



# The Survey

of Bath and District

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**The Newsletter of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates**

**No.3, June 1995**

**Editors: Mike Chapman**

**Elizabeth Holland**

## **NEWS FROM THE SURVEY**

It was decided to submit the Bishops' premises article to another national journal, and it has now been accepted by the *Archaeological Journal*, owned by the Royal Archaeological Institute. It is planned to publish it in No.152, due this autumn. We are conscious of the honour done us by this acceptance and hope the Friends will share our pleasure.

Mike Chapman and Peter Davenport (joint authors of the article, with Elizabeth Holland) will be leading a walk around the area of the Bishops' Palace premises, as an extra meeting on Monday 21 August. A note on the walk appears later in this newsletter.

Avon has made us a grant of £240 towards the cost of publishing a report on the Ham. However we have recently become involved in Widcombe and Lyncombe, and they are allowing us to use the grant for this area instead. Mike has been pursuing the suggestions about Ralph Allen's Gothic Lodge made by Mrs. Connie Smith in the last newsletter. He has been making a study of the old Prior Park, and the way in which Ralph Allen reassembled it, and hopes to bring out a booklet before next April, the deadline for using the grant.

It is now planned to begin our study of the Ham in January 1996. We intend to take a look at the Southgate area as well. We are seeking further sponsorship for this study. *The Chronicle* gave us a write-up when we first received the Avon grant. We are grateful for the publicity, but do not subscribe to the idea that the Ham is an "eyesore". To our eyes, it is a spot full of sociological and historical interest, which is why it was chosen - also, of course, because it is part of the Kingston Estate.

Elizabeth has been preparing a paper to be read in conjunction with a visit by the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group to Widcombe Manor in September. Once again, this paper draws on ideas brought forward by Connie Smith (see Notes and Queries in this issue for one of her suggestions). It is hoped to publish this paper in the next newsheet as another chapter in the history of the Chapman family of Bath, and also possibly to make it the subject of an extended lecture at the Friends' meeting in November.

Elizabeth has also been sorting out some of the Survey's material on Major Davis. In preparation for the Baths Exhibition in 1986, she went through his reports and other writings on the baths, and has been putting our Davis files in better order, hoping they may be useful to others, such as Bath Archaeological Trust.

**Chairman:** Mike Chapman, 51 Newton Road, Twerton, Bath BA2 1RW. Bath 426948.

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Elizabeth Holland, 16 Prior Park Buildings, Bath BA2 4NP. Bath 313581.

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

We regret very much to announce the deaths in 1995 of both Mr. John Haskins and Miss Rosalie Wood. A short memorial to each appears at the end of this newsletter.

Our group of Friends supporting the Survey of Old Bath continues to grow and at the time of writing stands at about 36. We receive support not only from members in the Bath area but further afield in this country, with a member in America and a member in Australia.

A portion of the membership money supports this newsletter. Because of the scattered membership, and for those who could not always join us at our meetings, your committee felt that it was important for all of the membership to receive updates of the latest research and news of other members.

New members include our friend in Australia - Ross Chapman. Ross is a descendant of Richard Chapman, clothier, mayor and M.P., one of the sons of Thomas Chapman who was described in our first newsletter. Richard's younger brother Peter, a soldier and landlord of the Beare Inn (where Union Street now lies) is shown to the left in the simulated stained glass window which celebrates the True Friends who restored Bath Abbey after the damage done following the Dissolution, on view in Bath Abbey Heritage Vaults. Ross and his wife Lorraine hope to visit Bath again and see the window themselves.

We also welcome as new members Kerry Birch, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, and John Macdonald. We hope all new members will be sending in information about their doings and interests. Kerry Birch, for one, is the expert on the history of the Baptists in Bath.

Bath Archaeological Trust have also joined the Friends, with Peter Davenport, Director of Excavations, as their representative. Avon's Planning Department has joined as well, with David Evans.

On 11 November 1994 a lunchtime lecture was given at Abbey Church House by David MacLaughlin, Principal Conservation Officer, on problems of conservation in the baths, stressing the Roman Baths and Cross Bath. This talk was much enjoyed and included a contribution from Peter Davenport on the excavations in York Street, together with numerous slides.

Dr. John Wroughton, Chairman of the Friends, writes that he is still working on his book for Longmans, *The Stuart Age, 1603-1714*. He has published an article on William Prynne in *Bath City Life*, and has another in the pipeline for the summer. He has also been lecturing extensively on aspects of the Civil War for local societies and the Departments of Continuing Education in the Universities of Bath and Bristol.

Professor Robert Alexander writes that he is much tied up with administration now that he is Dean of the Faculty. He marvels that John Wroughton did so much research while Headmaster of King Edward's.

Neil Cridland writes that as part of the 1995 Centenary Celebrations, the Wessex Region of the National Trust has commissioned a project to record the inventory, as at 1995, of the contents of all the houses open to the public in the region.

The projects will be carried out by volunteer calligraphers, one of whom is Neil, a Friend of the Survey of Old Bath and husband of Ann Cridland, our treasurer. He will be recording the inventory of Stourhead, the eighteenth century Palladian villa in Somerset, and expects the task to take a year.

Marek Lewcun continues to work on the tobacco pipe industry in Bath and in the counties of Somerset and Wiltshire. His associated search of the *Bath Journal* has now reached 1770. He has made notes on various other topics of interest along the way, from advertisements relating to the selling of newly-built houses to more diverse subjects such as the existence of a

bagpipe maker in the city, and the premature announcement of the death of the painter Gainsborough when he was still in the land of the living. Though his notes will eventually be deposited at the Record

Office, Friends of the Survey are in the meantime welcome to enquire if any of their own areas of interest appear in them.

Marek was also working on the excavations at the Christopher Hotel. Unfortunately he fell in a trench and broke a rib. Work continued under the supervision of Mark Beaton. Marek's reports on the Empire Hotel and St. Thomas a Becket Church appear later in the newsletter.

Peter Addison (the PR representative of the Friends) has acquired a new super-sonic, turbo-powered computer, which means he can access his growing Combe Down database at the speed of light. He is amassing statistics and gearing himself up to printing everything out.

Nonnie Tiffany has just finished transcribing a very interesting Bristol inventory of a Thomas Adams who died in 1631. She is now hoping to find out more about him. He does not appear to have been buried in the city. (Nonnie was originally Nonn Adams.)

The Secretary of the **Friends of the Survey of Old Bath** is **Mrs.J.Hodkinson**, 55 Connaught Mansions, Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4NP, who can provide more information about the group.

### **ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER**

The name of the newsletter has been changed in this issue from *The Bath Survey* to *The Survey of Bath and District*. "The Survey of Bath and North-East Somerset" was considered as a possibility, but seemed a rather long title for a newsletter, and the authorities may one day decide to change the name to "North-East Somerset". "Bath and Wansdyke" seemed a possibility, but there again, there might be contributions from outside the district. What do our readers think?

The newsletter is intended to report on the work of the Survey, the interests of the Friends, and on historical and archaeological work within the new authority. As stated in our leaflet circulated earlier, we would like to extend a welcome to the new area, and hope that further members from outside Bath will be joining. Also more members from the north of the city! The present issue is rather heavily weighted to Widcombe and Lyncombe, but so many of us live towards the south.

Our study of the Empire Hotel continues with a report from Marek, and a personal assessment by Liz Gwinnell, once resident in Bath but now living in Trowbridge. It is very interesting to see how the hotel strikes someone living outside Bath, especially as there are Bath citizens who would like to see it knocked down.

Elizabeth expects to be typing the next newsletter by September. Please send your contributions, as before.

The name of the Survey itself still remains **The Survey of Old Bath**.

### **THE WALK ROUND THE BISHOPS' PALACE PREMISES**

This outing has been arranged for Monday 21 August. Meet in the Abbey Church yard at 7.30 p.m. The walk should take an hour, led by Mike Chapman and Peter Davenport. It is planned to end the evening at the Crystal Palace, Abbey Green. This hostelry is in the grounds of the ancient "Bishopsbower" which will be one of the topics of the meeting.

## CITY NEWS

### BATH RECORD OFFICE

Colin Johnston, **Bath City Archivist**, reports that the experimental evening opening of the Record Office until 8 pm. on Mondays has proved popular with regular and new users. The scheme has therefore been extended for a further six months throughout the summer, and members of the Survey are invited to support this initiative to ensure its continuance next winter.

