



NEWSLETTER 16

SEPTEMBER 1991

G R O U P N E W S

MEETINGS HELD MAY - JUNE 1991

Mick Aston's sparkling talk on West Country monasteries (2 May) was anchored in the whole context of monasticism since its Fast Meiliterranean birth. Monasteries spread amazingly fast, reaching Celtic Britain well before St. Augustine's over-emphasised mission and the 7th-century evangelisation of England. Most Early Anglo-Saxon foundations went under during the Viking invasions, but a wave of new monasteries came in the 10th century with the re-establishment of Glastonbury and the spread of daughter houses (like Westbury-on- Trym). The basic pattern of monasticism had now been set in organisation and ritual following the Rule of St. Benedict, in physical layout adopting the familiar daustral design first seen in the idealised plan of St. Gall. By 1066 Wessex was strewn with rich monasteries and 'royal' nunneries - Bath, Malmesbury, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Glastonbury and at least a dozen more - all benefiting from considerable estates. Under the Normans there was much rebuilding (as at Bath), and from c.1100 a fresh tide of Benedictine foundations, often on lands granted to monasteries across the Channel - witness the great Somerset church of Stogursey (a cell of Lonlay) and Ogboume St. George, near Malmesbury, which managed the large estates owned by the abbey of Bec-Hellouin. The influence of Cluny is remembered locally in the scanty remains of the priories of Monkton Farleigh and Montacute, while the many monastic reform movements of the 11th and 12th centuries also had significant West Country repercussions. Mick Aston singled out the Carthusians and Cistercians for particular notice. The former because Hinton Charterhouse and Witham provide text book cases of Carthusian arrangements by which a separate 'friary' of lay brothers was located well away from the monks' establishment (of individual cells and gardens round a cloister - see Avon Past 15). The latter because of the huge impact of the Cistercian revival and its vast European network of monasteries built to a standard plan. Nearby examples range from Tintern, where much of the ruined second church survives, to forgotten Stanley, just east of Chippenham, now only mounds and earthworks but revealed vividly in air photographs. Mick Aston's forthcoming book on monasteries and landscape will clearly be essential reading.

Thanks to Godfrey Laurence's careful planning and unrivalled local knowledge (see his Bathford Past and Present, 1985) we were able to experience Bathford on 13 June as both historical entity and living rmodern community. Our guided walk began at the Crown, not far from the ford that gave the village its name (superseded by a bridge, the present structure being of 1665) and close to a Roman crossroads. Two Roman villas have been found in the parish. The ancient flour mill, recorded in Domesday and long used for fulling cloth as well, became the site of a mineral water spa c.1740, under

Dr. William Oliver's auspices, then a leather works, and finally a paper mill, which it still is. Up the hill, past the lock-up (1837) we reached Titan Barrow, the house the elder Wood designed for Southwell Pigott; here we inspected not only the Corinthian facade looking out to Solsbury Hill but also several fine interior rooms with late-18th-century plastered ceilings. Other nearby buildings are Rock House (c.1704), former residence of the Ax fords, and the inn at the road fork (1733 or earlier). We continued on to Church Street, beyond the old post office, to visit the evocative craftsman's premises where Arthur Carmings, last of a line of woodworkers, wheelwrights and smiths, greeted us. Almost adjacent, Godfrey Laurence's own house (1784 and later) was one of c.60 in the village that once had its private well, but not far away a stone enclosure also marks the site of the village pump. Along Pump Lane stand a stone cottage of perhaps 1662 and Church Farm - in Chapman hands from 1719, when the then Vicar of Weston acquired it, down to 1904. The Drung, a narrow enclosed walk, brought us to the churchyard (Lord Nelson's sister's tomb) and St. Swithun's. The dedication and other evidence hint at an Anglo-Saxon foundation, though the church was much altered later and eventually underwent a drastic Victorian rebuilding. Parish registers survive from 1754, while inside the church there are memorials to local families like the Skrines (owners of the manors of Bathford-Warleigh and Claverton) and Briscoes. Many other buildings on this Bathford walkabout similarly came alive through their past and present human ascriptions.

