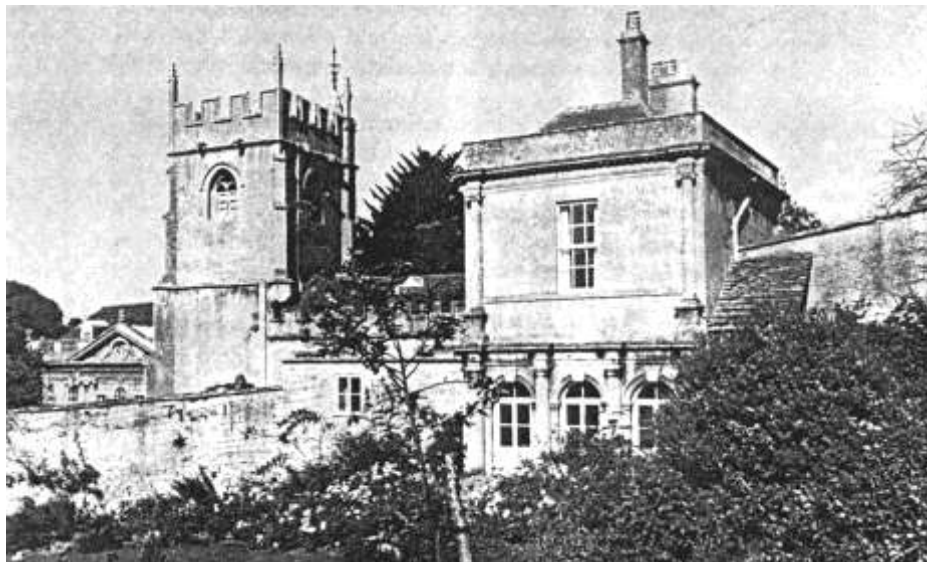
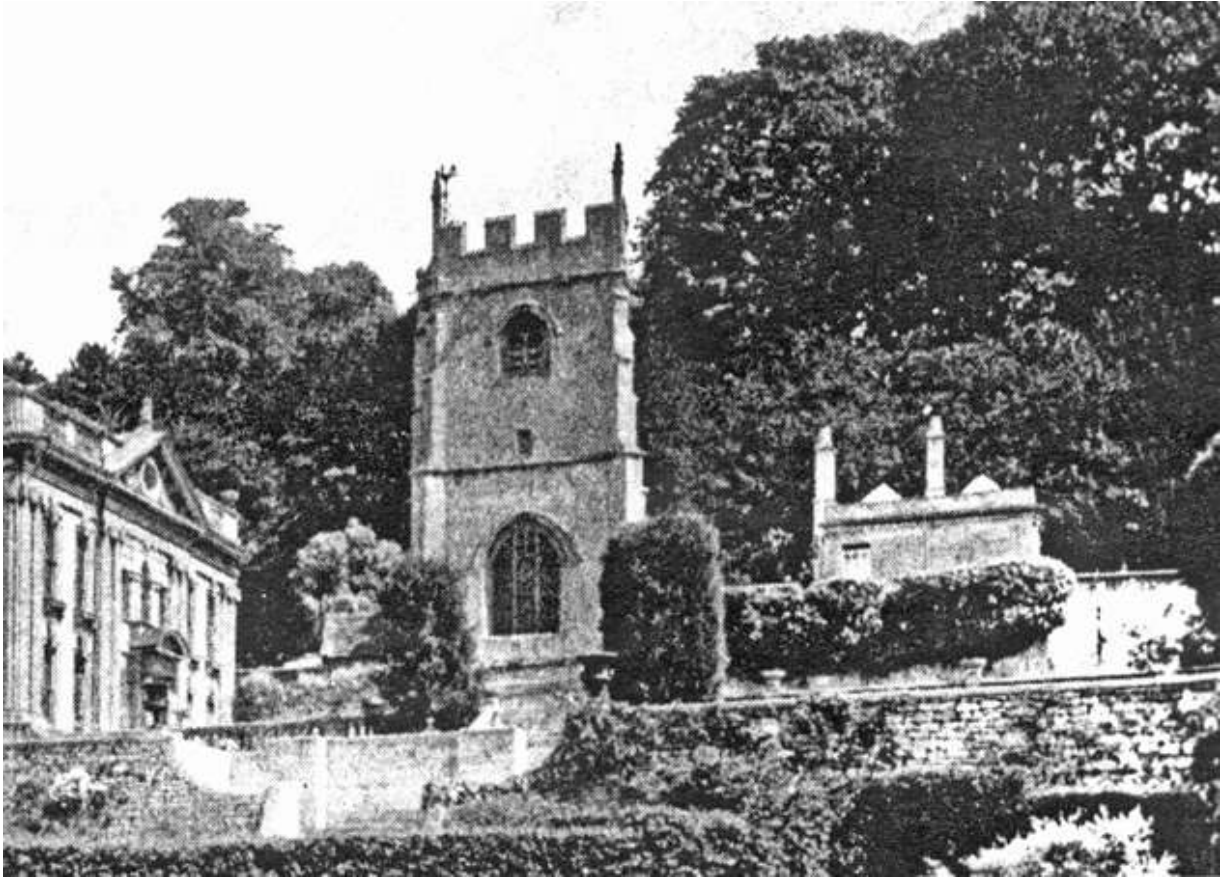


The Survey

of Bath and District

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.18, November 2003



THE SURVEY OF BATH AND DISTRICT

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Front Cover Illustration:

St.Thomas à Becket Church, Widcombe, showing the Garden House, right, and Widcombe Manor, left.

Back Cover: The Garden House from the south-east

CITY NEWS I

Bath Record Office

Review of the twelve months ending September 2003:

September saw the conclusion of our three-year Heritage Lottery- funded cataloguing project *Access to Somerset's Archives* in conjunction with the Somerset Record Office at Taunton and Weston-super-Mare library. During this time most of our existing catalogues, together with much previously unlisted material, have been transferred onto database and are now available world-wide on-line. This is searchable by personal-name, place-name and subject. Access is currently only via the Somerset Record Office web-site <www.somerset.gov.uk/archives>. With funding from Bath & North-East Somerset Council we shall keep our cataloguer James Willoughby until next summer and continue adding further collections to the database.

This year the Record Office has taken advantage of new technology in another direction by having a collection of outsize maps digitally scanned onto CD so that copies can be printed for customers without handling the originals. These large-scale city maps by Cotterell & Spackman dated 1853-4 are still available to Record Office users, but colour copies can now be ordered without the wear and tear the maps previously suffered from being placed on a photocopier. More maps will shortly be added to this scheme.

'Archive Awareness Month' in September was a national campaign to promote archives in all their varied forms and in Bath we staged a free public film-show and lecture *1965 Bath & the Cold War* using a recently discovered Civil Defence training film of the '60s on how the city would cope in the aftermath of a nuclear attack on Bristol. This generated a surprising amount of interest with local press and television coverage, and a large audience including some who had taken part in the filming.

Notable accessions into the Record Office during the year include:

Acc.572 - 'Map of 5 miles round the city of Bath' pub.Taylor & Meyler 1787

Acc.558 - Diaries of Roger Hallet during painting of the Bath Panorama 1982-87

Acc.559 - Archaeological & building surveys by Michael Heaton 2000-02 (especially 21-22 High Street, 'the stone shell encapsulates a complete medieval timber building').

Acc.574 - The Harington Club, Harington Place, minutes & accounts 1874-1991

Acc.548 & 568 - Parish Council records of Monkton Combe & Bathford 1894-1990s.

Colin Johnston, Archivist

Bath Abbey Records

The last three years have seen a number of changes in the provision for the Abbey's records. Storage conditions have been improved, although the search continues for a larger space located near the Abbey. In the city centre, however, this is easier said than done! Some records have been discovered apart from the Abbey's own holdings; these have been surveyed and, where appropriate, brought into the Abbey's collection. This has resulted in an archive which records the Abbey's history from the end of the 19th century to the present day. For the first time the complete archive has been listed; and a catalogue will be ready for public use in the near future.

Last July, in conjunction with Linda Jones the Heritage Vaults Curator, we opened an exhibition in the Vaults Museum: 'Loose Stones Made Fast: Bath Abbey Restored, 1942-1960'. This explores the intensive restoration work which took place after the Abbey was damaged in the Baedeker raids on the city in 1942, the formation of the Friends of Bath Abbey and the tremendous efforts which went into raising the necessary £200,000.

The past year has been spent in setting up a Records Management System for the Abbey's current

records. This has been a crucially important task, as many records have been lost in the past through not being identified at an early stage as potential archives. As a result, there are significant gaps in the Abbey's archives. We hope to avoid this problem in the future by managing contemporary records in a more systematic manner.

All enquiries are welcomed. Please contact Lucy Rutherford via the Abbey Office, 13 Kingston Buildings, Tel: 422462. email: AbbeyRecs@aol.com

Lucy Rutherford, Archivist

Bath Preservation Trust

The Building of Bath Museum will be housing Carlo Chinca's photographic exhibition called 'History in the Making', open from Tuesday – Sunday, from 10.30am – 4.30pm, until 30 November and open at weekends in December. Mr.Chinca has captured the history of the building of the Thermae Bath Spa during the construction of one of the most famous spas in the world, a visual record of the time-based changes throughout the growth of the new spa building.

The Trust has also issued the following Press Release describing the 'Costumed Event' to be held at No.1 Royal Crescent:

Visitors to the Georgian house, No.1 Royal Crescent, in Bath are in for a special treat during the Mozart Festival in Bath. From Friday 7 November until Sunday 16 November inclusive, the guides will be dressed in fine, authentic 18th century costume. Not only will visitors see a grand town-house of the late 18th century with authentic furniture, paintings and carpets, they will be able to have the added attraction of seeing guides in each room dressed in the period of the day which will give an extra insight into the social history of the period.

During the 18th century people came to Bath not only for their health and to take the waters, but also to 'see and be seen'. The atmosphere at No.1 Royal Crescent will encourage people to imagine another time, picture themselves in the sedan chair, or eating from the genuine Worcester dessert service. The gentlemen would gamble and drink in the Study and the ladies would 'withdraw' to the Drawing Room to drink tea, listen to music and gossip, or retire to the bedroom to prepare their toilette.

To encourage a boost to visitor numbers a similar initiative was successfully launched last year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee year, which substantially generated an increase in visitor numbers, particularly family groups. In addition this year, it is planned that there will be costumed evening tours (for further information contact the Administrator).

The house comprises: on the ground floor:- the Study and the Dining Room, on the first floor a Lady's Bedroom and Drawing Room. In the basement is a period Kitchen Museum, and Gift Shop.

Number 1 Royal Crescent is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10.30am - 5.00pm, last admission 4.30pm. Normal admission prices apply. Adults £4, Concessions £3.50, Family (2 adults 2 children) £10. Private 'after hours' tours by arrangement with Administrator, call 01225 428126.

Visit the website at www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk.

The Trust exists to preserve the historic character and amenities of Bath. It is involved with three other museums; The Building of Bath Museum, Beckford's Tower, and the William Herschel Museum. For further information contact the Trust office on Tel:01225 338727 or Fax:01225 481850, or admin@bptrust.demon.co.uk

The Trust writes: 'The Museums of the Bath Preservation Trust offer a range of exciting new educational

opportunities'. In particular trails have been organised to interest children in the exhibits. At the Building of Bath Museum they can be guided by Macheath, the rat-about-town. At No.1 Royal Crescent they join Lily the cat. At 19 New King Street, the William Herschel Museum, the guide is Sirius the Dog (Star).

The Museum of Bath at Work

Stuart Burroughs, Curator, has brought out a new book on Stothert & Pitt, mentioned under 'Publications'. Meanwhile the Museum has opened its permanent exhibition, 'Bath at Work – 2000 years of earning a living'. The Duke of Gloucester, who opened the Museum in 1978, revisited it to perform the opening ceremony for the exhibition on 10 July 2003. In the afternoon a second launch was held for Friends of the Museum and others, at which a very fine tea was served. Elizabeth attended with Ruth Haskins, former Chairman of the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath, and met various others from the Friends and from other local groups.

On 6 October 2003, the Michael Cross Lecture was given by Dr.Thackray, Head of Archaeology for the National Trust, at the Museum of Bath at Work, on 'Industrial Archaeology in the National Trust'.

The South West Museum and Libraries Archive Council has allotted the Museum of Bath at Work a grant to make an educational CD-ROM on the history of the Harbutt family, the original makers of Plasticine. This is to be distributed free of charge to schools and heritage organisations in the area. Others may obtain it from the Museum, price £5, or £6 with postage and packing.

The Museum is open 1 November - 31 March, from 10 am. to 4.30 pm. on Saturdays and Sundays, and from 1 April - 31 October, 10 am. - 4.30pm. every day. Tel:01225 318348.

Functions

Members of the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath have enjoyed various functions in the city this year, along with other members of the public. The filming of *Vanity Fair* near the Holburne of Menstrie was received with enthusiasm. Friends were among the thousands who turned out to hear and watch the Three Tenors.



**Clarence Street and the old Walcot Brewery, site of one of the original streams from the Rivers' Springs on Beacon Hill
Photograph by Mike Chapman, taken as a part of the streams study. It is hoped to include a selection of these photographs into the Streetlore Project.**

CITY NEWS II: BATH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Marek Lewcun

Although any year at the Trust is busy in various ways, the last quarter of 2002 and first three quarters of 2003 have been even busier, with a number of projects both in and around Bath as well as others elsewhere in Somerset and beyond the county boundary. Work continues apace at Crescent Lane, behind Royal Crescent, with further thoughts on the results of both the ongoing work and that which was carried out by Time Team still being developed. Although Time Team showed many fascinating new discoveries, such as the Bronze Age ditch found on the south side of the Crescent, they completely failed to mention a range of buildings parallel with the west side of the Roman road between Royal Crescent and Marlborough Buildings which showed up on the geophysical survey. In effect these show that from Julian Road there were a number of buildings spaced out along the road for most of the way down towards the River Avon, the southernmost of which were excavated in 1983-1988 and found to have covered a large area of the Lower Common allotments. Here, a range of buildings, including a bath house, were connected to the main road by a short, cobbled spur. One might now consider that the Roman traveller coming down the Fosse Way from Odd Down would have had a choice of routes towards the east side of Bath on reaching the north side of the river, none of which would necessarily have at the time been considered as the 'Fosse Way'. One of these, however, would have been to Julian Road and then across to Lansdown Road and London Road, the alternative routes being either through the centre of the town or skirting around the north side of its wall to the lower end of Walcot Street.

At Crescent Lane, excavations during the summer of 2003 revealed that a mixture of floors and surfaces survived below the 20th century concrete of the garage. Of the 18th century pitched pennant stable surfaces, only part survived and in a very worn and fractured state, the remainder having been replaced by new blocks at the end of the 19th century. In the central of the three properties enveloped by the garage, the height of a two-storey cottage at the back had been carefully contrived in such a way as not to obscure the view of Lansdown from the ground floor of the Royal Crescent. This view would not have been possible if it had been built from the level of Crescent Lane. It was achieved by the ground floor of the cottage and adjacent stabling being set down at the same level as that of the garden, and access to them taking the form of an inclined courtyard fronting the lane. With the pre-18th century field soil buried below large quantities of clay excavated during the construction of the Crescent basements, the process of auguring holes to receive foundation piles has given a broad idea of the original topography. It was also possible through the same process to determine that the Roman road discovered in 2002, the same as that found below the tower of St. Andrew's in 1870, was in the region of 10m wide.



Front yard. Note the wear pattern showing where coaches turned in front of the door and front wall, left

No.11. Walls of L-shaped cottage and stable wrapping around the back of the yard paved with late 19th century pavior stable bricks



No.11. View across the low-level stable towards the yard



An 18th century well in No.10 Crescent Lane



Not far from Crescent Lane, the Trust is currently working with the Parks Department in their programme of restoring railings at various locations in Royal Victoria Park. To date, work has concentrated on the stretch of Royal Avenue between Marlborough Lane and the Victoria Obelisk. Here, the buried remains of cast iron posts, the upper parts of which were broken off for the war effort in the 1940s, were located in order for a faithful replacement to be made with the help of a Heritage Lottery funding. The remains of posts which once surrounded the drinking fountain at the road junction were also found. The project was helped immensely by old photographs and postcards supplied by Paul De'Ath, one of which showed that there were originally two ha-has between Royal Crescent and Royal Avenue, the previously unknown one being immediately south of the footpath across the lower lawn.

Elsewhere in central Bath, a watching brief was carried out in the vaults of the Masonic Hall in Old Orchard Street, formerly the Theatre Royal and before that a Catholic chapel. Here, work to lower the rough floor of the vaults required the recording and reinterment of a number of the Catholic burials, the ornate memorial stones of which still survive. No early deposits relating to the city ditch were reached,

although a stone-lined culvert at the south-east corner of the vaults appeared to follow the line of a field boundary which predated any structural development on the site, and may have taken water which previously gathered in a ditch alongside it. At 15 Northgate Street, piecemeal recording work continues to be carried out on the standing building, and the results are a reminder to us not to rely entirely on maps and plans as proof of everything that ever existed on any one site, and that buildings can go up as well as down between surveys. The recent work has now shown that No.14 Northgate Street, built in 1803 on a site originally occupied by cottages in the 13th century, had replaced a previous building on the site which had been built some time after 1755 and of which only very small traces remained between it and No.15.

