

Peter Wright

# QUEST

Issue No. 6

Newsletter of the Avon Local History Association



A.L.H.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J.S. Moore, B.A., F.R. Hist. S.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Miss M.E. Williams, B.A.  
SECRETARY: Mr. J.C.W. Arbuthnot  
TREASURER: Mr. G. Dear  
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ASSISTANT EDITORS 'QUEST': Mr. H.E. Dommett  
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Mr. R. Angerson Dr. J. Bettey Mr. T.W. Crowe  
Mr. G.P. Davies Mr. S. Emlyn-Jones Mr. P. Gilliat  
Mr. F. Rapsey Mrs S. Rogers Mr. C.J. Spittal  
Dr. A.C. Warner Mr. I.H. Wethey

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EDITORIAL

As Editor of QUEST, I sit on both the full ALHA Committee and the smaller Executive Committee and, from those vantage points, I have been watching two inter-related areas of strain between the County organisation and the local societies and between professionals and amateurs.

The County Association is both a body dependant on its constituent membership and a self-determining body initiating and carrying through its own projects. County projects may be of apparently little relevance to local society members. Although their representatives on the full ALHA Committee may have agreed to the projects, they are initiated in the Executive Committee whose membership includes very few society representatives. The County Association should have the two quite different roles but, at present, its function as the umbrella organisation of local societies seems very much over-shadowed by its activities as an independant body.

Sitting on the Executive Committee are a number of professionals whose work is either closely related to local history or whose professional skills are particularly useful. Their number is small and the demand on their services great. Some are professionally tied to one fairly small aspect of local history and all, necessarily, bound by the career structure of their professions, must have other priorities. All are most helpful, dedicated people but, like the rest of us, they are handicapped by mundane commitments.

When some local groups expect assistance that requires detailed local knowledge, they are asking too much of the limited professional reserves available. It is recognised also that newly-formed groups need help and it is felt this is not as pronounced as it could be. Professionals and amateurs, if not at loggerheads, appear to have conflicting aims, and if the County Association is to function smoothly both sides must have a much better appreciation of each other.

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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 Group  
Bristol and Avon Family History Society  
Bristol Civic Society  
Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society  
Bristol Museum  
B.A.R.G. (Bristol Archaeological Research Group)  
Bristol Branch of the Historical Association  
Bristol Peoples Publishing Project  
Bristol Records Society  
B.I.A.S. (Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society)  
Chew Valley Local History Society  
Charfield Local History Society  
Clevedon & District Archaeological Society  
Clevedon Civic Society  
Clifton & Hotwells Local History Group  
C.R.A.A.G.S. (Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire & Somerset).  
Gordano Valley Society  
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  
The Bath Branch of the Historical Association  
Hanham Folk Centre (History Section)  
Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society  
Kingswood & District Historical Society  
Malago Archives Committee  
Nailsea Local History Group  
Northavon (Thornbury) Archaeological Group  
North Somerset Archaeological Group  
Olveston Parish Historical Society  
Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society  
Sodbury & District History Association  
Somerset Records Society  
Temple Cloud Womens Institute  
Society of Thornbury Folk  
W.E.A.

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\* COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

\* QUEST \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

\* 17th MARCH 1978 \*  
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The Editor will welcome details of forthcoming events, news of Societies, articles and comments. Communications should be addressed to Mrs. Sue Barrance 120 Manor Lane, Charfield, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos. GL12 8TN. All other correspondence on Association matters c/o Avon Community Council, 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol 8.

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## NEWS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

BATHFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY have kindly sent the Editor a copy of the Society's Newsletter No. 5. The Secretary 1977/78 is Mrs J Jack, 3 Titan Barrow (tel 858601). Subscriptions 50p. A very successful evening of lectures by members to members was held in late November and it is hoped to hold a similar meeting in the New Year. The newsletter also reported that a small experimental consignment of records have been temporarily transferred to Bath Record Office from the Somerset Record Office in Taunton. The informant hopes that the experiment will continue but that more interesting records will be sent in future.

### CHEW VALLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary Mrs Mary L. Durham, 9, Tumbridge Close, Chew Magna.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Club Room behind the Bear & Swan, Chew Magna.

February 2nd Mr R W Brown - 'Family History'

March 2nd Mr M Brown, M.A. - "19th Century Rural England"

This talk may be followed by a visit to Glastonbury Rural Life Museum.

### SODEBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As reported in Quest 5 -

February 10th Mr J Moore - Social History of Housing

March 10th Mr C Jerrard - Gloucestershire Police in the 19th Century

April 14th The Romans in South Gloucestershire

May 12th Society AGM.

Meetings are held at the Town Hall Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury at 7.30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Visitors are welcome but for further visits non-members are expected to pay 25p. Further information from the Secretary George Davey, 3, Hounds Close, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol BS17 6 EG.

### CRAAGS - COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY IN AVON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND SOMERSET

CRAAGS is a semi official body with government funding through the Council for British Archaeology. The following report is of a particularly interesting dig in South Gloucestershire.

#### Rescue Excavation at West Hill, Uley, August-September 1977; A Romano-British Temple Complex

During the summer of 1976, the Severn Trent Water Authority laid a water main in a pipe trench along the western limit of the field. This revealed traces of Roman occupation including pits, quarries, a culvert, stone walls and a single late Roman coffin burial. These features were recorded and drawn by a small team from CRAAGS. The stone walls were concentrated halfway down the field and a series of finds suggested the presence of a religious Roman building, probably a temple. These finds included miniature votive pots, many coins, rolled lead sheets bearing inscriptions which would have been presented to the gods at the temple, and a fragment of a Winged Victory statuette in bronze.

Owing/.....

Owing to the continued damage of the site during agricultural operations and the danger of destruction of the archaeological layers by treasure hunters using metal detectors, it was decided that a major rescue excavation should be mounted in 1977 in order to excavate and record the major complex of buildings.

Over one month's excavation so far revealed a series of buildings connected with a late Roman religious complex. Its focus appears to have been rectangular 'double square' structure with one and possibly a second corner tower or chapel. This can be identified as a traditional Roman-Celtic temple or chapel, consisting of an outer ambulatory surrounding an inner cella or enclosed area. Finds from within this building comprised bronze figurines including representations of Mercury and the Celtic God, Cernunnos, rolled lead inscriptions - curses or invocations to the gods, miniature votive pottery vessels, and large quantities of bronze coinage.

To the west, an apparently contemporary structure may have functioned as a range of shops supplying votive objects to the worshippers. This is part of a rectangular building sub-divided into a series of fairly small rectangular rooms with cobbled floors, disappearing beneath the road. Many of the walls were later robbed of their stones, while others required massive and deeply set foundations, probably to counteract the effect of subsidence into underlying infilled quarry pits.

East of the temple stood an 'exedra', four sides of a small hexagonal structure which may have formed a surround for a statue or similar ritual focus. This stood at the north end of an earlier range of rooms, possibly shops or domestic premises, occupied during the 3rd century but not apparently associated with the temple. Cobbled floor surfaces, hearths and ovens, and a deeply set foundation above earlier quarrying characterise this building, which continues south and east beyond the excavation limits. The area between all these buildings seems to have been an open courtyard, upon which traces of cobbling are still visible.

Downhill beyond the excavated area, a further range of buildings have been identified this year as porch marks in the crop. This is tentatively identified as a guest house provided for pilgrims coming to visit the temple.

The best parallel for a religious precinct of this type is at Lydney, just across the River Severn in the Forest of Dean. Square temples are well known in the Western Roman Empire, a good excavated example in this region being that on Brean Down near Weston-Super-Mare. Although apparently isolated upon a Cotswold hilltop, the West Hill temple was in fact located within a contemporary Romano-British settlement, now beneath this and adjoining fields. While this township may have flourished for two or three hundred years, its temple seems not to have been erected much before the middle of the 4th century. The whole complex seems to have suffered deliberate destruction and demolition early in the 5th century.

The excavation will be filled in at the end of the season so that further cropping can continue. A full illustrated report will be prepared by CRAAGS and the finds will be deposited in a local museum.

Further information about CRAAGS may be obtained from Warwick Rodwell, Bristol 291340.

#### THE CROCKERNE PILL & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Secretary Mrs M Morris tel: Pill 2058.

February 23rd: A.G.M. Mrs Pat Marsden from the Gordano Valley Society will be giving a talk.

### DOWNEND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

January 17th Mrs Rigby A walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal

February 7th Members Evening. Mrs P Jones will talk on 17th century Mangotsfield.

February 21st Mrs Joy Gerrish. History of Bitton.

March 7th Mr Massay. How to trace your family tree.

March 21st Miss Bruton. History of Thornbury.

