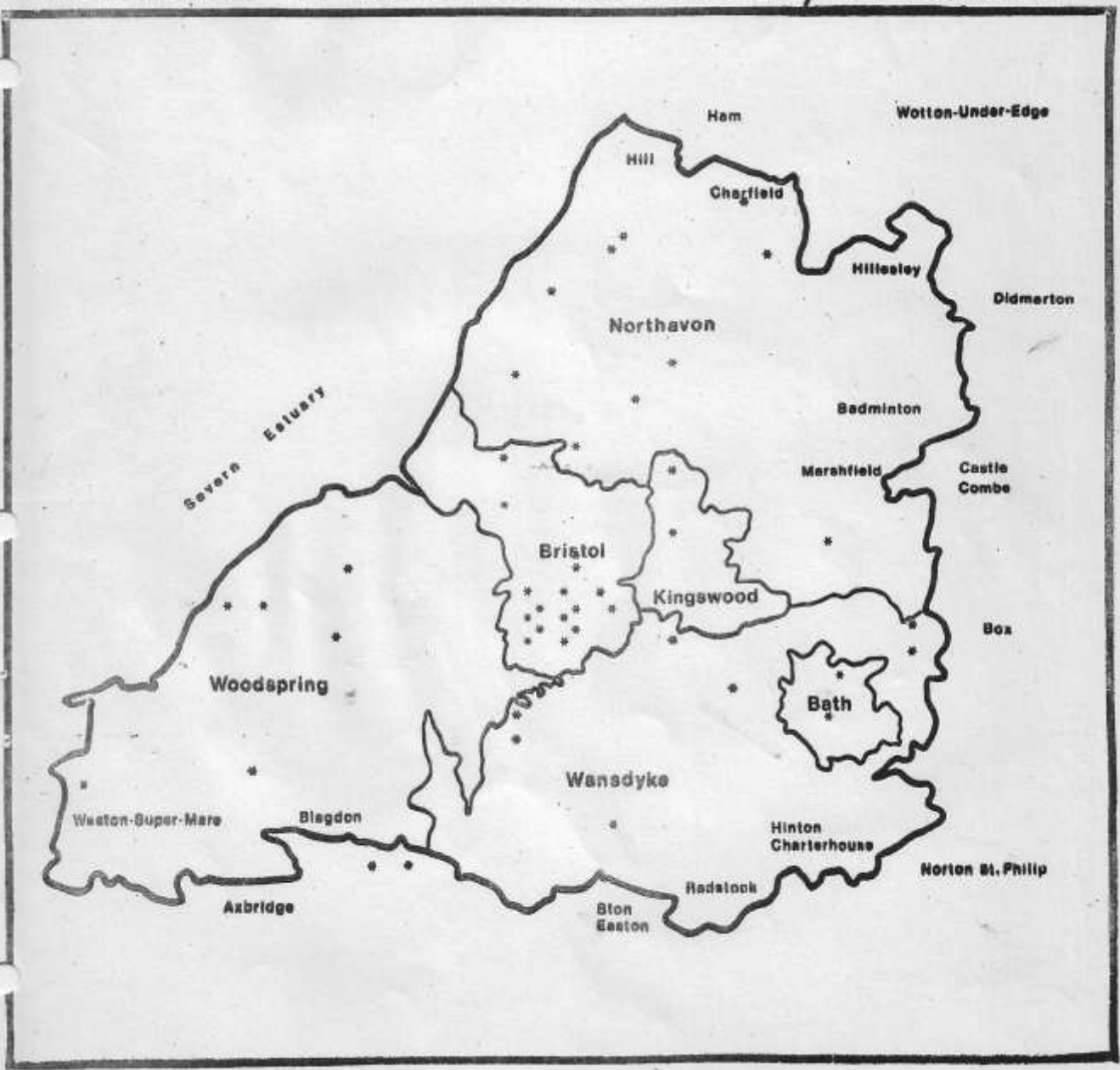


# ALPHA QUEST



Issue No 10

Newsletter of the Avon Local History Association



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EDITORIAL

To those who receive their copy before December 25th - Merry Christmas! - and to all readers, a Happy New Year.

My thanks to Harry Donnett for looking after Quest while I looked after a new infant. I announce with regret that Harry is retiring as assistant editor of Quest. We live at opposite ends of the County so that it has not been easy to meet but he has always been a most amiable and encouraging colleague.

The new assistant editor will be George Davey, a member of the A.L.H.A. Committee and Secretary of Sodbury and District History Association. I am pleased to welcome him and look forward to working with him on the next issue.

May I draw your attention to a very worthwhile A.L.H.A. sponsored event, the 'Walk-Around Sodbury' on March 31st. Our thanks to the Sodbury and District History Society.

Sue Barrance

TO ALL

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS -

- GROUPS AND SOCIETIES -

INFORMATION

please, on - areas of research, completed  
in progress or projected

- local speakers.

Send to C.J. Spittal, Information Officer A.L.H.A.,  
162, Church Road, Frampton Cotterell.  
Tel. Winterbourne 773158

In Quest 8, the Information Officer wrote, "Furthermore, I think we ought to maintain a register of current research among the local societies in Avon. Only too often facts come to light in one area which could be useful in another or methods of research are evolved which could have a general application. In every group there is always somebody with some special knowledge or expertise which he or she is generally only too happy to pass on to others. A list of local speakers might also be a good thing to compile. One such list did appear in Quest some time ago but some of the speakers lived a good way distant from the boundaries of Avon, offered rather exotic chosen subjects or were dispiritingly expensive to entertain. I feel that much useful local talent was too modest to reveal itself in that list but perhaps it was never asked. If it was not I should like to remedy the defect."

Please respond!

ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH A.L.H.A.

Almondsbury Local History Society  
 Avon Archaeological Council  
 Avon & Bristol Association of Teachers in History  
 Banwell Society of Archaeology  
 Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society  
 Batheaston Society  
 Bathford Local History Society  
 Bristol & Avon Family History Society  
 Bristol Archaeological Research Group (BARG)  
 Bristol Civic Society  
 Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society  
 Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society (BIAS)  
 Bristol Museum  
 Bristol Branch of the Historical Association  
 Bristol Broadsides  
 Bristol Record Society  
 Chew Valley Local History Society  
 Clevedon & District Archaeological Society  
 Clevedon Civic Society  
 Clifton & Hotwells Local History Group  
 Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire & Somerset (CRAAGS)  
 Corston & Newton St. Loe Local History Group  
 Crockern, Pill & District Society  
 Downend Local History Society  
 Doynton Local History Group  
 Filton Historical Research Group  
 Frampton Cotterell & District Local History Research Group  
 Freshford & District Local History Society  
 Gordano Valley Society  
 Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society  
 Kingswood & District Historical Society  
 Malago Archives Committee  
 Malago Society  
 Nailsea Local History Society  
 Northavon Society for Archaeological Study  
 North Somerset Archaeological Group  
 Norton-Radstock Local History Society  
 Olveston Parish Historical Society  
 Society for a Conservation Area in Long Ashton  
 Sodbury & District Historical Society  
 Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society  
 Somerset Records Society  
 Temple Cloud Women's Institute  
 Thornbury Historical Society  
 Workers Educational Association  
 Westbury-on-Trym Local History Society  
 Weston-super-Mare Branch, Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society  
 Winterbourne Local History Group  
 Whitchurch Local History Society

NEWS AND REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

DOWNEND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Secretary: Mrs. P. Jones, 77 Fouracre Road, Downend (Tel. Bristol 561633)

January 16th - History of Vaugh Farm by Mrs. Peris-Jones

January 30th - Around the World: An Adventure in Family History  
by Mrs. Jean Doggett

February 6th - West Country Churches by Dr. J. Bettey

February 20th - Bristol Riots by Mr. White

March 6th - Brunel by Eric Gadd

March 20th - Thornbury by Miss Mary Bruton.

All meetings are at The Barn on Tuesday evenings starting at 7.30 p.m.

FILTON HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Hon. Secretary: Mr. W.L. Harris, Filton Polk Centre, Elm Park, (Tel. 692025)  
Filton.

January 31st - Avonmouth, Kings Weston and Shirehampton by Mr. E. Thomas

February 28th - Stapleton by Mr. T. Bullock

March 28th - Bristol Docks by Mr. J. Powell.

