

BATH HISTORY



Edited by Graham Davis

XI

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VOLUME XI

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Bath Preservation Trust

2009

Bath History Committee: Michael Rowe (Chairman), Edward Bayntun Coward, Stephen Bird, Daniel Brown and Graham Davis. All their hard work is gratefully acknowledged.

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Editorial

Bath History is back. After the milestone of ten volumes published over twenty years, there is an opportunity for some fresh thinking in the preparation of future volumes. So there is a new and larger format, with a greater emphasis on visual images in support of the written texts, new features, and a new team of specialist advisers, supporting a new committee and editor. Some changes then from past editions but also a continuity that seeks to maintain the quality of research and writing that was the hallmark of the first ten volumes. In working on the material for this volume, I have been increasingly aware of the heroic achievement of the previous editors, Simon Hunt, Trevor Fawcett and Brenda Buchanan. Editors like historians always follow in the footsteps of predecessors.

In addition to well-established scholars, Bath History includes articles from research students and unpublished writers who have material that breaks new ground in our understanding of the city's rich history. New and exciting writing is a feature of volume XI as part of a broad brief in terms of what constitutes Bath history. People who have contributed to the city (some of whom were outsiders), as well as places of interest within it, are represented in a history that incorporates archaeology, medical history, social history, business history, social policy and the arts.

From the list of contents, readers will see some new features, such as the interview with a Bath historian, a piece on plans on the Royal Crescent that were never implemented, as shown in the Exhibition held at the Victoria Art Gallery, and an ephemera piece on Charles Dickens and a Guild of Literature and Art ticket of 1851.

With the current Southgate development, it is appropriate to feature the historical investigation of early maps and other documents by Elizabeth Holland, Mike Chapman and Colin Johnston that provides the material for the story of the horse baths in the Southgate area of the city. Jan Chivers' article on James and George Norman and the rise of the Casualty Hospital (the foreunner of the modern R.U.H.) is a fascinating story of charity and social advancement. Jackie Collier's piece on the Irish philanthropist, Lady Isobella King, is a reminder that glass ceilings are there to be broken. She was able to achieve a great deal through her charity work in Bath in a patriarchal society that excluded women from public life. A neglected source for the social history of crime, stunning photographs of

criminals held by the Bath Police, illuminates the piece on Crime and Criminal Portraits in Victorian and Edwardian Bath. Graham Davis argues that Victorian notions of crime were determined by ideas of social class, and in Bath, the pattern of criminal activity reflected the city's unusual social structure.