### FILTON HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Hon. Secretary Mr W L Harris 42 Gloucester Road North Tel: Bristol 692025

All meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. at Filton Folk Centre.

January 25th Christopher Jordan The Severn Crossing

February 25th Harry Lane Tithe and other maps

March 29th Mr E Gadd I K Branch

VISITORS WELCOME - 20p

### NAILSEA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Nailsea Society welcomed the appointment of Mrs Hewitt as programme Secretary and already we have been rewarded by an excellent lecture by Mr Pullan on the Parish surveys of Chelvey, Nailsea and Backwell. On the 12th December three members spoke:

Mrs Betty Nickalls on "Nailsea Families"

Ted Douglas on "Parish Registers"

Harry Donnett "What is local history".

Research is progressing well, Mrs Nickalls recording details from the Holy Trinity Tomb Stones; Judith Atkinson and Ted Douglas continue their giant task copying the Parish Registers, Peter Wright our Secretary continues his study of the Nailsea Surveyors Account Books, Mr Claverton an enthusiastic member copying the tattered remains of poor House bills and Harry Donnett is deeply submerged in the analysis of Rent Books for 1843.

Students of Nailsea Comprehensive School under the supervision of Mrs Shave their History Teacher are transcribing the tapes of old Nailsonian recorded by Mr Smart and all of us are merely scratching the surface of material to be studied.

January 9th Mr A Rome FRIBA Nineteenth Century Work in local Churches

February 13th Mr B J Greenhill A.G.M. Aspects of local history

March 13th Mrs Betty Nickalls They lived and worked in Nailsea

April 10th Mrs K Crowley Mediaeval Coins

May 8th Mr Eric Gadd The S.S. Great Britain

June 11th/.....



June 11th	Sunday	Visit to S.S. Great Britain
July 10th	7 p.m.	Visit to Redcliffe Caves
September 11th	Miss M. Williams	Bristol City Archivist An Introduction to Archives
October 9th	Mr Peter Lazarus	Headmaster of the Downs School Nailsea Glass
November 13th	Mr K M Hewitt	'Surnames'
December 11th	To be announced	

#### WESTBURY-ON-TRYM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Take great pleasure in announcing their winter programme.

January 13th	Mr Cleeve is giving an illustrated talk on Old Bristol
February 10th	Mr Cordan is talking on the Severn Ferry Boats
March 10th	Mr Anton Bantock is giving a talk on the History of Bristol from its earliest Days up to the Tudors

Mrs Layzell, a member of the Committee has arranged these attractions which she is sure members will wish to support. Friends are welcome.

#### THE HERALDRY SOCIETY OF AVON

Fred Rapsey,  
9 Arley Park, Cotham, Bristol

Over the past two years, the Bristol Heraldry Society has mounted two exhibitions, one in the window of the former Leek and Westbourne (now Britannia) Building Society in Baldwin Street and one in the foyer of the Royal Hotel, College Green, with the help of House Of Lewis. Articles have also appeared in QUEST, the organ of ALHA, to which BHS is in the process of affiliating.

I propose to use this as a basis of the Heraldry Society of Avon, the main aim of which shall be the compilation of AN AVON ARMORIAL, which is a picture-book of as many coats-of-arms associated with the county as possible. This would include towns, schools, companies, societies, institutions, colleges, prominent local people and so on. One would hope that these bodies might contribute towards the cost of this, particularly as it would provide publicity for their companies etcetera. Last year I contacted Avon County who said that, although in these financially restrained times there would be no support, there might well be in the future - distance unspecified. I have had some experience in fund raising, so maybe it would not prove impossible.

If you are interested please get in touch with me at the above address.

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B.I.A.S. - BRISTOL INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Open meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. at the Bristol City Museum (enter by the right-hand side door and ring the bell)

- Sunday 22 January An afternoon walk to visit the Quarries on Winterbourne Down. To be led by Terry Evans.  
Meet at 2 p.m., Winterbourne Down Green ST 646793.
- Tuesday 31 January Film Evening
- Tuesday 14 February Historical Development of Bedminster - A talk by Mrs J. Phillip, Senior Assistant Archivist, Bristol City Record Office
- Saturday 25 February Annual General Meeting
- Tuesday 7 March Visit to M. Shed, Wapping Wharf;  
Bristol City Museum Project. (members only)
- Sunday 12 March Bullo Pill and Lydney Harbour. Leader Alan Tomkin. Meet 11 a.m. at Severn Bridge Service Car Park.
- Sunday 9 April Open Day Excavations, Edge Tool Works, Mells, Somerset: from 11 a.m.  
Further information from John Cordwell: 658256
- Tuesday 11 April Somerset I.A. Society has arranged an outing to slate mines in Somerset. Meeting at 10.15 a.m. in the car park, Wellington. (on right when approaching by A38) Bring walking boots & picnic.

Further information about BIAS may be obtained from Bob Martin,  
7 Rodway Hill, Mangotsfield, Bristol. Tel: 563194

B.A.R.G. - BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Plowright at Bristol City Museum, or the Hon. Membership Secretary, Mrs Sandalls, 41 Marling Road, St. George.  
A bulletin is produced three times a year, edited by Mrs Parker. (Tel: 46997)

Subscriptions (due on 1 January) £2 for those over 18  
£3 for husband and wife  
£1.40 for OAPs  
40p under 18 (associate membership)

(Special outings are arranged for under 18s and a four day trip once a year)

Winter Programme: Lectures are held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday evenings

- 12 January Miss Plowright - Some Archaeological Animals
- 2 February David Dawson - Churches and their Archaeological Significance
- 2 March L.V. Grinsell - Stonehenge and the Druids

### SPRING PROGRAMME

- 8th February J W Sherbourne - Characteristics of West Country Merchant shipping  
7.30 pm City Museum
- 25th February AGM followed by Dr AJ Parker, 'Trade in the Roman Empire'  
2.15 pm City Museum.
- 18/19th March Environmental Archaeology, a weekend held in conjunction with  
the Extra Mural Dept, 10.30 am Extra Mural Dept.
- 1st April Symposium on Roman Pottery 10.30 am Museum
- 13th April John Hurst - Trade in Pottery in the 16th and 17th centuries  
7.30 pm City Museum.

### LECTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE EXTRA MURAL DEPARTMENT

35p each or £1.75 for the course.

- 9th January Henry Hurst - Recent excavations in the Punic, Roman and Byzantine  
Port of Carthage.
- 23rd January Phillip Dixon - Prickley Hill, Gloucestershire: recent development  
at the Neolithic and Bronze Age Hill Fort.
- 6th February D. Miles - The Upper Thames Valley: A research of its Archaeology  
in the light of recent and current work.
- 27th February Henry Cleeve - the Iron Industry in Roman Britain with special  
reference to the Forest of Dean.
- 6th March Dr Ellison - Excavations at the Uley Roman Temple.

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\* MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM 2 pm Saturday 14th January. \*  
\* Dr Ellison - Archaeological implications of quarrying in Avon. \*  
\* John Sayseil Redfield Methodist Church, Bristol \*  
\* John White and Jim Handcock - Some recent aerial photography in Avon \*  
\* Dr Parker - Stoke Gifford Roman Site \*  
\* Dr Sluggett - A preliminary Report on some Mummies in the City Museum. \*  
\* Mike Ponsford - Bristol Castle \*  
\* TEA AND BISCUITS \*  
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### PARISH SURVEY UNIT

Anyone already carrying out or intending to carry out a Parish Survey might  
be interested in contacting Miss Plowright at the City Museum. BARG are  
hoping to encourage the use of a standard recording form throughout the County  
so that results can more readily be collated and processed.

#### MALAGO ARCHIVES COMMITTEE - Bedminster Down School

Since the new term started in September, we have been kept busy with various activities, not least among these, our entries for the ALHA Essay Competition. We have recently embarked upon a second series of evening classes for the public, and have so far had attendances of over 30 people each time. For each of these meetings we take one specific subject and re-tell all we know in readings, talks, recordings and dramatic presentations. After calling up the Nymphs of the Malago river, together with their favourite god, Neptune, at our first meeting, the evening finished with a mighty thunder and rain storm! We have also discussed Bishopsworth Manor, old family businesses in the area, the Bedminster School Board and the development of education, Boer War and Crimean War diaries, and hope to enjoy a special evening with a Victorian flavour (including mince pies, tenor soloist, lantern slides and games round the piano) to finish near Christmas.

In between these meetings we have had visits to the ALHA exhibition at Thornbury, to Ashton Court Mansion and Redcliffe Caves - both the latter available on application to the City Engineer's Department, Cabot House, Deanery Road, Bristol 1. These two visits involved the flashing of many torches, much to the delight of the younger members! We also hope to take the evening class members on visits to Dundry Church and Bishopsworth Manor House.

