was paid £1 6s 11d for work done at the Town Hall.

Francis Robbins

Francis Robbins was a statuary and marble mason who in 1791 was recorded as living in Guinea Lane¹¹¹. In the Bath Directory his name is spelt Robins.

On 25th January 1798 the following advertisement appeared in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To Gentlemen, Master Builders Etc; To be SOLD by HAND, at Mrs ROBBINS', Relict of late Francis Robbins deceased, At the Bottom of Guinea-Lane, near Walcot Church, EIGHT MARBLE CHIMNEY-PIECES, Of different Grounds, with Statuary and Vein Astragals. Also a fresh Collection of CURIOUS FOSSILS, and SPECIMENS, etc; well worth the attention of the Public. N.B. The YARD and WORK-SHOPS to be Lett.'

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Francis being paid between July and October 1776 for Pennant stone.

Richard Singer

Richard Singer was a freemason who in 1780 was living on St James' Parade¹¹². In 1791 he was again recorded as living on St James's Parade and described as 'Mason and Builder, and Freeman of the City of Bath'¹¹³. His name appears in both records as 'Singers'.

On 25th March 1762 he placed a notice in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette in which he reported that his apprentice, Robert Pobjoy, had absented himself and carried away some of his tools. Robert is described as *'about five feet six inches high, near Twenty Years of Age, and has light brown hair.'* He gives notice that whoever employs Robert will be prosecuted but that if Robert immediately returns, he will be received again.

On 31st December 1772 Richard advertised for sale in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette a *'Very good-going Broad Wheel Waggon, with Iron axles'*. Interested parties were to enquire at his house in St James's Parade.

In 1777 he appeared to be a business partner with William Birchall because an advertisement was placed in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette:

'To be LETT at Midsummer next, when the present Lease will be expired – the FOURTH HOUSE from the South-west end [of Queen's Parade], lately occupied by Copplestone Warre Bamsylde, Esq; but now inhabited by Mr Freeman. There is a fine view of the Crescent, and fields backward, and many pleasing objects seen from the front.

Enquire of Richard Singers, on St. James-parade; or Wm. Birchall, upholder, in Queen-square

In February 1778 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette recorded that Richard had subscribed £5 5s 0d towards a fund created by a committee chaired by John Chapman *'for the purpose of raising men for His Majesty's service'*, the money being paid out as bounties to men enlisted in Somerset and Wiltshire to fight in the American War of Independence.

Involvement in the New Hall

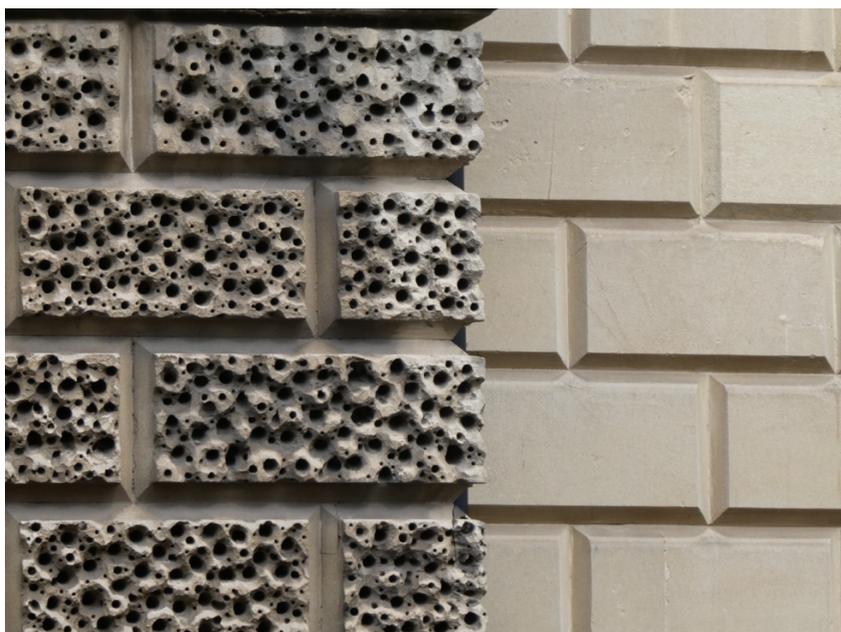
Richard's first recorded involvement with the New Hall was on 13th July 1775 when the Committee accepted prices from him and a Mr Hale, also a freemason, for free stone.

On 4th October 1775 the Committee agreed that *'Singer and Hale, freemasons, be allowed at their own expense to take down at their own expense "so much of the wall of the south end of the building" and Mr Baldwin to measure the common ashlar before it is taken down'*.

To what this refers is unclear. Perhaps it was the clearance of the limited work started in 1768 but subsequently abandoned.

On 24th October 1775 the Committee agreed that Singer and Hale should do all *'Rustic work, both frosted and common that shall be required in the several fronts...at 4/- foot...'*.

Rustic work, or Rustication, is a range of masonry techniques used in classical architecture giving visible surfaces a finish texture that contrasts with smooth, rectangular-block masonry, usually referred to as ashlar. The 'common' rustic referred to must refer to the chamfered or v-jointed rustication on the set back front elevation, whereas the 'frosted' rustic must refer to the vermiculation where the frontage projects in the centre.



40 Frosted (left) and common (right) rustic work

The first recorded payment to Singer and Hale of £150 was agreed by the Committee on 13th December 1775. This was followed with a further £200 on 10th April 1776, £150 on 17th September, £200 on 3rd December 1776, £200 on 10th February 1777 and finally £200 on 10th June 1777.

Baldwin's Account Book also records Singer and Hale being paid between June and November 1777.

Daniel Smith

Daniel Smith was apprenticed to John Gibbs on 16th May 1739 as a rough mason¹¹⁴.

The granting of the Freedom the City in 1753 to a Daniel Smith is recorded in the Chamberlain's Accounts¹¹⁵. As this is fourteen years after he commenced his apprenticeship this is either a different Daniel Smith or his qualification was delayed for some reason.

In August 1758 he registered Thomas Higgins as an apprentice Mason¹¹⁶.

Daniel also supplied wall stones for the New Baths¹¹⁷.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Daniel being paid between January and December 1776 for the supply of free stone paving, cross way paving and wall stones.

James Stead

James Stead was a stone supplier.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records a James Stead being paid in April 1777 for the supply of 'flag stones'. Flag or flagstones are large slabs of stone used for paving a footpath etc; this may relate to the High Street pavement or the market area to the rear.