Moving outside the centre, smaller projects have been carried at the Burnt House Inn, Wellsway, and on an unfinished Georgian terrace at Bloomfield Road. Beyond the city, two pieces of work have been undertaken at Newton St.Loe. The first of these, a watching brief on the excavation of a long trench for the installation of a new power cable to serve a radio mast in Seven Acre Wood, did not reveal much in the way of archaeological material, although some fine, large ammonites were found when the trench passed through the Newton geological fault. Below the wood, architects acting for Railtrack commissioned the Trust to carry out a watching brief on a number of trenches at the top of the railway cutting where the Newton St.Loe villa, famous for its Orpheus mosaic, was discovered in 1837. Here, the investigation trenches discovered further structures which add to the scale of the villa complex as a whole, which had been terraced into the gentle slope of the hillside. A little further beyond the city limits, evaluation trenching at the Avon Valley Country Park, between Saltford and Keynsham, discovered a Roman building, possibly belonging to a farm, close to which discoveries of Roman pottery have been made in the past.

Probably one of the most revealing projects of the past year has been an archaeological and historical landscape survey carried out for the National Trust on their Bath Skyline properties, which stretch from Bathwick Woods in the north-east to Prior Park landscape garden in the south-west. Bathwick Woods, growing on what was common ground in the early 18th century, contain a wealth of archaeological remains, including earthworks which were described as 'Quarry Acre' in an Anglo Saxon charter of 940 AD. The quarries are almost certainly those that supplied the stone to construct the buildings of Roman Bath. These same buildings, as ruins, stood as an open quarry with a plentiful supply of stone almost throughout the Saxon period, when there was no need to quarry afresh. In the fields below the woods, linear terraces are an exact match for the positions of boundaries shown on a map of Bathwick drawn up in 1727, but may be far older and contain a number of building platforms.

To the east, a big discovery was Herc's Promontory, mentioned in the 940 AD charter but not recognised until now, standing as a massive projection of the limestone scarp overlooking the Limpley Stoke valley and only visible from the depths of the woods below it, where further quarry working was in evidence. Bathwick Camp and the earthworks in Bushey Norwood need little mention here, but are well worth a visit on a dry day. Moving south, a surprise discovery on a small plot of overgrown land at the north-east corner of the former Bishop's Park (separated from the Prior's Park after a petition to the pope in 1223) was the remains of a Roman building which still protrude through the ground. Within the walls of the former deer park, which still stand in places in what is now Rainbow Wood Farm, further earthworks of prehistoric and Roman date were plotted, while closer to Prior Park more detailed study is awaited. In the field immediately west of the Prior Park landscape garden more terraces and building platforms are in evidence, and the possible route of a Roman road from Hamworthy to Bath on the west edge of the field might suggest a contemporary date. The National Trust also owns a large part of Smallcombe Woods and the fields below it, where there is further suggestion of Roman activity on a site which, complete with a very productive spring of water, bears a striking resemblance to the small valley head in which the Roman villa at Chedworth stands. The topsoil around a small quarry in the fields between the woods and Bathwick Hill has also yielded Roman finds.

The Trust continues to undertake small projects more distant from Bath, including desktop archaeological assessments, evaluations, watching briefs and standing building surveys. These have included sites at Bridgwater, Farleigh Hungerford, Martock, Nailsea, Paulton, and Williton (all in Somerset), Bow in Devon, Beckhampton in Wiltshire, Stanway House in Gloucestershire and Sutton-under-Brailes in Warwickshire.

DISTRICT NEWS

A new book entitled *Around Saltford*, dealing with photographs of Saltford, Corston and Newton St.Loe is featured in 'Publications'. This issue of *The Survey* also carries an article by Ron Russell on the buildings survey of Batheaston.



A rare picture of the Forge at Newton St.Loe, c.1905, which includes the 'mystery woman', scratched out, on the right (Courtesy of *Bath Chronicle*)

On 28 August *The Bath Chronicle* reported that there had been plans to reopen Keynsham cemetery's historic chapel to the public, but these had to be delayed because of further Roman finds on the site. It was known that the chapel stood on the site of Durley Hill Roman villa, where a mosaic floor was discovered during excavations in the 1920s. This was removed and is sometimes on view to the public. In recent repair work on damp flooring, a Roman floor was found with part of another Roman mosaic. Bob Sydes, B&NES archaeologist, described the villa as huge even by Roman standards, almost like a palace, and the new finds as very exciting.

Mosaic from one of the Roman villas at Keynsham



REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Survey of Old Bath

The Survey of Old Bath is a research venture which first adopted its title in 1979. Its aims are to study the topography of old Bath, and the lives of its actual citizens. The Chapman family has been chosen as its sample group, although it welcomes information on other Bath families. The Survey has published a number of historically reconstructed maps, brought out with funding from B&NES, and also other booklets and articles. It works on commission as well as on a voluntary basis.

In April 2003 the Survey brought out another of its booklets funded by B&NES *Grants to Voluntary Societies*, *The Lost Streams of Bath*, the work of Mike Chapman. On 7 August Mike led a walk for the Friends, commencing outside St.Swithin's Church, Walcot. The presence of the Three Tenors singing on the Royal Crescent lawn did not prevent a small but enthusiastic band from enjoying Mike's tour for the space of two hours.

The Survey is looking into ways of making the detail of its work available to the public, over and above its existing publications. Discussions have been held on bringing out sets of transcripts, with explanatory notes. The suggested title *Bath Record Society* seems to remind some people of a gramophone group. The Survey is thinking at present of the title *Records of Bath History* – matching REED, *Records of Early English Drama*, in which Professor Alexander participated. Volume I would probably deal with the Kingston collection M4184, for the publication of which Nottingham University gave permission some time ago. Notes would summarise the history of each site – for instance with 'the Garden House' a note on its previous history, on how it became North Parade Buildings, a cross-reference to Alan Keevil's article in the Survey 17, etc.

Once again, considerable time has been spent this year on advising others on their projects. Elizabeth is also continuing to index the Survey's large collection of pictorial material at the Record Office. We have earmarked a two-drawer index box to be donated to the Record Office and placed with other individual indexes now at the right of the door as one enters - at present the Survey's index is in shoeboxes.

Mike Chapman has just completed an historical survey of Twerton High Street for B&NES, as part of their 'Twerton High Street Improvement Plan' which seeks to promote the revitalisation of Twerton High Street and encourage the creation of a high quality environment. They have initiated this project with part funding from Bath Communities Partnership – a regeneration scheme for the whole of Bath funded by the Regional Development Agency over the next five years. It is intended that the survey will be published in printed form as well as on the B&NES website.

**The High Street,
Twerton, in the
early 1900s**



The Friends of the Survey of Old Bath

The Friends of the Survey of Old Bath were founded in 1993 by June Hodgkinson, with a circle of others, to support the aims and work of the Survey. The Friends hold an AGM every spring or early summer, and a lunchtime lecture in November, and also arrange other events such as walks. The Friends support The Survey of Bath and District, which is received by paid-up members as part of the subscription. A list of members appears on the back page of this magazine.

The Friends welcome two new members since our last publication, the July newssheet - Mrs.Mary Jackson of Southcot Place, and Mrs.Mary Stacey of B&NES. Mrs.Stacey gave a talk to the Friends on conservation policies at one of their first meetings at the URC Halls.

Accounts of the Friends meetings have appeared in some detail in the March and July newssheets circulated to members. At the 7 November 2002 Lunchtime Lecture, Dr.Michael Forsyth, Director of Studies of the postgraduate course in the Conservation of Historic Buildings at the University of Bath, described his work in preparing the new Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath. His account, illustrated with slides, was followed by a number of questions and comments from the audience. The publication is to be launched on 26 November, and is described in 'Publications'.

The AGM of the Friends was held on 25 April 2003, at the United Reformed Church Halls in Grove Street as usual. The Chairman, Mrs.Denise Walker, remarked that the group had now existed for ten years since the date of its foundation by the late Mrs.June Hodgkinson. She took the opportunity to thank members for their support, particularly mentioning those who had undertaken specific tasks. Some changes were made in the Constitution. Marek Lewcun then gave a presentation with slides on the excavations in Julian Road and Victoria Park. After the interval, Mike Chapman spoke about his new publication for the Survey, *The Lost Streams of Bath*, mentioned in this issue in 'Publications'.

The Secretary of the Friends, Neil Cridland, has provided this account of the two walks organised by the Friends in 2003:

The 'Lost Streams' Walk

On 7 August 2003 Mike Chapman led a walk around central Bath describing the route of two or three of the streams which he researched in his recently published booklet *The Lost Streams of Bath*. Although the weather was lovely - almost the hottest day of the year - it could have been an unfortunate date for the Friends to choose as it coincided with the world renowned Three Tenors Concert in the Park below Royal Crescent which it seemed most of the residents of Bath attended. Nevertheless nine enthusiasts accompanied Mike on a leisurely walk generally on the level.

The party met outside St.Swithin's Church, Walcot, where Mike described the springs high above on Beacon Hill which from Roman times flowed almost like waterfalls down into Walcot. The area was renowned for being wet, one dreadful consequence of which, Mike reminded us, was the seepage of water causing the collapse of part of Camden Crescent in the late 18th Century and the 'Hedgemoad Landslip' in the 1890s. He pointed out the site of the Beacon Hill reservoir, now owned by Wessex Water, and how it now supplies the lakes in Victoria Park where the water is utilised by the Parks Department.

We proceeded down Walcot Street after Mike had described some of the valve houses which are still visible in this part of Bath (if you know where they are!), and the route of the streams which throughout the walk Mike demonstrated as determining - or following - parish boundaries. Cornwell House - or Ladymead House as it now is - acquired its name from the Cornwell stream which still flows into the drain under the lawns of the house. We saw the horse trough, once truly a piece of architecture in marble, (and perhaps to be restored to its 19th century condition before too long), called the Cornwell but not the true well, which also has a drinking outlet to comply with the laws to meet the needs of animals and also an objective of the Temperance Movement to restrict the drinking of beer.

Having climbed the 56 steps up to the Paragon the next stop was on the corner of Lansdown Road where Mike explained a reservoir existed, piped from Lansdown. There and elsewhere on the walk we were able to hear the rush of water in gratings, below the road or footpath. Thence to George Street where a stream emerged and followed the line of Milsom Street to Quiet Street beside the Rack ground with the stream surprisingly running west, rather than east. We saw the Walcot boundary marker opposite the Kitchens shop. Our path continued via John Street to Barton Street with the boundary marker just opposite the Theatre Royal. The stream turned where it met the city ditch here and it continued south to the West Gate. Beyond West Gate Street, by Abbey Church House, Mike pointed out a narrow gap there between the buildings, once called "Nowhere Lane", which led the overflow from the Hot and Cross Baths through the city wall to join the stream. In Norman times a strengthened Bath city wall was built from here along the course of the stream to its outfall into the river to protect the citizens from the invaders during the civil wars of the times.

At the bottom of Stall Street our attention was led to the site of the stream emanating from Beechen Cliff and Magdalen Gardens and following the route of the present Holloway. Pipes led this stream over the bridge to the Bishop's Palace in Abbey Gate Street, close to the outfall from the King's Bath which passed this way also (in the opposite direction) via Isabell Mill to the Avon.

The walk, and Mike's lucid explanation of the course of the streams was much appreciated by all his audience who will in future see the boundary markers and gratings with different eyes as they walk around Bath. The subject is more thoroughly explained in Mike's booklet *The Lost Streams of Bath* which is recommended for further reading.

The Roman excavations walk

The other summer walk for the Friends was led by Marek Lewcun on 27 August 2003. Without competition from the Three Tenors 27 enthusiasts met at the St. Andrew's Church site in Julian Road. Billed as covering the site of the 'Time Team' dig in 2002, we soon found that Marek was going to give us a broader picture. Firstly he handed out copies of the 19th century ground plan of the church in relation to the existing Julian Road, coloured to indicate where the outline of the walls was visible due to the grass being parched by the recent very dry weather. We toured the site and were shown where the Roman burials and other remains had been unearthed by James Irvine in 1870-73 during the construction of the church.

We then walked to the Lower Commons area (allotments) where Marek pointed out the location of a wide range of Roman buildings, including a Villa and Bathhouse, trenches and defensive ditches, burial sites and artefacts which had been found in the Bath Archaeological Trust digs in 1982-83 and 1987-88. The excavations also unearthed three Iron Age Roundhouses on the same site.

On the lawns south of Royal Crescent Marek gave us a little history of earlier digs where Roman coins and jewellery had been discovered but no recordings of building sites had been made because they were not considered to be of sufficient interest by developers.

The recent excavations were prompted after Marek, in the dry summer of 1995, had noticed from a house in Royal Crescent the faint outline of walls in the parched grass. This led to his recommending the site to the Time Team for their investigation in 2002. The geophysics work showed no road but instead a row of buildings to the west of the site. Further painstaking work unearthed burial sites and coffins in a trench to the side of the Roman road. They also found a ditch with bronze-age items, including pottery which indicated that people had been living there so long ago. Marek told us that the direction of the Roman road was right under no.11 Royal Crescent.

In moving back to Julian Road where the garage, previously a coach house, at the back of the Royal Crescent houses had been demolished to make way for further houses, Marek explained that the archaeological dig had unearthed a further section of the Roman road with distinctive wheel ruts pointing in the same direction as that on the lawns. A building and pottery had also been discovered suggesting a pottery workshop, but no sign of a kiln remained.

Having mentioned other sites where there are burials, Marek finished by saying that many more Roman buildings must have been unearthed during the building of Bath in the 18th-19th centuries but no archaeologists had been present and therefore nothing had been recorded. It was a most interesting walk which Marek's audience greatly appreciated.

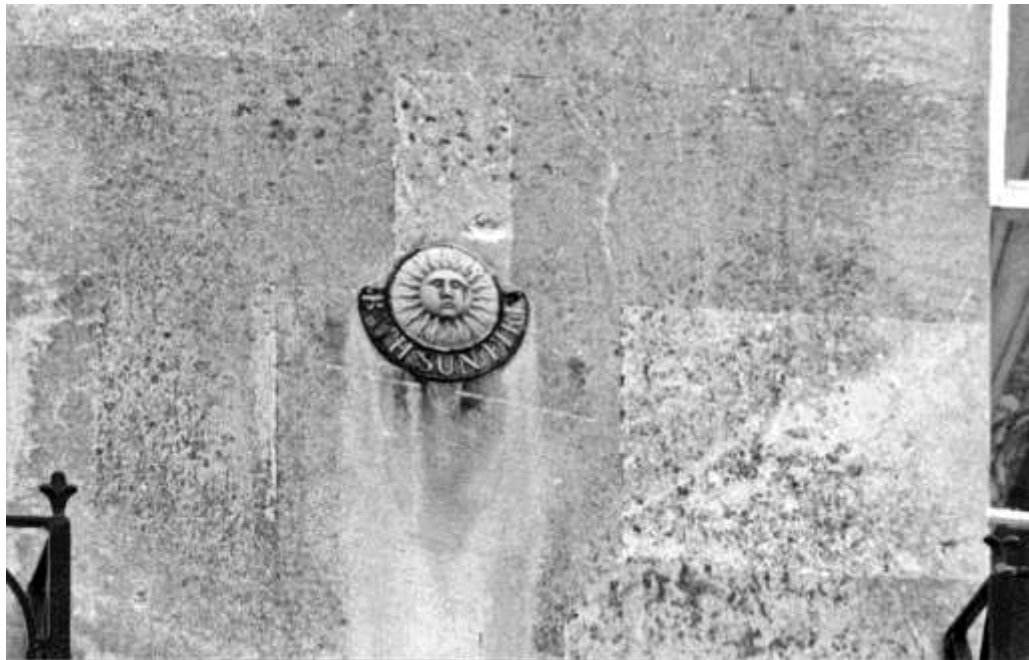
The Bathwick Local History Society

This has been a very busy year for the Society, with members enjoying a full programme of talks, walks and visits all relating to the history of Bathwick. In addition to this we have also had several enquiries from members of the public and other organisations regarding past residents and buildings in Bathwick. This has widened our research further and hopefully we will be able to make good use of some of the findings at a later date.

In April we were treated to an excellent illustrated talk on firemarks given by one of our members Mr. Don Pain. Bathwick appears to have the largest number of surviving firemarks in Bath and Don retraced the history of the Bath symbols.

The Bath Fire Office was the first British Fire Insurance Society established after the Bubble Act of 1720. Launched in March 1767 the society's office, situated at the house of Mr. William Kingston, a stationer of Trim Street, was the first of many fire offices that opened up over the British Isles during the reign of King George III. The Trim Street office also housed the fire engines. By 1780 the society had formed its own fire brigade and in 1786 brigade and engines were removed to the premises of George Ford, an engine maker, in Bridewell Lane. The office also moved, first to Stall Street and then in 1791 to the Saw Close, but went back to Trim Street in 1802.

A Sun Fire Office firemark on a wall in Bathwick



In 1806 the Bath Fire Office joined forces with the Bath Sun Fire Office and continued to operate until 1838 when the business was sold to the Sun Fire Office. Firemark symbols were placed in a prominent position usually on the front of a building and it is often said that in the case of a fire, when the brigade attending was not that of the correct company they would leave the building to burn down. This was not so, the fire was dealt with and the costs recovered from the relevant fire insurance company.

For further information or enquiries about the Society, tel. 01225 463902 or 332267.

Sheila Edwards August 2003

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group

The WLHSG have held a number of interesting meetings over the last year or so. On 10 October 2002 Margaret Burrows continued her study of the war years, with many comments from the audience, who shared their memories. Alistair Durie also reported on his investigation into the Lyncombe and Widcombe Parish Poor House. Alistair had made a detailed study of the premises at the foot of Lyncombe Hill, and taken a number of photographs, exterior and interior. It is hoped this material can be published at greater length.