New accessions have been added to the archive in both large and small quantities. Included amongst the large are: the Bath Festival archive; 30 years of Coroner's records; post-war Civil Defence records; 50 years of Planning applications. Smaller collections comprise: 1920s aerial photographs of Bath; records of the Methodist and Baptist churches; music scores of Frank Tapp, director of the Pump Room orchestra; title deeds of premises in the Ambury, and Henrietta Street.

Professional repair and conservation has been carried out on items from the Royal Bath and West of England Society's archive, mostly early photographs of showground scenes.

The extensive collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century title deeds deposited by the Queen Square solicitors Stone, King and Wardle has been made available to researchers following painstaking sorting and listing by a dedicated volunteer. No sooner completed, a further consignment of deeds was received, and work has already begun on making these available too.

### THE EMPIRE HOTEL

**Pegasus Retirement Homes Plc** have begun work on the conversion of the hotel. Their Progress Update No.1, 24 March 1995, indicated that contractors would begin "enabling works" on 27 March, including internal clearing and preparatory and safety work. The site was to be hoarded, site offices established, scaffolding commenced, and a sales centre and show apartment fitted out. The main programme of construction and renovation was to begin on 15 May. Demonstration of kitchen and bathroom interiors has been arranged with **Falcon Interiors** of Melksham.

The proposed restaurants are now described as a Garfunkels Restaurant facing the Orange Grove and a Caffe Uno Restaurant on the Grand Parade. Seven specialist up-market shops opening onto the riverside colonnade are planned in the "undercroft" of the Empire.

Apartments are for sale on 125-year leases, with a ground rent of £475 fixed for a 10-year period. It is suggested that the annual service charge will be about £2,500 a year. A release by the Company suggests prices ranging from £150,000 for a one-bedroom apartment to £300,000 for a luxury apartment. Luxury flats will have their own garages. Other flats will be able to rent parking lots at approximately £700 p.a.

The project obviously aims to attract wealthy long-stay residents to Bath, which some planners see as a viable alternative to short-term tourism. The amenities required by the two are really incompatible, as Stephen Beck also pointed out in a letter to the *Chronicle* about the clash between short-term tourism and the requirements (like peace and fresh air) of spa invalids.

### WIDCOMBE AND LYNCOMBE HISTORY STUDY GROUP

#### A Time to Remember

One of our most enjoyable and interesting recent meetings was the one which marked the end of the Second World War, when we were reminded of some aspects of life on the Home Front

in those momentous days. Ruth Haskins, in 1945 a young mother with a husband in the forces, described the difficulties of living in overcrowded conditions after being bombed out, of making do, of coping with rationing and shortages of almost everything, and then the wonderful feelings of joy

and relief that at last the dangers for the civilian population were over after years of hardship and terror. However whilst enjoying the street parties, the bonfires and general rejoicing which greeted the arrival of peace in Europe, the nation also remembered that other war zone in the Far East where hostilities continued for another three months.

Of V.E. day itself, everyone's strongest recollections were of the joyous noise of church bells which replaced the frightening wail of the sirens and of the wonderful sight of the city lit up by house lights, street lights and flood lights after six years of darkness.

Don and Ursula Lovell brought along an almost complete range of food rations for one person and vividly demonstrated the problems of feeding a family. Don reminded us that rationing did not end in Britain until 1954 - nine years after the war finished.

It was the wartime Ministry of Food which urged the country to experiment with substitutes and dried commodities, and some of the dishes of the day including a Spam recipe and Woolton Pie were served up for tasting. As might be expected some were unpopular - too little or the wrong kind of fat - but others, like Mock Apricot Flan with its unpromising combination of potato pastry, carrots and plum jam were surprisingly palatable.

A display of treasured memorabilia belonging to Elizabeth Holland and Andrew Ellis gave members the chance to browse through a collection which included an identity card, a ration book, a book of instructions on how to Make Do and Mend, a Ministry of Food cook book and a housewife's wartime notes.

Finally we had a selection of readings from the pages of the Bath and Wiltshire Evening Chronicle and Herald written in the last months of the war. They were amusing, ebullient, parochial, reflective, poignant, but above all thankful. The war was over.

### **Reports on Recent Researches**

On May 11th our meeting was held jointly with Bath History Research Group who had asked us to say something about recent researches in the Widcombe and Lyncombe areas. We didn't have to go very far from our own patch as the meeting was held at the Manvers Street Baptist Church which is pretty well the nearest venue on the city side of Ha'penny Bridge.

One of our ongoing projects is education and the Widcombe and Lyncombe schools' Log Books have been a rich source of information dating back to 1862 when they were first required to be kept. Mary Hamlen and Andrew Ellis said something about the Lyncombe St. Mark's schools which were founded in 1845. The eventual survivor was incorporated with Widcombe C.of E. school in 1962 but the premises are still used today by Bath College for educational purposes.

Brian Howard has become immersed in the history of Lyncombe Vale and we heard what he has uncovered concerning the fortunes of a 19th century market gardening family located at the far end of the vale.

The meeting was closed by Connie Smith's account of her researches into the life and death of the Cold Bath, built in Claverton Street by Thomas Greenway in 1704 and demolished in 1966 for road widening schemes.

The subjects ranged over three quite different fields of interest, they were presented in a very lively way and brought our corner of the city to the notice of people who are more usually focussed on the city centre. For us it was a most productive evening.

**Doreen Collyer 27 May 1995**

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

### **COUNCIL OF BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET**

As everyone knows, elections for the new Council were held on 4 May 1995. The results were divided between the three main parties, so that all three parties will have a say in launching the new authority.

To mark this new departure, Bath City Council have launched a newsletter, nicely tricked out in green, called Bath City News. Issue 1 recorded the fact that the new Council will have 65 councillors and serve a population of 163,000 in the existing areas of Bath and Wansdyke. It will be responsible for all local authority services currently provided by Bath, Wansdyke and Avon, including of course Libraries and Museums, Leisure and the Arts, and Planning Control.

The area will be divided into 36 wards, of which 16 will be the different areas of Bath, i.e. Weston, Lansdown, Lambridge, Newbridge, Kingsmead, Walcot, Abbey, Twerton, Westmoreland, Widcombe, Bathwick, Southdown, Oldfield, Lyncombe, Bloomfield and Combe Down. The remaining 20 will be formed out of 31 Wansdyke areas. For instance Charlcombe, Bathampton, Batheaston and Bathford will become a ward known as "Bathavon North". A very clear (green) map on pages 2 and 3 of the newsletter provides a guide to the district.

Highlitleton will be part of a ward known as Farmborough and Highlitleton.

### **INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE**

In its final year, Avon is expending further sums in saving industrial treasures. One is the ancient Gunpowder House at Midford, where explosives for quarrying were stored. Another is Saltford's 19th century Brass Mill. This was the last working brass mill in Europe and is a nationally and internationally important monument. The Brass Mill was probably built, or at least completed, towards the end of the 18th century. The final newsletter of the Saltford Parish Council, 1995, reports that the land on which it stands was bought or leased by the Bristol Brass Company in 1721, the site being previously occupied by a fulling mill. The land is now held on a 99-year lease, at a peppercorn rent, by the Avon Industrial Buildings Trust. The newsletter shows a photograph of Saltford Parish Councillors inspecting work at the site. (Thanks to Philip Jackson of Saltford, a member of the Friends, for bringing this item to our notice.)

### **VISIT TO FRESHFORD**

Earlier this year Mike and Elizabeth had occasion to visit Freshford, which will be in "Bathavon South". They took a number of photographs, which will be placed in a file and donated to Colin Johnston in 1996, when he is able to accept archival material for the new authority. It is hoped to display these photographs at the Friends' A.G.M. in June.

### **SOMERSETSHIRE COAL CANAL SOCIETY EXHIBITION**

This was held at the Methodist Church Centre, Radstock, on Saturday 22 April and Sunday 23 April. The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society was founded in January 1992 and this was their third exhibition. Mike Chapman contributed to the display and also to the insert in the *Bath Advertiser* which provided both photographs and informative historical text. The Survey is saving this useful spread as the beginning of a Radstock file to present to Colin Johnston next year. Derrick Hunt can give further information about the Society - he can be contacted on 01761 434618 (Peasedown St.John).

## CORRESPONDENCE

I read with interest your article “Bath and the Warwick Book of Hours” (News letter No.2, November 1994).

It does seem very doubtful that the initial at the beginning of Psalm 68, *Salvum me fac Deus* (69 in today’s Bibles and prayerbooks), can represent St. David and the Prior and City of Bath.

