

The Survey

of Bath and District

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

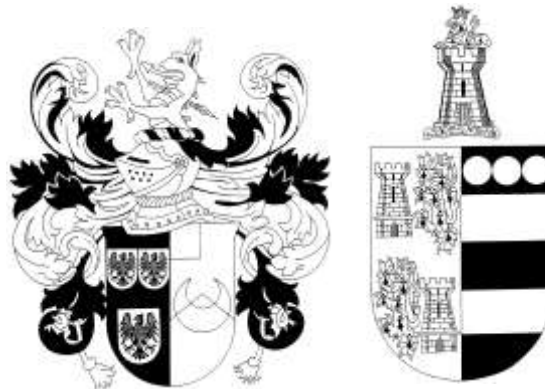
No.11, June 1999

Editors: Mike Chapman

Elizabeth Holland



“When did Bath acquire modern trams?”
(See inside - Marek Lewcun on the Empire Hotel)



Right (Back Cover):
4. Arms of Immanuel Hobbs.
HOBBS, impaling Chapman,
with the crest of Hobbs.

Ledger-stone in the Choir.

Left (Back Cover):
1. Arms of Honor Skrine.
SKRINE, impaling Hungerford.

North transept.

Also included in this issue;

- Sources of the Bath Hot Springs: Dr.Kellaway’s report
- History of the Bath Mayor’s Honorary Guides
- Recollections of Prior Park Road
- Beckford’s Tower - its history and the latest developments
- Protecting the Architectural Heritage of Bath - a summary of Robin Lambert’s thesis

NEWS FROM THE SURVEY

The Survey completed its study of the Sawclose area as described in the last issue, and on 27 May 1999 a walk was conducted round the area (see under News from the Friends). It is proposed to make a similar study of the Bimbury area this summer for the Spa Project Team. We have received the grant we applied for from B&NES to publish a booklet on Bimbury.

We are now working on our booklet on the Guildhall, in conjunction with Stephen Clews of the Roman Baths Museum. This will concentrate on the Guildhall itself rather than the general area.

Elizabeth has been engaged in cataloguing and indexing. A note on her re-arrangement of the Bryant Calendar appears under City News. Under Projects there is a reference to the Survey's collection of cuttings which we have begun to hand over to the Record Office.

We have been pleased to join Marek Lewcun in discussions on the skyline of the Empire Hotel, as discussed in his article in this issue. Our discovery that this skyline was not original turned out to be a well-known idea to him.

Mike Chapman, as historic landscape consultant, has been employed on a number of projects which have not been instigated by the Survey but which are complementary to our work. These include an Historic Survey of Bath Streets (with Jane Root and, from Bath Archaeological Trust, Andrew Crutchley) for the Bath CI:TE team, and work assisting Emily LaTrobe Bateman who is carrying out the Bath Urban Archaeological Assessment for English Heritage. He is still involved in areas outside of Bath, having just completed a survey of the Historic Garden Grounds of Banwell Bone Caves.

Chairman of the Survey: Mike Chapman, 51 Newton Road, Bath BA2 1RW. 01225 426948

Secretary-Treasurer: Elizabeth Holland, 16 Prior Park Buildings, Bath BA2 4NP, B&NE Somerset. 01225 313581



The Saw Close, Bath, the 'Loft' bar (the flat-roofed building in the centre) is one of the oldest buildings in the city.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

A notice of the last lunchtime lecture in November 1998 appears below. Thanks again to the Committee for another successful meeting, held for the first time in the U.R.C.Hall.

A new book by Dr.John Wroughton, President of the Friends, An Unhappy Civil War, will be published in the autumn. A notice of it appears under Publications. Friends Committee member Gill Cope has been selected to be Chairman of the Bath Mayor's Guides, which has about 75 members. We wish her every success in this important position. (Six Mayor's Guides are members of the Friends.) An article about the Mayor's Guides by Mrs.Cope appears later in this issue.

Dr.Geoffrey Kellaway has been visiting Bath in connection with the seismic survey, He has also contributed an article to the magazine. Robin Lambert has also summarised her thesis on conservation in Bath. A copy of the original thesis (in French) is in Bath Record Office, in three cases on one of the bookcases. Professor Robert Alexander visited Bath earlier this year. He met Elizabeth in Bath and John Wroughton on London. He is hoping to arrange to arrange an affiliation between Point Park College and Regent's College in London. If this is finalised, he hopes to be able to visit us more frequently. The Rev.Kerry Birch has also visited Bath lately. Publications carries a note on his recent article on Richard Gay of Haycombe.

On 27 May a walk for the Friends around the Sawclose area was led by Mike Chapman, Marek Lewcun and Kirsty Rodwell, ending in the Garrick's Head for refreshments.

Many of us read in the papers about the mugging incident in which Ruth Haskins, Chairman of the Friends, was involved in December 1998. The papers described Ruth as a sprightly pensioner. We would prefer to call her a vivacious senior citizen. Anyway, vivacious Chairperson Haskins kept the young mugger at bay for five minutes before he managed to escape with her handbag, near Chew Magna. Join the Mayor's Guides and keep fit.

Since the November meeting, a set of wine glasses has been donated for the use of the Friends, in memory of Tony Symons. The Friends are very grateful for the use of the glasses and also to see Tony remembered.

Secretary of the Friends: Mrs.June Hodkinson, 55 Connaught Mansions, Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4BP. 01225 465526.

TOKENS OF BATH AND NEW INITIATIVES

The autumn meeting of the Friends was held on 5th November 1998, when the Chairman, Ruth Haskins, welcomed the President, Dr.John Wroughton, Stephen Clews, Curator of the Roman Baths Museum, the Friends and their guests.

We heard first from Mike Chapman about the City Initiative/Traffic & Environment Project, which David McLaughlin has set up to include an historical study of the streets in Bath. Not only will this be of great assistance when drawing up plans for a proposed new traffic scheme but it will provide ideas of how to go forward with new structures for the Spa development in order to harmonise with the old city and its character. Such a study is a novel idea as nothing similar has been undertaken elsewhere, and it will certainly be of great interest to researchers here.

A second study under the initiative of the Bath Archaeological Trust will look at the Sawclose area prior to possible development, and the historical aspect of this has been given to the Survey. This will be conducted in great detail (in a similar manner to the Kingston Estate survey) by looking closely at 18th century maps, old plans, etc. and plotting the outlines of old buildings. This used to be a very crowded area and probably contains one of the oldest buildings in Bath. We look forward very much to hearing more about these initiatives as the studies progress.

Marek Lewcun followed this with an update of work being undertaken by the Bath Archaeological Trust. A trench has been excavated at Clandown on the Fosseway, the original Roman road linking Clandown to Midsomer Norton. At a site next to Hermitage School (Sion Hill) six Roman burials have been discovered in a 14th century cemetery: three have been exhumed and three have been left.

Following the discovery last year of mosaics at the site of the former Beechen Cliff School at Wellsway, the western edge of a Roman Villa has now been found. It is a large building between 50 - 60 metres long. Excavations continue at Beau Street, where Decimus Burton's pool of 1830 is now visible, with some later additions and a hypocaust. An investigation is also being carried out at Norfolk Crescent - a 1959 dump under the front lawn - and in the area of Windsor Villas, near the remains of a Roman cemetery, on what is probably a Roman track to Partis College.

At present, there is a tremendous amount of interest centred at Southgate where the area is rich in archaeological material. (Clay pipes from 1580 - 1620 have already been found there). In an exposed trench by Ham Gardens Car Park two vaults of 1812 are visible and also remains of walls and cobbles of a Queen Anne building, probably on the eastern edge of the Bum Ditch. Later this month another trench will be dug at the back of Boots building. Eventually this part is scheduled to become an underground car park.

Stephen Clews then gave an illustrated presentation on "Tokens of Bath". The city holds part of a very large collection of coins, newspaper cuttings and bank notes acquired in the late 19th century by Mr.Sydney Sydenham - a former councillor and plumber. The original collection of several thousand objects was split when Local Government was reformed in 1974 and the other part went to Avon.

The first slide showed one of the largest pieces of money in the world, from the Pacific Island of Yap. It is a large disc, 4 metres across, which can be rolled with a piece of wood through a central hole to the scene of the transaction. The stones (money) would be collected and piled up outside the owner's house. Currency is usually "official" and for ordinary transactions it must have mutual respect and recognition. People needed small change and in the Middle Ages reckoning counters were used for calculation and eventually these tokens were used as money. Slides were then shown, firstly, of a lead token from Cirencester, with its 17th century mould from Ashton Keynes pottery, and then various tokens from Bath including the earliest example of unofficial money marked "1652 - In Bath - Henry Pierce". The Government later banned all tokens and began to produce farthings but this did not keep up with demand. In 1787 Parry's Mine Company (Anglesey) produced large quantities of copper tokens of superior quality, often of greater value than that of the coins of the realm, and these began to be collected, London and Coventry having large collections.

The coins were often topical and several slides illustrated tokens from Bath bearing the name of a Mayor or a local trade: Mr.Lambe & Son - Grocers Bath: sugar, coffee, spices, teas., Walter Chapman "Mercer in Bath", and Thos.Clack - Fish salesman Bath, this being a 1/- token. Cartwheel pennies (1oz copper) were issued in 1797 but were not popular and around this time paper money was coming in. More tokens were made in Bath in early 19th century, eg. Bath's 4/- silver token, but in 1814 silver tokens were banned as were copper tokens four years later.

Mr.Clews reminded us that Mr.Bowler deserves a mention, as he became a middleman, making dies which he sent to Birmingham. Dies and tokens would be returned to him, thus ensuring a repeat order.

Ruth Haskins warmly thanked all three speakers for their very interesting talks which were much appreciated by everyone present.

Priscilla Olver, November 1998



Trade tokens of John Pearce and Walter Chapman, and a Bath Farthing

Beatrice and Arthur/Charles

In a previous issue we carried the story of Charles and Beatrice, a pair of ducks which was nesting in the Cross Bath. In April this year the Chronicle ran a series of articles about ducks in the Cross Bath under such headlines as “Fowl play causes a flap at Cross Bath” and “Ducking the Issue”. Either Beatrice has found another drake, or Charles has changed his name by deed poll, as the drake is now called Arthur.

Chemical tests on the Cross Bath water were needed as part of the Spa Project and it was reported that B&NES had spent £1,800 on putting up scaffolding and a net to keep out our feathered friends. Some blamed vandals for pulling the net back and some claimed they saw the ducks do it. Beatrice laid several eggs on the Cross Bath site and to remove them it was necessary to apply for a licence from the Department of Environment, Transport and Resources under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Margaret Stewart of the Springs Foundation made great efforts to have the ducks left in place, campaigners mounted guard, and 1000 people signed a petition to send to Tony Blair. Japanese and German television featured the ducks live.

The Spa team were hoping to have the ducks removed to Slimbridge. At the time of preparing this issue they were still there, with seven ducklings. Considering their publicity value perhaps it is time to give them a salary.

No Kingfishers Here

In pre-conservation days, a hundred years ago, some people took a different attitude. These quotes come from the Bath Council Minutes, 18 April, 1899:

A letter was read from Mr.H.D.Skrine, of Claverton Manor, informing the Council that it had been reported to him as President of the Selborne Society, that the Assistant Engineer had shot three herons, at the Monkswood Reservoir, on the ground that a heron had been seen eating a fish, and he appealed to the Council that the shooting of these birds might not be allowed.

It was moved by His Worship the Mayor, seconded by Mr.Councillor Phillips and Resolved -

That in the opinion of the Council such a proceeding as that now complained of, as well as the shooting of Kingfishers at the Roman Bath last year, ought not to have been taken without the previous sanction of the Waterworks or Bath Committees, respectively.

Hawkeye

Another ornithological note on TV dealt with the appearance early this year of a pair of peregrine falcons in Bath. They were seen perching on St.John’s Roman Catholic Church and elsewhere. Not featured on TV was the experience of a Weston resident, trying to wheel her bicycle out of her drive and impeded by one of the falcons sitting there eating a packed lunch. No amount of bicycle bell ringing disturbed it and she had to tiptoe round it, being rather afraid of joining the menu herself. As seagulls have taken to attacking residents and tourists, Bath is becoming something of a danger zone.



Above; The Cross Bath duck and her ducklings. The association of the springs with wings goes back to the founder of the baths, King Bladud (left), who broke his neck during his attempt to fly. Photo: Kevin Bates, by permission of the *Bath Chronicle*.