On 14 November the group met to hear Stanley Hitts, former Parks director, speak on Bath parks. Here again members of the audience were able to share their recollections. The talk was illustrated with slides, and covered Alexandra Park on Beechen Cliff, which was once proposed as a development site, Sydney Gardens, with the maze, Victoria Park, with a look at the Botanical Gardens and the Recreation Ground; the former Spring Gardens; Alice Park, and the Parade Gardens with a reminder of the Assembly Rooms which once existed there.

The December meeting at the WLHSG is always a Members' evening, to which members bring items of interest, and mince pies are served.

The group met again on 24 April 2003 and Margaret Burrows completed her account of the 'Blitz map'. Alistair Durie described the restoration of the clock at St. Matthew's Church. On 22 May, Ainley Wade gave an historical review of the evolution of the roles of doctors, apothecaries and pharmacists, with special emphasis on pharmacists. Connie Smith gave a talk, delayed from April, marking her farewell as the group's archivist, a post now undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. McGrath. The evening closed with Bill Hanna's research on local memorials and monuments. The projector was not working well at that moment, but fortunately Bill had brought an ample supply of back-up photos.

Walks are very much part of the WLHSG programme and 25 June saw a walk entitled 'Church and Chapel', and 24 July another starting at the riverside, 'Proceeding in a Westerly Direction'.

On 18 September a visit was paid to the Record Office, where Colin Johnston showed the group round his premises, with special emphasis on new acquisitions. For 16 October Bob Bunyar is booked to speak on the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway.

On 13 November, 7.30pm., at St. Mark's Community Centre, Margaret Burrows will give the second talk in the study of 'The People's Health', and Marek Lewcun will report on the work of Bath Archaeological Trust. Thursday 11 December will be this year's Members' Evening, with mince pies once more.

Contact numbers: Doreen Collyer, 311723; Fay Briddon, 310127.

History of Bath Research Group

The History of Bath Research Group encourages research into Bath's history and acts as a forum for members to hear about work in progress. Its thrice-yearly Newsletter includes reviews and items of interest and gives full reports of talks and visits, and is deposited in the Library.

In the past year the Group has heard Marek Lewcun on recent archaeological discoveries in the area; Ruth Hayden on her ancestor, Mrs Delaney; Alan Dodge on researching a village history; Mac Hopkins-Clarke on the 19th century theatre in Bath; and Angus Buchanan on Brunel. Members of the Bathwick Local History Society described their project in the Mortuary Chapel and Andrew Ellis led an interesting walk round Smallcombe Cemetery. A visit to the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution was an opportunity to see how the archives and library are being painstakingly organised and restored. Visitors are always welcome at the Group's meetings.

Secretary: David Crellin (859427)

Mary Ede, Chairman

PUBLICATIONS

In preparation:

John Wroughton, *Stuart Bath, Life and Work in the Long-Lost City, 1603-1714*

The story of both Roman Bath and Georgian Bath has been extensively covered not only in the numerous histories which have appeared over the past two centuries, but also visually in the city's impressive museums. Furthermore, buildings and artefacts of those times have survived in abundance for the enjoyment of visitors - the most perceptive of whom then ask the question... *But what happened in between?* Thanks to the work of the Bath Archaeological Trust and Peter Davenport's excellent book, *Medieval Bath Uncovered* (2002), the 'Dark' and Middle Ages are gradually being brought to life.

Stuart Bath alone, alas, has lacked its own impassioned advocate over the years. Indeed, the 17th century city was initially written about by largely unsympathetic historians - John Wood in the 18th century, who wrote in disparaging terms about its buildings and its interiors; and Richard Warner in the early nineteenth century, who ridiculed 'the grossness and simplicity' of its people. Even today, it still finds no place in our museums and galleries. It is as if, for two hundred and fifty years, this period has been gently airbrushed out of our heritage - an age, it seems, which is never mentioned in polite company.

However, in spite of this - throughout the 20th century - many enthusiastic and scholarly individuals (including Elizabeth Holland, Mike Chapman and several other members of this Society) were working away quietly on various aspects of the period, so that gradually a great fund of knowledge was being accumulated. The aim of this book, therefore, is to bring together all that research - along with my own published work on civil war, education and religion - in an attempt to resuscitate our long-lost city. What emerges is a city which is both beautiful and ugly, both progressive and traditional, both colourful and squalid - but a city which is always fascinating, lively and controversial; a city which eventually manages to throw off its medieval image to lay the foundations for the spectacular rise of the leisure resort under Beau Nash.

The book considers all the obvious aspects of life and work in our long-lost city - its government, security, home life, religion, education, public health, sanitation, water supply, agriculture, cloth industry, spa, poverty, commercial activity, entertainment and civil war suffering. It also tackles a number of less familiar themes - the development of the postal service; early fire-fighting methods (including the city's first fire engine); outbreaks of bubonic plague, smallpox and typhus; the freemen's surrender of their grazing rights on the Common; the rise of Quakers, Baptists and Presbyterians; the enforced surrender of Bath's Charter in 1684; and the bitter factional rivalry which dominated life within Bath Council - including the outrageous kidnapping of eleven councillors by a rival faction in 1661.

There is also a letter of intelligence from a government agent in 1680, giving pen-portraits of each member of the Council - followed inevitably by a purge of all those councillors who had been blackballed; and the story of how the government, always suspicious of the city's loyalty, forced the Mayor and Corporation to witness in Bath the hanging, drawing and quartering of four of Monmouth's rebels in 1685 - just to give them a quiet warning!

The book (with 240 large-format pages and 170 illustrations) will be published in March or April 2004 in both hardback and paperback. There will be a special pre-publication offer for members and supporters of the Friends of the Survey, details of which will be sent to those who register their interest.

John Wroughton

The following review of Peter Davenport's new book on Medieval Bath is reprinted from our newsheet, March 2003 -

Peter Davenport, *Medieval Bath Uncovered* (Tempus, 2002), 192pp, £16.99 paperback, ISBN 0-7524-1965-X

This is the book which has been eagerly awaited by many historians and all those with a deep love of the

city's history. They will not be disappointed. Peter Davenport, Director of Excavations for the Bath Archaeological Trust, has in this fascinating study tackled that huge gap in our knowledge between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of the Georgians - those 'centuries of historical amnesia', as he calls it. He has succeeded in bringing to life that 'invisible' city through a skilful blend of archaeological evidence and documentary research. The growth of the medieval city itself from Saxon times through to the 16th century is traced out, together with the development of its religious life.

Illustrated by 75 photographs, drawings, maps, computer models and early prints, the book reveals vivid details of secrets previously hidden in the earth or behind more modern facades - the twenty Benedictine monks, who had been well-nourished and hard-working; the large sections of Borough Walls, which remain intact under the modern city; the end wall and gable of a timber-framed medieval house discovered inside 21 High Street ... and many more. This study, however, is far more than a series of archaeological reports. The author manages not only to place the local story firmly within its national context, but also to fill the streets and buildings he recreates with real people - soldiers, monks, merchants, traders, craftsmen, farmers and housewives.

This most scholarly account, which incorporates recent research by other local historians, makes essential and compelling reading for anyone seriously interested in the city's history. There is a good index, a useful bibliography and a helpful list of further reading at the end of each chapter. For future reference, the appendix contains valuable lists of medieval mayors, abbots, bishops and priors - together with interesting biographical notes on the more important bishops.

John Wroughton

To be launched on 26 November, 2003 –

Pevsner Architectural Guides, Michael Forsyth, Bath, (Yale University Press, 2003), 336pp, 60 b/w and 120 colour illustrations, 215 x 120mm, £9.99 paperback, ISBN 0 300 10177 5

The book is a new, substantially revised and extended version of Nikolaus Pevsner's account of Bath, originally published in the Buildings of England series *North Somerset and Bristol* in 1958. As well as significant additional description, it deals with major changes that have happened on the ground, and incorporates the substantial advances made in scholarship and understanding of Bath's architecture and topography. It also extends and deepens the coverage of important building types - notably industrial and commercial buildings and housing developments - treated only summarily in the original account. While maintaining the standards of scholarship of the original Pevsner guides, continuing their reliability and comprehensiveness, the well-illustrated paperback provides an up-to-date guide to the city in a more accessible form that brings the pleasures of looking at buildings to a wider public.

The book revises, expands and updates the original description and, for the first time, places the city's architecture within a social context of how buildings were used and how they changed. Significant interiors are described, together with plan form and room arrangement as well as decoration. Attention is drawn to unaltered, well-handled or interesting plans and to the history of buildings. The range of topics that are expanded from the original include: Bath's Georgian architecture and topography; social housing in the city; and historical church restoration. In addition, certain aspects and building types are described that were dealt with only briefly, or not at all, in the original. These include an account of building materials and trades, medieval and pre-Georgian Bath, industrial history/archaeology, the canal and railways, bridges, the flood control measures and 19th and 20th century development and city plans.



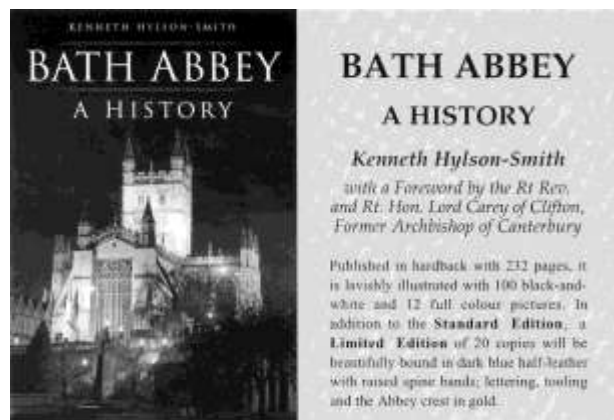
Giles White, *Hot Bath, the story of the spa*, (Nutbourne Publishing, 2003), 96pp., £4.95 paperback, printed in colour, design by Christian Hills Design; photography, Nick Smith. ISBN 0 9545190 0 0

Giles White has been working for some time as PR consultant to the Spa team and it is appropriate that he should have brought out the first guide to come our way which includes the new Spa building, the New Royal Bath as it is to be called. This guide combines an attractive layout with carefully researched information on the Spa through the ages, in a handy pocket-sized format.

We have given copies to several people and received comments like, “full of useful detail”, “I thoroughly enjoyed reading it”, and “my favourite bedtime read”. We hope others will be sending in their comments, perhaps in the form of letters to Lesley? In the meantime it makes an ideal gift, well-suited to the post. Tony Cairns, to whom we sent it in New Zealand, writes that he now longs to see the site in person, with his family.

Kenneth Hylson-Smith, *Bath Abbey, a History*, 2003

Another work which fills a gap is the new history of Bath Abbey by Kenneth Hylson-Smith, published by the Friends of Bath Abbey, at £19.50 for the standard hardback edition and £95 for the de luxe limited edition. Publication date was 1 October 2003 and we look forward to carrying an appreciation of the study in the March 2004 news-sheet.



With Medieval Bath, Stuart Bath, the history of the Spa, Bath Abbey and the new Pevsner architectural guide, everyone can now be equipped to understand the history of Bath. The Survey will be carrying on, however - we still have maps to draw up yet!

Stuart Burroughs and Ken Andrews, *Stothert & Pitt Cranemakers to the World*, Tempus, £12.99

Stuart Burroughs of the Museum of Bath at Work and Ken Andrews have lately published a book on Stothert & Pitt which draws on the collection of company photographs deposited at the Museum when the firm closed in 1989. The Museum has an unique archive connected with Stothert & Pitt's, and this publication will be of interest to everyone fascinated by Bath's industrial past.



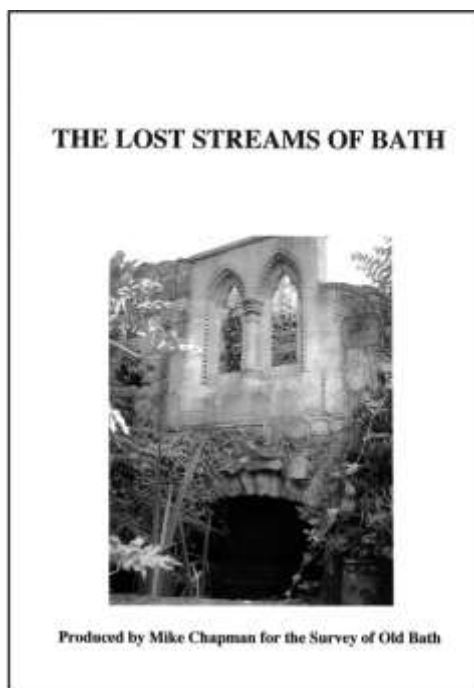
Roland Symons is well-known for his heraldic illustrations, of which several have appeared in the *Survey*. In July 2003 he and Brian Cull brought out *One-Armed Mac*, published by Grub Street at £16.99, on Squadron Leader James MacLachlan. Roland is archivist at Monkton Combe School where MacLachlan was educated. After losing an arm, MacLachlan continued to fly, but was shot down and killed in July 1943, and was buried in Normandy.



In August there appeared *Around Saltford* by Ian S.Bishop, dealing also with Corston and Newton St.Loe. The publication has more than 100 photographs taken between 1904 and 1935. A number of the pictures of Newton St.Loe were taken on the same day in 1905 by an unknown photographer, and included a mystery woman in the background - visible in some photographs but sometimes obviously scratched out - rather like Lockey's top-hatted friend who did, however manage to survive in most of his shots.

Susan Sloman's book *Gainsborough in Bath*, reviewed in the *Survey* 17, has been gaining plenty of attention. It was reviewed by Martin Postle of Tate Britain in *The Art Newspaper*, No.137, June 2003, along with two studies by the curator of 'Gainsborough's house', Hugh Belsey, and another by Hugh Belsey and Christopher Wright entitled *Gainsborough pop*, on Gainsborough-related artefacts such as mugs and plates. Martin Postle describes Dr.Sloman's book as both fascinating and impressive. The author has given a number of lectures since the publication of the book, on Gainsborough's work and her own new research.

Ruth Haskins, formerly Chairman of the Friends, has brought to our attention a book by a family connection, Ian Mortimer's *The Greatest Traitor, The life of Sir Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl of March, ruler of England 1327-1330*, published by Cape at £17.99 (ISBN 0 224 06249 2). This again was well reviewed in quality publications such as *The Times Literary Supplement*. It argues that Edward II was not in fact murdered at Berkeley Castle, but connived at his own disappearance. The volume has been described as the first independent study of Roger Mortimer.



LETTERS PAGE

Letters Editor: Leslie Holt

Bath 28 August 2003

Dear Leslie,

I am writing to say how much I, and everyone in the group, enjoyed a walk around the Royal Crescent area on Wednesday 27 August, led by Marek Lewcun. He gave us so much detail about evidence of Roman occupation in this area that has been discovered over recent years, either from trial trenches, or even from views over parched grass, suggesting archaeology beneath the surface. Clearly visible was the outline of the walls and pillars of the former St. Andrew's Church behind the Royal Crescent. Marek identified the exact location of roads, a villa, ditches, houses and even a 'cart-park'. With a little imagination one could see the Romans going about their daily lives here on the outskirts of the religious centre of *Aquae Sulis*. The whole scene was brilliantly described by Marek - it was a fascinating evening walk.

Unfortunately I was unable to join a walk in early August around the city centre, led by Mike Chapman, describing the water courses in the area as detailed in his recent book. I understand this was another extremely interesting evening, enjoyed by all who went.

We are so fortunate in Bath to have the opportunity to be taken around the city by experts, who freely give their time to impart their considerable knowledge and enthusiasm to us.

Marek and Mike - thank you so much.

With best wishes,

Priscilla Olver



The junction of London Street and Walcot Street in 1865. A stream from Beacon Hill once crossed here. Note the drinking fountain on the platform between the two roads

Bath 29 August 2003

Dear Leslie,

As the opening day for the new Bath Spa Treatment Centre draws closer, it has jogged my memories of the original Baths in the 1930s. As a schoolgirl I paid several visits there and found it fascinating. My Mother had a back problem, and went for several treatments there. She also had weekly massage, given

by a friend who worked part-time at the Centre as well as at her private practice in Great Pulteney Street. She would take me with her sometimes during school holidays and would explain the various treatments. I was amazed to see patients badly crippled able to use their limbs when lowered into the water on slings, with attendants in the pool with them. This was followed by heat treatment, a massage or traction, etc.

I resolved that this was what I wanted to do, when I could leave school. My Mother opposed it. I had good results in my School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams, passing 8 subjects out of 8 taken each time. She had planned for me to teach, and had arranged for me to sit the Entrance Exam. at the Teacher Training College at Warminster, Wilts, when eighteen. I hated the idea, so decided to find out more about training to work at the Baths.

It was usual to take an Orthopaedic Nursing Course for 2-3 years, with an extra year of hydrotherapy (taught at the Pool). Then if you had good results you might be accepted to train at the Treatment Centre, if they had a vacancy.

Eventually I was able to make my Mother understand that teaching was out for me and I seriously wanted to work at the Centre. I left school at sixteen, and found I couldn't train at B.&W.O. Hospital until I was 17 years old, but could work at the Spa as a 'Water carrier'. This was being a general dogsbody for the staff, but this didn't deter me. I wrote to the Matron, enclosing my School Certs. and 3 references, including one from Mrs.Fewing which stated that she thought I was serious about training, etc.

I expected to have to wait some weeks for a reply, but I got a reply by return post, asking me to present myself with my Mother next morning.

The entrance to the Baths was impressive, large swing doors led to a marble floored hall. The Matron was quite awesome, sitting behind a large desk. She informed me she didn't have a vacancy at present, but could offer me another post in the meantime. Her friend had recently become governess to the children of the Emperor of Abyssinia, who were exiled and living in Bath at Fairfield House. The children were to be prepared for boarding school in the autumn. They spoke English and had some knowledge of basic subjects. They had been taught by an English missionary in their own country. The governess needed help to teach the younger children. Matron thought that with my School Certs. and experience of teaching the kindergarten of my private school, I would be suitable.

