

The Magazine of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.20, October 2005





THE SURVEY OF BATH AND DISTRICT

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Number 20

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Front Cover Illustration: The Great Western Railway at Twerton, by J.C.Bourne, 1846, showing Twerton Wood on the right. Further along the cutting is the gallery below Wood House, and beyond that, the mills and lock on the river below Twerton village. Bath can also be seen faintly in the distance. Below the railway several stagecoaches pass along the Lower Bristol Turnpike Road, and next to that is the river with a team of barge towing horses. The same view today is hidden by trees and undergrowth.

Back Cover: View beneath a cantilevered stone staircase in the 1729 Widcombe Poor House in Lyncombe Hill.

CITY NEWS I

Bath Record Office

Bath Record Office has come out top in a new survey of record offices across the South West. Users at all nine of the South West's record offices were asked what they thought of the services on offer in an anonymous questionnaire from the Public Services Quality Group during 2004. Opinions were sought on areas such as helpfulness of staff, the quality of the advice given, accessibility to the collection and the standard of the office's website.

The archives service overall was the best in the South West, scoring 'very good' among 88 percent of users, the other 12% of users rating it 'good'. Most notable were the helpfulness and friendliness of staff and quality and appropriateness of staff's advice, with an overwhelming 98 percent 'very good' score. The website content for advance information also scored particularly highly.

The survey reveals some surprising statistics, for example, that Bath archive has the highest number of business users in the South West. One in three users intend to publish the results of their research and one in four to use the information for an exhibition or public lecture, both exceptionally high results. The archive office also had the highest number of longstanding and local users, suggesting that the study of local history is more valued in Bath than anywhere else in the West Country.

Although achieving the best overall score, there were areas where the Record Office scored less positively against other services in the South West. This included the physical accessibility to the site, IT facilities and microfilm viewing provision. Since the survey, steps have been taken to improve facilities for users by installing two free public internet points, and two additional microfiche viewers in a new dedicated fiche-viewing area. This exceptional quality of service is set against one of the lowest staff to visitor ratios in the country. Other Record Offices in the West Country have three times more members of staff per visitor than Bath.

Readers with internet access at home may be interested to know that they can access and search online approximately 50% of the Record Office holdings, including the extensive Council deed collection. The database is shared with the Somerset Record Office, and can be accessed via a link from Bath Record Office website <www.batharchives.co.uk>.

Colin Johnston

The Museum of Bath at Work

The Museum of Bath at Work has just opened its new exhibition called *Bath 1945-50 The Exhausted City*, and I was able to attend the launch at the Museum. The exhibition looks at how the City coped with its problems after the War, and covers the difficult phase of returning Servicemen wanting change, food rationing getting worse, even bread and potatoes scarce, housing shortages due to the Blitz, power cuts and coal rationing. To cap it all, appalling weather conditions in winter 1947, when heavy snow falls and icy conditions lasted more than two months.

But things started to improve when the National Health Act came in. Town planning came to the fore, and new housing estates were built. Also new education plans promised a better future for the young. The Mayor of Bath and a number of guests attended the opening and were impressed by the quality of the material. Stuart Burroughs had worked hard as usual to produce an interesting exhibition. Congratulations to him.

The exhibition is at the Museum until April 2006 and well worth a visit. There is also a CD.ROM which features the display, with filmed interviews of local residents and museum staff; this will be sent out when ready, free, to historical groups and schools.

Ruth Haskins

Bath 1945-50 The Exhausted City 11 August 2005 - 1 April 2006 Museum of Bath at Work, Julian Road, Bath BAl 2RH Phone; 01225-318348 Website: bath-at-work.org.uk

Wartime Memories

A number of successful activities were carried out. Ruth Haskins, author of the report on Stuart Burroughs' exhibition above, gave two much appreciated talks at the Guildhall. Alan Williams, now a member of the Friends, reported in the *Chronicle* Letters page, 24 August, that the Bath at War walks organised by the Mayor's Guides had been a great success. Over 200 attended the walks up to that date, with one more to go on 27 August. Alan also arranged a special walk for the Friends.

The Victoria Art Gallery mounted an exhibition entitled 'Blitzed! War Artists in Bath', assembled by David McLaughlin, with a booklet to accompany it. A selection of wartime paintings and drawings was on view, and also photographs from the National Buildings Record and pictures from the Recording Britain project.

The exhibition received very good notices, including a detailed discussion by Dr.Mary Ede in the newsletter of the History of Bath Research Group. This is available in the Record Office and Central Library for those who would like to study the subject further.

Retiral of Conservation Architect

On Saturday 20 August, the *Chronicle* ran a feature on the retiral of David McLaughlin as Conservation Architect. He will be joining Kate Ross in research on 'the structural and social history of buildings' carried out by the enterprise 'The House Historians'. The article discussed several outstanding examples of David's work over the years. For instance he worked on the Bladud statue in the King's Bath; a report on this is lodged in Bath Record Office. Again, this is a very interesting study for anyone who would like to brush up or David's career - we hope he was pleased with it! One small point we did think the paper had wrong: the Ralph Allen cottages which were saved from demolition were those in Prior Park Road, not De Montalt Road. The Council wished to remove them and plant a grassy strip with benches where old folk could sit and watch the traffic whizz past. We knew well the developer who bought them for £1, after pressure had insisted they be saved. As far as we know, these were the houses in the Withy Bed of early records. The millstream at that point has long been covered over.

BRLSI

The BRLSI has been staging a successful series of lunchtime lectures, in which members of the Friends have taken part. On 13 January John Wroughton spoke on 'Stuart Bath: Life in the Forgotten City'. On 10 March Peter Davenport gave a talk on 'Medieval Bath Uncovered', and on 14 April, Mike contributed 'The Lost Streams of Bath'. On the 13 October Doreen Collyer discussed the 19th century in Widcombe, with the aid of a map of Claverton Street.

This series of talks was planned to feature the different local history societies, with whatever contributions they wished to make. Next year the BRLSI plans a series of evening talks covering the history of Bath, and members of the Friends have again been booked. We understand that Stephen Clews will speak on Roman Bath, and Peter Davenport on Roman and Saxon Bath. Dr.John Wroughton will cover Tudor and Stuart Bath. Trevor Fawcett of the HBRG will deal with the 18th century.

With all the work which has been done by local history societies, it is now possible for city groups to draw on first-class research on different Bath subjects, as part of the interest in local history which has sprung up all over the country.

CITY NEWS II: ARCHAEOLOGY

As Marek Lewcun announced at the Friends' AGM, Bath Archaeological Trust has given up archaeological fieldwork. The trust was formally wound up at the end of September 2005. Michael Heaton of ASI Heritage Consultants tells us that he has 'taken on several of their projects which will result in substantive field work within the next year'. He hopes to be able to report to us for the next issue of the *Survey*. Others have also promised to report on any work they may carry out. We regret the passing of the days when Marek Lewcun gave us one comprehensive report, but hope that this will not mean losing track of what is going forward in the realm of Bath archaeology.

Peter Davenport, Director of Excavations of the Trust, is now working for Oxford Archaeology. Peter writes to say that OA have taken over a fair bit of the work that BAT was doing. They have recently finished an archaeological evaluation at the corner of Twerton High Street and Shophouse Lane, once part of the medieval core of the village, where one small trench picked up clear evidence of a late 17th century building - superseded by the one that was recently demolished.

Work is also going on at De Montalt Mill, Combe Down, where significant discoveries underground have been found which are still being assessed. The buildings, which will eventually be turned into flats/houses, are all being carefully recorded. A full photographic record is also being made at St.Martin's Hospital, and consultation is being provided on work at the Octagon Chapel, the Main Post Office, and the Old Royal United Hospital Building. Other projects are looming.

Oxford Archaeology: Combe Down Mines

Oxford Archaeology have continued to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief upon the emergency stabilisation works at Combe Down Mines, Bath. The work has been ongoing since April 2001 and during this time OA has maintained a regular watch, usually on a daily basis. The underground workings which collectively make up what is today the Combe Down Stone Mines are situated below the central, Conservation Area, of the Combe Down Ward, about two kilometres south of the City of Bath. A large proportion of the Ward has been quarried, both by surface and by undermining over a long period of time, but mainly between 1730 and 1860 when they were the source of freestone for the 'golden age' of Bath.

During the access and emergency works Oxford Archaeology has produced large-scale plans of visible areas and substantial photography has been carried out as the modern roadways allowed access. There have also been trials of video photography and laser scanning, so that a substantial record has been produced of some 20% of the known workings. This is being produced in both written and digitised form to allow public as well as specialist appraisal.

Although far from complete, it has been tentatively possible to divide the workings into five main time phases, including those carried out in the lifetime of Ralph Allen, the mid 18th century entrepreneur who was responsible for the first large scale exploitation of the Combe Down mines. Information about surface innovation had been established earlier, but it is possible now to demonstrate that the underground workings were also carried out systematically, and that substantial innovation took place underground also. It is not yet fully clear, however (because of the lack of comparative information) to what extent this was autonomous, or whether it was brought in from outside: possibly the 18th century saw internal innovation, but in the 19th it was imported, notably from the very fast-growing Wiltshire competitors.

It has been possible to differentiate a range of different pillar forms and techniques of exploitation which has allowed some six time phases (allowing for some overlap) of activity to be determined, to such a degree that it is now possible to begin to hypothesise about individual quarries within the workings. It should be possible to identify the quarrymasters (freemasons) of some of these by comparison with known and likely historical information. As well as features and artefacts directly related to the quarrying activities, there are also many examples of contemporary graffiti which provide an invaluable source of dating evidence as well as providing valuable insight into the social context in which the miners worked.

Ianto Wain Oxford Archaeology

DISTRICT

Bath and Northeast Somerset Streetscape Survey

As will be seen below in **Publications**, the Bath and North East Somerset Streetscape Manual is now available. To improve the quality of the District's public areas, its aim is to act as a guide for future changes in the streetscape that will take into account its historical preservation. To this end, the Manual contains a section entitled 'Overview of the District's Streetscape History and Character', produced by Mike Chapman, which follows the Historic Streetscape Surveys of Bath and Norton-Radstock carried out in previous years.

The overview firstly examines the ancient origins of streets in this area and how their patterns developed generally in an organic way, with the growth of trade routes, fairs and markets, but often as a result of deliberate planning by local magnates. These patterns were in turn progressively modified by changes in administration, technology, and the expansion of population, particularly during the time of the Turnpike Trusts. Two maps are included, to show the network of roads administered by the eight trusts that once operated in the district in general, and by the Bath Trust in particular.

The wide geological diversity of the area, which determines the appearance of the street frontages as well as the road surfaces, is also discussed. The Oolitic, Liassic and Carboniferous Limestones, the Triassic and Pennant Sandstones, Midford Sand, Alluvial Gravel, and even Coal Tar and Copper Slag, were all available locally, arguably producing the most diverse streetscape scenery in the country. Again, a map is included showing the characteristic areas of traditional building stone in the district, together with the location of the principal quarries and limeworks. With these materials the area also developed its own practices - in the construction of pitched surfaces (particularly in the use of stone setts and flagstones), in the laying patterns of footwalks and causeways, and in methods of street cleaning and maintenance. Of course, as the national transport systems expanded, this local individuality has tended to disappear with the importation of 'foreign' materials and the use of manufactured materials such as asphalt, concrete and brick.

The study finally deals with the development of street furniture which has became increasingly necessary, whether for traffic management (spur-stones, bollards, railings, street signs, traffic lights, etc.), improved amenities (lighting systems, nameplates, letterboxes, phone-booths, drinking fountains and water troughs), or simply for ornamental and commemorative purposes, such as tree planting, park benches and war memorials.





Varieties of laying-patterns found in pitched walkways throughout the district, at Chew Magna (left) and Newton St.Loe (right)

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.

The Survey has begun creating maps for the use of the Spa Visitor Centre. It has completed a map of the Spa buildings in the early 1830s, using contemporary plans of the baths buildings held by the Record Office, and has also created a text. It is hoped to lodge this material at the Record Office as well as the Visitor Centre. Further maps are in production.

Mike Chapman continues his study of Dr.Wilkinson and his activities, and recently visited the archives at Nottingham University. We hope that the Survey will one day be able to produce an article on Wilkinson and the Kingston Baths, and on his other development projects. We received the B&NES grant for launching the series *Records of Bath History*, and hope to bring out a volume of transcripts on the Ralph Allen estate, with a reprint of the Ralph Allen Map.

The Friends of the Survey of Old Bath

An audience of about 50 attended the Lunchtime Lecture on 28 October at St.Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick, recently re-arranged and redecorated. Marek Lewcun, Vice-Chairman, conducted the meeting as Mrs.Denise Walker was unable to be present. Giles White, PR consultant to the Spa, explained his work for the venture. He had of course hoped that his talk would coincide with the newly opened Spa building, but this was not to be. David McLaughlin then discussed the 1662 Schellinks' painting of the King's Bath. John Wroughton, President of the Friends, thanked both speakers for their interesting offerings.

This event has been described in the March 2005 Newsletter by the Secretary Neil Cridland. The Secretary has also circulated Minutes of the AGM on 27 April 2005. With the resignation of Mrs.Denise Walker, Colin Johnston was appointed Chairman. As Marek Lewcun had also resigned, Stephen Marks was elected in his place. Rose Brown has also resigned. The new Chairman presented a book token to Mrs.Walker and spoke about her long connection with the Friends.

Mike Chapman gave a talk on 'Dr.Wilkinson - Early 19th Century Science in Bath'. His talk has been fully covered in the Minutes. Mike hopes one day to bring out a study of Dr.Wilkinson's work, his connection with the Kingston Baths, his Pump Rooms and so on. Colin Johnston thanked Mike for his talk, while Mrs.Walker thanked all those who had contributed to the running of the meeting.

A Wartime Walk for the Friends was organised by Alan Williams, Friends member and ex-Chairman of the Mayor's Corps of Honorary Guides. About 10 members of the Friends turned out to enjoy this tour.

The next Lunchtime Lecture is scheduled for 27 October 2005, at St.Mary's Church Hall, with a lecture by Dr.Jean Brushfield on 'Revisiting the Past – what Jane Austen saw'. 12-2p.m, lecture commencing 1p.m. Dr.Susan Sloman will be addressing the Friends at the next AGM on Friday 21 April 2006 on her latest research.

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group

A business meeting was held on 14 April 2005. Doreen Collyer has now stepped down from leading the group, but Margaret Burrows and others have taken over. Fay Briddon continues as Treasurer. Owen Ward gave a talk on 'Milling in Lyncombe and Widcombe' which beside the traditional mills such as Bennet's on Prior Park Road and Gibbs' Mill by the Avon, included Wickstead's Jewelling Mill and Thimble Mill by the canal.