Catalogues of City Deeds, BRO

B&NES Record Office at the Guildhall, Bath, possesses two major catalogues of city property deeds. One is Furman's Repertory, made in the 1770s. The other is the Bryant Calendar, created by the first City Archivist, Robert Bryant, which contains many deeds later than the 18th century. Both are chronological.

The majority of the Bryant Calendar Deeds were removed to Deed Packets, and the Legal Department wrote the relevant Deed Packet numbers in the Bryant Calendar some time ago. Deeds dated up to 1850 from the Deed Packets are now kept in the Record Office, arranged under the Deed Packet numbers. Those from 1850 on, remain in the Legal Department at Keynsham.

Elizabeth has now re-arranged the Bryant catalogue by sites, using the Deed Packet numbers where appropriate. For instance if one wishes to see what deeds exist on the Castle Inn, Broad Street, one simply looks under the Castle Inn in the Broad Street file, instead of looking through the centuries for possible deeds. The list is in the yellow ring binders on top of a bookcase in the Record Office. The High Street section will be added when our High Street project is completed.

This Calendar comprised some thousands of deeds. It is hoped to do the same for Furman, which includes 1000s more, and also add notes on the deeds in the different Accessions, many of which of course belonged to individuals rather than the Corporation. It is hoped that as time goes by people will also list the extra deeds retrieved from the Legal Department's Deed Packets, apparently as many again as were in the Bryant Calendar.

Guildhall Market

In March 1999 B&NES Resources Co-ordination Committee voted to spend £50,000 on refurbishing Bath's Guildhall Market. It was hoped to improve trading in the Market and attract more stallholders. Both entrances were to be enhanced, information and history boards provided and better signs, and lighting and floorboards improved. The possibility of providing a market caretaker and a public toilet was also to be assessed.

Travelling Award

As announced in February 1999, Chris Pound, former Bath City Council Town Planner, has received a grant from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship Awards. The award was intended to finance visits to heritage sites in Northern Europe, including Norway, Sweden, Finland and Germany, with particular emphasis on studying problems related to urban design. Chris Pound will prepare a final report for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Photographing Listed Buildings

The Royal Photographic Society, centred on Bath, has been granted over £3 million from the Millennium Festival Fund to photograph Britain's Listed Buildings. Bath has nearly 5,000 such buildings, 635 being Grade I. The National Monuments Record, based at Swindon, will collate the pictures nationwide. The idea is to provide a millennium snapshot of Britain, like our Cuttings files (see Projects) which provide a picture of Bath in the last 15-20 years.

Seismic Survey

On Friday 19 March the Seismic Survey began in the Royal Victoria Park. Dr.Kellaway, consultant geologist, has provided us with an account of the project, which follows later in this issue.

Beehive Yard

A 1:2000 scale model of the scheme for the old tramshed and Beehive Yard was commissioned by Future Heritage of Circus Mews and put on display at Jem Public Relations in Pulteney Mews. Meanwhile there has been a great deal of debate on what will happen to the Saturday flea market if the proposed development goes ahead.

Millennium Hero

John Wood was chosen as the city's millennium figure in a survey conducted by the Bath Industrial Heritage Centre. James Dyson once of Bathford was one of the names put forward. The James Dyson saga is perplexing as Elizabeth owned a bagless vacuum cleaner, made by a Japanese firm, long before his appeared. See Notes & Queries for the final list of names.

Bathwick Local History Group

The first meeting of this newly formed group was held on 18 May at St.Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick. For information, contact Sheila Edwards, Bath 463902.

Widcombe and Lyncombe Local Study Group

1998 ended with four lively and well-attended meetings when we investigated some of the social aspects of our area in the 19th century. In September Dr.Graham Davis gave us some of his researches into crime and punishment. These accounts managed to be both entertaining and moving at the same time. Then our October meeting was almost a continuation of the theme when Marek Lewcun and Paul De'Ath contributed to an evening of very well illustrated information about smoking and drinking and the industries and social activities generated by these "vices".

Members who had helped to clear some grave-stones in Bath Abbey cemetery back in June brought along the results of their research to the meeting in November and we learned a lot of new details about a number of prominent Bath families - the Doynes, the Meyers, the Sturgesses, and the Saunders and the Shums.

Finally, in December members brought along items which they had dug up, bought, found or borrowed and the evening ended with usual mince pies and a quiz. 1999 promises to be a good year with a visit planned to Bruton Hospital and topics to include "In the Service of the Crown"; some Widcombe business men and population changes over the centuries.

Doreen Collyer, April 1999

Bathampton Local History Society

At a meeting last year two members gave an account of their dwellings at the time when they were built dating back to the 17th and 19th centuries. This was followed by a detailed account of the sale of the Ralph Allen Estate in 1921 pinpointing some of the land sold and subsequent building of houses and expansion of the village of Bathampton.

Last March Pat Watts (Chairman) and Arthur Green (Treasurer) gave a talk on the Life and Times of Ralph Allen from "St.Colomb to Claverton". This was followed in April with a very interesting talk, with slides, by Clive Quinnell on the Royal Mineral Hospital and Ralph Allen's involvement. At the May meeting, Audrey Woods gave a fascinating and humorous talk on 18th century Health and Make-up.

The Christmas Social was well attended and was given the theme of a "Victorian Christmas of Songs and Verse". The entertainment was provided by John Osborne and Rita Morgan who with some of the members and friends came dressed in Victorian dress to add to the flavour and a good time was had by all. The evening concluded with Victorian type tit bits, punch and "figgy pudding"! A good start to the festive season.

A visit to St Paul's Cathedral, London, has been arranged for 9 September when Terry Lee, until recently Clerk of the Works there, will be taking members around the fabric and up onto the roof. It was envisaged that other History Societies would be invited but sadly all the seats on the coach were sold out by March! If any of the Local History Secretaries would like information on the visit they can write to A.H.Green, 8 Down Lane, Bathampton, Bath, BA2 6UE and perhaps a further trip could be arranged.

The Society meets on the second Thursday of the month and programmes may be obtained from the above address or by telephoning 01225 462380.

A.H.Green, Hon.Treasurer, April 1999

DISTRICT NEWS

Rocks East Woodland

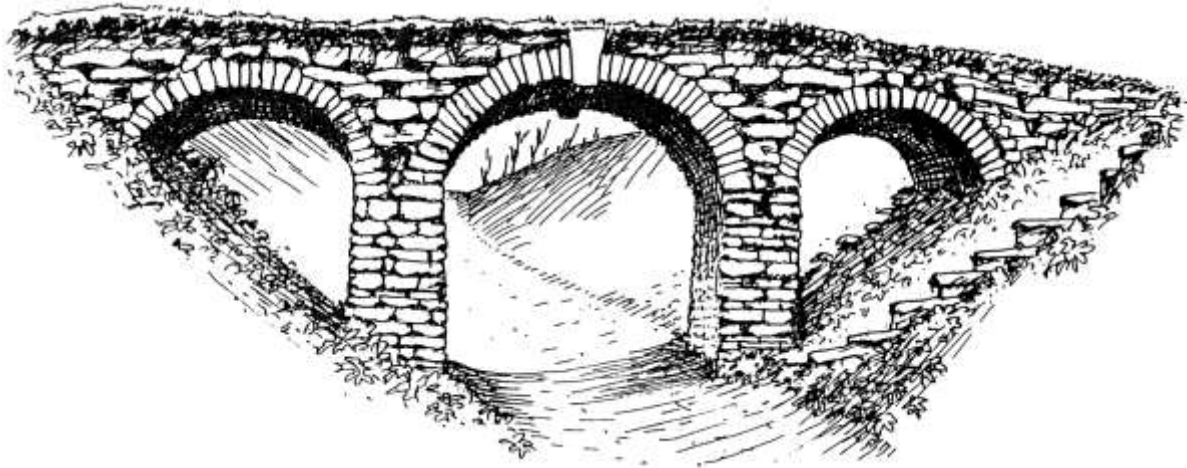
It has been suggested that this garden, between Colerne and Marshfield in South Gloucestershire, was once the site of a stone quarry used to create some of Bath's Roman buildings. It is thought stone was hauled to Batheaston and floated on rafts down the river. It is also believed the stone was used in the construction of a Roman villa situated under Colerne airfield runway.

Mike carried out a survey of the historic grounds of The Rocks five years ago as part of a preservation plan. The grounds are situated under a sheer cliff face below the mansion, and although now mostly under woodland cover, still present a mysterious and dramatic setting with many curious and unusual natural and landscape features. In 1738 the Bath poetess Mary Chandler was moved to compose some verse on the subject, "To Mrs. Jacob, on her Seat call'd The Rocks", in her book called *The Description of Bath, A Poem*.

At easy Distance from the Town,
An hospitable Seat
From Croud and Noise there stands retir'd,
A sweet and cool Retreat;

Securely seated on a Rock,
Whence silver Streams descend,
From Cliffs, the Ruins of old Time,
And murmur as they bend ...

Romantic Views these Prospects yield,
That feed poetic Fire;
Each broken Rock, the Cave, and Field,
And Hill, and Vale, inspire ...&c.



Rustic bridge – once part of the Rocks gardens.

South of England RDA

The first of April 1999 saw the inauguration of the South West of England Regional Development Agency, bringing together seven "counties" - Gloucester, Bristol and Avon, the Somerset districts, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. Some members feel it covers too large an area. It hopes to create a 5-year strategy for its territory.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. John Wroughton's new book, *An Unhappy Civil War*, is due for publication in the autumn. It describes the sufferings and experiences of ordinary people in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire during the Civil War, as both civilians caught up in the brutality of conflict and conscripts thrust into the savagery of front-line action. The book will be lavishly illustrated.

B&NES Record Office, Bath, possesses a copy of *The Baptist Quarterly*, The Journal of the Baptist Historical Society, Vol. XXXVII, No. 8, October 1998, with Rev. Kerry Birch's article, "Richard Gay of Haycombe: An exploration of a story and its influence on local Baptist family and community history". He explores family stories of Richard Gay, a Baptist minister of the mid and later 17th century. This is a valuable addition to local 17th century studies. The 17th century was the Survey of Old Bath's first subject, but somehow its interests have spread out in other directions as well!

A great deal of local research in Bath has been done from deeds, but Kerry Birch's study shows how many other sources can be used to gather information about a particular individual. These sources can also supplement the data which researchers also collect from parish registers. The article quotes the following account of Richard Gay on its first page. Kerry writes:

A recent acquisition by the Angus Library is a late seventeenth-century sermon attributed to Richard Gay of Haycombe. The sixteen and a half pages of small, closely written notes are almost illegible, often written in shorthand, but contain many references to Biblical texts and other recognisable phrases. Indeed it would appear that the manuscript consists of notes of a number of sermons. There then follow two half pages of biographical notes about Richard Gay:

The above writing was Mr Richard Gays of Haycombe in Sommerset - my great Grandfather. He was imprisoned In Ilchester Castle the same time as Mr Bunyan was

Mr Bunyan greatly respected him & dedicated a Book of his to Mr Gay - My Great Grandfather was a Baptist minister preach'd at Haycombe in a house of his own set apart for the publick worship of God built on his own Estate he lived in ye troublesome times I think by what I can gather from History & family circumstances in or before ye time of Charles ye 2nd - He & his hearers were much persecuted for Religion He paid ye fine for Himself & hearers as long as they would take any money they then refused to take money any longer said they would have his person accordingly & they had him to Ilchester Castle where they confined Him for three years His wife a pious woman was left with several young children under her care but she also trusted in God & was preserved. After ye Expiration of three years he was set at liberty & returned to his family He lived to be one hundred years old & used to recount the great goodness of God to him during his imprisonment with tears of Gratitude running down his cheeks

one text I remember hearing my dear & fond mother mention was In Isaiah 43: I & 2 But now thus saith ye Lord that created thee, O Israel, Fear not for I have redeemed thee, I have called the by thy name thou art mine. 2 when thou passeth thro' ye Waters I will be with thee & when through the Rivers they shall not overflow thee when thou walkest through the fire thou shall not be burned neither shall the flame kindle upon thee, For I am ye Lord &c. When my good venerable ancestor wrote this sermon he little thought a descendent of his family shd write in ye same book so long after as ye year 1802

Jane Blatch

[Biographical Note on Richard Gay appended to his Sermon, 1802, MS in Angus Library, Regents Park College, Oxford., pp.1-17]

The *Chronicle* brought out another historical supplement in February, filling in the post-Roman period. There were some attractive pictures with some interesting material. It is a pity however when personal opinions are constantly stated as if fact. This is the kind of instant history we have mentioned before.