Mother protested it was unsuitable; she wouldn't hear of me being 'in service'. Matron tartly replied that it was only teaching. My Mother insisted I went daily and did not sleep there. Matron promised to find me a place at the Centre at the end of 6 months. So I began a different life and enjoyed my time with my young charges. But alas, Matron didn't keep her promise, so I never did work at Bath Spa.

By the time I was 18 years old, we were at war, and I married my husband John in November 1939. We were happy for 55 years; another chapter of life.

Best wishes,

Ruth Haskins

♪♪♪♪♪

Sincere thanks to our above contributors for taking time to write these most interesting letters. All readers are of course free to write in at any time, on any relevant subject. Please send to me at: Leslie Holt, 'Westwinds', Hayesfield Park, Bath BA2 4QE.

Note:

In the *Survey* No.13, June 2000, Ruth describes her time with the Emperor, with comments on the HTV programme 'In the Footsteps of an Emperor', directed and produced by Shawn Naphtali Sober. The article appears on pp.19-20.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Dr. Wilkinson

The newsletter of another group enquired whether anyone knew anything about Dr. Wilkinson. Three items are known about him. Firstly he built a Pump Room on the Manvers Estate, about the third decade of the 19th century. It stood at the south-eastern corner of the Great Roman Bath and the building can be seen in a calotype of the Kingston Baths. An elevation of it exists and somewhat resembles the Hetling Pump Room. It became the Poor Law Offices, later known as the old offices.

Secondly he is mentioned in a study of trade tokens, as having an interest in their production. Thirdly, he was a promoter of the Princess Caraboo, whose portrait has been lately purchased by the Holburne Museum. The Princess was an English girl who managed to persuade people that she was full of eastern promise, until she was finally exposed by those who had known her in service.



Right: Princess Caraboo

Below: A calotype view of York Street in the 1850s, showing Dr. Wilkinson's baths, and on the extreme left, the east face of the pump room



We would be glad to supply the source material on these points to anyone who would like to study Dr. Wilkinson further. His Pump Room is so often overlooked that it would seem a good idea to bring it back to general attention.

CALLEVA ATREBATUM

Peter Davenport

Director of Excavations, Bath Archaeological Trust

After watching a TV programme on the site of Calleva Atrebatum, modern day Silchester, Elizabeth Holland wrote to Peter Davenport to ask why the outline of the walls seemed to resemble that of Aquae Sulis. Elizabeth had long wondered if the layout of these walls had anything to do with the 'flattened megalithic circle' propounded by A.Thom.

Peter Davenport replied as follows:

You asked for some comments on yours on Silchester.

1. *Calleva Atrebatum* is Celtic or British meaning 'wooded place of the *Atrebates*'. The latter are the local tribe, one of the few British tribes to share a name with a Gaulish tribe. Commius, Julius Caesar's ally and then enemy, was a continental Atrebatan who fled to the insular Atrebates after falling out with his former patron.
2. The site was a major settlement before the Roman conquest and was a tribal and royal centre under the successors of Commius and the name appears on pre-Roman coins (as *Call* and *Callev*). Excavations by Reading University over the last fifteen or so years show occupation in a planned form (formal street plan, houses, enclosures, trade and industry, but all in timber on a different alignment). This late iron age layout (50 BC - AD 43?) was enclosed by an earthwork on a roughly similar plan to the Roman walls but not quite on the same site and larger.
3. The very earliest Roman period layout seems to be the result of a first century AD replanning but almost certainly under the British prince Togidubnus who was a Roman collaborator. It was shifted over somewhat but overlapped the later walls. It was still enclosed by an earthwork. It could, strictly, predate the Roman invasion by a few years.
4. The walls, with the characteristic shape which has been compared to *Aquae Sulis* for its similarity in plan, were not built until the later 3rd century, perhaps between 260 and 280 on the latest evidence.
5. The similarity of the plan to Bath is superficial and not significant. Irregular polygons are normal for town wall plans and broad similarities are statistically likely. Godmanchester has a similar plan (and size); *Margidunum* (Derbyshire) is a smaller, stretched, example, Brampton in Norfolk is vaguely similar. Silchester is much larger than the walled area of *Aquae Sulis* (four times) and, unlike the latter, contains the bulk of the occupied town. More significant is that the wall is obviously influenced by the earlier earthwork but extends eastwards to enclose a different area. The town also has a planned formal grid, unlike Bath.

The relevance of Thom is very dubious. Although his views almost became orthodox in the late 70s, most surveyors, astronomers and mathematicians now doubt the detailed conclusions of his work. And it would be extremely unsafe to apply theories about neolithic societies, however well founded, to those two to three thousand years later.

Notes by the Survey:

Para.2:

In Issue 12 of the *Survey*, November 1999, Peter Davenport discusses an article in the *Independent*, 10 August, in which Dr.Henig claimed the Roman Baths at Bath were by a Celtic prince, leading to the suggestion that they could be called British rather than Roman Baths.

In his article (pp.18-19), entitled 'Roman Baths - Oh Yes They Are!' Peter pointed out that this prince, Cogidubnus

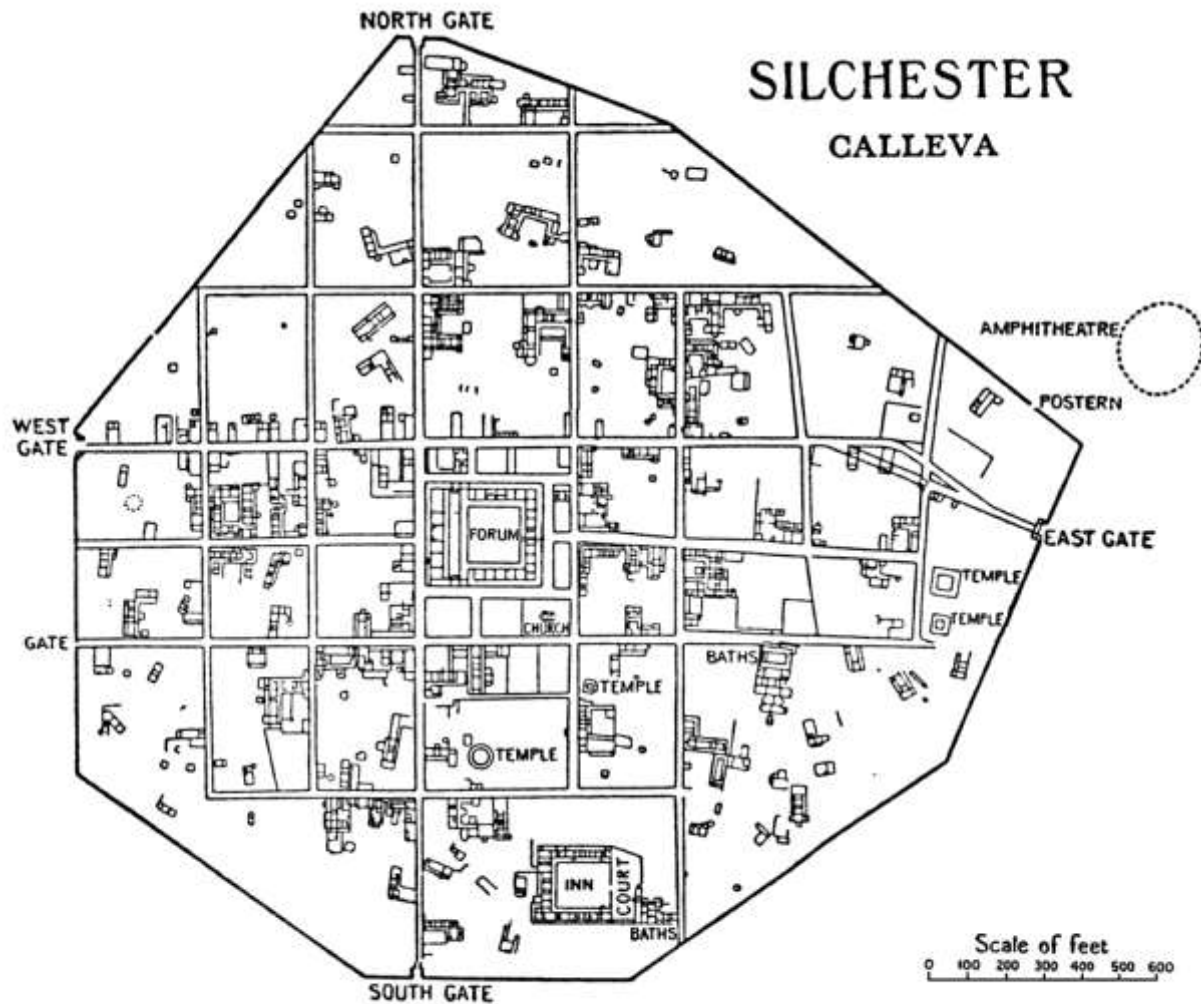
or Togidubnus, was a thoroughly Romanised Briton, the *Regulus* or client king of the Belgae from AD 43 until his death. The Atrebati were members of the tribal group known as the Belgae.

In the *Survey* No.13, June 2000, pp.14-15, Peter gives a more up-to-date translation of the dedicatory inscription to a temple at Chichester, citing this prince, instead of the one mentioned on p.19 of the *Survey* 12. He remarks that Togidubnus is now the preferred version of his name.

This article proved of great interest to those who had wondered about Dr.Henig's claims.

Para.6:

A.Thom put forward his theories in such publications as *Megalithic Sites in Britain*, first published Oxford University Press 1967. He surveyed some hundreds of megalithic sites, a valuable activity since many such sites are disappearing.



Transcribed by Elizabeth White

1. Unidentified Letter (last page missing)

Northampton St.
Bath
Oct 25th

Madam,

Sensible that your noble institution must subject you, to importunity from every quarter, through friends that know you, I, a perfect stranger to almost everyone acquainted with you, feel great diffidence in adding one more to the list of Applicants, for your favour, and Protection, should you consider my case such a one as you mean to let your truly Benevolent plan include. Hearing the contradictory reports I have, of those to whom it is to extend, determined me rather to offer myself on account of my Painful Situation, than to do it through the hands of any you might be acquainted with. I will therefore as briefly as possible try to represent my Case to you. The Respectability of my Character, and Connexions through Life, I can with ease make known to you should you consider my Situation worthy of your Attention. I will not endeavour to excite your feelings otherwise than by a plain recital of facts. My Father was many years ago, an Underwriter in London and possessed some property, but by many heavy losses occasioned by war, lost it all, just at that time when I and my sister two years older than myself, had compleated our education. After a few years remaining under the care of the best of Mothers, my sister went out as Governess in a Friend's family, I to a large school in Kent. After a short residence in India my sister married a gentleman of the name of Creighton, who was manager and had a share in a large indigo plantation belonging to the late Mr Chas Grant, the India Director. A few years after her marriage she invited me to go out to India to reside with her, and "tho it was rather against my inclination to leave my native land, yet the persuasions of a beloved mother, as her small income ceased at her death (and she thought my constitution unequal to the close confinement and Fatigue of a school) I, in the year 1797, left England to reside with my sister, and remained with her until 1807, but the climate of India never having agreed with me, I at that time returned to England with the care of three of my sister's children (who had at that time seven) the eldest two boys having been sent some years before. I had not been at home one year when the melancholy News of Mr Creighton's death reached me, and Mrs C was left with a large family and by no means a large income to educate them. She returned to England the following year, and I remained with her, as three of her children were girls; to assist in the education of them. But the painful part of my story is yet to come. Her two eldest boys, Mr Grant had promised to appoint to the Civil Service in India, and they had been educating for it, but the very year his poor Mother arrived home, the second, an uncommon clever Boy, was seized with that most dreadful of all human calamities Insanity (supposing to proceed from too great mental exertion) and "tho he once or twice afterwards had long intervals of recovery, yet in the Last seven years all Hope of it is removed, and the expense it has led to for him have been added to the event itself, almost overwhelming my beloved and Valued sister, and as her family are all grown up, I now feel myself useless to her, and could I indulge a hope of being considered a fit Object for your blessed asylum it would in a degree restore both our minds to peace. for after near 31 years residence together it is a heartrending thought to part. But what has led to my present application is the unexpected alteration in the Interest Money in India, my sister's before not very large income is now nearly reduced to half what it was, and the sad state of her son, will leave so little for herself, that I cannot bear the thought of taking from that

[punctuation and spelling are as in the original]

From other letters it appears that this was written by Mrs.Martha Stupart, whose acceptance letter is given below.

2. Letter from Mrs.Martha Stupart

Madam,

You will I fear have thought me deficient of a grateful sense, of your favourable determination respecting me, as I have been so long in acknowledging it, but the unusual heat of the last week, on a frame rather weakened by my late Illness, will I hope - in a degree plead my Apology.

Should a kind providence grant me Life, and Health, the few intervening months till the opening of your nobly benevolent Institution so, that I become a member of it, I trust that in no Instance I shall disgrace your selection by acting Contrary to that designation under which you admit me.

With grateful respect believe me Madam your Obligated and Obedient, Humble Servant
Martha Stupart

27 Northampton Street
July 22nd



Partis College

Left: The Entrance Gate and Lodge.

Below: The College and Lawns.



THIS FAMOUS CITY: THE STORY OF THE CHAPMANS OF BATH

LETTERS FROM PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Our readers often comment that the story of the Chapmans overseas resembles that of their own family - their relations also joined the EIC, or emigrated elsewhere. We are therefore continuing this material, which seems to be typical, and shall be glad also to publish items from other families.

The letters reproduced here were formerly the property of Mrs.Phyllis Thomas, of New Zealand. We understand they are now in the care of her son. We would like to thank Tony Cairns and Pamela Doole for supplying extra details about the families in the letters, and also Mrs.Thomas.

Issue 6 told the story of Captain Thomas Chapman of the Welsh Fusiliers and his marriage in America to the 'child of the forest', the Quaker settler Mary Lowndes; also of his death in 1794 on the expedition to Haiti (Hispaniola), following the emergence of Toussaint L'Ouverture, as the New Zealanders have pointed out. It also told how his widow Mary was inspired by another member of the family to ask Charles II of the EIC for a larger allowance. Charles II was then ruining himself gambling, like his father before him, as John Wiltshire's letter in Issue 17 - rediscovered by Charles Holland - made very clear. He reacted without enthusiasm, and in 1802 or 1803 Mary returned to America.

Although Captain John James, quoted in Issue 6, states that she only took her daughter Elizabeth with her, in fact three daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah and Louisa were to be found living in the USA. Phyllis Thomas writes that Mary embarked with Sarah and Louisa and that Elizabeth came to say goodbye and then refused to leave the ship. In 1815 Sarah married a Quaker, Thomas Ash. In 1817 Elizabeth married Samuel Harvey, also a Quaker. The 'child of the forest', Mary (Lowndes) Chapman died in 1837. In 1838, in a letter not published here, Elizabeth Harvey wrote urging Captain John James to pay them a visit. She added that the doctors had advised Thomas Ash to travel, and that the family had heard that his lungs were so badly affected that unless this voyage did him good, nothing would. He died in April 1838.

Sarah Chapman on the left, holding the kitten, Elizabeth standing, Louisa on the right.



By 1838 Elizabeth's son Thomas

Chapman Harvey was already working in Bristol. Judging by the address of one of the letters below, he was staying at Sion House, Clifton. In 1839 his brother John joined him. The letters also mention the name 'Louisa'. When they simply say 'Louisa', they usually (though not always) seem to mean Elizabeth's daughter, Louisa Harvey. When they say 'poor Louisa' they refer to their own sister, Louisa Chapman. Details about her trustees and the disposal of her income in the letters not printed here suggest that she had been put into care of some kind. It is not known if she is the poor (female) invalid whose many and violent fits are worrying the family in another letter. Phyllis Thomas in fact believes it was Sarah. (Nor is it known who the 'unfortunate youth' is in Letter 3 below.) The references to Captain John James's hand and foot presumably relate to the effects of an earlier stroke. He himself uses the word 'paralysis' in his own writings. Probably the baths he visited in Germany were at Baden.

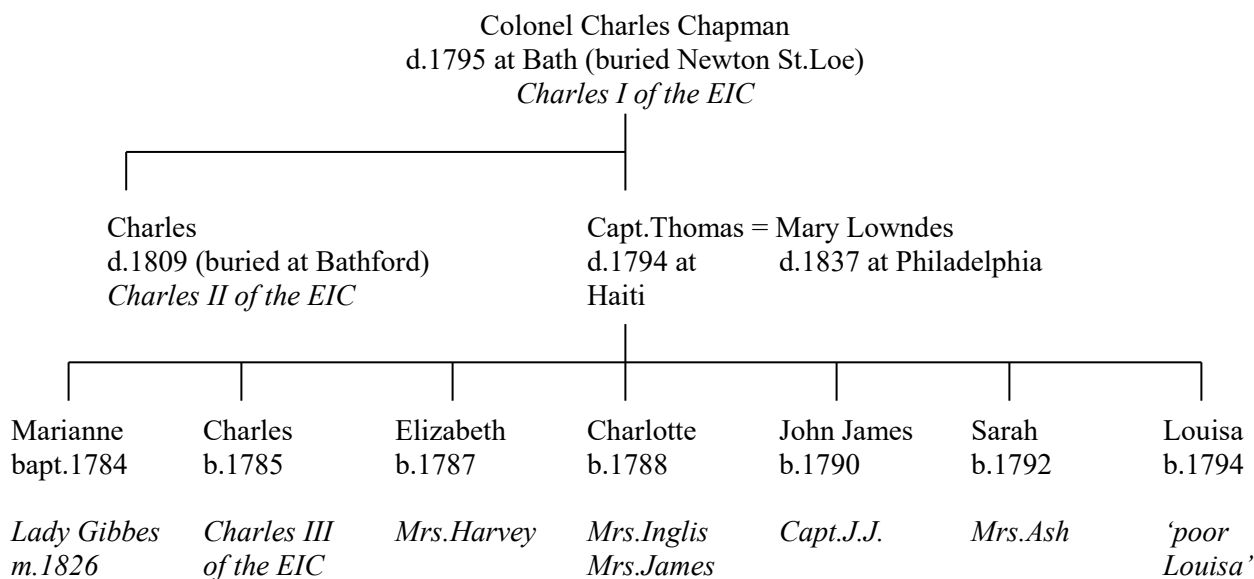
Money bills float around the letters as in a novel by Anthony Trollope, but it is not clear who owes what to whom. Phyllis Thomas believes that John James was the actual money source. Wider economic problems are besetting the families of the letters. Although railway building was under way in America, it was much easier to find employment as an engineer in Britain in the days of Brunel. The USA banking system was also in crisis. In illustration, some extracts from a history of the USA dealing with these points follow the letters.

