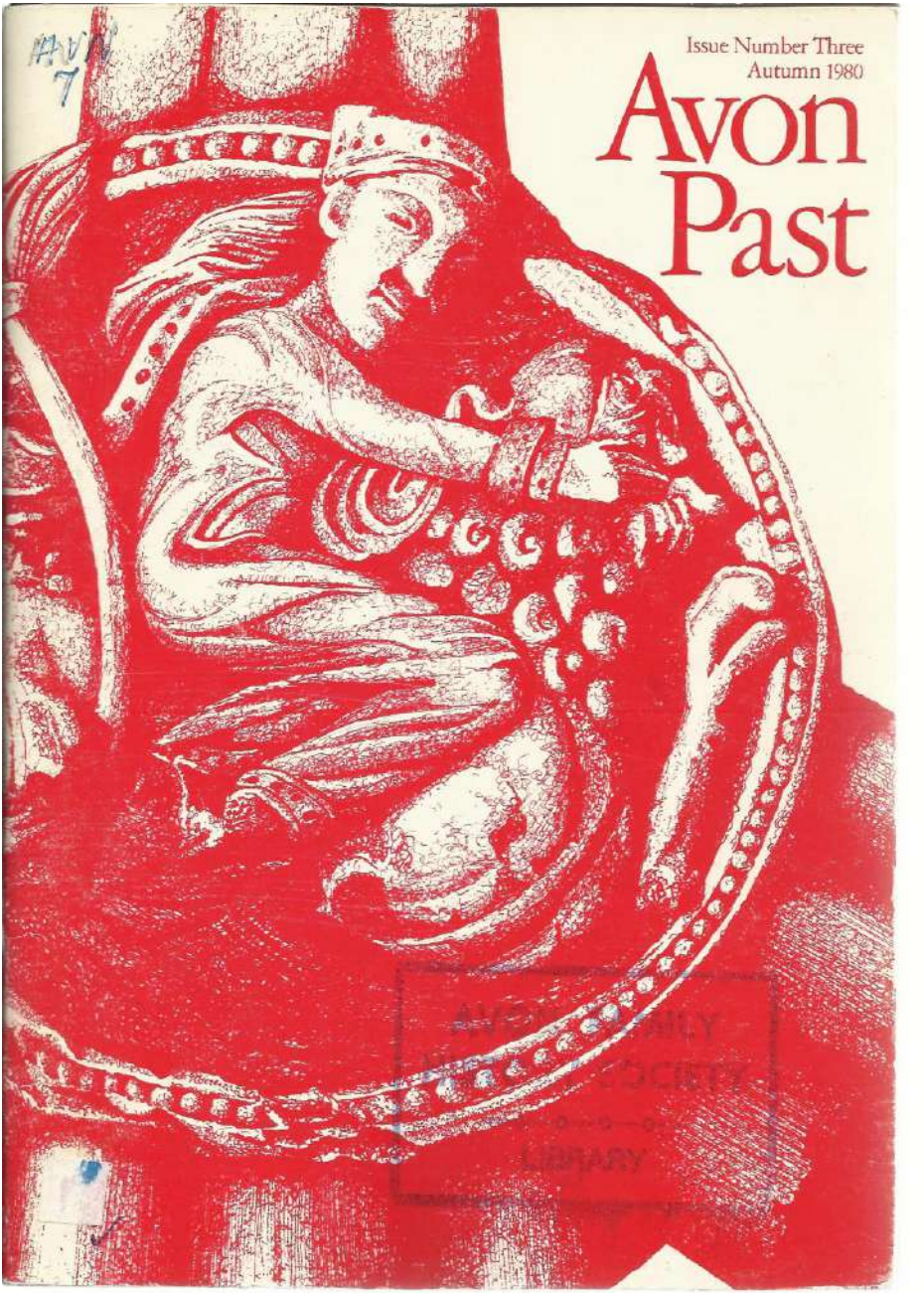


Issue Number Three
Autumn 1980

Avon Past

AVON
7

AVON
SOCIETY
LIBRARY

A.A.C. Officers & Committee Members 1980/81

Chairman:	Mr. N. Thomas
Vice Chairman:	Mr. V. Hallett
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. S. Hunt
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. T. Crowe

Miss J. Evans, Mr. P. Greening, Mr. A. Selway, Mr. W. Wedlake, Mr. M. Aston (co-opted), Mr. A. Jeffries (co-opted), Mrs. J. Popplewell (co-opted).

A.L.H.A. Officers & Executive Committee Members 1980/81

President:	Mr. J.S. Moore
Chairman:	Mr. T.W. Crowe
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. Davis
Secretary:	Mrs. L. Hamid
Treasurer:	Mr. G. Dear
Information Officer:	Mr. C.J. Spittal

Mr. R. Angerson, Mrs. M. Ashley, Mrs. D. Brown, Mr. G. Davey, Mr. I. Durham, Mr. I. Ford, Mr. P. Gilliat, Mr. G. Langley, Mr. J.P. Miles, Mrs. S. Rogers, Miss M. Williams.

EDITORS: Miss G. Plowright,
38, Upper Cheltenham Place, Montpelier, Bristol, BS6 5HR.
Miss J. Scherr,
21, Caledonia Place, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4DL.

Editorial communications should be sent to either of the two addresses above. Advertising, subscriptions and other administrative matters will be dealt with by Mrs. L. Hamid and correspondence should be addressed to:

'Avon Past',
Avon Community Council,
209 Redland Road,
Bristol 6.
Tel. Bristol 36822

COVER DESIGN: Tim Barrance
© Avon Archaeological Council and Avon Local History Association.
The copyright of photographs remains with their owners.

Library Bristol & Avon Family History Society
HISTORY SOCIETY
LIBRARY

Avon Past

the joint journal of
AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL
and AVON LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

The Wise Owl Bookshop

Antiquarian, secondhand and modern books on all subjects.

Music, Scores and Records Bought & Sold valuations carried out

BRISTOL 311806 or 22738 & 514759 (After Hours)

189 Whiteladies Road
Blackboy Hill, Bristol BS8 2RY.

Publications from

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

BARG Review 1980

The Review is devoted to archaeological research in Bristol and Avon. The 1980 issue includes articles on historic buildings, excavations, field-work discoveries and a parish survey for Keynsham. **75p**

Field Guides

Prehistoric Sites in the Mendip, South Cotswold, Wye Valley and Bristol Region — Leslie Grinsell. **50p**

Roman Sites in the Mendip, Cotswold, Wye Valley and Bristol Region — Max Hebditch and Leslie Grinsell. **50p**

The Mendip Hills in Prehistoric and Roman times — John Campbell, David Elkington, Peter Fowler and Leslie Grinsell. **50p**

Earlier Medieval Sites (410 - 1066) in and around Bristol and Bath, the South Cotswolds and Mendip — Elizabeth Fowler and others. **95p**

Available from the Secretary, BARG, City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RL. Please allow 20p extra for postage for each item.

EDITORIAL

It is not surprising that surgery (or butchery) supplies the terms to describe economies in Government expenditure, whether local or central. It is easy to say services not personally required by one's self should be 'axed' or 'cut to the bone'; and much harder to justify retaining a service which tends to get lumped under the general title of 'leisure'. The preservation and interpretation of our past, whether undertaken through a university, museum, regional unit or local archaeological or historical society is now, in its own way, coming under the knife. There are three compelling reasons why we must fight as hard as possible for a continuation of funds. The first is, that unlike much of the conservation world our past is a diminishing resource that can never, ever, be replaced. The second (emphasised in this year's Annual Report for the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset – C.R.A.A.G.S.) is that the threat to our historic buildings, archaeological sites, rural landscapes and so on is, despite the recession, as great as ever it was. The third reason is that, if the bodies through which archaeology and local history are organised, are starved of funds much longer they could cease to function, and all that has been achieved in the field of local history and archaeology in the late 1960's and early '70's will be void. At least C.R.A.A.G.S. has not yet shared the fate of the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology which has been forced to close by the Department of the Environment; but the cuts in D.o.E. grants spent in Avon this year, at the present rate of progress, are likely to be worse next year. With this sort of future one cannot be surprised at the resignation of Dr. Warwick Rodwell as the Director of C.R.A.A.G.S. The cuts 'to the bone' may soon prove to be fatal.

Georgina Plowright would like to welcome the new Co-editor to *Avon Past*, Miss Jennifer Scherr. She is a Librarian in the University of Bristol; and she has made a special study of place-names. In recognition of her arrival we publish in this issue an excellent guide by her to the study of place-names, for all those who have always found the subject interesting, but who feel slightly daunted about where to begin. At the same time we must record our debt to Mrs. Sue Barrance, who struggled with Avon Past in what we hope must have been the worst period of its inception, and without whom it would not have survived.

Georgina Plowright

Jennifer Scherr

SUBSCRIPTION TO AVON PAST

I would like to subscribe to **AVON PAST** *for One Year (issues nos..... and.....) and enclose a cheque for £2.00.*

I would like to purchase issues no

(state how many copies if more than one)

1 @ 75p
2 @ 75p
3 @ £1.00
4 @ £1.00

and enclose a cheque for £

I would like to take advantage of your offer of a Christmas gift subscription (which includes a card) and enclose a cheque for £2.20.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

DR. MICHAEL CRANE is Assistant Curator in Geology on the staff of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. A botanist and geologist by training, his other interests include the history of science and the art of scientific illustration. He is at present working on a study of the development of science in the Bristol area particularly during the nineteenth century.

MR. DAVID DAWSON is Curator in Archaeology and History at Bristol City Museum. In his spare time he has made a survey of the Nonconformist chapels of Bristol, recorded the graveyard of St. John's, Bedminster, and has made the study of the Post-Medieval pottery of Bristol his speciality.

MISS JANE EVANS is a geographer and archaeologist who has undertaken fieldwork particularly in Sussex. She is at present Curator of Woodspring Museum at Weston-super-Mare, and she has recently just completed three publications about the Museum's collections and the history of Weston-super-Mare. She has been secretary of the Avon Archaeological Council for the last five years.

MR. LESLIE GRINSELL is known for his extensive fieldwork on Prehistoric barrows and publications in the fields of Egyptology, Prehistoric burial and the folklore of Prehistoric monuments. He was Curator of Archaeology at Bristol City Museum from 1952 - 1972.

MISS JENNIFER SCHERR is Librarian-in-charge of the Worsley Chemical Library and Co-ordinator of Science Libraries at the University of Bristol. Her research in place-names dates from her final year at the University of Nottingham (1967-68), where Professor Kenneth Cameron is Honorary Director of the English Place-Name Society. She is currently leading the Bristol-based research group on Somerset place-names.

