



BATH HISTORY

Edited by Graham Davis

XIII

BATH HISTORY

VOLUME XIII

edited by Graham Davis



BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST



**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Published by Bath Spa University

Supported by Bath Preservation Trust and
Bath and North East Somerset Council

2013

Bath History Editorial Board: Michael Rowe (Chairman), Edward Bayntun-Coward, Stephen Bird, Dan Brown, Bobby Anderson, Steve May and Graham Davis.
All their hard work is gratefully acknowledged.

The production of this volume has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the following organisation:

Bath Spa University
Bath Preservation Trust
Bath and North East Somerset Council

First published in 2013 by Bath Spa University, Newton Park, Bath

Typeset in Palatino

Printed in Great Britain by WHP, Newbury, Berkshire

Design by Steve Hayes www.stevhayescreative.com

Copyright Iftikhar Malik, Barbara White, Martin West, Jan Chivers, Graham Davis, Stephen Waddell, Alan Thwaite, Cynthia Hammond, Colleen Denney, John Kirkup, William Hanna 2013.

ISBN 978-0-9926338-0-6

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data:

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers and copyright holders.



Contents

Editorial	4
Foreword - Professor Christina Slade.....	7
Notes on Contributors	8
Peter Adelard and Islam: Bridging the Medieval Worlds.....	11
– <i>Iftikhar Malik</i>	
‘Stand and Deliver’: Bath and the Eighteenth-Century Highwayman.....	29
– <i>Barbara White</i>	
Benjamin West in Bath.....	51
– <i>Martin West</i>	
The Accidental Death of Children in Bath, 1777-1835.....	69
– <i>Jan Chivers</i>	
Rev. Thomas Spencer, champion of the New Poor Law.....	77
– <i>Graham Davis</i>	
William Jay: Evangelical Preacher.....	93
– <i>Stephen Waddell</i>	
Green Park: Residence, Residents and Change in the 19th Century	109
– <i>Alan Thwaite</i>	
Charles Dickens and Bath: The Bicentenary 2012 Celebrations.....	127
– <i>Graham Davis</i>	
Suffragette City: Spatial Knowledge and Suffrage Work in Bath, 1909-14	131
– <i>Cynthia Hammond</i>	
Madame Sarah Grand, Lady ‘Mayoress’ of Bath	157
– <i>Colleen Denney</i>	
Maude Forrester-Brown (1885-1970), Britain’s First Female Orthopaedic Surgeon	171
– <i>John Kirkup</i>	
Professor R. Angus Buchanan OBE interviewed by William Hanna	181

Editorial

We are delighted to announce that Bath Spa University has agreed to support the publication and development of *Bath History*. Dr Roberta Anderson, who is the university representative on the Editorial Board has helped to create a new website www.bathhistory.org.uk through which the first ten volumes of the journal (1985-2006) are now accessible online for the benefit of all those interested in the city's history. The involvement of the university owes much to the vision and drive of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Christina Slade. This development is part of a range of partnerships between BSU and various organizations in Bath.

Volume XIII, in addition to locally-based authors, has an unusually international cast of contributors: Iftikhar Malik, of Pakistani origin and based at BSU, Martin West, Colleen Denney, and Stephen Waddell of the United States, and Cynthia Hammond from Canada. This reflects Bath's international appeal and significance, not only as a World Heritage Site but because so many people of renown had an important connection with the city, so adding to the richness of its history.

Peter Adelard, an eminent medieval scholar, was born in Bath and travelled widely throughout Europe and the Middle East. Professor Malik's essay draws on extensive research to hail Adelard as a pivotal figure in bringing ideas from the Muslim world via the legacy of classical antiquity into the mainstream of Western thought in early medieval Christendom.

Barbara White's entertaining piece on 18th century highwaymen questions the validity of the romantic myths surrounding the 'gentlemen of the road', and shows how unwary travellers passing in the vicinity of the city could be subjected to brutal treatment.

Martin West is a descendant of the celebrated American artist, Benjamin West, renowned for his major historical canvases and as a member of the Royal Academy and court painter. He also spent time working in Bath where he painted local subjects such as Bladud and local pastoral scenes.