The handwriting of the letters published here is not always clear, especially in photocopies, and it is not possible to guarantee that these are exact transcriptions. (Paragraphing has been added.) Readers will note that they are letters being carried by the *Great Western* in the days of Brunel. This must give them an interest equal to letters from the *Titanic*!

Notes:

1. Tony and Pamela have forwarded notes of a very interesting paper written by Mary Lowndes's father James, who apparently called himself 'James Lownes'. He describes Mary as his eldest child, born 6 August 1764, and married to Thomas Chapman, apparently in 1783. He does not mention pursuing them, as related by Captain John James Chapman. He himself seems to have died about 1830, and therefore would have been known to Elizabeth, Sarah and Louisa as their maternal grandfather.

2. Captain John James Chapman did not die in 1845, as recorded in Issue 17, which was a misprint - computers sometimes seem to have a mind of their own! He died in 1867, aged 77. In 1852, when 62, he married a nurse, Mary Gibson. Their family numbered five. Their descendants are: Sarah - the Beckers of Germany; John James II and Richard John - the Australians and New Zealanders. The Hollands are descended from Charles III of the EIC, and the American relations, with whom Tony and Pamela are in touch, from Sarah Ash and Elizabeth Harvey.



SARAH ASH

The original was painted by Jacob Eichholtz, Philadelphia 1824

Published by courtesy of Ludwig Becker, Herrnhut, Germany



1. Sarah Ash to John James Chapman

Great Western Steamer Captⁿ J J Chapman RA Atheneum Club London

Stamped: [1:] New York Aug 1 [2.] H 15 Au 15 [3.] Bristol Ship Letter. [4.] Paid [5.] Indecipherable

Philadelphia July 29 1839

We were all, my beloved Brother, most truly thankful to find that you had reached home in Safety & that your health had improved from the Voyage & most fervently do I pray that the affectionate & generous Kindness which prompted your highly acceptable visit here may be rewarded by the entire recovery of your health and that you may be Spared again to gratify us. We missed you very much, your absence caused quite a blank in our little Circle.

I have Charles still at home the appropriations have fallen short & no more will be made until next winter when we hope he will be enabled to meet with employment in his profession, he is not however idle, I have procured a temporary situation for him in an Office for the Sale and Purchase of Real Estate, where he receives two dollars a week and is Constantly employed either in writing or doing the Bank's business, with the privilege of leaving should anything better offer. Engineers are all complaining sadly and many are for giving up the profession, but Cousin J. Harvey[?] who paid me a visit on his way to Baltimore, says, "do not be discouraged it must go on and next year may offer many more opportunities than this has done, and remember there are other States than Pennsylvania." We are still on the look out and hope he may yet be so fortunate as to succeed.

Chas.begs me to tell you that there is a Brickmaking Machine in operation near Wm.Elmslie's which seems to be something similar to the one you spoke of when here, at any rate it is on a plan found to answer very well & the man took out a Patent for it I think he said two years since.

I am awaiting very anxiously the arrival of your promised letter as owing to the excessive heat and a slight indisposition caused by an attack of cholera morbus¹ I had two weeks ago, I have not seen Elizth. since the *Great Western* arrived, but in a note I received from her this morning she begs me to say how much she was pleased at receiving your letters & that if I had not been writing she certainly would have done so, but that next month she would do so.

ELIZABETH HARVEY

Published by courtesy of Ludwig
Becker, Herrnhut, Germany



2. Elizabeth Harvey to John James Chapman

[Direction of letter not included in the copies]

Philadelphia October 13th 1839

My dear brother

I little thought when you asked me when our dear John would go to England, that I should so soon have to write to say that we have concluded to send him immediately - dear Thomas has been so urging to have him with him, and is so fully satisfied that they can live upon the salary that he gets, that we have determined to send him & try the experiment: if they do not succeed their home is always open to them & by returning in any of Cope's Philadelphia ships their father could have time to pay their passages - it is a great undertaking but the prospect here for Engineers is at present so bad and the Professors at college so slack that we think it worth the trial & some exertion in order to raise funds to send him, he is a good disposition and will I am sure profit by any instruction he can get from Thomas -

I do not suppose you will see him very soon as we cannot send him to London travelling is so expensive, but then perhaps you may visit Clifton - I think it most likely that by the time this reaches England you will have returned from Germany, I trust greatly improved by the use of the Baths, I shall however send this to Thomas so that it may not be sent after you if you are still absent -

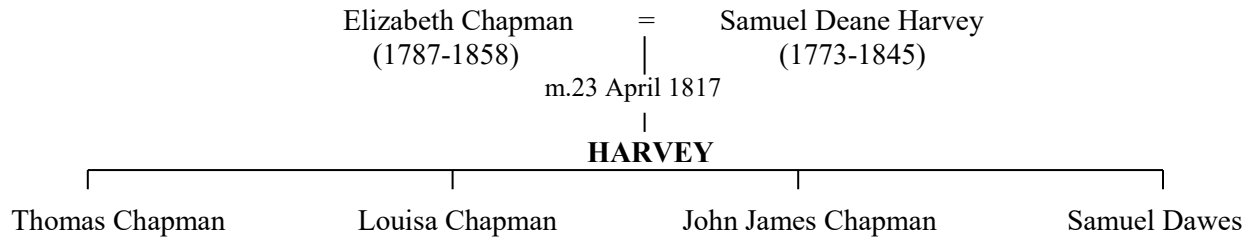
Saml.directs me to say that if quite convenient to you, he would be much obliged to you if you would give Thomas twenty pounds at Xmas, which he will pay to Sarah when her bill becomes due, if you will be kind enough to let Thomas know if inconvenient, he will write us word by the first Steamer.

Sarah is well, Mary and the younger boys, but Joshua is quite laid up with a severe cold and muscular rheumatism - your friends are all well(?). Mrs.Cox was here yesterday -

I am so pressed for time that you must excuse this hurried letter, we had just ten days to get John ready or he must have gone in the *G.Western* which would cost much more - Captain Mierken (?) of the *Susquehanna* is a kind man & has an only son, he therefore is quite taken with John & says if he is detained in Liverpool he will take him to the same Inn he goes to, & put him into the mail Stage directed to the Bush Inn, Bristol; a pretty long trek for his first leaving home. May God bless you all

Your affec.^{te} Sister
Eliz.th Harvey

they sail on Monday the 21st



Thomas Chapman Harvey, the son who had moved to Bristol, married Elizabeth Gibbes in Bath, 30 March 1842. As his aunt Marianne Chapman did not marry Sir George Smith Gibbes until 1826, when she was about 42, it seems likely Elizabeth was her step-daughter rather than her daughter.

3. Elizabeth Harvey to John James Chapman

Capt.J.J.Chapman RA Sion House Clifton Bristol England The Great Western Steamer
 [Redirected in another hand:]
 Captⁿ.J.Chapman
 Longfords Queen Square Bath
 [Stamped several times, twice for Clifton, others indecipherable]

[Superscribed in the handwriting of Sarah Ash:]
 To Captⁿ John J Chapman RA
 England

25£s17

Please to pay to Thos Chapman Harvey or order Twentyfive pounds sterling on my account without further advice [sterling initialled JJC]

Very Affectionately
 your Sister
 Sarah Ash

Philadelphia March 16.th 1840

My dear Brother

Your letter Dec^r.28th and one from dear Thomas with one from our young traveller dear John, reached us on the 2nd.March, a delightful birthday present even though of old date; that day week I had the additional pleasure of receiving your truly kind letter Feb.^y19th with one from Marianne to Louisa of the same date - the account of our children was most satisfactory - we are all enjoying except our little Saml., excellent health - but my dear John the times are truly embarrassing & fortunate indeed should we consider ourselves in having our dear boys fixed as they are, if we could at once extricate Thomas from the small debt (large at the present time) he owes, his father has purchased Sarah's bill of twenty five pounds, which he says you will oblige him by paying to Thomas at the time you expected to pay Sarah, Provided you can conveniently lay out of the twenty you so kindly advanced him, if not his other debt must remain a while longer and he will when he can send him more.

The times are indeed alarming, Saml.desires me to say, respecting the investment of the proceeds of the sale of your house (in any thing at this time) in this country, he would advise you not to think of it every thing is so embarrassed from the hostility of the General Government & this State to the United States Bank in particular & the banking & credit system generally that it is impossible to say where ruin will end; already the banks have given no dividends, nor is it supposed that they can the next six months (if they are not broke up - which we trust they will not be mad enough to do) - Those speculative Banks giving ten per cent have either broke or are so crippled that the stockholders consider their property in jeopardy - Insurance offices in many cases are so injured by their losses that they do not divide, people cannot pay their rent and those who have a little on hand are afraid to pay their bills fearing it may be the

last they may get for some time, nothing is to be expected from the present rulers, who appear to be playing a desperate game, but will most likely be caught in their own nets; they can however do much injury before next March, when we trust there will be great changes - The election for the Presidency is next November & I suppose there will be great exertion made for a change of men and measures.

In regard to the unfortunate youth you mention we have not heard a word; his arrival, if he comes as a passenger, will be noticed in the List though it is not always the case - should he find us out we must bring him to our house as Saml. could not advance money for him at this time, poor fellow we should do for him as we would wish to be done for under such truly unhappy circumstances - as the steamers will be arriving you shall be informed of any particular circumstance that may be necessary when he comes -

Poor Louisa's income as well as our own feels the disturbed state of the times seriously, but I trust all will in time go right again; in the mean time we must endeavour to curtail our expences where we can, which is no easy job where you are not extravagant -

I shall write to Thomas by this opportunity and mention his father's having sent the twenty five pounds, without alluding to your letters respecting it -

Young Powell was here the other day, they are going to England in May, he expressed a desire to find you out & asked your direction - Saml.[the son] has been attacked with the Rheumatism in his head, & is under a regimen of diet & medicine the Dr. fearing an affection of the heart, we hope & think he is mistaken, as he was not acquainted with his nervous temperament, he has grown three inches and a half since John left us in October, we think that has weakened him and hope that he will soon be better. Dr.Jackson and Carroll[?] are his physicians. Saml.[the father] sends Thomas a dozen newspapers by this conveyance, should you happen to be in Clifton they may perhaps interest you, and be useful to Thomas as he can make extracts respecting the railroads &c. which they contain. Sarah and all her family are well. Louisa is much as usual. Mr.Beck's[?] family nearly as you left them.

I nearly forgot to say that Sarah will not write as I am writing but Mary intends doing so. All our young people send their love to you Saml. joins me in the same & to tell you that he is glad your troublesome nail is well which John mentioned in his letter - poor Saml's is still a little sore -

God bless you My dear Brother
Your affec.^{te} Sister
Elizth.Harvey
love to Marianne and Charlotte

Extracts from C.P.Hill, *A History of the United States*, first published 1942

Railroads

The first American railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio, was begun in 1828, three years after the opening of the Stockton to Darlington Railway in England. Yet railroads developed comparatively slowly in the U.S.A. By 1850 there were about 9,000 miles of them. By 1860 there were 30,000; and lines ran into Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Chicago, which in 1830 had been a small settlement, was a city with many thousands of inhabitants by 1860, and already a great railroad centre, as well as the port through which the farmers of the thriving state of Illinois sent their produce on to the Great Lakes. By 1860 the railroads had begun to play an important part in opening up the prairies. They enabled the prairie farmer to send his corn and wheat to the cities of the east. They carried to him the manufactured goods of the east. They carried many thousands of immigrants on the first stage of their journey westwards. The railroads did all these things on a far greater scale after 1860; but already by that date they were helping to quicken the pace of the great movement to the West.

Chap.XI, 'Manifest Destiny', end of Section 1.

Banking and Depression

Next we come to one of the strangest episodes in Jackson's strange career, a good example of the way in which he let personal prejudice govern his public actions. In his early days Jackson had been the innocent victim of someone else's financial failure, and had been left heavily in debt to a bank. Ever since then he had disliked banks and the financial system of which they were the centre. History gave him an excellent chance of revenge. In 1816 the second Bank of the United States had been chartered for twenty years (see Chapter IX); so the government would have to decide before 1836 whether or not to renew that charter. His attitude towards banks was well known, and he had indicated his dislike of the Bank of the United States by saying, in his first message to Congress (1829), that he thought its charter was neither legal nor wise. In this attitude he was strongly supported by his western followers, impecunious farmers, who believed that the power of rich financiers was the greatest enemy of democracy.

His opponents decided to make the Bank the issue of the 1832 election; Nicholas Biddle, the President of the Bank, was an important member of the National Republican (or, as it was soon called, the Whig) party which opposed Jackson. This party nominated for President Henry Clay of Kentucky, and also brought before Congress a bill to recharter the Bank, which was passed in July 1832. Jackson promptly vetoed it, saying that the Bank was a monopoly and that its profits came out of the earnings of American citizens and went into the pockets of a few rich men. Jackson's supporters and the common people all over America liked this kind of straight talk, and Jackson, once more Democratic candidate, won the election easily. Having won this victory, he decided to kill off the Bank. He did this by withdrawing all government funds from it, putting them into various state banks. The Senate passed a vote of censure on him for doing it, but that did not worry Jackson. It is very doubtful whether his action was wise. The Bank no doubt brought far too much wealth into the hands of far too few people, and it encouraged political corruption; but these were arguments for reforming, not for destroying it. It helped the development of American industry, and its government backing made it safe. The smaller local banks, which had to do its work when it was gone, were thoroughly unsafe, and encouraged fantastic speculation; and the value of the notes they issued was quite uncertain. The government, which had to sell and be paid for public land, suffered from this, and in 1836 Jackson issued a Specie Circular, ordering that all payments for public land should be made in specie, that is, gold or silver. This tended to put up the price of land without doing much to stop speculation. This speculation, together with the absence of a strong central bank, contributed to the disastrous panic of 1837 (see Chapter XI).

Chap.X, 'Andrew Jackson, 1829-37', Section 2

Martin Van Buren, who succeeded Jackson as President in 1837, was unlucky. His term of office coincided with the worst commercial depression the U.S.A. had experienced up to that time. We have already noticed the speculation in land which went on during the 1830s. Such speculation encouraged unsound finance of every kind, particularly unsound banking, and created a thoroughly false appearance of great prosperity. In 1836 commercial depression began to strike England; banks failed, factories and mills closed down. England could no longer buy the cotton she had previously bought, and depression struck the cotton-planters in the South. Then American industry suffered; and banks failed and factories and mills closed down in the U.S.A. Farmers were hit because townsfolk could not buy when they were out of work. Merchants who had allowed the farmers to run up debts and banks who had lent them money were ruined. Many thousands were thrown out of work. All this happened within a few months of Van Buren's inauguration. The government did nothing to help, for such a gigantic and nation-wide depression had never been foreseen. The direct political result was the defeat of Van Buren in the election of 1840.

Chap.XI, 'Manifest Destiny', Section 3

THE 'HERMITAGE' OR GARDEN HOUSE BY WIDCOMBE CHURCH

John Hawkes

The 1839 Sale particulars of Widcombe House¹ included - 'The Kitchen Garden is extensive and very prolific, with an ornamental building of ancient date' and in the description of views from the gardens the building appears to be 'The Hermitage'. The 'ornamental building' is obviously the arched and columned Garden House, which is of similar 18th century date as the house and stables. Does this reference to the fashionable romantic past perhaps stem from folklore and traditions of an earlier building used as a Priest's House, which still existed when the Garden House was built?

The Garden House

Philip Bennet II of Widcombe House, who built the Garden House, succeeded his father Philip I in 1722 when still a teenager². He did not own the land until 1728 and the Ralph Allen Papers record that Allen acquired lands from Colthurst and sold parts to Bennet including '20 Dec 1728...to Philip Bennet Esq^r a messuage or tenement with y^e orchard & Appurts near Widcombe Church (Acres) 0.2.0 - and - also part of Dunsmead Containing (Acres) 4.0.0'³. The *Life of Richard Jones* records 'See my drawings of the other piece at Widcombe, done for one squire Bennett, and his summer house in his garden...'. It is undated but the context could imply c.1735⁴. Philip had a sad personal life, he married in 1727, but his wife died in 1730, he married again next year but his second wife died in 1739. During this period he was busy building, re-facing the House and building the coach house and stables in Dunsmead. But after his second wife's death he is then said to have become dissipated and eventually left Bath, dying in 1761⁵. A document of 1750 refers to William Winsley, and later documents state that the messuage and half acre orchard by the church were late in the tenure of Winsley⁶. The earliest record of the Garden House is Thomas Robins' sketch of c.1755 (Fig.1), and it would seem certain that Philip Bennet built the Garden House between c.1730 and c.1750.

