



G R O U P N E W S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1 APRIL 1992

1. Apologies came from Angus and Brenda Buchanan, Mac Hopkins-Clarke, Mary Ede, Leslie Holt, Father Philip Jebb, Maria Joyce, Sheila Metcalf and Mary Wills. About 30 members plus several guests attended. Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
2. In his report the Chairman recalled the varied programme of the past year, the meetings of the Committee, and the issuing of the usual three Newsletters and an updated List of Members. He thanked the Secretary and others concerned in the work of the Group.
3. The Treasurer explained that the date of the AGM so close to the end of the financial year had precluded the presentation of fully audited accounts but that these would be circulated with this Newsletter (see page 2) and brought to the May meeting. The next balance sheet would show the financial position compared with a year ago. In her report, and in answer to questions, she dealt with the need for the Group to claim arrears of tax, the justification for an auditor's fee, the procedure for paying subscriptions by standing order, and the committee's decisions against applying for charitable status or offering life membership. She recommended that subscriptions should remain at last year's levels (£4.50 single, £7.00 joint) with the same 50p concession for payment before 1st July this year. Now standing down as Treasurer, Judith Samuel was thanked for all her work during her term of office.
4. With regard to meetings in 1992-93 the Secretary said that it had been necessary to book the Podium venue well ahead and that, in future, meetings would be held around the middle of the month rather than in the first week. One event would be a joint meeting with the Bath branch of the Historical Association. At another meeting it was hoped Peter Greening would speak. On balance the time of meetings would be better kept at 7.30 pm. The Chairman then referred to the serving of coffee at meetings, which would be discontinued unless volunteers came forward to help on a rota.

5. The AGM accepted a proposal that the brief of the present working party on sources should be widened to cover all aspects of documentation on Bath, including printed, manuscript and visual resources. The idea of forming an independent Friends of Bath Record Office had been abandoned, but the extended working party would liaise with the Record Office as well as Bath Public Library to promote the service of these institutions to local history. HBRG members willing to serve on the working party should tell the Secretary. Jean Manco had kindly listed certain Bath sources in non-local repositories; Peter Borsay has also offered help in this respect and Michael Rowe promised guidance stemming from his own research on the Pulteneys.
6. Bath History volume 4 would be published on 8 April. The Group had purchased fifty copies in advance to sell to members at the concessionary price of £5.50. All 25 copies of volume 3 had been sold, yielding the Group a small profit.
7. The following Committee for 1992-93 was then elected:

Chairman - John Ede	Vice-Chairman - Michael Rowe
Secretary - Trevor Fawcett	Treasurer - Colin Johnston
Committee - Mike Chapman	
Lutz Haber	
Jean Manco	
Judith Samuel	

M E M B E R S

Congratulations to Ian Crowe on obtaining a M. Litt. degree from the University of Bristol with a thesis "Methodism and its Critics in Eighteenth Century Bath".

N O T E S T O T H E A C C O U N T S

In the General Account, the figures for the current year, 1991/92, appear in the centre two columns and not as in the draft presented to the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer believes that they are clearer set out thus.

In the Sources Account the high figure for Expenditure in 1990/91 includes £200 transferred to the High Interest Account, £20 of which had to be returned this year to cover current costs.

The low final balances are due to the amount put aside in the High Interest Account, although unfortunately with falling interest rates the sums realised are not nearly so useful this year.

To pay by Standing Order, members should ask their Bank to pay £4 or £6.50 (whichever is appropriate) after the A.G.M. and before 1st July each year to **LLOYDS BANK plc, 23 Milsom Street, Bath, BA1 10f**; and credit it to our account number **0813503**.

HISTORY OF BATH RESEARCH GROUP:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st APRIL 1991 to 31st MARCH 1992

GENERAL ACCOUNT

1990/91		1991/92	1991/92	1990/91	
455.47	Balance brought fwd.	167.52	129.12	Hire of rooms	93.50
317.50	Subscriptions	298.00	12.00	Subscriptions	12.00
	Transfer: High Int. a/c	30.00	100.00	Transfer: High Int. a/c	400.00
	Bank Charges - refund	32.18	32.18	Bank Charges	
9.50	Refreshments	7.80	6.62	Refreshments	10.50
2.50	Entrance fee at meetings	.50	118.99	Printing	- -
132.00	Bath History 3	5.50	-	Stationery & Printing	76.85
1.45	Donations		16.14	Stationery	- -
			49.56	Stamps	46.09
			17.10	Photocopies	4.96
			- -	Bath History 3	105.00
			20.00	Audit fee	
			35.85	Speakers' expenses	2.00
			3.94	Balance carried fwd.	167.52
£918.42		£541.50	£541.50		£918.42