Both your illustrations appear to be written in an established manuscript tradition. Robert Calkins in his *Illuminated Books of the Middle Ages* explains the custom of dividing the Psalms into eight liturgical sections, of which the fifth commenced with *Salvum me fac*, usually with major decorative initials introducing each part. He goes on to say, “...this Psalm usually contains a representation of David immersed in water, looking upward in supplication for salvation. But any number of other scenes might be used such as the resurrection or the whale disgorging Jonah...”

The Psalm is an important text on salvation. It contains the famous words, “Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness: I looked for some to have pity on me, but there was no man, neither found I any to comfort me ... When I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.”

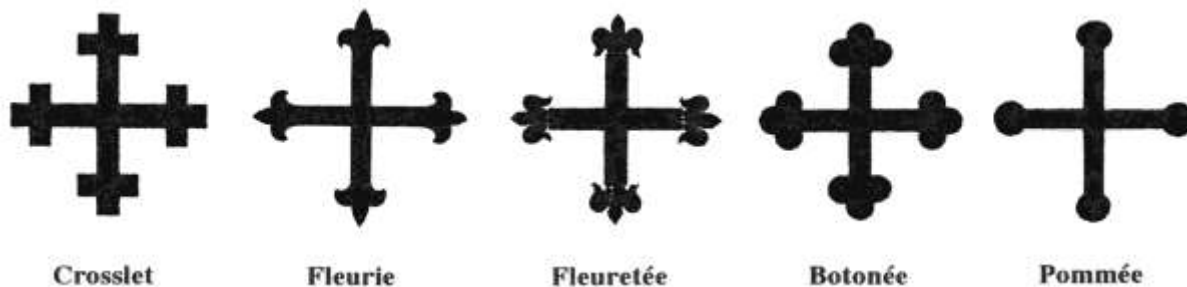
It concludes, “For God will save Sion and build the houses of Judah...and they that love his name shall dwell therein.”

It is hard to accept that a mediaeval scribe would attempt to put the former passage in the mouth of the Welsh Saint. The fact that another initial of the same manuscript contains an identical figure with a harp shows that it is indeed King David who is depicted. The conclusion of the Psalm equally makes it clear that it is another city that is shown in this tradition.

It seems equally difficult to identify the city with Warwick unless you are right in believing that the church carries the crossed crosslets of the Beauchamp arms. I am afraid I do not see this in the illustration. The crossed crosslet has a very angular outline. These seem to me to be rounded, like one of the other heraldic crosses shown in the sketch below, most likely the fleurie or fleurette.

Unfortunately, this is a point of fact which I cannot check in the original. If my impression is right, it would not be surprising. Mediaeval architecture swarms with foliar and floral ornament and the fleur-de-lys and related forms appear frequently. Such crosses top the gables of the west ends of many churches - St.Albans, Chester, Lichfield and Salisbury Cathedral are examples. In fact since reading your article I seem to see them on every other parish church I pass.

Similar branched ornament appears in the “poppy head” carving, eg. on pew and choirstall ends, and the strawberry leaves which are seen here on King David’s crown, and until Henry IV decorated the English royal crown, as well as appearing in many manuscripts on the crowns of Biblical and historical figures.



I believe, therefore, that if crossed crosslets had been intended here, they must have been presented much more clearly to an audience used to floriated carving.

As you can imagine, I look forward very much to reading your monograph and hope you will send me a copy.

**Christopher Holland**, London, May 1995

I wish to thank you for the Bath Survey newsletters we have received. It is wonderful to read the detailed work that is being done by people in such a historic area. Our interest is greatly fired by the information produced.

We are well settled in our little flat in Sydney now...Being right across the road from work is a great blessing...We are now assigned to work in the Family History Centre here, a task shared with two other couples. The centre is open 12 hours a day except Sunday, so we are rostered in shifts. The public make great use of the facilities offered.

A few weeks ago we received an invitation to a reunion of the descendants of John OLD and Mary Jane KNUCKEY, who were my two great-grandparents and the second generation in New Zealand. So we will be going to Wanganui in late July we hope... My brother Reid and his wife from Levin will be going too. Hence most of our current research has concentrated on this line. This is about the only family of the Taranaki first fleeters who have not yet had a reunion.

Hope this finds you well and busy on your projects.

**Ross (and Lorraine) Chapman**, Sydney, Australia, May 1995

## BOOK NEWS

The Chalford Publishing Company has brought out a new volume of pictures of Bath, compiled by the author, Paul De'Ath, from his own personal collection of historic postcards and prints. *The Archives Photographs Series - Bath*, priced at £8.99, includes over 200 views of the city and the surrounding district.

The *Chronicle* has also been marketing a collection of photographs from its own archives. Unfortunately this has been given the same name as the well-known catalogue of Bath views, *Images of Bath*, which suggests a small acquaintance with previous publications.

This seems to be a pity, as the *Chronicle* has a wonderful collection of pictures, which they allowed us to draw upon in the Baths exhibition in 1986.

Elizabeth Holland's essay *Bath and the Warwick Book of Hours* is finally ready. A copy has been given to Bath Record Office and another to Bath Library. Copies can be obtained directly from Elizabeth, price £1.75 including postage.

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## NOTES AND QUERIES



## WIDCOMBE MANOR HOUSE

On Sunday, 3 September, the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group will be visiting Widcombe Manor, and presenting a paper on the connection of the Chapman family with the site. Although this paper is being compiled by Elizabeth Holland, the contents will represent a team effort.

Below is a picture of a house from the notebooks of Thomas Robins. Although unidentified in the notebooks, it is obviously of Widcombe Manor, then called Widcombe House, of which another and later drawing also appears in the notebooks.

Connie Smith's studies have raised the interesting question - Are we looking at the back of the house in this drawing? Is it possible that Widcombe Manor has been turned around?

Connie Smith has pointed out that before Ralph Allen built his wagon-way, the chief route to Widcombe Church must have branched off the road up Widcombe Hill. There was not so much carriage traffic in those days, but what there was could not have driven along Prior Park Road, as it did not exist. A deed of 1730 mentions Philip Bennet's new road from the wagon-way to his new mansion. This is now called Church Street. Before it was created, there is no evidence that anyone could drive a carriage along the valley and up the hill to Widcombe House. They must have come from the other side, up Widcombe Hill and Church Lane.

The picture does not show a driveway. We are not looking at a gentleman's carriage entrance, but a gentleman's formal garden. The doorway leading to this garden is like the garden entrance of Highlittleton House, a William and Mary building.

In his article in *Country Life*, 28 August 1937, Oswald Cray suggested that Widcombe Manor contained the remains of an older building. It seems possible that this building was the one here illustrated. One would surmise that it was built by Scarborough Chapman (the only proven Chapman owner of the site). His son-in-law Philip Bennet I spent his time elsewhere. It is Philip Bennet II whose new mansion is mentioned. Presumably he only did one expensive building job at Widcombe, so that what he did was to remodel his grandfather's house.