Thursday 12 May saw a programme of slides of sites in Widcombe and Lycombe, with a quiz on the location of some. On Monday 6 June the group held a joint meeting with the Bathwick Local History Society, a walk around the Abbey Cemetery led by Andrew Ellis.

On Thursday 14 July Margaret Burrows held a meeting at her home in Widcombe Crescent, as an anniversary of the building of the terrace. Wine and refreshments were served on the patio followed by a talk by Margaret with slides of the Crescent. The meeting was attended by local residents as well as members of the group.

Thursday 22 September was devoted to a talk by Malcolm Hitchcock on 'The Story of Bath's Allotments', with an exhibition of pictures. On 13 October Doreen Collyer gave the presentation at the BRLSI already mentioned in our pages.

On 10 November the group expects Father Peter Cornwell to speak about his new publication on Prior Park, while for 8 December there will be the usual 'Mince Pie Evening' when members will bring objects of interest to discuss.

The group meets at St.Mark's Community Centre, St.Mark's Road, at 7.30p.m. Contact numbers: Margaret Burrows 480749; Fay Briddon 310127; Doreen Collyer 311723; Archivists: Jenny and Tim McGrath 447204

The History of Bath Research Group

Dr.Mary Ede has now stepped down as Chairman, and Dr.Michael Rowe has been appointed in her place, Philippa Bishop has become Newsletter Editor. Marek Lewcun and Julia Moss have also resigned from the committee. Bill Hanna has become Meetings Secretary.

On 13 October 2004 the group met at the Museum of Bath at Work, where Amy Frost discussed the exhibition created by herself and Cathryn Spence on John Wood and the creation of Georgian Bath, mounted at the Building of Bath Museum. This included artefacts such as pieces of carved stone, and architectural documents. A model of Wood's plan for the 'Royal Forum' south of the South Parade was included in the exhibition.

The meeting on 18 November was held at Manvers Street Baptist Church, where the Reverend Eric Chandler spoke on the archives of the church. Rev.Chandler had created a very interesting display of documents which the audience examined attentively after his talk.

The meeting proposed for 11 January was cancelled due to the reorganisation of the Library. On 16 February at the Museum of Bath at Work Mike Tabb spoke on the history of Bathford Mill, owned in 1639 by Thomas Fisher. The Tabb family became connected with the mill, which was noted for paper-making, in 1890.

This was followed on 15 March 2005, at St.Stephen's Lansdown, by a talk by Owen Ward on the De Montalt Paper Mill at Combe Down. This mill has had different uses during its lifetime and has lately been in a run-down state, as already reported to the Friends of the Survey of Old Bath by Marek Lewcun.

At the AGM on 13 April 2005 Pauline Hanna gave a report on the study of Beechen Cliff Road and Prospect Place, on which she had already addressed the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group, with much interesting detail on the social structure of the area. Dr.Michael Rowe discussed slides of intriguing miniatures of the Pulteney family.

The group also held walks.

The Bathwick Local History Society

In September 2004 the society launched its first publication *Bathwick ... A Forgotten Village*. 1000 copies were printed and to date over 700 of these have been sold. In May of this year, inspired by this success, twenty-one members of the society journeyed to Raby Castle, Co. Durham to present a copy of our book to Lord Barnard who graciously accepted it for the Castle library. The visit was much enjoyed by all, especially as many of the original Pulteney plans and documents relating to the history of Bathwick are kept in the archives there. By special arrangement a selection of these were made available for us to see. We also saw pieces of furniture and plate believed to have come from Bath House, Piccadilly, the home of the Pulteneys, which was subsequently demolished although the exact date is unknown.

In June we joined the Widcombe & Lyncombe History Study Group at Abbey Cemetery where we were treated to an excellent tour of the graveyard led by Andrew Ellis and Alistair Durie. A number of people buried in this place had various links with Bathwick. A walk in Bathwick in July rounded off our programme for the first half on this year and we now look forward to our Autumn programme of events which will include a talk by Dr.John Wroughton entitled 'Stuart Bath: Life in the Forgotten City, 1603-1714'.

For further information or enquiries: 01225 463902 or 460389.

Sheila Edwards July 2005

South Stoke Parish Local History Group

Churchwardens' Accounts

Towards the end of 2004 the Group received a CDROM of the two volumes of the Churchwardens' Accounts for the Church of St.James the Great, South Stoke, from the Somerset Record Office, Taunton.

Our objective is now to transcribe both volumes encompassing c.1650-1889 - in all over 500 pages.

We decided to start transcription with Volume 2 as the hand script in that volume is less difficult to read. Alongside the transcription the Group is preparing a general index and a name index so that the contents, to be published on CD.ROM or DVD, will be fully searchable. So far we have transcribed and indexed 100 pages and we anticipate that work on Volume 2 will be completed by the end of 2005.

The accounts are complete and detailed, offering a glimpse of the social and economic history of the parish of South Stoke over almost 250 years. Early impressions show an obsession with the extermination of what were considered 'vermin' including sparrows, foxes, hedgehogs and stoats. Clearly some parishioners supplemented their incomes from the bounties paid for the remains of these creatures. The levy of the parish rate is given in detail, highlighting the major land users. Church, pound and stocks repairs are also frequent entries. When the transcription is complete we shall embark upon an analysis of all aspects of this microcosm.

Robert Parfitt

Weston Local History Society

Reporting on another very busy year at Weston Local History Society. The Bicentennial of Nelson gave us all food for thought. The Society enjoyed a talk by local and national expert Louis Hodgkin whose lecture focussed on Nelson's life in Bath. Reports appeared in the *Bath Journal* 22 April 1801 of the defeat of the Danish fleet at the battle of Copenhagen, and again the *Bath Journal* reported on the news of the battle of Trafalgar in October 1805 and how Bath responded with great generosity for relief for sailors' and marines' widows and orphans - £915 was donated by the people of Bath. This was followed up with a walk around Bath viewing and discussing many of the houses Nelson and his father stayed in during his many visits to our city.

Another highlight of our 12 monthly meetings was a visit to St.Fagan's, the National Museum of Wales.

This was a full day – there was so much to see that a follow-up visit would be recommended. For 2006 our calendar is again filled with a variety of stimulating talks.

We meet 3rd Monday of every month at Weston Parish Hall, Weston, Bath. Further details from; Prue Brice, Secretary. Phone 01225 315342

The Combe Down Heritage Society

This has been an exciting and busy year for the Society. Though, as a 'Heritage Group', the core members had been involved in historical research for several years, in October 2004 we were inaugurated as a Society. We wanted to have a wider community involvement and saw the need for a more formal relationship with other bodies. Membership grew rapidly and by July 2005 we numbered over 140. The Committee of nine meets every month or two, depending on current activities. Our funds are from a modest membership subscription plus donations and, because of our involvement with the stone mines activity, we are supported by a small grant from the Council.

Activities have been on a broad base with research into -

- A record of all buildings in Combe Down.
- The Oral History of Combe Down.
- A Survey and description of the Drungs.
- A Survey of historic public realm features.
- The Byfield Mine.
- Surface features of mines.
- The Roman Villa.

Programmes are run by Committee members with the involvement of a number of members. Progress reports and details of other Society activities are available at the Stone Mines Information Centre.

We have had five public meetings which included four lectures, two from guest speakers, which have been well attended and a lively forum for discussion. Our Chair has given a talk at the BRLSI and we took part in the Bath History Fest 2004. We have also run four Guided Walks, one of these, now an annual event, being part of the 'Bath Open Week' programme. The Society publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Education is an important element of our work and we are involved with the local schools.

Later in 2005 the Society will produce two publications. *A History of the Byfield Mine* by Dick Irving is a finely produced and beautifully illustrated story of the mine with enthralling accounts of its owners and its operation throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. A less ambitious project is a booklet on *The Roman Villa at Combe Down*, giving the Victorian antiquaries' discoveries and illustrated with pictures of numerous coins and household artefacts which are still held. Details of both of these are available from the Chair or Secretary and discounts are available to members.



Combe Down stone mine. Vast cavities undermine the village One important reason for originally forming the Heritage Group was the plan to stabilise the underground stone quarries and the vital need to look ahead to the presentation and display of all aspects of the mining history which is the main reason for the village's existence. We believe that facilities for this should be based in Combe Down and that it must include entrance to some of the mine and incorporate the whole sociological and cultural past as well as the physical features. To this end we are in ongoing discussions with a number of bodies, not least the Council and those working with it on the in-filling of the underground passageways.

We acknowledge support from The Combe Down Stone Mines Community Association and the Council's Stone Mines Project who give us the facilities of the Information Centre in the middle of the village to display our notices. There is a Yellow Box File in the Centre with reports on our activities and details of future meetings.

Visitors are most welcome at all our lectures and public meetings. Membership costs £3 (students £1, families £7) which puts you on our mailing list.

Rosemary Simmons, Chairman

Contact: Malcolm Aylett, Secretary, 13 Williamstowe BA2 5EJ phone: 01225 833681. email: m.aylett@homecall.co.uk



From the cover of Richard Irving's Book: 'Free Stone Quarries. View near Bath. Somersetshire', 1791, drawn and engraved by J.Hassall. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath)

LETTERS PAGE

Letters Editor: Leslie Holt

Bath 7 June 2005

Dear Leslie,

The various celebrations taking place this summer to remember V.E. day 1945, stirred my memories of that occasion. We had been waiting for Mr.Churchill to make his announcement for several days. People were already preparing to hold parties and hunting out their flags and bunting from pre-war, and services of thanksgiving planned in churches.

When the time was given out on the radio we gathered round and listened. It was very stirring, but for a few minutes it was difficult to believe it really was all over. We hugged each other, quite overcome. I suddenly thought of all the men still fighting in the Far East, and the men in those terrible Japanese camps. They had nothing to celebrate! I suddenly felt sad, and my little 3-year old daughter climbed on my lap – 'Why are you crying, mummy?' 'Because I'm so happy', was my reply.

Soon friends and relatives arrived and we had an impromptu party. Then we went down to the city to see what was happening. Everyone was so happy, with lots of street parties. At the bottom of Stall Street, there was a long stream of people doing the Conga – we never found the leaders of it. It was all very jolly, but the children were tired so we made our way home. It was getting dusk, so the neighbours lit the huge bonfire built on the Beechen Cliff several days before. Everyone danced and sang around it. But we forgot the Maybugs in the Beech trees, they swarmed out and banged against the brightly lit windows – no blackout!

Later we went down the Cliff to look at the lights of the city, and there was the Abbey, floodlit. That made my day; this is the memory that always stayed with me. The war in Europe really was over!

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Haskins

Bath 27 July 2005

Dear Leslie,

Recently on a visit to Wiltshire with friends, in pursuit of a subject of other research, we arrived at East Knoyle, the birthplace of Sir Christopher Wren. On visiting its ancient church where Dr.Christopher Wren, father of Sir Christopher (architect) was incumbent Rector in 1623, we found an interesting memorial on the west wall of the 'Still Chapel' which is contained within the church. The double marble and brass memorial is dark and difficult to read but is to Henry Seymour, born London 19 November 1776, died Bath 29 November 1849. His wife, Jane, daughter of Benjamin Hopkinson of Bath, was born at Bath in September 1779 and died at Knoyle March 1869, but is buried in Trent. Dr Wren, like his famous son, was also trained in architecture and some of his plasterwork still survives in the church. This is truly worth seeing. No doubt readers are familiar with the area and the wealth of historic facts and items to be found here, but I am intrigued by the Seymour connection and wonder if anything is known about them or their Bath ancestors.

Best Wishes,

Sheila Edwards

Bath 3 August 2005

Dear Leslie,

Readers of *The Survey*, especially those in the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group, may be interested to know that the fragment of a Saxon Cross, housed at the Church of St. Thomas à Becket,

Widcombe, is to feature in the imminently forthcoming Volume 4 (the South-West of England volume) of *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Sculpture*, edited by Professor Rosemary Cramp, of the Department of Archaeology, in the University of Durham.

I alerted her to its existence, and she was keen to have it included in the work, sending someone down to Bath to have it photographed from various angles for publication. I have given her all the information I have been able to discover about it, and also about the former Lyncombe (or Gregory) Cross, which stood on Combe Down.

The existing fragment, because of its size (total width across to the limit of the arms, being about 11³/4 inches) is thought less likely to have been part of the former Lyncombe Cross, but may have come from an architectural feature on an ecclesiastical building – perhaps a Saxon predecessor of Widcombe Old Church.

The fragment has a dominant double roundel in the centre, similar to another cross-head fragment from Coity, Glamorgan, although the cross arms of the latter have curved outer edges. Both fragments probably date from the 10th or 11th century.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Allan Keevil

Bath 8 August 2005

Dear Mr.Holt,

Elizabeth Holland suggested that we write to you about our Building Records Project.

The Combe Down Heritage Group was an ad hoc group of four or five people who started collecting information about the history and development of Combe Down in 1999. The following year we decided to start recording all the buildings in the old part of the village with the aim of being able to date them and so plot the gradual expansion of the village.

We use a different method and format to that adopted by The Batheaston Survey. We use a system based on the one developed by R.W. Brunskill. We have, so far, recorded some 70 buildings out of a potential 500 - so the project will go on for some time.

Last year we formed ourselves into the Combe Down Heritage Society and we now have over 140 members. A number of other projects are now also contributing in various ways to our understanding of this very unusual village.

At present we are still at the stage of collecting architectural details and taking photographs from the public highway of each building. Later, we will relate this information to maps and other documents and so determine builders and occupants. We hope to supply a fuller description of our methods for your magazine.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Simmons, Chairman, Combe Down Heritage Society

Bath 12 August 2005

Dear Leslie,

The parish of Widcombe surely has a wider range of interesting features than any other parish in the Bath area, but what is less known is that has no fewer than twelve cemeteries or former burial sites, and one of the most secluded is the Roman Catholic cemetery in Perrymead.

The Eyre family's private chapel which is situated here is occasionally open to the public and recently a fine day in July was just one of those occasions.

The chapel (by Charles Hansom who also designed St.John's church in Manvers Street, and whose architect brother gave his name to the Hansom cab) is in the high Victorian Gothic style, and was built for the Eyre family of Derbyshire. It was consecrated in 1863, some 5 years after the cemetery itself, and although constructed from local Bath stone, the Midlands connection is maintained on the inside with Derbyshire marble columns and Minton floor tiles.

In the crypt below are spaces for 24 burials – the first was 1866 and the latest 1995. Its dark air of remembrance together with the rich detail of the chapel above may be a sobering reminder that all worldly things are finally surrendered.