It was stated for instance that the Tudor Abbey definitely had a Lady Chapel at the eastern end. The opinion of archaeology is that a building was proposed and begun there but not actually built. Irvine reported the floor of the medieval transept still in place, and the massive foundations necessary for a Lady Chapel have never been discovered there. Wills mention a Lady Chapel, but it need not have been built or could have been elsewhere. (Cf.1507, John Stradlyng of Kelston, to be buried in the

chapel of the Blessed Mary in the cathedral church of Bath.) Smith's drawing shows it, but his is the worst map ever done of old Bath, and drawn long after the Abbey was despoiled. The division of the Lyncombe hunting park between the Bishop and the Prior was part of the normal process of handing property over to the Priors. There was no contest: this is a misunderstanding of the normal court procedure. There are too many errors of this kind in this supplement.

In February Vera Dyer, author of *Bathampton: I Can Still Smell the Chalk*, and *A Bathampton Family*, brought out *Down the Street*, with her childhood memories of Twerton. Although Vera lived in Bathampton in the 1930s she spent week-ends and holidays with her grandmother in Twerton High Street. Each copy of *Down the Street* possesses an original hand-painted view of the village by Vera. The booklet has been stocked by Whiteman's in the Orange Grove at £1.50, or can be obtained by ringing Bath 858337.

In December 1998 the Weston Local History Society brought out the *Weston Village Journal*, edited by Michael Rockey and Beryl Newns-Wood, their first publication. One feature uses Domesday Book to imagine how the village appeared 900 years ago. The cost is £5.99 from city bookshops and shops in Weston. Proceeds will help Weston Local History Society continue its research.

In April Eleanor MacNair brought out *China Wife*, based on letters from her mother in the 1920s describing her voyage out to join her husband, a submarine commander, and her life in Hong Kong and on the Royal Navy's base on Wei Hai Wei island in the north of China. The book is illustrated with watercolours by Mrs. MacNair, and is priced £7.99, published by M&N Publishing.

On 8 December 1998 *Mr. Bowler of Bath, Victorian Entrepreneur and Engineer* by Ken Andrews was launched at the Bath Industrial Heritage Centre. At £5.95, the book is available from various bookshops in Bath, including Waterstone's, and also from the Industrial Heritage Centre. Ken Andrews works part-time at the Centre and wrote a dissertation on the Bowler collection there for the Bath Spa University College master's degree. The following material was circulated in connection with the launch:

Ken Andrews was born in Bristol in 1934 and has always lived there apart from two years National Service with the Royal Corps of Signals. After leaving Cotham Grammar School he was apprenticed to the Post Office Engineering Department with whom he served for over forty years, the final years with the privatised British Telecom. He retired in 1991 as a Regional Works Manager for Trunk Services in the south-west of England.

Jonathan Burdett Bowler was still an apprentice when his father suddenly died, leaving him to care for an ailing mother and younger brother. Later he married and started a family. Although working the long hours expected of employees in Victorian times, he began moonlighting to pay the rent and provide food, and grew and sold vegetables and kept pigs. Within a short space of time he had also bought four horses and became a landlord. Eventually, in 1872, he started up in business on his own account, becoming well known for producing mineral water manufacturing machinery and as a mineral water manufacturer in his own right. Almost any work was accepted by Bowler, even painting and decorating. Indeed, his specialisms were numerous and included plumbing, bell-hanging, gas-fitting, locksmithing and brass-founding. He died in 1911. During his lifetime he had thrown very little away and bought many of his business needs at auctions, a characteristic followed by his children who took over the business on his death. His grandson eventually closed the business in 1969.



No.13 Prior Park Buildings, where some of the Bowler family lived – also see article by Barbara Collins.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you very much for your letter. Your magazine arrives regularly and is much appreciated... I am writing an article for *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* on the 1925 Bath Corporation Act and I will send a copy of that to Colin Johnston as well. A great relief to write something in English and I have found more information about it which was not in the thesis.

Robin Lambert, Paris, December 1998

I very much enjoyed the newspaper of the *Bath Chronicle* about "Roman Bath". Thank you very much that you have thought of me. I read your letter for my grandma and grandpa in Herrnhut without any problems, so I think if I visit you again we could talk much more together. I am now 13 years old and I go to Zinzendorf school (Moravian) in Tossens. We speak about the Romans in English and History. So the paper is interesting and useful. I wish you a Happy New Year.

Leonhard Becker, Germany, February 1999

Thanks for the latest issue of your magazine which was very interesting. I think the arrangement with Regent's College in London will go through so Point Park College will be affiliated with Regent's and our students will be able to take classes there. Every now and then I am hoping to come over in January... The clock has tolled midnight, so I'm about to give up and go to sleep. On the other hand, it's about 6 a.m. in Bath, I suppose, so everyone there is getting up. Have a good day.

Robert Alexander, Pittsburgh, April 1999



The organ of Widcombe Baptist Church.



Laying the foundation stone for the Institute, c.1910.

Pictures supplied by Ken Evans, Church Archivist.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Abbey Church House

We have not yet raised a grant to continue with this study and therefore have not added much information to that previously published.

It has recently been pointed out that Dr.Robert Baker appears to have been married to Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Henry Clarke and grand-daughter of Thomas. If as we think the M.P.for Bath in the reign of Edward VI, John, was a son of Thomas Clarke, he would have been her uncle. This would confirm our idea that he built part of Abbey Church House.

We therefore suggest that John Clarke built the western portion of Abbey Church House c.1550-1552, and that after his death, which seems to have been in the 1550s, the lease passed on in the family. It seems possible that Alderman Turner who held the "great house" had married into the family. It would then pass to Elizabeth Clarke and her husband Dr.Robert Baker.

We suggest that Dr.Robert Baker built the eastern portion of Abbey Church House, which once included No.2 Hetling Court (the present Hetling House) in 1590, and that this comprised his "new buildings". This would mean that all the original fabric was Tudor, making this once again an unique property in Bath.

It has recently been reiterated that Dr.Robert Baker built the western portion, not the eastern, which we do not accept. This is not what the 1641 note on his lease indicates. In support of this idea it has been stated in a recent publication that the coat of arms over the fireplace in the Great Room is that of Elizabeth Clarke. It is a man's coat of arms, not a woman's. Until the suggestion that a man's shield was put up for a woman has been justified, we do not have to discuss this proposal.

It has been pointed out to us that Bishop John, his brother Thomas, and the M.P. John, are often described as "Clerke". This is very true, but they are also described as "Clerk" and other spellings. We try to adopt one spelling per family as far as possible and chose the one most often used in Bath nowadays for this family, "Clarke". For example Thomas Chapman the clothier, died 1524, seems to have called himself "Chepman", but we put him down as Chapman with the rest!

Rebecca

In a letter to the *Chronicle* published 12 December 1998, G.H.Goodson pointed out that when Mr.David Beeton retired as Chief Executive "about 1985 or 1986", he paid for the refurbishment of the Rebecca Fountain (the subject of one of our cover pictures) as a parting gift to the city. The work was carried out by the sculptor Lawrence at Ston Easton. A few months later however Wessex Water decreed that the water in this fountain was running to waste, and turned it off. The Rebecca fountain has therefore not been in operation since the 1980s.

Millennium Man

The newsletter of the Bath Industrial Heritage Centre, April 1999, gives the following report on its efforts to choose a man for the millennium:

The Bath Industrial Heritage Centre asked the residents of the city to choose the resident of Bath who while living here made the greatest contribution as to how we live today. The nominations had to be for the last one thousand years. The overall winner as chosen is John Wood the Senior, the pioneer town planner and architect with 22 nominations. The other nominations are as follows:

Isaac Pitman, inventor of the first workable shorthand - 17

Ralph Allen, quarry owner, postal reformer, &c. - 13

Sir John Harrington, alleged inventor of the WC - 12

William Smith, for the invention of the science of Stratigraphic Geology - 12

Major Charles Davis, city engineer responsible for the excavation of the Roman Baths and the design of the Empire Hotel(!) - 3

Beau Nash, 18th century Master of Ceremonies - 3

Jane Austen, short time resident, didn't like Bath - 2

Prince Bladud, legendary founder of Bath, despite being in the wrong millennium, Doris Langley Moore, founder of the Museum of Costume, Charles Ware, renowned restorer of Morris Minor Cars in Bath, Cameron Mackintosh, Theatre impresario, only scored 1 each.

Puzzle concerning the father of Major C.E.Davis

Major Charles Edward Davis (1827-1902), the Bath surveyor, architect, civil engineer, and antiquary, who was responsible for the excavation and opening up of the Roman Baths, as well as for designing (inter alia) the Empire Hotel, Bath, was the grandson of Charles Davis, the painter (1769-1849). His father was Charles Winter Davis, baptised at the Abbey on 30 May 1795, the eldest son of Charles Davis, the painter, and his wife Lydia (née Lydia Winter).

Major Davis's obituary, in more than one Bath newspaper, after his death on 10 May 1902, stated that his father, Mr.C.Davis, was also an architect. In Barry Cunliffe's interesting assessment of the work of Major Davis (*Bath History*, Vol.I, 1986, pp.27-60), he refers to the fact that, throughout the time when Major Davis was Surveyor of Works at Bath, "he (also) ran a successful architectural practice inherited from his father, Charles Davis ...". There are several pieces of evidence which cast doubt on the final part of this statement.

A much younger son of Charles and Lydia, Edward Davis (1802-1852), baptised at the Abbey, 4 March 1802, did indeed become an architect. A pupil of Sir John Soane, from 1824 to 1826, he subsequently practised in Bath, being the designer of the Royal Victoria Park lay-out, its 'Tudor' (or 'Gothic') farmhouse, and some 'Tudor' houses in Entry Hill, in one of which ('Granville House'), he later resided (see Colvin, 1995, *Dictionary of British Architects*, 1600-1840). He appears in Bath Directories, from 1833, as an architect, at 3 Westgate Buildings, Bath (the business address given also for his father, Charles Davis, painter, from 1819 - but earlier at No.2). Edward had a wife and an only daughter in 1841 (Census), and died in 1852 (*Gentleman's Magazine*, May, 1852 (i), p.637). It seems strange that Edward's brother, Charles Davis, who was said to have been an architect whose business was inherited by his son, Major Davis, does not appear in Bath Directories.

There is another peculiarity. Documents in the Bath Record Office (Deed Packet 2988A) concerning the former Lower Barrack Farm in Wellsway (site of the present Entry Hill Golf Course), show that, in the 1820s, a small part of it (about six acres at the north-east corner of the present golf course) was purchased by the Bath painter, Charles Davis (grandfather of Major Davis). He mortgaged his property (including his six acres of Barracks), and in 1845, arranged for his son, Edward, the architect, to benefit from its rents and profits, and eventually to inherit it, provided he paid annuities to his parents during their lifetime. In detailing these arrangements, he made no mention of his eldest son, Charles.

A further odd fact is that Major Davis, as a boy, aged 13, was apparently living with his grandparents (Charles Davis, the painter and his wife, Lydia) at their home address, South Hayes (1841 Census), and ten years later, as a qualified, but still unmarried, young man, he was still living there with his widowed grandmother (1851 Census). His parents were not present on either occasion.



South Hayes, where Major Davis lived as a boy, apparently at the far end. Was the terrace designed by Edward Davis?

A final piece of evidence is that, in 1850, the Bath Directory shows Charles E. Davis (Major Davis), architect and civil engineer, at 3 Westgate Buildings (his uncle, Edward Davis, no longer listed), and residing at South Hayes. It certainly seems that Major Davis had inherited his uncle's, not his father's, business. It is all rather puzzling. Had Major Davis been orphaned, perhaps, at an early age?

Allan Keevil

PROJECTS

Letters Editor

Leslie Holt has kindly agreed to run a Letters page for the magazine. Readers could express their views on different subjects, while longer items could still be kept for Notes and Queries or for articles. As the Survey is not a pressure group, views would have to be noncontroversial. Further news on this project will be circulated later.

Would anyone be interested in the following projects? If so please get in touch with Elizabeth.

Publications Editor

We would be glad to find someone to collect information on recent Bath publications, for the magazine. This is something which could be discussed with any volunteer.

Cuttings Project

Soon after Colin Johnston was appointed City Archivist, Elizabeth suggested to him that she might make a pictorial record of the city in the 1980s. She collected a number of postcards of Bath, which are now in their sets in the Record Office (Accession 170). She also bought a number of photos from the Chronicle, which are also at the Record Office, such as pictures of the fire at Prior Park (Accession 350, Property Files). The Survey has also taken a great many photographs of the city.