Mr Street

Mr Street was a stone and timber supplier.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Messrs Street and Laurence being paid in January 1777 for '*Timber & Stones*'.

Isaac Sumption

Isaac Sumption was a stone supplier.

I have found no record of an Isaac Sumption. His name may have been mis-spelt, and, as a supplier of free stone, he may have been a member of the Sumsion family, one of a handful of local families dominating stone quarrying in Combe Down.

A search in the online Combe Down family tree created by the late Richard Hill (Prior to Now¹¹⁸) reveals no Sumptions, with the earliest Sumsion being Isaac who was born in Colerne in 1744. His son, also Isaac, was born in Monkton Combe in 1774, too young to have been involved in the building of the New Hall.

Involvement in the New Hall

Isaac Sumption is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being paid in September 1777 for '*Free Stone*'.

Elias Sumption

Elias Sumption was a rough mason.

I have found no record of an Elias Sumption. If this is a misspelling for Elias Sumsion, neither have I have found any record of Elias being linked to the quarry owning Sumsion family from Combe Down.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 13th July 1775 the Committee accepted prices from Elias (and a James Dogget) for '*rough masons work*'.

Working with James Dogget, Elias would have set the stone wrought by the free masons.

John Sumsion

John Sumsion was a stone supplier.

A John Sumsion is recorded as being buried at St Swithin's on 24th February 1785¹¹⁹, but this is not necessarily our John Sumsion.

As with Isaac Sumption, I have found no record of John being linked to the quarry owning Sumsion family from Combe Down.

Involvement in the New Hall

John Sumsion is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being paid in April 1777 for '*Free Stone*'.

Nicholas Tucker

Nicholas Tucker was Bath's leading house painter between 1745 and 1779 and had extended into heraldic painting by 1767, opening an exhibition room at 2 Westgate Buildings where samples of his ornamental work would have been on view¹²⁰.

His house and workshops were in Kingsmead Street¹²¹.

In 1758, 1762 and 1773 a Nicholas Tucker from Walcot had registered David Price, Will Britton and John Barnsley Churchill as apprentice painters¹²².

Following Tucker's death in 1785, an advertisement was placed in the Bath Chronicle and Gazette by William Cross, auctioneer, for the sale by auction on 20th January at the Angel Inn in Westgate Street of three properties comprising Nicholas's estate:

- A dwelling house and extensive workshops in 'Kings-Mead-Street' where Nicholas had lived.
- A dwelling house in Upper Charles Street let to a Mrs Merrick
- A dwelling house in Lower Charles Street let to Dodington Egerton

Involvement in the New Hall

On 23rd June 1778 the Committee agreed to pay Nicholas £50 for painter's work. On 13th March 1779 the Committee agreed to employ Nicholas to 'finish the painting of it'. Daniel Fowles was asked at the same meeting to 'whitelime and colour the said hall'.

Thomas West

Thomas West was a stone and lime supplier.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records Thomas being paid between November 1775 and December 1776 for the supply of pitching stones and lime. Lime would have been the key component for mortar and plaster. Pitching Stone may have been what today is called Pitched-Stone, a type of rustication.

George Wheeler

George Wheeler was a carpenter who in 1777 lived near Walcot Church in Lady Mead¹²³. In 1777 Lady Mead was that section of today's Walcot Street which runs next to the bottom of the steps down from the Paragon.

In October 1780 a George Wheeler from Walcot had registered Samuel Racey as an apprentice carpenter¹²⁴.

On the 15th June 1775 it was announced in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette that, in Walcot Church, George had married a Miss Tagg, daughter of the '*late Mr. Tagg, pastry-cook, of this City*'. Walcot Church (St Swithin's) was located at the junction of today's Paragon, Walcot Street and London Street and was rebuilt in 1777-80 by John Palmer and Thomas Jelly.

Two years later, George's father, Robert, died and on 22nd September was buried at St. Swithin's¹²⁵. Robert must have died some two weeks earlier because George placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette advertising his late father's home to rent:

'To be LETT, and entered upon at Michaelmas next, -A part or the Whole of a pleasant and substantial well-built DWELLING_HOUSE, consisting of four rooms on a floor, and two stair-cases, adapted for the use of one or two families, with a large garden adjoining, and offices detached from the house; situate near the London turnpike-gate, in the parish of Walcot, and late in the occupation of Mr Robert Wheeler, deceased.

For further particulars enquire at the premises, or of George Wheeler, carpenter, near Walcot church.

The advertisement then went on to state that Robert was dealing with all matters concerning his late father's estate.

A George Wheeler is recorded in the 1775 Rate Book as having premises at The Quay and Ambury Buildings. Perhaps these were George's workshop premises.

On three occasions in 1778 William was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury appearing in the Court of Quarter Sessions¹²⁶.

Involvement in the New Hall

George was involved for an extensive period on the building of the New Hall, working all the time with Daniel Brown and Thomas Cottle, variously described as carpenters and joiners.

George's first involvement with the New Hall was on 13th July 1775 when he, Daniel and Thomas were asked by the Committee *to find all the Fir Timber for the naked flooring, Roofs, Bond Timber Lintels and quarter partitions of the Best in kind at 2s-4d. a foot cube including all labour and materials.....likewise all oak timber of the several kinds required except as before at 2s-8d a foot cube...'*

As recorded for Thomas Cottle, regular payments were made to all three for carpentry and joinery work completed on the New Hall and totalling £900 between January 1776 and April 1777.

William Whippey

William Whippey was a stone supplier.

A William Whippy (different spelling) was entered in the Blue Coat School Admissions and Apprenticeships register on 1st June 1753¹²⁷, but no trade was recorded as he was to be apprenticed when a *'master could be found'*. He was buried in St Michael's on 18th March 1797¹²⁸.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records William being paid in January 1776 for Ashlar.

William Whitaker

William Whitaker was a carpenter.

A William Whitaker was admitted to the Bluecoat School on 2nd March 1759, which is probably too young to be our William. In 1805 and 1809 a William Whitaker was living at 6 Walcot Terrace¹²⁹.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 16th June 1779 William was paid for *'Carpentry for Work done at the Town Hall and Prison'* ¹³⁰.

William must have been contracted to the Corporation for a range of carpentry work because, as well as the Town Hall and Prison, on 28th July 1779 he was also paid for work to the *'Waterworks at Holloway'*¹³¹.

John Williams

John Williams may have been a journeyman carpenter or a slater. Journeymen were skilled workers, having served their apprenticeship, but who lacked the resources to operate a shop on their own account¹³².