While celebrities flocked to Bath as part of the fashionable company, life could be perilous for children in the city. Jan Chivers has combed the records of the Coroners' Inquests to report eyewitness accounts of tragic accidents and deaths. Continuing with the theme of the lives of the unfortunate, Graham Davis recounts the story of the Rev. Thomas Spencer and the Reform of the Poor Law in 1834. Spencer was the first chairman of the Bath Board of Guardians and a champion of the reformed poor law system. The language of the 'deserving' and 'undeserving' poor was employed to target the able-bodied pauper on 'parish poor' as the cause of rising poor law expenditure. However, the diagnosis of the 1834 commission was mistaken. The great majority of those on poor relief inside and outside the workhouses proved to be children and old people.

The Age of Reform, 1830-50, was also marked by evangelical fervour, not least in Bath where the relentless pursuit of pleasure was challenged by the new mood of moral earnestness. Stephen Waddell identifies William Jay, the star preacher at the Argyle Chapel, as the key figure in the transformation of Bath away from its Georgian decadence, to become one of the most religious cities in Britain. The legacy of Bath's many Victorian churches and chapels bears witness to the religious spirit of the age.

Green Park was one of the places in Bath inhabited by Jane Austen. Alan Thwaite has trawled through the Victorian censuses to find out who else lived there during the nineteenth century. In the process, he identifies the social changes that occurred in one particular street as a reflection of a wider social transformation in the city. Occupations of inhabitants as well as the number of servants per household emerge as key factors marking a process of social descent.

The year 2012 was the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens. In a short piece, the events are recalled that marked the celebrations in Bath. Dickens's association with Bath and the setting for scenes and characters in his novels is remembered with affection despite the satirical barbs he directed at the city, most famously in his first novel, *Pickwick Papers*, featuring the Master of Ceremonies, Angelo Cyrus Bantam Esq.

Among many labels attached to Bath, the city proclaimed itself the 'Queen of the West', and appropriately the next three articles have women in leading roles.

In a powerful essay, *Suffragette City*, Cynthia Hammond maps the incidence of suffrage activity in and around the city. Readers may be familiar with the recuperation at Batheaston of suffragettes who had been imprisoned and force-fed, but this formidable mapping of places in Bath demonstrates the strong presence of the women's suffrage movement in the city itself. It is a riveting and well-researched account, which may well add another tourist attraction with suffragette tours in future.

Colleen Denney offers a feminist take on the remarkable character, Madame Sarah Grand, who was part of the 'new woman' movement in the later Victorian period, a popular novelist, and later to become lady 'Mayoress' of Bath alongside Cedric Chivers in the early twentieth century.

Much attention is paid to Sarah Grand's public image, featuring the Praga portrait of her in the Victoria Art Gallery, amidst a discussion of changing ideas of women's role in society. Maud Forrester-Brown (1885-1970) was a different kind of pioneer; Britain's first female orthopaedic surgeon. John Kirkup writes an affectionate tribute of her from a personal acquaintance and a deep knowledge of the history and practice of orthopaedic surgery. Following the First World War, Forrester-Brown spent an important part of her outstanding career in the Royal United Hospital in Bath from where she set up clinics around the West Country.

The final piece of this volume continues the tradition of interviews with distinguished historians of Bath. William Hanna interviews Professor Angus Buchanan, a leading international authority on Industrial Archaeology, who spent virtually his whole career at one seat of learning. He started at the Bristol College of Science and Technology which, after its move to Claverton Down in Bath, ultimately became the University of Bath. His many important national and local publications, including his biography of I.K. Brunel, and academic honours may be well known, but equally fascinating is the early involvement with the Sheffield Industrial Mission, a shared involvement with Brenda, his wife and fellow historian and a former editor of *Bath History*.

Finally, the images that illuminate the articles for volume XIII have once more been carefully selected and beautifully presented by our picture editor Dan Brown of Bath in Time who has given generously of his time for this publication.

Graham Davis,
editor.