Our latest magazine - MALAGO 7 - has sold well, and No. 8 is under way. We are also producing a similar publication on "The Inside Story of the Smyths of Ashton Court", which we hope to have available in January. All this, interspersed with much interviewing, typing, setting up exhibitions etc. keeps us out of mischief most of the time!

#### MALAGO PRIZE for the LOCAL HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

Malago have very generously donated a special prize for the best entrant under 15 of £5.

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WINTERBOURNE HOUSE - Terance Moody - Published by F. Bailey and Son Ltd., Dursley, Glos.

This is a most interesting attempt to look at a single 'vernacular' building in great detail. The book has two main sections the first rehearsing all the available material on the occupants of the house and the second examining the construction of the building.

It is a book well worth the attention of anyone with an interest in vernacular architecture and it should also have a good sale in this locality. For the general reader it has certain shortcomings. The title of the book is printed on this dust cover but not either the spine or, as is the usual convention, on a title page so it would have been useful to have had one of the excellent photographs of the house at the beginning. The author is most meticulous in his assembly of information but for the general reader there are probably too few conclusions drawn.

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Avon County - How it might have been

I have already disagreed at length with Avon's arms (QUEST 5) and concurred with a number of good features, so I shall not repeat myself. The picture you will see is my conception of a coat-of-arms for Avon which is in my opinion preferable. However much it is an improvement, it could never be adopted - nor could any other ideas - for once granted, a coat-of-arms (more properly called an Achievement) cannot be altered without some alteration in the status or function of the armigerous (arms-bearing) body.

To explain the picture - I have retained the sea-stag idea, this is quite outstanding, but I have removed the superfluous roundels which were supposed to represent the six district councils. Having left the sinister sea-stag I adapted the dexter one to a sea-unicorn, to preserve links with Bristol, the supporters of the arms of which is an ordinary unicorn. The compartment or base I have left alone also, although I was tempted to put in oak leaves and acorns from Bath's arms or Welsh leeks.

On the shield, in the lowest part, is a (Bristol) ship bearing on its sail a (Gloucestershire) horseshoe. The sail is divided horizontally with the horseshoe so that an A (for Avon) appears. The ship sails on the sea (docks of Gloucester & Bristol - also Royal Portbury Dock), which merges with the River Avon in the compartment. On the ship are six portholes, representing the six district councils. Above the ship is a battlemented wall in the shape of an inverted 'V'. The wall comes from Bath's and Bristol's arms, and the 'V' shape (chevron) from Gloucestershire's arms. Above this again are a crossed mace (Somerset) and key (Bath) - the end of which is 'A' shaped for Avon in the same way that the Bath key is 'B' shaped.

Above the helmet is the crest, which is a mural crown (Glos) from which issues a demi-dragon or wyvern. In Gloucestershire's arms a demi-lion is issuant, in these the dragon of Somerset/Wyvern of Wessex is issuant, holding in its claws a four-bladed propellor, to refer to the aircraft connections. These begin in 1910 with the Boxkite and continue with Concorde.

It will be observed that in this version, symbols have been merged rather more than in the authorized one. For example, the two major cities have not been confined to the crest, and the 'Six' reference is not so heavily played upon, although the six points of the stag, the six portholes in the ship and the six battlements on the crest of course refer to the councils. There are other points - the propellor forms a cross - this could be taken to refer to Bristol Cathedral, Bath Abbey and of course Keynsham Abbey that was so brutally ravaged by a road in the early 1960s. I wonder if any readers can spot any other involuntary allusions!

**Blazon:** Gules, in chief crossed saltirewise a mace and a key having a capital A as the locking piece both or; Or per chevron embattled a ship sable having six portholes argent sailed argent and gules charged with a horseshoe points downwards, counterchanged and fimbriated of the same, all on a sea barry wavy azure and argent. For supporters, dexter a sea-unicorn proper gorged with an antique croem or, sinister a sea-stag proper gorged the same, having six tynes on each antler. For crest, a mural crown of six crenels issuant from which a demi-dragon or rampant guardant, grasping an aeroplane propellor of four blades. All on a compartment composed of two grassy mounts divided by water barry wavy argent and azure. For badge the sinister supporter, granted separately.

The crest can be worn by employees of Avon only, on buttons, blazers etc.

**Note:** I would draw the attention of anyone who is offended by my critique of Avon's authorized arms and my subsequent alternative that I present both articles in the spirit of fruitful debate and exchange of views, and that any offence taken is not engendered by the intention of

Fred Rapsey.



Arvon County Arms - How  
they might have  
been.

Fudlapp  
02.1.1977.

## ANALYSING THE CENSUS

This is our weekly Resurrection  
Our home-made Judgement Day  
With the dead lined up for inspection  
In the assessors' neat array  
Whence they came and where they went  
Are problems for our weekly wonder:  
Apply your glass so you will not miss  
The slightest scrap of plunder.

List them then by age and status,  
Occupation, birthplace, class  
Slow, steady, careful tabulation  
Must soon yield some facts at last.

So get them packaged and done with  
Listed, sorted and checked so they may  
Show up clearly in neat dessionation  
On a chart or a graphic display

This must be our peculiar answer  
What's really important we'll miss  
We'll not know what grieved or ailed them  
What they knew of sound sleep or a kiss

The lists now safely back in the file  
We've added more facts to our toll;  
Picked peoples' names from the columns  
Thank God we can't pick at their souls.

C.J. Spittal

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The following extract is from Peter Laslett's "The World we have lost". Having demonstrated that Gregory King was probably correct when he estimated the average age of the population at  $27\frac{1}{2}$ , Laslett continues -

"We must imagine our ancestors, therefore, in the perpetual presence of their offspring. A good 70% of all households contained children....In the pre-industrial world there were children everywhere; playing in the village street and fields when they were very small, hanging round the farmyards and getting in the way, until they were big enough to be given child-sized jobs to do; thronging the churches; for ever clinging to the skirts of women in the house and wherever they went and above all crowding round the cottage fires.

The perpetual distraction of childish noise and talk must have affected everyone almost all the time, except of course the gentleman in his study or the lady in her boudoir; incessant interruptions to answer questions, quieten fears, rescue from danger or make peace between the quarrelling. These crowds and crowds of little children are strangely absent from the written record, even if they are conspicuous enough in the pictures painted at the time, particularly the outside scenes. There is something mysterious about the silence of all these multitude of babes in arms, toddlers and adolescents in the statements men made at the time about their own experience. Children appear of course, but so seldom and in such an indefinite way that we know very little indeed about child nurture in pre-industrial times, and no confident promise can be made of knowledge yet to come."

## C O U N T Y   N E W S

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP The Committee has become increasingly aware of the number of people, particularly in rural areas who have no immediate local society and would like to be direct members of the County Association. At present subscriptions are based only on Society membership but it is proposed that an individual subscription should be determined at the next Committee Meeting and that the new class of membership should then be entitled to the same advantages as Society Members.

BLAKE COMMITTEE - (Notice from Committee to Review Local History -  
26, Bedford Square, London. WC1B 3HU. Tel: 01-636-4066).

Since the end of the Second World War very considerable growth has taken place in the interest shown by people in local history as a subject of enquiry and of recreation. From its formation in 1948, the Standing Conference for Local History has been the only national organisation concerned solely with encouraging the study of local history and the provision of the services needed by those engaging in the work. The stage has been reached in the development of local history, and in that the Conference itself, when it has seemed timely to set up an independent Committee "To make an assessment of the pattern of interest, activity, and of study, in local history in England and Wales; and to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". Its Chairman is the historian Lord Blake Provost of the Queen's College, Oxford University.

To enable it to conduct the enquiry, the Committee requires information and ideas from individuals, groups, organisations and educational bodies and establishments, concerned with local history. An invitation is extended to those who wish to make a submission in accordance with the terms of reference cited above, to send it as soon as conveniently possible and in any case by the 28th February 1978, to Lord Blake, Committee to Review Local History, 26 Bedford Square London WC1B 3HU.

It will facilitate the work of the Committee if those making submissions will incorporate in them certain information. Guidelines are given below.

INDIVIDUALS should head their submissions with their names and addresses and lists of any relevant local, county or national organisations of which they are members. These details should be followed by short descriptions of the local history activity or work in which they are presently engaged. It will be useful if the committee can be told of any limitations imposed on the interest which they can exercise in local history because of present organisational structures, or the nature or degree of the services available. People are asked to identify their needs and suggest if they can, how, and by whom, these might be met.