SOURCES PROJECT

1988					
2/6	One-off grant	300.00		Expenditure 88/89	44.08
				Expenditure 89/90	23.61
1991	Transfer from			Expenditure 90/91	206.17
12/11	High Interest a/c	20.00		Expenditure 91/92	24.58
			31/3/91	Balance	21.56
		£320.00			
					£320.00

HIGH-INTEREST ACCOUNT

HIGH-INTEREST ACCOUNT		ACCOUNT BALANCES				
		1990/91	1991/92			
1990						
5/5	Transfer from Sources:	200.00	General	167.52	3.94	
5/5	Transfer from General:	400.00	Sources	26.14	21.56	
1991			High Interest a/c	622.73	682.56	
31/3	May 1990 - March 1991 Int.	22.73		£816.39	£708.06	
7/7	Transfer from General:	100.00				
12/11	Transfer to General:	30.00				
12/11	Transfer to Sources:	20.00				
April 1991 - Mar. 1992	Int.	9.83				
		£682.56				
				Bank	193.66	25.50
				High Interest	622.73	682.56
					£816.39	£708.06

MEETINGS HELD JANUARY - APRIL 1992

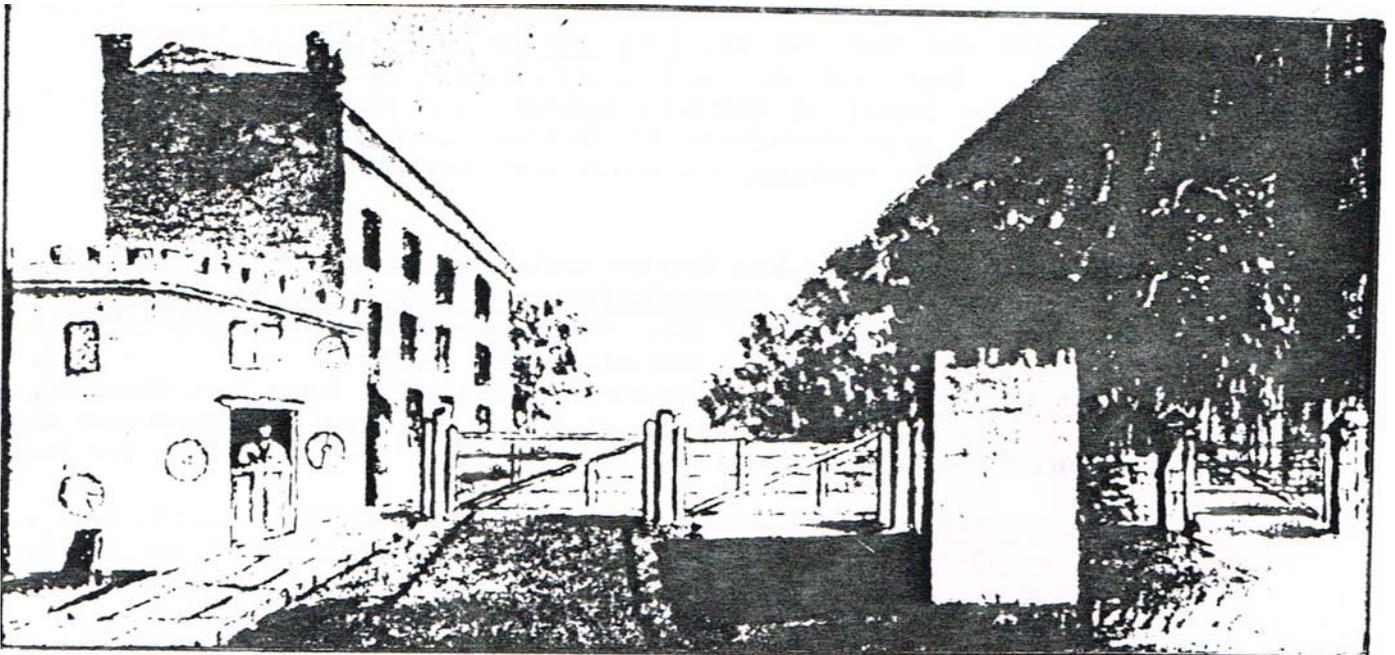
The meeting on 9 January welcomed as speaker Mavis Collier, archivist at Painshill, from c. 1738 the Surrey seat of the Hon. Charles Hamilton until his removal to Bath in 1773. Member of the Irish parliament for over 30 years, and between 1741 and 1747 MP for Truro besides, Hamilton was also a noted authority on landscape gardening. Using ideas garnered on his two Grand Tours he remodelled the 200-acre park at Painshill into a landscape rich in natural and artificial features that in some ways recall Henry Hoare's (rival?) garden at Stourhead, but exhibit more deliberate effects of concealment and surprise. Mavis Collier's colour slides from contemporary paintings and prints, together with views of the present-day grounds (now under gradual restoration), vividly re-created the original design with its steep pastures, woods and lake near the river Mole, its vineyard and walled garden, water-wheel, Salvator-Rosa-inspired cascade, Gothick tower and grotto (built by the itinerant grottoist Joseph Lane). Other features were also intended to evoke romantic trains-of-thought during the four-hour perambulation of the estate: the Roman mausoleum, hermitage, temple of Bacchus, Alpine valley, Turkish tent, and ruined abbey. As the youngest son of the aristocratic Abercorras, Hamilton was perennially hard up, and when his old supporter Henry Fox had to call in his debts, Hamilton was forced to sell Painshill and retire to Bath. Here he took 14 Royal Crescent (for which a detailed agreement for completing the decoration, etc. survives) and also built Rock House on Lansdown, now the site of Bath High School. Somewhere between these properties stretched his striking ornamental and kitchen garden, laid out with walks and hot- and cold-greenhouses, and planted with vines and rare varieties of fruit. He still designed for others, perhaps advising his great nephew William Beckford at Fonthill, and certainly modifying the Capability Brown scene at Bowood and planning the cascade there. His Bath garden did not long survive him; three years after his death (1786) it was on sale for building development and Northampton Street began to rise on the spot.f