Another little Gothic chapel for general use in the cemetery is altogether lighter and simpler and perhaps the more spiritually comfortable for that. Surrounding the two chapels are the tombs and memorial stones of some familiar local names – including Miss Wellesley-Colley of yellow front door fame. There are also Italian and other foreign family names, some nuns and Christian Brothers and a war hero with the D.F.C. and the D.F.M.

This quiet place could be miles from the noise and hustle of modern life, and wandering around on a calm and sunny summer day was a remarkable experience.

I believe the Eyre Chapel will next be open to visitors on All Souls' Day (2nd.Nov.). Take a torch.

Yours sincerely,



Doreen Collyer

The Eyre Chapel at the entrance to the Roman Catholic cemetery at Perrymead, taken from Blind Lane.

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Our thanks go to these contributors for their most interesting letters. Would all readers please maintain a watchful eye for any other matters of general interest, and write in with details to: Leslie Holt, 'Westwinds', Hayesfield Park, Bath BA2 4QE

PUBLICATIONS

Streetscape Manual: Adopted

I'm very pleased to announce that the Bath and North East Somerset Manual is now available, either in print priced £10, or via our website: www.bathnes.gov.uk/environment/planning.

Produced in collaboration with English Heritage and Bath Preservation Trust, the Streetscape Manual acts as a guide to the selection, design, installation and care of the District's streetscape and its historical preservation. Its aims include reducing street clutter and duplication in street furniture and signage, and helping to interpret national guidance to ensure that changes reinforce local distinctiveness and in Bath, meet World Heritage Site considerations. It was adopted as Council policy and as a Supplementary Planning Document in April.

Widespread public consultation was undertaken earlier this year, and a 'statement of community involvement', available on our website, contains all the comments received and the responses to them. The Streetscape Manual will be tested over the coming year and will be reviewed and updated after April 2006. This will provide the opportunity to identify any omissions and to refine and update the information provided. Any suggestions are very welcome.

There are also some outstanding topic areas where further testing and assessment is required and the review provides the opportunity to report the findings of this further research. For example, and following the commission of research into natural stone and manmade paving materials, a number of sample panels of natural paving stones will be laid outside the Guildhall in Bath. This should now take place in September 2005 and will form part of the consultation process for the Streetscape Manual. You will be notified on this consultation separately.

Stephen George, Senior Urban Designer

Our last newsletter included a flier announcing the new publication sponsored by the BRLSI, following their venture on William Smith. This is a limited edition volume sold by subscription, entitled *Leonard Jenyns - Darwin's lifelong friend*, priced £18, postage £4.50. Jenyns is described as 'one of the Institutions most outstanding members', and the volume contains a wide variety of material, including his own autobiography, *Chapters in my Life*, printed privately in Bath. Subscriptions have been brisk but we understand there are still copies available. An order form can be downloaded from the Institution's website (which also includes a 'virtual museum' of the BRLSI's collections).

Addresses:Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution,
16-18 Queen Square, Bath, BA1 2HN, United Kingdom.
Tel: 01225 312084 Fax: 01225 442460 Web site: www.brlsi.orgEmail: admin@brlsi.org

The word earlier this year was that *Bath History* would be published in October, but there has been no further information. The proposed contents were listed in an earlier issue of *The Survey*, given us by Marek Lewcun. *Bath History* X was actually due in 2004, but for the last couple of issues or so it has been owned by Bath Archaeological Trust, and when the Trust had financial difficulties so did the journal. It does not appear likely that it will continue beyond this issue.

Mike Chapman's *Lost Streams of Bath* has been reprinted and is available at Whiteman's in the Orange Grove and The Oldfield Park Bookshop. *Bathwick - A Forgotten Village* has been selling well, as Sheila Edwards reports. The newsletter has already mentioned that Dr.John Wroughton is working on a volume on Tudor Bath. Two proposed publications by members of the Combe Down Heritage Society are mentioned in their report - *A History of the Byfield Mine* by Dick Irving and *The Roman Villa at Combe Down*. Father Peter Cornwell, former Chaplain of Prior Park College, will be bringing out a study entitled *Prior Park - the Phoenix*, discussing the problems and successes of the school. He will be addressing the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group on 10 November, at St.Mark's Community Centre.

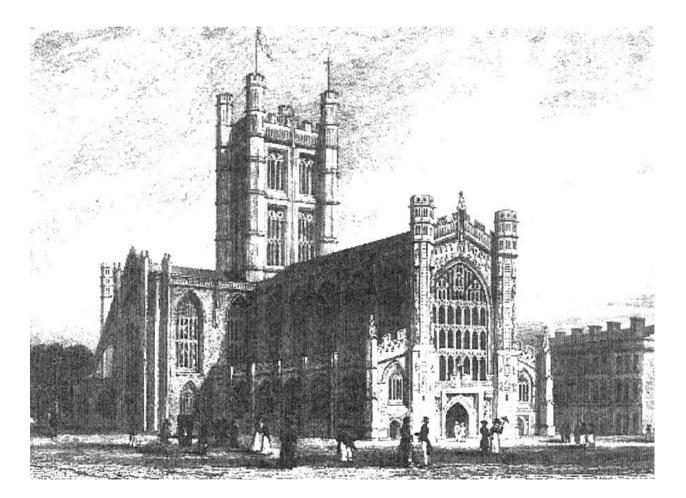
NOTES AND QUERIES

The Clearance of Wade's Passage

Wade's Passage describes the alleyway north of the Abbey and the buildings on either side of it. The houses at the south end of the High Street were designated 'High Street' in leases and numbered as such. 'Market Place' was an alternative. However they are frequently referred to as 'Wade's Passage' as well as the buildings south of them. Thus the clearance north of the Abbey is often called the clearance of Wade's Passage and not 'the clearance of Wade's Passage and the houses at the south end of the High Street'.

Douglas Bernhardt included the clearance in his thesis 'A Victorian Practice in Bath'. He points out that it became a part of a movement to restore the Abbey at that period, and has remarked that he believes Manners was the main instigator and driving energy of the whole project. Speaking of the houses at the end of the High Street he writes:

From contemporary engravings these were an attractive terrace of 17th century houses and shops that today would undoubtedly be listed Grade I. The Corporation's decision to proceed with the clearance after years of lobbying and complaint by clergy and citizens alike, was decided in the Minute of 24th October 1819 which resolved 'That no further renewals of the houses in Wade's Passage adjoining the Abbey Church be granted ...'.



An artist's impression of the Abbey from the north-west without the houses abutting on it. The southern side of 'Kingston Street' appears on the right, on what is now the Kingston Parade. Douglas Bernhardt points out that the nave has no flying-buttresses or pinnacles at this point.

(A Series of Views of Bath and Bristol, 1829, Thomas Shepherd & John Britton, Jones & Company.)

He also comments:

The removal of the accretion of houses and shops grown over 200 years on both the north and south sides of the Abbey Church, together with the repairs and restoration of the Abbey that followed, should be considered as phases of the same operation. Manners extended the need for simple repairs following the clearance to embrace his concept of completing the fabric of the Abbey 'as the original builders intended', a process that would require thirteen years to complete...

The result, after a decade of costly acquisition, was an inspired civic improvement that revealed the splendour of the Abbey not seen for two hundred years. It was a munificent gesture by the Corporation, which shouldered the heavy burden of clearance, then the cost of the Abbey renovations, without prospect of recovery. In 1833, to complement the Corporation's achievement, Lord Manvers, who owned similar, but fewer, houses on the south side of the Abbey, gave orders for their removal also. Thus the Abbey was completely cleared of buildings that abutted it.

'Widcombe House'

The property which was once Philip Bennet's stables is now on the market for £3.5 million. Without commenting for the moment on the price, the name is extremely unfortunate. 'Widcombe House' was the name of Zachariah Bayly's house at the end of the 18th century, on the site which used to be Colthurst's, now Widcombe Crescent. Presumably at that time the present 'Widcombe Manor' was called 'Squire Bennet's'. In the 19th century we begin to find the so-called Widcombe Manor being called Widcombe House. It began to be called 'Manor' at the beginning of the 20th century. When sold as a detached property, the present 'Widcombe House' began to be called 'Manor Farm'. If it needed a grander title 'Dunsmead House' would have been appropriate, after the field.

"... it is believed that the house was acquired in 1728 by a knight bearing the rather Austenesque name of Sir Phillip Bennett". It is *known* that Philip bought the site in 1728. He was an esquire, not a knight. He used it for coachhouse and stables. Later on the blurb says that Henry Fielding (who lodged in Twerton, not Widcombe) overlooked the site when writing *Tom Jones*.

Lyncombe Hall is the site of the former manorial buildings, not 'Widcombe Manor'. Apart from that, if Elizabeth had several millions to spare, she would start discussing Maperton Manor, from which the Bennets hailed. Now there's a lovely place ...

On Brewing and Quarrying

The article 'An Island Site' by Allan Keevil mentions Henry Morrish, wine merchant, and how he acquired an influence over the site, which included the Abbey Hotel, conveyed to the Bath Brewery Company.

On Monday 12 September 2005 at the meeting of the Combe Down Heritage Society, held at the Junior School, Professor Dick Irving gave a talk on the Byfield Mine, to mark the publication of his book *A History of the Byfield Mine*. (He became interested in it when part of his garden fell in and revealed an entrance shaft.) Professor Irving mentioned Henry Morrish in connection with the Combe Down pub, the King William IV at 54 Combe Road. Henry Morrish was the founder of the Bath Brewery Company.

Mike Bone published an article in *Bath History* VIII on 'The Rise and Fall of Bath's Breweries: 1736-1960'. Henry Morrish does not seem to be mentioned in it but there were numerous breweries at the time. By 1875-1879 the national consumption of beer per head by men, women and children had risen to a peak of 40.5 gallons a year. In *Tom Brown's Schooldays* the schoolboys are all allowed to drink beer though gin is a drink for cads. In a lively novel, *Danesbury House*, which won a temperance prize and launched her on a successful career, Mrs. Henry Wood, author of *East Lynne*, describes a world where beer is a necessity of life and those who can afford it are fast going to ruin with wines and spirits as well.



The King William IV, Combe Down

As far as we could see, the quarrying operations spilled over the Monkton Combe boundary into Combe Down at the spot where the schedule to the Ralph Allen map lists No.123, 'Collibee's uper Down or Quarry Ground'. It is hoped to publish this schedule as part of the first volume of *Records of Bath History*, for which B&NES has allotted a grant. It is also hoped to include the transcripts of the register of Ralph Allen's acquisitions of land made by Mike while working on the Ralph Allen map. This should be a valuable handbook for anyone working on the Ralph Allen estates. To have the map schedule and the map together will be an advantage and in addition there will be the missing map numbers which John Hawkes patiently worked out.

After he had received a 21-year lease of the Manor of Lyncombe in 1578, Sir John Harrington received another lease involving two quarries. Dick Irving believes an early quarry lay near Entry Hill.

From the Philip George Correspondence, Bundle 1. (With thanks to the Bath Record Office)

United Hospital, 3 May, 1830, Committee Room

To the Mayor of Bath

Sir,

The Chaplain of this Institution complains that there is every Sunday a large assemblage of Boys in the vicinity of the Hospital, so extremely unruly and creating so much noise, as very much to disturb the patients; and every attempt to repress their unruly conduct is resisted by them with gross abuse and the throwing of stones.

I am confident that I need only to mention this circumstance, to ensure the interference of the civil power on the recurrence of similar outrages.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient & faithful Servant,

Wm.Cockburn, Chairman

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	other
LINKS A	Detasched	Semi-delatched		Composite on same site	Intited building	Subdivided into flats	Purpose-built flats	
SECTIONS B	Symmetrical back and form	Asymmetrical structure	Asymmetrical built on hisside	Conservatory extension	Garage meysl	Garage built on	Garage separate	
STORIES C	One storey	One storey & two storey wrg	One and a haf stores	Two somes	Two and a half stories	Three stones	Three and a half stories a second	
PLANS D	Central doorway	Passaga entrance	No chimney	Central chimney	End cheminey	Chammey grouped with neighbour	Decoration on chamney	
FRONT BOUNDARY E			Hedge	Railing	Wood		Gatopost	
ROOF SHAPE	Hipped	Gabled	Pat	M-Shaped	Single	Sione verge	Possis	
ROOF MATERIALS G	Slato	Flat the	Pantie	Stone flag	Composite tiles	Bitumen Sheet	Corrugated	
HOUSE WALLING MATERIALS H				Reconstituted stone	Weatherboard	Rendering		
STONE TECHNIQUES		Coursed nutble	Random rubble	Ashlar & rubble		Corrier quoins irregular		
DECORATIVE WALL FEATURES J	Parapet tront	Bacony, verandah	String courses	Decorative atoms work	Decorative brick work	Parapet al round	Stone eave corbet	
WINDOW SURROUNDS K	Single	Multiple		Decorated	Flush all	Projecting oil	Simple quoins	
WINDOW DIVISIONS L	Mulians	Mullons & transoms	Sash honzontal	Sash ventcal	Casements side-hung	French window	Mulo-pane vertical sash	
DOORWAYS M	Square- headed	Pointed arch	Rounded arch	Canopy	Porch recessed	Porch projecting		

Coded descriptions A-M

COMBE DOWN BUILDINGS RECORD

Rosemary Simmons, Chairman, Combe Down Heritage Society

In Appendix 1 of the *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture* (1971, Faber & Faber) by R.W.Brunskill, the author describes a method of recording minor domestic architecture devised by Professor Cordingley for the School of Architecture of the University of Manchester.

I discussed this method with Tony Crouch, Senior Conservation Officer at B&NES, who encouraged me to re-draw the coded description to suit Combe Down. The original coded descriptions included features from early medieval buildings which we do not have on Combe Down. A few buildings are reported to have some 17th century elements but, in truth, little existed here before Ralph Allen built De Montalt Place in 1729.

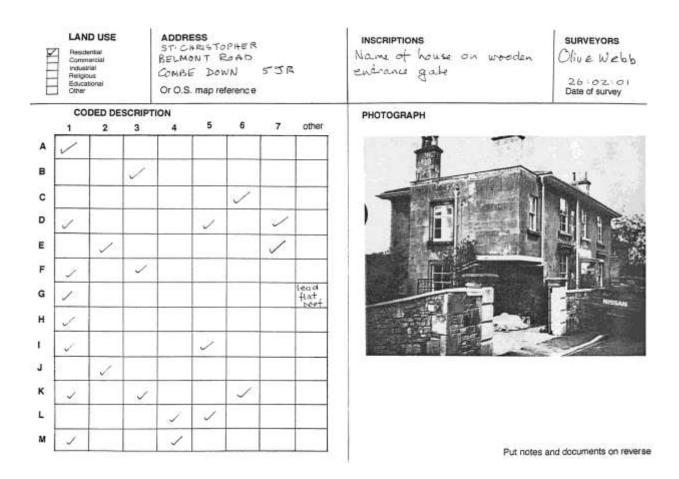
With the help of Mary Stacey, currently leader of the Combe Down Stone Mines Stabilisation Project, the record cards for our study were printed. First we had to define the area of study. We chose the core of the old village (not the much more extensive Combe Down Ward): on the north, Bradford/North Roads, De Montalt Mill in the south, Gladstone Road in the east and the western end of Greendown Terrace. We also thought that all buildings were important because usage has changed over the years. The Public Lavatories, illustrated here, are likely to be turned into a home if planning permission is granted.