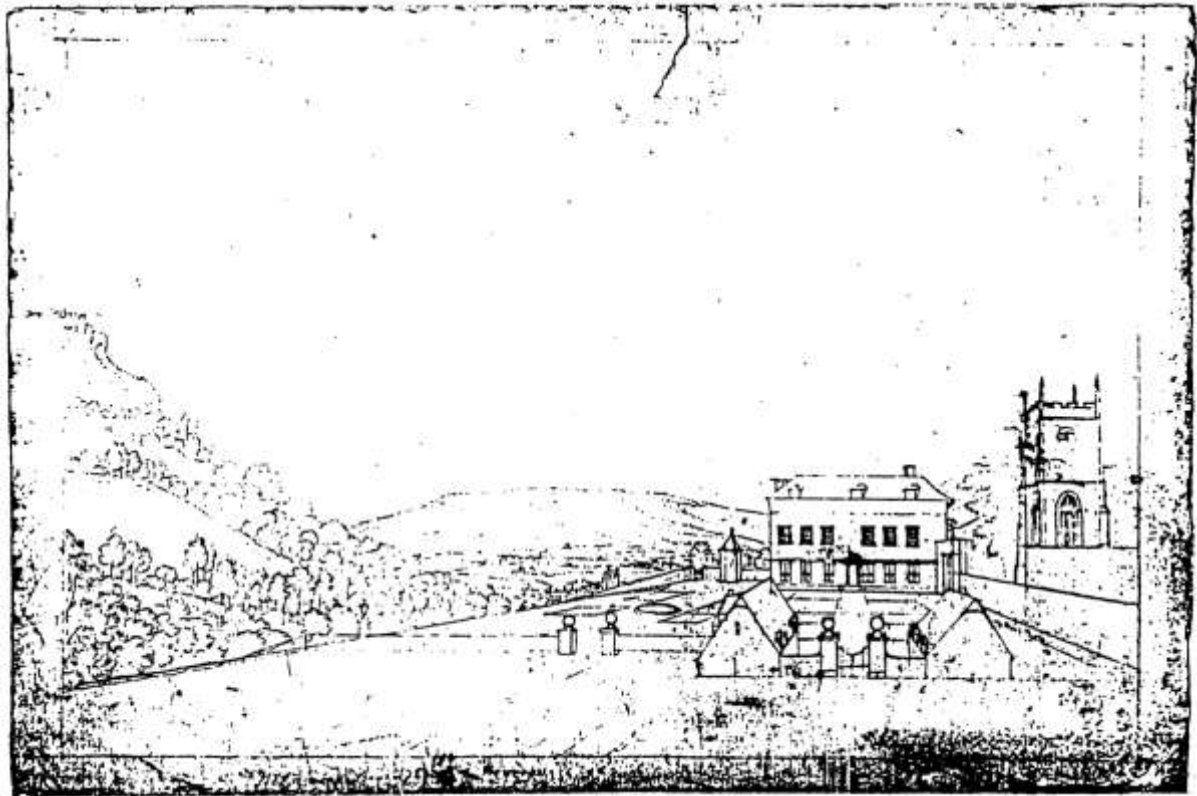
What needs to be investigated is whether the idiosyncrasies Cray mentioned do indicate the remains of an earlier house, and if so, whether that house could have had its front entrance on the other side. Did Philip Bennet turn his grandfather's house around?

E.A.H.

## THE SANDPITS

Gathering dust in the City Guildhall Archive is a 1914/15 petition with signatures and addresses of many people in Oldfield who then pressed the Council to provide a childrens' playground in their locality. The First World War was in progress - it was an inopportune time. The petition was put aside, but not forgotten. In 1922 the Council moved to fulfil that plea by the inhabitants. The result was the childrens' play area by the side of Monksdale Road. It has been enjoyed by youngsters then and today, more especially perhaps as the brook which flowed through the ground was retained as an open feature.

The site had been used for industrial purposes. Here lay the abandoned clay pits and brick workings of the late Charles Harding. Building rubble was removed; the ruins were flattened. Bad depressions were filled in and rough soil was spread over the clay waste. Some of the hillocks and undulations were left and the depressions in these were filled in with sand for the childrens' play. Eighty tons of sand came from Burnham-on-Sea. And that is why the old clay workings became known as the Sandpits.



**Robins' view of Widcombe Manor (from the archives of the Widcombe & Lyncombe History Study Group).**



**A view of the narrow road between Widcombe Manor House and St. Thomas à Becket Church c.1980 (from the archives of the Widcombe & Lyncombe History Study Group).**

But that is not the end of the story. The 1922 playground came from a government aided grant for the unemployed. The country in 1921 was entering the deep depression which led on to the 1926 General Strike. Despite Lloyd George and his “land fit for heroes” assurances, the little boom which followed the end of war hostilities had not lasted. By 1921 the economic situation was serious, with many industries affected, especially the long-established ones. Little means of new work was to be found.

Local authorities were encouraged to promote schemes for short-term relief for the unemployed. Bath was pressed by the Trades Union and Labour Council to participate. The childrens’ playground in Monksdale Road was one of those efforts which came to fruition. And generations of Oldfield youngsters have played there since and will hopefully continue for the future.

Memories are short - ask any passerby, “Why Sandpits?”, and the answer will be a vague shake of the head. The response will not be a surprise, for there is not a grain of sand to be seen. The site is green and dotted with up-to the-minute play apparatus, sufficient to keep an eager active child happy for hours.

**Connie Smith**

### **THE KING WILLIAM, HIGHLITTLETON**

Does anyone remember the unusual clock at this pub? Mrs.Dora Wedge remembers it vaguely, and wonders if it is still there now. Any photos of the pub we could publish?

### **WELLSWAY AND THE FORMER BARRACK FARM**

The former Barrack Farm lay below the northern edge of Odd Down and between the present Bloomfield Road and Entry Hill. In the 1820s in order to bypass the present Bloomfield Road, then an inconvenient part of the “old turnpike” route to Wells, Macadam, who had been called upon to carry out improvements, laid out the present Wellsway (between the present Entry Hill fork and the city boundary at Odd Down) as an entirely new stretch of road, to form an improved “new turnpike” part of the route. His road cut straight through the middle of the farm, which then became divided into Upper Barrack Farm on the western side of Wellsway and Lower Barrack Farm (now the nine-hole golf course) on the eastern side.

The name of the former Barrack Farm is almost certainly a corruption of “Bere-wyke”, once also the name of a parish, which like Widcombe lay in what had been the Domesday manor of Lyncombe (Lincuma). The house and outbuildings of the farm are clearly shown and labelled “Barrocks” on Thorpe’s map of a Five mile radius of Bath, 1742. In the thirteenth century there was a “free tenement” in Berewyke (with common grazing rights in parts of Lyncombe) held by successive members of the de Berewyke family, and this may well account for the later name of the farm. There is reference to a dwelling at that time and to the granting of permission to a member of the family to enclose and cultivate certain named grounds, which probably formed the nucleus of de Berewyke’s property.

The long history of a farming settlement there is borne out by the discoveries made in the 1950s during gas main laying operations in the road on Wellsway, at a spot below the crest of the hill and only a very short distance above the more recent farmhouse and buildings. The digging revealed a thick layer of occupation earth, fragments of both medieval and Roman pottery, tiles, part of a stone quern, a substantially built piece of wall, and loose, squared blocks of stone - indications of a large medieval structure and of a Roman building in the vicinity.

Later on, I hope to look at the history of this interesting area in more detail.