The Jubilee Folder, mentioned in Quest 7, is coming on well and some excellent photographs have been received.

FRESHFORD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Secretary: Miss D. Withers, "Middlegarth", Wellow Lane, Hinton Charterhouse,  
Bath BA3 6AU. (Tel. Limpley Stoke 3515)

September - We enjoyed a talk by Dr. Alan Dodge on the "Evolution of Freshford" from the first Iron Age encampment to the present day, which showed no spectacular events but a steady development.

November - Dr. Duncan Harris showed beautiful slides of the Kennet and Avon Canal, both before and after restoration with more details of the length in our district where the Somerset Coal Canal joined it. Evidence of this derelict canal can be traced in our fields by keen historians. Industrial archaeologists would find the Grafton Pumping Engine at Claverton of interest. This is now fully restored and on view during the summer.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - BRISTOL BRANCH

Branch Secretary: Mr. David J. Phillips, 32, St. Albans Road, Westbury Park, Bristol BS6 7SJ. (Tel. 40920).

Meetings are held on Fridays in the Sixth Form Centre of the Bristol Grammar School, off University Road at 7.00 p.m.

1979

- January 19th - People's Poland by Professor R.F. Leslie, Queen Mary College, University of London
- February 16th - The Jews in Medieval England by Professor R.E. Dobson, University of York
- March 9th - President Amin: The Historical Background by Mr. O.W. Furley, Lanchester Polytechnic
- March 30th - Sixth Form Conference: 'The 17th Century Crises' by Professor C. Hill, Balliol College, Oxford: Consequences of the English Revolution by Dr. R. Bonney, University of Reading: The French Political Crises of the 1640s and 1650s
- May 18th - Annual General Meeting

THE MALAGO SOCIETY

The formation of this new adult branch of the Malago Archives Committee was reported in Quest 9. The Secretary is Mr. R. Tanner, 12 Peter Cole Drive, Bishopsworth, Bristol 3. (Tel. 643270). Meetings are held in The Old Dining Hall behind the Bishopsworth Church at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

- January 23rd - A.G.M. and Victorian Slide programme
- February 27th - The Bedminster and Bristol Horse by Keith Chivers
- March 27th - Starting in Genealogy by Mrs. Rae Collins
- April 24th - The Excavations at Keynsham Abbey by Mrs. B. Lowe
- May 22nd - The Earlier Smythes at Ashton Court by Anton Bantock

KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- January 19th - Looking at Local Parish Churches by Dr. J.H. Bettey (Staff Tutor in Local History, University of Bristol)
- February 16th - The Order of St. Victor (The religious order of the Canons of Keynsham Abbey) by Barbara Lowe (Committee member specialising in Abbey affairs)
- March 16th - Annual General Meeting followed by:-  
Keynsham Manor House and Grounds by W. Matthews of the 'Dappifers House' Dapps Hill.
- April 20th - Excavations at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Bristol by Dr. Roger Price (Dept. of Archaeology, Bristol City Museum)

NOTE:

All meetings on FRIDAYS at ELLSBRIDGE HOUSE, BATH ROAD, at 7.30 p.m. For confirmation of fixtures see small posters in box outside Keynsham Library.

Non-members welcome - charge 15p. No charge for accompanied children or local Civic Society members.

NAILSEA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society continues to thrive and the latest venture is the introduction of a Heritage series of post cards. Reports on the sales so far are encouraging.

An error in last "Quest" should be corrected, the Branch Secretary is in fact Mr. Peter Wright, 5, The Perrins, Nailsea, who also points out that the name listed in "Quest" 9 as Nailsea Local History Group is incorrect, the correct name is that heading the report.

The 17th century cottage of Quaker John Whiting which was recently saved from destruction by the Society, is the subject of an encouraging Museum Report.

It is hoped that planning can now commence on how the cottage can be preserved and at the same time serve the community.

SODBURY AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Secretary: Mr. G. Davey (Tel. Chipping Sodbury 314053).

January 12th	To be arranged	P.M. School
February 9th	Chipping Sodbury 1851. A social history study	Mr. B. Jerrard P.M. School
March 9th	The impact of Dr. Jenner. Development of Cowpox vaccine	Rev/Cannon Gethyn Jones P.M. School
April 13th	17th century Mangotsfield: A follow up talk on Parish Wils	Mrs. Perris-Jones P.M. School
May 11th	The Third Society A.G.M., which includes the election of Society Officers and General Committee. The Subscriptions for 1979/80 season will also be fixed and become due on that date. Venue: Painters Mead School, Hounds Road, Chipping Sodbury.	

Winter meetings, unless otherwise stated, commence at 7.30 p.m.

ESSAY COMPETITIONS

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A reminder that there will be two types of competition this year:-

- (a) For the over 60s: a pre-second world war reminiscence of the area. Selected entries will be published in Quest and may be suitable for inclusion in a radio programme. It has been agreed that the prize should be an outing to a place of historical interest. We are pleased to report that several entries have already been received, but would welcome many more - to 17 Whiteladies Road, please.
- (b) For society and individual members: for the best article published in Quest during the year. The judging would be by the Executive Committee in April and the prize would be a £5 book token and a copy of the Local History Handbook.

For those who are a little older: Harry Dommett writes:-

I have enjoyed the entries for the competition. There are many who may feel reluctant to write because they believe that their particular offering is of little importance. Believe me, nothing is of "little importance" in our fascinating subject of local history, because every scrap of knowledge recorded that otherwise would be lost, is really important.

I am convinced that to appreciate the history of a locality one has to think in the vernacular of the locality, and who are better qualified to talk of the past than those who have experienced the past. Older people can speak so authentically of the thinking of our forebears and even more so of their utterances.

Mrs. Nora Parker has written about her family, and if the material comforts of today are missing from her story, pride, integrity, and humanity appear to be very much stronger then, than now.

Mr. Lewis Wilshire on the other hand has written about Bristol suburban street life in the 1920s, and if he could not capture a tape recording of the traders' cries, he has made remarkably evocative verbal description of their sound. His article follows, on page 7.

My thanks for such writing because my hunch about the value of such entries is fully endorsed.

DON'T FORGET

WALK AROUND SODBURY

Saturday 31st March - 3 p.m. onwards

Exhibition and Refreshments in the Town Hall

For some members of A.L.H.A. Chipping Sodbury in Northavon may seem a long trek for an afternoon's entertainment, but it is a fascinating and well preserved market town, now in a special conservation area, and for members south of the river, the "Walk Around" should provide a memorable day out. The "Walk Around" will be led by Percy Cousens who has written about the area for many years and has a new edition of "Southwolds" currently being published by F. Bailey and Sons Ltd.



SUBURBAN STREET-LIFE IN THE 1920's

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Apart from the vast number of small shops and traders, specialising in commonplace and out-of-the-way trades like repairing umbrellas, soldering saucepans, preparing tripe and repairing shoes, there were an army of street-hawkers prior to 1935. Some, like the ice-cream sellers, we still have, but then the ubiquitous Walls, or Eldorado-man, had a tricycle and carrier, and the former was famous for the slogan "Stop Me And Buy One" which appeared on his sidecar. At that time there were still lamplighters in some areas. They carried a long pole with which they turned on the gas-lamps. In our part of the city, they always rode a bike and a favourite pastime among energetic urchins, was to shin up lamp-posts and put the light out. This was regarded as anti-social by other youngsters who played marbles and "pecking", ( a game played with cigarette cards, which had to fall on top of your opponents to claim it), skipping, pottle and five-stones.

Most regular traders had horse-and-cart deliveries, Bakers, milkmen, laundry, greengrocer, brewers, railway-deliveries, coal merchants and parcel-post. Some undertakers still maintained horses, and a hearse drawn by black horses with plumes was a sight to be remembered.