A. P. & R. BAKER

Antiquarian Booksellers

Specialists in Archaeology and in books of scholarly interest to Archaeologists and Local Historians. We issue regular catalogues and have an extensive wants list and search service.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS!

2 Brancpeth Terrace, Willington,
Crook, Co. Durham, DH15 0ES.
Tel: Willington (038-889) 6314

AVON BARROWS: A RECONSIDERATION IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT WORK

by Leslie Grinsell

Systematic studies of the long and round barrows in both Gloucestershire and Somerset were published shortly before the new county boundaries were introduced (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, Grinsell 1972). The appearance of the book by Colin Burgess, *The Age of Stonehenge* (Dent, 1980, £12.00), and of related works by John Barrett and Richard Bradley and others (references well listed in Burgess's book), provides an opportunity to review the material in the county of Avon in the light of an amended chronological scheme and of fresh concepts developed by these and other researchers during the last decade or so.

Of the Neolithic period are the long barrows, in our area usually with stone chambering; those on both sides of the Bristol Channel tend to be known to the Welsh as the Severn-Cotswold group, and to the English as the Cotswold-Severn Group. They include that at Stony Littleton near Wellow, and less well preserved examples on Felton Hill (Winford) and Redhill (Wrington). Burial chambers, probably the last remnants of chambered long barrows, include one known as the Water Stone in a field just south-west of Bristol Airport, and that in the garden of the house appropriately known as Cromlech, 59 Druid Hill, Bristol: in a suburb named Druid Stoke in allusion to the myth of its Druidical associations. The Stony Littleton long barrow is among the finest in Britain and its interior gallery and side-chambers are still accessible. Fairy's Toote, Butcombe, was destroyed more than a century ago, but human crania from it and also from the Stony Littleton long barrow are in Bristol City Museum. Radiocarbon dating of recently excavated examples elsewhere suggests that they span the period between *c.* 4000 BC and *c.* 3000 BC. They were essentially communal burial places but they may also in some instances have had other functions.

The Early Bronze Age was heralded by the extremely well-made pottery vessel known as the beaker, frequently buried with the dead (almost always in a crouched posture) and in southern England normally beneath a small round barrow, but in some instances in a flat grave as perhaps at Corston near Bath; but one can seldom be sure that such graves were not originally covered by a small round barrow which has got ploughed out. Beakers of various types are now believed to have been introduced in the first instance from the Continent and to have flourished for a period approaching a millennium, roughly from *c.* 2,650 BC until *c.* 1,650 BC. They normally accompanied crouched burials believed to be of the aristocracy. No beaker burials have yet been recorded from the Cotswold part of Avon, the nearest being from the Ivy Lodge round barrow near Woodchester, some miles north of the boundary with Gloucestershire. On the Mendip part of Avon, a round barrow on Black Down yielded an early type of beaker (with barbed-wire decoration) which most likely accompanied a skeleton dissolved by the acid soil; a few fragments of burnt bone were probably from a subsequent internment. A much later beaker accompanied a crouched burial in a round barrow on Charmy Down north of Bath. Unfortunately the finds from this and other barrows on Charmy Down, excavated in 1941 were destroyed by enemy action.

The two phases of the Wessex and related cultures probably spanned the period between *c.* 1700 and *c.* 1400 BC. The westward extension of this culture is represented in Avon by the group of round barrows (now almost all destroyed)

on Marshfield Down, which probably included a bell-barrow and perhaps also a disc-barrow (specialised barrow-types of this culture). Finds from the excavations of 1947-9 included a cremation in a collared urn, bronze daggers, beads of amber, and two pulley-buttons of shale, now in Bristol City Museum. On Beacon Batch, Black Down, is a group which includes one or perhaps two bell-barrows. Both phases of the Wessex culture are represented on and around Mendip and in the Bath area. Among the Ashen Hill group north-east of Priddy (just beyond the County of Avon), Skinner's excavations of 1815 revealed a cremation with a nodulated or grape cup of Wessex phase I. At Wall Mead between Camerton and Timsbury, a barrow opened by Skinner in 1817 yielded a cremation with a famous grave-group comprising a grooved bronze dagger, a bulb-headed bronze pin, a perforated whetstone, and a decorated 'Aldbourne' cup, so-called from a village in North Wiltshire where others have been found: the whole group belongs to Wessex phase II. Recent excavations by W.J. Wedlake for the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society in another round barrow at Wall Mead have yielded similar finds. An insignificant looking round barrow on Landsdown above Bath yielded, in 1905, a cremation with urns and the remains of a decorated gilt-bronze circular object, possibly a 'sun-disc' but more probably the base of an elaborately decorated bowl paralleled in the Scandinavian Bronze Age. The round barrows of Wessex culture are often large and conspicuously sited (as Round Hill Tump near Norton Radstock) but occasionally in river valleys as is that in the meadow by the Bristol Avon near Bitton. A round barrow west of Pool Farm, West Harptree, excavated before removal in 1930, yielded a fine stone cist (still visible on the site), the south inner wall which is decorated with carvings including seven human feet and ten cup-marks. As it contained burnt bones probably of an adult and child it is likely to belong to this general period. The original carved slab is now in Bristol City Museum and replaced by a replica on the site.

There appears to have been an overlap between the Wessex and related cultures and the Deverel-Rimbury culture so-called from the Deverel barrow between Dorchester and Blandford, and the Rimbury cemetery north of Weymouth. This culture is characterised in the funerary record by coarse urns of barrel and bucket types, and more rarely by globular urns of finer ware. The round barrow on Black Down, which yielded the barbed wire decorated beaker presumably with an inhumation, contained secondary and presumably slightly later cremations of people of standing judging by the pottery associations; but there were also about 70 pits many of which contained cremations at least one of which was accompanied by sherds of a barrel urn with fingertip decorated shoulder. A round barrow on Flock Down west of Beckford's Tower, north of Bath, contained at least 28 cremations some of which were in coarse urns. The radiocarbon dates for Deverel-Rimbury sites generally span the period between *c.* 1600 BC and *c.* 1000 BC, and are consistent with the hypothesis that round 1400 BC the masses may have revolted against the aristocracy and overthrown their system and assumed control. This would at least explain the manner in which the Wessex and related cultures seem to have ended so abruptly and been succeeded by a people using pottery identical to that of the lower classes during at any rate the latter part of the Wessex phases; and by a people who were not interested in depositing grave-goods with their dead apart from placing their burnt bones in an upright urn or beneath an inverted urn. These people were given to placing their dead in the form of deposits of burnt bones, often in urns of the types described, and usually in large cemeteries either in

existing round barrows or in flat urnfields which sometimes adjoin the barrows.

Four round barrows on Kings Weston Hill north of Bristol, excavated shortly after the Iron Age site at all Cannings Cross (Wiltshire) had been explored just after the first World War, were originally interpreted as Iron Age; but the writer tends to agree with the reappraisal by Dr. H. Stephen Green, that these barrows are more likely to have covered cremations at least one of which seems to have been in an Early Bronze Age collared urn, although this reappraisal was the subject of a rejoinder by the late E. K. Tratman (Green 1974, and Tratman 1976).

Finally, total excavation of a few round barrows in other areas suggests that in some instances they were constructed over circular dwellings, and this goes some way towards explaining the apparent scarcity of living sites. This has been suspected for more than a century but the likelihood is reinforced by evidence from excavations under modern standards.

References

Green, H. S. (1974). 'Excavation of a round cairn on Court Hill, Tickenham'. *Somerset Arch. & Nat. Hist.* 117, 33-46.

Grinsell, L. V. (1972). 'Somerset Barrows. Part II: North and East'. *Somerset Arch. & Nat. Hist.* 115, Supplement.

O'Neil, H. E. and Grinsell, L. V. (1960). 'Gloucestershire Barrows'. *Trans. Bristol & Gloucestershire Arch. Soc.* 79, 1-148.

Tratman, E. K. (1976). 'The excavation of a round cairn on Court Hill, Tickenham, North Somerset, 1969, and the Kings Weston Hill barrows, Bristol ...'. *Somerset Arch. & Nat. Hist.* 119, 56-57.

Ordnance Survey grid references will be found in the above publications.

For All your Books
QUICKLY
Try

CHAPTER AND VERSE BOOKSHOP
86 Park Street, Bristol 1.
(Tel: 0272-293042)

PLACE-NAMES IN AVON AND THE SOUTH-WEST: A GUIDE TO CURRENT SOURCES

by Jennifer Scherr

Interest in place-names and their application to landscape and settlement history is growing all the time, but it is not always easy for newcomers to be sure where to turn for the most reliable and up-to-date information. The study and interpretation of place-names is full of pitfalls for the unwary, yet at the same time it is a subject which has long been attractive to the non-specialist.

In view of current local developments, it seems timely to produce a short guide to the literature with the particular area of Avon in mind. The Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Bristol has two research groups on Somerset place-names, co-ordinated by Michael Costen (Resident Tutor for Somerset). It is hoped that their collections of place-name spellings for the old county of Somerset will form the basis of a future survey to be published by the English Place-Name Society. John Moore, for the Avon Local History Association, has set up the Avon Place-and Field-Name Survey to gather material relating to the new county of Avon. Where this overlaps with the Somerset survey, the information is being shared.

Newcomers to place-name study have a number of general introductions from which to select, nearly all of them inspired by two books originally published in the early 1960's: Professor Kenneth Cameron on *English place-names* (3rd ed., Batsford, 1977) and P.H. Reaney, *The Origin of English place-names* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1964). A simple, short guide for the beginner might be N. Gould, *Looking at place-names* (Kenneth Mason, 1978). The same year also saw the publication of a very important work which enters into much more detail: *Signposts to the past: place-names and the history of England*, by Dr. Margaret Gelling (Dent, 1978). Her specified intention was to suggest "ways in which archaeologists and historians may draw on this copious store of material" (*op cit.*, p.12) by clarifying specialist topics in chapters on the Celtic survival, place-names and the archaeologist, and so on.

Dr. Gelling and Professor Cameron are both editors of county surveys for the English Place-Name Society, and Kenneth Cameron is also currently Honorary Director of the Society's Survey. The E.P.N.S. was founded in 1923, and has been publishing county-by-county surveys regularly ever since. In addition to this major effort, there has been a strong Swedish research interest in English place-names since the early years of this century. However, the vast corpus of manuscript and printed sources made available since then, together with ever more thorough research and editorial activity, has provided a wealth of new comparative material.