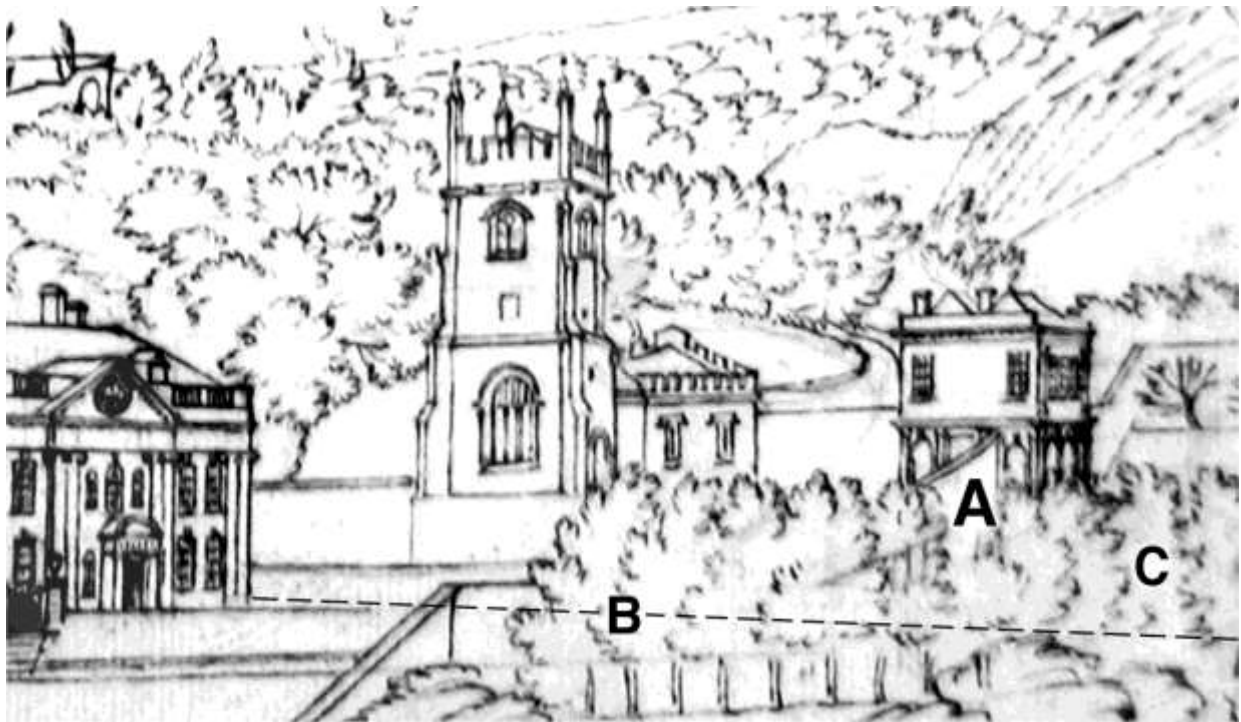
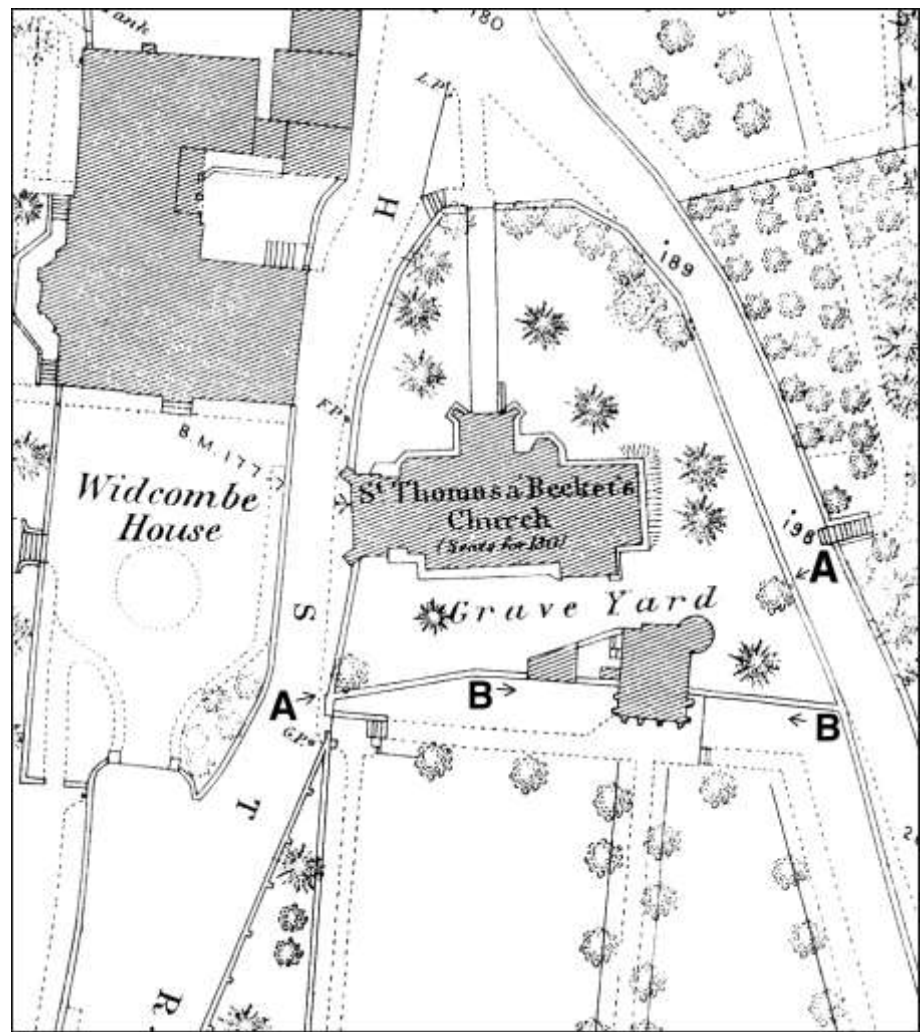


Fig.1 Robins' Sketch (c.1755)

- A – Wall between the graveyard and the Garden House
- B – Line of Church Street (behind the wall of Widcombe Manor)
- C – Trees in Widcombe Manor Gardens

Fig.2
OS Map, 1883.



The Garden House is strangely related to, and intruding into, the graveyard of St. Thomas à Becket Church, and the graveyard is considerably higher than both the ground level of the church and the Garden House. This led Mowbray Green⁷ to note in 1904 'Since its erection the churchyard has been extended and the present wall built, enclosing a considerable portion of the house' (Fig.2 - OS Map surveyed 1883). However, Thomas Robins' sketch of c.1755 (Fig.1) shows the 'enclosing' wall existed then.

It is quite possible that the original boundary of the churchyard was at an angle (A-A on Fig 2) and was realigned when the Garden House was constructed (B-B on Fig.2) in order to provide a symmetrical background for the arcaded and colonnaded building.

The church side of the building also has features that do not reflect the pure classicism of the main facade, such as the asymmetrical circular staircase and rubble masonry, suggesting the incorporation of an earlier building

The key questions are: what was the message on the half acre by the church acquired by Bennet in 1728, how long had it been there, what was its purpose, and might this be the building that was transformed into the Garden House?

The 'Hermitage' or Priest's House

In 970 King Edgar granted Lyncombe and Widcombe (then known as Cliftune) to the monastery of Bath. In 1091 the king granted Bath and the monastery to the restyled Bishop of Bath (later Bath and Wells), who became the *ex officio* Abbot, and the monastery a Priory under the Prior. Some believe a Saxon chapel already existed when, sometime after the murder of St. Thomas à Becket in 1170, a Norman chapel

was built. At this time the Priory would have provided a chaplain.

Then in 1263 the Bishop granted St.Mary de Stalls and the Chapel of Widcombe appendant, to the monastery, the Prior becoming Rector⁸. Later in 1322 after a dispute the Bishop confirmed that the Vicar of St.Mary de Stalls 'shall find a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel of Widcombe and there to dwell'⁹. These chaplains were called *Capellani Annuellarii* and in 1464 John Ade and John Crew are recorded as annual chaplains¹⁰. The site of the Garden House would have been ideal for building a Priest's House, being adjacent and the only piece of land not cut off from the Church by tracks leading to Prior's Park and Widcombe Fields and the Down (Fig 3).

In 1499 St.Thomas à Becket was rebuilt, but soon the Reformation came and in 1539 the Priory surrendered and the monks dispersed. The same year a sub-Prior became Vicar of St.Mary de Stalls and a brother monk, Richard Gybbs (with a pension of £5 7s 8d), became Curate of Widcombe¹¹. With an apparently smooth transition it is not unlikely that Gybbs resided in Widcombe.

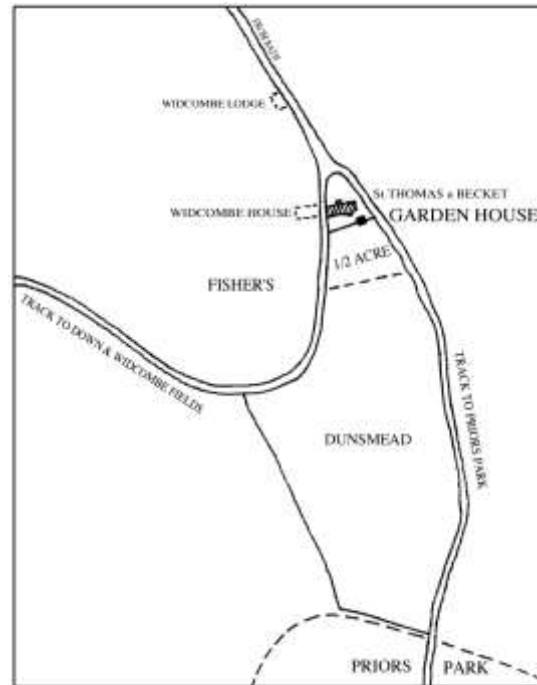


Fig.3 Site Plan

The Priory and its lands were sold by Henry VIII in 1543, but in 1572 the current owner, Edmund Colthurst, received a licence to present the then ruinous Priory church to the citizens of Bath, to be their Parish Church. In 1583 after rebuilding of the 'Abbey', the churches of St.Mary de Stalls, with St.Thomas à Becket, appendant, and others were consolidated as one Rectory of Bath and were served by the Abbey, the final transfers being completed by 1606¹².

The Widcombe Parish register of 1574-99 records 21 Tythings in the Parish. The first of these is '1 - The liveing behind the Church' with a later note adding 'Now Mr.Colthurst', which would appear to be the site purchased by Allen in 1728. This tithing is the only one, except 'The Church Ground' (possibly Church Field in Lyncombe valley) that has no person's name attached and could well have belonged to St.Mary de Stalls and been used by a Curate. The holding involved might have become redundant when the Abbey became the Rectory and been acquired by one of the three Colthursts in the Tything list, or possibly one of the Fishers¹³. St.Thomas à Becket continued to be served by the Abbey until 1855 when the parish was given its own vicar.

There is therefore a strong possibility that 'the messuage and orchard' sold by Colthurst to Allen was originally a Priest's House and garden.

On the other hand it has often been suggested that the Priest's House was where Widcombe Manor stands today. However, the location is not as convenient as the Garden House, being separated from the Church by the trackway and possibly having been part of a major farm holding. The site of the Manor is second in the tithing list '2 - The Fishers' with the later note 'Now late Mr.Scarborough Chapman'. Deeds of 1628 and 1631¹⁴ refer to 'The Grand deed of the Farme at Witcombe...' occupied by Robert Fisher, and to 'All that mess(uage) by the church in Lyncombe and Widcombe heretofore in the tenure and occupation of Robert Fisher deceased father of the said Robert Fysher by estimation land meadow and pasture, 98 acres...' This is almost certainly the land referred to in the 1599 tithing. Later the Widcombe Manor property was inherited from the Fishers by Scarborough Chapman (Chapman died in 1706, so the notes are between 1706 and 1728) and later by the Bennets.

Recent consideration on the age of the Manor suggests that there is no indication of medieval masonry and that the house was newly built by Scarborough Chapman in the late 17th century, perhaps after he received a dowry of £400 on his second marriage in 1678. The messuage referred to in the earlier deeds might have been the Fisher's farmhouse, on the site of Widcombe Lodge, where 17th century masonry

appears to have been identified.

The design and layout of the Garden House and its boundary with the churchyard, suggest that the messuage which existed on the 1/2 acre site in 1728, was on the same site. There seems to be a real possibility that this earlier building could have been a Priest's House with garden, as required by the Bishop in the 14th century. It would have been the most convenient and ideal location immediately adjoining St.Thomas à Becket Church. Was this the Priest's House from the middle ages until the late 16th century, when it was no longer needed and reverted to a simple house with half an acre of ground, later to be converted into a Garden House?

1. 'Particulars and Conditions of Sale', Auction Mart, London, 27 June 1839; and *The Survey of Bath and District* No.17, November 2002, pp.25-30
2. *The Survey of Bath and District* No.17, November 2002, p.49
3. Ralph Allen Papers, Bundle 2, 1788, 'Late Colthursts', Bath Record Office
4. *The Life of Richard Jones*, transcribed 26 Jan. 1858 by C.G., Bath Reference Library
5. *The Survey of Bath and District* No 17, November 2002, pp.49-51
6. Somerset Record Office (SRO), DD/BR/py 83
7. Mowbray A.Green, *The Eighteenth Century Architecture of Bath*, 1904, p.44
8. W.H. Devenish, *A Souvenir Calendar of Quotations for Widcombe, Bath*, 1925, p.6
9. Cf. *Calendar of the Register of John de Drokensford, Bishop of Bath and Wells*, Somerset Record Society [SRS], Vol.1, 212
10. Devenish, *ibid*, p.6.
11. Devenish, *ibid*, pp.6-7. Cf. also *Somerset Medieval Wills*, SRS Vol.21, p.145, Will of Nicholas Jobbyn, 1552
12. Devenish, *ibid*, p.7; and B.Cunliffe, *The City of Bath*, p.99
13. Rev.C.W.Shickle, transcript of the register of the parish of Widcombe, typescript
14. SRO, DD/BR/py 83 and SRO C/434 5/b 1219



The Garden House.

Photograph:
Mowbray A.Green, 1904.

THE BATHEASTON BUILDINGS SURVEY 2000-2002

Ron Russell

Introduction

The Batheaston Society is undertaking a measured survey of the buildings of Batheaston. The criterion for survey is portrayal of the building on the 1840 Tithe Map, in so far as it still survives, without distinction as to type or usage of the property. We are interested in so-called vernacular dwellings, gentry houses, commercial, industrial and agricultural structures. The first stage of the survey has been completed with just over 50 representative properties recorded out of the 160 or so buildings to be ultimately surveyed. The first stage of the project was largely financed by the Local Heritage Initiative scheme which enabled us to engage the professional services of Mike Chapman and to publish our findings on the internet.

The aims of the survey are, firstly, to establish a date, as near as can be, for the original construction of individual properties. Here documentary evidence plays its part but it has limitations. For instance, in earlier times properties lacked addresses as we understand them today or the structure referred to in the documentation may not be the one visible today even if on the same site and, indeed, the usual problem with vernacular buildings, there may be no early documentation at all. Thus the importance of a physical survey to assess age. Of greater interest is our second aim to establish a property's developmental history. Buildings are not static; they are subject to alterations, extensions, changing usages and new fashions as revealed through structural surveys. Analysis of these structural changes will throw some light on the economic and social changes through which Batheaston has been, and is, passing – our third and ultimate aim. The survey is clearly a long term project and we are still a long way from achieving our third aim but we felt that the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath might be interested in a brief account of some of our findings so far and an indication of our methodology.

The village of Batheaston

Batheaston is in the far north-east of Somerset closely bordered by Gloucestershire to the north and Wiltshire to the east. It is less than three miles from the centre of Bath. Despite 20th century developments, notably the Elmhurst Estate, Batheaston is recognisably a linear village. It stretches eastwards, from the Bath side (Townsend) along the Fosse Way and the north bank of the River Avon with a branch northwards (Northend) along the west bank of the St.Catherine's Brook (fig.1). Geologically it lies on the Upper and Middle Lias flanked by the high ground of the Oolite series consisting of Bannerdown to the north-east and Little Solsbury Hill, Holt's Down and Charmy Down to the north-west. The total area is about 1800 acres. The population is around 3,300. Dairy and cattle farming and market gardening retain some residual importance but the majority of the working population look to Bath and further afield for employment.

The character of the village

Batheaston was never a closed village subject to the dictates of a dominant local landowning family deciding who should come and go, how they should earn their living or how they should be accommodated. Batheaston is a large parish, even larger before local government boundary changes in



Fig.1 Batheaston (Greenwood's Map, 1822)

the second half of the 20th century transferred large areas of the parish to the City of Bath. In 1840 the largest landowner by far, William Eleazer Pickwick, owned only 224 acres in Batheaston and he was an absentee landowner. 14 landowners held between 42 and 152 acres each and these included the Batheaston Freeholders, Oriel College, Oxford, and Bath General Hospital. The great majority of landowners, 117 of them, owned less than 40 acres each. This appears to have always been the case. Batheaston had no manor house, in the Middle Ages the village was not coterminous with a manor – in fact, there appear to have been three manors. The various lords were content to exploit Batheaston at a distance. As long as the smallholders paid their dues and fines they were largely left to their own devices (Dobbie, 1969, p.13-14).

The population of Batheaston is mobile. There is no long lasting family (Dobbie, 1969, p.61). Good communications and the proximity to Bath have aided mobility. Until 1995 a major road ran through Batheaston based upon the Roman Fosse Way, which, in turn, became one of the first turnpike roads in England and, later, the A4. The people of Batheaston have never been isolated, never remote from new influences - and within three miles of the economically important and fashionable Bath. Perhaps significantly, of the three villages to the east of Bath with the prefix Bath in its name, only Batheaston seems to have consistently borne the prefix since early medieval times (Dobbie, 1969, p.10).