Apart from the regular tradesmen, however, the street-scene was enlivened with an army of hawkers, like the cockle-women from Penclawdd, near Swansea. These women, young and old, carried wicker baskets of cockles on their heads and called "Fresh Cockles" up and down the suburban streets, having caught the earliest train up from Swansea that morning. The cockles were fresh and the women, as I remember, very clean, and their strong Welsh accents were quite baffling to children accustomed to the Bristol accent. A weekly caller was the oil-man, one of whom had a horse-and-cart and a very strong voice and called "Oyall!" as he rang a bell. His voice and cry were so well known that I remember a boy at school imitating the "Oyall!" cry when the headmistress of our school rang her bell to end playtime. This was regarded as an appalling offence to the dignity of the school, and he was caned and made to stand in the toilets all day as a punishment. When we boys went to the toilet, we would taunt him with the word "Oyall!" - and run. The oil-man sold paraffin, candles, whiting and black-lead and scouring powder. Later oil-men acquired motor-vans and branched-out into hardware, some of them selling furniture on the "weekly".

Most poor families were visited by the insurance man and the "duffer", the latter selling clothes or "checks" and collecting weekly instalments. Both survive in a somewhat different form. The Pikelet-man, however, vanished from the scene long ago. He was, in our case, an elderly, white-bearded man who pushed a three-wheeled truck, with sliding doors which revealed not only pikelets, or muffins, but also pastries. He collected them each morning from a bakery, 'Roberts', at Kingswood.

Baker's carts were an institution much appreciated by small boys. They were always asking if they could have a ride, and some bakers used this to their advantage by promising a ride and a free bun to boys who helped deliver the bread. The smell of freshly-baked bread enveloped you when you stepped up into the covered cart, but deliveries tended to take a long time, and after dark in winter, when the side-lamps with candles or oil-lamps would still be found in the country lanes on the outskirts of the city. The pikelet-man also had a hand-bell, but, perhaps because he was old, he had no distinctive cry. In fact, he was a silent old man, who hardly exchanged the time of day. Not many of our neighbours could afford much in the way of pastries, so it may be that trade was depressed, and so was he.

.../.

Another hawker was the fresh-fish-man, also bearded, with a basket under one arm and another basket on his head. He bought his fish in Bristol fish-market and then walked eastward through Barton Hill, St. George, Kingwood and Soundwell, crying "Freshfish!" in a sad but penetrating tone. My grandmother told me that he lived in a doss-house, but was "quite respectable and very clean". Like all the other vendors, he was a favourite target for snowballs. Small boys, then, as now, were not sentimental, and life was hard for these foot-slogging vendors in winter.

Knife-grinders were occasional visitors, often accompanied by a wife or child, who called on householders inviting "knives to grind" whilst the owner of the business sat on a machine which he wheeled about and which consisted of a carborundum wheel operated by a treadle. Chimney-sweeps, with their brushes and bags of soot, usually seemed to prefer bicycles, which they pushed rather than rode. Because they always had black faces, I thought, as a child, that they never washed, and unlike many others, who aspired to be engine-drivers, I thought a chimney-sweep was a more interesting profession. I wasn't keen on washing, and the excitement of seeing the brush emerge from the chimney and do a triumphant waggle high over the roof, seemed to me a real achievement.

Rag-and-bone men, with donkey-carts, were common. The best known in our area was remarkable for an enormous wen on his neck which pushed his face awry and a recalcitrant donkey with which he was always having an argument. This argument was interrupted by his doleful "Ra-bone! Ra-bone!" inviting us to bring out our cotton and woollen rags for cash or (if preferred) a cheap toy or a goldfish.

The scrap-iron man was a tougher character, who dealt in iron, steel, copper, brass and lead, and haggled over the price. He usually had an underfed pony and was usually backed-up by a number of children who pleaded on their own behalf for any old clothes, shoes, or a bit of bread.

By comparison, the greengrocery sellers who had their regular customers were in a different class. They did not ring bells, but had individual cries for the benefit of occasional customers, though they called on their regulars and recited off the current prices of potatoes, cabbage, peas, beans, oranges and carrots. As I remember, their call was a sort of amalgam or "portmanteau" word such as "Carpotatage" or "Greensafuitage". They usually had very well developed vocal chords.

Most milkmen had a pony and cart for their big churns from which they filled the smaller hand-churns with pint "dipper". Unlike bakers, their carts were open-ended. Like bakers, their horses became accustomed to stopping at particular houses. This made for difficulty when a customer decided to change his milkman or baker, because the horse had become accustomed to stopping at that point, and waiting for his driver's return. The result was, he kept stopping at the house long after the account had ceased and the driver would irritably tell him to "Giddup there! Get along with 'ee!" There was the added embarrassment of the unwelcome publicity caused by the obvious defection of a regular customer.

Before coal-merchants started using lorries, they used carts pulled by a heavy draught horse, and often the driver was also coal heaver. I don't remember him calling his wares but I do recall a large wooden board advertising COAL 1/- CWT. over his head. Old people at that time (1930) considered £1 per ton exorbitant, particularly if the coal didn't burn very well. Most people still depended on it for heating, and many on the outskirts of Bristol still had coal ranges and cooked with it.

An old lady with a black shawl was our local flower-seller. She usually sold her flowers to those who looked after a family or personal grave, and needed the flowers to keep up with the Jones' whose grave always looked a picture. She regarded the itinerant gypsies, who were seasonal sellers of flowers of an inferior kind, as interlopers.

On Good Friday mornings, the boys selling hot-cross-buns would be crying their wares from six o'clock a.m. onward. "Hot-cross-buns! One-a-penny, two-a-penny! Hot-cross-buns!" Actually, they were a penny each, 12 for tennence, and were really hot, since the boys (who sometimes made as much as five shillings profit) had just collected them from the bakery. Even then, they had been round to collect orders as the scouts still do, in some areas, but there are not so many and they are not so vocal.

Newspaper sellers, in those days, walked up and down streets or rode bicycles. They too, had their distinctive cries, "Pay-a-per" or (one I particularly remember) "Evapostaworld". On wild and windy nights, these cries, bore on the wind, were like despairing appeals for help.

This was the era of steam-waggons on the roads - great solid-tyred monsters, which belched smoke and had a fire-box to catch the red-hot cinders before they fell onto the road. They carried a crew of "shifters" if they were brewery waggons, and not only barrels (36 gallons) but hogsheads (over 50 gallons) were carried in those days of massive beer consumption.

Of all these phenomena one of the oddest was a female known locally as "Lottie-the-Stick". She supported an ancient mother and father, who would otherwise have been in the workhouse, and a sister who should have been certified because she was entirely mad. Lottie cadged wooden boxes from grocers, chopped them up, and sold bundles of wood for kindling. It was a penny a bundle, and she pushed it around in a heavy three-wheeled cart. The wheels were of cast-iron, and she must have been very strong to push it up hill and hold it back coming downhill. She looked poor, but I learnt that she was also a money-lender, a trade that was carried on with great secrecy, because it was illegal. Her rate of interest was high, 50% per week, but she must have thrived because when she died, of a heart attack and they took away mother, father and sister to institutions, she was found to have amassed a small fortune ( for those days ) of several hundred pounds.

Lewis Vilshire

THE CIRENCESTER TO LAMBRIDGE (BATH) TURNPIKE TRUST (1769-1843)

by Harold Lane.

Of all the former Turnpike Roads in our area this stretch of about 33 miles, forming the first part of the Bath to Nottingham Road, is one of the richest in its remaining evidence of milestones and 'pike houses.

The initial Trust was established by the Act 9 GEO III of March 13th 1769 for "Repairing the Road from the Town of Cirencester in the County of Gloucester, to the tenth milestone from Cirencester, at or near the East End of the Town of Tetbury, and from the West End of the Church Yard in the said Town of Tetbury to a Gate in the said County near the Monument upon Lansdown". (Note, this was the old route into Bath, from the top of Tog Hill over Lansdown. The Lansdown Hill stretch was in the Bath Turnpike Trust).

In 1783 a further Act (23 GEO III) was passed "in order to make the road more commodius for travellers than the present road". This Act was for "completing and keeping in repair the road from the Ram Inn, in Cirencester, through the Town of Tetbury to Oldfield (otherwise Woefield Corner) near the 16th Milestone in the Bath Road, and the Road from thence through the Parishes of Cold Ashton and Swainswick to or near Lambridge in the Parish of Bath Easton near the City of Bath". The Act allowed for the maintenance of the Lansdown Road until such time as the new route was fit for travelling, and also for the setting up of Turnpikes or Toll Houses including ones on side roads leading to the main Turnpike Road.