Newton Park Mansion House, Bath Spa University

Foreword

"As an Australian who has travelled and worked in many parts of the world, I am delighted to live in the beautiful city of Bath, as the Vice-Chancellor of Bath Spa University. Since taking up the post, I have learned the importance of the links between the city and the university. It has been impressed upon me that the public profile of Bath Spa University owes a great deal to the City of Bath and its World Heritage status. Over many years, and under different titles, we have been fortunate to recruit many very able students to our courses. We have excellent staff; people like living in Bath."

Bath receives some 4 million visitors a year. The city forms the backdrop for numerous period and modern films, and is recognised by UNESCO, not only for its Roman remains and Georgian architecture, but also for its history and literary heritage. Its re-invention as a 'festival city' builds on its historical tradition in the arts, music and literature and this fits well with the academic strengths of departments at BSU. The relationship between the city and the university is a two-way street, of mutual interest

and benefit. Students benefit from access to the resources and institutions of the city. The Roman Baths, Bath Central Library, Bath Record Office, the Victoria Art Gallery, the Holburne Museum, Museum of Bath at Work and the Building of Bath Museum have between them an amazing collection of sources and expertise that can enrich the student experience. Student work-experience in these institutions provides valuable support and a genuine engagement with activity in the city.

The university's involvement with *Bath History* is part of a closer collaboration with organisations and events taking place within the city. Having met members of the editorial board, which now has university representatives on it, I am happy to give my personal endorsement to a beautifully presented volume XIII. Fittingly, it will be launched in Bath in September at the BSU conference entitled *Georgian Pleasures* to be held at the Bath Royal Literary Society and Scientific Institution and the Holburne Museum.

Professor Christina Slade
Vice-Chancellor, Bath Spa University.



Professor Christina Slade, Vice-Chancellor, Bath Spa University

Notes on Contributors

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), 'James and George Norman and the rise of the Casualty Hospital, 1783-1861' in *Bath History* vol. XI, (2009), and 'John Curry, Overseer for the Poor for the parish of Walcot, Bath' in *Bath History* vol. XII, (2011).

Graham Davis - retired as Professor of History at Bath Spa University in 2008 and continues to give talks to local and family history societies, as well as acting as editor of *Bath History*. His Bath publications include *Memoirs of a Street Urchin* (1985), *Bath beyond the Guide Book* (1988), co-author with Penny Bonsall of *Bath: A New History* (1996), and *A History of Bath: Image and Reality* (2006), editor of *Bath Exposed: Essays on the Social History of Bath, 1775-1945* (2007), and author of *Bath as Spa and Bath as Slum: The Social History of a Victorian City* (2010). He has also written extensively on Irish and British migration: *The Irish in Britain, 1815-1914* (1991), *Land! Irish Pioneers in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas* (2002) and editor of *In Search of a Better Life: British and Irish Migration* (2011). He has lived in and around Bath since 1968.

Colleen Denney - is an art historian who currently holds the titles of Director and Professor of the Gender and Women's Studies Programme at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, USA. Sarah Grand, as a feminist and avid cyclist, holds a special place in her heart. Dr Denney has just received her college's Seibold Professorship for 2013-14 which will allow her to travel to England, France and New Zealand for several new projects on the visual culture of women's suffrage, including a book in progress entitled *Raise Your Banner High! The Visual Culture of Women's Activism from London to Paris, 1860 to the Present*, and a novel entitled *Desire*, whose female protagonist is based in part on the character of Sarah Grand.

Cynthia Hammond - is Associate Professor in the Department of Art History, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, where she teaches courses in art and architectural history and feminist cultural landscape theory. In addition to publishing on women, architecture, public space and landscapes, she is also a practicing artist. Dr. Hammond has a longstanding interest in and deep affection for Bath, visiting in 1993, and studying and painting the city ever since. Her doctorate and several articles focus on the intersection of public memory, women's history and architectural heritage in Bath. Her book, *Architects, Angels, Activists and the City of Bath, 1765-1965: Engaging with Women's Spatial Interventions in Buildings and Landscape* was published by Ashgate in 2012.