The Bath Chronicle and Gazette reported on 7th June 1770 that *'Monday night the wife of JOHN Williams, a journeyman carpenter of this city, was safely delivered of three fine children, two boys and a girl, by Elizabeth Godfrey'*. The City Rate Book records a John Williams living in Stall Street in 1775 and another John Williams living in Bridewell Lane.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records John being paid between November 1776 and April 1777 *'for Mr Hughes', on account* and *'for mending Slater's Work'*. Was he acting as agent for Mr Hughes, the London slater who won the contract for roofing the New Hall? Was he carrying out remedial work to the roof? Given that the 'roof rearing' (or topping out ceremony) took place in December 1776, it makes sense that any mending of that work was being paid for in April 1777.

The roof combined the craftsmanship of carpenters, masons, tilers and plumbers. The carpenters erected the wooden frame, and the tilers nailed wooden battens to the rafters to fix the slates or tiles onto. Perhaps John was in fact mending part of the timber frame.

Walter Wiltshire

Walter Wiltshire was a London, Bath & Bristol carrier, made a Freeman of the City of Bath in 1742 for a fee of £10 10s 0d¹³³. He is described in the minutes as a 'common carrier'. In 1779 he was an Alderman and living in Broad Street¹³⁴.

According to the Corporation minutes Walter was heavily involved in the running of the City. Following many years as a common councillor, he was appointed Chamberlain from 1768 to 1770, Alderman in 1771 and Mayor in 1772. In 1773 he became a Justice, returned to being an Alderman 1774 to 1779 and Mayor again in 1779. When he was sworn in as Mayor in 1780, the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette recorded that:

'Thursday last Walter Wiltshire, Esq; was sworn (before the Right Honourable Lord Camden, our worthy Recorder) into the office of Mayor of this city for the year ensuing; on which occasion he gave an elegant entertainment to the members of the Corporation, and to the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood.'

In 1782 he advertised his business in the New Bath Guide:

Walter Wiltshire's Flying Waggons set out from Bath and London, every Sunday at six, and Wednesday evening at seven o'clock, and arrive in London and Bath every Wednesday and Saturday morning early.

His slow waggons set out from Bath every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, at ten o'clock, and arrive in London the Friday, Monday and Tuesday following at noon; set out from London every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday morning, at five o'clock, and arrive in Bath Saturday, Monday, and Thursday, at two in the afternoon.

These waggons set up at the White Swan, Holborn-bridge, London, and call at the White Bear and Old White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, to leave and take up goods and passengers.'

Involvement in the New Hall

Walter was initially involved in the New Hall on 22nd September 1777 when he and 11 other members of the Corporation were delegated by the Committee to deal with the *'Fitting up and completion of the Court of Justice, Record Room of the Corporation's private affairs, Record Room of the City Court of Justice, the Town Clerk's offices and the right hand of the Court of Justice...'*

Walter played one small, but vital, practical role in the building of the New Hall when in 1778 he transported the chandeliers from William Parker's cut glass manufactory in London to Bath, for which he was paid £3 9s 3d. Judging by Walter's 1782 advertisement, the journey must have taken almost four days using his 'slow wagon' service.

William Wood

William was probably a plumber.

A William Wood was buried in St Michael's cemetery on 20th March 1784.

Involvement in the New Hall

William Wood carried out *'water works'* for the New Hall, for which the Committee agreed on 1st April 1777 to pay him £20 with a further £50 agreed to be paid on 24th December 1777.

Who else was involved during the building of the New Hall?

In addition to these craftsmen and suppliers, the records reveal other citizens also involved during the building and early occupation of the New Hall.

Catherine Batchellor

Catherine Batchellor was probably a lodging housekeeper. Her name is also spelt Batchelor. In 1775 she lived in East Lane in the Parish of St Peter and St Paul¹³⁵. East Lane lay between the Orange Grove and Monk's Mill.

Involvement in the New Hall

Catherine was paid £3 5s 0d for providing *'lodgings for three of the children of Thomas Kirkham, the Cryer of Bath from 8th Dec 1776 to 9th March 1777 by the directions of some of the Corporation they being deprived of their usual lodgings in the old Town Hall during the time the Corporation leaves...'*¹³⁶. This was the three month period just before the Corporation resolved to advertise the Old Town Hall for sale. It is reasonable to assume that the building was no longer in a fit state for habitation.

On 2nd December 1778 Catherine was again paid £3 5s 0d for providing lodgings for the 'Cryer's children'¹³⁷. Thomas Kirkham is recorded in the minutes of the Bath City Corporation as the appointed Town Cryer between 1777 and 1780. Three times his name is

spelt Kircum and once it is spelt Kirkham¹³⁸. It would be reasonable to assume that this is one and the same person.

Mr Brittain Junior

Mr Brittain Junior was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

He (and H Hamill Senior) were recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being regularly paid between May 1776 and April 1777 for '*digging and wheeling*'.

John Brooks

John may have been a shop keeper and brush maker. In 1739 a William Brook, brush maker, took a lease from the City Corporation of a '*Messuage adjoining to a House called the Squirrel on the West side, in the Market Place*'¹³⁹. Perhaps William was his father? In 1775, John was living in Stall Street¹⁴⁰.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 28th October 1778 John was paid £1 15s 7d for '*mops and brushes for use of the town hall*'¹⁴¹.

Thomas Brunkard

Thomas was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

On 3rd January 1778 Thomas Brunkard was paid £6 0s 6d for '*Halling of Stones for the Building of the Guildhall*'¹⁴².

William Evill

William Evill was a shop keeper.

William is recorded in the City Rate Book for 1775 as living in the High Street. He was part of the Evill family, prominent businesspeople in the City in the 18th Century. William sold hose and cutlery, promoting his former Somerset connections to promote Stalbridge stockings.

By the 1760s William was displaying an astonishing range of plate, jewellery, ornamental and fancy goods¹⁴³. During 1761 and 1762 William was advertising in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette. His advertisement on 26th November 1761 started:

'To be Sold, Wholesale or Retail, At William Evill's Shop, opposite the White-Lion, at the Golden Knife and Fork, and Stockings-Legs, near Marchant's Court, in the Market Place, BATH.'

In around 1771 William was supplying candlesticks, knives, forks and spoons to the New Assembly Rooms¹⁴⁴.

Involvement in the New Hall

In June 1776 William Evill was paid £4 15s 0d for '*19 Weeks Rent for an Office at 5^u/'* (Five shillings a week). Payments continued in October and December 1776, ending in November 1777. Perhaps this was the site office used by Mr Baldwin?