Trevor Fawcett on 5 February dealt with the rise and decline of Bath's provision market over two centuries. In 1700 and up to the 1770s it still occupied its traditional island site, blocking High Street every market day, but with a butchers' shambles (improved in 1745) further east, and beyond that the slaughterhouses near the river. Perched on top of the open-sided market-house was the Guildhall from which the market was regulated by means of two annually elected bailiffs who paid a rent for the privilege. The whole market, helped by Bath's geographical location and the 'almost unlimited consumption' of its clientele, gained an enviable reputation for quality and variety of produce at affordable prices - except when poor harvests, profiteering middlemen, or spendthrift visitors forced them up. The Corporation tried to be diligent in overseeing, checking, licensing, prosecuting, and making bye-laws, and during the 1760s and 1770s it laid out, in controversial circumstances, a planned market round three sides of Baldwin's new Guildhall. Widely admired, this boasted 438 stallholders by 1818, not to mention an illegal overflow in the old market place. In 1825 the bailiffs were charged £500 p.a. for farming the traders' rents. The peak of prosperity was reached in the mid-1830s just as control passed to a new Market Committee following municipal reform. The city's fortunes, allied to wider economic changes (impact of railway transport, competition from suburban food shops and the costermonger trade), now led to a steady decline in the market that all efforts at refurbishment, gas lighting, better policing, and other measures failed to stem. After an architectural competition in 1861 the market was handsomely rebuilt in cast-iron and glass, but the loss of trade continued. Brydon's extension to the Guildhall caused further retrenchment and soon the Fire Station was filling the market's South Avenue. By 1899 stallholders had declined to a mere thirty, a dismal statistic compared with the late-Georgian heyday.

Joined on 5 March by guests from Bath Preservation Trust, the Group turned its attention to Christopher Anstey and the literary salon run by Anna (later Lady) Miller at Batheaston. Although treated before (e.g. by Alfred Barbeau and Ruth Hesselgrave), Philippa Bishop brought the evidence under fresh scrutiny and added new detail. Anstey, Latin scholar and ex-Cambridgeshire squire, settled in Bath in the mid-1760s and found almost instant fame with his New Bath Guide, a witty satire in rollicking verse (and wicked parody) on Bathonian society and mores. Running through many editions it brought author and publisher (Dodsley) great profits, inspired imitations, and drew Anstey into the Millers' circle, especially

Millers' circle, especially after 1772 when they returned from the Continent with a huge Roman urn and memories of foreign literary academies. Soon the fortnightly gatherings at their Batheaston villa, which sometimes attracted fifty carriages, had become highly organised; topics and verse forms (e.g. bouts rimés) were set in advance, and on the day there was a ritual vase ceremony and prize-awarding. If Horace Walpole, Edmund Rack and Fanny Burney mocked such pretentiousness, Lady Miller was defended and eulogised by other literary figures, including Richard Graves (rector of Claverton), Anna Seward, Thomas Whalley (who, like Anstey, had a house in the Crescent), and S.J. Pratt - who published the fourth and final anthology of Batheaston verse in 1781, the year Lady Miller's death brought the salon to an end. Its actual poetic achievement was limited, and the better efforts of its members (e.g. Anstey's An Election Ball, first issued in Somerset dialect) were published independently. However, the four miscellanies did raise money for charity, and the socialising function of the coterie should not be underestimated. Ending with slides, Philippa Bishop showed the dramatis personae involved, including Lady Miller herself, honoured by John Bacon's impressive monument beside the altar of the Abbey Church. The last group of slides was a welcome revelation of a set of John Sneyd's watercolours in Bath Central Library.