In the end Elizabeth settled down to collecting cuttings from the Chronicle. Some of the items in its Property section for instance are very useful. We have now donated the first volume of these cuttings, the Georgian Heritage areas north-west and west of the old city (Accession 350: NCA (Newspaper Cuttings and Advertisements)). The next volume planned is to contain the cuttings on Lyncombe and Widcombe.

Elizabeth does not wish to collect any more cuttings, but only to hand over the ones already in hand. Would anyone like to take on the project of making fresh cuttings? Ring binders will be provided by the Record Office, and "clear pockets" by the Survey. The ultimate objective was to have cuttings for every street in Bath, and in the Georgian collection it was interesting to see tiny streets of which one had never heard before. Any volunteer needs to take the Chronicle, of course. Even if someone volunteers for their own area only, this will be very helpful.

BECKFORD'S TOWER PROJECTS

Guides

After about eighteen months restoration work, costing more than £660,000, one of Bath's best known landmarks, Beckford's Tower, is to re-open in May. With this in mind, Beckford Tower Trust has approached the Survey of Old Bath to enquire whether we can help provide volunteer stewards/guides for the coming season. Anyone interested in helping the Trust should contact the administrator of Beckford Tower Trust, Ms. Jesca Verdon-Smith directly on Bath (01225) 460705 for more information. A short course on the history of the Tower will be given to those who would like to help.

The Graveyard

The Trust is also appealing for volunteers to help record the graveyard in the cemetery adjacent to Beckford Tower during this coming spring and summer. This is an important and interesting project which, when completed, will contribute a significant human interest element to the history of the Beckford Tower. They would very much like to assemble a team of volunteers able to help on an occasional basis. Potential volunteers for this project may obtain further information from Mrs. Inés Bull on Bath (01225) 461943.

THE PROTECTION OF BATH HOT SPRINGS

A summarised account by G.A.Kellaway (Consulting Geologist), for the use of Bath & North East Somerset Council, October 2nd 1998. Paragraphs 6, 7 & 8 added March 1999, replacing some administrative details.

1. Bath Spa was closed in 1978 due to the presence of a pathogenic Amoeba (*Naegleria fowleri*) in the thermal water. This problem was dealt with successfully by sinking an inclined borehole in Stall Street in 1983. Accounts of this and other work will be found in the Hot Springs of Bath published by Bath City Council (1991). By this means it was demonstrated that contamination by the Amoeba is a superficial phenomenon and that the unoxidised water at depth is free of it. Regular testing and monitoring of the flow, temperature and quality of the water has been in operation for about 12 years.

2. It has been known since the beginning of the 19th century that damage to the hot springs can be caused by the sinking of wells and boreholes on the valley floor at Bath. This is due to the presence of big fissures and faults in the rocks. These permit the hot water to rise to the surface from the Carboniferous Limestone which has an unconformable cover of Triassic and Jurassic strata about 60-80m in thickness in the centre of Bath. As it rises, the thermal water cools and spreads outwards in the near surface rocks where it comes in contact with cold ground water. This sets up a balance between the pressure of the hot thermal water and the cold ground water in the areas surrounding the hot springs. Boreholes and wells sunk in the valley floor which abstract water can affect the pressure relationships and cause a reduction in the flow and temperature of the hot springs. It is therefore necessary to maintain monitoring of the hot springs and to keep a constant watch on developers and others who may cause damage to the flow of the springs. This has been achieved by close consultation between the Council's responsible Engineer and Consulting Geologist working under the terms of the Avon Act (1982). The operation of this Act is absolutely essential to the continued protection of the hot springs

3. Long-term protection against derogation of the hot springs by deep seated changes in thermal water movement on the Carboniferous Limestone proves a much more difficult problem. Up to 1996 the current hydrogeological theory for the origin of the thermal water was one commonly advanced for Bath and other areas round the world. Thus it was believed that rain falling on the Carboniferous Limestone uplands surrounding the Bristol and Somerset coal basin rises under hydrostatic pressure in the limestone underlying the Avon Valley at Bath. Quarrying of limestone in the Mendips and other uplands would therefore pose a threat due to the pumping down of the water levels. The results of monitoring the thermal water at Bath have given no support to this idea. No recognisable changes have taken place during the past 12 years to match those observed in quarries at Wick or in the Mendips. The viability of the hydrostatic theory is therefore being seriously questioned. This is important, not least because undue concentration on the 'Mendip' theory could result in neglect of other aspects that may be of much greater importance.

4. The alternative to a hydrostatic theory is a water density theory. The water, which originates as cold rain water (mean annual temperature 10°C) is heated at depth to over 46°C. It therefore expands and rises as in a domestic hot water system. This change is sufficient to account for the artesian head at Bath without involving hydrostatic pressure due to a distant high level source. The recharge source may therefore lie in the Avon Valley. In 1996 the writer discovered the Avon-Solent Fracture Zone, a broad belt of deeply fractured and fissured rocks extending from Avonmouth to the Solent. Both the source and the emission of hot water may lie in this zone.

5. So further investigation of the Avon valley is needed to safeguard the sources of the thermal water. The most economic way of doing this is geophysical investigation (primarily seismic) linked to a drilling programme. In this way it may be possible to locate the recharge area and protect it from derogation.

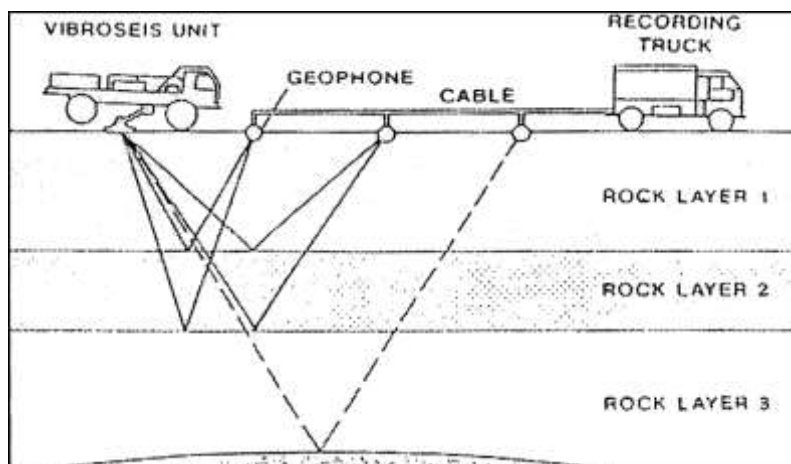
6. To accomplish this it will be necessary to establish the deep structure of the rocks beneath the valley floor and the hills surrounding Bath. So far it has only been possible to sink a few relatively shallow exploratory boreholes. These have been very useful, but a systematic extension covering the geology down to depths of 1500m would be prohibitively costly.

7. A Seismic Survey offers a practical alternative and a programme of seismic investigation is now

being carried out by IMC Geophysics operating under contract with Bath and N.E.Somerset Council. Geophysical advice is being given by Professor Clive McCann and Dr.Dave McCann (formerly of the British Geological Survey). It is intended to supplement the Seismic Survey by the use of data from outside sources, as well as by trial borings sited in relation to the seismic traverses. A preliminary test run along two traverses in the Victoria Park area of Bath has produced promising results justifying the completion of the planned programme.

8. The present investigations are essentially research procedures designed to elucidate the geological structure and thus assist in the identification of the source of the thermal water feeding the hot springs. Protection against local abstraction of thermal water by borings, excavations and tunnels is covered by the Avon Act (1982), but any loss or contamination of ground water which may be maintaining the flow of the hot springs within the Bath area will be largely controlled by structural factors leading to deep fissures of the rocks. Following the completion of the present programme an assessment of the structure will be carried out. This work will be co-ordinated with existing activities such as monitoring of the flow, temperature and chemical composition of the thermal water.

G.A.Kellaway, Lyme Regis, 27 March 1999.



One of the seismic survey vehicles (known as Vibroseis Units) at work in the Victoria Park. Sound waves are generated which, when reflected back from the geological layers, produce a pattern of signals that can be analysed later.

Illustrations supplied by the Spa Project Team.

THE MAYOR'S HONORARY GUIDES

Gillian Cope

The Guides were initiated by Alderman Sturge Cotterell, Mayor of Bath 1931-32, who originally led a Boxing Day and Easter Monday walk around Bath in the twenties. The outings were so popular that it seems Cotterell recruited friends and acquaintances to help and from such an informal start the Guides were formed in 1934, thus making us 65 years old. In the beginning Boxing Day and Easter Monday walks were conducted and separate groups catered for, regular walks came later. There is, in fact, a little volume of poetry called Ballads of Bath containing a poem entitled "A Boxing Day Pilgrimage in Bath (1935)" in which one of Alderman Cotterell's walks is described. It certainly burnt off the Christmas calories if one of the lines can be believed - "We walked so far, we walked so fast, Lawks! how our legs did ache!" Ruth Haskins, Chairman of The Friends of the Survey of Old Bath and also a Mayor's Guide remembers attending one of Mr.Cotterell's walks on Boxing Day 1934 when a schoolgirl.

During the Second World War the guiding had to stop but was revived by Major Adrian Hopkins in 1947. Major Hopkins was twice Mayor of Bath, and an enthusiastic supporter of the Guides. In 1951 a training course was held from February to May recruiting more Guides in readiness for the 1952 Bath Assembly, the first of a number of Provincial festivals. At this time there were about 50 Guides in all.

For a number of years training courses were the method of recruitment but in the course of time they were abandoned and now all training is individual. Every Trainee Guide has firstly to attend three guided walks with different guides, having introduced themselves as an applicant, and then is assigned an experienced Guide as a Tutor whom they accompany on walks, learning technique, facts, etc. They are encouraged to read widely and bit by bit are allowed to do separate parts of the walk until they can do the whole unaided. Here I stress each Guide does their own walk, no two Guides' walks are the same, but of course the facts must be correct.

The Trainee then conducts a genuine walk unaided, without the Tutor, but with another Mayor's Guide assessing them. If they pass they have an interview with the Training Committee of the Guides and on successful completion of this Interview they are a fully fledged Guide. Their Badge is officially presented to them at the yearly Mayor's dinner for the Guides. At the time of writing roughly 70 Guides are in action. All Guides are expected to do no less than twelve walks throughout the year, although some do many more, and we are all insured for injuries to ourselves and members of our tours. However insurance does not cover those above 80, which is the age of retirement from the Corps.

Gradually the walks have increased over the years. At present there are walks every day of the week morning and afternoon, excepting for Saturday afternoons, and from May to October a Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evening walk. Each walk takes roughly two hours or a little more, in my case! Details of all these are on the black Notice Board outside the Pump Room in Abbey Church Yard. Special walks are held during the summer covering a wide range of subjects. School and other groups can book a Guide for separate tours. Some Guides even go on coaches.

This last year we conducted 27,162 visitors round Bath. We did 1,612 walks, each averaging two and a half miles, which is equal to 4,000 miles which in turn is the equivalent of walking to Moscow and back! All our walks are free to the public with no tips or gratuities accepted. Occasionally a tip is forced on one and then this is taken to the Guides' Office in the Pump Room and put aside to be donated to a charity of our choice. We come under B&NES Council in the shape of Stephen Bird, Head of Heritage Services, who gives us help and advice, and have the services of Mrs.Stewart in the Pump Room office for typing, bookings, keeping the Guiding Rota and being of enormous help, etc. We also have the use of a small room in the Guildhall which houses our Library, run by Anne Cridland who has very successfully overseen the stocking and running of it from scratch, and in which we hold our bi-monthly Committee Meetings. Here I might mention that we have a magazine called Guidelines which comes out once or twice a year, containing contributions from the Guides, and occasionally outsiders, which is edited by John Ede.

The Committee consists of nine Guides each one elected for a term of three years, with three Guides

stepping down each year (and waiting a year before re-election), and with a Chairman elected by the Committee every year. The Committee was formed some time in the '60s when Major Hopkins suffered a stroke and could no longer oversee the Corps. Should we need a room for the A.G.M. or other function the Council allows us one in the Guildhall if not already reserved for an occasion. We recently hosted fifteen Guides from Brunswick, with whom Bath is twinned, for a five day visit. This went extremely well, and was a great success.

As Guides we have to be careful of what we say. No recommending places to eat, etc. and no comments which could be taken amiss! We are polite at all times even though we get quite a bit of hassle here and there. A lot of upset was caused by being accosted by tramps, etc. a few years ago. We all have to cope with Buskers with either amplifiers or flaming torches! I always carry cough sweets - you have absolutely no idea how noisy Bath streets can be until you start talking - street cleaners, lorries, police cars, buses, electric drills, you name it, Bath has it.