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

1. Congratulations to John Wroughton on achieving his Bristol doctorate with a thesis on "The community of Bath and N.E. Somerset and the Great Civil War", to Father Philip Jebb on becoming Prior of Downside Abbey, and to Brigitte Mitchell on obtaining a French professorial chair.
2. Owen Ward is appealing once more for male voices, able to keep a part in tune, for the Gentlemen's Catch Club, a modern revival of the catch clubs that flourished particularly in late eighteenth-century Bath (described briefly in Newsletter 2, January 1987). Volunteers please contact him directly - see List of Members.
3. For details of publications by members see the List of Members, 1991. Other recent publications are noted later in this Newsletter.

CAUGHT IN THE SLIPS, 1718

Your Secretary occasionally receives requests for help on the odd titbit of information from non-members. Mrs. Pat Cotton of West Bradley, Glastonbury, has forwarded an item from the Diocese of Bath and Wells Church Court Depositions (Somerset Record Office DD/Cd/114, 9-11) dated July 1718:

"not sure when but it was in the morning at bathing time in one of the slips of the Cross Bath of which Bath the said Taylor & Steavens as also the said Ann Spink, Elizabeth Lansdown & this deponent are all Guides and they and others besides there were present & heard the same." Elizabeth Stephens called Ann Taylor "strumpling whore" etc.

Deponents named: Priscilla Snailmn (guide), Ann Taylor, Elizabeth Stephens (Stevens, widow, of Bath), Ann Spink (of Bath, aged 58, wife of Matthew), Elizabeth Lansdown (of Bath).

EVENING ON SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY BATH

With Elizabeth Holland once again the prime mover, this now annual event was held on 22 May in the handsome new quarters of King Edward's Junior School on North Road. The evening got under way euphonically with the school's Early Music Group performing 17th-century wind and string pieces on authentic-sounding instruments - crumhorns, baroque flute, recorders, narrow-bore trombone, etc., though not viols. Then, showing slides and inviting audience participation, Jean Manco spoke on the late Elizabethan-early Stuart building effort at Bath which Speed's well-known map catches in mid-process (symbolised by the Abbey roof still only half-complete). Many older houses were rebuilt or refronted and, thanks to the availability of cheap glass, plentifully supplied with windows that were sometimes jettied out in bays of stone or timber. The King's, Hot and Cross baths were all improved and the Queen's and Lepers' baths added. St. John's Hospital and the West Gate were rebuilt. Bellot's Hospital went up. So did the Guildhall on its new site in the Marketplace. There was a good deal of infilling, especially round the Abbey Church. Apparently the street level of North Parade Passage (Lilliput Alley), whose leases were granted in 1622, was once much lower, only being raised in the 18th century. As at Bristol tile was encouraged in place of thatch.

Marta Inskip, reconsidering the mathematics teacher Gilmore whom she deduced to be left-handed, felt he must have been influenced by James Millerd's scale map of Bristol (1673) which in fact includes a small view of Bath from Beechen Cliff. All the different editions of Gilmore's Bath map stem from two variant originals. The less familiar version is, apart from St. Michael's parish, more accurate perhaps; but both get the wall near South Gate and the position of St. James's church wrong, and neither shows all the open yards then in existence. Marta touched on several sites shown by Gilmore: the outer Bowling Green (later Orange Grove) with its sycamores and 'necessary houses'; Nowhere Lane near the Hot Bath; Alderman Baber's property in Cheap Street; and Widow Toop's lodging where the Chronicle office now stands.