A minimum of two people is required to fill in the card and photograph the building. We work from the public highway only, though we put a note through the doors of a group of buildings a few days in advance so that people know who we are and what we are doing. Not all buildings are accessible from the highway in Combe Down because of in-fill building on gardens. There are also a few late 18th century to mid-19th century terraces built at right angles to the road with a common access path serving all the front doors which also divides the houses from their quite long gardens opposite. There are also single or small groups of buildings only accessible from the drungs or walled pathways, some of which are public rights of way but others appear to be private passageways. In these cases we ask permission from the householder; no one has refused us yet, indeed, we find everyone is most keen to tell us about their dwelling. This reveals some very interesting material, some of which is romanticised and has to be carefully cross-checked with reliable sources.

The coded description panel is divided into 91 squares, labelled A-M, top to bottom and 1-7, left to right. The A-M series are: A=links; B=sections; C=stories; D=plans; E=front boundary; F=roof shapes; G=roof materials; H=house walling materials; I=stone techniques; J=decorative wall features; K=window surrounds; L=window divisions ; M=doorways. For example: G=roof materials is sub-divided 1-7: slate, flat tiles, pan tiles, stone flags, composite tiles, bitumen sheet, corrugated sheet; the last square is left blank for 'other' materials not listed. The squares are then ticked. This section could be digitised in the future if required.

This is the stage when at least two people are required to look at a building in detail, cross checking each other's observation. The reverse of the record sheet has room for notes and documents. Where unusual details, such as the decorative plasterwork on St.Christopher, Belmont Road, illustrated here, can be recorded at the time, they are added, but information from documents may only come to light over time as we consult and add to our collection of maps and deeds. Where we can make contact with the owners the history of the building is recorded as comprehensively as possible.

Our aim is to be able to identify the oldest buildings and to put them in sequence. We could then select a few which deserved detailed surveying and measured drawings. Although we made a start in 2000, our progress has been slow due to family and Heritage Society commitments; we have completed some 75 to date. Olive Webb, who is architecturally trained, and myself are the core of this project, others come and go. Some people are only interested in recording their own houses, others are put off by bad weather! The project of recording all the buildings in Combe Down will take time but there is no better way of getting to know a place in detail.

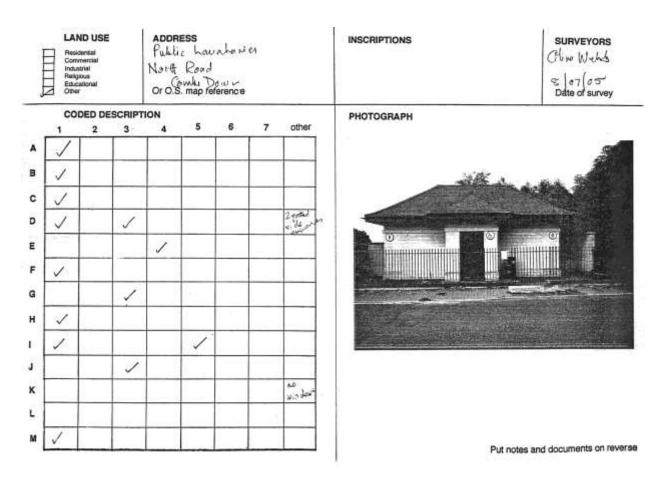




Front elevation faces due North NOTES Name of the house is on the front gale only, otherwise no means of identification. mint and flowers garland of front cloor - painhad - natural colours To puncipal, ornate elevable-faces south men grapes To puncipal, ornate elevable-faces south and is at the rear of the house. It icludes show balcony /balustrode/loggia with show columns. 3 8 M & E. 8 - he etc Howe rad Ned derit grown grape quit given faint

DOCUMENTS

The A4 record sheet (back) for 'St Christopher', Belmont Road, Combe Down.



The A4 record sheet (front) for the Public Lavatories, North Road, Combe Down.

NOTES



DOCUMENTS

The A4 record sheet (back) for the Public Lavatories, North Road, Combe Down.

THIS FAMOUS CITY: THE STORY OF THE CHAPMANS OF BATH

THE DEATH OF ROBERT HOBBS OTHERWISE CHAPMAN

Aged 30, 1733

Elizabeth Holland

The Survey's June 2005 Newsletter mentioned the will of Mary Chapman, daughter of Robert the apothecary. This was the same Mary that John Wood claimed was a companion to Mary of Modena, wife of James II, when she visited Bath in 1687. Wood states that he obtained his information about life in Bath from memoirs coming from Robert Chapman, which someone copied for him. It seems quite possible that the copy was made by George Wood, the writing master, Mary's tenant; though if this really was John Wood's father, one would have thought he would have said so, and not referred to him anonymously.

Robert the apothecary was a descendant of Captain Peter Chapman, restorer of the Abbey and landlord of the Beare Inn. Three of his children died young, and his son Robert, also an apothecary, died in 1692, before his father. Of the others, Agatha married John Bushell, and Anne married Captain Emanuel (spelt in various ways) Hobbs. Captain Hobbs's Abbey memorial was printed on page 20 of *The Survey* No.11, June 1999, while his arms drawn by Roland Symons appeared on the back cover. As the sisters were now heraldic heiresses the shield shows Hobbs impaling Chapman, with the crest of Hobbs.

Emanuel Hobbs died in January 1704/5. I have not yet traced what happened to Anne his wife, whether she died at the birth of Robert in 1703, or when. Perhaps someone can help. As Robert Hobbs's will was unwitnessed, witnesses had to testify to its authenticity, and in so doing they related the story of the family.

Mary Chapman, Emanuel's sister-in-law, took charge of the children, Chapman Hobbs born 1695, Mary, and Robert born 1703. Bath deeds show that she named them as lives in her property leases. She asked both Chapman and Robert to give themselves the surname 'Chapman'. This would have been easy enough for Robert, who became Robert Chapman III in that branch of the family. It might have been more difficult for Chapman to call himself 'Chapman Chapman', but perhaps as an adult he was simply referred to as 'Mr.Chapman', the custom of the times.

Mary the aunt died in 1721 and was buried in the Abbey. Robert would now be a young man, 18. When we arrive at his will in 1733 he had been living in New Sarum, which was of course Salisbury. The cathedral was removed from the site of Old Sarum in 1220, and as everyone knows the settlement followed it, though Old Sarum continued to send members to Parliament even when there was not a house left. From New Sarum, Robert removed to Little Amesbury in Wiltshire.

In May 1733 we come upon him in the throes of a mystery illness. One can only speculate. Why is he alone with only his sister and no one to witness his signature on his will? He is not in dire poverty; the three still held the family leases (for instance Furman No.1586, 1730) and he still had horses, books and a gold watch. He wrote the will himself but when it came to signing it, he could only manage 'Robt' and no surname. Reviving, he used to ask his sister to read it to him, which she did.

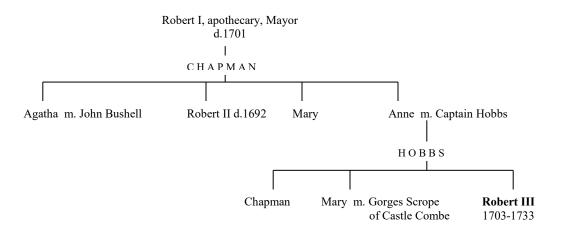
He left his gold watch and his horses to his brother Chapman, his "Table Linnen" and whatever furniture he possessed, which was not much, to his sister Mary. Mary was to take her choice of his books and the rest were to go to Chapman. His residual legatees were Chapman and Mary.

The will was made on 3 May 1733 and he died on 5 June. With smallpox, he would surely have died more quickly. Possibly he had TB? He wished to be buried in the Cathedral Church of Sarum, the famous Salisbury Cathedral.

A year later, in May 1734, law being what it is, witnesses were called in Bath. Thomas Greenhill of the City of Bath, grocer, one of the people called Quakers, affirmed that he knew Robert Hobbs well, that he called himself Robert Chapman, and that the will was in his handwriting.

Chapman Hobbs, Mary Hobbs, still called spinster, and one Sarah Figg of Bath gave their oaths to the same effect. Mary then related that she had watched Robert write the will and had afterwards read it over to him several times. These testimonies were taken by James Sparrow. A Rev.James Sparrow was rector of Walcot after the Chapman incumbent died in 1728.

Chapman Hobbs died in 1748/9. Mary Hobbs married Gorges Scrope of Castle Combe. In a little volume on Castle Combe in Bath Library, the author, by name Cruse, refers to a 'Lady Scrope' who was a familiar figure out walking in the neighbourhood. The impression is that this was she. If anyone has made a particular study of the Scropes of Castle Combe we shall be glad to hear of it.



PRO PROB 11/665 (Paragraphing has been added.)

May 3^{<u>d</u>} 1733.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN.

Robert Chapman late of the City of New Sarum but now removed to Little Amesbury in the County of Wilts being by the blessing of God perfectly sound in my Senses but very weak and infirm in my Body do make this my last Will and Testam^t in manner and Form as following

In the first place it is my Will that after all Incumbrances are Cleared and my just debts paid that whatever Shall then remain from my Estate Shall descend equally to my Brother and Sister whom I make my Joint heirs reserving only a few Legacies which shall be mentioned afterwards and which I desire may punctually be paid

Secondly as to my Books which are now at little Amesbury I will that my Sister have the choice of what She likes The remainder I give to my Brother My Gold Watch with the Seals belonging and what horses I shall have at the time of my death I likewise give to my Brother The Table Linnen together with the Little Furniture I have such as Buroe Chest of Drawers and whatever was the Furniture of my Appartment when I lived at Salisbury I will that my Sister have and enjoy

It is my will that my Body may be decently buryed and with little Charge in the Cathedral Church of Sarum - As to any particular part of the Church I think it not material I would have the following inscription over a Blue Stone - Here Lyes the body of Robert Chapman who departed this Life such a day in such a month aged 30 years Anno Domini 1733 [Signed] **Rob**⁴.

The Librarian of Salisbury Cathedral has kindly forwarded this information:

Yes, Robert Chapman is buried at Salisbury Cathedral. The Burials Register has this entry:-

1733 June Mr Robert Chapman of this Close was Buryed the 8.

Alongside in the margin is written 'Affidavit brought ye 15' (though there is no indication as to why it was necessary for there to be an affidavit). Robert Chapman's grave is in the North-West Transept. The inscription on the tomb-stone reads:

Shield of arms.

Per chevron argent and gules a crescent counterchanged and a canton of the second. Crest, a dexter arm embowed and armed holding in the hand a tilting spear proper enfiled with a chaplet of laurel.

H.S.E./Robertus Chapman Armiger/obijt vº. die Junii/Anno Dom. MDCCXXXII [XXXI Price]/ Ætat. [XXX Harris].

(Translation of the above.) Here lies Robert Chapman, Esqr. He died June 5, 1732, aged 30 (?).

So by choosing an inscription in Latin they did not really adhere strictly to the wording he specified in his will! The coat-of-arms described here seems to be only that on the right-hand side of the photocopy you sent me.



Arms of Captain Hobbs: Hobbs impaling Chapman, crest of Hobbs. Drawn by Roland Symons.

THE MUCH LAMENTED BAVE

Roger Rolls

In 1713 the *Salisbury*, a British man-of-war, set sail for England from Jamaica. Amongst those on board was a woman travelling alone under an assumed name. By all accounts she was a woman of easy virtue and several of the ship's company availed themselves of her services. She was returning to England after a five-year stay on the island of Jamaica where she had gained notoriety as 'a common whore and strumpet'¹. She was also returning to her husband, a respected Bath doctor called Charles Bave.

Charles Bave was the grandson of Samuel Bave (1588-1668), a German émigré from Cologne who applied for British citizenship in 1625². A descendant of an aristocratic family 'as appears by a good coat of arms', Samuel was sent to Paris to study medicine. Whilst there, he was appointed tutor to Henry, son of the English Ambassador Sir Thomas Edmondes. At the age of 15, Henry Edmondes was sent to Christchurch College, Oxford accompanied by Samuel who used the opportunity to further his medical career.

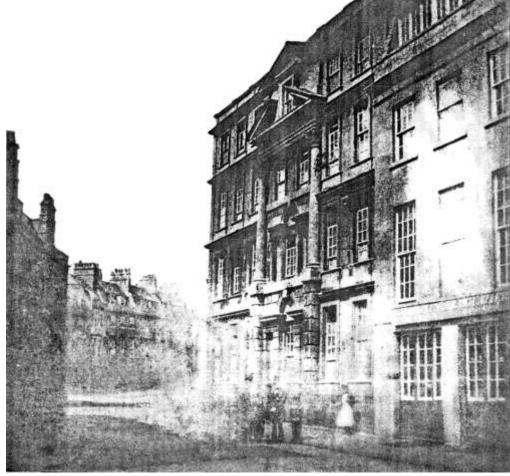
It was not unusual for young men entering university to be accompanied by their tutors who were supposed to keep an eye on their moral welfare. But once at university, Samuel seems to have had little influence on his pupil's behaviour because Henry grew too fond of drink and died of alcoholism shortly after leaving Oxford⁴. Meanwhile Samuel gained a Doctor of Medicine degree and left Oxford to set up practice in Gloucester through the influence of a friend who was an apothecary there. He remained there for 10 years, amassing a considerable fortune, and marrying Hester Robinson, the daughter of a wealthy lawyer. In 1638 he moved to a more lucrative practice in Bath where he bought property in the southwestern sector of the city. In addition, he and his wife acquired Barrow Court, a manor house in the Somerset parish of Tickenham and a house called Highfield in Upton Cheyney.