By the mid-sixties, the opportunity had arisen for a completely new look at English place-name studies. A short outline of the development in the last decade or so can be found in Margaret Gelling's article, 'Recent work on English place-names', *Local Historian*, 11 (1974), 3-7. A fuller statement was made by Kenneth Cameron in 'The significance of English place-names', *Proc. Brit. Acad.*, 62 (1976), 3-23. The variety of place-name evidence available to historians and archaeologists is surveyed in detail, though with reference to the north of England, by Gillian Fellows Jensen in 'Place-names and settlement history: a review', *Northern History*, 13 (1977), 1-26.

In particular, evidence for the different stages of settlement, especially the

earliest strata, has been thoroughly re-assessed. A number of the most influential papers of recent years have been collected by Professor Cameron and reprinted as *Place-name evidence for the Anglo-Saxon invasion and Scandinavian settlements* (E.P.N.S., 1976). Although there is little here about the South-West, and nothing of immediate application to Avon, these papers have already inspired similar work in other regions and on other topics, and could do again. One such article which does cover the old county of Gloucestershire is Della Hooke's 'Anglo-Saxon landscapes of the West Midlands', *Journal E.P.N.S.*, 11 (1978), 3 - 23. The title betrays the current flourishing interest in landscape, as well as settlement, history.

One reason for the present general lack of comment on the South-West is that earlier stages of English settlement are naturally the most controversial, and, until recently, have been the most discussed, by place-name experts and archaeologists alike. Thus Old English names in south and east England have always been particularly well documented. That this could be so is dependent on the fact that the counties in this region were surveyed early on, whereas the south-western counties are still unevenly covered. Somerset and Cornwall have yet to be published by the E.P.N.S., though projects now exist in both counties. (The Institute of Cornish Studies houses a collection on the place-names of Cornwall, under the direction of O.J. Padel). Devon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire surveys were published by the E.P.N.S. in 1931-2, 1939 and 1964-5 respectively. Some of the south-western counties also received separate treatment by scholars in Sweden: for instance, B. Blomé's *Place-names of north Devon* (Uppsala University, 1929) and A. Fagersten, *The Place-names of Dorset* (Uppsala University, 1933; reprinted EP Publishing Ltd., 1978). The greater detail and broader scope of the latest E.P.N.S. surveys can be seen by comparing A.H. Smith's *Place-names of Gloucestershire* (4 vols., C.U.P., 1964-5) with the Dorset series now in progress, edited by A.D. Mills. Five volumes are expected, enabling much longer lists of minor and field-names to be published, and no doubt there will be a very full discussion of linguistic and historical conclusions.

Place-name study in the South-West is also complicated by the as yet incompletely understood influence of the British and Primitive Welsh languages on names in the area. The main guide here is still Professor Kenneth Jackson, *Language and history in early Britain* (Edinburgh U.P., 1953). A recent discussion of those known in Latin forms from the Roman period can be found in *The Place-names of Roman Britain*, by A.L.F. Rivet and C.E. Smith (Batsford, 1979), although the vast majority of these place-names did not survive.

The process by which names changed from Brit/PrW to OE is perhaps recorded more often in the South-West than elsewhere, because the languages were probably co-existent for much longer here. This seems implied by examples from the Somerset charters such as *Biddesham quod Tarnuc propie appellatur* 1065 (early 16C copy) for Tarnock in Badgworth, and *collem qui dicitur britannica lingua Cructan apud nos Crycbeorh* 682 for Creechbarrow Hill near Taunton. It will be the relationship between the earliest English names (which may turn out to be late types, when judged in their linguistic context) and the Celtic survival which will be the most problematical area in any future assessment of names in Avon.

A good deal of material may yet be untapped, but Michael Costen summarises the most obvious areas for study in 'Place name evidence in South Avon', *Avon Past*, No. 1 (1979), 13-17. He is currently working on Anglo-Saxon charters and settlement in Somerset, and Frances Neale has also been studying the charters

for some time. She has recently shown the sort of information on landscape and specific archaeological sites to be found in the boundary clauses of the Saxon charters of the Bristol region (*in* Elizabeth Fowler and others, *Earlier medieval sites (410-1066) in and around Bristol and Bath, the South Cotswolds, and Mendip*, BARG, 1980, pp. 17-19).

The study of these charters is a specialised field of its own, and local historians are advised to consult Margaret Gelling's paper on 'Recent work on Anglo-Saxon charters', *Local Historian*, 13 (1978), 209-216, before relying on the printed sources available. Much valuable local work could be done on checking and re-assessing the conclusions reached by G.B. Grundy in *The Saxon charters and field names of Somerset* (S.A.N.H.S., 1935) and *Saxon charters and field names of Gloucestershire* (2 vols., B.G.A.S., 1935-6).

Local studies can certainly make use of the expert analysis already brought to bear on similar types of names or on similar problems in other regions. Provided that the gaps in our knowledge of the Avon area are borne in mind, smaller districts could probably be studied to much advantage. An awareness of local topography and access to local sources can often shed new light on place-name derivations. The linguistic expert, the local historian, the archaeologist and the geographer can work together here. Numerous examples of recent topographical research using place-name evidence could be quoted: see, for instance, Della Hooke, 'Early Cotswold woodland', *J. Hist. Geog.*, 4 (1978), 333-41, H. Maynard, 'The use of the place name elements *mōr* and *mersc* in the Avon valley', *Trans. Birm. Warw. Arch. Soc.*, 86 (1974), 80-4, or, for a more general view, Dr. Margaret Faull, 'Place-names and past landscape' *Journal E.P.N.S.*, 11 (1978), 24-46.

Those interested in the names now in north Avon should of course refer first to the E.P.N.S. survey (see above), bearing in mind that minor names, field-names and city street names are not treated as fully as they might have been had they been published more recently. It must also be remembered that the philosophy of place-name study has altered since A.H. Smith wrote his Introduction. The volumes are, nonetheless, still the prime source for the old counties of Gloucestershire and Bristol.

The old county of Somerset has not been so fortunate. Although the University of Bristol file is growing all the time, it could well be twenty years before a full printed survey appears. Some material, mainly on north Somerset, has however been produced by Dr. A.G.C. Turner as a Ph.D. thesis (Jesus College, Cambridge, 1951). His main arguments and discoveries are more readily available as a series of papers in *Proc. Som. Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 95 (1951), 112-24; 96 (1952), 152-59; 97 (1953), 148-51; 98 (1955), 118-26, and an article in *Bull. Board Celtic Studies* 15 (1952), 13-20. Again, new thinking may affect some of his conclusions, but his work should certainly not be ignored.

Of course, it should definitely be consulted in preference to *The Place-names of Somerset*, by the Rev. J.S. Hill (Bristol: St. Stephen's Printing Works, 1914), which began life as a series of articles for the *Bristol Times and Mirror*. Unfortunately, this book is confusing to read, and unreliable. Indeed, any work written before the 1920's in particular, and even a number of books and articles written since, may be dated, and should be approached with caution. Old theories (sometimes wildly speculative) about place-name origins die hard, and non-specialists often fall unsuspectingly into the trap of perpetuating a myth. Unsubstantiated guesswork can be found quoted in all sorts of books, learned or otherwise, as if it were the correct, or the only possible, explanation.

I have been assured that the origin of the place-name Bristol (earlier Bristow) is "brig-stow"; this being explained as a place where "brigs" (a particular type of ship certainly not invented in Anglo-Saxon times!) were "stowed" or harboured. This is popular etymology at work, completely ignoring the evidence of the early spellings *Brycgstow* 1063, *Bristou* 1086 which show that the name is derived from OE *brycg* and *stow*, thus meaning 'a place (probably of some significance) with a bridge'. The importance of a former "Bristol Bridge" to the development of the city is still evident.

Even if in search of a name apparently dealt with satisfactorily by Smith or Turner, it is as well to turn to that monumental work, *The concise Oxford dictionary of English place-names*, by Eilert Ekwall (4th ed., O.U.P., 1960). The debt which is owed this great Swedish scholar is enormous, but it should perhaps be remembered that the Introduction was originally written in 1935, and even since 1960 place-name study has altered. A useful supplementary dictionary with a more modern outlook is *The Names of towns and cities in Britain*, edited by W.F.H. Nicolaisen (Batsford, 1970). Although this does not cover as many names as Ekwall's dictionary, the introduction explains that it treats names "as *names*, and not merely as linguistic units", a failing with which Ekwall has been charged.

When there are sufficient extant forms of a place-name for the old or middle English words involved to be evident, the two-volume dictionary of *English place-name elements*, by A.H. Smith (C.U.P., 1956) can be consulted. Addenda and corrigenda to this have been published in *Journal E.P.N.S.*, 1 (1968-9), 9-52, which includes a section on the Celtic vocabulary by Professor Jackson. There are a number of other more specialized dictionaries, for instance on river-names, and hundred-names; these, and works on other specific topics, can be found in the bibliographies of the works mentioned.

One work which should however be highlighted as of immediate interest to researchers in Avon is John Field's *English field-names: a dictionary* (David & Charles, 1972). This gives definitions of particular types of name commonly found, using examples from all over England, both from E.P.N.S. survey volumes and from other sources. Those working on 19C Tithe Awards for parish surveys or other local studies should be aware of this reference work. John Field's paper 'Progress in field-name studies' *Local Historian*, 13 (1979), 388-96 reinforces the relevance of field-name collections for local historians and encourages work by locally-based groups.

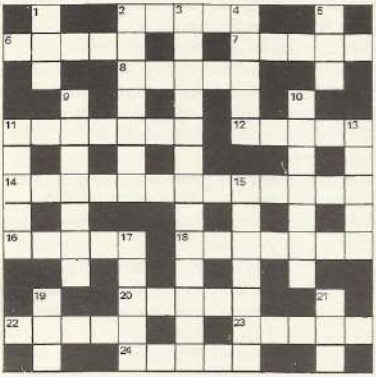
Those who prefer to work, on the whole, with Modern English names can also make a valuable contribution in recording the street-names of a locality. Bristol street-names have been documented in *Housing nomenclature in Bristol* (City & County of Bristol, 1969) and in *The origin of district and street names in Bristol* (typescript, 1971, with appendix, 1974), both compiled by H.C.W. Harris.

It can be seen that there are a number of levels on which place-name research could be undertaken by individuals or by groups, in schools or in evening classes, at home or working with a local society or within an academic framework. Armed with those printed aids, with the inspiration of other local studies to guide us, and with a growing knowledge of the place-names of Avon, there is every opportunity for new research in this area.

Abbreviations

BARG	Bristol Archaeological Research Group
BGAS.	Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
Brit	British
E.P.N.S.	English Place-Name Society
OE	Old English
PrW	Primitive Welsh
S.A.N.H.S.	Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society

CROSSWORD



We would like to thank Mrs. Sheila Sunderland of the Clarendon and District Archaeological Society for permission to use this crossword originally used in the C.D.A.S. Newsletter.