William's premises would have been very conveniently located for Mr Baldwin, being on the opposite side of the High Street from the New Hall building site.

John Fisher

John Fisher was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Baldwin's Account Book records John being paid in March and December 1776 for '*Coal Ashes, Stone halling*' and in December '*on Acc^t of Ashes*'.

A Joseph Fisher is recorded in the Chamberlain's Accounts being paid £16 0s 0d on 6th October 1779 for '*Halling Rubble from the Town hall*'¹⁴⁵. Is his first name recorded wrongly, or is this a different Fisher?

H Hamill Senior

H Hamill Senior was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

He (and Brittain Junior) were recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being regularly paid between May 1776 and April 1777 for '*digging and wheeling*'. Hamill is also recorded as '*digging an area in front of Town Hall*'. They were both also employed cleaning the '*lane before the Slaughter Houses*'.

Thomas Kirkham

Thomas Kirkham (sometimes spelt Kircum) was the Town Cryer, whose children were looked after by Catherine Batchellor.

Involvement in the New Hall

He may well be the 'Kirkham' who on 4th August 1777 was paid £0 13s 0d for '*Assistance for Cleaning the Office*'. On 11th November 1777 he was also paid £0 7s 5d for '*Sundrys*'¹⁴⁶.

Was he perhaps cleaning the office rented by Thomas Baldwin from William Evill?

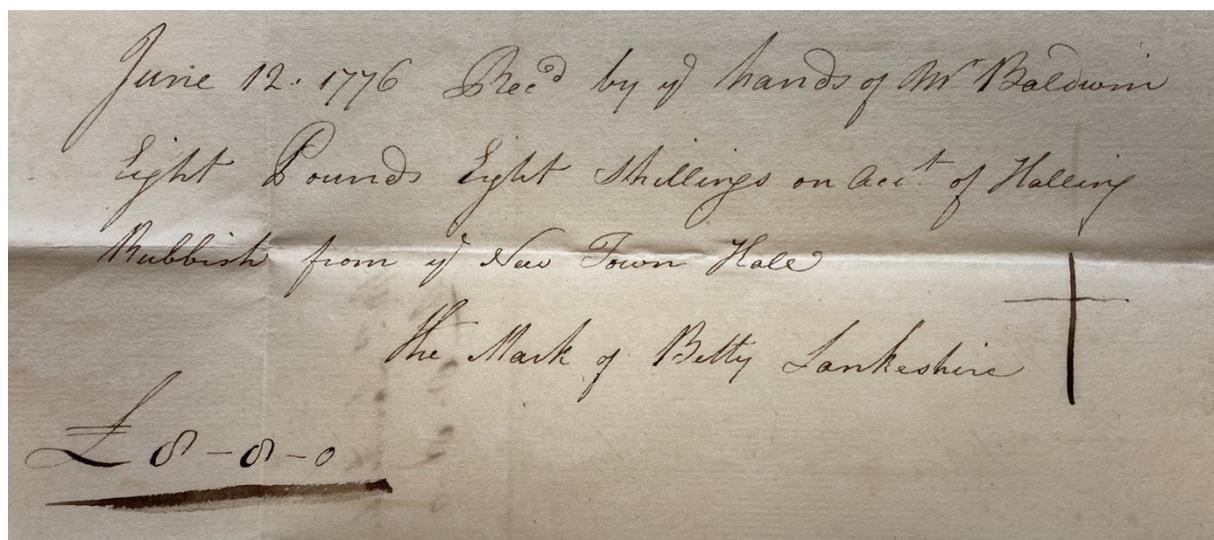
Mrs Betty Lancashire

Mrs Betty Lancashire was probably a general labourer.

Three Betty Lancashires are recorded as being buried at St Swithin's in 1784, 1788 and 1799¹⁴⁷. One of these may be our Betty Lancashire, in which event she probably lived in the Parish of Walcot. I have been unable to find any else about her life.

Involvement in the New Hall

Betty was paid £8 8s 0d on 12th June 1776 on account of '*hauling rubbish from the New Town Hall*'¹⁴⁸. Was she using the baskets purchased by Mr Baldwin in January 1776? She must have been illiterate because she signed the receipt with her 'Mark', being a cross.



41 A receipt for Betty Lancashire's rubbish hauling signed with her mark

She is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being paid on three occasions between June 1776 and March 1777 for '*hauling stones*'.

Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about her life. Was she perhaps married to Daniel Smith who supplied paving stone, cross way paving and wall stones?

Involvement in the New Hall

She is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book as being paid between December 1775 and September 1776 for '*hauling stones*'.

William Taylor

William Taylor was an established Bookseller and stationer who also ran a circulating library. On 29th June 1766 he placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette announcing the relocation of his business to Church Street, Kingston Buildings. He announced that the shop '*is large and commodious, where he has made great Addition to his*

Library, and intends lending Books to read on the same terms as usual, viz. 10s 6d per Year..... or by the single Volume. He likewise sells, Wholesale and Retail. All Sorts of Books, and Stationary wares, on the most reasonable Terms.'

He was listed in the Bath Guidebook of 1773 as a Bookseller in Church Street and again recorded in the City Rate Book in 1775 as living in Church Street.

Following the death of Evelyn Duke of Cleveland in 1786, the freehold of William's premises was advertised for sale¹⁴⁹. He held a 99 year lease with 74 years unexpired. In the same year he was selling the New Bath Guide¹⁵⁰.

On 24th September 1789 William and the proprietors of five other circulating libraries placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette announcing that because of *'the present expensive mode of printing and the advanced price of NEWSPAPERS.....are obliged to raise our ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS to FIFTEEN SHILLINGS.....'*. This is a 43 % increase on the price charged by William 23 years earlier.

In the Bath Street Directory for 1791, William is recorded as still running a Circulating Library in Church Street. He was still a Bookseller because in 1792 he signed the Bath Loyal Association Petition, describing himself as such.

Following his death in 1795, William's stock of books and stationery was advertised for sale¹⁵¹. He was buried in St James' burial ground on 25th February 1795.

Involvement in the New Hall

William Taylor supplied the Corporation with stationery. He submitted a detailed invoice for the eleven months from October 1777 to August 1778¹⁵² and which included the following:

*3825 office pens
7 pencils
48 sticks of Dutch wax
5 bottles of ink
5 bottles of red ink
10 pewter ink stands
1 large counting house ink stand
6 quire of blotting paper
4 wooden sand boxes and sand
9 pieces of red tape
2 pieces of green silk ferret [narrow tape]
7 letter files
4.5 quire cartridge paper
6 reams of best London foolscap paper
48 quire best copy paper
7 sheets Imperial paper
6.5 quire best foolscap
18 skins of fine large parchment*

1 slate and 1 large piece of chalk
2 London made penknives and twine
2 memorandum books
5 two quire account books ruled

Also ordered from him were Acts of Parliament, including the 'Catholick' Act (Catholic Relief Act 1778), the Insolvent Act and the 'Bath Act for Paving', usually bound in calf and lettered.