William Hanna - was educated at the City of Bath Boys School and read History and Political Institutions at the University of Keele. After National Service with the Somerset Light Infantry in Germany and Malaya, he served for twenty years in the Territorial Army. He worked in personnel in a number of public and private sector organizations, his last appointment being Director, Staff Relations in the Civil Aviation Authority. Retirement allowed him to develop his interests in military and local history. He is a Field worker for the National Inventory of War Memorials, a Regional Volunteer for the War Memorials Trust, a member of the Society for Army Historical Research and programme secretary for the History of Bath Research Group.

John R. Kirkup - Educated at Kettering Grammar School, Emmanuel College, Cambridge and St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, he first visited the city (1950-2) to play rugby against Bath on beautiful September afternoons. Recalling the latter prompted his successful bid to work in the city's hospitals in 1959 and to gain a permanent post as consultant orthopaedic surgeon in 1964. Later he introduced ankle joint replacement to the U.K. His interest in the history of medicine stimulated books on 17th to 21st century surgery, including an edited version of *The Surgeons Mate* by John Woodall (1617), *A Historical Guide to British Orthopaedic Surgery* (1992), *The Evolution of Surgical Instruments from Ancient Times to the 20th century* (2006), and *A History of Limb Amputation* (2007); *A History of Hip Surgery* is in press. He has been President of the British Society for Medical History, Archivist to the British Orthopaedic Association, Curator of the Historical Instrument Collection at the Royal College of Surgeons and Lecturer in the History of Surgery to the Society of Apothecaries. Awarded the Sir Arthur Keith medal of the College of Surgeons, he has advised widely on museum collections especially in the UK, Portugal and Australia.

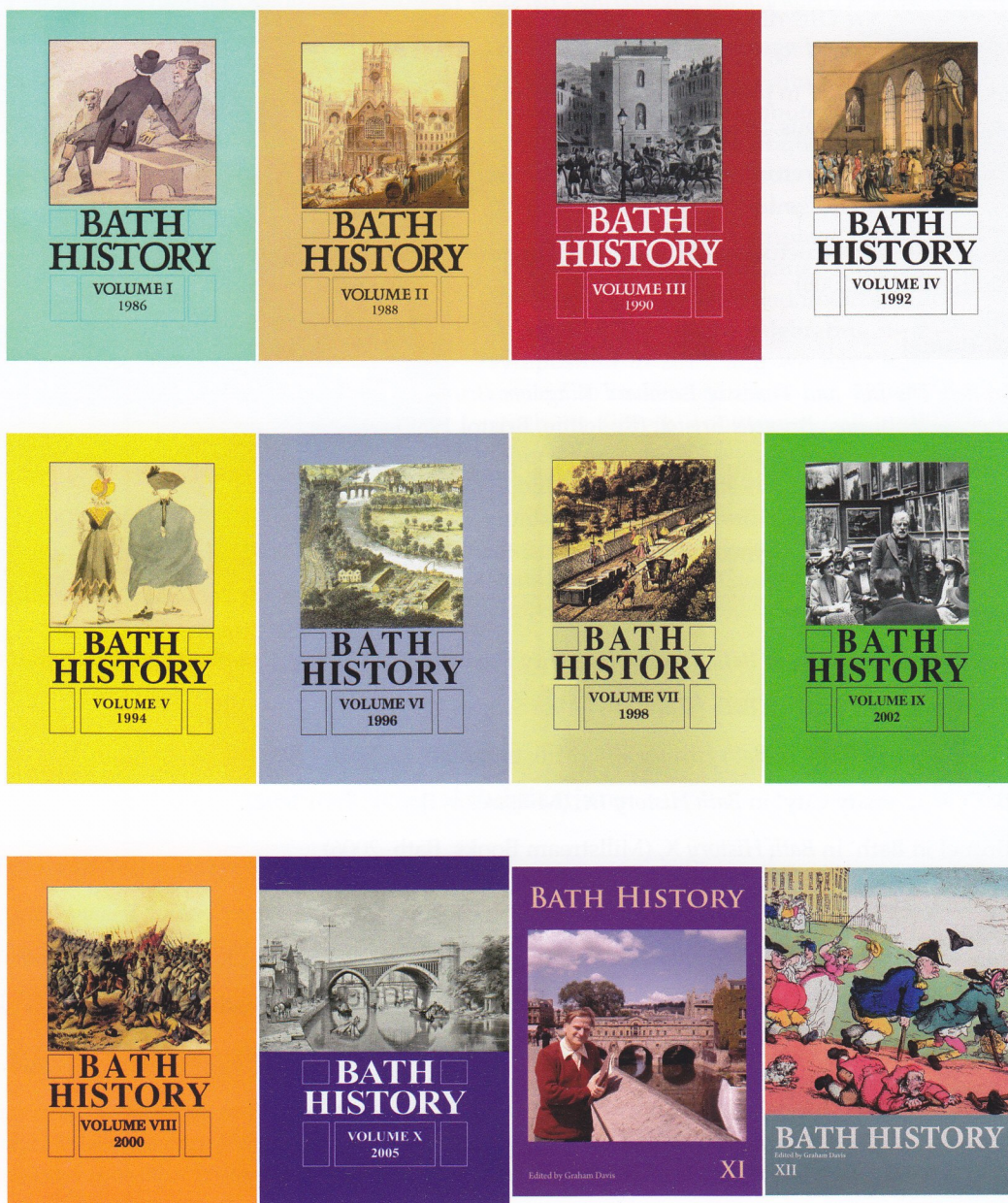
Iftikhar Malik - Professor Malik teaches History at Bath Spa University and has authored a considerable number of books and papers on the recent history and politics of South Asia, Muslim communities in the West and U.S. policies towards the Muslim world. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a member of the Common Room at Wolfson College, Oxford. His special interests and expertise have made him very much in demand for interviews in the British media.