CLUES ACROSS

2. Trees that yearn? (5)
6. Zodiacal maiden (5)
7. Scipio trounced Hannibal in these wars (5)
8. ' Government by —— was the order of the day in Tsarist Russia (5)
11. Claim, feign, – or just imagine? (7)
12. Tonga shuffled in this sinuous dance (5) anag.
14. – ? Landing Pad for U.F.O's in Neolithic Times (1, 6, 6)
16. – The river Deben, when distorted, is found in Cygnus (5) anag.
18. – The builder of Englands most impressive system of fortifications (7)
20. – Royal measure? (5)
22. "Bryn —— Ddu", an important Megalithic Tomb on Anglesey (5)
23. Mediaeval drain —— or large European river (5)
24. Female star rather near to the Wolf! (5)

CLUES DOWN

1. and 9. One of Arthurs knights – and a fine singer, too! (3, 7)
2. Mix a lone cup for a modern French composer (7) anag.
3. Alternative name for a Dutchman. Confuse him and he becomes a very primitive Man, indeed! (13)
4. Spell in the past tense an early type of grain (5)
5. Metallic sort of animal, abandoned by the Romans, and found on Mendips (3)
9. See 1 Down
10. This piece of music commences the service (7)
11. Some Scots wear it; some Welsh vote for it (5)
13. A Welsh Lake which once had its Monster (5)
15. A very twisted road ran to this small Republic (7) anag.
17. Product of Stone-Age micro-chip industry? (5)
19. "By Tre, Pol and ——
You may know the Cornish Men" (3)
21. This early Saxon King sounds somewhat feminine! (3)

'MR PIGOT'S COTTAGE NEAR THE BRISTOL CHANNEL, SOMERSET'

by Jane Evans

An intriguing little watercolour has recently come to light, it is particularly interesting because it seems to date from the period before the small village of Weston-super-Mare had been developed into the busy sea-side resort we know today. The watercolour has been donated to Woodspring Museum by Mrs A Allen, who is a descendant of the Smyth-Pigott family, the Pigotts having held the Manor of Weston-super-Mare for nearly three hundred years. The fragmentary condition of the painting rendered its subject difficult to appreciate but now, after careful restoration, it can be examined closely to reveal several interesting features.

The drawing measures 21 cm by 36 cm and is entitled 'Mr Pigot's Cottage near the Bristol Channel, Somerset' (Plate 1). The subject comprises two houses, the one on the left being tiled and looking in good repair, with a garden wall and ornamental gateposts, and the one on the right being a small thatched cottage, both set amongst a sturdy grove of trees. The foreground is unenclosed common land with a path leading to the gate of the thatched cottage, near which walks a man, a pole over his shoulder slung with rabbits or fish. Grazing on the grass is a cow and two goats, with four other beasts on the slope to the right above another path, their shadows cast by the evening sun. In the immediate right foreground the outline of a goat has been erased. The method of execution and the wide ruled border framing the subject are reminiscent of the style of drawings by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in the early eighteenth century, though certainly the type of border might be used into the early nineteenth century. There seems little doubt that the larger of the two buildings is the house known as 'The Grove' from its similarity to subsequent illustrations in which it is actually named (Plate 2) and the fact that The Grove is known to have been the home of the Rev. Wadham Piggott from at least the end of the eighteenth century.

The title is interesting as no mention is made of Weston-super-Mare. The important part of the address was the Bristol Channel, in other words, 'the seaside', and the unknown artist was probably a visitor to Mr Pigott and barely aware of the existence of the tiny village.

During the second half of the eighteenth century there was a growing awareness of the seaside and its beneficial air and water. Doctors were moving their patients from inland spas to the coast and sending Londoners to Brighton where the Prince of Wales practised the new 'cure' of sea-bathing. Even George III eventually took a dip at Weymouth in 1789. The fashion took a little time to spread from Brighton to the West Country, and in this area one of the earliest seaside visitors must have been that indefatigable pioneer in social good works, Hannah More, whom we know visited Uphill in 1773 (where she met Dr J. Langhorne of Blagdon House who was staying at Weston).

The Pigotts of Brockley had bought the Manor of Weston-super-Mare in 1696. For a long time before that it had been in the hands of the Winter family, and at the time of the sale it was held by Edward Gorges who had married Grace, daughter of William Winter. The Pigotts were presumably pleased that their property included land bordering the sea. Baker (1912) records that it was customary that the first salmon of the season was by rights the property of

Plate 1. Mr Pigot's Cottage near the Bristol Channel, Somerset *(Woodspring Museum)*.

the Lord of the Manor; now there was an added bonus offered by the splendid sandy bay itself. Building improvements took place on many of the Pigott's properties, for example, at Woodspring Priory they added a wing for use as a hospital for wounded soldiers and the date 1701 is inscribed over a doorway.

Perhaps therefore it was in the 1770s, with visits to the seaside in vogue, that they decided to modernise the already existing cottage that later became known as The Grove. At any event, the house is marked with the symbol for 'Gentleman's seat' on the Day and Masters map of Somerset published in March 1782, whilst the old manor house, which was at Ashcombe, remained as a working farm. Certainly there is no doubt that here, where The Grove was, close to the church, was the best area of Weston-super-Mare. The church had been built in Norman times safely above the flood plain, and just behind lay a small combe wooded perhaps from a very early period. 'The Grove' was the name adopted for the Pigott's cottage. The earliest published description of the house is given by George Bennett, solicitor and antiquarian of Banwell, who writes on his visit to Weston in October 1804: 'The Revd. Wadham Pigott, an elegant and popular preacher, is the present curate of the parish and he has a neat and comfortable house at which he generally resides the whole year' (Bennett 1805). Wadham, born in 1750, was a second son and went into the Church. His father, John Biggs-Pigott continued to live at Brockley until his death, aged 84, in 1794. Wadham was the first of the family to make Weston his home and he helped run the family estates from there, both before and after his father's death, as his elder brother John, who inherited all, was frequently away in France. However after John Pigott died unmarried in Calais in July 1816, Wadham officially became squire until his death on 25th December 1825. On the 5th January Wadham was appointed full-time curate-in-charge of the parish of Weston, because the Rector, the Revd. William Draper, had to move away due to illness. The succeeding Rector, Frederic Beadon, who took up the living in July 1806, also showed no intention of living there and merely visited from Southampton to collect the tithes due.

A few fragments of information survive to tell us some interesting details of building work carried out. For example Draper had undertaken rebuilding work at the Rectory, Weston's oldest house (now Glebe House) and a datestone of 1783 records his name alongside that of William Hine, carpenter, and Richard Porter, mason. Perhaps he had been inspired by a good example which his neighbour Wadham might have set him? It may also perhaps have been Wadham's benign presence that encouraged the Revd. Leeves, Vicar of Wrington and friend of Hannah More, to build himself a summer cottage on the sands in 1791, part of which can still be seen today, grotesquely serving as a fish and chip shop on Weston's sea-front.

Maintenance was very necessary in those days, perhaps more so than now. An intriguing item occurs in the Cumberland papers. On the 7th January 1805 Wadham Pigott wrote from Weston Grove to his friend George Cumberland (the well-known Bristol artist) that 'the kitchen floor not yet done – the walls round my field and orchard partly'. On the 29th January he wrote 'The pebbles and mortar are cementing and will be done in the kitchen in about a week. I have ordered the drains to be opened which is necessary for the comfort as well as preservation of the house. The tiles are mended. Mr Draper is to pay for mending kitchen and all'. We know that before finally making his home in Bristol, George Cumberland lodged for nine months each year at the Rectory, so it is possible that this extract refers to work in the Rectory rather than The

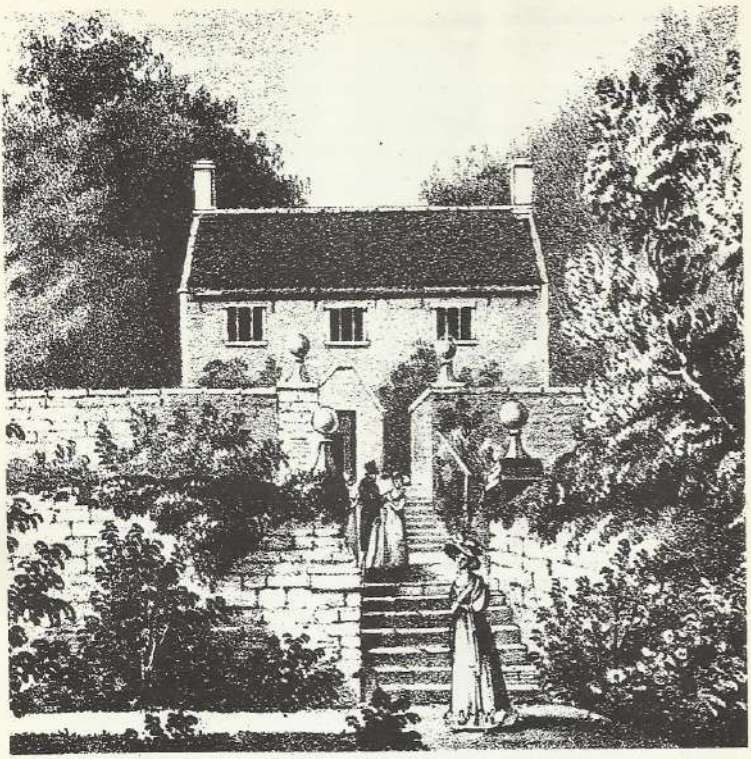


Plate 2. Lithograph by Rutter showing The Grove in 1829.

Grove, which might explain why Mr Draper is involved with the expenditure.

At any rate Mr Draper's conscience over repairs did not extend to raising money through the church rates for work to be done on the church itself. Tiling was gone from the roof, and windows were broken, bundles of hay being stuffed where the glass was missing. Baker records that in the early eighteenth century repairs were carried out each year. After a severe gale partly stripped the roof in 1716, the Churchwarden's accounts record the purchase of 200 tiles 2/6d; for fetching the tiles 1/-; for lime 2/-; for workmen, nails and pins 2/3d; for the crease (ridge tiles) 6d; for the church windows 4/6d and for glazing the church windows 3/6. The tiles were probably brought along the sands from Uphill where there was an early brick and tile works. This would be the source of supply later in the century for The Grove, tiles replacing the old thatched roof, a hint of

the former presence of which is supplied by the tall chimneys in the watercolour.