James Tucker

James Tucker was a Lamp Lighter who in 1762 was living in Avon Street¹⁵³.

On 28th January 1762, the Bath Chronicle and Gazette reported an unfortunate incident involving James:

'Sunday Night last, about Eleven o'Clock, Recruits, with their Swords drawn, forcibly entered the House of James Tucker, Lamp-Lighter in Avon-Street (whilst he and his Family were in Bed) and pretending he was a Deserter wanted to take away his Cloaths and secure him. The said Tucker told them he had never listed himself with his Majesty's Services, and certainly they must have made a Mistake; but with terrible Imprecations declared they would take him away naked as he was, and if he gave the least Resistance they would run him through. After they had kept him near an Hour in this situation, the Watch came to his Assistance, the most resolute of Fellows was secured that Night, and the next Day committed to Prison'.

An Isaac Tucker was recorded in 1791 as Oilman at the City Lamp Office in Walcot Street¹⁵⁴. Was he James's son?

Involvement in the New Hall

James was paid £4 1s 0d on 20th January 1778 for '*lighting 5 Lamps before the front of the Guildhall from Oct 14th 1777 to JanY 20th 1778*'¹⁵⁵. Today there are only four lamps.

James is paid again on 12th May 1779 for '*One years lighting of the lamps at the Town Hall*'¹⁵⁶.

James Yeomans

James Yeomans was probably a general labourer.

I have been unable to find any information about his life.

Involvement in the New Hall

He is recorded in Baldwin's Account Book in December 1775 as being paid '*his 7 Bills for halling*'. In February 1776 he is paid for '*his 6 Weekly Bills in full*'.

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- ¹ Baldwin's Account Book
 - ² Bank of England UK Inflation Calculator
 - ³ Stone, Bath
 - ⁴ Bath Ancestors website
 - ⁵ City of Bath Freemen extracted from the Chamberlain's Accounts
 - ⁶ Sessions Book 1780
 - ⁷ Bath Burial Index website
 - ⁸ Bath City Rate Book
 - ⁹ Bath Ancestors website
 - ¹⁰ Proceedings of the Committee for the Management of the New Assembly Rooms
 - ¹¹ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 22 November 1770
 - ¹² Bath Ancestors website
 - ¹³ Bath Directory 1791
 - ¹⁴ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1777 No 87
 - ¹⁵ Chamberlain's Accounts 1777 p134
 - ¹⁶ Bath Ancestry website
 - ¹⁷ Bath City Rate Books 1775
 - ¹⁸ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
 - ¹⁹ Bath City Rate Books 1785
 - ²⁰ Bath Commercialis'd
 - ²¹ Bath Masonic Hall
 - ²² Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 49
 - ²³ Bath Loyal Association 1792/93 (BC/9/2/3)
 - ²⁴ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette
 - ²⁵ Bath City Rate Books 1775, 1776 & 1781
 - ²⁶ Bath City Rate Book 1772
 - ²⁷ Bath Ancestry website
 - ²⁸ List of Honorary Freemen extracted from the Council Books
 - ²⁹ Bath City Rate Book 1775
 - ³⁰ Bath City Council Minutes 15 January and 4 October 1779
 - ³¹ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
 - ³² Sessions Book 1778 to 1780
 - ³³ Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p208
 - ³⁴ Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660 - 1851
 - ³⁵ Bath Burial Index website
 - ³⁶ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1777 No 118
 - ³⁷ Bath City Rate Book Sep 1775
 - ³⁸ Bath Historical Directories website
 - ³⁹ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1777 No 15
 - ⁴⁰ Bath Directory 1778
 - ⁴¹ Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
 - ⁴² Bath Directory 1773
 - ⁴³ Chamberlain's Accounts 1777 p130
 - ⁴⁴ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
 - ⁴⁵ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p234
 - ⁴⁶ UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentice's Indenture
 - ⁴⁷ List of Honorary Freemen extracted from the Council Books
 - ⁴⁸ Bath Commercialis'd
 - ⁴⁹ Bath Historical Directories website
 - ⁵⁰ Minute Book of the Furnishing Committee for the New Assembly Rooms
 - ⁵¹ Bath Burial Index website
 - ⁵² Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1776
 - ⁵³ Bath Burial Index website
 - ⁵⁴ Sessions Book 1778
 - ⁵⁵ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 190

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- ⁵⁶ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 16 March 1766
⁵⁷ Bath Burial Index website
⁵⁸ Bath Directory 1773
⁵⁹ Bath Directory 1779
⁶⁰ Bath Burial Index website
⁶¹ Bath Commercialis'd
⁶² Bath Ancestors website
⁶³ Bath Historical Directories website
⁶⁴ Chamberlain's Account Voucher
⁶⁵ Proceedings of the Committee for the Management of the New Assembly Rooms
⁶⁶ Chamberlain Account Voucher 1777 No 21
⁶⁷ Bath Historical Directories website
⁶⁸ Bath City Rate Book 1776
⁶⁹ List of Honorary Freemen extracted from the Council Books
⁷⁰ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
⁷¹ On Foot in Bath
⁷² Bath Commercialis'd
⁷³ Chamberlain's Account Vouchers 1777 & 1778 No 90 & 95
⁷⁴ Chamberlain's Account Voucher
⁷⁵ Dictionary of British sculptors 1660-1851
⁷⁶ List of Honorary Freemen extracted from the Council Books
⁷⁷ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
⁷⁸ Bath City Rate Books 1775
⁷⁹ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 15 January 1789
⁸⁰ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
⁸¹ Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660 - 1851
⁸² Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 191
⁸³ Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660 - 1851
⁸⁴ Bath Historical Directories website
⁸⁵ Bath Burial Index website
⁸⁶ Bath Ancestors website
⁸⁷ Proceedings of the Committee for the Management of the New Assembly Rooms
⁸⁸ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
⁸⁹ Bath Ancestors website
⁹⁰ The National Heritage List for England website
⁹¹ Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath
⁹² Proceedings of the Committee for the Management of the New Assembly Rooms
⁹³ Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p208
⁹⁴ List of Honorary Freeman extracted from the Council Books
⁹⁵ Bath Historical Directories website
⁹⁶ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
⁹⁷ Bath Burial Index website
⁹⁸ Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
⁹⁹ Chamberlain's Accounts 1777 p120, 126 and 134
¹⁰⁰ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778
¹⁰¹ Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
¹⁰² Bath Ancestors website
¹⁰³ Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p200
¹⁰⁴ Bath Burial Index website
¹⁰⁵ Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1777 No 75
¹⁰⁶ Sessions Book 1778
¹⁰⁷ Bath City Rate Book 1775
¹⁰⁸ Bath Burial Index website
¹⁰⁹ Bath Burial Index website
¹¹⁰ Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p208
¹¹¹ Bath Historical Directories website
¹¹² Bath Directory 1780