Now, if you have ploughed through the above and would like to become a Guide we would love to have you. You must be local, of course, not living in Wales as one expectant applicant is - no, he has not been accepted! Just apply to the Mayor's Guides' Office, care of the Pump Room. We should be pleased to take on your training. In the meantime we shall continue our job of taking tourists round this lovely city



Friends will be able to recognise five out of the six Mayor's Guides who belong to our group.

Photograph provided by Ruth Haskins.

RECOLLECTIONS OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE PRIOR PARK ROAD AREA

Barbara Collins

Prior Park Road. No.39 - Clan Villa

c.1900-1960s: Home of Mr.& Mrs.Beets.

Mr.Beets was a Master of Frome Road House (the Bath Workhouse) at Midford Road, Combe Down (now St.Martin's Hospital). Mrs.Beets was a trained nurse and spent her days looking after sick and disabled people in the Widcombe area - including those who were too poor to pay for her help. She was known as "Nursie Beets" and was known throughout the district for her kindness. Her daughter Dora Beets lived at home and married Arthur Carey, a widower several years older than his second wife.

He was Postmaster at Widcombe Post Office, then located at the corner of Prior Park Road and Widcombe main street. His wife Dora Carey continued to live at Clan Villa and helped her husband at the Post Office; they had two young lady assistants working full time at this busy centre. Arthur Carey died and his widow Dora continued as Postmistress for many years until she retired, circa 1950. About 1970 she left Clan Villa and moved to the London Road area, to a small house opposite Kensington, where she died in 1973. The whole Beets/Carey family were active Christian members of Widcombe Baptist Church.

Dr.Sutherland had his consulting rooms at Clan Villa. Above Widcombe Post Office lived Mr.Jeffreys, a chimney Sweep, with his daughter Jean.

Gordon Road. No.13

Here lived the Bowler family (rhyming with Fowler) who were part of the now famous Bowlers who owned the bottling firm which formed the basis of the present "Mr.Bowler's Factory" at Bath Industrial Heritage Centre. Mr.and Mrs.Bowler had quite a large family and they attended Widcombe Baptist Church. I knew two daughters who were in their fifties during the Second World War. Beatrice (Bee) Bowler worked at the Health Department in the Saw Close - the large building opposite the Theatre Royal was used as a Medical Centre for the School Health and Dentistry Department. Her sister Violet (Vi) was a nurse and worked in a Health Centre (?for children) in Bristol. They had another sister who had poor health and lived at home. She died in the 1940s. I think their brother worked at his father's business in ?Avon Street, behind the present Forum building, but cannot remember having met him.

Prior Park Cottages

In the 1860s, No.5 was the home of my great-grandfather, John Huntley, and his wife Charlotte (née Watts). He was pastor of Widcombe Baptist Church in the 1860s and regularly baptised people in the River Avon at a shallow area behind the Stothert and Pitt's building. I have a mezzotint of one of these events with candidates lining the river bank, and a good crowd of onlookers in crinolines and Victorian dress. Pastor John Huntley did not receive a salary from the Church: he worked voluntarily and was a master Cabinet Maker with a workshop behind Henry Street, Bath, where he employed several furniture makers and apprentices. They made several pieces to Thomas Chippendale designs.

John and Charlotte Huntley had four sons, John Ryland, George, William, and Frank Baptist, and a daughter, Mercy. After only a few years of marriage, Charlotte had appendicitis, then an inoperable condition, and she died quite suddenly, leaving her youngest son, Frank, aged three years. The young children were looked after by their 'Nannie-housekeeper' Mary, who lived at the house. After a short period John Huntley married a Miss Froud of Keevil (?) and he moved to Beechwood House, Prospect Road, Widcombe Hill (then called Shunem Villa) and they had two more daughters and a son, Edward, who following his marriage lived at Islay Lodge, Pulteney Road, near the railway bridge.

Another resident of Prior Park Cottages was Miss Kate Sheppard, a Dental Nurse.

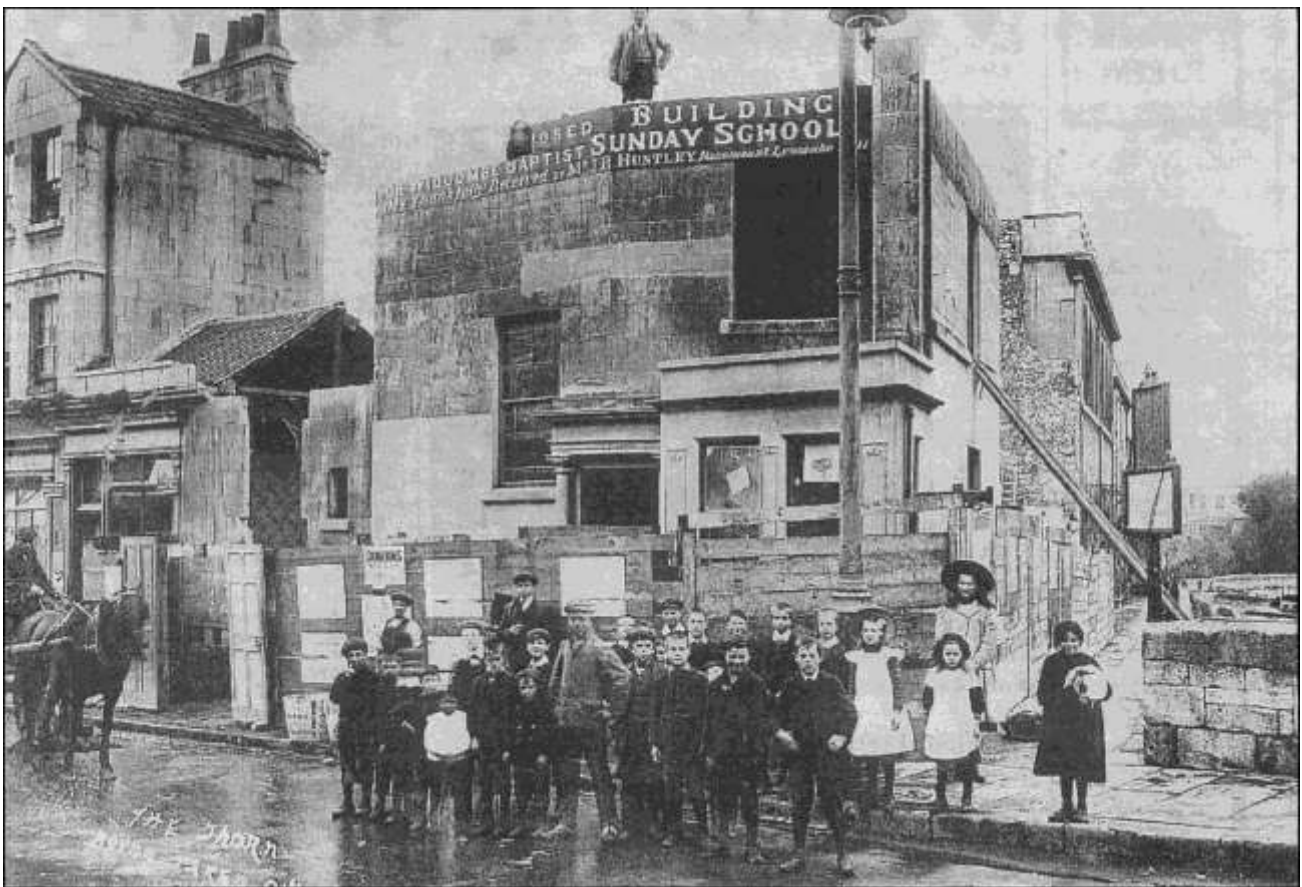
Prior Park Buildings

Following the retirement of John Huntley, he and his second wife left Shunem Villa and went to live at No.17 Prior Park Buildings. After John Huntley's death, Mrs.Huntley continued to live at this house. Later Miss E.J.Ford lived at No.17 with her companion help. Miss Ford was an active member of Widcombe Baptist Church until she became elderly.

Another resident of the Buildings was Miss (?) M.E.Excell in the 1940s, who was retired when I knew her. She had a handloom and spent a lot of time weaving towels and other materials. I still have some of the towels she wove.

Mrs.M.Evans, the widow of Ebenezer Evans, the Chief Draughtsman of Stothert and Pitt's, came to live in Prior Park Buildings and had rooms on the first floor. Earlier she and her husband lived at Hayesfield Villa, 19 Wells Road, and later moved to 2 Abbey View, where they lived for many years. Mr.Evans was a talented artist and made many line drawings and "cartoons" of animals. He was Secretary of Widcombe Baptist Church and had a warm and genial personality and was wonderful with children, though he had none of his own. Because his wife was in poor health, it was expected that she would predecease him so he did not make generous provision for her; after his early death she had to leave her home and resident maid and move into "rooms" in Prior Park Buildings. She adjusted well to the change and we all admired her equanimity and cheerfulness in her changed circumstances.

These recollections are necessarily sketchy, as I knew these people when I was a child/teenager and did not make any notes. They were friends or relatives of my parents and grandparents who were members of Widcombe Baptist Church and we knew them in this context.



“Proposed Building for Widcombe Baptist Sunday School. Gifts (?) Thankfully Received by Mr.J.R.HUNTLEY, Rosemount, Lyncombe.”

From a picture supplied by Ken Evans, Church Archivist.

The Chronicle reported that the Baptist Church had bought an old pub called the Canal Tavern, by the Kennet & Avon Canal at Widcombe, in order to replace it with Sunday School rooms.

HERALDIC DRAWINGS BY ROLAND SYMONS

Memorials in Bath Abbey

1. Honor Skrine

Now revealed again in the North Transept.

Skrine impaling Hungerford (the shield of her husband William Skrine).

Blazon of Skrine: Azure, in the dexter chief & sinister base points a tower argent and in the sinister chief & dexter base points a lion rampant ermine ducally crowned or.

Blazon of Hungerford: Sable, 2 bars argent and in chief 3 plates.

Honor was previously married to Dr.Savile.

Honor, wife of Mr.William Skrine
Apothecary of the City and daughter
of Colonel John Hungerford by his wife
Elizabeth daughter of John Champneys Esq.
She died June 24. 1704

Also her Father and Mother lye interred near this place.

Hargrave's Monumental Inscriptions.
(an Additional M.S., British Library)

2. Agatha Bushell

Described by Roland Symons as a ledger-stone in the north choir aisle, in front of the new St.Alphege chapel.

Bushell impaling Chapman (the shield of her husband John Bushell).

Blazon of Bushell: A chevron charged with a crescent between 3 water-bougets.

Agatha was the daughter of Robert Chapman, apothecary, Alderman and Mayor.

She was born 1653.

Mrs. Agatha Bushell died
May 5th Anno Dom
1698

Charles P.Russell, *Inscriptions on the Flat Grave Stones in the Bath Abbey Church*, 1872, No.796. Bath Central Library.

3. Jonathan Henshaw

North Aisle.

Henshaw impaling Chapman.

Jonathan Henshaw married Mary, (christened at the Abbey 1709), sister of John Chapman the saddler, Mayor six times and executor of Ralph Allen. One of their properties was the Raven, at the corner of Cox Lane.

No.34. Square Marble Monument, in memory of Mr.Jonathan Henshaw.

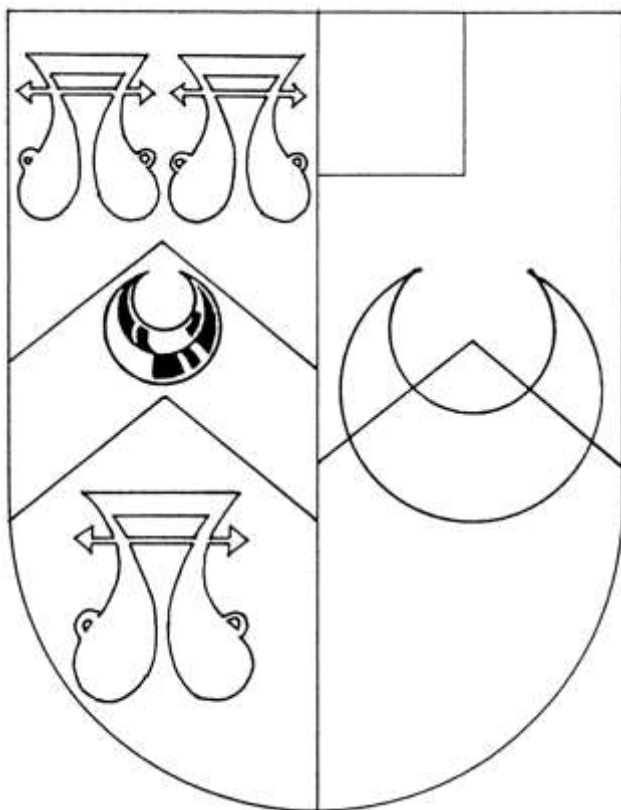
In a frame of black marble is a figure of Sorrow, resting on an urn; all of statuary marble.