The watercolour can be usefully compared with the lithograph published by Rutter in 1829 (Plate 2). The main difference is the additional garden walling, ornamental spheres and flights of stairs. By 1835 The Grove had received considerable extensions at the back, creating three gable-ends when viewed from the west. In the 1840s there was a further extension to the east and this is the only part which remains now after the original house was struck by a bomb in the last war on the 4th January 1941. Cecil Hugh Smyth-Pigott was the last to make The Grove his permanent home. After his death in 1893 the Town, having already acquired the Park, took over the house and used it for various purposes. The surviving part and new bungalow extension have housed, since 1974, Weston's Mayor and Charter Trustees.

Of the little thatched cottage in the watercolour, not a vestige remains. This is the first time that this cottage has been recorded. It appears to lie slightly to the front of the Grove and at a different angle, where are now the greenhouses. A small building is shown here on the 1815 Enclosure map, the first reliable large-scale map of Weston, but it is obscured from view on the panoramic view of the village at that date (in the Woodspring Museum collection). One might possibly conjecture that it was to this house that Francis Collings, the Parish Clerk, moved after his original home was pulled down to make way for South Parade. Baker (1912) records how in those early days about 1805 he had a sale of cakes and cider every Easter where everybody congregated. The cottage next door to the Grove must have been typical of the dozen or two in the village in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was presumably demolished when the Smyth-Pigotts laid out the Park and gardens in the early nineteenth century, following the enclosure of the surrounding land. There was then an old leap-gate (at the bottom of what is now Grove Park), which prevented the cattle and geese on the moor from straying on to the hill, or vice versa, and the artist of the watercolour must have been seated very close to it.

The collection of Smyth-Pigott family protraits was given by the family to the Borough of Weston-super-Mare in 1947 and three of these paintings hang in Grove House, the rest being housed in Woodspring Museum. Mrs Allen's donation of the watercolour makes a welcome addition to the Museum's collection of local topographical views. Perhaps dating from around the 1770's, it reminds us of the time when Weston was little more than a cottage or two on the Bristol Channel. The population of 108 in 1801 was to grow, and in 1804 George Bennett wrote 'This village is much frequented of late in the summer and autumn for the benefit of sea-air and bathing; several good lodging houses having been lately erected for the reception of company'. Yet there was still no shop (the nearest being at Worle kept by a man named Henville) and the nearest pubs, the 'Ship' and the 'Dolphin', were across the sands at Uphill. It was 1808 before construction on a hotel was started and 1810 before it opened. However by 1806 George Cumberland had left, perhaps regretting the development of the tiny village, for he had enjoyed the peace and quiet, the good service of his neighbour Parsley, making music with Revd Leeves and the good company and dry humour of Wadham Pigott, squire and vicar.

References

Bailey, J. and Bingham-Hall, D. (1973). 'The Glebe House' in The Council of the Order of St. John for Somerset, *Country Year Book*, 27, 107-116.

Baker, E. (1912). *Notes on the history of Weston-super-Mare* (Frampton & Sons, Weston-super-Mare)
Baker, E. (1910). *Weston-super-Mare Parish Church 1226-1910* (Lawrence Bros., Weston-super-Mare)
Bennett, G. (1805). *Gentleman's Magazine*, 80 (2), 1097-99.
British Library. *Add Mss* 36, 500 (Cumberland Correspondence)
Brown, B. (1978). *Weston-super-Mare and the origins of coastal leisure in the Bristol Region* (Weston-super-Mare History and Conservation Study Group)
Rutter, J. (1829). *Delineations of North West Somerset* (Privately printed)
Woodspring Museum (1980). *Portraits of the Smyth-Pigott Family* (Woodspring Museum)
Woodspring Museum (1980). *Weston-super-Mare: an anthology in words and pictures* (Woodspring Museum)

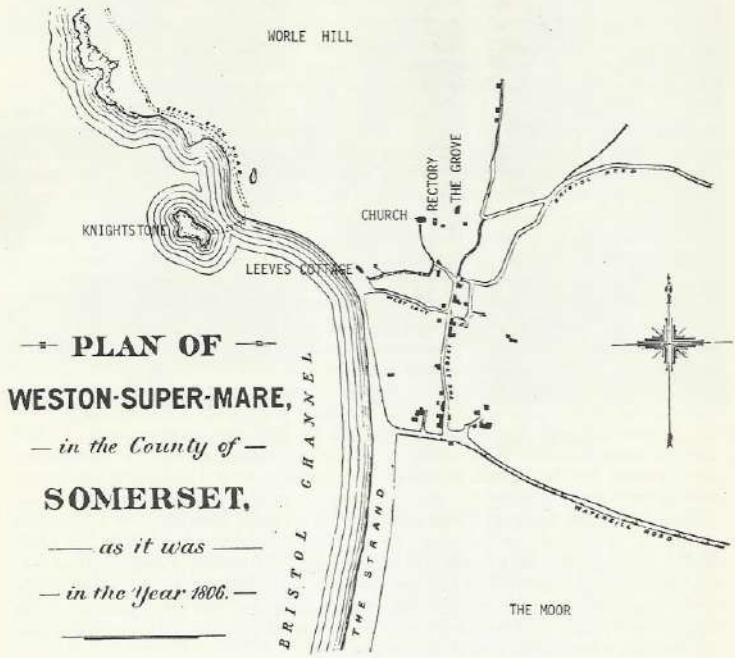


Fig. 1. Weston-super-Mare in 1806.

THE PATRICIA WELLS GALLERY

Vannessa by Warren Storey

Warren Storey

R.W.A. A.T.D.

Exhibition

Sat 22nd Nov - Sat 13th Dec

Mixed subjects in Oils

During Exhibition the Gallery is open daily from 11am — 5pm including Sundays

Prompt service for framing, from photographs to large painting— also restoration and cleaning.

Morton House, Lower Morton, Thornbury.
Bristol BS12 IRA.
Telephone Thornbury (0454) 412288

. . . AND BETHEL SHALL COME TO NOUGHT

by David Dawson

Bethel, Ebenezer, Zoar, Bethesda and Mount Tabor are all names redolent of nineteenth-century Nonconformist zeal and expansion. They are all names of chapels which once served the Dissenting communities of Bristol. Many of these communities still exist and are still thriving, but what has happened to the places of worship that they once used? Is such an apocalyptic title (Amos 5, 5) justified when one is looking for the physical archaeological evidence for the contribution that the citizens of Bristol have made to the history of Nonconformity in this country? These are questions that this paper sets out to examine.

Background

Over the last three hundred years Nonconformist chapels and missions have formed an integral part of our urban and rural landscape in much the same way as we have come to regard our parish churches. When, in response to the growing demand for information concerning the archaeology of churches in the early 1970's, a survey of places of worship in Bristol was conducted in 1974-6, it seemed natural to encompass all such buildings. The aim of the survey was to identify those sites where buildings had been erected for religious use, to evaluate what still remained above ground and what might lie below, to ascertain what would be worth further archaeological investigation and to determine an order of priorities for such work. The area covered comprised the City of Bristol and those parts of the parishes of Frenchay and Whitchurch outside the City boundaries.

This survey forms the source of information for this paper which was first published three years ago, in a different form (Dawson 1977). The statistics quoted here date from that time.

The scale of the survey

In bold statistical terms, the City of Bristol covers some 42 square miles of land on either side of the river Avon. Now with a population (1972) of about 421,000, it ranks eighth in size of provincial cities. Back in the seventeenth century when the first chapels and meeting houses were built, it was of course the largest city after London. Within the area covered by the survey, 505 religious sites were identified. Of these 322 (64 per cent of the total) are of Nonconformist origin and it is this figure that is used as the basis of the percentages quoted hereafter.

In 1977, of these 322 sites, 158 (approximately 49 per cent) were still in use for worship, not necessarily using the same buildings or occupied by the same congregation. In another 20 of these cases (6 per cent) the buildings had been converted to secular use, 22 (7 per cent) were standing empty and in 122 (38 per cent) the site had been cleared and virtually all physical remains eradicated.

Chapels in use

The form of a chapel will reflect the liturgical and other needs of its congregation. It should therefore be possible to examine the relationship between a particular building, the accommodation provided for individual members of that

church and for visitors, the arrangement of liturgical centres (such features as the pulpit, baptistery, or communion table), and the form of worship that followed. This situation will not be static. In the same way that a Mediaeval parish church has undergone, and is still undergoing, many alterations to its structure and its internal fittings to meet social and liturgical changes; so a Nonconformist chapel may have been altered many times in its existence. Whereas a change such as the abandonment of segregation of the sexes within the chapel may have made the design of the internal layout easier, the advent of another idea such as the Sunday School movement obviously made greater demands on the accommodation available. One simple example may be cited in a major alteration of the Unitarian Chapel at Shepton Mallet in the late nineteenth century. It was originally built on a T-plan with the pulpit in a re-entrant angle, but it was later rebuilt in the form of a (by that date) more conventional rectangular hall with the pulpit in the centre of the left hand wall to allow more room for other facilities all within the shell of the original church.

This kind of evidence must therefore be born in mind when considering the 158 sites that remain in use today, and also those others which have not been entirely eradicated. Of the 158 chapels, only 12 are survivors from the 53 founded before 1850. Of the rest, 73 (half) were founded between 1850 and 1920, and the other half in the sixty years since. Regrettably no interior earlier than 1750 has survived intact, yet this is not surprising considering the poor rate of survival of sites in use from this time. Only one existing seventeenth-century meeting house has not been rebuilt and that is the Unitarian Chapel (1691) in what was then the rural fastness of Frenchay and which is still outside the present City boundary. It is however extremely fortunate that John Wesley's New Room in Broadmead survives in its rebuilt state of 1748 with most of its original internal fittings, preacher's lodgings and stables. Its special place in the history of the Methodist movement has been a major factor in ensuring its preservation in its present state, and has helped to prevent it from following the fate of many nearby historic chapels which were swept away in the 1950's redevelopment scheme. The survival of the Unitarian Church (1788) in Lewin's Mead is also a fortunate accident. Some changes have been made to its furnishing and their layout, but these are minor compared with the changes made elsewhere in the nineteenth century from refurnishing to complete rebuilding. The Moravian Church (1756) in Upper Maudlin Street was for example completely rebuilt in 1896 although some of the older furnishings were reused in the new church (these were transferred to the Moravian Church at Kingswood when this new building was demolished in 1973).

In a similar way, those chapels either rebuilt or newly built in the period 1850 to 1920 are being altered in ever increasing numbers to meet not only modern needs for worship, but to make them more cost-effective to run in this age of high energy and maintenance costs. For example, Ebenezer Methodist Church (1885-6), British Road, Bedminster was recently completely gutted and rebuilt with new windows and roof in 1975. There is therefore a need to document these changes. Admittedly most nineteenth century chapels are fairly uniform in plan but there are significant variations in planning, and the buildings themselves display a remarkable variety of forms and styles.