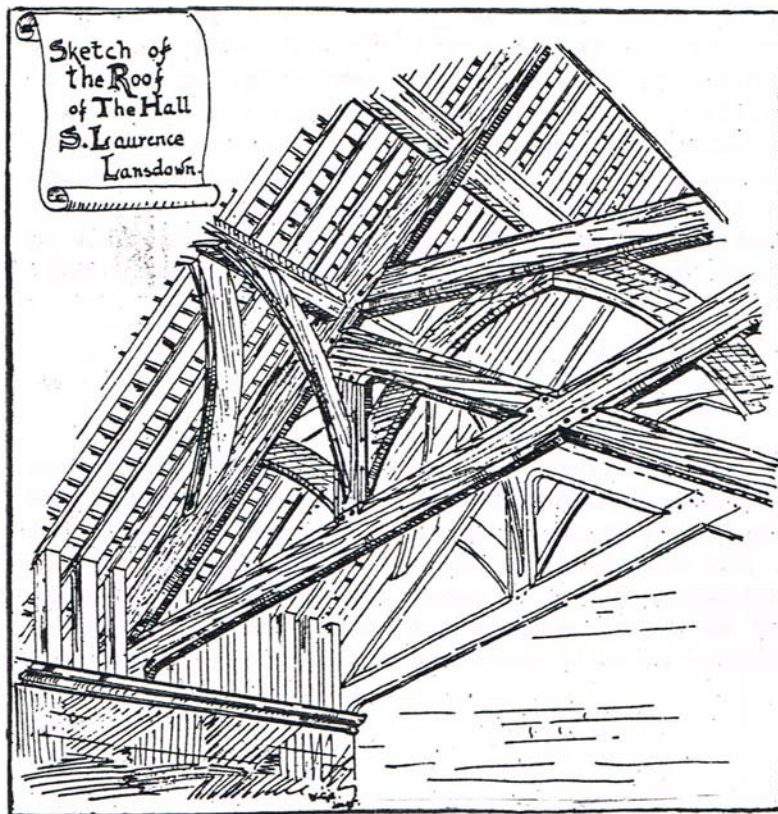
John Wroughton offered a revision of his original thesis that N.E. Somerset by the 1620s was deeply-dyed Puritan. It is true that in the early Stuart decades there were many Puritan complaints about the clergy. Moral standards were tightened and popular customs suppressed. Yet in the 1640s and 1650s far fewer parishes ejected their clergy in this area than elsewhere, and only a minority of places displayed much Puritan activity. Bath, Combe Hay, Mells and Frome were unusual in their zeal. Many other parishes remained passively Anglican throughout, even declining to introduce the new ritual, a probable reason being that local stipends were generally too low to attract Puritan incumbents. Only a few, including Bath, Bathampton and Keynsham, benefited from state subsidies to raise clergy incomes. Nevertheless Puritan gentry did sometimes ensure that preachers toed a strict Presbyterian line.

BRISTOL RECORD OFFICE

Meet members will be aware that the Record Office is soon to move from college Green to a new home in B-Band Warehouse in the Cumberland Basin area (5 minutes drive from the city centre, with good parking; bus routes 341, 354, 361, 364, 653, 661-3 stopping on Merchant's Road or the half-hourly 511 'Bustler' service via Temple Meads to the stop at Mardyke Ferry Road or a possible nearer stop currently under discussion). The latest intelligence is that the search-room in the Council House is likely to close at the end of November 1991 and the new search-room at B-Bond (with improved facilities) to open in mid-February 1992. These dates are still provisional however.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. James Ayres, The Building of an 18th-Century City: Bath Spa (RIBA Heinz Gallery and Bath Preservation Trust, 1991). A well-illustrated, 16-page, A-4 booklet produced for the exhibition held at the Heinz Gallery, 3 July - 4 August 1991, and due to transfer in November to the Huntingdon Centre. The lively text concentrates refreshingly on the practicalities of building rather than on architectural style.
2. Co-operative Retail Services, Ltd. A Century of Co-operation in Bath (1991). A free, 8-page brief history of the local Co-op, whose origins date back to the Good Intent Industrial Co-operative Society of 1861.
3. Bath Industrial Heritage Centre, Kegs & Ale (Bath, Millstream Books, 1991, 96 pp.). A very useful, popular introduction to the history of Bath pubs over the past 150 years, published by Millstream in connection with the exhibition staged at the Centre and copiously illustrated with evocative old photographs, reproductions of documents, and maps showing locations. Separate sections deal with pubs in the Avon Street area, Walcot and Broad Streets, Julian Road, Larkhall, Twerton, and elsewhere. Much miscellaneous information besides, enough to whet the thirst for a much fuller investigation of the brewery and licensed trades in the city. (And please note the HBRG meeting on 7 May 1992).
4. Kenneth Morgan, John Wesley in Bristol (Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1991). The latest in the Branch's estimable pamphlet series.
5. Victoria Art Gallery, Concise Catalogue of Paintings and Drawings (1991). This much-awaited listing of the municipal collections has a lot to offer local historians. Compiled by a member of the Group, Susan Sloman, who gave us a foretaste when *she* spoke in May 1990.



This drawing by Wallace Gill is reproduced from C.W. Shickle's 'Lansdown and St. Lawrence's Chapel, a paper read in 1895 to the Bath Field Club and printed in volume 8 of its proceedings (1897, pp.158-67). The 15th-century chapel, of which the hall was once a part, is now embodied in Chapel Farm House.