GROUPS and ORGANISATIONS should head their submissions with their names and addresses and give their dates of formation. These details should be followed by brief statements of aims, membership figures, and summaries on current activity and work, including publications. If groups/organisations are inclined to provide information also about their financial and administrative arrangements, this will be welcomed. If there are activities in which groups or organisations would wish to engage given certain conditions, i.e. necessary guidance or extended forms of support services, greater financial resources, it is hoped these will be mentioned. Please state the nature of what is thought to be required to enable the activities to go forward and make suggestions, if possible about how, and whom, the requirements might be met.

EDUCATIONAL BODIES and ESTABLISHMENTS should head their submissions with their names and addresses. These details should be followed by short statements indicating the length of time in which they have been active in local history, and the form and extent of their current work. It will be of interest to the Committee to know of arguments for the development of any services which they would like to see provided for local historians by their own or any other bodies. Similarly, the institutions should express any views they may have about facilities which, if available, would sustain them and their staffs in their work for local history.



# EDITORIAL COMMENT -

This is probably a unique opportunity for Local Societies to express their problems and their needs and to contribute to the formation of the national policy of the Standing Conference for Local History. Many groups may find it very hard to determine and then to express their aims, their resources and therefore their requirements. Don't be put off. Lots of others will be and the opportunity will be lost. The Blake Committee has unfortunately not given us much time to get down to it, but please make a special effort before February 28th.

HANDBOOK It has been found necessary to increase the number of pages and it may therefore be slightly more expensive. There will be a reduced price to paid up ALHA members.

## AVON LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

### FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 1977

#### General Purposes

##### Affiliation Fee, Exhibition Receipts

Credit Brought Forward 1/4/1977 £ 3.68

Receipts since 1/4/1977 £103.10

TOTAL £106.78

Less Associated Expenditure 87.91

(NOTE: £46.90 is the total of Net Credit £ 18.87  
Affiliation Fees received  
for year 1977/78)

##### Quest Magazine

Credit Brought Forward 1/4/1977 £ 15.28

Receipts from sales since 1/4/1977 £ 54.63

TOTAL £ 69.91

Less Associated Expenditure 19.67

Net Credit £ 50.24

##### The Handbook

Donations Brought Forward 1/4/1977 £ 10.00

Donations Received Since 1/4/1977 £235.00

Advertising Revenue received £ 60.00

Net Credit £305.00\*  
£374.11

\*NOTE The sum of £305.00 has been placed on a Share Account  
with Nationwide Building Society.

G.S.Dear  
Hon. Treasurer

ingswood on November 26th

18.78

7042

Revised from earlier editions

Area

#### GLoucestershire DIALECT WORD-LISTS

The contribution to "Quest" No.5 which offered "an explanation of explanations" for certain Gloucestershire dialect words listed in William Marshall's "Rural Economy of Gloucestershire" made very proper acknowledgement to the 'Oxford English Dictionary'. Perhaps it may interest readers to know of some other publications useful to anyone searching out facts about local speech.

Every bit is essential as 'O.E.D.' (originally may I respectfully point out 'N.E.D.' or "New English Dictionary") compiled by Joseph Wright and issued in six volumes between 1898 and 1905. Beside this work every item but one subsequently mentioned pales into relative insignificance. The point to remember in using these compilations, each immortalised into initiales, is that 'N.E.D.' is assembled from citations drawn from literary sources whereas 'E.D.D.' was compiled from reports of contemporary spoken dialect sent to the editor from collaborators all over the country. Sometimes Joseph Wright checked this information by correspondence and added to his manuscript material extracts from books in or about English dialects added to his personal library as a result of relentless scrutiny of booksellers' catalogues. Although Joseph Wright spent thirty-seven years of his teaching life in Oxford it is reported that he only visited the Bodleian Library once!

Joseph Wright's six-volume work including the "English Dialect Grammar" also published separately, has been properly acclaimed by present-day authority as a 'remarkable achievement which has not yet been superseded'. Some care should however be exercised in using it; the phonology is explained by a method not in line with modern practice, the geographical locations for districts where individual words were collected are too extensively defined being given as general areas rather than particular places. Nevertheless any enquirer who ignores this work to-day does so at his peril.

To anyone with an interest in medieval Gloucestershire dialect forms the edition of Robert of Gloucestershire's Chronicle (c.1300) by Thomas Hearne originally published at Oxford in 1724 and later re-issued by Samuel Bagster of London (as volume 1 and 2 of Hearne's "Works") may be of interest. It contains an extensive glossary of one hundred and thirty pages but it could be wise to check the explanations with those in a modern general Middle English Dictionary.

Perhaps the earliest systematic observations on a Modern English dialect are those by John Smyth on the speech of the Berkeley District. These comments appear on pp. 23-33 of the third volume of Smyth's "Description of the Hundred of Berkeley" edited by Sir John Maclean and published in 1885 a work familiar to every serious local historian in our area. They were also reprinted by J. Drummond Robertson as an appendix to his glossary of Gloucestershire dialect words issued in 1890 by the English Dialect Society.

Smyth, writing in the early seventeenth century, approached his task in a fashion anticipatory of the nineteenth. There are observations on phonology; for example the diphthongs then used in the Berkeley area when pronouncing such words as 'rusty' (rendered 'rowsty') or 'use' (rendered 'youse') and on forms which Smyth recognised as belonging to an earlier stage of the language and gradually becoming obsolete (e.g. 'gehoren' for 'born'). Smyth also identified the West Country phenomenon on 'voicing' (sound produced when air from the lungs is passed through the vocal cords causing them to vibrate) initial 'f' as 'v' ('varthinge' for 'farthing') and the correspondent 'unvoicing' of 'v' to 'f' ('fenison' for 'venison'). His delightful comment on these changes is "So powerful a prerogative of transplatacon have wee hundreders over the Alphabet".

Cont/.....

William Marshall's list of dialect words referred to in "Quest" no. 5 was drawn from the Vale area of Gloucestershire and so includes the district in which Smyth worked. Like Smyth's list it was also reprinted by the English Dialect Society.<sup>5</sup>

The next work to be noticed is an anonymous "Glossary of Provincial Words used in Gloucestershire" which appeared as a small octavo pamphlet in 1851. The author may have been Sir George Cornwall Lewis (1806-1863) a one-time editor of the "Edinburgh Review", Liberal M.P. for Herefordshire from 1847 to 1852 and a pioneer investigator of the language of politics who certainly wrote a similar volume for Herefordshire including some Gloucestershire words. Both publications were part of a series which, it seems, was intended to cover all the English counties. The early demise of the project need not be regretted. Solecisms (e.g. 'docity' for 'docility') and folk-etymologies are admitted freely alongside true dialect words and some of the explanations provided have lost the relevance they had for mid nineteenth-century readers (e.g. the rendering of a 'setting-pin' as a 'dibble'). The inclusion of just five proverbs excerpted from a previous collection by T.D. Fosbroke emphasises the perfunctory and superficial quality of this publication.

Richard Webster Huntley's "Glossary of the Cotswold (Gloucestershire) Dialect" published by John Russell Smith in 1868 borrowed heavily from the previous work. It was also larger and included etymologies, remarks on grammatical usage and on sound-changes. All should be received with the utmost caution and re-checked in 'E.D.D.' or 'N.E.D.'. The firm of John Russell Smith, although hardly adding lustre to its lists by publishing the Reverend Huntley's lexicon, had established something of a reputation during the nineteenth century by its programme of philological publications. One of the founders of the firm produced a bibliography of books in or about English dialects in 1839. This still has some use but the details given in it should be supplemented by reference to Skeat and Noddy's bibliography of 1873-1877 and to the bibliography in 'E.D.D.'. Nothing comparable has appeared since.<sup>6</sup>

J. Drummond Robertson produced his "Glossary of Dialect and Archaic Words used in the County of Gloucester" above the imprint of the English Dialect Society in 1890. His debt to Huntley is as obvious as was Huntley's to his anonymous predecessor. Robertson represents a real step forward in Gloucestershire dialect study although his book could have been greatly improved by the use of a better method for gathering contemporary material than sending three hundred and thirty-one circular to rural clergy. A disillusioned compiler observed in his preface that "the response was disappointing, showing a general lack of interest on the part of men whose education and surroundings should best fit them to help us in preserving the speech of the people in whose midst they live, and to whom they minister". In fact that very education and those particular surroundings were things held in such awe by ordinary country people that more often than not they would tend to avoid the use of dialect, as far as possible, in their conversations with clergy who often also felt a sense of social superiority or had one thrust upon them by their parishioners. Therefore Robertson's information was not drawn directly from users of the dialect but was only a partial record transmitted at second-hand. In fact only sixteen incumbents answered his circulars and only one of those seems to have incorporated in his reply material drawn not from his own experience. Places in the present County of Avon from which Robertson received lists comprised Tortworth, Rockhampton, Falfield, Winterbourne and Westbury-on-Trym.