Alan Thwaite - On retirement in 1992 he was Deputy Director of Education in Newcastle upon Tyne. Since then he has followed a number of interests, in particular industrial archaeology and wider aspects of 18th and 19th history. He has written articles for the Jane Austen Society, of which he is a member. Initially provoked by Jane Austen's comments about 'dampness in the offices' (basements) of Green Park Buildings in Bath, he has spent a considerable time over the last few years investigating the history of these houses and developments there, and the residents past and present.

S. Blair Waddell - is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Stirling. His thesis is on William Jay of Bath. He has a general interest in the history of Evangelicalism in South West England. He resides in the United States with his wife and four daughters.

Martin West - holds an M.A. in public history and was director of Fort Ligonier in Pennsylvania, 1981-2011. He has been adjunct lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh, Saint Vincent College and Clark State Community College, concentrating on the eighteenth century. Serving on the Council of George Washington Scholars, Mount Vernon, Virginia, West edited and annotated the general's autobiography in *George Washington Remembers*. He is a collateral descendant of artist Benjamin West.

Barbara White - has retired as Director of an American study abroad programme based in Bath, after twenty years service. She was awarded a PhD in 1980 for her study of early modern assize sermons. She has since published widely on sermon literature, censorship and criminal biography and has contributed articles to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and to encyclopaedias of censorship, the Victorian era, and erotic literature. She has also co-edited a collection of essays entitled *Writing and Fantasy* (Longmans, 1999), and is a regular contributor to *The Bath Magazine*.



A full index of the first ten volumes of previously published articles is available in Bath History vol. X For further information please visit our website www.bathhistory.org.uk

Bath History is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the city's fascinating story. Volume XIII continues the tradition of scholarship featured in previous volumes and retains the enhanced format of volume XII. The beautifully illustrated articles offer readers the fruits of new research, placing the history of Bath in a broader than merely local context.

BATH HISTORY VOLUME XIII 2013

CONTENTS:

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

Cover Image

Prince Bladud Contemplating the Medicinal Virtues of the Bath Waters by Benjamin West, 1807
Royal Academy of Arts, London

Rear

Ticket to a Women's Social & Political Union Meeting at the Guildhall, Bath, 28th September 1910
Bath in Time - Bath Central Library Collection

Published by Bath Spa University

ISBN 978-0-9926338-0-6-6



9 780992 633806 >