Mr.JONATHAN HENSHAW, one of the aldermen of this city, died December the 3d, 1764, aged 59.

Henry Harington, *A Description of the Monuments in the Abbey-Church, Bath*. p.32.

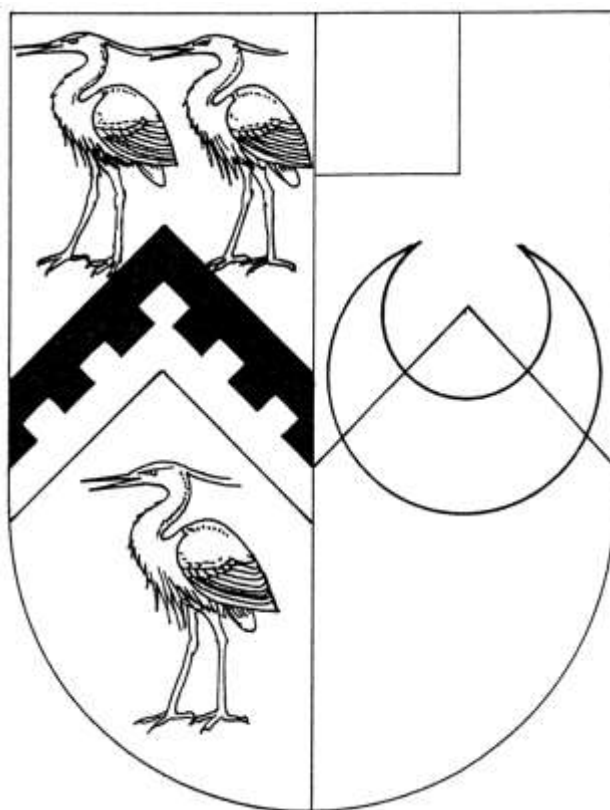
Underneath
Rest the remains
of
Mr.Johnathan Henshaw
One of the Aldermen
of this City.

Charles Russell, as above, No.444.



**2. Arms of Agatha Bushell
Bushell impaling Chapman**

North Choir



**3. Arms of Joshua Henshaw
Henshaw impaling Chapman**

North Aisle

(for 1 and 4, see back cover)

4. Immanuel Hobbs

Described by Roland Symons as a ledger-stone in the Choir.

Hobbs impaling Chapman with the crest of Hobbs.

The blazon of Hobbs: Sable, 3 escutcheons or each charged with an eagle displayed also sable.

The blazon of the crest: A demi-dragon, couped, the butt of a broken spear thrust through the neck. (Given in Fairbairn as: a dragon's head couped vert, the butt of a broken spear thrust through the neck, point in mouth proper.)

Immanuel Hobbs, 1660-1705 N.S., married Ann, sister of Agatha Bushell. Their children were Chapman Hobbs of Castle Combe, Mary who married Gorges Scrope of Castle Combe, and Robert. Chapman Hobbs, who inherited property in Bath, died 30 December 1748 and was buried in the Abbey (see Russell No.708).

Under this stone lyes the Body of
Capt. Emmanuel Hobbs
Who having faithfully served the Crown
25 years at home and abroad
in the Several Reigns of
Charles 2d, James 2d, William 3d
and Queen Anne
dyed the 1st day of Jan. 1704 aetat 44

Charles Russell, No.807.

Note: the coat of arms in the Great Room, Abbey Church House

It has been suggested that this coat of arms was put there by Dr.Robert Baker as the arms of his wife's family.

He would really only have been entitled to put up: 1) Baker impaling Clarke, if she was not an heraldic heiress, or 2) Baker with Clarke as an escutcheon of pretence, if she and her sister had become heraldic heiresses as has been claimed.

If Elizabeth Clarke had ever had occasion to put up arms herself, as a spinster who was an heiress, or as a widow, she would have been expected to put them in a lozenge. Strictly speaking a woman could not bear a shield.

As it stands, the achievement indicates a male descendant of Thomas Clarke, brother of Bishop John. It also suggests that his mother became an heraldic heiress at some time, which would allow him to use quarterings. (On the tomb of Thomas Clarke, the two coats of arms are impaled.)

We have suggested John Clarke, M.P. for Bath in the reign of Edward VI. If he was the son of Thomas as is thought, Elizabeth would have been his niece, and the fact that she was, apparently, married to Dr.Robert Baker seems to confirm his connection with the house.



Arms of Thomas Clarke on his tomb at Wookey.

THE MYTH OF THE EMPIRE HOTEL ROOFLINE

Marek Lewcun

In his 1961 description of the Empire Hotel, Bryan Little describes the Empire as a “Jacobean bulk, as bad in this central setting as a gasometer could have been”. John Haddon, by comparison, later describes how it “bulks obtrusively beyond Orange Grove”, adding that it is “mainly Jacobean but goes crazy round the tops with gables and corner turret”, but is honest enough to admit a certain fondness for it. Cunliffe ventured further and described it as a “monster”, but also found a charm about it. Whatever its criticisms, the roofline of the Empire has always attracted the admiration of both citizen and visitor, and also certain rumours, having long been a topic for rumour and debate.

As recently as 1991 Neil Jackson gave a good description of the hotel from an architectural point of view, but appears to have considered this description incomplete without rising to the top of the structure to add “where the roofline, we hear, reflects the status of the lords, gentlemen and commonfolk who stay there”. Building on the great lengths to which Jackson went to examine the stylistic origins of the various components of its architecture, and the Empire being an “adoptee” of the Survey, this article ventures to redress the rumours concerning the roofline.

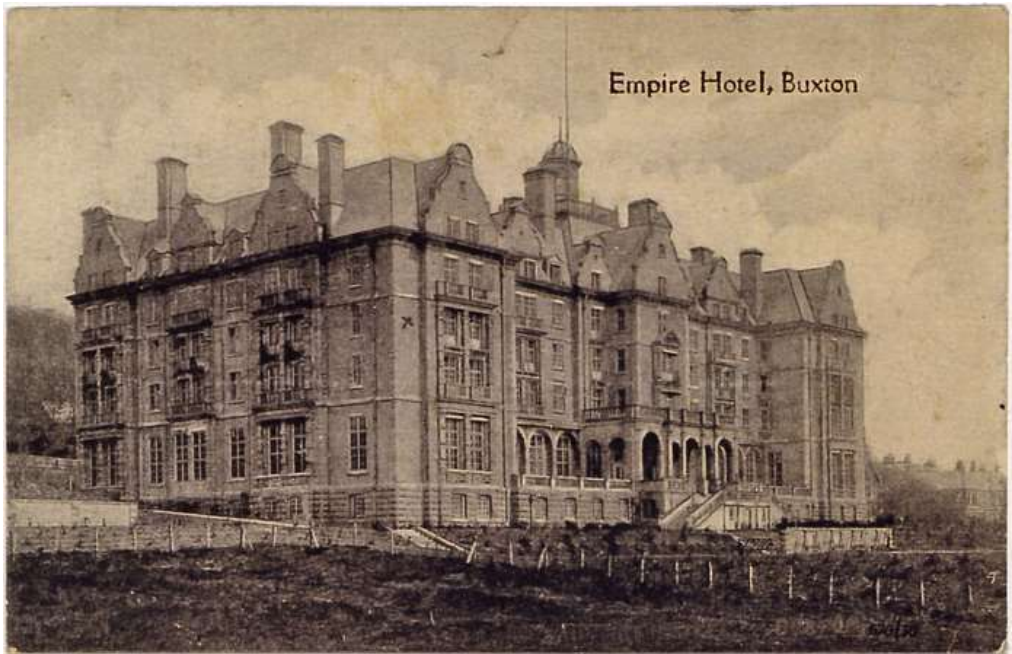
As my own research has shown, the Empire Hotel, at its conception in 1899, was destined to be born into the chain of hotels run by Spiers & Pond Ltd, and was one of three sharing the same name. When the Bath Empire was opened in November 1901, the company then owned nine hotels: the Empire Hotels at Lowestoft and Buxton, the Baileys and South Kensington Hotels in London, the Palace Hotel at Hastings, the Granville Hotel at Ramsgate, the Hotel Metropole at Blackpool, and the Furness Abbey Hotel in Cumbria.

Over the years some of these were to be dropped by the company, though normally replaced by a new acquisition. By 1910 the hotel division of the company had been relaunched as “The Empire Hotels”, having recently acquired the Holborn Viaduct Hotel in London, and later additions to the chain were to include, in time order, the Southampton Hotel in Surbiton, the Victoria Hotel in Manchester, the South Western Hotel in Southampton, the Valley of Rocks Hotel in Lynton, the Bushey Hall Hotel in Hertfordshire, the Grand Hotel in Scarborough, the Grand Hotel in Brighton, and the Queen’s Hotel in Eastbourne. The Empire in Bath ranked with some of the giants of the time, some of them still giants today. In common with all of them were their locations at popular tourist and health resorts.

The roofline of the Empire contrasts with the French Renaissance style of its larger competitor, the Grand Pump Room Hotel, and instead followed the Queen Anne revival which had only recently been adopted by some of the major new hotels in London. The tower is Jacobean in style, and is divided from the cottage gables at either end by central Dutch gables. The latter originally featured scalloped architraves capped by finials, but the moulding, along with the ornate pinnacles which once crowned the tower and also numerous balconies, was taken down during the occupation of the Admiralty who had moved in at the outbreak of the Second World War. This left the central gables with a somewhat bare appearance out of keeping with the remainder of the roofline.

As Jackson stated, elaborate rooflines were the order of the day, and had decorated the skylines of all the major towns and cities. In Bath, it was in fact the Grand Pump Room Hotel which was the first of these, but tightly packed in the centre of the city, it did not draw one’s attention skyward. The decorative elevations of the Empire, however, are openly visible, and one cannot avoid being drawn to the roofline. Virtually all of the hotels in the Empire chain, like so many of their rivals, feature a tower, and many of them both tower and Jacobean gable, while the south face of the Metropole at Blackpool with all three elements looks almost identical at first glance. Though not in the Empire chain, the Midland Hotel in Manchester is also strikingly familiar in proportion and appearance.

Charles Davis, despite his long and bitter battles with the Corporation over the forty years of his office, did not design the elaborate roofline, so out of keeping with the Georgian edifices that dominated the remainder of the city, with revenge in mind. Nor was it representative of its residents, much as they may have been from all walks of life. The roofline was simply a variation on the theme of its day. If Charles Davis ever intended to convey any sort of message to the Corporation who over the years so avidly did all that they could to prevent him from achieving his lifetime’s ambition, of which the Empire was part, then he did so in a far more subtle way by adding the double-aspect O-shaped finials to the Jacobean gables.



Postcards from Marek Lewcun's personal collection made at postcard fairs while studying the Empire Hotel.

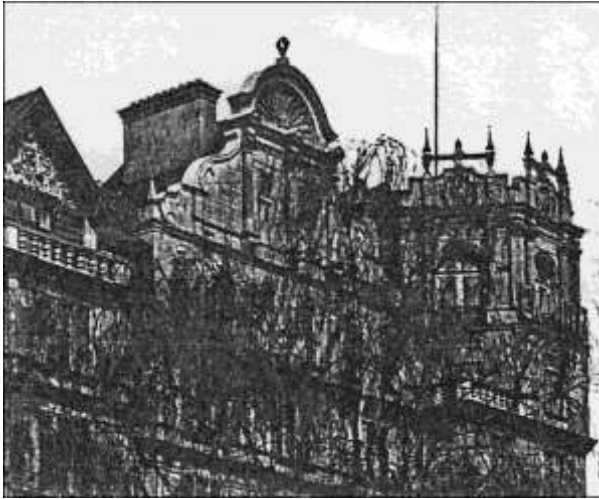
Buxton



Blackpool



Ramsgate



Left: The Empire Hotel, Bath. The O-finial and moulding on the Dutch gable, and pinnacles on the tower, now gone.

Cover of this issue: Shows a view of the Midland Hotel in Manchester in the background, which (except for the tram in the foreground) could be easily mistaken for the Empire Hotel in Bath.