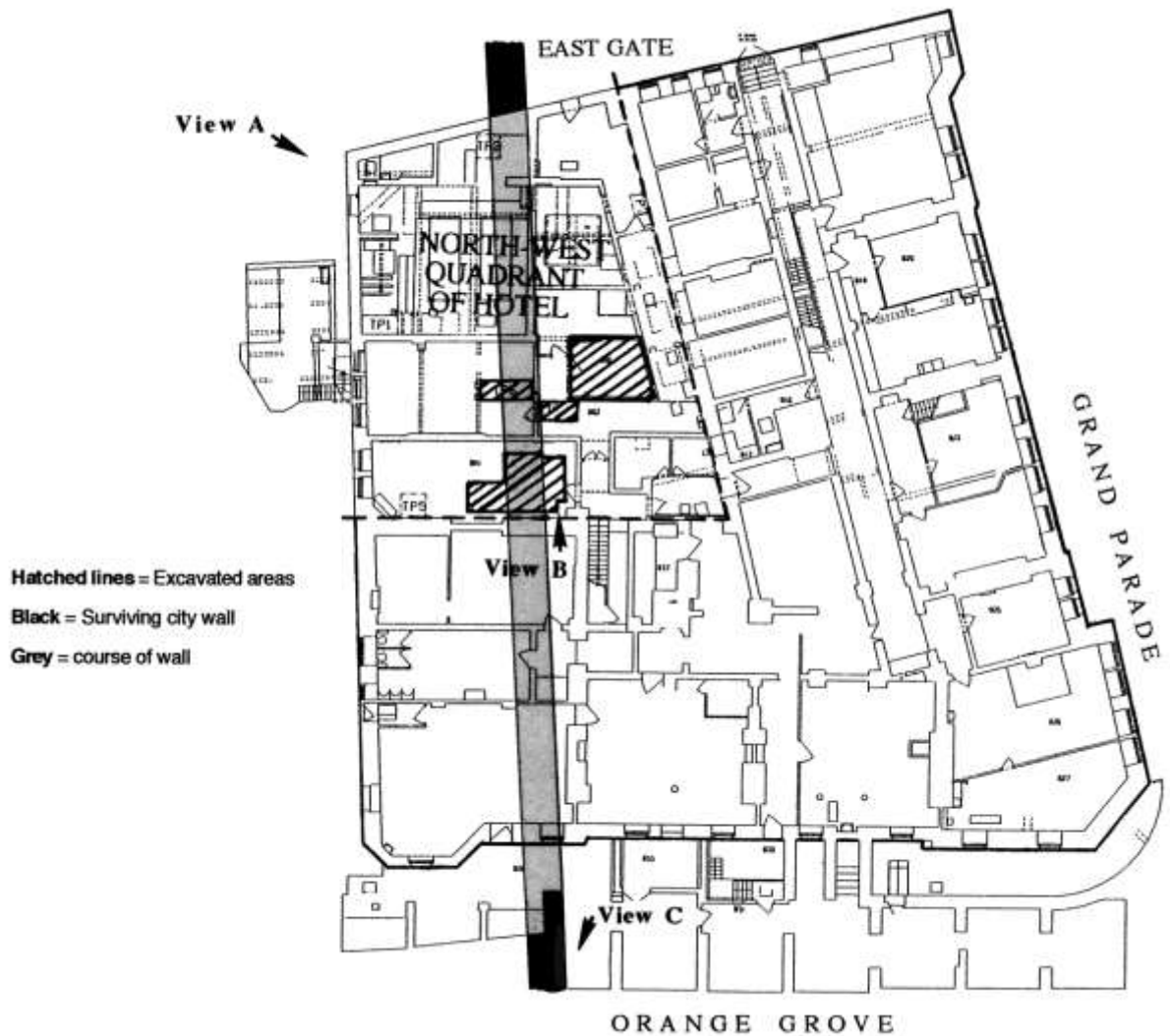
**Allan Keevil**





**View A:**

**The back of the Empire Hotel - the single-storey north-west quadrant in centre foreground.**



## TWO RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN BATH

Marek Lewcun

### I. The Empire Hotel

Excavations by Bath Archaeological Trust in the basement of the north-west quadrant of the Empire Hotel, carried out between November and February, have revealed that the construction of the hotel destroyed almost all of the City Wall in its path, leaving only the deepest part of its footings in a small area. It is noteworthy though that a small length of the wall, surviving to a height of two metres and complete with windows which once opened out onto Lot Lane, still exists in a cellar on the extreme south side of the complex; this portion of wall is not threatened by the development, but recommendations have been made that its importance is remembered during the course of any work undertaken close to it.

On the east side of the City Wall a small portion of Lot Lane survives below the cellar floors, consisting of heavy eighteenth or nineteenth century setts. On its east side, part of the basement of a building in the vicinity of the slaughterhouses was excavated down to its original floor; its structure is below the level to be affected by the remodelling of this area as a car park in the development, but a statutory watching brief will nevertheless be carried out by Bath Archaeological Trust to record any features that extend into the demolition area.

A report on the primary excavations in 1994 (“An Evaluation of the Archaeological Implications of Development of the Empire Hotel, Bath, by Pegasus Retirement Homes plc”, Marek Lewcun, for Bath Archaeological Trust, 1995) was produced for those directly concerned in the project, whilst a report on the 1995 excavations is being written by Mark Beaton.

I have taken many photographs of both the outside and the inside of the single storey north-west quadrant of the complex which is being demolished to make way for the car park, and these will be added to the Survey of Old Bath’s Empire Hotel files at the Guildhall Record Office. At the time of writing, the block houses the original immense coal-fired boilers in the basement, together with later gas-fired examples, whilst the ground floor consists of kitchens and other service and storage rooms. A selection of further photographs, taken in the hotel itself, will also be added to the Survey’s files on the building.

Pegasus have been very co-operative throughout the Trust’s work at the hotel, and their plans for its refurbishment are to be admired. A great many individuals have shown an interest in the apartments, and the project’s success looks guaranteed. It will be good to see this monument to a great epoch in British history standing proud once again, and to see Charles Davis’s parting gift to the city stand for many years to come.

### II. St. Thomas à Becket Church, Widcombe

During March and April work was undertaken by Bath Archaeological Trust to excavate, record, and re-inter those burials affected by the construction of a new wall to a now wider moat on the north and east sides of St. Thomas à Becket Church in Widcombe. 50 skeletons were recorded, virtually all being post-1600 in date and having disturbed the earlier burials in their path. There was no trace, or any indications within the excavation area, of the chapel which is known to have existed on the site of the present church, the latter having been built between 1490 and 1498. The present chancel, rebuilt in 1746, is terraced into the bedrock of the hillside and may have destroyed any evidence relating to the earlier chapel, which probably would have stood towards the centre of the church.

At the north-east corner of the church a stone-built chest tomb belonging to the Brooks family was found totally buried, having been built at an earlier ground level; the name of the first person listed on the capping stone was missing, but below it was recorded the burial of Ann Brooks who died on 16 February 1755, followed by a Joseph or Joshua.





**View B:**

**Looking northwards up Lot Lane with the remains of the city wall on its west (left) side, discovered below the floorboards of the basement in the north west quadrant of the Empire Hotel.**



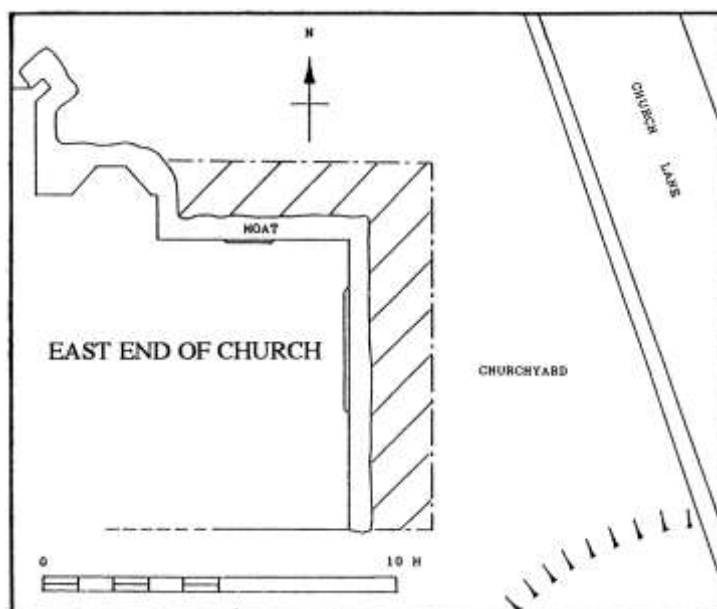
**View C:**

**The still standing length of city wall in the cellars on the south side of the Empire Hotel, below the pavement in front of the tea terrace, viewed from the East. Several blocked-in windows are visible.**

Two walled graves at the south-east corner of the church, belonging to the Delpratt and Hedger families and dating to 1836 and 1825-1843 respectively, made for interesting observations on interments of the time. The below-ground capping stones of the Delpratt grave included three re-used elaborate grave stones; one related to Anne the wife of John Clement of Widcombe buried on 2 June 1705 aged 36 and their son Thomas who died aged 10 weeks on 1 March 1704 (sic, i.e. 1704/5. The parish register records his burial as having taken place on 4 March.)

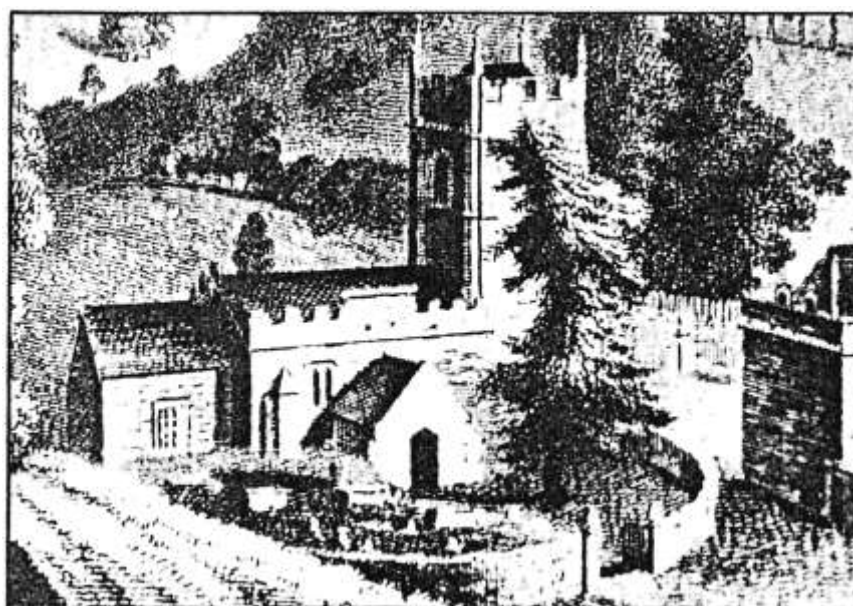
A second stone related to the children of Joseph and Quirina Fisher, Thomas aged two weeks who died on 18 July 1751 (but is not recorded in the register), Margaret aged one year and ten months who died in October 1756, and Sarah aged (---) weeks who died in September 17(---) (the register gives her baptism as 30 June and burial as 28 September 1757). A third stone, very worn and largely illegible, depicts both Latin and English text below which are the large initials S.C.; its frieze includes the winged skull and crossed bones motif.