It is important to note that 73 new sites have been brought into use since 1920. As many of these are occupied by congregations who have moved from other sites in the city, it gives us a clue to the reasons why so few early Nonconformist chapels survive.

Redundancy

This appears to be just as much a problem to the Nonconformist churches as it does to the Established Church, and for many of the same social reasons. The drift of congregations away from the city centre began as early as about 1850. Many examples could be cited but two will have to suffice. In 1868 Bridge Street Congregational Chapel (1786) in the city centre parish of St. Mary-le-Port moved to new premises designed by Charles Hanson in what is now called Beaufort Buildings by Clifton Green (this new church is still in existence as Clifton United Reformed Church and is listed grade II). Similarly, Castle Green United Reformed Church (1901) in Greenbank Road, Greenbank, replaced a chapel reputedly founded in 1633, but certainly by 1760, in Castle Green in the Castle precincts. Inner urban renewal this century has accelerated this trend. As most Nonconformist churches are autonomous, they have been able to respond to the dispersal of their people from the central area and move out to the suburbs. The extent of this process can be judged from the fact that of the 47 chapels which used to serve the area of the Mediaeval town only five are still in use: Bristol Central Hall (1924) built on the site of Old Market Street Weslyan Methodist Chapel (1815); the Welsh Congregational Church in what was formerly the Presbyterian Church of St. James (1859 but gutted in the war) in St. James' Parade; Broadmead Baptist Church (1671), rebuilt in 1969; John Wesley's New Room in Broadmead; and the Unitarian Chapel (1788) in Lewin's Mead.

Wholescale redevelopment schemes including the laying out of new roads have further encouraged such moves. In St. Philip's for example, over 13 chapels and missions have disappeared since 1930 in the housing renewal programme and Outer Circuit Road schame. Other factors do of course play a part in causing redundancies. After the unification in Conference in 1932 of the United Methodist Churches, the Wesleyan Methodists and the Primitive Methodists, the seventeen local circuits (associations of churches) were gradually amalgamated and reorganised into the present nine. At the same time the opportunity was taken to rationalise the number of chapels in use built by these formerly rival branches of the Methodist movement. For example the little community of Crew's Hole was once served by two chapels, one Wesleyan Methodist, the other United Methodist Free. The latter is still used for worship but the former has been closed and converted into a workshop. At Kingswood each of the three branches built a huge chapel, two of them set in their own spacious burial-grounds. In 1977, Wesley (not included in the figures as it lies just outside the City boundary) and Zion (built as a United Methodist Free church in 1854-5) were still in use, but Bourne Chapel (Primitive Methodist, 1873; Plate 3) had been converted to commercial use by Fantasie Foundations (Unity Corset Factories Ltd.). Such instances are common in each of the old village and new nineteenth-century suburban centres.

Since the last war, some free churches have joined together to use one building rather than maintain separate establishments. Christ Church, Redland Road, formerly Wesleyan Methodist (1887) is now a joint Baptist, United Reformed and Methodist church. It has replaced Christ Church Congregational Church, Julian Road (1876-8), demolished in 1961-2, and Cotham Grove Baptist Church (1871) which had been badly damaged in the war. However, the number of redundancies resulting from such ecumenical schemes is still very small.

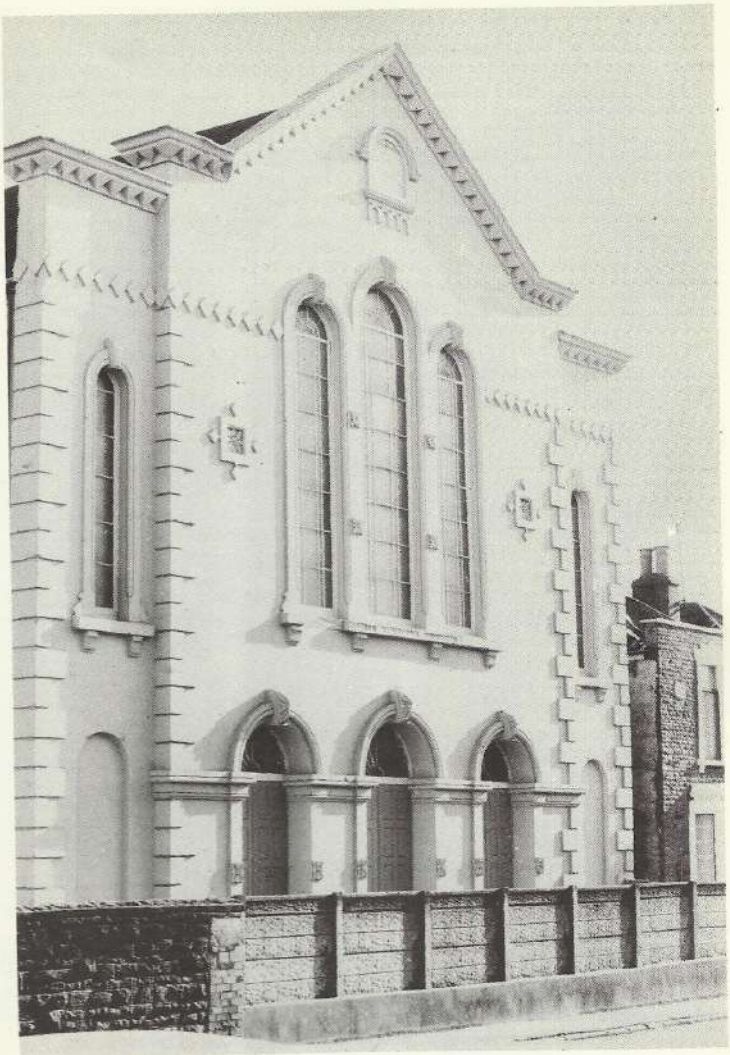


Plate 3. Bourne Chapel, Two Mile Hill in 1976. It was built in 1873 to replace a smaller chapel (1841) just down the road and now used by the Salvation Army.

Re-use

Of the total of 322 chapels, 176 have been closed at some stage. 12 of these have been taken over by another denomination. These include Arley Chapel (Congregational, 1845) which is a grade II listed building and now the Polish Roman Catholic church of Our Lady of Ostrobama; Hebron (United Methodist Free, 1853) is Bedminster Spiritualist Church; Highbury Chapel (1842), a grade B building by William Butterfield, is now Cotham Parish Church (Church of England). Such conversions have usually required some changes in the internal layout to suit the liturgical needs of the new occupants.

In 1977, a further 20 chapels were used for secular purposes which had usually involved stripping out their internal fittings; eight were warehouses, two were private houses, four workshops and the rest offices. Quaker's Friars (rebuilt 1747-9), a grade I former Friends Meeting House, now makes a very pleasant Central Registry Office for the City, and the block of offices called Colkin House is contained under the roof of what was formerly Pembroke Congregational Church (1866), Oakfield Road. Hope Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, 1786), a charming grade II building is now assured a new lease of life as a thriving community centre.

Disuse

Yet another 22 buildings stood disused in 1977, their future very uncertain (including Hope Chapel, mentioned above). Four of them had once been converted into warehousing: Mount Tabor (Primitive Methodist, 1881) since demolished for the M32 extension; Bethesda, Bedminster (Primitive Methodist, 1871); and two architecturally impressive chapels, Brunswick (Congregational, 1834, grade II); and Kingsland (Congregational, 1836, Plate 4). The latter sadly has been demolished recently. One, Montpelier City Mission, was (and still is) in ruins. Others then standing boarded up have also been pulled down, like Easton Methodist Free Church (1879, Plate 5). Since then more have swelled the ranks of those empty.

The role of archaeology

The need to record buildings and their associated features before they are changed or destroyed has already been mentioned. Amongst those features which should not be forgotten are the eleven (in 1977) extant burial grounds, like that of Zion, Kingswood, as extensive as many a parish churchyard. In 1977 only one had then been cleared of its memorials (excepting the two Friends Burial Grounds). Two of these, Hebron, Bedminster; and Redfield Methodist, have already been recorded by members of the Action Group for Bristol Archaeology, but much more work needs to be done. There is especial scope for setting up a small research group composed of archaeologists, ethnographers and historians to choose a part of the city and study it in depth, chapels and all.

There is also scope for excavation. Although the work on the Moravian Church in Upper Maudlin Street, which happened to be built on top of a Roman site, revealed little information about the chapel (Parker *et al.* forthcoming), it does not detract from the usefulness of such a technique of investigation.

Plate 4. Kingsland Chapel, Kingsland Road in 1976. A fine Congregational chapel built in 1836 and since demolished.

Plate 5. Easton Methodist Free Church. Built in 1879 only six years after Bourne Chapel (see plate 3) in the Gothic style. It has since gone.

Conservation

Although one cannot claim that all the 122 chapels which had disappeared by 1977 or even all those which are at present disused, are worthy of preservation; there can be no doubt that many important buildings have gone since the last war and that some further steps must be taken to ensure that a reasonable part of the City's Nonconformist heritage of buildings survives. The list of losses is extremely depressing and includes such notable historic buildings as Old King Street Baptist Chapel (1815), demolished in 1957; Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, Old King Street (1795), demolished in 1954; Whitfield Tabernacle, Penn Street (1753), demolished in 1958; and the Countess of Huntingdon Chapel, Lodge Street (1830), demolished in 1967. Even since 1977, three important buildings have gone: Ebenezer, British Road, Bedminster (1836); Kingsland (1836), mentioned above; and the Welsh Baptist Chapel, Upper Maudlin Street (1840).

Although 16 chapels are now listed by the Department of the Environment, two grade II listed buildings, Broadmead Baptist Church (which survived as a shell after the war) and Portland Chapel (rebuilt 1871) have gone; and the future of two on the present list, Brunswick (1834, grade II) and the Unitarian Church in Lewin's Mead (1788, Grade II) is uncertain.

It is therefore doubly important that solutions are found to ensure the survival of those important buildings that do remain. Many of the Bethels of Bristol may have come to nought, but let us try to keep those buildings which are listed and some of the others which are not, for example Cloud's Hill Baptist Chapel (1831) now used as part of a school, Anvil Street Congregational Chapel (1834) now a club, and Stapleton Baptist Church (1833) which is still in use.

References and select bibliography

Binney, M. and Burman, P. (1977). *Chapels and churches: who cares* (British Tourist Authority).

Dawson, D. (1977). 'Nonconformist chapels in Bristol'. *Bulletin of the Council for British Archaeology Churches Committee* 6, 4-6.

Nicholls, J.F. and Taylor, J. (1881). 'Dissent in Bristol' in *Bristol: past and present* II (J.W. Arrowsmith), 285-304 (the appended 'Religious census 1881' gives a fascinating glimpse of patterns of worship in Bristol on Sunday 30th October, that year).