Names of villages or regions where words were recorded are given in square brackets after most entries or else a reference to the appropriate written authority. Occasionally illustrations of actual usage in complete sentences are provided; these may be colloquial or drawn from literary sources.



John Smyth's survey of Berkeley usage in the seventeenth century is reprinted in an appendix together with "George Ridler's Oven" (once referred to as 'Gloucestershire's national anthem'), another specimen of dialect verse and two prose pieces. One of the latter is by Sydney Savory Buckman, a great authority in his day on ammonites, and the son of James Buckman who had been Professor of Geology and Botany at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and had himself done some dialect writing. S.S. Buckman married Mary Holland, daughter of Robert Holland, one of the two compilers of a 'Dictionary of English Plant Names' also issued by the English Dialect Society. Amongst other specialised subject dialect dictionaries issued by this same society are collections of agricultural terms (Publication No. 30), ornithological terms (Publication No. 47), and folk phrases partly from Gloucestershire (Publication no. 73).<sup>11-13</sup>

Robertson's two hundred and thirty-six page glossary is still valuable after nearly one hundred years. Unlike Huntley, Robertson recognised his limitations in philological work (his primary interest was in numismatics) and grammatical analyses and phonetic transcriptions which he felt he could not do well he left alone. The conscientious collection he made is carefully edited and informatively annotated. It is a great pity that his religious or aristocratic friends did not serve him more adequately.

An infinitely superior method of collecting information by questionnaire, both with regard to the design of the questionnaire itself and to the social positions of those to whom it was addressed, was employed by the directors of the Survey of English Dialects which began publication in the early 1960s and was organised from the Department of English Language and Medieval English Literature at Leeds University. Gloucestershire is included in volume 2 covering the "West Midland Counties". The method employed was to provide field workers with carefully-planned lists of set questions identical for every part of the country and grouped under the headings of The Farm, Farming, Animals, Social Activities and States, Actions and Relations. Each of these and their various subsections are assigned a number and respondents' answers are also set out in classified form using an abbreviation for the name of the county and a number for the village where the response was obtained. For example, under Group VII (Numbers, Time and Weather), Section 5 (The Daily Meals), Sub-Section 12 (Meals Out), the set question is "What do you call the food you take to work with you as a meal?". The answers, arranged under heading 24G1 (Gloucestershire) are: 1 (Doerhurst) tommy; 2-4 (Gretton, Bream Whiteshill) tommy; 5 (Sherborne) dinner; 6 (Slinbridge) grub, dinner; 7 (Latteridge) dinner. This is not the place to discuss the results of that particular enquiry, but it is interesting to see how 'tommy' still survives in a small village very near to Gloucester whilst 'dinner' breaks what would otherwise be a fairly undeviating 'isogloss' (line linking places with common dialectal features) by its intrusion into the Cotswold area near present-day middle-class Bourton-on-the-Water.

The answers obtained by the survey of English Dialects are recorded in the International Phonetic Alphabet but this need prove no serious obstacle to the interested non-specialist. The total vocabulary of responses is printed in capitals at the head of each sub-section and the interpretation of their phonetic renderings can thus be mastered with but a few minutes practice by those whose interest is chiefly in the words themselves rather than in their differing pronunciations.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, the glossary compiled by the present writer as an appendix to J.S. Moore ed: 'The Goods and Chattels of our Forefathers', Phillimore, 1976 and printed on pages 290-338 of that work contains dialect words. The purpose of this glossary was to explain obscure terms used in probate inventories of the late 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and the content therefore is a matter of historical dialectology. The great reward was in the discovery of some ten or a dozen words actually used by the people of England but not in either 'E.D.D.' or 'N.E.D.' This was the first extensive use of probate inventories, a hitherto largely neglected source for such material, in work on dialects.

There are doubtless other discoveries which can still be made in the field'. Local historians, if they are doing their job thoroughly, should be out and about 'in the field' and by keeping their ears attuned they could make very useful observations. Speech is part of social life and social life is part of the fabric of local history. "Quest" could perform a useful function in assisting such observations either by publishing a regular 'question-and-answer' feature on dialect matters (there is no existing competition) or else by encouraging the appearance of more articles on dialect study or more explanations similar to that which prompted this attempt to give a general outline and assessment of some available reference works.

C.J. Spittal  
18/11/9977

#### REFERENCES

1. For an account of Joseph Wright and of the making of 'E.D.D.' see Wright (E.M.) "The Story of Joseph Wright, Man and Scholar" Oxford University Press 1934.
2. Wright(J.), "The English Dialect Grammar comprising the Dialects of England, of the Shetland and Orkney Islands, and of those Parts of Scotland Ireland and Wales where English is habitually spoken., Henry Froude 1905.
3. Brook (G.L.) English Dialects, Andre Deutsch, 1963 pp 152-154
4. The authoritative work is Kurath(H) and Kuhn (S.M.) "Middle English Dictionary" Michigan Univ. Press, Ann Arbor, 1956-- (in Progress)
5. In Skeat (W.W.) ed.: "Seven Provincial English Glossaries from various Sources (English Dialect Society Publication No. 5), Trübner for English Dialect Society, 1874.
6. Smith (J.R.) "A Bibliographical list of the Works that have been published towards illustrating The Provincial Dialects of England", J.R. Smith, 1839
7. Skeat (W.W.) and Nodal (J.H.): "A Bibliographical List of Works that have been published, or are known to exist in MS., illustrative of the various Dialects of English" (English Dialect Society Publications Nos. 2, 8, and 18) Trübner for English Dialect Society, 1873-1877.
8. Nor is there available a full history of English dialect literature. A summary account, although deficient in its coverage of Gloucestershire material appears in Hoewel(E.F.), "Die Soziale Herkunft der neuzeitlichen Dialektliteratur Englands", Kolner Anglistische Arbeiten, 17, Tauchnitz, Leipzig, 1929.
9. As No. 61 of their series of publications.
10. Britten (J) and Holland (R): "A Dictionary of English Plant-Names" (English Dialect Society Publications Nos. 22, 26 and 45), Trübner for English Dialect Society 1878-1884.
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12. Swainson (C.): "Provincial Names and Folk Lore of British Birds", 1885.
13. Northall (G.F.): "Folk-phrases of Four Counties (Glouc. Staff. Warw., Worc) gathered from unpublished Mss. and oral Tradition", 1894.
14. The full questionnaire and an account of the method of survey is given in Orton (H) "Survey of English Dialects (A), Introduction", E.J. Arnold and Son Ltd. for the University of Leeds, 1962.

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### THE HOTWELL SPA

A transcript of a talk given by Mrs. Doreen Layzell to the Westbury-on-Trym Local History Group.

At the beginning, it is best to get it clear that there was more than one spring at Hotwells, but I am going to talk of the original spring which gave its name to the Hotwell Spa.

The warm spring's existence, milky white and of a temperature of seventy-six degrees, was launched as far back as the 15th century. William Worcestre, the 15th century Bristol Topographical Scholar, refers to it in his account of the Clifton Gorge and St. Vincents Rocks. But he does not enlarge on its curative qualities.

In the 17th it became better known. In June 1630, one John Bruckshaw obtained a forty-year licence from the Crown, not only to dig in the rock of the gorge for gold, silver and crystal, but also to "take in" the Hotwell water and to make baths for the use of those who frequented the Springs.

In the calendar of the State Papers, Domestic Series, appropriate to the reign of Charles I, is this entry:-

"Petition of John Bruckshaw to the King. Has found a fountain or spring of water issuing from a high rock adjacent to the sea, in the Western Part of the Kingdom, which cures many diseases far beyond any known bath in the Kingdom. It lies between high-water and low-water mark. Prays licence to make a wall between the spring and the sea, and to search and dig in the rocks for minerals".

Its popularity from then on must have been considerable for in 1634 three cavaliers from Norwich who stayed in Bristol on their tour of England reported a "good store of company".

These cavaliers were a Captain, a Lieutenant and an Ancient - all three were of Military Company of Norwich. They gave an account of their travels through 26 counties which took them seven weeks. This is what they had to say of Hotwells:-

"By the Havens Channel wee found a strange Hotwell which came gushing and pouring out of a mighty stoney rocke, into the stream so nigh thereto, by a rocky, and steep winding and craggy way, near 200 slippry steps. which place when the tide is gone now wants good store of company to wash in this well, and to drink that warm and medicinable water, and for its rarity, diverse carry some away with them.

Right over against this well on the side of the river, and out of as high a rocke as the other, there falls at that height into the same stream, another spring as cold, which is a strange coincidence in so small a distance, for one single ship at a full and high water, may safely saile into the harbour which is between these two high and rocky perilous hills, with a skilful and expert pilot.