As with all work carried out by Bath Archaeological Trust, a full written, graphic and photographic record of the site was made. The Trust benefited from the generous assistance of Mr. Gwynne Stock who voluntarily made notes on the bones, and the types of coffin furniture associated with them, for future osteological analysis. Gwynne had previously collaborated with Dr. Margaret Cox on the recording of the walled graves which were removed when the Church of St. Nicholas at Bathampton was extended in 1992, and he also recorded the exhumations from the Quaker burial ground at Bathford in 1993.



**St. Thomas à Becket Church, Widcombe - Excavation Area (hatched).**

**North side of St. Thomas à Becket Church, c. 1786.**



## COMBE DOWN ROMAN VILLA

Peter Addison

Present day Combe Down can be described as a modern industrial village, its founding father being Ralph Allen. The reason for the development of a settlement on what was a rather inhospitable windswept plateau needs little explanation. Suffice it to say that the entrepreneur Ralph Allen recognised the huge potential in the extensive quantities of good quality building stone which could be accessed so easily. However, the quarrying village, the first cottages being erected in 1729, is not the first settlement to have been built on the Down.

Evidence of Roman occupation on the down above the village of Cume (Monkton Combe) was first discovered in 1822 when workmen engaged in widening Summer Lane found some stone coffins. Further investigation by the Rev. Richard Warner to the north of the lane showed that some form of building, probably Roman, had been on the site. Three more coffins were found in 1854 whilst Belmont House was being built for George Cruikshank, a local landowner. They lay with the heads to the north, indicating a heathen burial.

Also found at this time were a complete earthenware vessel, pottery shards, a coin of Licinius, a stone chest containing the head of a horse and a smaller chest containing some burnt bones. Later that year, on a site between Belmont Road and the Old Vicarage, two more stone coffins were found, both containing very fragile skeletons, one with a small brass coin in its jaw.

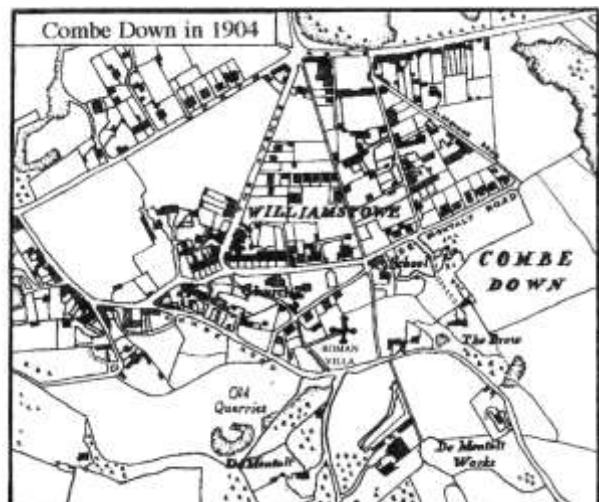
Actual evidence of building was discovered in 1860 just below Belmont House. The excavated area contained about six rooms, some quite large, 30' x 18', with a hypocaust, arranged around a courtyard. An important discovery was made in the shape of colourless glass vessels, very little of which had, at that time, been found in the Bath area. Also found were earthenware fragments, ox horns, coins, bronze, iron ornaments and numerous other pieces. In all 326 Roman coins were found at this time, which George Cruikshank presented to Taunton Museum. During April 1879 the Trowbridge Chronicle reports:

In the course of some excavations at Combe Down, near Bath, an ancient stone coffin, about six feet long, has been discovered. The coffin contained a skeleton, but the bones were extremely fragile, and crumbled on being touched. Other coffins have been previously found near the spot.

Over the years numerous finds have been made. Today the occupiers of houses in Summer Lane whose residences have been built within the last fifty years, and whose back gardens cover the villa site, frequently find odd pieces of pottery and the occasional coin.

As regards the actual buildings which constituted the villa, stone for their construction probably came from the site which we know as Vinegar Down Quarry, in Shepherds Field, between the present Beechwood Road and the main entrance to De Montalt Mill on the south side of Summer Lane.

**A Roman drinking cup, embossed with animals and ivy (emblems of Bacchus), about 4½ inches high and coated with black oxide.**





## SPA TREATMENT AT BATH

### Marigold Mann

In January 1949 I went to Bath to train for Hydrotherapy as a post-graduate course to Physiotherapy. I and a friend had “digs” at the top of a Georgian house at No.6 Rivers Street. My room had a fantastic view, and we could run through a small square and a short alley, along a road and into the Circus, down the hill and through Queen’s Square, turning left at the bottom to go to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital where we trained. This journey was performed every morning at speed and usually clutching a piece of toast and honey.

We were the only two students doing the full-time, three months’ course. Our programme differed from the full-time students who were employed as physiotherapists in the Hospital. In the morning we started with a lecture, and after break we went to the Spa Treatment Centre for the rest of the morning. Here we worked with the delightful “Bath Ladies” who came in all ages and sizes. They wore utilitarian black bathing costumes with floppy red rubber bath caps and aprons to match. Under their tutelage and supervised by our principal - a stately redhead named Calvert-Jones - we learned the secrets of spray massage, underwater douching, needle spray with hosing and various medicinal baths. The “Bath Ladies” had no formal training other than apprenticeship; they had no medical status either until some time around the late fifties or early sixties, when they became physiotherapy or hydrotherapy aides - I cannot be too precise about this.

For spray massage the victim lay on a rubber sheet spread over a wooden plinth, and their whole body was constantly sprayed with lukewarm water. Meanwhile we (the operators) would massage them all over in a fairly fast rhythmic way quite different from massage normally used in physiotherapy. This was fairly stressful to some patients and always had to be ordered by a doctor; we had the odd fainting attack.

Underwater douching consisted of the patient lying in a deep plunge pool while we massaged particular joints with a strong pressure underwater hose.

Needle sprays were usually given in conjunction with body hosing. The patient stood upright in a semicircular six-foot spray which hit their body at right angles, while the attendant (me) played a hose in a fairly strong jet outlining their arms, legs and bodies. This could be hot or cold.

Medicinal baths were given for skin conditions or circulatory disorders. As a general rule treatments were given for arthritic, rheumatic or circulatory disorders under medical supervision from doctors. After treatment the patient would be cocooned in towels and would rest for half an hour, while sipping the beastly water.

In the afternoon we joined the part-time students. We would treat National Health patients from the Royal Mineral Water Hospital in the small pool, and give wax baths and mud-packs. The mud-packs were made of powdered fuller’s earth mixed with mineral water and heated to a certain temperature. The “mud” was put into a cloth and pounded to the shape which would envelop the joint to be treated; it would be applied direct to the skin and covered with towels for twenty minutes. The amount of radioactivity in the water was not considered by the doctors to be significant, but the water was a convenient temperature and always available.

The idea of mud-packs came from European Spas in Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc., where the radioactive mud was, and still is, considered beneficial.

Probably the most beneficial treatments we gave in those days were the exercises in water for polio victims, also for arthritic and post-traumatic stiff limbs. This is really all that remains of Hydrotherapy in present-day Physiotherapy, excepting the treatment for polio which thank goodness is no longer with us in England. For these treatments we went three times a week to the Hot Bath. The patients arrived by ambulance from local Hospitals and were lowered, by gantry, into the pool and received by the students. The pool was, from memory, hexagonal. It was surrounded by a corridor and resting rooms. Windows from the corridor were open to the pool and there was a glass dome giving an excellent light on the water.