Parker, A.J., Ponsford, M.W. and Price, R. (forthcoming). *Excavations at Greyfriars, Bristol* (Bristol City Museum).

It is hoped that the full survey on which this paper is based will be published shortly in the *Bristol Archaeological Research Group Review*.

SADLER'S BALLOON ASCENT FROM BRISTOL IN 1810

by Michael Crane

Introduction

The increased interest in ballooning in recent years is particularly apparent in and around Bristol, but probably only a few people are aware of the city's associations with James Sadler (1753-1828), the first English aeronaut. When Thomas Beddoes (1760-1828) established the Pneumatic Institution at Clifton in 1798 Sadler, who had been his assistant in Oxford, was employed as a "machinist" (Stock 1811, 90-91). Sadler made a single balloon flight from Bristol, accompanied by William Clayfield (fl. 1810s-1830s). This ascent took place from Stoke's Croft on the afternoon of 24 September 1810 in a balloon described as "The largest and handsomest that ever ascended in this country".

James Sadler (1753-1828)

James Sadler's early years were probably spent working in the family confectionery business in Oxford. He made several balloon flights during 1784 and 1785 and had even planned a crossing of the English Channel. He then abandoned the hazardous pursuit of ballooning for a number of years, and did not make another flight until July 1810, when he made an ascent from Oxford.

The reason for his long absence from ballooning is not known, but may have been financial. Apart from being a skilled balloonist Sadler was also a skilled and inventive engineer and chemist, abilities which were developed and put to service during this period (see Hodgson 1928 and Rolt 1966).

The Oxford ascent was followed by a flight from Bristol using the same balloon. He made a number of flights in the following year, 1811, one of which, made from Birmingham on 7 October, is of particular interest. This flight, his twenty-first, was marked by the striking of a medal, an example of which is in the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford (plate 7). It commemorates what was probably the fastest journey to have been made at that time. Sadler and his companion, a Mr. Burcham, travelled 112 miles in one hour and twenty minutes. Both were lucky to survive. When they attempted to land in Lincolnshire Sadler was thrown out and the basket with Burcham in it was dragged for a mile and half before the balloon snagged in a tree. Each thought the other to have been killed, and their relief and delight when they met in a small village near Spalding can be readily imagined.

Sadler is recognised as having an advanced appreciation of the art of handling balloons and the failure of his attempt to cross the Irish Sea in 1812 has been attributed, not to lack of technical expertise or proper planning, but rather to over-confidence (Rolt 1966).

William Clayfield (fl. 1810s-1830s)

Of Sadler's companion, William Clayfield, little has been published. Evans (1824, 305) described him as the "youngest son of Chatterton's liberal patron". Clayfield, like Sadler, was employed by Beddoes. During this period he identified the very important locally occurring mineral celestine as strontium sulphate (Eyles 1955, 140-141), he is also known to have had a fine collection of minerals (Evans, n.d., 89) and to have been an able botanist (White 1912). The *Bristol Institution Annual Reports* record several donations of minerals and fossils

Plate 6. Medal commemorating Sadler's flight from Birmingham, 7th October 1811. (Diameter 52 mm. *Museum for the History of Science, Oxford).*

during the 1820s and 1830s, including a specimen of strontium sulphate from the "Red Marl" at Arno's Vale, donated in 1832.

The ascent from Stoke's Croft, 24 September 1810

The crowds flocked into Bristol to witness the flight. The report in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* recorded how

> ". . . the crowd continued to increase, till the adjoining gardens, fields, and hills seemed one forest of people; and all the windows, roofs, and the very trees, in the immediate neighbourhood, were covered with spectators."

The same report also describes in some detail the apparatus used to prepare the hydrogen with which the balloon was filled. This operation involved the familiar reaction between sulphuric acid and iron filings, but on a large scale – two and a half tons of filings were used on this occasion. The same report also described the balloon:

> "This magnificent machine, the same in which Mr. Sadler ascended at Oxford, was made of silk, glazed or painted in ribs of green and light purple; it was about thirty yards in circumference, and the middle was enveloped by a circle, inscribed in letters of gold – *Right Hon. Wm. Windham Grenville, Baro de Worton, Cancel. Univers. Oxon.*"

A watercolour of the balloon is in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (see plate 6). On the back of the drawing is written

> "Sketch by W. Edkins of the Ascent of Sadler's Balloon from Bristol. Sadler was accompanied by Mr. Wm. Clayfield. My father painted the banner held by Sadler in his Ascent. Wm. Edkins Jnr."

The fresh north-north-easterly wind carried the balloon over Leigh Down, where the acronauts dropped by parachute a small basket containing a cat. It was retrieved by a lime-burner and passed into the hands of a local doctor who appropriately christened it 'Balloon'.

They shortly passed over the coast, and recorded that as they neared Cardiff they drank the health of "Col. GORE and the Bristol Volunteers". (The Volunteers had controlled the crowd while the preparations for the ascent were being made, allowing them to take place without hindrance). The balloon "Descended so low as to hear the shouts of the people, and the breakers between Barry and Scilly Islands. [A typographic error, Sully was intended.] Fearing the main land could not be reached, and a current of air impelling the Balloon towards the sea, more ballast was thrown out, in doing which, Mr. SADLER lost his hat."

The balloon continued its drift to mid-channel, but Sadler and Clayfield were able to check the descent by releasing a quantity of ballast. They recorded that as they neared the coast of Devon they drank "To all absent friends"; about half an hour later, off the small town of Linton, they again had to attempt to check the balloon's descent. They "threw out everything that could be parted with, including a great-coat, a valuable barometer, a thermometer, a speaking-trumpet, the grapling [sic] iron, – and even part of the interior covering of the Car, in the hope of reaching the main land about Barnstaple; but, owing to the exhaustion of the gas, the Balloon would not rise sufficiently . . ." and they landed in the sea, about four miles from the land. Fortunately the event had been seen from the shore and a boat was launched immediately. It took an hour to reach them, and another two hours to completely deflate and secure

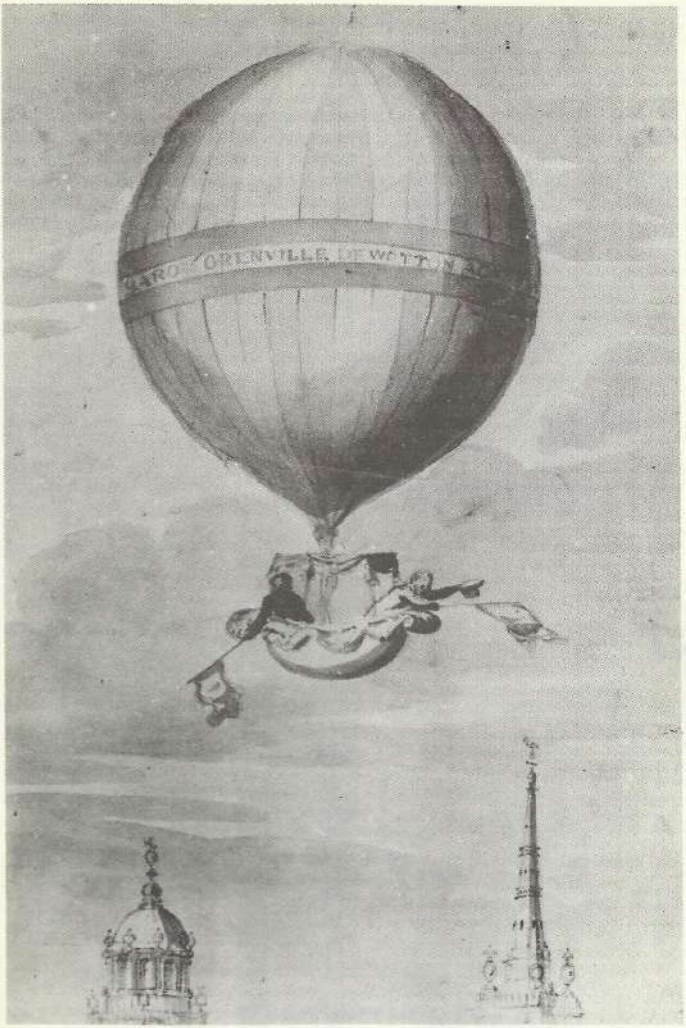


Plate 7. The ascent of Sadler's balloon from Bristol, 1810, by William Edkins *(Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery).*

the balloon. The rescuers and rescued reached Linton at nine o'clock. An eventful day.

A note on contemporary sources

For an account of the ascent from Bristol see Anon. [1810]. *Balloon. The only true and authentic account of the voyage from Bristol, on Monday, Sept. 24, 1810.* Printed for the benefit of Mr. Sadler at the offices of the Bristol Mercury & The Mirror. (Quotations in the text are from this pamphlet, unless otherwise stated). A copy is in the Central Reference Library, Bristol (accession no. B13601). This account is quoted as part of the report which appeared in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* 29 September 1810, page 3.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the Museum for the History of Science, Oxford, for the photograph of the medal in their collection.

References

Evans, J. (1824). *A chronological outline of the history of Bristol.* (Privately Published).

Evans, J. (n.d.). *The new guide, or picture of Bristol, with historical and biographical notices.* (Privately Published).

Eyes, V.A. (1955). 'Scientific activity in the Bristol region in the past' in MacInnes, C.M. and Whittard, W.F. (ed.) *Bristol and its adjoining counties.* (British Association).

Hodgson, J.E. (1928). 'James Sadler, of Oxford, aeronaut, chemist, engineer, and inventor' *Transactions of the Newcomen Society*, 8, 66-82.

Rolt, L.T.C. (1966). *The aeronauts. A history of ballooning 1783-1903* (Longmans).

Stock, J.E. (1811). *Memoirs of the Life of Thomas Beddoes* (J.M. Gutch).

White, J.W. (1912). *The Flora of Bristol.* (Chatford House Press).

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES: THE CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

When the Clevedon Archaeological Society is mentioned in conversation, two prime characteristics spring to mind. The first is the marvellous record of active fieldwork the Society holds, and the second is their incredible friendliness. One feels that it is run on somewhat Franciscan lines, a mixture of practicality and joy; unpaid subscriptions being gently overlooked, so that members hurry to pay them when they remember.