The importance of this road can be seen from the accompanying map. Cirencester was at the crossroad of the Bristol/Bath to Nottingham and London to Gloucester/Dursley Roads. The Lambridge junction was on the London to Bath Road. The London to Sodbury/Aust Passages Road crossed at the Cross Hands Inn, Old Sodbury and the London to Bristol (via Chippenham) Road crossed at the top of Tog Hill. Another 'pike road out of Bristol, through Pucklechurch to Christian Malford and Swindon crossed at the top of Hinton Hill by the Tolldown Inn.

The Tolls imposed by the 1783 Act were:

- |       |  |               |
|-------|--|---------------|
| (i)   | For every Horse, Mare, Gelding, Mule or Ass laden or unladen, and not drawing  | 1d            |
| (ii)  | For every drove of Oxen, Cows, Neat Cattle and so in proportion  | 10d per score |
| (iii) | For every drove of Calves, Swine, Hogs, Sheep, Lambs, and so in proportion   | 5d per score  |
| (iv)  | For all carriages, or any other Thing whatsoever, which shall be drawn by no greater number of Horses or other Beasts of Draught than two, the sum of <u>three pence</u> for each and for every such Horse or other Beast or Draught so drawing, and if drawn by any greater number of Horses, or Beasts of Draught than two the sum of <u>four pence</u> for each - - - - |               |

No tolls were to be taken from the inhabitants of the Parishes of Great Badminton or Little Badminton nor from any side gate erected in the Parish of Hawkesbury except for horses, or other cattle, drawing a Waggon, Wain, Cart or

.../.

Carriage laden with Coal. Tolls were to be paid but once per day and no more than one toll was to be paid between Cirencester and Tetbury and no more than two between Tetbury and other destinations towards Bath. Road materials, farm materials and mail horses were exempt from toll charges.

An Act of 1812 (52 GEO III) repealed the previous Toll charges and granted new ones as follows:-

(i)	For every Horse etc (as i above)	2d
(ii)	For every drove of Oxen etc (as ii above)	20d per score
(iii)	For every drove of Calves etc (as iii above)	10d per score
(iv)	For all carriages drawn by (as iv above)	
	- no more than 2 Horses	6d each
	- more than 2 Horses	8d each
(v)	A single Horse, or Beast of Draught, drawing a carriage or other Thing whatsoever	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d

This Act was noteworthy in so much that Stage Coaches now had to pay tolls and that all tolls were doubled on Sundays.

The Minutes of Meetings of the Trustees are available for detailed study, and interpretation, in the Gloucester Records Office, (Reference D.568). The Minutes are available for the period 1809 to 1845, Accounts from 1827 to 1862 and Statements of Accounts from 1834 to 1872. By this later date the Trust had been amalgamated into the United Trust of Sodbury, Cirencester and Bath Roads (Upper District).

The Minutes indicate that all the meetings were held at the Peaufort Arms, Petty France. Adjournments were frequent and often protracted, due to insufficient attendance. In 1829 a meeting called for 12th May was adjourned to 1st June, then 21st June, 11th July, 20th August, 9th September, 29th September, and finally was held at the AGM on 13th October. Ten years later the January 29th meeting was only attended by one Commissioner.

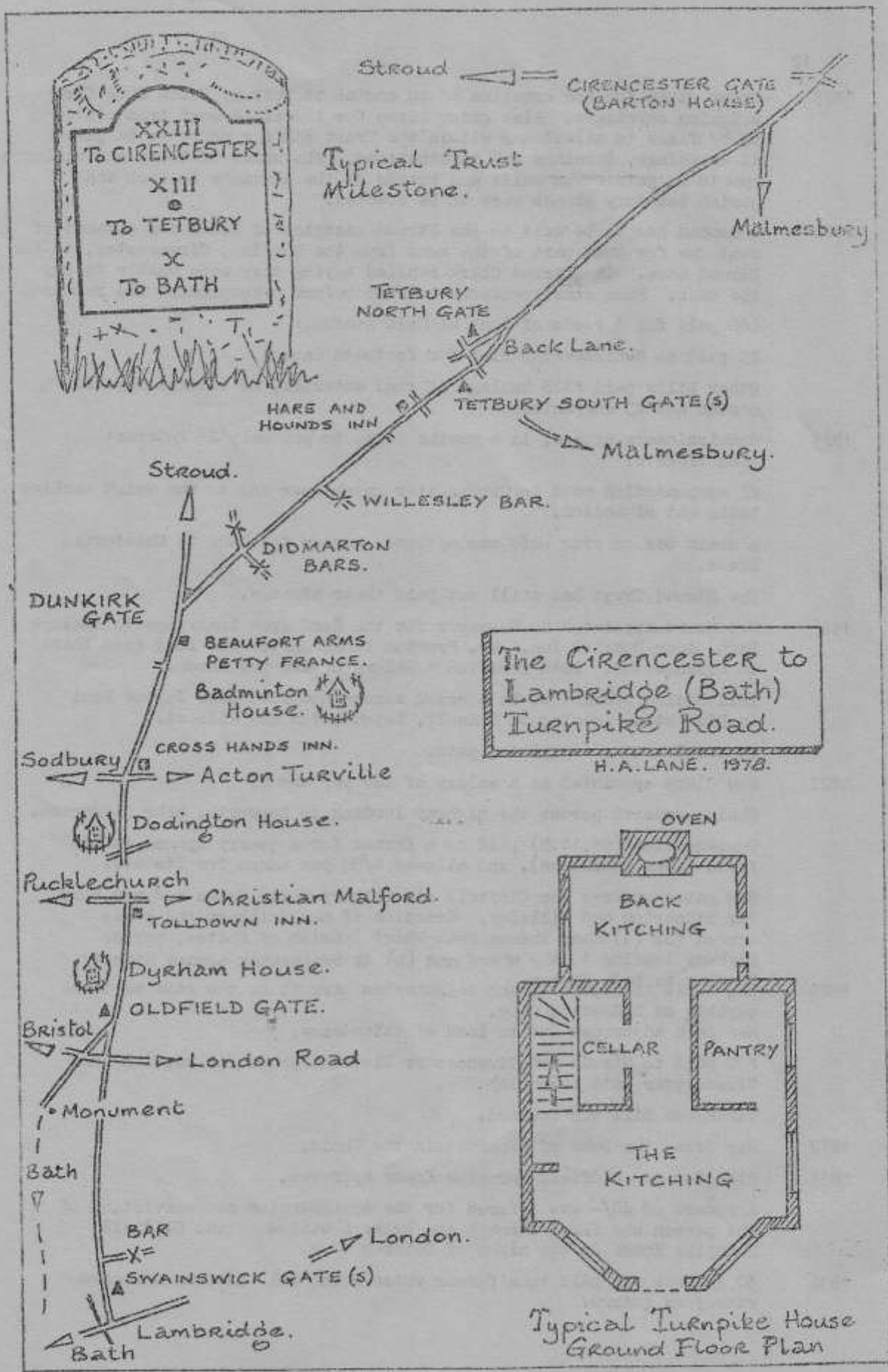
"Lettings of the Tolls" was an Annual event, the Auction Price being dependent upon the previous years tolls. On many occasions the Letting Meeting was adjourned due to a lack of bidders - 1819 being a particularly bad year requiring three such meetings before all the Tolls were let. When a Toll could not be let the Surveyor of the Trust was actioned "to place proper persons in charge of the Gate or House at a weekly payment".

The following briefly detailed chronicle of the proceedings of the Trust reveals the multitude of problems, actions and payments that the Commissioners were faced with.

- 1814 £18.6.6 paid to repair bridge at Cirencester Gate.
  - 1819 Tolls not let for two months.
  - 1821 Mr. Preston appointed as Surveyor.
  - 1822 Sir Bethel Codrington applied to redirect the Road outside the entrance to Dodington Park. The Commissioners agreed to his paying his own expense, but gave £40 out of the Trust for the purpose of making a culvert in the lower dip of the Road.
- Tollkeepers at Cirencester and Dunkirk Gates who made incorrect returns were dismissed.