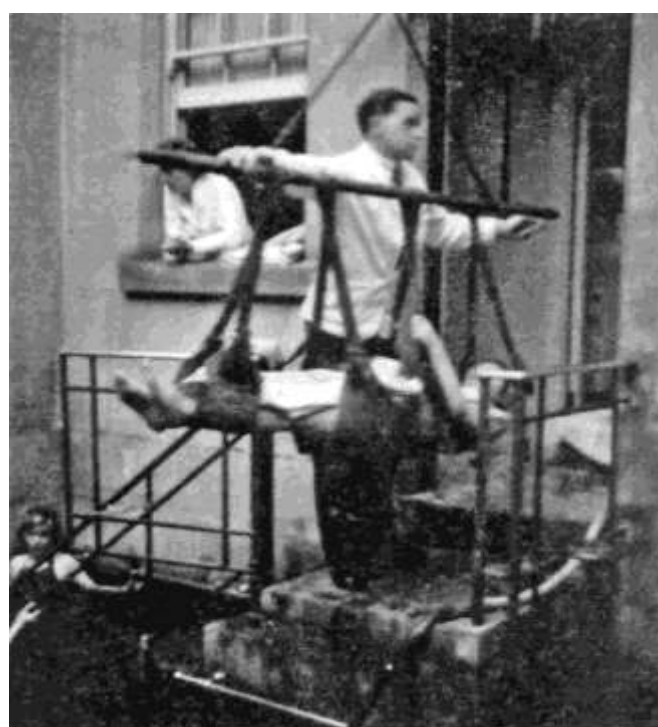
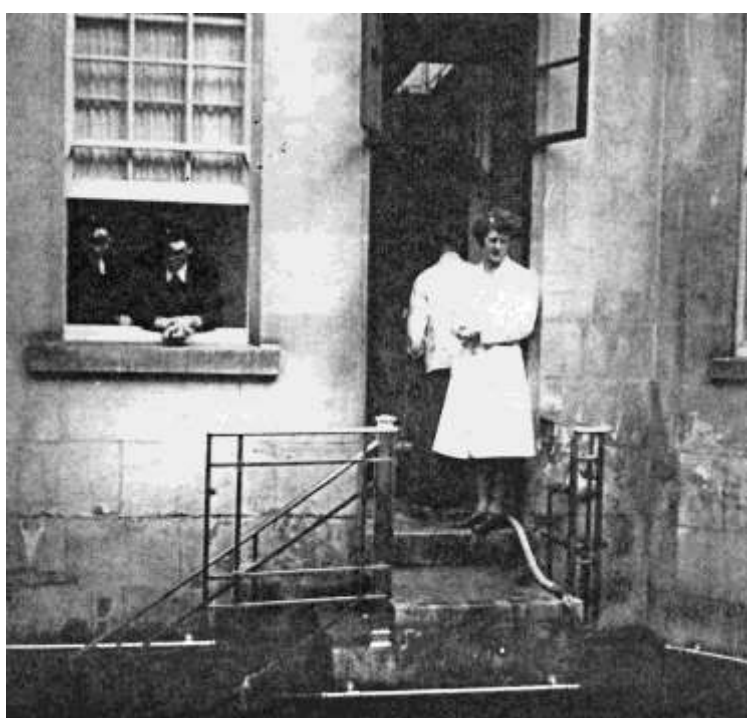


The patients, helped by the warmth and buoyancy of the water, exercised their limbs and weak muscles with greater facility than they were able to display in bed. Walking between parallel bars was possible in the pool long before it could be managed in the gym. In recovering cases the viscosity of the water acted as a resistance for the muscles to work against.

Our teacher watched us from a window and was ready with cold drinks. Two hours, chest high, in "Bath" hot water could be very tiring, and after the session there was a compulsory cold plunge for us, which I found particularly disagreeable!

Spas on the Continent still experience excellent attendance and at one time they flourished in England. Cheltenham, Leamington, Tunbridge Wells, Woodhall Spa, Buxton, Harrogate all had degrees of popularity but Bath - with to a lesser degree Harrogate and Buxton - was always the best attended.

**April 1987.**



## MEMORIES OF HIGHLITTLETON HOUSE

### Elizabeth Holland

Although like other Chapmans around the world my grandmother, Frances Maud Holland (nee Chapman) always thought of herself as a Chapman of Bath, she never to my knowledge visited Bath. She was born in India and met my grandfather Thomas Henry Holland there while he was working on the Geological Survey of India. They spent their honeymoon in tents on the frontier, while my grandfather continued with his work.

Both my parents were also born in India (my father at Cawnpore and my mother at Simla), where they first met. By coincidence, my mother's family also had connections with Bath, and it was these connections which brought me to the district first.

The Rev. Wesley Brunyate was the first governor of Kingswood School in its new location at Bath, and his sons attended the school. His son James was my grandfather. James' sister Christina eventually became Principal of Southlands College, Putney, and Anne Brunyate became a doctor. Anne had a friend, Miss Mary Gurney, headmistress of an Anglican girls' school, and the three decided to live together in their retirement.

I associate Aunt Anne with a quaint old house near Lincoln Cathedral, called the Priory, though whether it belonged to her or her brother Thomas is not certain. The three friends decided to move near Bath, and purchased Highlittleton House about 1937, for a sum reputed in the family to be £1500. It was a beautiful three-storey William and Mary house, with lodge house, stables and coach house, and grounds which included a paddock and orchard. Highlittleton is a former mining village near Paulton, south-west of Bath.

The aunts held a grand family party, which marked my first visit to the area. Trestle tables were laid out on the lawn behind the house, laden with the kind of food always provided on country visits then, such as Melton Mowbray pork pies, real chicken (not your plastic imitation), and ham trimmed with golden breadcrumbs. People are always saying food does not taste like it used to do, and of course, it doesn't.

Unfortunately, Dr. Anne Brunyate died. The other two aunts kept open house. In the summer we gathered for summer holidays and went swimming at Wookey Hole, followed by cream teas with strawberry jam. At Christmas we had Christmas dinner in the dining-room overlooking the lawn, and played games in the library. Our uncles would arrive with enormous boxes of chocolates, wrapped in red and gold silver-paper. We were under the illusion that uncles and aunts loved nothing better than to play with us. Whether they did or not, adults in those days did constantly exert themselves to amuse children rather than let them become a nuisance to others (other than their uncles and aunts).

The lodge house at Highlittleton House stood by the main road. In later days, Mrs. Burgess lived there, with her husband, and housekept for the aunts, which enabled them to retain the house longer than they would otherwise have done. The lodge has now been extended and modernised as a separate property. A winding drive led up from the front gate, with a wooded area on either side. Another house has now been built in the wood to the left. The stableyard, with stalls and looseboxes, tack room and coach-house, lay beyond the house. Aunt Mary kept chickens here during and after the war. I remember them rushing up to her to be fed, and one stopping to lay a shell-less egg.

On Sundays, we stepped through a wicket gate straight into the churchyard and attended church. In the typical arrangement of manor house, church, and incumbent's house, the rectory lay immediately on the other side.

As well as entertaining relations, the aunts welcomed a number of ex-pupils and former members of staff. They were both great bridge players, and had bridge engagements in a number of the other large houses in the district.

**Below:**

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Highlittleton House, photographed by Christopher Holland after the war. The rooms over the kitchen area to the right were taken down by the next owner because of dry rot in the roof. This meant losing the small bedroom and bathroom visible in the picture, and two connecting bedrooms on the other side, over the library, as well as the back staircase to the kitchen quarters. The two connecting rooms had old mullioned windows with small square panes, and floors so uneven that a ball would roll down them. The room downstairs left in the photograph was the aunts' drawing room, made dark by the trees around. Here they played bridge every night under the chandelier. Child visitors, sent to bed, continued to play cards up in the attics.



**Charles Holland and Veronica Brunyate - The stables and Highlittleton Church beyond left.**

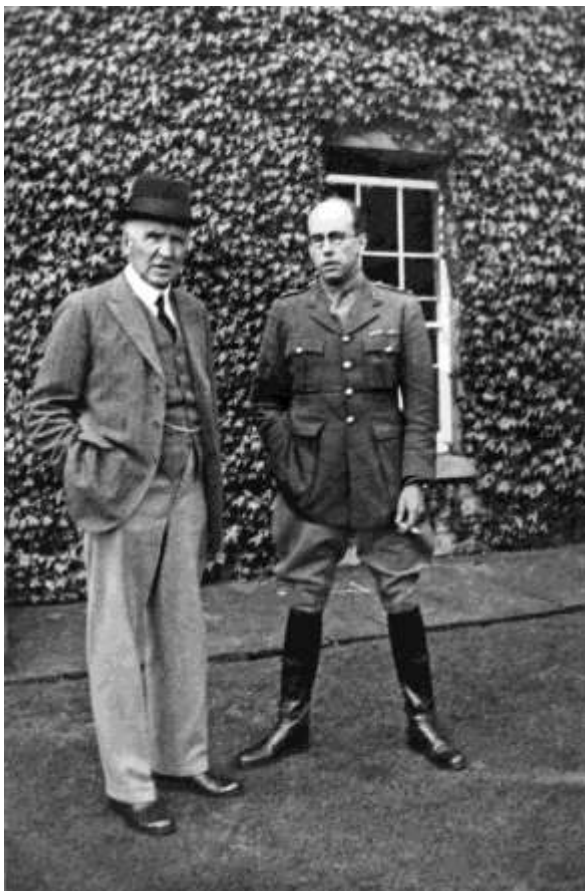
We were at Highlitleton when war broke out. I remember sitting cross-legged on the carpet while the whole party sat round the room listening to the announcement on the radio.