Over the centuries the changing mix of the inhabitants of Batheaston have left their individual marks on the properties in which they live or work by rebuilding, extending, re-fronting or rearranging them to meet changing economic and social conditions. The ‘unspoilt’ property in Batheaston is a rarity. It is instructive to compare Batheaston with another village very close to Bath, Newton St.Loe. In the buildings survey conducted by John Dallimore (2001), the picture emerges of a closed village dominated for generations by its local squire or lord exercising personal power over the community from the manor house. This village displays all the expected features of a closed village – small, rural and remote with tenanted properties and ‘unspoilt’.

The changing plan of the village.

Dobbie (1969, p.4) states that the village was originally nucleated with an ancient centre of farmhouses clustered around the parish church and surrounded by cultivated fields and pastures. With the development of a market economy, the village spread southwards towards the commercial High Street area and the village assumed its ultimate linear plan. It is here, then, around the church, in the area now known as Northend, that the oldest properties should be found. Indeed, the church is the oldest structure in the village but it has no apparent fabric earlier than the 15th century; the tower, of the ‘Winford generation’, was probably built about 1458 (Wright, 1981, p.102). Otherwise no structure older than the late 16th century has been identified in the vicinity of the church and this, appropriately enough, is Church Cottage, the former homestead of Church Farm.

Most of the village’s old farmhouses are considerably removed from the village ‘centre’, mainly deep in the St.Catherine’s valley. This may, of course, be the result of past agricultural re-organisation. Batheaston never experienced an enclosure movement in the sense of a traumatic change enforced by improving landowners aided by a parliament highly representative of the land-owning interest. Enclosure appears to have been a piece-meal and poorly recorded affair as land was exchanged between willing small landowners and tenants to create compact holdings. The old village centre homesteads would have been abandoned and fallen into decay as farmers built new homesteads on their new compact holdings (Rowley, 1994, p.118). Radford Farm (late 16th century) and Upper Northend Farm (built about 1620-1630), both surveyed properties, and Old House Farm, not surveyed, could fit this pattern.

Alternatively, as suggested by R.J.Brown (1982, pp.23-24), the ancient farmhouses of a nucleated village, such as Batheaston may have been, would have been close together with their frontages parallel to the road and occupying the full width of their sites. Such houses would have been small and relatively flimsy. Consequently, when they were replaced by more substantial houses of stone on the same sites in the late 16th or early 17th centuries the builders, of necessity, had to construct them gable end to the road. Greensleeves, Pine Cottage-Cherry Tree Cottage, the Thatched Cottages (Fig.2), now demolished, and

Monks Rest, all near to the church, could fit this pattern.



Fig.2 The ‘Thatched Cottages’ as they appeared in a sketch of 1939. Demolished despite their listed status.

No trace of the ‘ancient’ village is discernible, however, and one must be aware that ‘In many cases the relationship between the church and the village cannot be determined by observation or even documentation’ (Rowley, 1994, p.159). As it stands the survey of buildings at the junction of the High Street and Brow Hill has revealed a number of late 16th century and early 17th century properties (masked by late 17th to early 20th century alterations and extensions) at least as old and as numerous as in Northend, and as important; possibly of regional importance. Nos. 16 & 17 The Batch may have been built as one house in the early 17th century, probably for a prosperous merchant, and appear to have been designed as a ‘divided house’, that is accommodation for the owner on one side of the house and a branch of the family on the other side, the two sides being separated by an inter-communicating passage but each side with its own entry and staircase. Such houses are rare in England; ‘Englishmen find it difficult to share’ (Colin Platt, 1994, p.178).

However, no property older than about 1590 or so has yet been revealed (the medieval window shown in fig.19, noted in a building which was not surveyed, may have been acquired as a result of ‘recycling’). Batheaston properties appear to conform to the ‘Great Rebuilding’, or, rather, ‘Rebuildings’ thesis. Under the stimulus of economic, social and technological change from the late 16th century the nation’s villages started to change and rebuild, a rebuilding temporarily checked by the Civil War but resumed on the Restoration in the late 17th century and continuing in periods of activity ever since. What the village of Batheaston looked like before the late 16th – early 17th century we do not know and may never know.

Agricultural, commercial and industrial buildings of Batheaston

In relation to agricultural activities in Batheaston, past and present, three barns have been surveyed; one of which is still in active farm use, although soon to be converted into a dwelling, one is semi derelict although, again, scheduled for conversion into a dwelling, and the last has already been converted into a studio although its former agricultural usage is still discernible. Four other barns are believed to be extant in Batheaston but three of these have already been converted into residences. As befits a pasture economy, one of the surveyed barns is of the combination type, that is a ground floor area for keeping animals and an elevated platform area for storage (Fig.3), one is a traditional threshing barn with large opposed doors and other is a threshing barn converted to keep cattle. None of the surveyed barns proved to be earlier than the late 18th century.



Fig.3 A late 18th century combination barn

The animal pound (Fig.4), one of two known to have been in Batheaston, has survived and has been recorded. On the basis of documentary evidence it is probably still upon its original medieval site although this could not be demonstrated by the physical survey as it has been constantly repaired, and even rebuilt, over the centuries. The whereabouts of the second pound is not yet known.



Fig.4 The pound in 1966 before its most recent rebuilding



Fig.5 The 'George & Dragon'. A former gas-lit lamp advertising home brewed beer, an activity which, alas, ceased in the 1960s.

In common with most villages, Batheaston has lost many of its High Street retail shops although the one existing shop surveyed turned out to be a series of converted cottages. Nevertheless, included in the survey are ex-shops, which have found alternative commercial or residential usage. This includes properties, which from an external examination appeared to be built solely as dwellings until an internal investigation revealed earlier commercial usage. A 19th century brew house complete with hand operated brewing equipment was also surveyed; the public house concerned, the 'George & Dragon' (Fig.5), being famed as the last in the Bath area to brew its own beer (Mike Bone, 2000, p.130).

Fig.6 Batheaston High Street from the 1840 Tithe Map showing the White Hart Inn (89), Lamb Inn (125), Red Lion Inn (122), brewery and malthouse (93) and another malthouse (128).



The 1840 Tithe Map and Apportionment Schedule for Batheaston indicated intense commercial activity in the central High Street area with three malthouses, a brewery, three inns ('White Hart', 'Lamb' and 'Red Lion'), a smithy, stables, slaughterhouse and butchery. The 'White Hart' remains as such but the other sites have been found new usages. The old butchery complex was surveyed to reveal at its core a late 16th century building which, when built, must have been of considerable status and is one of the oldest extant structures in Batheaston. By contrast, a terrace cottage dating only from about 1878 was

surveyed, the terrace being built on the site of a demolished malthouse and possibly using the re-cycled stone (Fig.6).

From at least the early 17th century to about 1820, Batheaston was part of the village-based woollen textile industry of South-West England, which was organised on an outworking basis controlled by gentlemen clothiers (Randall, 1991, pp.15-18). Early property deeds have given a glimpse of the cottage weaving trade before the advent of powered machines and factories (Fig.7).

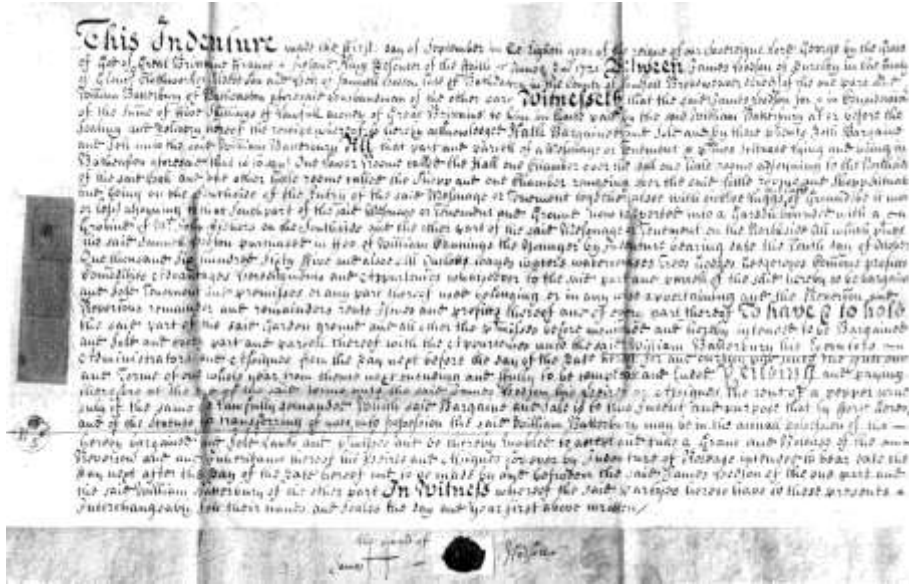


Fig.7 A property deed of 1721 naming Samuel Hodson (broadweaver of Batheaston), his son James Hodson (clothworker of Dursley) and William Batterbury (husbandman). A later deed of 1739 re-designated William Batterbury as broadweaver of Batheaston and named his trustee William Webb (sergemaker of Batheaston).



Fig.8 "Dyehouse Lane", Batheaston, showing the stables and stove house

The first woollen textile factory was built about 1799 and the owner was very quickly the recipient of a threatening letter from out-of-work hand cloth workers (Randall, 1991, p.153). But by 1823 the woollen industry in Batheaston was in terminal decline and the factory was converted to silk production until this came to an end in 1840 (Rogers, 1976, pp.167-168). By the time of the 1841 Census only two Batheaston residents professed to be still engaged in the trade – a cloth dresser and a silk worker both, appropriately enough, living at Factory Yard. But the industry has left its mark. In the opinion of Kenneth Rogers, expressed to the writer, Batheaston has probably the best preserved stove or wool drying house in the North-East Somerset and West Wiltshire area (Fig.8). Another structure believed to be a dye house, which went out of use by the early 18th century, was found nearby, together with two small wagon bridges, a stables, a filled-in mill pond, a working sluice and a wool cleansing area on the St.Catherine's brook. There is no longer any trace of the factory itself. This structure was on six floors and 100ft. long, together with another associated single storey structure of 180ft. length (Rogers, 1976, p.168).

Building materials.

Batheaston is a stone village. There are only

occasional glimpses of early timber construction; some surviving moulded oak door cases, the remnants of roof crucks, the remains of a timber framed wattle and daub internal wall and a much mutilated moulded wood fire surround is about the sum total.

Batheaston had a readily accessible supply of oolitic limestone on Bannerdown, an area which, even today, is common land managed by the Freeholders. Bannerdown stone was still being exploited for buildings as late as the 1920s. Traditionally the stone was used as rubble or as small dressed blocks and then, from about the mid 18th century, as ashlar or fine jointed dressed large blocks of stone, which, ideally, should have bed heights of 10 to 16 inches (Hill & Birch, 1994, p.47). Bricks make a rare appearance; most frequently as the top courses on ashlar stacks and sometimes for internal partition walls. Only one example of an external brick wall on a pre-19th century house has been recorded – in a prominent position in the High Street, probably erected as a fashion statement.

As a general principle, the thicker the wall the older is the building. Linda Hall, in her survey of the rural houses of north Avon and south Gloucester (1983) found that the pre-17th century houses have walls 2ft 6ins (76cms) thick or more, in 17th century houses wall thickness is up to 2ft 3ins (68cms). Pamela Slocombe (1988, p.8) found that in the limestone area around Corsham, Box and Bradford-on-Avon, 16th century houses of rubble construction have walls about 26ins thick (66cms), in 17th century houses the wall thickness is about 24ins (61cms), which by the 18th century was down to about 22ins (56cms). The Batheaston survey is showing rubble wall thicknesses of about 70-80cms for the late 16th Century to early 17th century (pre Civil War) and about 60-63cms for the mid- to late 17th century. Frequently gable end walls are thicker than the side walls and are sometimes battered, that is, the wall thickness diminishing as one travels up the building. With the use of ashlar in the 18th century walls thickness is down to 30cms or less.

Roof shapes & coverings

The old properties of Batheaston have a variety of roof shapes – pitched, gabled and mansard roofs are common.

In the 17th century Batheaston builders looked to Gloucestershire rather than Somerset for inspiration, not surprising in view of the location of the village as a far north-east Somerset border village. Batheaston is a Cotswold village with a goodly number of houses with steeply gabled front and rear elevations. Nevertheless, from the 18th century the mansard roof became popular due to the headroom it offered at attic level. The mansard roof is normal for terraces, the High Street as example where the obvious way to extend the property is to go upwards (Fig.9). Even so, mansard roofs are to be found throughout the village. Invariably the houses have raised verges laid with coping stones.



Fig.9 Batheaston High Street, 1868, drawing by J. Irvine, showing gabled, mansard and pitched roofs

Thatching was known up to at least the late 1960s when, sadly, the last 17th century thatched cottages of Batheaston were demolished, despite their listing as of architectural-historical interest. But, as befits a

stone village, stone slates were the norm deriving from the Forest Marble deposits at Bathford. Even where Welsh slates, clay tiles or other substitutes are now used there is ample evidence of former stone coverings with substantial roof timbers to bear a weight which could be of 1 ton or more of stone for every 100 sq.ft. of roof (Alec Clifton-Taylor & A.S. Ireson, 1994, p.216) and relatively steep roof slopes of 45%-50% to throw off rain water. Welsh slates and clay tiles are more watertight and do not require such steep pitches.

The plan, section and elevation

The 16th and 17th century plan types identified in Batheaston derive from medieval plans as do internal arrangements, that is, single pile, one, two or three units, cross passage (or cross entry), fireplaces against the passage wall or placed on the gable end, stairs tucked into a fireplace alcove, one and a half or two and a half storeys high (Fig.10). This pattern seems to have survived in Batheaston until about the mid-18th century. Some properties, not surprisingly existing or former farmhouses, derive from the medieval long house, that is, a three unit house where one unit (the byre) is for accommodating the farm's animals. Such houses are built upon a slope with the byre at the lower end to facilitate drainage away from the residential end. No certain example of a longhouse has been identified in Batheaston. The nearest to it is Radford Farmhouse, a three unit ex-farmhouse in the St. Catherine's valley, where the room at the lower end was known to be a dairy, which is usual in our area and considered to be a domestic rather than agricultural use of the room (R.J. Brown, 1982, p. 85). More unusually, Upper Northend Farmhouse, another three-unit farmhouse in the St.Catherine's valley, has the central room which was known to have been the dairy. This arrangement, with a hall/kitchen on one side of the dairy and a parlour on the other, is known in North Avon and South Gloucestershire and dateable to the early to mid 17th century (Linda Hall, 1983, p.17).

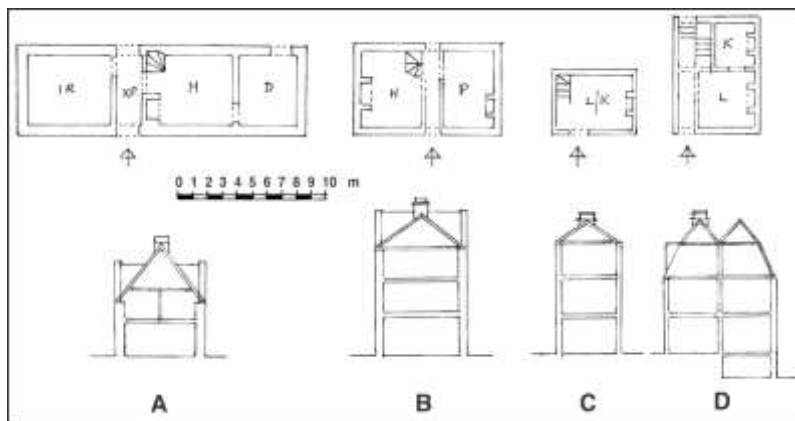


Fig.10 Plans and sections of some Batheaston Houses (ignoring later extensions)

- A) Single pile (one room deep), three-rooms in a line and cross passage (front and rear doors in line at either end of a passageway which divides the house). This is a former farmhouse of the late 16th century. The plan is derived from the medieval Somerset longhouse with accommodation for cattle at one end of the building. On 1½ storeys and with a gabled roof.
- B) Single pile, two-rooms in a line. This is a clothier's house of the mid- to late 17th century. On three storeys with an attic for storage. The roof is gabled.
- C) Single pile and of one ground floor room. In this case it is an artisan's house of the late 18th to early 19th century. On three storeys with a pitched roof.
- D) Double pile (two rooms deep). The staircase is in the entrance hall. This is a tradesperson's house of the mid- to late 18th century. On two storeys with spacious attic rooms under an 'M' shaped mansard roof.

Key to the illustration:

H = Hall. Originally the main living-cooking-sleeping room for the family and servants of medieval houses - not the vestigial entry area it became in the 18th century and as today.

IR = Inner room. The private retiring room for the family away from the crowd, noise and smell of the hall. It frequently took the form of an unheated bedchamber. In some cases

- may have later become the heated Parlour (P)
- L = Living room.
- K = Kitchen.
- D = Dairy
- XP = Cross passage. As distinct from cross entry where the front and rear doors are in opposition without a passage.

By the later 18th century, with the development of the 'M' shaped roof (Fig.10D), which made it possible to span greater spaces, the double pile plan became more common in Batheaston. At the same time, the old cross entry pattern gave way to the fashionable symmetrical and classically inspired designs, where, no doubt, the influence of Bath was important (John Wood the Elder was a Batheaston resident for a period). Even so, most of the properties surveyed conforming to these new ideas were not purpose-built but adaptations of existing structures. Thus many of the High Street houses were converted from single pile to double pile by extending backwards, or even, in some cases, forward, while some gentry village houses merely acquired a new façade (Fig.11).