THE SITE OF THE PITMAN PRESS WORKS AND THE BREWERS OF BATH & WIDCOMBE

by Mike Chapman

This account resulted from an enquiry, made by the Bath Press who presently own the works on the Lower Bristol Road, regarding the history of the site and its connection, if any, with Hopmead Buildings which once stood on the opposite side of the road. From census returns, tithe maps and other sources a reasonable reconstruction was made, revealing that this land was once occupied by part of the extensive market-gardening and brewing industries found throughout the Bath area in the 18th and 19th centuries.

LITTLE HAYES: The two-acre site of the Bath Press, originally known as 'Little Hayes', can be identified as early as 1766, owned by Samuel Broad, a member of a prominent family of yeomen and millers who lived in Twerton during the 17th-18th centuries. Presumably this was a freehold property obtained from the break-up of the Rodney family's medieval manorial estates in the early 17th century, and would have constituted part of the large area of hedged pastures known as 'Twerton Hayes' which extended along the south side of the Bristol Road from the eastern parish boundary at Brougham Hayes to the outskirts of Twerton village at Jew's Lane.

At about the time of Samuel Broad's death in 1805, a tannery was erected in 'East Hayes' on the site now occupied by the laundry next to St. Peter's Church; an event which marked the beginning of the development of East Twerton as an industrial suburb of Bath. Soon after, in 1813, a tanner called Thomas Trude, then aged 44, a native of Tiverton in Devon, appears in the parish registers on the christening of his first child (he eventually had seven). In 1819 he acquired Little Hayes from the executors of Samuel Broad, and changed his occupation to 'gardener'. Thereafter this property is described as a market garden, sometimes called Little Hayes Nursery', with Little Hayes Cottage appearing in the records after 1825. This ground may have already been converted to gardens some time between 1807 and 1818. The previous tenant, a Robert Cook, was also a market gardener and as early as the 1730s the Broad family themselves were running a vegetable garden in the Ambry at Bath (now part of the Technical College). John Wood the Elder unsuccessfully negotiated with the Broads for this property as a site for the building of the Mineral Water Hospital.

Thomas Trude's wife, Sidwell Trude, died in 1847 aged 65 and it would appear that Thomas, himself 78, decided to retire. In 1850 he handed over the business to his 32-year-old son-in-law Humphrey Mills, also a gardener, a native of Wellington in Somerset, who had married Thomas's second daughter Alice. His eldest son, also called Humphrey and by now 35 years old, had already set up on his own as a market gardener on the other side of the river in Locksbrook. Besides Thomas, the family at Little Hayes Cottage included Humphrey and Alice and their five children, Alice's younger sister Elizabeth (a dressmaker), and a female house servant to look after them all.

By 1861 various changes had taken place. Old Thomas Trude died in 1857 aged 87, and some time after 1852 Humphrey had extended the premises to include a 'Malt-house and Currier's shop'. Now described as a 'market gardener and milkman', he was employing two men and a boy to run the nursery and the number of his children had increased to eight. In 1864, however, he sold Little Hayes in order to continue his business in Locksbrook where he remained until 1899 (presumably at his death). The new owner was Charles Newman of Bath, aged 52, 'maltster, brewer and landowner', who took up residence in Little Hayes Cottage with his wife Mary aged 55 and a 'general servant'. The Newman family had been involved in brewing at least from 1852, being owners of the 'Lyncombe and Widcombe Brewery' which operated from No. 2 Queen's Place (now demolished) in Pulteney Road near the Dolemeads. Charles himself became proprietor in 1862 and in 1864, on acquiring a partner as well as Little Hayes, renamed the business 'Newman and Coleman's Smallcombe Brewery' after Smallcombe brook which flows through Widcombe from Claverton Down to the Avon at the Dolemeads. Although Little Hayes malthouse no doubt served as a subsidiary of the main business in Widcombe, Charles continued to run the nursery and retained the services of the two 'agricultural workers'.