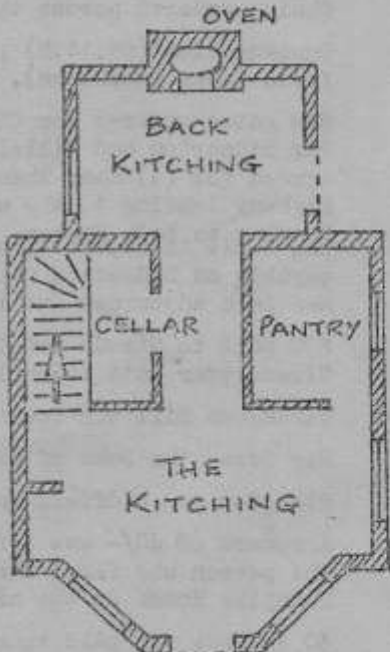
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- 1823 Order given for the erection of an engine at Tetbury South Gate for weighing carriages. Also order given for inscribed cast iron plates to be fixed to milestones within the Trust and for posts to be placed at crossings, turnings and terminations. The names of towns and villages were to be painted on walls and boards at the entrance to each and parish boundary stones were to be erected.
- 1824 A demand had to be sent to the Stroud District of Roads for payment of rent due for that part of the road from the Ram Inn, Cirencester, to the Stroud Gate. The Stroud Clerk replied saying they were unable to pay the dues. Much correspondence accrued before a compromise was reached. £60 paid for 3 roods of land at Cold Ashton.  
£5 paid to Swainwick Parish for footpath damage.  
Other bills paid £128 haulage of road material, £8 blacksmithy, £40 masons and £5 carpenters.
- 1825 Commissioners agreed, in 6 months time, to pay only 4% interest upon tickets.  
£5 compensation paid to Cirencester gatekeeper due to the weigh machine being out of action.  
Archain bar or side gate was actioned across the lane to Chesterton House.  
The Stroud Trust had still not paid their arrears.
- 1826 Mr. Smart appointed as Surveyor for the Road from Lambridge to Dunkirk Barn, near Dunkirk Inn. Mr. Preston looked after the road from there to Cirencester. Both received a Salary of £80 per annum.  
Toll chains ordered to be erected across the road near Joyces Pool in Didmerton, leading to Boxwell, Leighterton and Kilcott.  
Stroud Trust had still not paid.
- 1827 New Clerk appointed at a salary of £20 per annum.  
Chains ordered across the highway leading to Sopworth, near Didmerton.  
Compensation (£8.11.8) paid to a farmer for a quarry opened in his field (near Knockdown), and allowed 6/8d per annum for its use.  
New gates ordered for Oldfield and Tetbury North Gates and new bars for Didmerton and Willsley. Erection of new tollbars and boxes agreed for (a) near Thames Head Wharf, parish of Coates, across highway leading to the wharf and (b) at Swainwick across highway leading to Bath Easton.
- 1829 The tolls at Sopworth, and Leighterton bars to be the same as those payable at Didmerton Gate.  
Meetings adjourned due to lack of attendance.  
£30 paid to Stroud and Cirencester District Roads for repairs from Cirencester Gate to Barley Now.  
Haresdown Hill was lowered.
- 1832 His Grace the Duke of Beaufort in the Chair.
- 1834 Plan for new Oldfield Turnpike House approved.  
A reward of 40/- was offered for the apprehension and conviction of the person who fired through and broke a window of the Oldfield Turnpike House on the night of October 14th.
- 1836 30 guineas was paid to a farmer whose horse fell into an unfenced surveyors quarry.



The Cirencester to  
Lambridge (Bath)  
Turnpike Road.

H.A. LANE. 1978.



Typical Turnpike House  
Ground Floor Plan

1838 The Right Honourable the Earl of Bathurst was in the Chair.

The average expense of the Turnpike Roads was £51 per Mile. The Trustees deemed that £35 was a fair price and so a total of £528 had been paid the previous year for which there did not appear to be sufficient improvement to the Roads. This subject was to be raised at the Annual Meeting with a view to Letting out the Roads to efficient contractors.

The Trust agreed to take off the additional tolls for wagons having wheel fellies greater than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Agreed that toll tickets from Tetbury South Gate would clear Leighterton Lane and Sopworth Lane bars, and vice versa.

£54 paid for hauling stones from Sodbury Riding to Bath.

The Annual Meeting agreed to the letting to contractors of the repairs to the road, in shorter sections.

1843 Concern expressed that the Great Western Railway were to sink turnpike roads beneath their lines thus making all the roads not so convenient to passengers. The Clerk was instructed to send such a letter.

There is still much research to do into the Affairs of this Turnpike Trust but at present its history does not appear to be greatly different from other Trusts.

The arrival of the Railway Age generally caused the decline of turnpike roads, and so it is of interest to find in the Accounts of this Trust that in 1866-7 the annual toll income doubled and stayed that way until the account book closed in 1872. Perhaps the two points are related, perhaps not, - only more researching will tell.

Harry Lane would be pleased to talk to societies on the subject of cartography, more particularly on the techniques for producing decorative parish maps based on the Tithe Maps of about 1840. The talk, with visual presentations takes 45 to 75 minutes.

His address is 9, Lower Chapel Lane, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol,  
(Tel. Winterbourne 778708).



Filton Historical Research Group is part of Filton Community Association, and the following article first appeared in the Christmas Newsletter, describing the dig during 1978 led by Dr. A.J. Parker, of a Roman farmstead.

When I turned up on Sunday, 30 July, at 2 p.m. to take part in my first archaeological 'dig', I stopped the car at the end of Britannia Drive and another drew up alongside. Out stepped a woman of about my own age. "Hello", she said, "I'm Margaret, Toby isn't coming." "Oh, really?", I answered. Searching my memory, it came up with the information that Dr. Parker, the leader of the 'dig' answered to the name of Toby, and my conversation with Margaret as we squelched and slid our way across the sub-soil revealed that my memory hadn't failed me and that Dr. Parker had sent Margaret along to lead the dig for that one afternoon. More people arrived and we were all given jobs. James, June, Bob Hunt's brother John, and others were soon scraping away at the soil between the stones, which seemed, in some places to be laying in a set pattern, as though forming the base of a wall, or else haphazardly resting where they had mysteriously fallen 1600 years ago.

Although the clouds threatened, the rain held off. As the Inter-City train roared by, our trowels worked, carefully sifting, our eyes ready to spot anything interesting. During that first afternoon I was thrilled to find one or two bones or bits of black or samian pot. Others found coins, nails and bits of crude dress ornaments or fasteners. By the third Sunday, under Toby's expert guidance and stimulating direction, a pattern of stonework was emerging. A curved wall foundation showed quite clearly, and the tumbled stone, when lifted, showed either an orderly cobbled, or flat stone floor.

Our luck held and the weather improved. By August 19th, the first day of the full week, it was really settled. By now the occupation level had become alive. As well as an oven, there were signs of a foundry, with coal, clinkers, molten iron, ash, charcoal, and in one place remains of a cooked chicken or rabbit. More coins and nails were found and a lot of pot. On Thursday, 24 August, I made my most important find. A circular piece of pottery, buried to rim level into the clay sub-soil. It measured just over eight inches in diameter and was about six inches deep, and it was complete. Some of the rim had fallen into the pot, the contents of which I scooped out with great care, to be sieved. We found nothing of interest in the silt contained in the jar, and concluded it must have been a sophisticated drain or even a loo, as it had a circular hole at the base.

Everyone worked quietly and industriously, seeking to uncover the secrets beneath our feet. At times there were as many as 18 or 20 people working, at others, only half a dozen. Various visitors came across the now desert-like sub-soil to watch, Toby giving up time to explain to each group what we had found and what we thought we might find. Of necessity the story changed almost from day to day as fresh things came to light. On Saturday 26th, another level of floor was being scraped, inch by meticulous inch, when someone discovered a skull, and almost at the same moment at a short distance away, someone else discovered feet! It takes a long time to exhume a body intact, especially when it has lain for so long, so while Toby went off to inform the Police, three of us got to work, cleaning the stones and soil away exposing the bones to be photographed. By the time the police arrived, homo sapiens was ready and after their departure he was bagged up and labelled ready to go to the laboratory. He had been found under the floor stones inside the circular wall foundation, lying flat on his back with his hands at his sides.