As a physician, Samuel Bave was held in high esteem and corresponded with many distinguished doctors of his day including the royal family's physician Sir Theodore Turquet de Mayerne, Sir Thomas Browne of Norwich and Dr. John Bathurst, medical adviser to Oliver Cromwell.⁵ He attended a large number of patients who visited Bath to take the waters and also had an extensive 'riding practice' making visits into the surrounding countryside. He was the Aubrey family's doctor and attended Richard Aubrey at Kington St.Michael during his terminal illness in 1652. Four years later, John Aubrey consulted him about a venereal infection.⁶ Samuel Bave was noted for an excellent command of foreign languages and for his rather extravagant costume, dressing 'day by day in purple velvet and the finest linen, much bedecked with lace'. Not everyone had a high opinion of his medical skills:

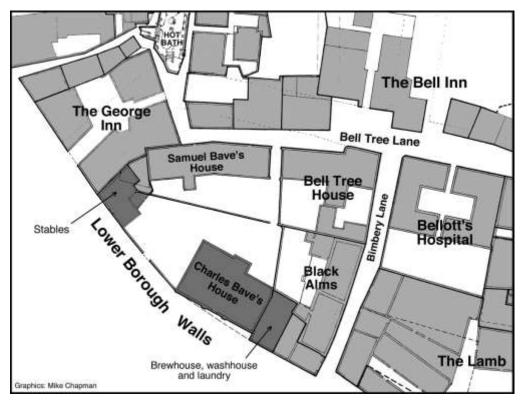
From an old German yclipped Dr Bavie⁷ Whose skill is not half so much as his knav 'ry And ten to one that will rather kill 'ee than save 'ee Good Mercury defend me

Samuel and Hester Bave had eight children including Anthony who was one time vicar of Twerton and Charles who was the main beneficiary of the family wealth and lived in their Bath property but does not appear to have engaged in any profession.

The Bave family owned at least two houses in the city: one stood in Bell Tree Lane and was eventually demolished to make way for the Bath United Hospital erected in 1824. (This building became part of the Technical College. Known as Gainsborough House, it has lately been sold). The other stood on the part of the Bave land adjacent to the Lower Borough Walls and seems to have been the principal residence of the family until its sale in 1774 when it was turned into the Alfred Hotel and, at a later date, the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary. This very fine building was finally demolished in the 1860s in conjunction with the creation of the Albert Wing of the Bath United Hospital. (See *The Survey of Bath and District*, No.15, pp.32-34.).



Charles Bave's house in the 1840s, from the Chapman Collection of calotypes. (Bath Central Library)



The Bave properties in Bell Tree Lane and Lower Borough Walls.

Charles, like his father, also had eight children, two of whom became Bath medical practitioners. Francis, (b.1678) was an apothecary in the city and served on the council. His brother Charles (b.circa 1675) followed in his grandfather's footsteps as a physician. He was a student at Wadham College, Oxford, graduating in 1695 and obtaining his D.M. ten years later. The interval between graduation and D.M. degree was usually spent as a supervised junior physician but there is no record of where or with whom Charles Bave spent these supervised years.

In 1699, Dr Charles Bave married Winifred Kerr at St Mary's Church, Marlborough, Winifred's home town, and the couple moved to Bath. They had been married for scarcely a year when, without warning, Winifred left her husband and returned to her father's house in Marlborough. There seems to have been some sort of a reconciliation of their relationship because she gave birth to their only child, Hester, in c.1702. However it later came to Charles' notice that his wife was involved in a promiscuous relationship with several men in Bath and was leading a dissolute life and associating with 'vitious and loose company'.

On one occasion, Charles had gone looking for his wife in the city and had eventually found her in a street at one o'clock in the morning 'under a gentleman's cloak'. Charles' friends told him they had observed Winifred behaving very indecently and with scandalous familiarity towards several persons. Before her elopement, she had run up considerable debt to the point where Charles was worried he might be put in jail. He had been forced to pay £300 to clear debts his wife owed to mercers and innkeepers and this had reduced him to 'near ruin'. Inevitably there was considerable dispute about Charles' financial state. Winifred claimed her husband's assets accounted to £2000 and that he had a yearly income of £800 from rental of real estate and £500 from his medical practice. In response, Charles claimed his personal assets, after clearing all debts, amounted to £800 and although his two houses were worth £800, he had no rental income from real estate over a seven-year period and he had only earned £150 a year from his medical practice.

Furthermore, he suspected his earnings might diminish in the future 'by virtue of the uncertain resort of company to Bath'. Dr.Bave was probably well advised to voice this concern; in 1713, Bath's popularity as a spa was at a relatively low ebb having enjoyed a halcyon period during the latter half of the 17th century. It would take another decade or two before fashionable society made Bath its premier resort, largely as a result of new investment in property and the influence of Beau Nash and his circle.

Bave was probably in a more secure position than many of his contemporary practitioners and his wife's wanton ways did not adversely effect his medical career. He seems to have been held in high esteem by influential physicians in London. He treated Sir John Clopton for 'a scorbutic cutaneous disease' in 1713⁸ and he was in correspondence with Dr.Richard Mead and Dr.John Freind about patients who they referred to him for spa treatment. He was also in correspondence with Dr.Herman Boerhaave, the famous Dutch physician whose pioneering methods of medical education at Leyden University revolutionised the training of doctors.⁹

Charles Bave received a glowing testimonial in 1728 from the author of 'An essay against too much reading':

Yes, sometimes a new Physician is sent to us, and the poor country souls put their lives in their hands, to give them the practical part; but I will never take any of their prescriptions 'till they have been in the hands, and under the Directions of such celebrated and ingenious Men as Dr.Bave; and in all probability, Dr.Harrington must be a very safe Physician, the World allowing him to be a Man of fine Sense, a regular Liver, and a graduate Physician: besides the vast advantages he has gained in being in so many consultations, and having perpetually his Father's Directions and Rules of Practice for his Improvement.¹⁰

The Dr.Harrington mentioned in the quote is Edward Harington (1696-1757), a descendant of the Kelston family who married Dr.Charles Bave's daughter, Hester, on 6 February 1724. After the break-up of her parent's marriage, Hester had been maintained at a 'boarding school' by Charles who paid £30 a year for her education and board.¹¹ Charles divorced Winifred in 1715 and it was to be ten years before he married

again. His second wife was Eleanor Willis, widow of Henry Compton of Ringwood. She survived him but had no children and died in 1744 at Westminster.¹² There is no record of what happened to Winifred but the whole saga is extraordinary. At her divorce she claimed that Charles had treated her badly and expelled her from the house, but one suspects he had simply had enough of her adulterous behaviour.

Dr.Charles Bave, his brother Francis and his son-in-law Dr.Edward Harington were all members of the original committee of thirteen set up in 1723 to establish the Bath General Hospital (now known as the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases); Dr.Harington was the only one to see it open in 1742 and served as honorary physician until 1750. His nephew, Henry was also a physician to the hospital and Francis Bave's sister-in-law, Hester Whitlock became the hospital's first matron.¹³

Both Harington and Bave seem to have endeared themselves to their patients and even the author of *The Diseases of Bath* published in 1737, whose acrid quill spared practically none of the Bath medical profession did have a few kind words for Dr.Edward Harington and his late father-in-law (Charles Bave died c.1733):

Yes, you (my *Harrington*!) Can do as much, Who almost cure, if you our Pulse but touch: No less experience'd in the Art to save Than your once lov'd, much lamented, *Bave*, Lamented, yes -- but mist by us no more, Since you find means his Vertues to restore; Heir to his Substance, Merit, Skill, and Sense; As Partner once in his Experience: Like him well-bred, good-natur'd, modest, free; Cautious, like him, without timidity; Slow to prescribe, yet ready to attend; Not more your Patient's Doctor than his Friend¹⁴.

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2. 'House of Commons Journal Volume 1:27 February 1626', Journal of the House of Commons:

volume 1: 1547-1629 (1802), p.825. URL: http://www.bntish-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=6163

3. Guidott, Thomas, A Discourse on the Bath, London, 1676, p.194

4. D.N.B., Oxford University Press, 2004. Entry for Thomas Edmondes

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6. Powell, Anthony, John Aubrey and his friends, Hogarth Press, London, 1988, pp.71 and 82

7. The final e of Bave was pronounced, hence the rhyme

8. Quinton, J., A Treatise on Warm Bath Water, Oxford, 1734, p.62

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10. MacKinnon, Murdoch, 'An unpublished consultation letter of Sir Thomas Browne', Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 1953, 27:503-11

11. Court of Arches, *Bave versus Bave, op.cit.* Hester was 13 when this statement was made. Although boarding schools for boys existed at this time, institutions for girls were unusual until the later 19th century.

12. Poynton, F.J., The Baves of Bath and Barrow Court, London, 1885

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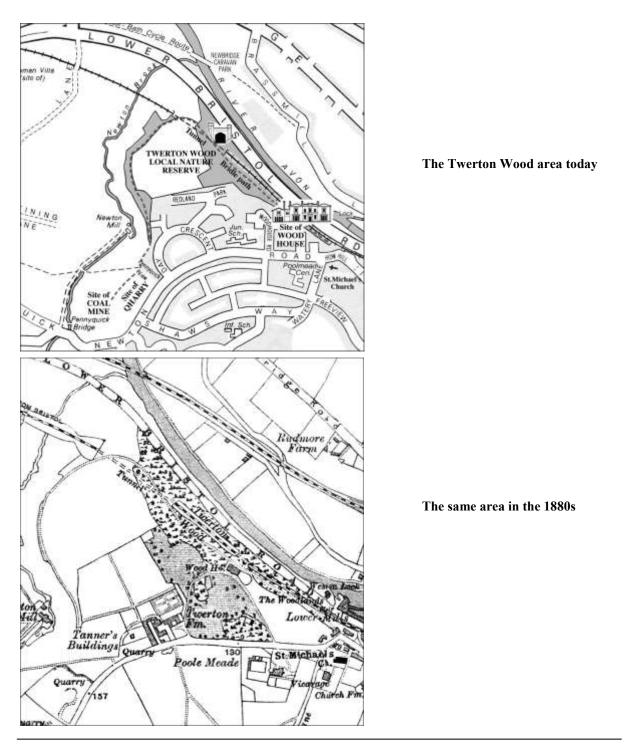
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With many thanks to Mr.and Mrs.Brian Durbin of Bristol for bringing to my attention the Court of Arches Case and other valuable material on the Bave family.

NOTES ON TWERTON WOOD AND WOOD HOUSE

Mike Chapman

Twerton Wood (formerly also known as Carr's Wood, Wilkins' Wood, Heneage's Wood, &c, according to ownership), which stands at the extreme north western end of the parish, has only recently become recognised as a potential public asset, and a joint project between B&NES, BTCV, Envolve and others has been set up to adopt the Wood as an amenity and Local Nature Reserve. This scheme, which actually covers a much larger area extending along the valley overlooking Newton Brook as far as Pennyquick Bridge and the Newton Mill Camping and Caravan Park (partners in the project), has also drawn attention to the historic origins of the Wood itself and to Wood House with which it was closely associated. The following is based on notes prepared in April 2005 for B&NES in connection with this project, including a promotional video featuring an historical guide by the author of the Wood area.



Although there has been a wood on this site since at least the early middle ages, its original extent and outlines are unknown, nor are there any indications of ancient woodland surviving today. Its present form was established in the late 1830s by Charles Wilkins who acquired all the Twerton cloth mills in the early 1800s and developed them into modern woollen factories. Although alterations to the wood were probably carried out later by the Carr family, it would seem that Wilkins' original layout remains more or less intact. Having acquired most of the land belonging to the old manorial estate of West Twerton from the Walker-Heneage family of Lyneham in Wiltshire, he adapted the wood to serve as a pleasure ground for his new mansion house, later Wood House, at its eastern end overlooking Twerton Lower Mill.

This was built as a replacement for a former riverside house and pleasure ground next to the Lower Mill which had to be cleared away for the construction of the Great Western Railway embankment at the eastern entrance to the railway tunnel that still runs under the wood today. Immediately below the house another short tunnel or 'gallery' (similarly ornamented with castellated towers in Brunel's 'Gothic' style) was built over the deep cutting at the approach to the eastern portal of the main tunnel. This not only gave access over the railway, but also prevented it from intruding into the fine view northward from the house across the valley towards Lansdown. It is evident that consideration was given to the landscape around the house when the railway works were planned.





Above: Wood House and its grounds. In front, the lawns, and at the rear, Twerton Wood. (Bath at Work Museum)

Left: The gallery over the railway below Wood House. In the distance is the east portal of Twerton Tunnel. (Bath at Work Museum) The architect of the new house, identified by Michael Forsyth in his article in *Bath History* VII, was Edward Davis of Bath, designer of Victoria Park. Exhibited at the Royal Academy and completed in 1838, it was one of several built by Davis in Greek Revival style - together with an Italianate west wing containing servants' quarters. Although the house suffered a serious fire in 1844, it was sumptuously refurbished by the Carr family who purchased the mills from Wilkins in 1847, and who resided there until after the mills were closed and pulled down in the 1960s. The house was unfortunately also demolished in 1965 and replaced by flats, although drawings of exterior and interior details were recorded by Peter Coard, some of which were published in his book *Vanishing Bath*. Only part of the front lawn with its screen of beech trees still remains. Also remaining, it later transpired, were the kitchen basement rooms of the house which had not been properly filled in, and were only discovered when some of the gardens at the back of the flats recently disappeared into a large hole.

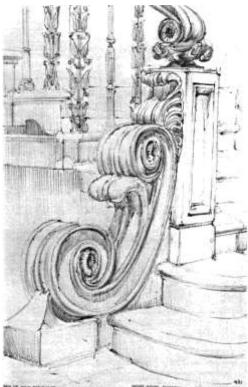


Left: The front of Twerton House during a flower show. (Bath at Work Museum)

Below left: One of the fireplaces of Wood House, taken just before the house was demolished. (Bath at Work Museum)

Below (right): Detail of the stairs in Wood House sketched by Peter Coard. (Bath at Work Museum)





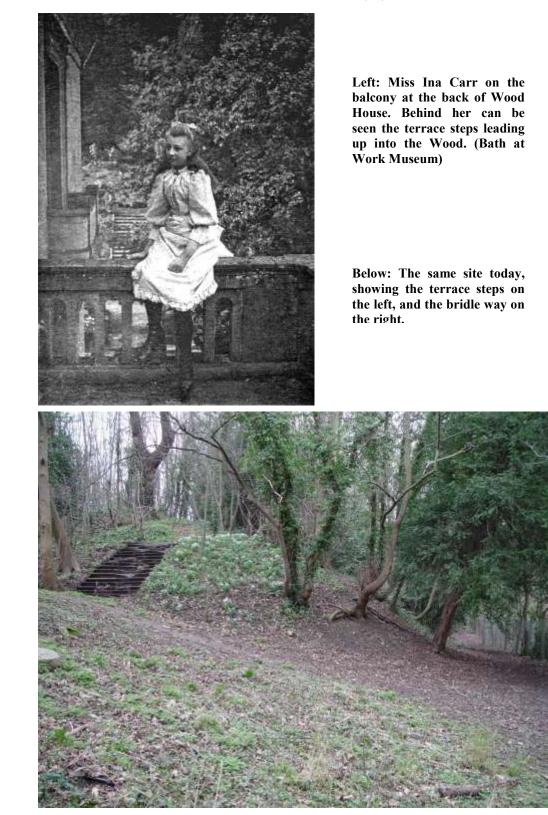
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The front lawn was regularly thrown open by the Carr family for parish garden fetes and flower shows – supplied from the nurseries of the Twerton firm of Blackmore and Langdon. On the west side of the flats there is a landscaped 'garden mount' which originated as a waste-heap of an 18th century limestone quarry on the edge of the wood – probably the one acquired by the Avon Navigation Company to build their lock in Weston Cut opposite the mill weirs. Next to the mount was a tennis court, and beyond that, the exit of the carriage drive into Newton Road, where the stables, coachman's house, and estate farm were located (now the site of a Cost-Cutter shop). However, the main driveway entrance, with its lodge, was at the eastern end of Newton Road (now occupied by the housing around Walwyn Close), towards St.Michael's Church. In the wall on the opposite side of the road is a wicket gate which communicated with Poolemead House (now the Poolemead Centre), a grand Victorian mansion built as a second home for the Carr Family probably in the 1860s. Further up is another gate that once led up to the Poolemead House stable block - demolished only a few months ago for the new Carrswood Centre.