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- 113 Bath Ancestors website
114 Bath Ancestors website
115 City of Bath Freemen extracted from the Chamberlain's Accounts
116 UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
117 Chamberlain's Accounts 1777 p130
118 Prior to Now website
119 Bath Burial Index website
120 Bath Commercialis'd
121 Bath City Rate Book 1775
122 UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
123 Bath City Rate Book 1779
124 UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice's Indentures
125 Bath Burial Index website
126 Sessions Book 1778
127 Bath Ancestors website
128 Bath Burial Index website
129 Bath Historical Directories website
130 Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p210
131 Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p212
132 Stuart Bath: life in the forgotten city 1603-1714
133 List of Honorary Freemen extracted from Council Books
134 Bath City Rate Book 1779
135 Bath City Rate Book 1775
136 Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1777 No 31
137 Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p196
138 Bath City Council Minutes 4th October 1779
139 Bath Historical Directories website
140 Bath City Rate Book 1775
141 Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p194
142 Chamberlain's Accounts 1778 p146
143 Bath Commercialis'd
144 Minute Book of the Furnishing Committee for the New Assembly Rooms
145 Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p214
146 Baldwin's Account Book
147 Bath Burial Index website
148 Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1776
149 Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 18 May 1786
150 New Bath Guide 1786
151 Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 28 May 1795
152 Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 222
153 Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 28 January 1762
154 Bath Historical Directories website
155 Chamberlain's Account Voucher 1778 No 121
156 Chamberlain's Accounts 1779 p208

Appendix 1 – Craftsmen, suppliers and others involved in the building, fitting out and furnishing of the New Hall

By name in alphabetical order

Name in alphabetical order	Trade	Contribution to the New Hall
James Atwood	Blacksmith	Grand staircase ironwork. Banqueting Room Minstrel Gallery ironwork.
John Atwood	Brightsmith, Brazier and Blacksmith	External Iron railings.
Richard Atwood	Plumber and Glazier	Water and plumbing work.
Charles Axford	Brazier	Not known
Catherine Batchellor	Lodging Housekeeper	Lodgings for Town Cryer's children displaced from old town hall
William Birchall	Upholsterer and auctioneer	Furniture (Appendix 2)
John Bolwell	Mason	Paving and Cross way paving
Charles Brett	Timber merchant	Timber
Mr Brittain junior	General Labourer	Digging and wheeling
John Brooks	Shop keeper and brush maker	Mops and brushes
Daniel Brown	Carpenter and Joiner	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
Thomas Brunkard	General Labourer	Stone hauling
John Cheere	Statuary	Statue of Justice
James Clapp	Quarry master	Wall stones
The Widow Clapp	Quarry Master's wife	Wall stones
Mr Cole	Brick maker	Bricks
Mr Cook	Upholsterer	Furniture (Appendix 2)
Job Cottle	Carpenter	Furniture (Appendix 2)
Thomas Cottle	Carpenter	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
John Croome	Lime burner	Lime

William Cross	Upholsterer and auctioneer	Sold old town hall and provided furniture (Appendix 2)
James Dogget	Rough Mason	Rough mason's work
William Evill	Shop keeper	Rents an office to Baldwin
John Fisher	General Labourer	Coal, ashes and stone hauling
Daniel Fowles	Plasterer and tiler	Extensive internal decorative plasterwork
Mr Freeman	Stone supplier	Freestone
James Golston	Stone supplier	Pennant stone
Joseph Granger	Painter and paint supplier	Painting
Farndon Groom	Coal Merchant	Delivered coal
Charles Hales	Freemason	Rustic stonework to external elevations
Mr Hamill senior	General Labourer	Digging and wheeling
John Harris	Brightsmith	Extensive internal metal fittings
Richard Hughes	Slater	Roofed the Hall
Thomas King	Statuary	Extensive internal stone and plaster carving.
Thomas Kirkham	Cleaner (and Town Cryer)	Cleaning
Francis Lancashire	Statuary	Marble and Painswick chimney pieces and pennant slabs
Mrs Betty Lancashire	General Labourer	Hauling rubbish
John Latty	Ironmonger	Bell system
Mr Laurence	Stone and timber supplier	Timber and stones
Thomas Lewis	Timber merchant	Elm board
John Morely	Plasterer and tiler	Plaster work
James Mullins	Stone supplier	Wall stones
Thomas Page	Carpenter	Carpentry work
William Parker	Cut glass manufacturer	Banqueting Room Chandeliers
Thomas Parsons	Carver	Stone carving for external elevations and banqueting room
William Phillips	Blacksmith	Iron work
Thomas Pillinger	Stone supplier	Pennant stone
Mr Pine	Statuary	Designed the Statue of Justice
William Pulteney	Landowner	Rents a carpenter's yard to Baldwin
Mr Power	Glazier	Glazing
Mr Ranger	Timber merchant	Timber
John Rawlins	Upholsterer	Furniture (Appendix 2)

Richard Reed	Mason	Not known
Francis Robbins	Statuary	Pennant stone
Richard Singer	Freemason	Rustic stonework to external elevations
Daniel Smith	Rough Mason	Paving stone, Cross way paving and wall stones
Mrs Smith	General Labourer	Halling stones
James Stead	Stone supplier	Flag stones
Mr Street	Stone and timber supplier	Timber and stones
Elias Sumption	Rough Mason	Rough mason's work
Isaac Sumption	Stone supplier	Free stone
John Sumsion	Stone supplier	Free stone
William Taylor	Bookseller and Stationer	Office supplies
James Tucker	Lamp lighter	Lighting the lamps at the front of the Guildhall
Nicholas Tucker	Painter	Painting work
Thomas West	Stone and lime supplier	Pitching stones and lime
George Wheeler	Carpenter	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
William Whippey	Stone supplier	Ashlar
William Whitaker	Carpenter	Carpentry work
John Williams	Carpenter	Mended slater's work
Walter Wiltshire	Waggoner	Transported the chandeliers from London for the Banqueting Room
William Wood	Plumber	Water Works
James Yeomans	General Labourer	Hauling