Below: It has been claimed that ‘the brash egotism of the hotel is a reflection of its creator’ (Cunliffe, *Bath History* I, 1986, p.56). There is no egotism in the design at all. It is a standard late Victorian hotel and in particular appears to have been copied from the designs for Trubshaw’s Midland hotel in Manchester. The Midland Hotel was actually opened later than the Empire, but Trubshaw made a number of such designs and it is unlikely he copied from Major Davis. The Empire Hotel only stands out because it is in the midst of so many Georgian buildings built to a uniform plan.



One of them faced the Concert Room extension to the Pump Room, where only a few years previously it was “O” that identified the successful set of plans in the competition for its design as being those of Davis. The journalist from the *Bath Chronicle* was quick to spot this on the opening day, and when taking in the views from the tower reported that “one of the finials to the right as we looked around from this elevated balcony reminded us of the famous letter “O” which was in everybody’s mouth when the Pump Room annexe plans dispute was acute. Can it be that Major Davis has thus perpetuated it in stone?” I am quite sure that he did, doing so in full view of the whole city, but in particular the Guildhall next door and the Pump Room beyond it. The finials were removed in later years, for reasons perhaps best known to the city fathers.

Sources:

- The Bath Chronicle*, Thursday, 28 November 1901.
- Cunliffe, B., ‘Major Davis: Architect and Antiquarian’, *Bath History* Volume I, 1986.
- Haddon, J., *Portrait of Bath*, 1982, Robert Hale Ltd., London.
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THE HISTORY OF BECKFORD'S TOWER

Beckford Tower Trust

From a report produced by the Beckford Tower Trust, Autumn 1998. Since the drafting of this report the external structural restoration work to the Tower and gilding of the lantern is now almost complete (May 1999). The removal of the scaffolding has revealed the splendid golden lantern, attracting considerable public attention. Once again Beckford's Tower stands as an important landmark of the Bath skyline.

The Tower was built for William Beckford by Bath architect Henry Edmund Goodridge between 1825-1827. Beckford's first idea is believed to have been for a neo-Medieval Saxon Tower and it has been suggested that the belvedere and lantern were not planned from the outset but were erected in response to Beckford's instruction, when the square tower was almost complete, that the tower should be "higher!"

The style of the belvedere and lantern was possibly inspired by the "Temple of the Winds" in Athens and the Choragic Monument in Lysicrates giving it its overall Italianate/Grecian appearance.

After Beckford's death, his Tower was sold. The new owner planned to turn it into a tea room and beer garden. Beckford's daughter was so appalled by this prospect that she instructed Goodridge to buy back the Tower and she gave it instead to the Rector of Walcot for the use of the parish.

The Tower then became a funerary chapel and the ground around it was consecrated. This meant that Beckford's last wish to be buried next to the tower could be respected. His tomb, along with the railings that enclosed it - which now line the main road as the Tower is approached - were moved from the Abbey cemetery to Lansdown. The Rector then commissioned the Byzantine entrance gateway from Goodridge.

There are late 19th-century accounts of the dilapidated state of the Tower and various restoration attempts have been undertaken. In 1931 a fire broke out and gutted the interior. In 1969 the then current Rector of Walcot petitioned the Charity Commissioners to allow the parish to sell the Tower claiming, "It has neither ancient value nor contemporary interest; it's not even a good folly."

By the 1970's Beckford's Tower had fallen into a terrible state and it was bought by two retired doctors, Dr. Elizabeth Hilliard and her late husband Lesley. They poured their own money and energy into saving the Tower from certain dereliction. At this time part of the Tower was converted into a residential property and the first floor, staircase and belvedere became a museum.

Due to the Hilliards' intervention, Beckford's Tower is the only building commissioned by Beckford to remain intact and the only museum dedicated to his life and memory. It now has the status of a Grade I listed monument.

In 1993 the Hilliards handed over the care of the Tower to the Bath Preservation Trust.

The Beckford Tower Trust's Responsibility

The Trust's priorities are to ensure the long term future of the fabric of Beckford's Tower not only because of its Grade I listed status, but also because it is the only surviving example of William Beckford's buildings which also incorporates a museum dedicated to him. The Trust has therefore monitored the condition of the Tower and taken expert advice from surveyors, engineers, architects, Bath and North East Somerset's Listed Building Officers and Built Heritage Team and English Heritage. Their overwhelming advice to the Bath Preservation Trust was that they should endeavour to conserve and repair this monument in order to prevent any further deterioration in its condition. The ravages of time had so seriously affected the Tower, that the Beckford Tower Trust and Bath Preservation Trust felt that it was their combined responsibility to take urgent action.

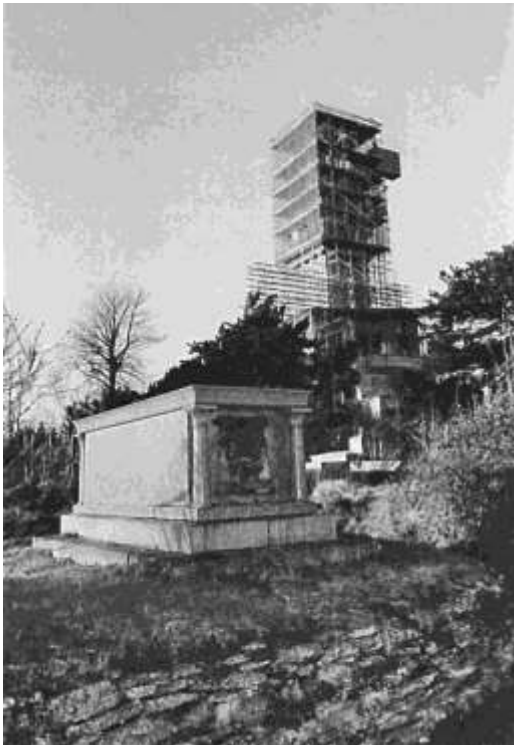
The Structural Problem

The threat to Beckford's Tower arises from the corrosion of the ironwork at the lantern level. The columns, roof and crowning finial are all iron and together weigh nearly ten tonnes. The weight is

supported by an ingenious internal wooden frame, which is bound by metal ties. These have been seriously weakened by rust. Some of the stone has also corroded and in places come loose.

Funding the Restoration

Heritage Lottery Fund: On the basis of consultations with our appointed experts, the Council and English Heritage, the Beckford Tower Trust submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in February 1996 for financial assistance to undertake a project that will cost more than £500,000. The sum applied for after tender was approved on 22 July 1997 and a grant of £411,100, conditional on our providing £132,000 in matching funds, has since been offered and accepted. Subsequently, the HLF agreed to provide a further £51,400 towards the cost of additional structural work, the need for which was revealed during the course of restoration.



Above: 'Lansdown Tower from the South East', from the colour lithograph after Willes Maddox, *Views of Lansdown Tower*, 1844.

Provided by Beckford Tower Trust.



Top Left: Beckford's Tower surrounded in scaffolding, with Beckford's tomb in the foreground.

Copyright: A.Currie/Beckford Tower Trust, 1998.

Bottom Left: The newly gilded lantern of Beckford's Tower
Copyright: A.Currie/Beckford Tower Trust.

Other Fund-Raising Efforts: The Beckford Tower Trust has appointed a committee devoted to raising funds for the restoration of the Tower and a comparable committee to oversee the refurbishment of the cemetery. Approaches to charitable trusts and foundations as well as commercial organisations have produced a very positive response, which we hope will continue.

Because it was necessary for the Tower to be closed in order for the restoration work to progress it was decided to hold two exhibitions to fulfil the educational requirement of the Beckford Tower Trust's constitution. The first of these took place at the Building of Bath Museum in 1997, and the other at Christie's Auction House in London, January 1998.

A number of lectures about William Beckford and illustrating the restoration of the Tower have taken place over the past months. The architectural historian David Watkin gave a much-acclaimed talk as part of the Christie's exhibition.

A Beckford Ball was held on 12th September 1998. It was a memorable occasion, and raised approximately £11,000 towards the project.

Generating publicity for the restoration of Beckford's Tower and the Appeal has been of prime importance. Coverage in the national and local press has been encouraging. In particular an article in the Daily Telegraph by Bel Mooney published in May 1998 created a great deal of interest as well as producing a stream of individual donations. A number of television and radio features have also focused on the project.

Since the 19th century there has been a tradition of souvenirs connected to Fonthill Abbey. In keeping with this tradition a collection of Beckford Tower mugs and postcards has been produced.

The Future of the Tower

One aspect of the current application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which specialists at English Heritage urged the Trust to include, is a research project to discover more about the history of the Tower and its much altered internal arrangement.

It is hoped that the results of this research will enable the interior rooms of the Tower to be enhanced, to resemble closely their appearance at the time of William Beckford's death in 1844. The design for the museum and exhibition space and the recreation of the interior will form part of a separate project, which will be initiated when essential structural repairs are completed. It will be subject to a further fund-raising appeal. The research has been assisted by the existence of a series of illustrations by the artist Willes Maddox showing the appearance of the Tower in 1844. These will be used as the basis for the interior restoration.

The Beckford Tower Trust is in the final stages of negotiations to lease the flat beneath Beckford's Tower to the Landmark Trust. The Landmark Trust specializes in rescuing important buildings and creating holiday accommodation within them, which they let to holidaymakers throughout the year. As well as staying at this most exclusive of addresses, holidaymakers will be able to climb the stairs to the Tower and enjoy the panorama of Bath below from the gilded belvedere. Work at Beckford's Tower will be the Landmark's Millennium Project, and should be completed within 6 months to a year.

Work is also in progress on a scheme to enhance the setting of the Tower by improving the appearance of the cemetery, refurbishing the graves and restoring the railings around its entrance and the approach to the Tower. Anyone interested in volunteering to help record some of the grave memorials please contact the Beckford Tower Trust, tel: 01225 460705.

The Tower is currently closed to the public, scheduled to re-open in 2000. However special group visits, to see "restoration work in progress" may be possible, by prior arrangement with the Administrator. All enquiries, tel: 01225 460705. Visit our website at: <http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk>.

Please help "Support the Tower". Send your donation to: - Beckford Tower Appeal, Freepost (SWB 10234), 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2XF.

PROTECTING THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF BATH

Summary of a thesis by

Robin Lambert

The title of my thesis is: Bath et son patrimoine architectural: étude critique de sa protection au vingtième siècle (The architectural heritage of Bath: a critical study of its protection during the 20th century). It was passed in October 1998 at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. The thesis is written in French, but the bibliography, and all references in the notes, are in English. The ten chapters are divided into sections and sub-sections, with titles. There are two indexes, one of people and the other of institutions, which includes council committees as well as ministries etc. Unfortunately there is no index of streets and buildings.