When we had felt and tasted the rare excellency of these waters, we mounted up againe, and for the space of an hour or two, layd aside our commanding postures, and turned pioneers, to dig and delve for some glittering bastard diamond stones which that hill plentifully afforded."

Note that G. Wickham Legg, who edited the accounts of the travels of the above says that 2 grains of sulphate of soda to a pint of water was the main ingredient, and that Bristol Diamonds were quartz crystals.



About this time Dr. Samuel Ward who was master of Sidney Sussex College at Cambridge from 1610-1643 anticipated a later practice and had Hotwell water sent to him to drink away from its source. It is as well to note, that differing from Bath, bathing in the water was of little significance and another difference was the bottling of water for sale not only in other parts of England and on the Continent, but in the West Indian Colonies. This must have been a considerable item in the output of the Bristol Glass Works. Patrick McGrath, in his Book Bristol in the 18, quotes from London Newspapers of the period who were displaying advertisements like the following, and I quote:-

"Famous Bristol Hotwell water, fresh from the well will be sold and delivered to any part of the town at six shillings per dozen bottles. These bottles are of the largest size, and by the extraordinary favour of the winds arrived but last week, eight days from Bristol, the common passage being a month or six weeks."

It is pertinent to note that advertisers have always been able to have tongue in cheek where money is concerned.

The water was also cried in the Bristol Streets. In 1677 Queen Catherine of Braganza, the wife of Charles II, visited Hotwells giving it the respectability of royal patronage.

In a few more years, the water came to be recommended for the complaint diabetes. This came about in an extraordinary way. About the year 1680, two or three noteworthy persons died of the complaint, but a Mr. Gagg, a baker of Castle Street, dreamed one night he drank of the Hotwell water, and was mightily refreshed by it. In the morning he was so impressed by his dream, that he decided to try the water and to cut a long story short, according to him he was cured in two to three days. This one instance got so mooted abroad that the water came to be believed as a cure - all for diabetes.

In its earliest days it was supposed to be beneficial just for "hot livers, feeble brains, and red pimply faces". Sir Robert Atkyne mentioned this in the Ancient Present State of Gloucestershire (1712) and Daniel Defoe refers to it in this way in his Tour through England and Wales.

By this time, early in the 18 that this was noted, local and commercial enterprise had taken over.

Back in 1676, the Bristol Society of Merchant Venturers bought the moiety of the Manor of Clifton which included Hotwell. They were no doubt aware of the springs possibilities. In 1687 they leased the well to two tenants for no more than £2 a year. In 1695 the well was leased for 99 years, and at an annual rent of £5 to Charles Jones, a Bristol Soap Miler and Thomas Callow Hill, a draper.

It was stipulated that they were to build a Pump Room, plus lodging houses, and to lay out walks giving better access to the well. This was to be done all for £500, so it is not surprising that the Pump Room, which served its purpose all through the 18 was an unimpressive barn like building projecting from the river bank over the steep tidal mud, so as to enclose the Spring and screen it from the tidal Avon. In the Mall, Clifton, there is a picture in a shop of the Spa as I've described it.

In 1723 according to a satirical sketch of the time, Bristol Hotwell was already attracting fashionable company. The Duchesses of Kent and Marlborough were there and it refers to a Sir Buckley who sired children at fourteen and was a valitudinarian (a lovely word meaning poor health) by forty - hardly surprising.



For a full understanding of the spa in the 18<sup>th</sup> it must be remembered that it was a Summer Spa (April until end of September) and didn't overlap the season at Bath. Farleys Journal reported arrivals at the two spas, and we know that tradesmen who did business at Bath in the Winter, could transfer to Hotwell in the Summer.

Clientele of both resorts were much the same, yet the lists of arrivals suggests that more of the aristocracy went to Bath.

Most weeks, in the lists of names of people visiting Hotwells in Felix Farley, "etc" is frequently given so an exact figure is not possible. But well over seven hundred are named between 30 April and 5 October.

Lodgings must have sprung up quickly.

In 1727 work had started on Down Square. As worship in the Parish Church of Clifton meant a journey of two miles or to the equally distant Cathedral, a chapel known as the Down Chapel was built and finished in 1746. Mrs. Strangways Horner of Dorset giving £50 was top subscriber, while the Marquis of Granby, after whom Granby Hill was named, contented himself with 2 guineas.

Later in the century, for those who did survive in spite of their attendance at the Spa, a strangers burial ground was arranged (this was half-way up the hill to Clifton Church).

Peak period for the Spa was between 1760 and the year 1785. As Sketcheleys Bristol Directory put it in 1775, the water was by that time taken for varied complaints which included diabetes, dropsy, scorbutic maladies, dysentery, cancer and venereal disease. Ailments of the lungs, kidneys & bladder are specially mentioned. By now and in the end more controversially it was recommended for consumptives. Six glasses of the water was the total consumption a day.

But all was not pre-occupation with health. Diversions were the essence of a summer stay at Hotwells. It was a time when gentlemen made the grand tour but ladies never, so the scenery was no doubt of great charm to them. The Avon at high tide was of considerable scenic beauty and there were rivers picnics - sometimes with music. There were also trips as far as the site of present day Avonmouth or to Portishead; or they caught the Rownham Ferry to Long Ashton where, according to Vincent Waite, scrumptious repast of strawberries or raspberries and cream could be had.

Then for the energetic there were walks, rides or drives. Quite possibly, those who went there for the water, which according to reports was all too often polluted, may have got far more benefit by the time spent in the good air on the Downs. And just as fashionable visitors to Bath enjoyed the surrounding scenery, they enjoyed the view to South Wales from the vantage points of Kings Western or the Gothic Tower of Blaise Castle.

Hotwells had its literary associations. Chatterton the boy poet was influenced by the romantic scenery see his poem Clifton and S. Mollett wrote Peveril of Clinks in 1771 a satirical account for a mere fortnight by Matthew Bramble and his party. In this novel one male character says there is an awful stink and slime everywhere and another character describes a profusion of beautiful flowers and an enchanting variety of moving pictures. Probably the truth lay between the two, because one character had gout and the other was violently in love, and so the condition of each coloured their outlook.

Fanny Burney's *Evelina* came out in 1778 these two gave something of the literary fame which Sheridan bestowed in the same decade on Bath and later Jane Austen. From Fanny Burney, one gathers the visitors were refined, if at times affected and artificial, but they did delight in the Theatre. Hotwells was thus important for the blossoming of the Bristol Stage. The first theatre to serve Hotwells and the Bristol public was opened in 1729. It was sited in an area which is now Jacob Wells Road. Thirty-seven years later, in 1776, the Theatre Royal was built largely modelled on Drury Lane. The large capacity was no doubt determined by bookings from visitors to Hotwells, and the two seasons coincided. When in 1778, a royal licence entitled the Theatre to be called the Theatre Royal, the patronage of 'Persons of Rank and Fortune on account of their taking the medical waters' was given as a reason for this concession.

In 1785 the Pump Room was improved and a colonnade with elegant little shops was built. But it wasn't long before an irreversible decline overtook Hotwells.

The new Tenant in 1790 had to pay a high rent and the increased charges deterred visitors.

But more important was the growing controversy and the effectiveness of the water as a cure for consumption. This was challenged by a local physician Mr. Beddois, who set up his institution in Down Square, but who preferred to live in Upper Clifton.

It was his verdict which was the final cause of the collapse of the Spa.

A lesser authority but one especially interesting to us in Westbury-on-Trym, is Robert Southey who influenced by the climate of opinion of Dr. Beddois and his followers, and writing under the lively pseudonym of Don Manuel Alvarez Esprietta held the water to be of no use to consumptives, and mentions the rather dreary sight of ailing people gasping for their last breath of air.

I prefer to reflect on Hotwells on its heyday of Social Life and entertainments.

I have a few footnotes to add.--

1. The first theatre which I mentioned was built in 1729 next to an ale house in Jacob Wells Road Area had a hole in the wall through which supplies could be passed to the members of the company.
2. There were lively energetic public breakfasts arranged at some of the lodging houses with cotillions and country dances.
2. In 1822 Mr. Bolton attempted to revive the Spa. 1867 New Pump Room demolished the Hotwell Point was removed. The Spring was enclosed and piped to a Grotto. A pump was set up in 1877 - but there was a query whether the water was from the original spring. Nevertheless, this was still in use up to 1913 - according to the records 350 people a day partook.

Attempts have been made to find the original spring. There were borings in 1913 and again in 1925.

The only reminder left to us is the colonnade now in sad decay.

References: Essay by Bryan Little in the Essays on Bristol and Gloucestershire History - The Centenary Volume of the Bristol Archaeological Society and references contained therein.