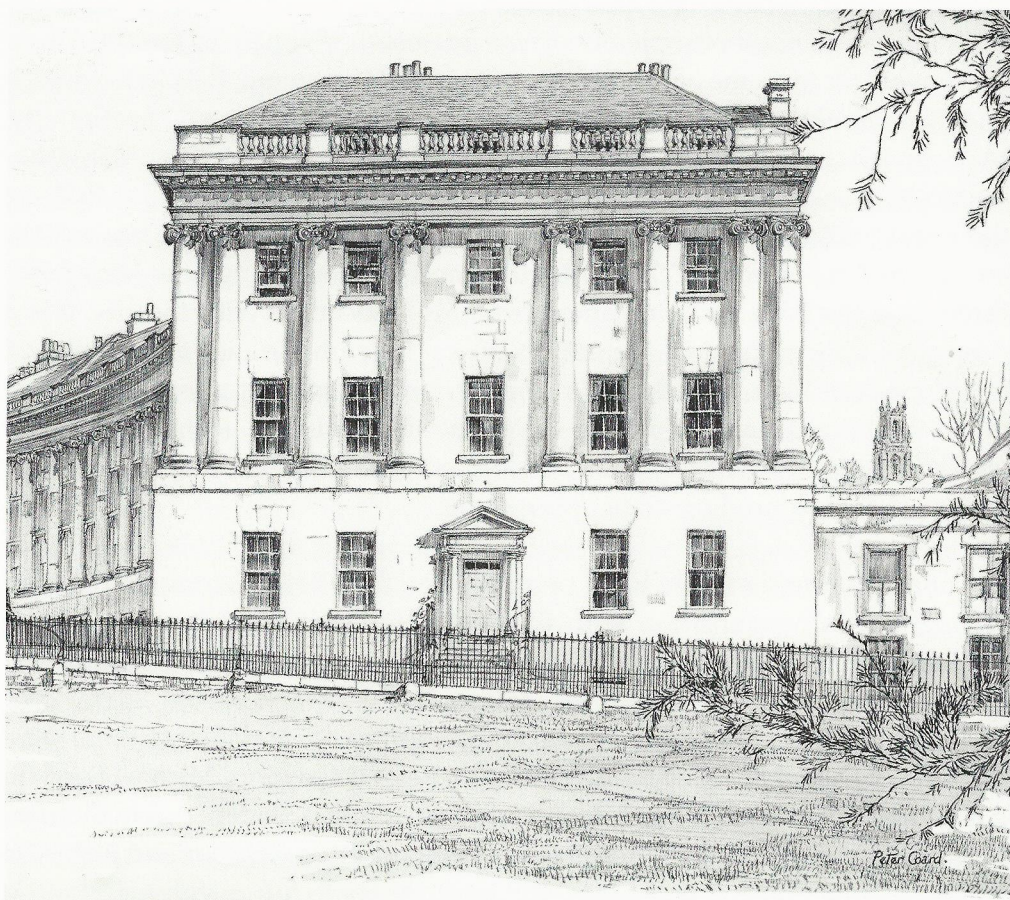
With migration another topic of current interest, it is timely to feature Stuart Burroughs' piece on the life and career of Gustav Horstmann, the German clock and watchmaker, whose company became a household name in the city. Malcolm Hitchcock's close study of early municipal housing in Bath is lavishly illustrated, and recalls how pioneering social policy affected the lives of thousands of Bath citizens in the twentieth century. Tim Bullamore has written an outstanding piece on Yehudi Menuhin and Bath, showing how Menuhin's career and the Bath Festival gained from his association with the city. It is a deeply moving account of Menuhin's life and his importance to the cultural life of modern Bath. Dan Brown's research for the brilliant photographs that illustrate the piece and adorn the cover should be also be acknowledged, as well as his rapidly growing photographic archive of Bath in Time, extensively drawn on for the production of this volume.

For our first interview, we have two distinguished Bath historians, Dr. John Wroughton in conversation with Elizabeth Holland. What is revealed is a fascinating life history as well as a life devoted to the history of Old Bath.

At the start of the planning for this volume a group of specialist advisers were assembled: Daniel Brown, Stuart Burroughs, Peter Davenport, Michael Forsyth, Amy Frost, Elizabeth Holland, Colin Johnston, Gillian Sladen, Susan Sloman, Cathryn Spence and John Wroughton. Their collective wisdom and expertise has been drawn on and will contribute increasingly to future volumes. Bath is fortunate in having such a range of specialist knowledge to call on.

All of us connected with Bath History hope you will enjoy the new look and contents of volume XI. Your comments will be welcomed. Please send them to: editor@bathhistory.org.uk

Graham Davis,
editor.



No 1 Royal Crescent c.1978 by Peter Coard.

Bath in Time – Private Collection

No 1 Royal Crescent, the home of the Bath Preservation Trust, whose generous support has made this publication possible.

Notes on Contributors

Anne Buchanan – Having never previously visited the city, Anne came to Bath nearly six years ago to catalogue the local history book collections. Over 10,000 items and three years later, Anne transferred to the post of Local Studies Librarian at Bath Central Library. She remains enthusiastic about historical research and the variety of enquiries and range of items in the collections. Before Bath, Anne worked in the Caird Library of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. At St. Andrews University, she gained an MA in Scottish History and an M.Phil. in Maritime History.

Stuart Burroughs – is a Bathonian and has been Director of the Museum of Bath at Work since 1992. He is presently Chairman of the Bath & North East Somerset Museums Group, is a trustee at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute and recently retired as Chairman of Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society. He has lectured widely on the social and commercial development of Bath and its surroundings and in addition to having articles published on the subject was, in 2003, co-author of *Stothert & Pitt: The World's Cranemakers* with Ken Andrews.

Mike Chapman - trained as a cartographic surveyor and gained archaeological experience with William Wedlake. He works as an historic landscape consultant for BANES, previously with Avon, and edits the journal of the Bristol Industrial and Archaeological Society. He is chair of the Survey of Old Bath and joint editor of the Society's magazine.