On the Monday following, the body of a young girl was found in a stone coffin, this time outside the circular wall. She was lying in the same position, East to West, but with her hands under her thighs. We were lucky to have a trained nurse in our group who was able to identify all the bones and tell us a little about their owners. By the time the second body was ready to go to the museum it was the last moment of the last day available to us for any further research.

It is hoped that, if Mr. Bovis has not progressed too quickly with his building programme, we shall have another chance in June 1979 to see what the rest of the area yields.

Noel Harris

#### THE BOOKLIST & REVIEW

Vol 13 No. 4 THE LOCAL HISTORIAN - Nov. 1978

published for the Standing Conference of Local History (SCLH)

#### Articles:

Hedges - A review of Some Early Literature: Wendy Johnson

The Content & Reliability of 19th century Trade Directories:  
Garth Shaw

Recent Work on Anglo-Saxon Charters: Margaret Gelling

Archives and the Local Historian: F.G. Emmison

Publishing Local History: A practical Approach  
IV. Publication & Marketing: James Batley

Mr. Spittal's report of the SCLH AGM notes that the sales of The Local Historian "have remained constant at about 2,000 copies annually over the past five years." It seems a pity that such good articles as the above should have such a limited readership.

Dr. Betty reviews some books which might be of considerable interest to local societies -

Group Projects in Local History - ed. Alan Rogers  
(Dawson, 238 pp., illus., 1977) £7.00

Approaches to Local History - Alan Rogers  
(Longman, 265 + xvii pp., illus. 2nd ed. 1977)  
Hard-back £7.50, paperback £3.95

Teaching Local History by W.B. Stephens  
(Manchester University Press 182 pp., illus., 1977) £5.95

#### From the Secretary's notes:

SOCIETY FOR LANDSCAPE STUDIES: A new national society is being established to bring together people interested in archaeology, geography, history, place-names or soil science who are interested also in man's influence on the landscape. The Society intends to produce an annual journal to be known as 'Landscape History'. Annual membership subscription £7. Details from Dr. R.T. Smith, School of Geography, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT.

HISTORIC SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE - BILL SULLEY

A well attended symposium was held at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, on November 18th. It was arranged by the Northavon Society for Archaeology and the Avon Archaeological Council.

There was a display of finds from Thornbury and additional items loaned by the City Museum, Bristol, and brought along by Georgina Plowright. Also on display were drawings of old Thornbury houses by Joan Meadowcroft, photographs of farmhouses in connection with Linda Hall's lecture and a comprehensive collection of drawings and photographs of the Kingscote Roman site arranged by Ted Swain.

Three maps by Bill Sulley covered the Prehistoric Roman and Post Roman periods.

The lectures were introduced by Nicholas Thomas, director of the City Museum, Bristol, and commenced in the morning with John Drinkwater's talk on the Cotswold barrows. To follow was Linda Hall's fund of information about the 16th & 17th century farmhouses in this area.

The afternoon lectures commenced with Ann Ellison's account of the excavations at the Roman temple site at Uley. The associated finds, including bronze and stone figures confirm the importance of the site and many inscriptions on lead plates are now being transcribed by experts.

Dr. Roger Leech has been studying some of the old towns and spoke on Thornbury and the amount of material available for research.

Mike Ponsford, field archaeologist for the City Museum, described the Roman site in the grounds of Northam Hospital.

The finds of 16th century pottery at Heneage Court were the subject of Julian Bennett's lecture. There are still kilns to be located nearby.

Peter Fowler spoke on the interesting facts relating to sites on the motorway and to the extensive Romano British settlement between Gloucester and Bristol. This would have involved considerable clearance of woodland.

There was a break for tea and the excellent buffet organised by Rita Crowe.

The last speaker was Dr. Phillip Dixon, who has been excavating for some years at Crickley Hill near Cheltenham. The site is mainly an Iron Age Hill-Fort, but there is also the remains of a Neolithic cause-wayed enclosure with post holes defining the wooden buildings. Slides were shown of excavations and a model of the huts in both periods.

OPEN UNIVERSITY

The new courses 'Doing History' and 'Industrial Archaeology' were mentioned in the last edition of Quest (No. 9). The Editor would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has enrolled in these courses or who has taken any other OU courses.

The ALPHA GUIDE for new local history groups which will include

- (a) a list of introductory books recommended for study
- (b) a draft constitution
- (c) a list of societies and other bodies affiliated to ALHA
- (d) the names of members of societies and other persons who will assist in the early stages of organisation

will be available from the office in the New Year at a cost of 50p.

The HANDBOOK was still awaiting its covers when this issue of Quest was prepared, but its arrival is imminent.

CHEESE & WINE EVENING. The Chairman reported that it was very enjoyable and an opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas. Our thanks to Lucy Hamid and John Arbuthnot of the Community Council for organising it and to Sally Rogers for the excellent food. It is a pity that there were not more present but perhaps more will be encouraged to come next time.

RADIO BRISTOL. Discussions with the presenter of an afternoon 'chat show' are continuing and it is planned to commence a three month trial of monthly local history 'spots' in the New Year - more details to follow.

MEETING OF SOCIETIES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS to be held at the offices of Avon Community Council, 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol on Friday, 23 February at 7 p.m. Please keep this date free and inform your committee members as we hope for a good attendance. More details will be circulated separately, but it is planned to have reports from the various sub-committees of the Executive Committee, a talk by a local expert and an opportunity for everyone to talk and exchange ideas with coffee and refreshments being served.

WALK AROUND CHIPPING SODBURY. Details of this event on Saturday 31 March are given elsewhere in this issue, but the host society has offered exhibition space to any society who could lay on an interesting display. If you are interested, please contact George Davoy at Chipping Sodbury 314053.

#### AVON PLACE AND FIELD NAME SURVEY

The details were published in Quest 9 and there has been a most encouraging response. Offers of help have come from the following parishes:-

Almondsbury	Freshford	Monkton Combe
Bathford	Hinton Charterhouse	Nailsea
Charfield	Iron Acton	South Stoke
Frampton Cotterell	Long Ashton	Stanton Drew
Stapleton	Tytherington	
Westbury-on-Trym	Westerleigh	Winterbourne Yatton

If you could help in these parishes or could offer to undertake the survey of another and so expand this list, please contact:

John Moore  
Lecturer in Economic History

67 Woodland Road  
Bristol BS8 1UL

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Many local societies may have received invitations to attend the thirtieth Annual Meeting and Conference of the SCLH, but as it was held in London perhaps few societies were in a position to send representatives. Mr. C.J. Spittal, our Information Officer, kindly attended the AGM on behalf of ALHA and part of his report to the Executive Committee is reprinted below.

SCLH was formed in 1948 to encourage the study of local history, and the provision of services needed by those doing the work and enjoying the activity.

Local history is regarded as having a social, recreational, environmental and educational value. Membership of the Conference consists of 66 national organisations and universities and 43 county local history committees in England and Wales. Work is directed by an Executive Committee which is constituted annually from representatives of the membership.

Past activity has included a scheme for recording family portraits, details being forwarded to the National Portrait Gallery; efforts to improve the standard of service offered by guide-lecturers; assisting the Youth Hostels Association to prepare notes for distribution from its hostels on local places of historic interest; organising schools in the techniques of recording local dialects and reminiscences; making representations about the one-time possible discontinuance of the production of 2½" Ordnance Survey maps; co-operating with the Council for Places of Worship in running a competition for written church guides; encouraging the establishment of documented trails in towns and villages through the production and distribution of 9,000 copies of a leaflet on 'Make a Trail'; listing details of certificates and other awards available in local history; and - in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum - preparing a travelling exhibition entitled 'Vanishing History'.

Present activity includes offering advice on publishing local history material; working with the Local Studies Section of the Library Association in exploring the problems of collecting and preserving ephemera; joining in representations on what are regarded as the high charges made by the Public Record Office for its microfilming, photocopying and xerographic services; providing the secretariat for a Committee which is conducting an independent enquiry into the pattern of interest, activity and of study, in local history in England and Wales, with a view to making recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services in the future; and publishing pamphlets and a quarterly journal The Local Historian.