Following the AGM on 1 April, members were served wine and canapes and had an opportunity to inspect a display of exhibits brought by members. These included a splendid extra-illustrated volume of Peach's Historic Houses in Bath (his own copy), a large framed watercolour showing Queen's College (the 19th-century university institution intended to rise on Claverton Down), a fine 16th-century Japanese sword with its decorated scabbard, locally-engineered brass fob watch stands, a transparency painting, books with local associations, a poster of 1797 for Grosvenor Gardens, and a mixed selection of 19th- and 20th-century documents furnished by Colin Johnston from the rich holdings of Bath Record Office.



The London Road Gate of the Bath Trust at Grosvenor, marking the point at which outgoing traffic from Bath had to pay the first toll. This view may be compared with the illustration on a token reproduced in Brenda Buchanan's article in Bath History IV just published.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. George Cheyne, The English Malady (Tavistock, Routledge, 1991). Reprint of the 1733 ed., with a useful introduction on this Bath physician (famous for his advocacy of moderation in diet and lifestyle) by Roy Porter.
2. A Pox on the Provinces: Proceedings of the 12th Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine, ed. by Roger Rolls, J. and J.R. Guy (Bath University Press, 1990). Among this wide-ranging collection on provincial medical history several items concerning Bath are of special note. John Kirkup claims that the Bath Casualty Hospital (opened 1788 in Kingsmead Street, free of access, and only initially confined to Walcot patients) may have been the first of its kind in Britain; among its earlier admittances were adolescent labourers injured during the building of Bathwick. Audrey Heywood reviews the evidence on the Colica Pictonum or lead poisoning and shows, in the light of modern clinical tests, how the water therapy once administered at the Bath Hospital successfully alleviated paralysis and other symptoms. Physical treatments employed over the centuries at Bath are outlined by Roger Rolls: pumping and scrubbing (with flesh brushes) gave way to all kinds of douches and jets, wet massages, mud baths, and electro-therapies, before modern physiotherapy finally evolved. Sholem Glaser deals with Dr. Henry Harington, physician and leading light in Bath musical circles, and Hugh Torrens gives the salient facts about the City's four scientific societies from 1779 onwards.
3. John Wood, 'Thomas Ross of Bath' Apollo Dec. 1991, pp. 415-416. A brief account (with 2 illustrations) of an artist who settled in Bath in the late 1730s.
4. Dan Cruickshank and Neil Burton, Life in the Georgian city (London, Viking, 1990). Essential and thought-provoking reading for everyone interested in the detail of Georgian domestic and street life - from dining habits and room decoration to drains, glazing bars and urban gardens. Most of the examples are drawn from London but Bath figures too.
5. Trevor Fawcett, 'Selling the Bath Waters: medical propoganda at an eighteenth-century spa', Proc. Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society for 1990, vol. 134 (1991), pp. 193 - 206. Other relevant articles published in this rather neglected source over the past dozen years:
Vol. 124 for 1979-80 has items on 'Rescue excavations at Combe Hay, Somerset, 1968-73', 'The fortified manor house at Newton St. Loe', 'Excavations at Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset, 1973-76', and 'Adelard of Bath and the astrolabe'.
Vol. 128 for 1983-84 includes George Breeze on 'Thomas Hickey's stay in Bath'.
Vol. 129 for 1984-85 has 'John Leland at Somerset libraries' [inc. Bath], 'The Whitmores and T the manor of Keynsham', and 'Somerset men: a study of trade unionism, class and politics in the Somerset coalfield, 1890-1914'.
Vol. 131 for 1987, Vol. 132 for 1988, and Vol. 133 for 1989 contain respectively: B. Lowe on 'Keynsham Abbey: excavations 1981-1985', G.R. Stephens on 'A Roman tombstone at Bath', and A.J. Keevil on 'The Fosseyway at Bath'.

The Newsletter is compiled by the Secretary and typed by Judith Samuel.