A garden fete on the lawns, taken from an upper window in the house. (Bath at Work Museum)

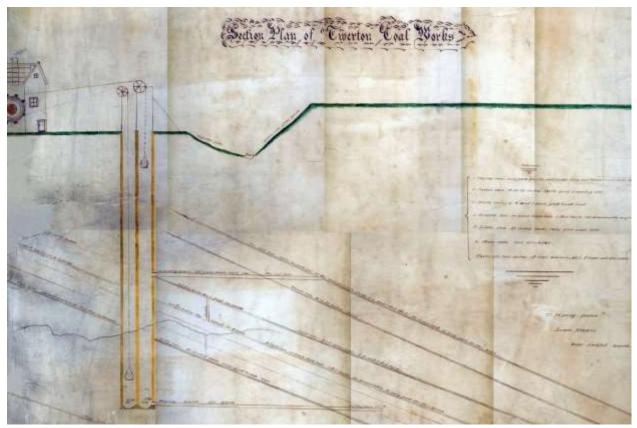
In the undergrowth behind the flats there are the remains of a fine flight of ornamental stone steps leading up into the wood which were originally attached to the end of the terrace at the back of the house. At the other end was another flight of steps leading down to an arch under the railway viaduct - presumably to provide communication between the house and the mills. Just below the steps a metalled bridle way still leads through the wood and is now used as a public footpath. Further along the way, it can still be seen that the wood was divided into two partitions. The eastern end, still marked by varieties of ornamental species of trees and shrubs (e.g. holm-oak, yew, holly, and even bamboo!) evidently served as a garden at the back of the house, while the western end appears as true woodland, consisting almost entirely of standard trees (mainly oak and beech).



The bridle way evidently provided access to other parts of Wilkins' estate which had particular commercial interest at the time. At the end of the wood it emerges near the top of the western portal of the railway tunnel where there is a magnificent view from the parapet across the Avon Valley towards Kelston Park. From here it continues through a linear beech plantation overlooking the Newton Brook, as far as the kissing-gate at Pennyquick View. This grassy plateau, now a playing field, was formerly the site of Wilkins' limestone quarry and lime-works which eventually reached a depth of 20feet before it was back-filled after WWII. At the extreme western end of the field was also the site of Wilkins' coal mine which was sunk in the 1830s, but only remained in operation until 1874.



The view across the Avon Valley from the parapet of the western portal of Twerton Tunnel, with Kelston Manor on the skyline



Detail from a section of the Coal Mine at Pennyquick, mid 19th century. (Bath Record Office)

LYNCOMBE AND WIDCOMBE POOR HOUSES

Alistair Durie

There were several Poor Houses in Lyncombe and Widcombe parish at various times. For a long time it has troubled me as to which one served whom precisely and where they were located. Our 'bible', *Discovering Widcombe and Lyncombe* by Maurice Scott, only partly answers these questions. The index lists only the one built to serve the Abbey and St.James's parishes in Armes Court, which was demolished in 1961. The Widcombe Poor House is mentioned briefly under Lyncombe Hill, where it stood.

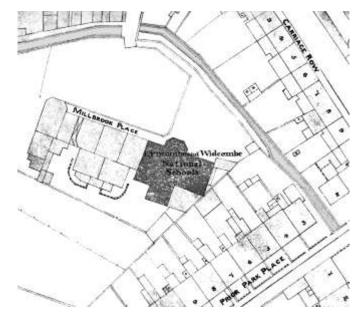
Trevor Fawcett tells the story of the Abbey and St.James's house being built in Widcombe, in *Bath Administer'd*. Originally, like other towns, Bath operated a Bridewell, begun in 1632 as described in the Council Minute Book (23 May), on the site of the later Blue Coat School. A Bridewell was the dreaded House of Correction with barred windows and taskmasters who put the idle to work, often at breaking stone. It cost the ratepayers money to run so in 1735, six years after Widcombe had shown the way, the two parishes bought an orchard between Broad Street and Milsom Street where they erected their Poor House.

As Bath expanded this land became valuable, so in 1777 they bought a two-acre orchard from Ralph Allen's estate, located behind what is now Widcombe Parade, where Armes Court now stands. Somersetshire Buildings on Milsom Street was built on the old site after it was finally given up in 1781 and the Poor House removed to Widcombe.

The churchwardens of St.Thomas à Becket were dismayed at the impending arrival of the 100 paupers the Armes Court building was designed to hold. However the relationship between St.Thomas à Becket, the Abbey and the City was so close it could not be refused. They did not even provide spaces for Widcombe paupers in their Paupers Burial Ground behind the Poor House; some of their paupers were even buried at St.Thomas's Burial Ground.



John Palmer's Poor House built for the parishes of the Abbey (St.Peter and St.Paul) and St.James's, with the School on the left. (From a postcard)



Detail from Cotterell's map of 1852. The School has taken over part of the site of the former Poor House (see illustration, p.35). The rest is being used for houses.

Meanwhile Widcombe Poor House had been built in 1729 at the foot of Lyncombe Hill opposite the house known as 'Pope's Villa', exactly 50 years before Palmer's impressive one for the Abbey and St.James's on the Armes Court site. John Wood gives the dimensions of the frontage as 40 feet. Only the terrace of four narrow houses at the foot of the hill fits the measurements (5-8 Lyncombe Lane, now known as 9-15 Lyncombe Hill.)



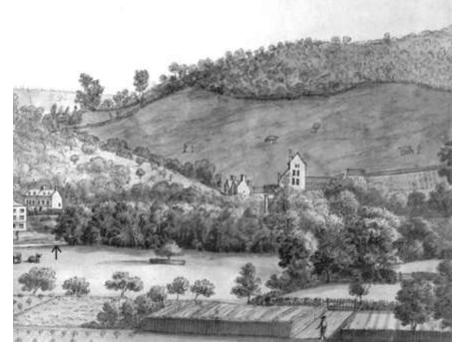
The two houses of the 1729 Poor House, rebuilt into four narrow houses, as shown by the four front doors. The two doors in the centre are the original two entrances of the Poor House, leading to stone staircases within. The two outer doors give onto inserted wooden staircases. At the left, the former gateway of the Burial Ground has been removed, but can be seen in the photo on the cover of *The Survey* No.17, 2002. (Photo: Alistair Durie)

Part of the original structure remains within these buildings: massive beams of medieval type remain in the cellar and ground floor ceilings. The terrace was built as a pair of houses, one at a lower level because of the slope. Each of the three floors could have been one large room, 18ft wide. Each house had a stone cantilevered staircase, which adjoin each other in the centre of the terrace. Later staircases of wood were inserted for the end dwellings when the terrace was divided into four houses. There is an oil painting in the Building of Bath Museum showing this building with triangular gables over each half of the building, casement windows of two lights with central mullions, and two front doors.



Detail from *Panorama of Bath* by J.W.Allen, 1833. The Poor Houses in Lyncombe Hill can be seen on the right, with their triangular gables, mullion windows and two front doors. (Bath Preservation Trust)

Detail from View of Bath looking East by Copplestone Warre Bampfylde, mid 18th century. Outlined against Beechen Cliff, the tall house in the centre is Pope's Villa, and to the left of that is the Poor House. The hedge of Lyncombe Hill continues to the top left of the picture. Lower left, Claverton Street and the river (indicated with an arrow) emerge from behind the trees on the Ham. (Bath & North East **Somerset Council)**



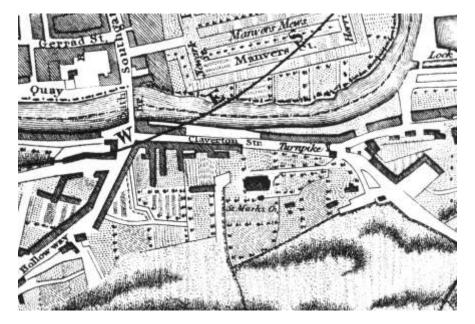
Due to the growing population in the late 18th/early 19th century, a move to larger accommodation became necessary. It must have taken place in 1824 as in that year William Nais was assessed at £3 in the Rates Book as the occupier. It was sold to John Allen, a developer, who sold it to William Skeat of Walcot, who agreed to rebuild it as two houses but when completed in 1833 it was four, with a raised roof and attics, Georgian windows and no pediments. The Palladio style remodelling would hopefully make them more desirable despite the fact that the width of the rooms in the four houses is not even 9 feet.

The new Poor House bought in 1824 certainly needed to be larger, the burial registers show paupers including children and old people had been accommodated in private houses with outdoor relief. If they were taken into the Poor House the rates would be reduced. The only address cited for the Poor House bought in 1824 was Lyncombe Place, given by Tyte. As it was only in existence until 1838 no map shows its location. However *The Beacon*, a local political journal, in 1907 published an article by John Meehan, a local historian, in his series 'Famous Buildings of Bath'. This dealt with a house belonging to Alexander Lüders at the end of Claverton Street by the Old Bridge. I reckon that it was at Nos.1 and 2 Claverton Street, opposite Lyncombe Place. This information is backed up by a history of the Lüders family, a copy of which is in Bath Central Library. Lüders died in 1819 and his house was empty for some time. It is likely that it was this house, together with the one he owned next door, which was bought in 1824 for the new Poor House. In 1838 it was sold to the Great Western Railway for use as their offices. It was demolished in 1840 to make way for the rail viaduct from Bristol.



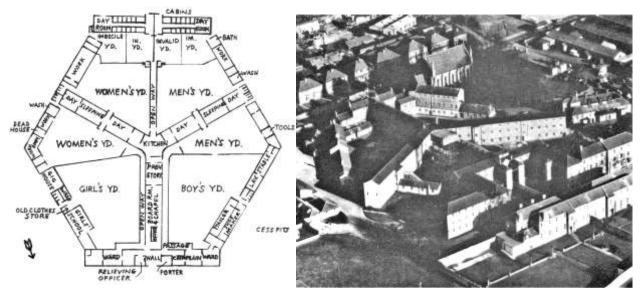
The Old Bridge, Bath, by J.C.Nattes, 1806, showing, centre right, Mr.Lüder's house and the one behind which were bought for the new Poor House. Originally purchased by Chevalier Von Lüders, Alexander (b.1756) inherited the property in 1785 after his elder brother's death. Alexander was a prolific writer with a wide circle in Bath. He became Master of the Inner Temple, apparently in 1819. The house was formerly called the Bridge Corner House. Scarborough Chapman and his daughter Jane once held a property called Bridgend, inherited from the Fishers.

Detail from Manners' map of Bath, 1840, showing the end of Claverton Street by the Old Bridge, just before it was demolished for the railway. Lyncombe Hill and the site of the 1729 Poor House are on the right of the picture.



The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 required all parishes to be grouped into Unions and the Bath Union Workhouse was built on Odd Down, where St.Martin's Hospital now stands. Much of it still survives, surrounded by later Hospital buildings. Initially its shape was a hexagon, most likely with no

windows in the outer walls apart from the main frontage which still survives with the Royal Arms over the dreaded door of entry. Here a family would be separated and sent to one of the seven areas appropriate to their age and sex. Thereafter they would only be allowed to meet occasionally. This particular shape was the design of Sir Francis Kempthorne and contained six yards, each separated from one another. At the centre of the hexagon was the Master's office and from there he could oversee all of these areas.



Plan of Bath Union Workhouse, 20 December 1838. (Bath at Work Museum)

Aerial view of St.Martin's Hospital, c.1950. (St.Martin's Hospital archives)

The 24 Parish Poor Houses from which the paupers came would have appeared homely in comparison to this severe regime - in fact some parts of the country refused to implement it. The only separate building seems initially to have been for the tramps who were only allowed to stay one night. They too had to spend it behind the 19-foot high perimeter wall. The Kempthorne design did not include medical facilities, which the Guardians soon found were very necessary when smallpox and typhoid struck in the 1840s. They also found that by 1847 the 600 requiring accommodation had almost doubled to 1100.

Towards the end of the century food and conditions improved. The demise and gradual closure of the old Workhouse in the mid 20th century seemed to go hand in glove with the building and growth alongside of the World War II emergency hospital, but when the last occupants of the Workhouse left I have no idea. Now we learn that some of the large site is to be used for housing, and St.Martin's (its name since 1937) is to be more closely linked with the Royal United Hospital.

The Baptism and Burial Registers from the old Workhouse survive and have recently been made more accessible by Heather Noad and David Southern of the Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group. These can be seen at the Records Office, the Guildhall. Baptisms were recorded from 7 August 1846 to 1963, and Burials from 1847 to 1899. The two burial grounds survive but the graves never had headstones.

With thanks to Don Lovell for the use of his report in the *Proceedings* of the WLHSG, of a talk given by Alistair Durie to the group, which has provided the inspiration for this longer article.