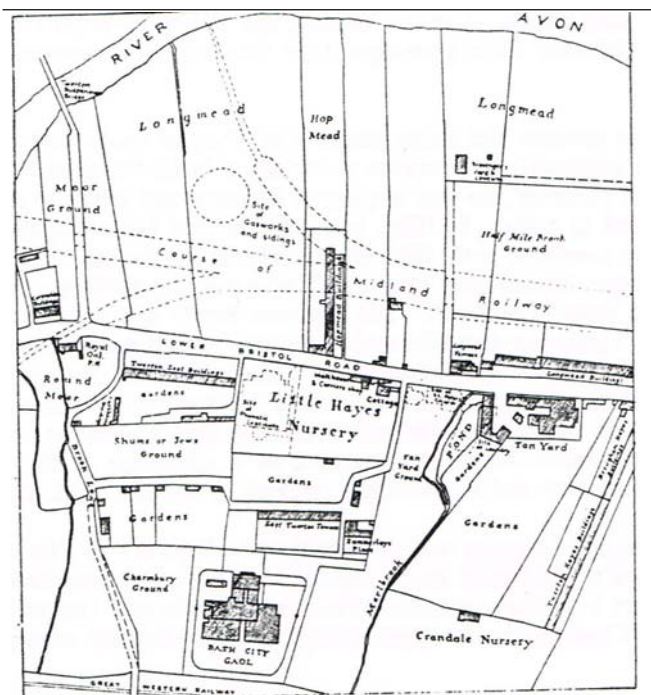
In 1876 Newman and Coleman sold the Smallcombe Brewery to John and Thomas Candy, otherwise known as the 'Candy Brothers'. The Candy family had (and still has) close associations with Bath since the 18th century, particularly as farmers in Bathampton and Widcombe, but John and Thomas - 'brewers and maltsters' - appear to have been natives of Cirencester. John, presumably the elder brother, managed the business from Queen's Place,

but Thomas, then aged 34, seems to have been in charge of the maltouse at Little Hayes and lived nearby at Albert Buildings (later demolished to make way for Stothert and Pitt's Victoria Works) on the other side of the Bristol Road. Charles Newman, however, retained the nursery and cottage and continued to work as a market gardener. He eventually retired in 1881 and, styling himself 'gentleman', moved to Twerton Hayes Buildings (now Upper Brougham Hayes), enabling Thomas Candy to take up residence in Little Hayes Cottage with his wife Eliza aged 41 and their three sons.

Thomas does not seem to have had any interest in gardening and it is presumably for this reason that Isaac Pitman was able to acquire the nursery ground for the building of his Phonetic Institute in 1889. In the following year Thomas Candy died, resulting in the immediate closure of the Smallcombe Brewery and the departure of his brother from Queen's Place, which was henceforth occupied by another member of the Candy family as a pony-carriage business. At Little Hayes, Eliza Candy continued to live in the cottage until 1900 when presumably she also died, thus making way for the enlargement of the Pitman printing works in 1913.

HOP MEAD: There seems to be no direct relationship between Little Hayes and Hop Mead, and I have not yet found any concrete evidence that hops were actually grown on the latter property, although it certainly had a strong connection with the brewers of Bath. It was originally an enclosed part of the river meadow called Longmead which extended along the north side of the Bristol Road, from the eastern parish boundary near the present Victoria Bridge up to Roundmoor brook which still flows into the Avon below Roseberry Road. It consisted of a narrow a-acre strip running down to the river bank and in the 1760s belonged to William Brimble of Twerton who was the carpenter and builder of the Upper Assembly Rooms in Bath. By 1780, and up to 1793, it belonged to a certain John Palmer who may have been a member of the Palmer family prominent as brewers and politicians in late 18th-century Bath. In 1795 a 'Mr. Evil' was the owner. The Evill family ran the 'Bath, vick Brewery' in Bath and breweries in London and other cities. In 1802 it passed to the rector of Bath Abbey church, but in 1810 was again in the hands of a prominent Bath brewer, Opie Smith (then aged 59), who ran the 'Horse Street Brewery' in Southgate Street and, with the Evills, played an important role in the Baptist movement in Bath. It was during his ownership, some time before 1833, that Hop Mead was divided into two parts with Hop Mead Buildings being built on the southern half. After Opie Smith's death in 1836 the property passed to James Grant Smith, also a brewer, and it was probably during his time that the two parts were completely severed by the construction of the Midland Railway in the mid-1860s, with the northern half being taken over soon after by the gasworks for railway sidings.

East
Twerton
C. 1860



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