Report on Annual Meeting

The meeting was held at 8 Wakley Street, Islington, an interesting part of London and one which in the late 18th and early 19th centuries supplied much market garden produce to the capital. The terraces developed during the 1820s, 30s and 40s are still a prominent feature of the urban landscape. These have been particularly well cared-for and it is a pity that their neat and tidy frontages in such roads as Heberton Street and Gibson Square bring the dereliction of Goswell Street and City Road into such sharp contrast. There are two excellent blocks of model Peabody-type flats of the mid-80s to be seen in Friend Street and Rawstone Street very near the conference centre in Wakley Street. In high summer your delegate would have been delighted with sandwiches consumed in Duncan Gardens, literally within a stow's throw of the centre of Islington. The conference charge of £3 for a mid-day meal

.../consisting of

consisting of cold meat and salad in no great quantity was outrageously expensive. The 'Plough Boy' with its menu of cottage pie, chips, baked beans and a glass of beer all for less than £ gave far better value for money.

Mr. John Higga was re-elected Chairman of SCLH with Dr. Joan Thirsk and Lady Camoys as Vice-Chairmen.

During the morning voting took place for members of the Executive Committee. Your delegate voted for nine names out of the possible maximum of twelve using his own largely uninformed judgement. (It is suggested that delegates in future years be mandated in this matter by the ALHA Committee.)

Mr. R. Chaplin drew attention, when reporting on the Executive Committee, to the limited amount of regional activity in local history when compared with the growing influence and developing interests of SCLH at the London headquarters. A survey of regional bodies had revealed that four or five had a financial turnover of less than £100 per annum and that only about a third of the membership were handling sums of £300 to £600 annually. The wealthiest members were the Record Societies. More help might, in Mr. Chaplin's view, be given to local committees who might be ambitious and capable but impecunious. There were, it was reported, only about six research projects in hand throughout the country. Dialect and parish register studies were cited as examples. It was reported that more members were not representing societies directly; there had been a decrease in the numbers representing co-ordinating organisations.

It was reported that the Blake Committee had met eleven times and had received evidence from universities, polytechnics, schools and other bodies. It was regretted that no report had yet appeared. The bulk of next year's business meeting would, it was hoped, be devoted to consideration of the Blake Committee Report.

Dr. Alan Rogers reported on the Publications Committee. He said that measures taken to regularise the intervals between the appearance of issues of 'The Local Historian' and to get it to members promptly should soon become effective. Sales of 'The Local Historian' had remained constant at about 2,000 copies annually over the past five years. This total he thought both could and should be improved. More societies in direct membership and fewer co-ordinating bodies was one solution to the problem.

It was proposed, but not seconded, in subsequent discussion that representation at future AGMs be limited to those directly representing societies. Mr. Chapman, representing the Federation of Family History Societies, said that his sponsoring body would help to promote 'The Local Historian' and was willing to do what it could to assist societies represented by other delegates. There was also much ultimately inconclusive discussion concerning the desirability of more 'lay' articles in 'The Local Historian' with 'History Today' being quoted as a suitable model for imitation.

Your delegate mentioned local radio broadcasting as a possible medium for advertising local history activities in general with the possibility of encapsulating a reference to 'The Local Historian'. He also asked for attention to be given to completing and publishing a cumulative index to 'The Local Historian'. This statement clearly divided the members into two halves - those who seemingly did not know what a cumulative index was and those who did and made guttural noises of approval. In mentioning this idea of a cumulative index your delegate also made mention of the forthcoming 'Avon Local History Handbook' as an example of regional initiative not previously mentioned.

Mr. A. Buchanan, representing the Northumberland Local History Society, advocated the inclusion of regional contributions to 'The Local Historian' to be printed on pages of a distinctive colour. Dr. D. Avery, representing the Business Archives Council, offered the resources of that body to speak to member societies about the history of firms in their areas.

Two resolutions were proposed, one 'deploring the National Association for Adult Education(?)' for 'its lack of interest in' the work of SCIH, and the other 'expressing disillusionment with the County Committees'. These proved something of an embarrassment to the Chairmen who explained that he had never had to deal with resolutions at any previous annual meeting. No seconds were apparently called for and it was difficult to understand the practical purpose that distinguished either resolution or to guess what possible constructive actions might result from their later examination by the Executive Committee.

Finally, Mr. Chapman requested the Executive Committee to consider the holding of some future annual general meetings away from London and to provide lunch at a more reasonable price, choosing a weekend and not a weekday.

The programme included three lectures:

Computerisation: a revolution in historical research?

by Professor M.C. Floud of Birkbeck College, University of London

Radicals of the English Civil War Period: some problems for local historians

by Dr. Christopher Hill, The Open University

Changes in Living Styles from 1900 to 1950 (film sequence)

Dr. David Tilley, University of Essex.

Those who have listened to 'ORIGINS' on Radio 4, may be interested in the

\*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS BOOKLIST \*\*\*\*\*

ASHREE, Paul

The Ancient British - a social-archaeological narrative  
Geo Abstracts Ltd., University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, 1978  
ISBN 015 2 Hard-back: £8.50  
914 4 Paperback: £6.50

DIMBLEBY, Geoffrey W

Plants and Archaeology  
(originally 1967) Revised edition,  
Paladin/Grenada Publishers 1978  
ISBN 0 386 08282 4 Hard-back £1.50

GELLING Margaret

Signposts to the Past  
J.M. Dent & Sons, London, 1978  
ISBN 0 460 04264 5 Hard-back: £6.50

Continued on page 24.

### NEW DOCK AT PILL

The following extract has been taken from the first publication of the Crockerne, Pill & District History Society, by kind permission of the author, JOHN RICH.

It is sold in the locality for 50p which makes a small profit for the Society and helps stimulate interest in their efforts. The booklet is not reprinted in full as we would rather encourage readers to buy their own copies from the Society.

John Rich's excellent introduction to his description of how the New Dock came to be built is the section chosen to be reprinted because it contains a repopulation of the hamlet from the early census returns, and may well be of interest to those contemplating similar work.

(The Local Historian Vol. 14 No. 2 includes an article "The Technique of House Repopulation: Experience from a Cambridgeshire Village 1841" by Dennis R. Mills.)

#### THE 'PILL' DOCK

The hamlet of Pill in the middle of the eighteenth century was so vastly different from the village we know today that a few comparisons are worth looking at in order to set the scene.

For instance, the row of tiny tenements alongside the creek, shown on the annexed map as numbers 3 to 22 were already gone by 1850 and the stark brickwork of today's railway viaduct would never have been where it is if the 'Pill Dock Bill' had become an act of Parliament. In fact, just where the railway line would have gone through the village of Pill is interesting to speculate, for it could never have crossed a 200 ft wide dock with a single span in 1840 on pure economic grounds alone and it is very likely that if the dock had come to pass then the railway line would have had to have gone over the valley on a huge viaduct stretching from halfway up Hamgreen Hill, passing across the bottom of Westward Drive on over the area of land at the rear of the new blocks of flats and into Church Path Road. No doubt there would also have to have been a massive cutting from Church Path Road through Lodway to meet the flat land leading to Portbury and Portishead.

Without doubt Pill was the most important part of the Gordano Valley at the time and to justify that statement a study of the 1841 census reveals that the Hamlet of Pill had 360 inhabited dwellings whilst the whole of the rest of the valley could only muster 408 in total, Portishead having a mere 159 houses. Clevedon, for instance, returns its number of inhabitants as 1748 which is exactly the same as the Hamlet of Pill, but remember that the Watch House, Hamgreen and Haperton areas were in Portbury at the time and the first two mentioned could add a further 32 dwellings and 150 people, thus bringing the population of the creek side hamlet to a true figure of 1898. A complete breakdown of census returns are appended to this paper.