By trade in alphabetical order

Name	Trade in alphabetical order	Contribution to the New Hall
James Atwood	Blacksmith	Grand staircase ironwork. Banqueting Room Minstrel Gallery ironwork.
William Phillips	Blacksmith	Iron work
William Taylor	Bookseller and Stationer	Office supplies
Charles Axford	Brazier	Not known
Mr Cole	Brick maker	Bricks
John Harris	Brightsmith	Extensive internal metal fittings

John Atwood	Brightsmith, Brazier and Blacksmith	External Iron railings.
Job Cottle	Carpenter	Furniture (Appendix 2)
Thomas Cottle	Carpenter	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
Thomas Page	Carpenter	Carpentry work
George Wheeler	Carpenter	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
William Whittaker	Carpenter	Carpentry work
John Williams	Carpenter	Mended slater's work
Daniel Brown	Carpenter and Joiner	Sourcing timber and providing carpentry and joinery work.
Thomas Parsons	Carver	Stone carving for the external elevations and banqueting room
Thomas Kirkham	Cleaner	Cleaning
Farndon Groom	Coal Merchant	Delivered coal
William Parker	Cut glass manufacturer	Banqueting Room Chandeliers
Charles Hales	Freemason	Rustic stonework to external elevations
Richard Singer	Freemason	Rustic stonework to external elevations
Mr Power	Glazier	Glazing
Mr Brittain junior	General Labourer	Digging and wheeling
Thomas Brunkard	General Labourer	Stone hauling
John Fisher	General Labourer	Coal, ashes and stone hauling
Mr Hamill senior	General Labourer	Digging and wheeling
Mrs Betty Lancashire	General Labourer	Hauling rubbish
Mrs Smith	General Labourer	Halling stones
James Yeomans	General Labourer	Hauling
John Latty	Ironmonger	Bell system
James Tucker	Lamp lighter	Lighting the lamps at the front of the Guildhall
William Poulteney	Landowner	Rents a carpenter's yard to Baldwin
John Croome	Lime burner	Lime

Catherine Batchelor	Lodging housekeeper	Lodgings for Town Cryer's children displaced from old town hall
John Bolwell	Mason	Paving and Cross way paving
Richard Reed	Mason	Not known
Nicholas Tucker	Painter	Painting work
Joseph Granger	Painter and paint supplier	Painting
John Morely	Plasterer and tiler	Plaster work
Daniel Fowles	Plasterer and tiler	Extensive internal decorative plasterwork
William Wood	Plumber	Water Works
Richard Atwood	Plumber and Glazier	Water and plumbing work.
James Clapp	Quarry master	Wall stones
The Widow Clapp	Quarry master's wife	Wall stones
James Dogget	Rough Mason	Rough mason's work
Daniel Smith	Rough Mason	Paving stone, Cross way paving and wall stones
Elias Sumption	Rough Mason	Rough mason's work
William Evill	Shop keeper	Rents an office to Baldwin
John Brooks	Shop keeper and brush maker	Mops and brushes
Richard Hughes	Slater	Roofed the Hall
John Cheere	Statuary	Statue of Justice
Thomas King	Statuary	Extensive internal stone and plaster carving.
Francis Lancashire	Statuary	Marble and Painswick chimney pieces and pennant slabs
Mr Pine	Statuary	Designed the Statue of Justice
Francis Robbins	Statuary	Pennant
Thomas West	Stone and lime supplier	Pitching stones and lime
Mr Laurence	Stone and timber supplier	Timber and stones
Mr Street	Stone and timber supplier	Timber and stones
Mr Freeman	Stone supplier	Freestone
James Golston	Stone supplier	Pennant stone
James Mullins	Stone supplier	Wall stones
Thomas Pillinger	Stone supplier	Pennant stone
James Stead	Stone supplier	Flag stones

John Sumsion	Stone supplier	Free stone
Isaac Sumption	Stone supplier	Free stone
William Whippey	Stone supplier	Ashlar
Charles Brett	Timber merchant	Timber
Thomas Lewis	Timber merchant	Elm board
Mr Ranger	Timber merchant	Timber
Mr Cook	Upholsterer	Furniture (Appendix 2)
John Rawlins	Upholsterer	Furniture (Appendix 2)
William Birchall	Upholsterer and auctioneer	Furniture (Appendix 2)
William Cross	Upholsterer and auctioneer	Sold old town hall and provided furniture (Appendix 2)
Walter Wiltshire	Waggoner	Transported the chandeliers from London for the Banqueting Room

Appendix 2 – Furniture and fittings

The furniture and fittings are listed in date order.

The ‘approval dates’ are derived from three source documents:

Baldwin – ‘Baldwin’s Account Book’

Committee – The ‘Committee’

Voucher – Chamberlain’s Account Voucher

Item	Location	Approval Date	Craftsmen/Suppliers	Trade
All the Grates that shall be wanting	Throughout	11th Mar 1777 Committee	John Harris	Brightsmith
New grates with proper racks and pinions	Kitchen	31 st May 1777 Committee	Probably John Harris	Brightsmith
12 chairs	Not stated	7 th June 1777 Baldwin	John Rawlins	Upholsterer
Recess fitted with a bookcase with mahogany folding doors, the sides to be grooved for sliding shelves. [Note: In situ today in the Palmer Room]	Mayor's Room	3 rd Sep 1777 Committee	Not known	
Iron fender, poker & tongs with three stools for the use of the clerks	Common Clerk's Office	23 rd Sep 1777 Committee	Probably John Harris	Brightsmith
Three Mahogany Blinds for the Windows Two Brass Fenders six inches deep with strong Iron Plates at the Bottom, with Iron Tongs, Shovels and Pokers for the Fireplaces	Judiciary Court	23 rd Sep 1777 Committee	Not known Probably John Harris	 Brightsmith