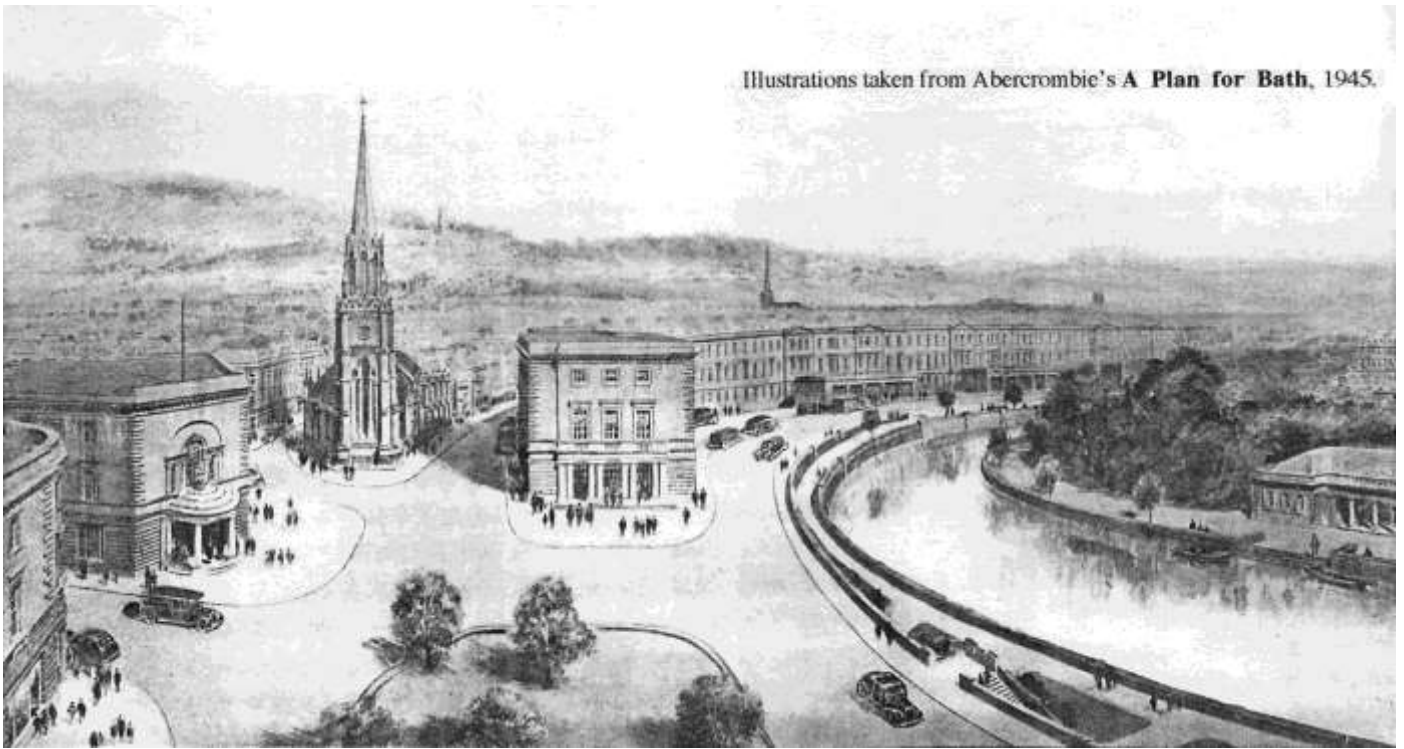
When I started, I intended to look at planning legislation which referred to protection, and compare the real results in Bath - little by little it became obvious that this approach was too narrow and other factors had to be taken into account. I would have liked to include garden conservation, but this is really a subject for another study. I took a chronological approach, as it seemed impossible to separate different aspects - for example, serious consideration of Bath's traffic problems began in 1916, and continued to the end of the period. The study ends in 1996, a convenient moment with the change of administration.

The Introduction sets out the terms of reference, and the first chapter gives a short general history of Bath, which you will all know - nothing new here. Chapter 2 is also fairly brief, giving the 19th century background, particularly the attitude of contemporary historians (Meehan, Tyte, Barbeau, etc.) to the buildings of Bath and the works of J.M.Brydon. Although Brydon could not be described as a conservation architect, he was evidently aware of the problem of inserting new building into the fabric of Bath. The debate on the windows of the Guildhall (small panes or plate-glass) shows that he thought the city would do better to replace small panes rather than insist on plate-glass for new building. The Pump Room extension has been described as based on the church of St.Stephen Walbrook by Wren. While this may be true for the interior, I suggest that the facade is a reinterpretation of Ralph Allen's Town House.

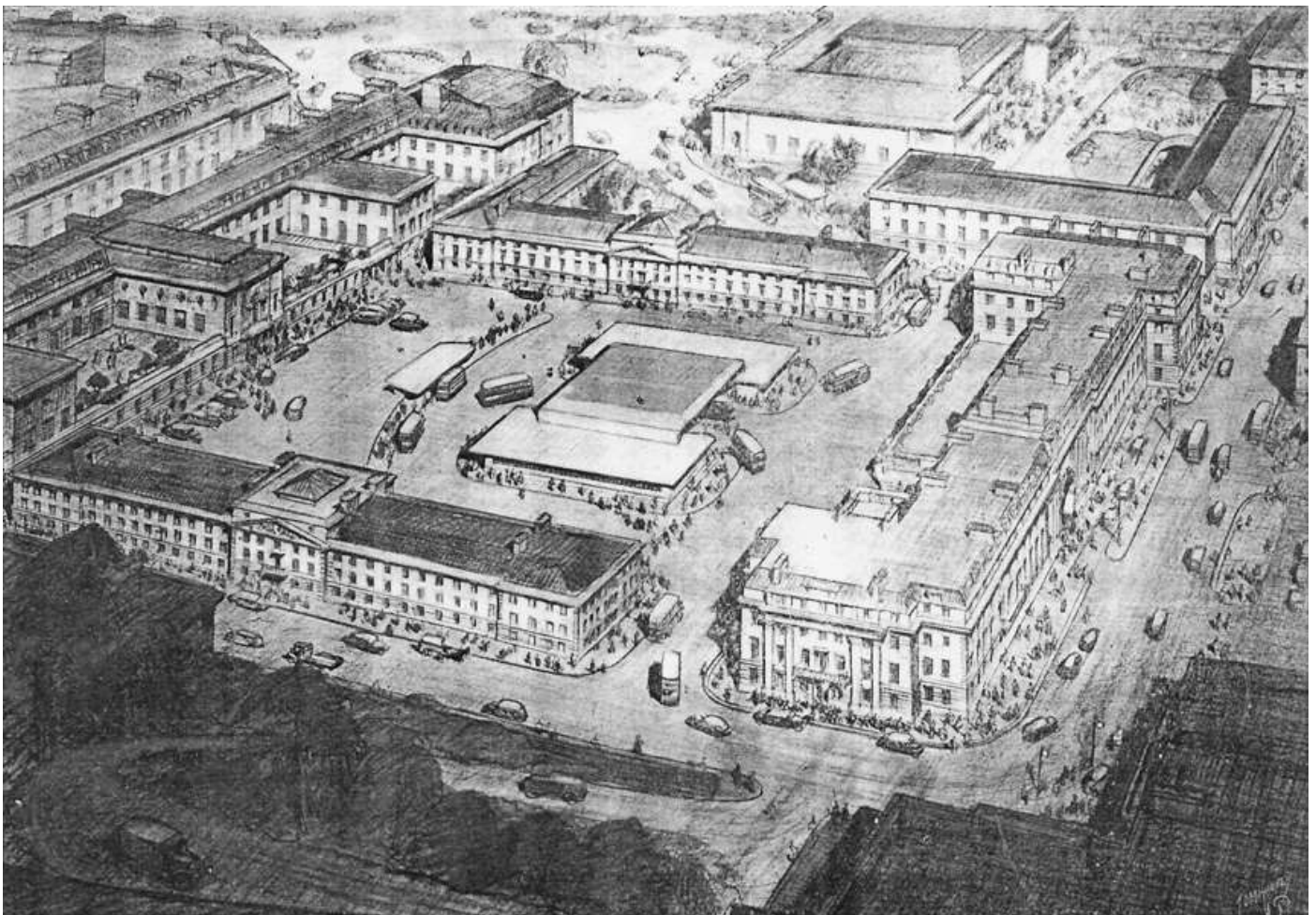
Chapter 3 deals with the period 1900 to 1925. The foundation of the Old-Bath Preservation Society and the Bath Street controversy of 1909 introduce the theme of the amenity societies and their effect on planning policy. Even at this stage, the most effective action of the amenity society was in publicising plans and slowing down decisions. There was a certain amount of behind-the-scenes negotiation: a group of hotel-owners, fearing competition from the Grand Pump Room Hotel, bought no. 10 Bath Street and refused to sell other than at an inflated price. The owner of the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Waring (I have not been able to trace this person), went bankrupt as the negotiations dragged on, and this is the reason why the north side of Bath Street was not demolished. Another new theme is introduced here, the town planning scheme prepared by Robert Atkinson in 1916. This would have imposed a Beaux-Arts style spa and civic centre to the south of the Abbey. The Atkinson scheme was abandoned because of the First World War and lack of funds, but it is representative of contemporary planning theory and the attitude to historic buildings. Atkinson appreciated Bath, but York Street and Abbey Green would have disappeared, as well as Ralph Allen's Town House. Neo-Greek was not thought worth saving, and I think his recommendation that the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution building would have to be demolished to improve traffic flow from the station was behind the council decision to demolish in December 1932. Section 5 introduces the theme of public housing. I give an outline of the laws and the main projects of the City Council. There are two issues at stake here: should public housing respect the "Bath style", and the effect on the rural setting of Bath. Finally I discuss the Bath Act of 1925 and its application - this is the subject of an article which will appear in *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* in their 2000 edition. In brief, there was a disastrous gap between the intention of the law and its application.

Chapter 4 deals with the period 1925 to 1939. Patrick Abercrombie makes his first appearance on the Bath scene with the *Bristol and Bath Regional Planning Scheme*, published in 1930. Another theme introduced in this chapter is the activity of the Medical Officer of Health. He had the power to condemn unfit housing, but also the responsibility to rehouse tenants; this is why demolition for sanitary reasons was not widespread in the early period, but stepped up as the council housing projects developed.

Illustrations taken from Abercrombie's **A Plan for Bath**, 1945.



Northgate and the redeveloped area between Walcot Street and the River as viewed from the Library (Bridge Street)



The proposed New Bus Station. A view from the roof of the Great Western Railway Station

The Kingsmead housing of 1932 is an important example, supposedly providing housing for tenants from the Avon Street area, and thus enabling demolition, as provided for by the 1925 Act. The chapter continues with the Bath Corporation Act of 1937 and the formation of the Bath Preservation Trust. The first list of statutorily protected buildings in England was the result of this legislation, which was not necessarily an advantage. Those buildings not included on the list were automatically assumed to be without architectural importance and therefore became even more vulnerable.

Chapter 5 deals with Bath during the war. Preservation of bomb-damaged houses was not always a measure of their importance but was also affected by the urgent need for housing. Bath became a test-case for the War Damage Acts, which did not provide funds for restoration but only to carry out essential repairs. The role of Mowbray Green was crucial, in extending the Salvage List to include as many buildings as possible. He unfortunately died before the survey of listed buildings was carried out, following the Town and Country Planning Act of 1944. Bath must have been one of the first places to be surveyed, a measure of its importance on a national scale.

Chapter 6 (1945-1950) is an analysis of Abercrombie's *Plan for Bath*. Although this was never implemented, mainly because of lack of funds, it was enormously influential, partly in its designation of a ring-road system, and partly in its classification of historic buildings worthy of preservation. Abercrombie referred to "utility Georgian", a sad expression reminiscent of Utility Furniture. This referred to all minor architecture, for example New King Street, and gave the impression that this kind of building was not important. Since Abercrombie was the most important planner of his day, and one of the founders of the CPRE, his opinion carried more weight than it should have done. His rationalisation of Bath would have left the great monuments, but little else, and the loss of the houses in St.James' Street South can be directly attributed to his plan for a ring-road. At the end of the chapter I discuss the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 and the first phase of official listing. I hope to write an article for *Bath History* on Abercrombie in the near future.

In the immediate post-war period, few real changes were made in Bath. Chapter 7, "the reconstruction" deals with the years 1950 to 1960. On the national level, conservation legislation was limited to major buildings. The 1947 Town and Country Planning Act stipulated the formulation of a Development Plan by every local authority, and I compare the plans made in Bath and their attitude to conservation. The first large-scale demolition and new building was at Snow Hill, from 1955 to 1961. I have tried to put this in the context of contemporary planning and architectural theory. It is hard to criticise the City Council for doing exactly what government advisory papers recommended, especially when they had the assurance of Abercrombie that the buildings in this area were substandard - also the legacy of the 1930s campaign against slums. The Ballance Street development can also be traced back to Abercrombie.

Chapters 8-10 deal with the period 1960 to 1996. This may be useful as a survey of all legislation which had an effect on historic buildings, not just specifically conservation legislation, such as the Civic Amenities Act of 1967, which established the Conservation Areas. The conflict arose from the designation of Conservation Areas in Bath which avoided all those areas already designated as Comprehensive Development Areas under the Planning Acts. I also examine Colin Buchanan's plans for Bath and the tunnel controversy. In Chapter 9 (1968-1974), the amenity societies take the lead in Bath, and there were two further surveys of listed buildings. From a French viewpoint, it is astonishing to see government policy pushed by a local association. Chapter 10 is devoted to the period under the control of Avon County Council. I also discuss new issues, such as the development of commercial structures, tourism and "heritage" and the change of direction of Bath City Council, particularly marked by activities during European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975. The question is no longer whether Bath should be preserved, but how and why.

I would like to thank all the people who helped me during my research, particularly Colin Johnston and Mary Blagden at the Bath archives, David McLaughlin and Elizabeth Holland. I would not have been able to do this study without them all. I just hope that it may prove useful to somebody, if only for references in council minutes and press reports. It may save somebody time in wading through these volumes. There is ample material for a book on council housing in Bath from 1918 to 1939. It is rare to find council housing linked to conservation issues during this period and I really hope someone will do this!

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