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ALPHA - SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION

held at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Thornbury on October 22nd, '77

Ideally, this report should not have been written by an exhibitor directly involved in the event and the Editor intends to be more ruthless in future in trapping the unwary bystander.

Firstly, it must be said that a great deal of work goes into an exhibition and our thanks must go to Tom Crowe who initiated the whole programme and organised every last detail from the road signs to the refreshments. It was certainly a success in that it made a small profit and attendance was slightly higher than that reported by my predecessor for the previous exhibition.

Our thanks should also go to the societies who contributed - without volunteers there would have been no exhibition. Only one group failed to turn up but unfortunately, as they had required a considerable area of vertical display space, an unnecessary number of exhibition stands were hired.

More unfortunately, the lectures which followed the exhibition were very poorly attended. Mr. Spittal has kindly reproduced his talk for Quest but many of the others were wasted. It was probably too much to expect the general audience to stay while the Exhibition closed down and the exhibitors themselves had already had a long hardworking day.

A small sub-committee has been set-up to consider what kind of event should be held this year and the members would be very pleased to have comments on the previous exhibitions and suggestions for the future. Please write to the Secretary, John Arbuthnot, at the Community Council.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE ABOVE

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
	£ p		£ p
Gate money at 20p per person (281 people)	56.20	Cost of notices	10. 00
Sales of 'Quest' (issues 1 to 5)	8.64	Cost of hiring exhibition stands	20. 00
Donation from G Hinchcliffe - Antiquarian	1.00	Cost of hiring tables	2. 00
Profit on refreshments	7.75	Cost of hiring the exhibition hall	15. 00
		Insurance premium	4. 05
		Postages and Sundry items of stationery	4. 65
		Telephone calls	1. 50
		Excess of Income over expenditure	16. 39
	<u>£ 73.59</u>		<u>£ 73. 59</u>

(Signed) G.S. Dear  
Hon. Treasurer.

Shortened and revised version of a talk given at the Second ALHA Exhibition held at Thornbury on October 22nd 1977.

A second part dealing with the Bristol Popular Lectures after the First World War will appear in the next issue of "Quest".

#### BRISTOL POPULAR LECTURES PART 1 (1891-1915)

A reading of the annually-published prospectuses of the "Bristol Popular Lectures" held at the Merchant Venturers' Technical College in Unity Street, Bristol from 1891 to 1939 affords a fascinating insight not only into contemporary popular cultural interests but also illustrates a remarkably well-planned and commercially successful educational enterprise. The lectures were authorised only one month after the appointment of Julius Wertheimer as Principal on June 1st 1890.

Many of the lectures were either extremely topical or premonitory of later public interest and approbation. The subjects chosen were either well up with the times or ahead of them.

For example, electricity first became available for purchase in Bristol on August 28th 1893 and just over a year later Professor Wertheimer lectured on Electricity versus Gas. He returned to the subject again in January 1915 but then intriguingly took Gas versus Electricity as his title.

Lectures on music provide an equally appropriate example of anticipation. In the eighteen-nineties audiences listened to programmes of 'composed' songs in which the lecturer either performed as a soloist or was assisted on the platform by a soloist. By 1903 however a Mrs. Kate Lee had already lectured on folk-song, two years before the Board of Education had officially pointed out that a satisfactory musical education should include such 'traditional' songs which, in a rather charming phrase, it called "the idiom of the people". Mrs. Lee was followed up in 1910 by Cecil Sharpe who in the Chew Stoke area in 1907-1908 had collected some of his songs (including the famous "Foggy, Foggy Dew"). Then folk-song was a minority interest, a state of affairs only altered about the time of Sharpe's death in 1924.

Best-selling authors of the day were frequent visitors to Unity Street before and after the First World War. Jerome K. Jerome whose "Three Men in a Boat" had been first published by Arrowsmiths of Bristol lectured on "Humour" in 1895 and exactly the same subject was chosen by the Reverend John Watson ("Ian Maclaren") in 1906. This reverend gentleman was one of the first writers to make a large fortune from popular fiction and had two of his books in the first list of best-selling novels in the United States prepared in 1896. Perhaps the most popular of his numerous novels was "Beside the bonny Briar Bush" which, despite its Scottish-sounding title and subject matter, was written at Little Stretton in Shropshire. It is interesting to note that between 1891 and 1906 there were six lectures on themes of literary humour and four on humorous cartooning. The staff of "Punch", the Edwardian equivalent of "Private Eye", made a significant contribution to these elements of the programmes. Harry Furniss who conducted a regular feature entitled "The Essence of Parliament" in "Punch" came to Unity Street in 1901 to lecture on The Humours of Parliament. In those days our machinery of government could apparently be regarded with benevolent amusement.

Other lectures on literature during the nineties were similar in form of presentation to the musical performances already described. 1894 saw Recitations from Shakespeare, Dickens etc., and the following year others from Shakespeare and Tennyson. Mrs Kindal, wife of a well-known actor-manager, and a star attraction of the day at the Court and Prince of Wales's theatres in



London gave A Dissertation on 'Hamlet' with illustrative readings in 1899. Dickens provided material for as many lectures as Shakespeare. Harry Furniss re-visited Bristol in 1905 to lecture on "Charles Dickens; his Art, his Artists and his Admirers" and G.K. Chesterton whose "Charles Dickens" had been published in August 1906 came in 1911. The local press gave very full accounts of the Bristol Popular Lectures and it is interesting to look back upon the elegance of reporting in those days:-

"Photographs only convey an imperfect impression of the real G.K.C. You must see his rotund figure arrayed in ugly but conventional evening dress; watch the twinkle in his eye; notice the uplifted foot; be sympathetic with the recalcitrant pince-nez fastened with a broad black cord, and hear the little laugh of satisfaction which follows a point made".

The Merchant Venturers Technical College was however primarily a place of scientific education. In the first decade of Bristol Popular Lectures it is significant that the scientific lectures dealt often with subjects which could be safely investigated within the home and with principles easily verifiable by simple experiments. Science at this level was both instructive and socially amusing, a form of education all of a piece with the lecturers on music and the recitations which were really public enlargements of drawing-room entertainments.

Professor Wertheimer, who delivered the first lecture in each annual series of seven for nineteen years took The Magnet for his inaugural performance in 1891. The next year he dealt with Polarized Light. In 1899 Professor H.S. Hele-Shaw from the University College at the top of Park Street delivered a lecture on The Motion of a Liquid. The study of liquid and gyroscopic motions (the subject of a later lecture by Professor Wertheimer) was at that period beginning to influence the development of electrical theory. Two more of Professor Wertheimer's chosen subjects - Electric Movements (1903) and Magnetic Forces (1905) illustrate this association.

The situation when we turn to the lectures on natural science was similar although here there was a more noticeable concurrent association of subjects large and small in scale. The local and familiar exemplified by The Pond and its People (1899) and Insect Marvels in a Town Garden (1902 --- by the Very Reverend the Dean of Bristol --- may be set aside the more remote and speculative conjectures incorporated in Extinct Monsters (1896) and two lectures by Sir Robert Ball in 1903 and 1904 on How came the Great Ice Age and The Earth's Beginning.

Ball, like other lecturers who came to Unity Street, had published popular books on the topics they expounded. In the number of his appearances Sir Robert was runner-up to Professor Wertheimer. His popular lecturing and evening-class teaching ultimately attracted audiences of over one million in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. His numerous publications were an outcome of this teaching and in no way connected with his official duties as Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge.

Another popular scientific lecturer with an insatiable appetite for hard work and unremitting travel was John Milne, recently retired from a professorship in Tokyo and then engaged in establishing the first British seismological observatory at Shide near Newport (I.O.W.). He was always particularly welcome wherever he went because of his bulky portmanteau of slides taken on his extensive world excursions.

Milne and Ball were distinguished men of science. One other whose name is not well-known should not, however, be forgotten. Dr. J. Hall-Edwards, then Senior Medical Officer of the X-ray department at Birmingham General Hospital, delivered the first lecture on x-rays ever given in Bristol at Unity Street in 1912.

In the course of his research Dr. Edwards had lost his left arm and part of his right hand. These serious injuries as Professor Wertheimer remarked when closing the proceedings of that particular evening were testimony "that this was work as heroic as anything our foremost fighting men have done and deserved the thanks of the entire nation".

The great engineering innovation of the Edwardian era was aviation. In fact even before Queen Victoria had passed away Unity Street had welcomed that somewhat eccentric pioneer of practical aeronautics, Hiram S. Maxim, to lecture in 1896 on Some of my Work and Inventions relating to automatic Guns, Explosives and Flying Machines. During the nineteen-hundreds there came a series of lectures on flying and it is interesting to note the progression from speculation about all possible alternatives then available in Airships, Balloons and Flying Machines by E.S. Bruce in 1904 to the delivery of another address by the same lecturer in 1910 on The Coming of the Aeroplane. By then Bleriot had flown across the English Channel and the Bristol and Colonial Aircraft Company had been established at Filton. With the outbreak of war the aeroplane was to demonstrate its pre-eminence as a fighting machine.