Fig.11 A classical mid 18th century façade on a late 17th century house

Roof construction & dates

Houses may be refaced or otherwise altered. If any part of the structure is left alone and unvisited it is likely to be the roof space. The timbers of the roof may frequently be the best guides to date a building, even though corroborative evidence is still sought. In the main, Batheaston roofs date only from the early 17th century.

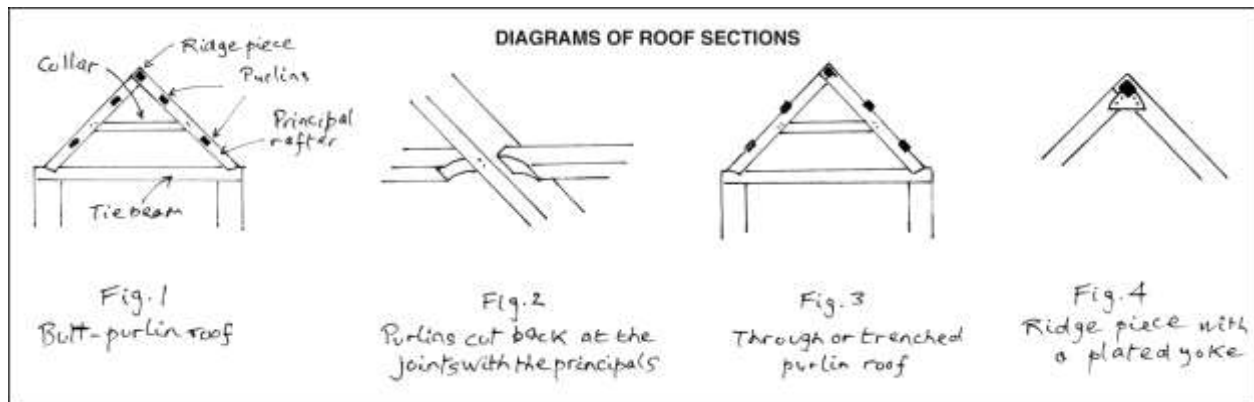


Fig.12 Diagrammatic examples of Batheaston roofs

The normal Batheaston roof is of the butt-purlin type (Fig.12.1), that is, rafters supported by purlins, which, in turn, are supported by a truss consisting of heavier principal rafters into which the purlins are jointed, a tie beam and a collar. In early 18th century roofs the purlins may be cut back at the juncture with the principals (Fig.12.2). Joints are normally oak pegged to hold them together but increasingly iron-nailed during the 18th century with iron bolts used by the end of the century.

A roof is of the through-purlin type when the purlins are carried on the back of the principals or trenched into them so that the principals do not act as common rafters to support the roof covering (Fig.12.3). The through-purlin roof is possibly an older technique than the butt-purlin roof and has been found in Batheaston, but in Linda Hall's north Avon and south Glos. Survey (1983, p.37) the majority of roofs were of the butt-purlin type by the 17th century, which accords with the Batheaston survey.

Some roofs lack the tie beam and consist only of common rafters. In Batheaston this type of roof is associated with the extended-collar roof in late 17th century gabled houses. The early 17th century fashionable gabled houses suffered the inconvenience of the truss coming down into the attic and sometimes obscuring the dormer window. This has been observed in two of the surveyed houses. A solution to the problem, favoured in the Cotswolds, was to get rid of the principals and extend the collars into the dormer; the collars in their turn being supported by heavy section purlins. This device, illustrated in Fig.13 from a late 17th century Batheaston house, cleared the attic room of superfluous roof timbers.

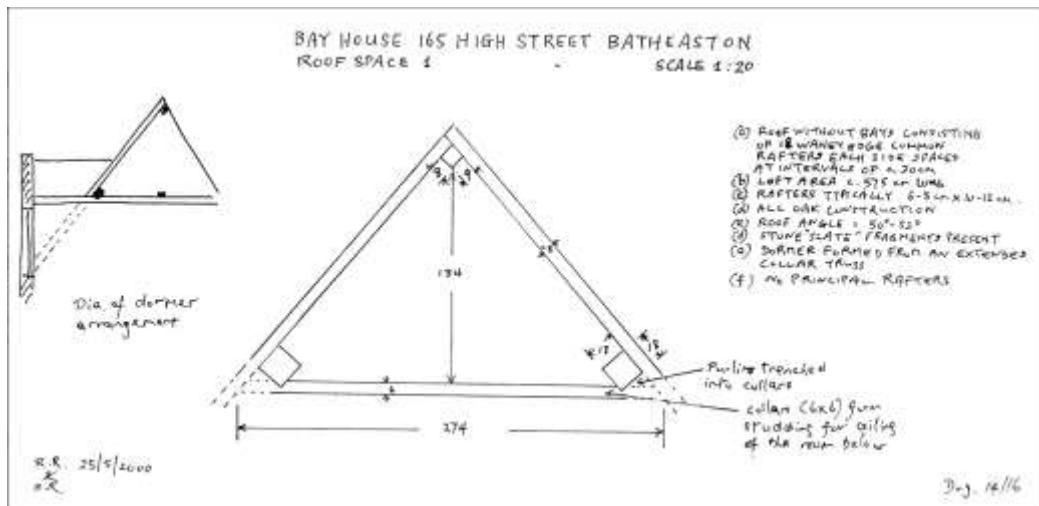
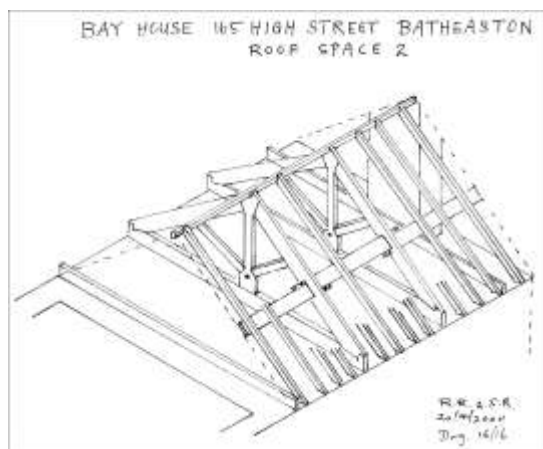


Fig.13 Survey sketch of an extended collar roof of a late 17th century house in Batheaston.

Ridge pieces set diagonally, are the norm in Batheaston from the early 17th century as, apparently, and not surprisingly, they are in west Wilts but not in east Wilts where there are different building traditions (Slocombe, 1988, p.67). In the late 17th century the tendency was to reinforce the ridges with plated yokes (Fig.12.4), a practice which continued through the 18th century.

Fig.14 King post and tusk tenon roof structure from a late 18th century Batheaston house.



There is dating evidence for the use of king post roofs and tusk tenons, from about 1765 (Fig.14). Although known for centuries earlier, the king post roof is normally regarded as a 19th century constructional feature in domestic and agricultural structures. The queen post roof (Fig.15) has only been encountered, not unexpectedly, in commercial structures – a late 18th century barn and a mid 17th century stove or wool drying house.

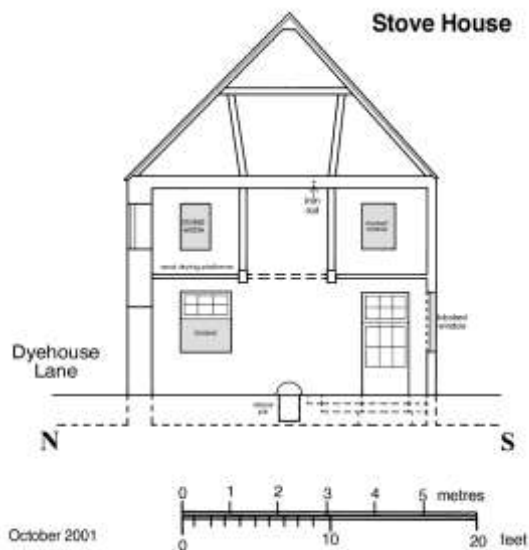


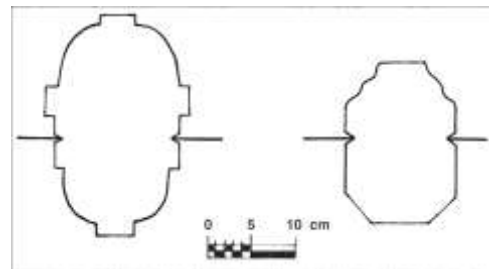
Fig.15 Section of a Batheaston mid 17th century industrial building showing its raking Queen Post roof (courtesy Mike Chapman)

The quality of the timber used in roof structures in Batheaston is variable, ranging from large section sawn pieces of about 30cm for truss construction to waney or unfinished pieces, frequently with the bark still adhering, and of slight scantling for common rafters. This may reflect the shortage of quality timber by the early 17th century – or may be the builders’ economic common sense. Similarly, many examples of re-used timber have been identified.

Carpenters’ marks are also of frequent occurrence in constructions up to the end of the 18th century, being in the form of Roman numerals incised into principals and purlins, indicating prefabrication of roof timbers on the ground and their assembly on site.

Fig.16 Examples of stone mullions from Batheaston (exterior faces are towards the top):

- (left) Ovolo, late 16th–early 17th centuries.
- (right) Ogee and chamfer, late 17th–mid 18th centuries.



Windows

As becomes a stone village, windows were stone mullioned at least from the 16th to the late 19th centuries under a variety of drip labels – straight, with returns, and continuous. The earliest moulding seems to be the ovolo section (Fig.16), found in late 16th century and early 17th century properties, sometimes with central master mullions. However, the most common moulded mullion is the internal chamfer and the external ogee section. This moulding made its appearance in Batheaston houses from about 1660 (Fig.17).

Fig.17 A complete mullion window of 1660-1665. Ogee and chamfer section stone work with thin discoloured rectangular panes of glass made up into fixed leaded lights wired onto vertically set oak stanchions



Wooden sash windows, divided into small panes by glazing bars, appear in Batheaston in the 18th century although the sashes are mainly set well back from the outside wall faces and glazing bars are relatively

slender indicative of late, rather than early, 18th century work (Cunnington, 1999, pp.157-159). There is evidence of mullions being cut out to be replaced by sash windows or, as a cheaper alternative, the mullions being replaced by wooden casements. In the latter case the original window openings are preserved, wide rather than tall. The normal Georgian window opening is taller than its width (Fig.18). In parenthesis, a number of medieval window openings, one with a trefoil head (Fig.19), have been identified in Batheaston and district. Some, but maybe not all, appear to be built into properties of a much later date; re-cycling is not a new phenomenon.



Fig.18 Window from a cottage built about 1820. Six-over-six panes within a reeded wood frame typical of the Regency period



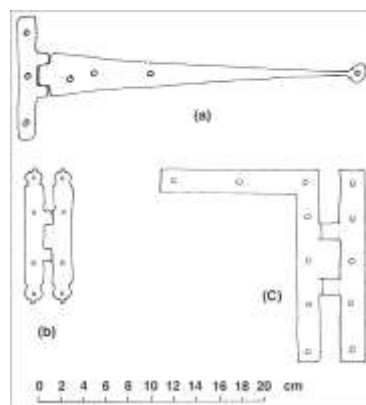
Fig.19 An unusual survival. A blocked medieval window in the rear wall of a house in the Batch, Batheaston. The house, which is not listed, has not yet been surveyed

Doors and doorcases

Latched plank and batten doors with iron strap hinges (Fig.20), 'H' hinges or 'L' hinges are common in Batheaston houses of the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries. The earlier doors are generally of oak three plank construction increasing to four and, by the early 19th century, softwood five plank doors with tongue and grooving were becoming more frequent. The better earlier doors have applied fillets and may be of double thickness if protecting an external entry. Again, hinges are generally fixed to the doors and door frames by iron nails bent over where they protruded. By the 18th century, hand forged iron screws were becoming more common and recognisable as relatively short, thick, with a coarse thread and generally with a poorly centralised slotted head; a defect not remedied until the advent of machine-made screws after about 1780.

Fig.20 Examples of door hinges from the survey:

- (a) Iron strap hinge with base plate, early 18th century**
- (b) Iron 'H' hinge, late 17th century**
- (c) Mild steel 'L' hinge, late 19th century**



By the early 18th century, more sophisticated houses were fitted with four or six panelled doors utilising hinges which would be recognised today. At about the same time

the main entry was being protected by flat stone hoods supported on moulded console brackets (Cunnington, 1999, p.153), a major feature of Batheaston houses.

A number of moulded oak doorcases have been seen with straight or arched heads (Fig.21) but, naturally in a stone area, most door surrounds are constructed of dressed stone (Fig.22).



Fig.21 The entry to a late 16th century farmhouse

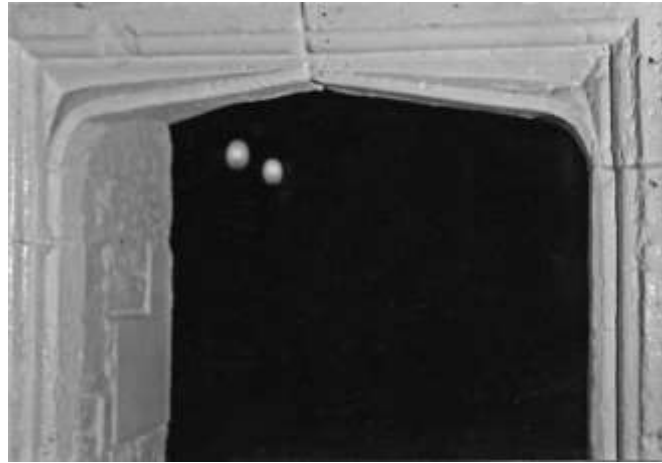


Fig.22 A moulded stone door case in a late 16th century gentleman-clothier's house

Fireplaces

One inglenook fireplace of the mid 18th century, one mutilated moulded oak fireplace of the late 16th Century (Fig.23) and, more frequently, fireplaces with straight or curved timber bressumers supported on dressed stone jambs of the 17th and 18th centuries have been encountered. But again, like the houses themselves, stone fireplaces are the norm from the early 17th century right through to the 19th century. Many of these are moulded (Fig.24) and most of them have been fitted with iron grates or ranges of a later date (Fig.25).

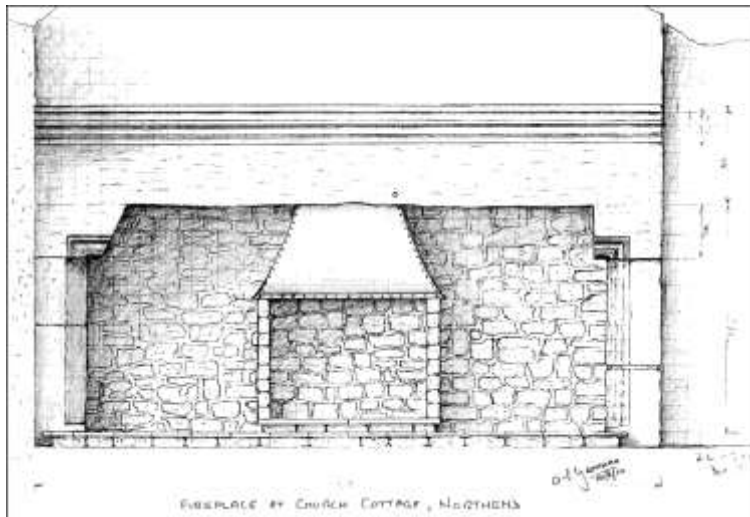


Fig.23 A moulded oak fireplace surround with mantelpiece of the late 16th century. The head of the surround was originally arched but was subsequently 'squared-off'. The jambs are of stone.



The four-centred arch for the heads of doors and fireplaces (Fig.26) is of late medieval origin and continued until the revival of classical forms largely in the 18th century. But, as pointed out by Parker (1989, p.21), it gradually took on a more and more depressed form until by the mid-16th century the sides became straight and only preserving the arch at the angle where the lintel meets the jamb. It is this debased form of the arch which was most commonly encountered in the survey.

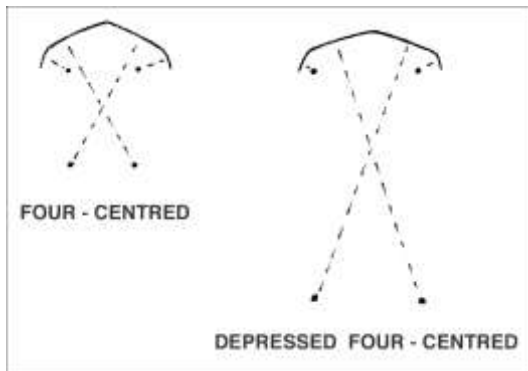


Fig.26 Construction of the four-centred and depressed four-centred arches.

Keeping witches at bay

A number of devices to keep witches and other evil influences out of the home have been encountered during the survey. Doors, windows and chimneys were at one time believed to be in need of especial protection to prevent the entry of witches. The skeleton of a cat was found buried beneath the threshold of the former vicarage (!). 'M' for Maria, Mother of God, frequently reversed as 'W' (Fig.27), has been seen incised on door jambs. This same sign has been noted in the Wiltshire surveys (Slocombe, 2001, pp.86-87).



Fig.27 'M' (or 'W') on the door jamb of an early 17th century cottage.

A stoneware bottle of early 19th century manufacture was found embedded in the earth mortar filling of a wall. This may be a late example of a witch bottle; a strategically placed bottle usually containing urine and thorns designed to cause pain to any witch trying to pass water.

Conclusion

This account has necessarily been brief and partial but, hopefully, has given some flavour of recent activities in Batheaston. Surveys of the same kind have been conducted in Newton St.Loe (Dallimore, 2001) and Stanton Prior (Mike Chapman, as yet unpublished) and one is ongoing in Bathampton.

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