Reference:

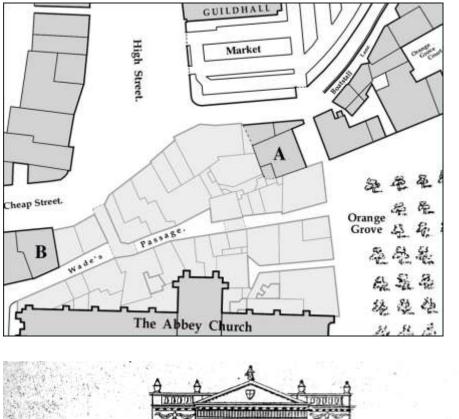
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AN ISLAND SITE

Allan Keevil

The present article concerns an island site of properties encompassing an area of approximately 50ft x 40ft¹, its base-line being its E-W southern walls which ran almost exactly along the line of the southern wall of the present Guildhall, and at the western end reached a point very close to the south-western corner of the Guildhall. The City Surveyor's Plan of 14 March 1891², shows the then planned (completed 1893) south-westward extension of the Municipal Buildings, superimposed on frontage lines of existing buildings, i.e. those of the island site. It may be of interest to all who are familiar with Bath Record Office, to notice that its rooms are within the 1893 southern extension of the Guildhall and within the area of the former island site.

When other old houses against the north face of the Abbey, on both sides of the former Wade's Passage as well as in the Market Place at the bottom of High Street, all belonging to the City, had been taken down for City Improvements between 1821 and 1834, an isolated block of properties remained³. In 1842, the Corporation lease-holder of the by then slightly smaller block is shown as Hales (Thomas Hales, butcher) and the occupier (or sub-tenant) of almost a quarter of the site in the north-west corner, as Ayliffe (Mrs.Ann Ayliffe, pork butcher)⁴.

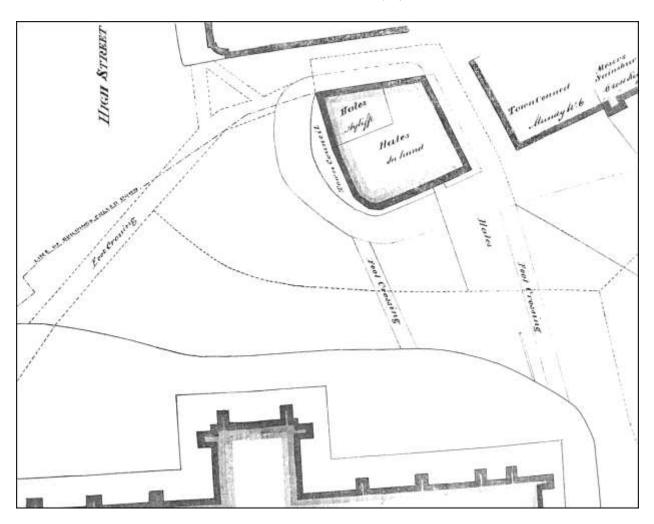


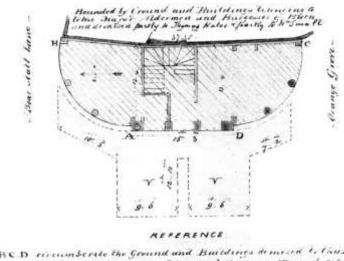
Left: The isolated block of properties (A), left behind from the demolition of the houses around Wade's Passage. The building (B) opposite, now No.13 Cheap Street, was reconstructed.

Below: a Panorama of the High Street, 1842, showing the Guildhall and, far right, the island block, railed off, before it was refronted. Nothing is yet known about the curved structure on the opposite side of the lane next to the fish market.

(Bath Central Library)







Above: the 1842 plan of the new road and pavement layout into Orange Grove, showing the island site just before the building of the new house on the western side, on the area marked 'Town Council'. The line of the demolished buildings is also shown at the bottom of the High Street.

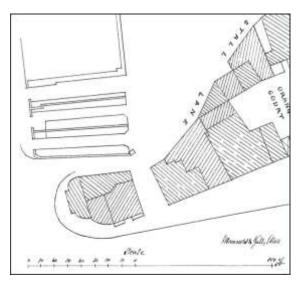
Left: the ground plan of the 'new built' house, from the 1843 deed to William Hoare, plumber.

To the properties of that 1842 plan was added from 1843, a 'new-built' house, erected on part of the site of the by then demolished *Cross Keys*⁵ and its little shop. The somewhat half-moon shape of that 'new-built house' then formed the western extremity of the island site of this present study, and adjoined, on its straight, eastern side, two other island-site properties (North & South) belonging to Hales.

The Western Side

The frontage of this 'new-built' house, facing west into the High Street, had a central, flat face, of 15ft.3ins, extending into rounded northern and southern ends, to meet the walls of the other adjoining properties, on the eastern side. It was leased by the Corporation, on 20 October 1843, to William Hoare, plumber⁶. A photograph of c.1882⁷ shows that on each of the two rounded ends of the west-facing building was painted its address, which, by that time, was '1 & 2 High Street', having been divided into two messuages. The whole property, according to the article accompanying the newspaper photograph in 1882 was then occupied by W.H. Smith, trunk makers, although it can be shown that, by that date, the property extended beyond the two messuages into which the 'new-built' house of 1843 had been divided. The property would have stood just inside the present, rounded, south-western corner of the Guildhall.

The 'new-built' property of 1843 came, by assignment, on 22 February 1851, into the possession of the Rev. John Yockney⁸, who died in 1852. When his widow, Mrs. Maria Yockney, died in 1857, she left it in equal shares to two of her husband's unmarried nieces, Laetitia and Matilda Yockney, who obtained the premises on 5 August 1858⁹. By a further assignment, 29 August 1876, after Matilda's death, Laetitia Yockney and W.H. Netherclift, Matilda's executor, transferred the property, then known as Nos. 1 & 2 High Street, to Henry Morrish, wine merchant¹⁰.



Left: An 1862 block plan showing the area around Boatstall Lane, with the sub-divisions of the island site, including the new house on the west side.

Below: The lower end of the High Street c.1850, by J.Newman. The flat pedimented face and part of the rounded SW corner of Nos.1 and 2 High Street is visible on the far left. From *Illustrations of Bath and Vicinity*.



Southern Side

Well before 1843, Thomas Hales, butcher, had his shop at the Orange Grove (initially numbered 5; later, after the removal of a house south of it, renumbered 4), at first merely as sub-tenant, probably from as early as 1819 when the *Bath Directory* shows him in the Grove.

In 1834 his then landlord, William Small (a stage-coachman of Gloucester), the Corporation leaseholder from 1821, assigned the property to him, on 11 January 1834. Later, Hales, in possession, surrendered the 1821 lease and acquired a new Corporation lease of the property on 21 October 1843¹¹. That 1843 lease (with plan) shows that by then the formerly single messuage had been divided into two, of which the wider, eastern, one was Thomas Hales' butcher's shop, becoming No.4 Orange Grove; the narrower, western messuage became No.3 Orange Grove (in error, on one lease plan, labelled No.3 High Street), later sub-let to Butt, a hairdresser. The southern wall of No.3 Orange Grove was slightly curved, until it met the rounded southern wall of the 'new-built' house, on the west. Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove were bounded on the north by another Hales' property, from his 1835 Corporation lease.



View of the Abbey from the Orange Grove c.1850 by J.Syer. The bowed window of the corner shop on the south side of the island site is just visible on the extreme right. (Bath Central Library)

On the back of William Small's Corporation lease of 22 November 1821¹², of the messuage later Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove is a memorandum of 14 December 1835, signed by Thomas Hales and P. George, the Town Clerk, stating that the former messuage on its southern side had lately been removed to improve the approach to the Orange Grove, and that the wall on the south side of Small's property had now been built (rebuilt?), at the Corporation's expense. Hales (Small's tenant) was to be permitted 'to open and continue in such wall a doorway to communicate from thence with the Orange Grove', a doorway which can apparently be seen in the photograph of 1890. He was also permitted to put one window in each of the first, second and third floors, but no shop or other window aperture in such south wall. The same memorandum also referred to part of the other property, which the Corporation leased to Hales in 1835, on the northern side of Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove.

The Northern Side

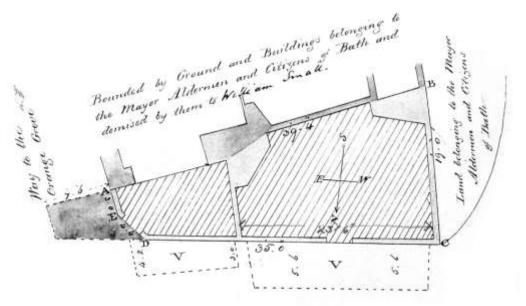
In that earlier Corporation lease of 20 August 1835, Hales had acquired premises 'on the south side of Boatstall Lane' ... 'all which said premises are now in the occupation of Mrs. Ayliffe, pork-butcher'¹³. 'All' seems at odds with the statement in the above memorandum, which shows that, east of Mrs. Ayliffe's premises, was another shop, occupied by Mrs. Crane, the widow of the former occupier, a shoemaker, and there is a reference to Mrs. Crane's and Mrs. Ayliffe's leases of 20 August 1835 as Hales' tenants. The 1835 Corporation lease had required Hales to give up a portion of Mrs. Crane's shop, to improve the way bounding its eastern side, running between Boatstall Lane and the Orange Grove. The memorandum of 1835 also gives these details, describing Ayliffe's and Crane's premises as being on the north side of Small's (the later 3 & 4 Orange Grove).

Measurements of Mrs. Ayliffe's part of Hales' property (i.e. excluding Mrs. Crane's) are shown in a Corporation lease, with plan, of her former premises only, to Henry Sheppard, licensed victualler, on 3 August 1860¹⁴. It measured 23ft.6ins along its Boatstall Lane frontage, was bounded on the west, from 1843, by the northern part of the 'new-built' house, and on the east by the remaining part of Mrs. Crane's former little shop (expressly excluded from Sheppard's 1860 lease).

Thomas Hales, the Corporation lease-holder, died in 1860, leaving Mrs. Crane's former little shop to his daughter, Fanny Hales, and his will shows it had already become merged with his former butcher's shop (No.4 Orange Grove), and was occupied by Caleb Wood.

Hales had acquired his 1835 Corporation lease on surrendering the previous one, which had been granted to Ann Chapman, spinster, on 5 August 1816, and from whom he had purchased the property. Ann Chapman had acquired it through the will of her uncle, Leonard Coward (1717-95), a third generation lace-merchant of that name, and eventually thrice Mayor of Bath¹⁵. Leonard Coward had first obtained a Corporation lease of it on 5 April 1762¹⁶. He surrendered it in 1783, so that the Corporation could lease it to John Chapman of Walcot, which they did on 20 January 1783¹⁷. Chapman surrendered this lease in 1794, when the Corporation again leased the premises to Leonard Coward, on 3 February 1794¹⁸.

The part of Mrs. Crane's former small shop removed in 1835 is shown on the lease plan as being 7ft.6ins long, on the southern side, protruding across the way to the Orange Grove. As an 'encroachment', according to Coward's 1794 lease, a yearly rent of 5/- was charged for it, as part of the total annual rent at that time of 12s.

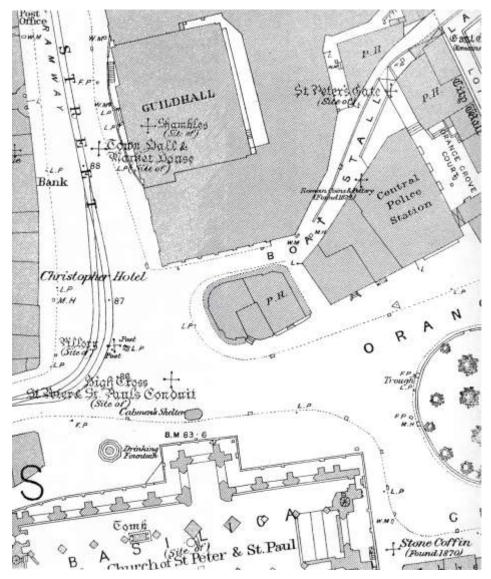


Boat Stall Lane

The north side of the island site, from the deed plan of 1835 to Thomas Hales.

From Christmas 1820, when Ann Chapman was the Corporation leaseholder of the former Coward property, she had apparently sublet it to James Wall¹⁹, a third generation pork-butcher of that name in Bath. The property was then known as No.2 High Street, in the Market Place (later becoming No.1). Boatstall Lane, on the south side of which Wall's property lay, ran approximately along the line of the present E-W ground-floor corridor of the Guildhall, from the lower door to the rear of that building. The *Bath Directory* shows that by 1822 Wall also held three pork butcher's stalls (Nos.7, 8, & 9), in the Butter Market nearby. From Michaelmas 1822, and continuing after Wall's early death in 1823, the rates were paid by Mrs.(Ann) Wall, his widow, until her re-marriage to Joseph Ayliffe, also a pork-butcher, when he paid the rates on the premises, until his death in 1829.

After Joseph Ayliffe's death in 1829, Rate Books and Bath directories show that the property continued to be held by his widow, Mrs.Ann Ayliffe (now left with a young son by her first husband, James Wall, and a much younger daughter, by her second husband, Joseph Ayliffe). She lived on the premises, presumably over the shop, at which she ran the pork-butcher's business, until her death on 3 April 1857, the death certificate showing that it had occurred at No.1 High Street, the address by which her property was then known. Mr.Henry Sheppard, licensed victualler, then acquired the former Ayliffe shop premises at No.1 High Street, from Thomas Hales, and on 7 December 1859, he mortgaged it to Mr.Frederick Morris, auctioneer. Sheppard then surrendered the property to the Corporation, to obtain a new 75-year lease, on 3 August 1860 (as above).