The young men who attended the Bristol Popular Lecturers also left to play their part in the Great War and the last lecture of the 1914/1915 session had to be cancelled. Shortly before he was due to come to Bristol on Saturday, March 13th, 1915, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, learnt that he had lost a son in Flanders. He asked to be excused his engagement to lecture on Jargon. This address, perhaps alone amongst all those given at Unity Street, remains for us to read to-day (and thanks Heaven it does) in Sir Arthur's book "On the Art of Writing".

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"Odd creature as he is, the local historian is sufficiently human to have his likes and dislikes; in fact, he is often a crotchety character. And since he cannot hope to exempt into print very often, he treats the history of his town or village as a heaven-sent opportunity for airing his crotchets. Every now and then he peppers its pages with fiery little outbursts against Henry VIII or Oliver Cromwell or the Pope. This certainly gives the book a semblance of animation, but unfortunately it is not of a kind that really exhilarates the reader."

From 'How not to write local history', by H.P.R. Finberg  
(Local History: Objective and Pursuit - Finberg & Skipp)

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"What is the place of teamwork in the writing of local history?"

My own view is that it ought to occupy an extremely important place. Indeed, I would go as far as to suggest that the future progress and development of local history itself could well be seriously inhibited unless ways and means are found of utilising the tremendous reserves of amateur interest and amateur talent which we all of us know to be available."

From 'The Place of Team Work in Local History' by V.H.T. Skipp  
(Local History: Objective and Pursuit - Finberg & Skipp)

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### JOHN MOORE'S AGONY COLUMN

Our Chairman has ambitions in the direction of Evelyn Home - can you help him? To his great delight he has received his first letter but it will take rather more agonising to make a column.

The subject in this case is undoubtedly of general interest and readers may also be referred to one of the articles in the latest edition of The Local Historian.

#### Letter to Chairman

Dear Sir,

I understand that the Avon Local History Association as one of its aims, tries to act as a link between various small local history societies in the County. If so, you will no doubt have a certain amount of experience to draw on, and I wonder if you would be kind enough to advise me on how to get a small history printed at reasonable cost. I have almost completed a history of this parish of Compton Dando and should like to print it in pamphlet form to sell to local residents, hoping to reclaim from the sale my initial outlay on printing, but to make no profit. I should be so grateful for any advice you might be able to give me on any suitable printers in the county.

Signed: Rebecca Palmer, The Coach House, Vicarage Lane, Compton Dando.

#### Chairman's reply:

Dear Mrs. Palmer,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th December regarding your proposed publication of the history of Compton Dando. I will be very happy to advise you on possible publication but I wonder whether first it may be a good idea for Doctor Bettey and myself to have a look at your manuscript, particularly since Doctor Bettey is very knowledgeable on the subject of Somerset history.

With regard to the possibility of publication, this partly depends on length and your own ability to subsidise its publication. No commercial publisher nowadays will consider publishing a parish history unless it is by some very well-known expert without either a subsidy covering the costs of production or firm guarantees of a large number of sales. The reason for this is that in terms of modern publishing, small runs, i.e. anything less than 5,000 copies, are unlikely to cover their cost of production, much less make a profit. If you publish it yourself, in other words employing a local printer to produce the work, this will mean that you will have to pay the printers' bill within a month of him producing the book, and it is possible that he may want some payment in advance. Obviously I don't know what your financial circumstances are but unless you are able to consider private publication this form of production may also be too costly for you to consider.

Undoubtedly the cheapest means of production, and one used by most Local History Societies for their publications, is to type the manuscript for duplication which is the cheapest way of producing a readable text, although, of course, it does not produce as nice a finished product as a printers. One can partly get round this last objection if the skins are typed with an electric typewriter which will produce a much cleaner copy. The disadvantage is that since most productions will be stapled, nothing larger than about 50 pages or so can be produced in this way, unless



you were prepared to consider publishing in volumes. This has the advantage that if the first one or two volumes have been produced, you should be able to assess very accurately the number of copies you are likely to sell quickly in the future. The use of duplicating methods with a skin or electrostatic stencil does have the great financial advantage that you can produce an initial run to test the market and if your sales are more successful than you anticipated, you can then put the skin back on the duplicator to run off more copies.

I am sorry to sound a bit discouraging about the prospect of proper printing, but given the costs of printers' wages, paper and ink, it is simply not practical in most cases. In addition, the use of conventional printing methods means that if you want to keep the type standing for a possible re-print in the near future, most printers nowadays will charge you rent in the interval because of course this holds up print which can otherwise be reused. This can be got round by the use of offset-litho which is printed from a camera copy of the text and does not involve the use of type, and can therefore be put back into the printing press when required. Even with this method, however, most commercial publishers will regard a run of less than 1,500 copies as uneconomical partly because once the initial demand for your local history is over, the remaining sales may well be spread out over a number of years with the publishers having to store the unsold copies for which there will only be an occasional sale. Therefore I would recommend you to consider duplicating in volumes rather than as one complete book.

This will of course entail some initial lay-out on your part for the typing of "skins" or electrostatic stencils and paper, but since, as I said, you can put the stencil back on the duplicating machine for a re-run at a later date, you do not need to buy more paper than you are going to use on the first run. It may well be that you can get a friend, daughter or neighbour who is a Secretary, to do the typing for you if you cannot do it yourself, and as I also said, it is worth trying to get hold of an electric typewriter.

Once I have seen your history I will be in a better position to advise you, but if it is now nearly finished I think your next step is to find out how many copies you might sell reasonably quickly.

I hope that this will give you some food for thought and I shall look forward to hearing from you again after Christmas. In the meantime good luck with your enterprise.

Signed: John Moore, Chairman - A.L.H.A.

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RURAL LIFE IN WESSEX 1500 - 1900 - J.H. Betty - Moonraker Press 1977 - £4.95.

Jo Betty's book has been available in Bristol shops since the autumn but a notice is useful for those who have to order locally.

Anyone who has been to Jo Betty's lecture will very much enjoy this book which covers a very wide range of subjects from agriculture to alehouses. The 50 illustrations in the centre of the book are fascinating but the anecdotes throughout the text provides even more amusing illustrations.

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COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM MR. REECE WINSTONE - Author of Books on Bristol History.

"Under your list of lecturers may I offer my series of "BRISTOL AS IT WAS". These cover each decade from the 1960's back to the 1840's in photographic lantern slides 3 1/4" square (not miniature). This collection runs to twenty sets, and is the result of thirty years of research".

Please contact Mr. Winstone at: 23 Hyland Grove, Henbury Hill, Bristol 9.  
Tel: 503646.



## REVIEWS

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN: Vol 12. No. 8. 1977

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From: Subscriptions Dept. (L.H.),  
National Council of Social Service,  
26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

### Articles:

- 'I didn't mean to do it' - Rowland Parker (author of The Common Stream)
- 'The Modern Records Centre at Warwick and the Local Historian' -  
- Janet Parker and Richard Storey
- 'Regional Seminar on the Learning of Local History by 11-18 year olds'  
- J.D. Marshall & J.E. Blyth
- 'The Farm Buildings of the Agricultural Revolution'  
- Suzanna Wade Martins
- 'Publishing Local History: A Practical Approach to Format and Style'  
- James Batley

'The Local Historian' always has a good review section and book list.

Among much other useful information, the following is of interest to members in Northavon -

6" Ordnance Survey Maps of Gloucestershire - surveyed between 1873 and 1884

- (1) Gloucestershire North & East
- (2) Gloucestershire South & East
- (3) Cinderford
- (4) Coleford (The Pound House, 1977)

Obtainable from: The Pound House, Newent, Glos. GL18 1PS.  
£1 each + 20p post, less 10% for four or more.

WRITING A CHURCH GUIDE - David Dymond - 24 pages

This is a pamphlet recently produced by the Standing Conference for Local History and it is available for 75p from 26 Bedford Square, London W.C.1.

The results of a competition held in 1975, European Architectural Heritage Year, to find the best guides to English Churches, have been used as a basis for the pamphlet.

I REMEMBER: THE DAY'S WORK, 1850-1950 - Gloucestershire Community Council

This booklet, produced by the Local History Committee of the Community Council, was noted in the previous edition of QUEST, but is worth repeating particularly as a number of the contributing W.I.s are now in Avon. The booklet is most interestingly presented and is illustrated with several photographs. It costs 50p plus 9p postage and is available from the Avon Community Council, 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol 8.