Jan Chivers - After a career in Primary Education, Jan obtained a Combined Honours BA from Bath Spa University, followed by an MA in Local and Regional History. She graduated from the University of the West of England with a PhD in July 2007. Her doctoral thesis was based on Poor Law records, charity records and Coroners' records for the city of Bath for the period 1775 to 1835. Her publications include 'Bath Penitentiary and Lock Hospital, 1816-1824' in *Women's History Magazine*, Issue 51, Autumn 2005, and 'Infanticide in Bath, 1776-1835' in *Bath Exposed! Essays on the Social History of Bath, 1775-1945*, edited by Graham Davis, (2007). Jan is currently researching the life and work of John

Curry, overseer for the parish of Walcot in the early nineteenth century and writing an historical novel set in late eighteenth-century Bath.

Jackie Collier - is a PhD student at Bath Spa University. After completing an MA in Bath History and Culture in 2006, specialising in gender and philanthropy at the beginning of the nineteenth century, she was awarded a scholarship by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to research more specifically the role of elite women in philanthropy in early nineteenth-century England.

Graham Davis - retired this year as Professor of History at Bath Spa University after nearly forty years service. His publications on Bath's history include *Memoirs of a Street Urchin* (1985), *Bath Beyond the Guide Book* (1988), co-author with Penny Bonsall, *Bath: A New History* (1996), and *A History of Bath: Image and Reality* (2006), editor of *Bath Exposed!: Essays on the History of Bath, 1775-1945* (2007), and author of the forthcoming, *Competing Images of Victorian Bath: The City and the Slum* (2009). He has also written extensively on Irish migration: *The Irish in Britain, 1815-1914* (1991) and the award winning *Land!: Irish Pioneers in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas* (2002).

Malcolm Hitchcock - spent his working life as an aeronautical engineer in Bristol, the last ten years managing a Design Department. On retirement, he completed a study of the history of Bath's municipal allotments, and from this an examination of public housing was a natural progression, since they often stood side-by-side to provide for the less well-off members of society.

Elizabeth Holland - graduated in history and economics and has lectured on both subjects. She is the founder and secretary of the Survey of Old Bath, which aims to research and reconstruct the city and the lives of its citizens. She is joint editor of the Survey's magazine, *The Survey of Bath and District*, and has written many articles on old Bath, including with Mike Chapman, 'The Development of the Saw Close from the Middle Ages' in *Bath History*, Vol. VIII (2000).

Colin Johnston - is the Principal Archivist of Bath Record Office and the city's first professional archivist. Colin has spent the past twenty five years in the basement of the Guildhall sorting out the Record Office archive collections and

ensuring all who ask can have access to the records. His long service record bears witness to his patience in working towards his ultimate goal of seeing archives and researchers housed in premises befitting Bath's World Heritage City status.

Katharine Wall - is Collections Manager at the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath, and has curated local history exhibitions including: 'Bath As It Might Have Been', 'Life in Georgian Bath', and 'Stewing Alive: The Story of Bathing in Bath'.

Dr. John Wroughton - read Modern History at Oxford and was formerly Headmaster of King Edward's School in Bath. After 'retirement' in 1993, he lectured part-time at the universities of Bath and Bristol for their adult education programmes. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he now lectures extensively on seventeenth-century topics throughout the West Country. His many publications include *A Community at War: the Civil War in Bath and North Somerset* (1992); *The Stuart Age, 1603-1714* (1997); *An Unhappy Civil War: the Experiences of Ordinary People in the Western Counties, 1642-1646* (1999); *Stuart Bath: Life in the Forgotten City, 1603-1714* (2004); *Tudor Bath: Life and Strife in the Little City, 1485-1603* (2006); and *The Battle of Lansdown, 1643: An Explorer's Guide* (2008). A contributor of nine biographies to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004), he was also General Editor of the 26-volume series, *Documents and Debates* published by Macmillan.

For twenty years, in ten volumes, leading academics and local experts have contributed to our greater understanding of this remarkable and much-loved city. Volume XI has an enhanced format, new material, rare perspectives and remains engaging, quirky and thought provoking. Bath's history is examined in this volume in its local, national and worldwide context.

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Cover

Yehudi Menuhin breaks from rehearsal at the Guildhall, 1962
Photograph: Axel Poignant

Rear

Detail of the Horse Bath, from John Speed's Map of Somersetshire, 1627
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library

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