From Highlitleton, we used to visit Bath. After the war, when my brother Christopher and I stayed together at Highlitleton, we would bus into Bath and rush to Fortt's to have off-the-ration Bath buns and icecream. Aunt Christina used to say despairingly, "How is it that two intelligent young people can go to Bath and not visit the Roman Baths?" The answer was (which of course we did not tell her, as young persons did not answer back in those days) that the Baths did not sell unrationed buns, which at that age were much more important. However, we went one day to please her.

The Great Bath was bare and unattended and we seemed to be the only visitors. We wandered around and looked at the Roman stones propped up at the sides. My brother had studied classics, and he was upset because the inscriptions had been painted over in red, and he felt there would never be a chance for a variant reading. However apparently the paint could be washed off.

We soon escaped from something which did not really interest us then, and moved off to go shopping at Woolworth's. In those days, as now, everyone walked along the road in Stall Street, and the cars had to inch along as best they could. Then it was back to the Old Bridge, to catch the Highlitleton bus.

It was Highlitleton, not the Chapmans, which led me to move to Bath, in 1964. My cousin Peter Brunyate is also now a doctor in the practice at Marshfield. When Highlitleton House was last on the market, the price was about half a million - otherwise we might have dreams of buying it back. But as my brother Christopher says, it was a magical place, and the magic might not come back now.



**James Brunyate and "Joe" Holland in front of the drawing room at Highlitleton not long before the war.**



**The author at Highlitleton after the war.**



## THE LOST HOTEL

Liz Gwinnell

There is something compelling about the Empire Hotel brooding by the River Avon, even more so when she keeps her secrets so closely guarded, fooling many who pass by that she is nothing but a blackened, empty building with no story to tell.

I moved to Bath from Reading in 1990. Although I was lucky enough to rent a flat in the circus and be surrounded by Georgian splendour, it was the anonymous building overlooking the weir that caught my imagination. But it was a job in itself finding out anything more than that it was the redundant Empire Hotel, the books I consulted curiously lacking any references to it, or giving no more than a fleeting mention. Such treatment might imply that nothing of any note attached to the hotel, but the more it evaded me the greater the intrigue. At that time I had just started to dabble in freelance articles and wanted to write one about my new discovery. Slowly I started to piece together a history that should be anything but forgotten and thus began my love affair with the Empire Hotel.

That it had once been endowed with a five star rating and popular with both the fashionable 1920's set and the invalids who came to Bath to take the spa waters for their health, only served to make the hotel's current abandoned and sorry state the more poignant. In its heyday it was the place to stay, with a courtesy bus meeting every train, its own orchestra, and bedrooms which were the epitome of comfort. It had not heard laughter and music within its walls for fifty years for, in 1939, its gaiety was suddenly subdued when the hotel was requisitioned by the Admiralty with more serious things on their minds than the pursuit of pleasure - the outbreak of the Second World War. They continued in occupation for much longer than was anticipated and, as the MoD, finally vacated in 1989. I telephoned the Council hoping to be allowed access but came up against a brick wall. They weren't sure that the structure of the building was safe and not even promising to wear a suit of armour and a hard hat could persuade them.

I moved away from Bath but never forgot the Empire. Each time I returned to the City, I looked longingly at the net curtains hanging at half-mast in the downstairs windows and followed the occasional news item in the local papers. And then, at the beginning of this year, I learnt that it was to be converted into retirement flats. I rang the developers. I didn't have to promise hard hats or armour this time. I was in.

The chill of the Empire was finally mine on a rainy day in March, almost five years from the date when I first fell under its spell. This was the ideal way to see an historic building - without having to share it with the enforced company of other sightseers. The majestic hush and layers of dust coating the rich mahogany banisters were all it needed to convey the atmosphere of a lost and forgotten era. And because of the Ministry of Defence's protracted and careful occupation, the Empire remained more or less exactly the same as it had been in 1939, when the world was turned upside down and would never be quite the same again.

I so wanted a souvenir to remind me of my visit and hoped I might find an old coathanger or perhaps a tea plate with "Empire Hotel" etched discreetly on its underside. Sadly no such relics remained, despite my searching in the most obscure places, raising the question of whatever happened to the china, linen, letterheads - did the Manager pack them all up on that fateful day in 1939 when he was given just 24 hours' notice to evacuate 100 guests? Surely the last thing on his mind was what was to become of the hotel china. I have a vision of a retired Admiral sitting by his fire somewhere, pouring tea out of a purloined teapot into china cups bearing the Empire logo, oblivious to their status.

But the one thing he can't possibly have is the MoD's last surviving scrubbing brush from the Empire Hotel. Because I've got that. On my mantelpiece.

Well, it was all I could find and keeps me company as I polish off the article I started five years ago.

## IN MEMORIAM

### HENRY JOHN HASKINS

John Haskins died on 3 May, 1995, at St.Martin's Hospital, aged 81. He leaves a widow, Ruth Haskins, like him a member of the Friends of the Survey, and four children, Christopher, Cherida, Virginia and Judith. He also leaves thirteen grandchildren.

John Haskins was well-known to researchers in Bath Record Office where, with Ruth, he could be seen studying the history of the Coward family of Bath, to whom he was related. John and Ruth have also played a valuable part in various groups in the city, devoted to local history, family history, and other topics.

Ruth's writings and talks have given us vignettes of their life in the city - often published in the *Chronicle* and widely appreciated. In May for instance Ruth spoke to the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group about her memories of VE Day, and then about the work she and John undertook to rehabilitate returning prisoners of war. With the close of his long and valuable life, Bath has lost a respected and well-loved citizen.

### MABEL ROSALIE WOOD

Rosalie Wood died on 4 January, 1995, at the Royal United Hospital, aged 86. Rosalie was a member of the Committee of the Friends, and had taken an interest in the Survey from the beginning. She contributed to many of its projects, including the Baths exhibition, and the Stuart evenings, at one of which she gave an excellent talk on Jacobean drama. She also had local research interests of her own, connected with her former house near the Wells Road, and with Connaught Mansions.

Rosalie was for five years Chairman of the Management Committee of Connaught Mansions, and was much esteemed by everyone there. Rosalie had a charming personality and a keen intellect. She was a wonderful friend, and is much missed by all her acquaintance.

Rosalie was a talented poet, several of her poems have appeared in other publications by Elizabeth. The "Song of the O.A.P. on Watching 'Dynasty'", previously unpublished, appears here by permission of her executor, Mr.Peter Wood.

#### SONG OF THE O.A.P. ON WATCHING 'DYNASTY'

*Once we too were young and splendid,  
Dressed in clothes of gold and flame,  
Dancing through the summer midnight,  
Flirting lightly in the twilight -  
Kissing-games within the firelight,  
Bathing topless in the sunlight,  
Till the long war came.*

*Uniform was then a duty,  
Make-up-less we wore our beauty,  
Hair grew shorter,  
Clothes the same.  
Petrol-less we bussed or biked,  
Hitched a lift, or stoutly hiked,  
Did our funny wartime tasks,  
Blacked out windows, fitted gas masks,  
Listened to each dark disaster,  
Stayed up nights to work the faster,*

*Drove out rescue vans at midnight,  
Watched for fires in coldest starlight,  
Put out lamps,  
Bathed like tramps,  
Slept in cellars,  
Lived in camps,  
And nursed the sick and lame.*

*Now that we are growing older,  
Steps are shorter, winters colder,  
Still the glory of our morning,  
Lights the path that we are treading -  
To the shops our slow way threading,  
Though we dodder, stick-supported,  
Yet the gallants that we courted,  
And the friends that stayed beside us,  
Still in dreams may come to guide us,  
Hope is still the same,  
And life, game.*

**M.R.Wood 1985**