Two Dozen and Four Mahogany Chairs with Two armed Ones made in a strong plain Manner with Black Leather Bottoms and Brass Nails	Jury Room, Committee Room and Town Clerk's Office	23 rd Sep 1777 Committee	Probably Mr Cook	Upholsterer
Deal library table covered with leatheras well as a plain Deal Table under the Window with Two Cases of Shelves with blank folding doors if wanted	Town Clerk's office	23 rd Sep 1777 Committee	Probably William Cross	Upholsterer and auctioneer
Three dozen chairs (at 18 shillings each agreeable to the pattern produced) as well as two armed chairs in the same taste: the said chairs to be stuffed with horsehair and covered with the best black calf skin	Not stated. Perhaps the Jury Room, Committee Room and Town Clerk's Office	14 th Oct 1777 Committee	Mr Cook	Upholsterer
Bells to be hung up in different Rooms that shall be necessary, and Hat Pins	Different rooms	14 th Oct 1777 Committee	Probably Mr Latty	Ironmonger
<i>'a Large Pair of Steps with Hand and Back Rail Hinges and Chain compleat for Mr Jefferies' Office'</i> . [Note: Mr Jeffery was the Town Clerk]	Town Clerk's Room	22 nd Nov 1777 Voucher 19	Job Cottle	Carpenter
4 sets of Shovel, Poker and Tongs of 2 ft 7 inches and two sets of 2 ft high	Not stated	3 rd Dec 1777 Committee	John Harris	Brightsmith

Hanging bells with best common Cranks and Brass Wire [Note: Bell crank is in situ today in the Palmer Room]	Different rooms	10 th Dec 1777 Committee	Mr Latty	Ironmonger
Three glass chandeliers " <i>in the newest taste</i> ", the largest to hold three dozen candles, the other two, two dozen each	Banqueting Room	16 th Dec 1777 Committee	William Parker	Cut glass manufacturer
Two dozen and a half chairs upon the same model as those already purchased and one elbow chair of a superior taste, not to exceed the price of two guineas	Not stated. Perhaps the Jury Room, Committee Room and Town Clerk's Office	16 th Dec 1777 Committee	Mr Cook	Upholsterer
Two rows of Dutch oak tables upon the same construction as those at Gyde's or at the new Assembly Rooms, as well as for sofas	Not stated	16 th Dec 1777 Committee	Not known	
One settee ' <i>as a modell</i> '	Not stated	30 th Dec 1777 Committee	William Birchall	Upholsterer and auctioneer
One table as a ' <i>Pattern for Inspection</i> '	Not stated	30 th Dec 1777 Committee	Mr Cook	Upholsterer
7 mahogany chairs. 2 mahogany stools, 23 chairs, 8 elbow chairs and 4 deal stools	Not stated	Dec 1777 Voucher 118	Mr Cook	Upholsterer
Kitchen grates and 'Trippell' grates	Kitchen	1777 Voucher 95	John Harris	Brightsmith

Mahogany Library table (12 Guineas)	Not stated. Perhaps Town Clerk's Office	20 th Jan 1778 Committee	William Cross	Upholsterer and auctioneer
Settees be covered with' <i>half inch crimson check</i> ' <i>Mr Birchall to complete them at all speed'</i>	Not stated	1 st Sep 1778 Committee	William Birchall	Upholsterer and auctioneer
Fenders of the same pattern as the frets at the bottom of the grates, also three sets of shovels, tongs and pokers	Not stated	1 st Sep 1778 Committee	Probably John Harris	Brightsmith
2 pairs of mahogany elbows 'stuff' and covered with black Spanish Leather brass 'nail' 14 mahogany settees, with the City Arms inlaid in the backs of the seats 'stuff' in fine canvas. Extra work to 2 made larger than proposed 1 Settee made to first order 29½ yds of crimson Marine, Covering the seats of the 15 Settees with the Marine, tacks, silk etc; 34 yds of Crimson Check 52 yds of tape, thread and making check	Not stated	Sep 1778 Voucher 49	William Birchall	Upholsterer and auctioneer

covers to the 15 settees				
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Appendix 3 – Bath Corporation 1779/80

Mayor	John	Chapman
Justices	Simon	Crook
	John	Horton
Aldermen	Francis	Bennett
	Samuel	Bush
	Edward Bushell	Collibee
	Philip	Ditcher
	Johnson	Robinson
	Walter	Wiltshire
	Henry	Wright
Common Councilmen	William	Anderdon
	Thomas	Cary
	George	Chapman
	William	Cottell
	Leonard	Coward
	Thomas	Harford
	Henry	Harrington
	James	Haviland
	James	Leake
	Abel	Moysey Esq
	John	Palmer
	Charles	Phillott
	William	Street
	John	Symons
Town Clerk	John	Jefferys
Deputy Town Clerk	Philip	George
Chamberlain	James	Ferry
Deputy Chamberlain	Thomas	Baldwin
Bailiffs	Harry	Atwood
	William	Watson
Constables	Jacob	Smith
	John	Horton Jnr
Supervisors of the Bounds	Daniel	Brown
	Edward	Mullins
Supervisors of Leather	John	Chilcot
	John	Cottell
Supervisors of Fish and Flesh	Joseph	Cooper
	John	Rogers
Ale Tasters	William	Bower
	Thomas	Rogers
Serjeants at Mace	Samuel	Jones
	John	Mackenzie
Common Cryer	Thomas	Kirkham

Surveyors	James	Ferry
	John	Horton Jnr
	Charles	Phillott
	Harry	Atwood

Appendix 4 – Bibliography and Image Attributions

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- BC/2/1/1/9 Bath City Corporation minute book 1760 to 1773
- BC/2/1/172 City Council General Committee Memorandum Book 1774 to 1779
- BC/21 Freeman's Apprentice Register
- BC/6/4/1/2/1 Undated plan of the ground floor (Atwood's proposal)
- BC/6/9/1/1/5 Undated plan of the ground floor (Baldwin's proposal)
- BC/6/9/1/1/3 Plan of Attic storey dated 1777
- BC/6/9/1/1/2 Vestibule and grand staircase elevations dated 1777
- BC/6/9/1/1/1 Account book recording money advanced to Mr Baldwin for building the Town Hall and Markets (aka 'Baldwin's Account Book')
- BC/9/2/3 Bath Loyal Association 1792/3
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3, 8 & 39 – PAR2/1 Parsons, Thomas, *A Collection of Vase Terms etc*;

9 and back cover – Published by Charles Duffield 1825, Bath in Time Ref 11481

10 – Published by William Watts 1794, Bath in Time Ref. 11478

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- 14 – BC/6/9/1/1/2
- 18 – BC/6/9/1/1/2
- 28 – BC/5 Chamberlain’s Account Vouchers 1778
- 33 – BC/6/9/1/1/3
- 38 – QS/8/1
- 41 – BC/5 Chamberlain’s Account Voucher 1776

All other images are by the Author

This book sets out to tell the story of the construction and first occupation of Bath's Georgian Guildhall, referred to at the time as the 'New Hall'. Using original source documents held in the Bath Record Office and not studied before to any great degree, the building of the New Hall is told through the lives of over 70 men and women now identified as actively involved in its construction.



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