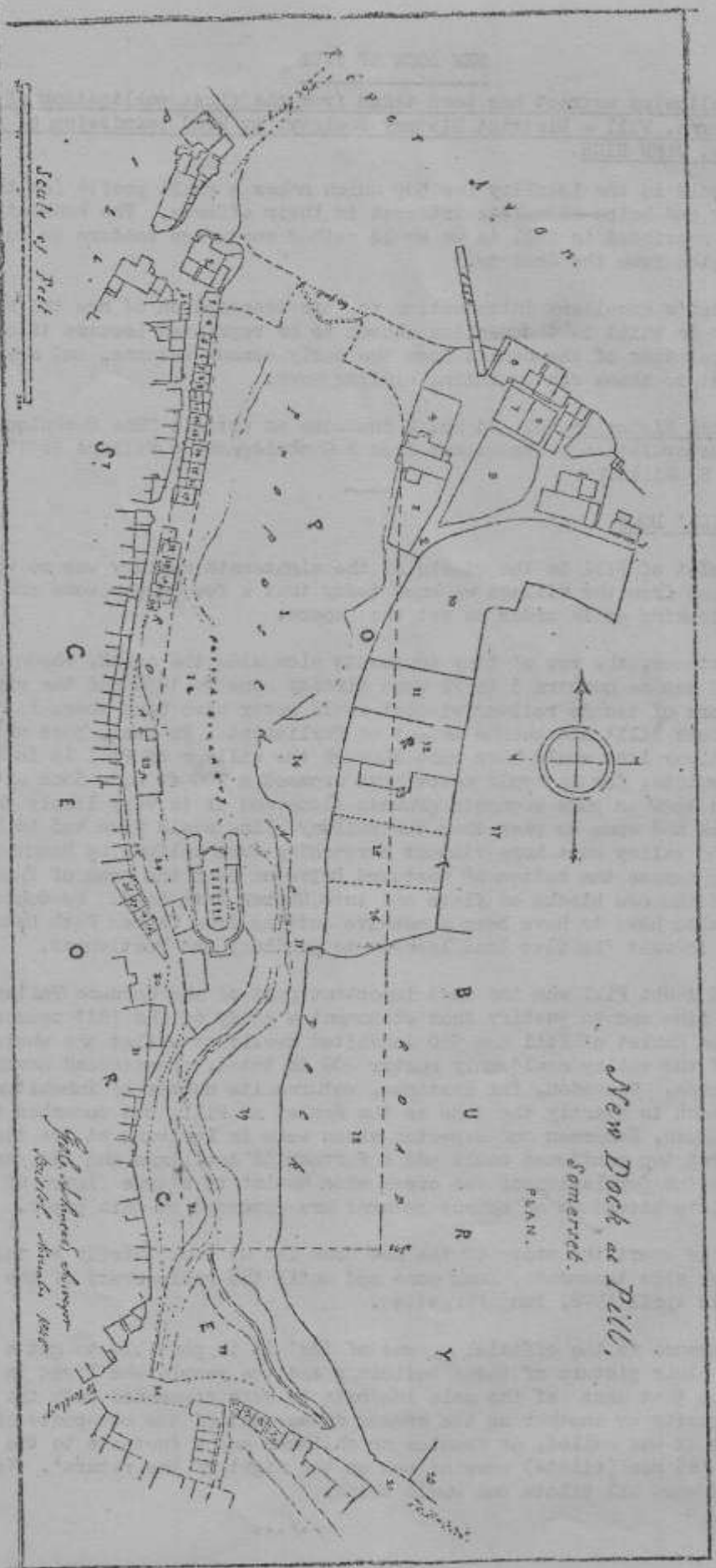
Before we start the story of the new dock let us look briefly at the row of creek side tenements, long gone and until the rediscovery of the dock plans in April 1978, long forgotten.

By reference to the official census of 1841 it is possible to get a fairly clear picture of these buildings and the people who lived in them. It seems that most of the male inhabitants were connected with the water in one capacity or another as the census names most of the occupants of Union Row, as it was called, as females or children and a footnote to the census states '85 men (pilots) were at sea on the night of the return'. Very doubtful if they were all pilots one would think.

..//...



PLAN FOR DOCKISING THE 'CROCKERS PILL' IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET (NOW AVON) DRAWN IN NOVEMBER 1840 BY GEORGE C ASHHEAD



Original map is at The Somerset Record Office, Obriidge Road, Taunton, Somerset.  
 Note the row of tenements alongside the creek, numbered 3 - 22. Some of these had a frontage of less than ten feet.

There were some 20 dwellings all with their backs falling sheer to the creek side, some being of three storey construction whilst having as little as 8 feet frontage. The lane between the two rows of buildings narrowed in some parts to as little as 5 or 6 feet and must have made the passage of transport to and from the ferry side quite very difficult indeed at times.

Nos 3 & 4 were already derelict in 1841 and probably mark the start of the decline of that particular row of buildings, although no firm date for the demolition of the tenements has yet been discovered.

In No 5 lived 28 year old Charles Rumley with his 25 year old wife Jane and their two sons George aged 11 and Charles at 5. His neighbours in No 6 were Sarah Adams, the 33 year old mother of young Sarah aged 7 and whilst no licensed pilot by the name of Adams is listed for 1841 the name of Adams was linked with the sea before and after, so we assume Mr. Adams was one of the 85 men at sea.

It is not possible to trace all of the occupants accurately but, remembering the size of the tenements, one or two more are worthy of note.

No. 11 housed 64 year old William Dyer, the mason, plus Harriet (29) and Charlotte (25). Probably a widower as it was a rare thing indeed for women to be away alone in those days.

Next door in No. 12 was James Rowles a 38 year old shoemaker, with his wife Elizabeth (35) and their five children, Mary (15), James (13), Louise (8), Elizabeth (3), and Eliza (1). Seven people in a minute tenement without any mains services, though there is little doubt where any effluent went, yet the road frontage of the property was less than twelve feet.

60 year old Edward Seville lived in No 14 and a tombstone in Portbury churchyard names one Seville 'Boatman', probably of the same lineage.

Finally, it is safe to assume that No. 19 was a shop of some kind, for here lived one Elizabeth Parker, shopkeeper, aged 48 and her daughters Mary (19) and Sarah (17), but also recorded in the same building are James Smith (38) Thomas Hook (21), and another Sarah Parker aged 66. If her husband was still alive and perhaps one of the 85 away on the night of the census then no less than 5 adults and 2 teenaged girls lived in number 19 plus the fact that it was a shop.

ORIGINS CHRISTMAS BOOKLIST  
(Continuation)

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| HENDERSON, George                 | <u>Gothic</u><br>(originally 1967) Re-issue 1978 Penguin books<br>ISBN 0 1402 0806 2 Paperback: £2.50  |
| LE ROY LADURIE,<br>Emmanuel       | <u>Montaillou - Cathars &amp; Catholics in a<br/>French Village, 1294-1324</u><br>(translated by Barbara Bray)<br>Scolar Press, London, 1978<br>ISBN 0 85967 403 7 Hard-back: £12.50                         |
| MACFARLANE,<br>Alan (with others) | <u>Reconstructing Historical Communities</u><br>Cambridge University Press, 1977<br>ISBN 0 521 21796 2 Hard-back: £3.95  |
| ROWAN, Eric, ed.                  | <u>Art in Wales 2000 BC - AD 1850,<br/>an Illustrated History</u><br>Welsh Arts Council/University of Wales Press,<br>Cardiff, 1978<br>ISBN 0 7083 0620 9 Hard-back: £8.95<br>0 7083 0674 8 Paperback: £4.95 |

AFFILIATIONS & DONATIONS 1978-79

The financial year of the Avon Local History Association, and consequently the annual subscriptions, runs from 1 April to 31 March, and it would be helpful, therefore, if societies who have not done so could forward their subscriptions or donations for the year 1978-79 as soon as possible.

You will recall that the scale of affiliation fees is as follows:

- For clubs with up to 50 members - £1.50
- For each additional 50 members - 50p

Up to a maximum of £5

The person named on the form as your correspondent will receive one copy of QUEST quarterly, together with any other periodic mailings and the minutes and agendas of meetings of societies.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

A category of Individual Membership has now been introduced at an annual subscription of £1.

Individual members will receive one copy of QUEST quarterly, together with any other periodic mailings and the minutes and agendas of meetings of societies.

To: Avon Local History Association, 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 1PB.

I enclose a cheque/P.O. for the amount of £..... as an affiliation/  
donation/individual membership to ALHA. Cheques to be made payable to ALHA.

Our correspondent is) .....

My name & address is) .....

.....

.....

Name of Society (if appropriate) .....

Signed..... Date .....

BULK ORDERS FOR 'QUEST'

Additional copies of 'QUEST' are obtainable from the ALHA office, price 12p + 10p p&p if sent by post.

Please order additional copies on the form printed in QUEST 7 or telephone the office - Bristol 36822. (Mrs Hamid)