The island site and the lower end of the High Street, from the OS map 1:500 map surveyed in 1885

Further History

Thomas Hales died on 25 December 1860. The following year, Fanny Ann Hales, his daughter, the beneficiary under her father's will, surrendered the small shop. She then obtained a new 75-year Corporation lease of it, from 29 September 1860, by a lease dated 23 August 1861²⁰. Directories of the 1860s show that No.4 Orange Grove (Hales' former butcher's shop, and now also including Mrs. Crane's former little shop on its northern side) then called the *Abbey Hotel*, was occupied by Caleb Wood

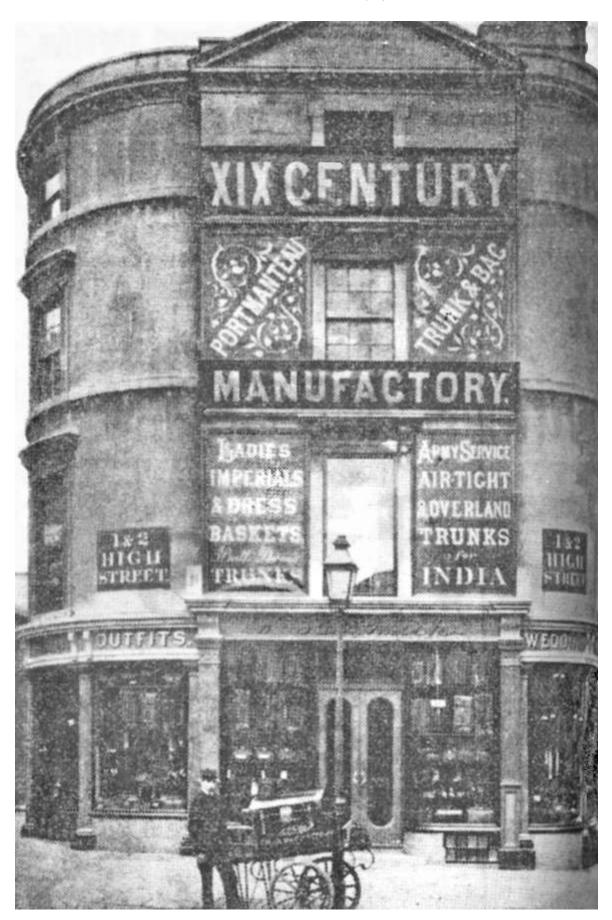


View of the Abbey from the Orange Grove c.1880, with the Abbey Hotel to the right. (Bath Central Library)

On 2 November 1864, Henry Sheppard (together with his mortgagor of No.1 High Street), assigned his premises (formerly Mrs. Ayliffe's shop) to James Downton, publican, then of that address²¹. No.1 High Street became known briefly (1863-67 - see *Bath Directories*) as the *Guildhall Tavern*. By 1866, the *Bath Directory* shows that Downton had also acquired the *Abbey Hotel*. A dispute arose over Thomas Hales' will, and his estate was placed in Chancery, from which it was released in 1864 (see Appendix to this article). It was then assigned to Messrs.Hine and Morrish.

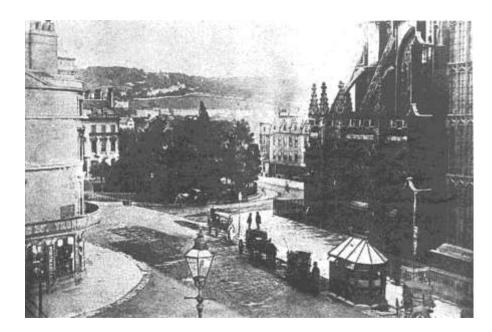
James Downton died in 1871, and on 24 February 1872 his widow, Mrs. Martha Downton, assigned No.1 High Street (previously the *Guildhall Tavern*) to Mr.Henry Morrish, wine merchant²². By Morrish's purchase of the former Yockney property, in 1876, it is clear that he then became a beneficial owner of the whole of the island site, and was able to change the way some of the properties were held under him.

Henry Morrish, together with Frederick Cumberland & Edward Augustus Green (acting jointly, as Vendors, Henry Morrish having assigned the *Abbey Hotel* to them), conveyed Nos. 1 & 2 High Street, on 19 October 1889, to Mrs.Mary Ann Osborne, widow and licensed victualler²³. There had been a further addition to Nos. 1 & 2 High Street. In the final surrender of all the properties of the island site to the Corporation, on 29 September 1892²⁴ there is an explanation of an error concerning the *Abbey Hotel*, in an indenture of 30 January 1891, when the Vendors (Cumberland & Green), together with Henry Morrish, a beneficial owner, and E.R. Dolling, a solicitor, conveyed the *Abbey Hotel* to the Bath Brewery Co., Ltd. The details of that 1891 document were apparently endorsed on the Indenture of 1892 shows that the Bath Brewery acknowledged the right of the Corporation to production and delivery of copies of the Indentures of 22 August 1889 and 30 January 1891, and undertook for the safe custody of them. Unfortunately neither document is preserved among the Corporation deeds held by Bath Record Office. Information, therefore about the above matter now depends entirely on what is recited and explained in the above document of 1892.



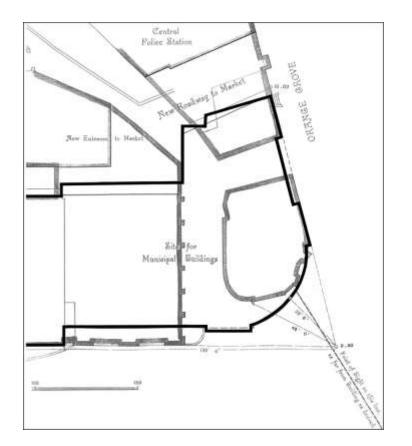
The Survey of Bath and District No.20, October 2005

Nos.1 and 2 High Street in 1882, then occupied by W.H.Smith, trunk makers and leather merchants.

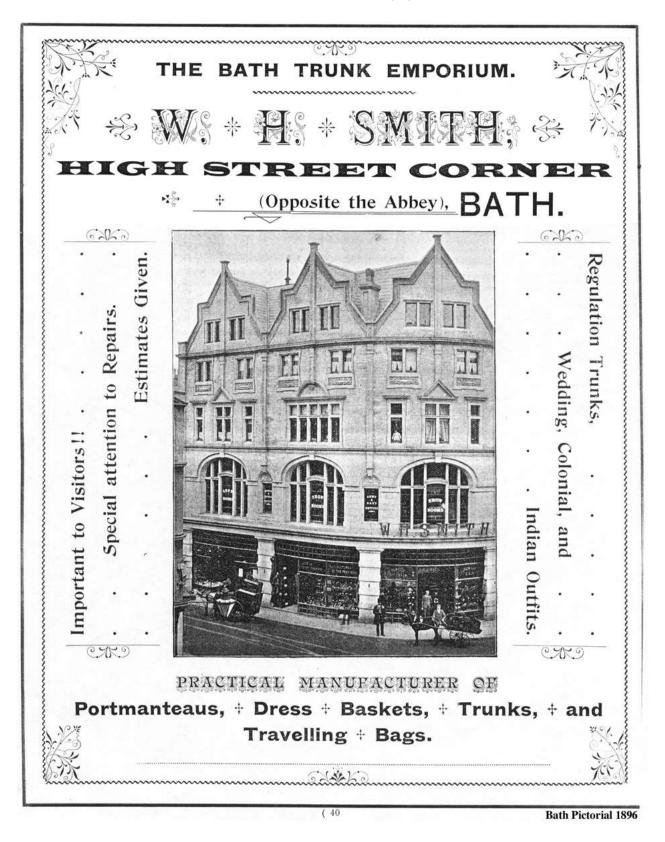


A high view of Orange Grove in the 1880s, showing Nos.1 and 2 High Street, far left, with a projecting shop facsia. (*Bath Chronicle*)

It reveals that three rooms over the Tap Room of the *Abbey Hotel* had not been conveyed in 1891, and had not in fact, 'for many years past been used with the *Abbey Hotel*, but had been occupied with the adjoining messuages known as Nos. 1 & 2 High Street, then belonging to Mrs. Osborne'. It is fortunate that the indenture of conveyance, dated 19 October 1889, of Nos. 1 & 2 High Street to Mrs. Osborne, widow and licensed victualler, and another of the same date, of No.3 Orange Grove to Thomas John Linay, surgical instrument maker, both exist²⁵, and both contain plans indicating the position of the Tap Room of the *Abbey Hotel*. Mrs. Osborne's lease, however, does not mention the fact that rooms over that Tap Room were part of her premises. In order to rectify the problem of errors and omissions to which reference was made, the 1892 document of surrender explains that certain alterations and additions were made to the 1891 document 'subsequent to the execution thereof'.



Plan of the proposed Guildhall extension, 1891, showing its outlines superimposed on the island site and, left, the market. (Bath Record Office)



When the island site was required by the Corporation for Brydon's extension to the Guildhall, W.H.Smith was offered an alternative site opposite at Nos.9 & 10 High Street on the north-east corner of Cheap Street, which was rebuilt and extended, as shown here. The new building is said to have been ready by 1892, the design being attributed to the then city architect, Major Charles Davis Its flamboyant roof-line, bearing some resemblance in style to the Empire Hotel (which Davis was also building at about that time), became the subject of some criticism. However, in 1932 a disastrous fire swept the premises which reduced the building to a shell and provided the opportunity to build a more conventional roof, as appears today.

End of the Island Site

The owners of the island-site properties, surrendered in 1892, were paid by the Corporation as follows:

Mrs.Mary Ann Osborne, for Nos. 1 & 2 High Street, £900; William Henry Smith (her tenant, the trunk-maker) £700; Thomas John Linay, for No.3 Orange Grove, £450; Bath Brewery, Ltd., for the *Abbey Hotel*, £900.

The Corporation were then able to remove the properties and erect the southern extension of the Guildhall. After explaining that the extension had been necessitated by the great increase in business since the erection of the 1777 Guildhall, the wording of the Memorial stone on the south wall of the present Guildhall states that it had been laid on 1 June 1893 by Jerom Murch, J.P., D.L., Mayor for the seventh time: the architect was J.M. Brydon, F.R.I.B.A; John Stone, Town Clerk; Hayward & Wooster, contractors.

Thus had come to an end the island site, containing, from 1842, the last remaining buildings which had stretched as a continuous line from Cheap Street to the eastern end of the above properties, and southwards from the 1777 Guildhall and the Markets to the north walls of the Abbey. Most had been removed between 1821 and 1842, leaving only the island-site until 1892.

Appendix

One of the three executors of Thomas Hales' will, William A. Cox, surgeon, of New King Street, renounced and wholly disclaimed 'the devises and bequests' contained in the will, and an indenture of 18 February 1861 was made between Cox and the other two executors, Benjamin Collins Woolly, gent. (a farmer of Englishbatch), and William Hale, gent. (a Bath solicitor). 'With the privity of Woolly and Hale, by being parties to the indenture', Cox 'absolutely and irrevocably' renounced and disclaimed all his right or interest in the probate and execution of the will, and also all the real and personal estate and trusts, given to him jointly with the other two²⁶. As a result of this, it seems, the Master of the Rolls took action, on 20 July 1863, 'in the matter of the estate of Thomas Hales and the cause in which Fanny Ann Hales [the daughter and beneficiary of Thomas Hales' will] was plaintiff, while Cox, Woolley and Hale were defendants', by ordering that all the testator's (i.e. Thomas Hales') estate be sold, and the money paid into the Bank, as "The Residuary Account", to the credit of the Master²⁷.

Although in the ensuing auction sale of 1863, Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove remained unsold, a Thomas Hine, brewer, of Combe Down, conditionally contracted to purchase that property for £490, and the acting Master of the Rolls ordered that the contract should be entered into. Hine then 'with the privity of the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery' paid the Bank of England the purchase money, on 16 November 1864, as required by the above order²⁸. As Henry Morrish had advanced half the purchase money, it was agreed that Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove, together with Mrs. Crane's former little shop (merged with No.4, by 1860), should be assigned to Hine and Morrish. This was done on 20 December 1864²⁹.

References

- 1. OS 1:500, Somerset Sheet XIV 5, 9 & 10, surveyed 1885, published 1889
- 2. Plan by Charles R. Fortune, City Surveyor, 14 March 1891, Plan 41 (Guildhall), Bath Library
- 3. Plans 1821 and 1841, by George Manners, City Surveyor, Bath Record Office (BRO)
- 4. Cotterell & Spackman, large scale plan of the island site, dated 1842, BRO
- 5. See plan and article on Wade's Passage by Elizabeth Holland, in *The Survey of Bath and District*, No 19, November 2004, pp.36-39
- 6. Lease to Wm.Hoare, 20 October 1843, BRO, BC 153/3474/5
- 7. Photograph, c.1882, published in *Bath Chronicle*, 10 November 1970
- 8. Assignment to Rev.John Yockney, 22 February 1852, BRO, BC 153/3474
- 9. Release by Mrs. Maria Yockney's executors to Misses M. & L. Yockney, 5 August 1858, *ibid*.
- 10. Assignment to Henry Morrish, quoted in lease, 19 October 1889 to Mrs.Mary Osborne, *ibid*.
- 11. Corporation lease to Thomas Hales, 21 October 1843, BRO, BC 153/3474/5
- 12. Memo., 1835, on back of Small's Corporation lease, 22 November 1821, BRO, BC 153/3474/3
- 13. Corporation lease to Thomas Hales, 20 August 1835, BRO, Deed Packet 3403
- 14. Corporation lease to Henry Sheppard, 3 August 1860, *ibid*.
- 15. See Ruth Haskins' article on Coward in *The Survey*, No.19, November 2000, pp.42 & 43

- 16. Corporation lease to Leonard Coward, 5 April 1762, BRO, BC 152/2230 (Furman's Repertory)
- 17. Corporation lease to John Chapman, 1783, BRO, Deed Packet 3403
- 18. Corporation lease to Coward, 1794, *ibid*.
- 19. Ann Chapman sub-let premises to James Wall, pork butcher, BRO, Church Rate Books for parish of St.Peter & St.Paul the Abbey parish
- 20. Corporation lease to Fanny Ann Hales, BRO, Deed Packet 3403
- 21. Assignment by Henry Sheppard and Frederick Morris to James Downton, 2 November 1864, *ibid*.
- 22. Assignment by Mrs.Martha Downton, 24 February 1872, of No.1 High Street to Henry Morrish, BRO, Deed Packet 3403
- 23. Henry Morrish *et al* to Mrs.Mary Osborne, 19 October 1889, conveyance, with plan, BRO, Deed Packet 3474
- 24. Final surrender to the Corporation, 29 September 1892, *ibid*.
- 25. Henry Morrish et al, 19 October 1889, to Thomas John Linay, surgical instrument maker, *ibid*.
- 26. Agreement, Cox, Woolly & Hale, 18 February 1861, quoted in assignment by Messrs.Woolly & Hale to Messrs.Hine & Morrish, 20 December 1864, of Nos. 3 & 4 Orange Grove, BRO Deed Packet 3474
- 27. Order by Master of the Rolls, 20 July 1863, quoted in assignment dated 20 December 1864, of Nos.3 & 4 Orange Grove, by Messrs.Woolly & Hale to Messrs.Hine & Morrish, *ibid*.

28. Hine paid £490 to Bank, 16 November 1864, in favour of the Master of the Rolls, as required, see assignment of 20 December 1864 - see note 22

29. Assignment, 20 December 1864 - see note 22

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The writer wishes to thank Colin Johnston and his deputy, Lucy Powell, for their help with plans and documents preserved at the Bath Record Office, and for permission to publish a selection.

Thanks also to members of the Bath Library staff for their similar courteous service in digging out items in their care, and for permission to publish certain of their plans and pictures. He is also grateful to the *Bath Chronicle* for allowing the publication of their photograph of Nos. 1 & 2 High Street, c.1882, which appeared in the newspaper on 10 November 1970.

Elizabeth Holland provided valuable information from her studies of the old city, and Mike Chapman was most helpful in preparing the plans and pictures for publication.

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