The mists of antiquity quite genuinely enshroud the origins of the society – it had to be reconstituted in 1949 after the previous secretary had left the area taking all the records. The minute book records the names of some of the earlier members who joined the Society during the '50s. For example, there is that of Mr. C.M. Sykes, a life member until his death in 1978, who published the Tog Hill Mesolithic site, as well as the Mesolithic and Roman sites at Birdcombe Farm, Wraxall. (The first published in the *Transactions* of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, the last two in the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society). He often recorded unpublished information in thick manuscripts of close-written sometimes slightly illegible script, making sure they were deposited with the relevant institution. He rediscovered Roman Gatcombe (the site had been known since the last century) where he worked in 1954 with Bill Solley and other members of the Society. Bill Solley, Arthur Selway and Gray Usher were all members at this period, and are also now familiar as members of other archaeological societies in Avon.

Two other long-standing members are Keith Gardner and Jim Pullen. Keith Gardner was the cause of the infamous 'Cad-Cong' excavations because it was he who made the exciting discovery that imported Post-Roman pottery (however did he recognise it?) had been used in the fort (previously thought to be only Iron Age in date) at Congresbury. Keith Gardner and the Society helped to excavate it with Peter Fowler and Philip Rahtz. Since then he has been

responsible for the appearance of a rash of dots on the maps of the Roman section in the Avon sites and monuments record (see, for example, his contribution on 'native sites' in Keith Branigan's *Gatcombe* report published by British Archaeological Reports). Jim Pullen was Chairman of the Clevedon Society for many years from 1962 onward. He is known for his meticulous recording – whether in excavation or field survey – and the determination with which he has completed the parish surveys (records of all known antiquities within a parish) of Nailsea, Chelvey, Backwell, and currently Flax Bourton. Another active parish survey worker is Mrs Jean Dagnall who has completed the survey for Clevedon, as well as acting as Secretary for the Society (and running a job and family!).

As well as the excavations mentioned above, the Society has also helped to excavate the Romano-British temple at Henley Wood, the Iron Age site at Christon (also carrying out field-work in advance of the M5) and helping on the Medieval friary at Greyfriars, Bristol. The last two years have seen a number of projects. An Early Bronze Age burial cist in Clevedon was excavated (it had originally been discovered in 1898 only to become 'lost' before it was relocated in 1978 when the unwitting owners of the garden in which it lay found a distinct 'obstacle' in their herbaceous border! Our illustration to the right shows visitors watching the excavation). In the same year a small rescue dig uncovered the remains of at least five burials at West Way, Clevedon. They are something of a mystery; they appear to be Christian (being extended inhumations orientated east-west) and may be Medieval (one piece of 12th - 13th century pot was found) but there is no record of any burials in the area, so it will be interesting to know the explanation if it is ever found. The current project is Jim Pullen's excavation of Tickenham Cave (see the illustration to the left showing Bob Yard, Jean Dagnall and Jonathan Adam, Clevedon's youngest member, at work in the cave).

All society work has its 'grind', and a fair share of Clevedon's must have been taken by the kindly Mrs Tillesley (normally known as 'Tilly' and who is rumoured to be in her early eighties) who has been Treasurer for some years as well as Chairman. The present Chairman is Mrs Doreen Tuck, who has been with the society since 1949 when her mother was Treasurer – some record.

The Clevedon Society has about 60 members. It meets in the Community Centre, Princes Road, Clevedon, every last Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m. It also arranges a programme of Saturday outings (mainly in the summer, last year these included visits to Devizes, Exeter and the Viking exhibition at the British Museum). One can be sure that any stranger who would like to attend any of the Society's lectures will be given a very warm welcome.

VISIT

WOODSPRING MUSEUM

Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare

A local Museum for all the family in the Old Gaslight Company Workshops

Permanent displays:– *Social History of the Seaside*
Local Archaeology and Mining
Indoor Nature Trail

Also Costume, Jewellery, Toys, Old Chemist's Shop, Edwardian Dentist, Local Potteries, Transport from Penny Farthings to Autogyro.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS –

Nov 1-29	PEOPLE AND PLACES – B.J. Greenhill and his collection (Nailsea, Wraxall etc.)
Dec 6-31	TREASURES OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM – holograms, physics in music, electrical demonstrations
Jan 10-24	GROVE HOUSE and GLEBE HOUSE, Weston-super-Mare
Mar 7-28	MAKING MAPS
Apr 4-25	ROARING TWENTIES

REFRESHMENTS AND SOUVENIR SHOP

Open: Mon - Sat 10-1, 2-5, ADMISSION FREE

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

From Mr. Leonard E. Smith

I was particularly interested in the article 'Memories of Clifton and Hotwells' in AVON PAST No. 2. I was born in Sion Hill, Clifton, opposite the Grand Spa Hotel (now the Avon Gorge Hotel). I can confirm much in Mrs. Evans' article, and am astounded that it was all at 'second-hand', so to speak.

I was born in 1903 and also attended Christ Church School from 1908 – 1913, when I went to Bristol Grammar School. My elder brother was at Christ Church School from 1893, almost at the same time as Mrs. Evans' mother. I never recall hearing that the school was anywhere but in Victoria Street, and never heard that it was behind the church.

Incidentally, Mrs. Evans mentions the Cordeaux shop in Queen Victoria Street. I clearly recall the Cordeaux shops in Regent Street and Merchants Road, but I doubt if there were ever one in Victoria St. I should point out that there is no Queen Victoria St. in Clifton. In my early days, this street was known as Victoria St. and the name was changed to Princess Victoria St. in the early 1920's owing to confusion with Victoria St., Bristol.

My father kept a dairy business at Princes' Dairy at the bottom of Sion Hill. The shop is still there, but not a dairy. As I used to serve in the shop on occasions, I naturally got to know a large number of people locally. For instance, I remember Mrs. Gould, cook-housekeeper to Dr. Shaw at 23, Caledonia Place. She was a great friend of my mother's, and I used to have tea with her and the house-maid every Saturday. I loved to accompany Mary, the maid, to light the gas in the various rooms with a fat taper in a special holder. Mrs. Gould died in 1922, but the doctor did not die until 1938 or 1939.

My paternal grandfather, John Smith, was born in Bristol in 1814, and was apprenticed to the ship-building trade in 1828. He was made a Freeman of the City of Bristol in 1841. His father, William Smith, was apprenticed to brush-making, and he, too, was made a Freeman in 1812. Although not apprenticed, my father was made a Freeman in 1911. I could not follow in becoming a Freeman due to 'primogeniture'.

My maternal grandfather, William Brown, was also born in 1814, in Combe Hay near Bath. His father had come from the Midlands at the turn of the century to build lock-gates for the Somerset Coal Canal. When I retired and came to Midford in 1963, I had no idea of any family connection with the canal. It so happens that my house was the toll-collector's office and residence, and I actually own a hundred yards of the long defunct canal. My grandfather was a gardener and moved about locally specialising, I understand, in laying out gentlemen's gardens. (I claim no relationship to "Capability" Brown!).

Leonard E. Smith,
The Moorings, Midford, Bath, BA2 7DD.

EARLIER MEDIEVAL SITES (410-1066) IN AND AROUND BRISTOL AND BATH, THE SOUTH COTSWOLDS, AND MENDIP

by Elizabeth Fowler and others. 36pp;
Bristol Archaeological Research Group Field Guide 3A, 1980, £0.95.

Field guides are – or should be – an essential element in the publications of any archaeological group. They are needed not only for the professional and the experienced worker, but for the beginner and for the wider public. The last class is, in many ways, the most important target. If money is to be obtained for archaeological research, its availability depends ultimately on the interest and goodwill of those without specialised knowledge. If the conservation of field monuments and buildings is to succeed, success can only be achieved by a wider appreciation of the interest and meaning of the remains that feature so widely in town and country. A guide when published looks deceptively simple, but its preparation involves careful planning and wide knowledge, if it is to appeal to those for whom it is designed. Terse, lucid and authoritative; these are the three overriding necessities. It is the third that causes the difficulties. The scholarly doubts and qualifications that rightly hedge the presentation of a learned report, the careful setting out of the detailed evidence with a due regard to its limitations, the citation of chapter and verse for the conclusions presented, these have no place in a field guide; they would frustrate what should be its main object. The writer must make up his mind on vexed questions and set out his conclusions with a minimum of qualification; there is always the possibility of indicating the existence of fuller accounts and those giving other interpretations.

The present booklet, like the two earlier issues in the same series, achieves these aims. Inevitably it includes statements that are questionable. Inevitably it relies very largely on other and fuller publications. However the debatable material nowhere affects the usefulness of the guide and the choice of authorities is everywhere judicious.

The area covered is the Bristol region rather than the modern County of Avon. Nevertheless the rather wider extension is fully justified as the recent boundary changes have no relevance to the period with which the guide is concerned. Even so there are anomalies. It is difficult to justify the inclusion of a section on the southern section of Offas's Dyke, while virtually ignoring the eastern Wansdyke. The Somerset Levels, the site of the battle of Peonnan and the late Saxon borough of Cricklade hardly fall within the bounds of the area indicated in the title. However these are minor and venal aberrations. More important is the conclusion that no site with visible remains, within the hinterland of Bristol and Bath, seems to have been overlooked.

The most controversial section is that entitled 'palaces'. The first paragraph summarises the palace at Cheddar; a site which saw three meetings of the witan and included a series of imposing buildings rightly merits this description; but 'the supposed site of Alfred's palace at Athelney' is wrongly included. There is no reason to question the location, but the slight rise, on which the modern monument stands, was the site of the monastery founded by Alfred to commemorate his victory. It probably lay within one of the two fortresses. If so

wide an extension of the area covered was desirable, it would have been more useful to include the second fortress, at Lyng, where the layout of the permanent borough is clearly visible on the ground. Nor is there any justification for describing either the *villa regia* at Wedmore or that at Pucklechurch as a palace; since the site of neither dwelling is known, they might well have been omitted.

The inclusion of a historical introduction by Elizabeth Fowler and of a section on Anglo-Saxon charters by Frances Neale – both excellently written – are much to be commended; they bring out the increasing importance in this period of the written element in the archaeological record. Leslie Grinsell contributes the section on 'the Saxon period', and Michael Ponsford the section on 'Towns'. The bibliography is selective and well suited to its purpose.

C. A. Ralegh Radford.

WORLEBURY – THE STORY OF THE IRON AGE HILLFORT AT WESTON-SUPER-MARE

by Jane Evans, published by Woodspring District Council. 1980. £0.50p.

So-called 'popular' guides to excavations and historic sites of all kinds have become increasingly common in recent years. They are usually well written and reasonably well presented, but often lack imagination and make few allowances for a public unfamiliar with archaeological technicalities. The latter cannot be said of this attractively produced and authoritatively researched booklet about Worlebury, which sets new standards for any future local guides of this genre.

A crisp, clear text tells the story of man's various activities on and around Worlebury Hill from the Ice Age to the little known mining operations in more recent times. The major section of this booklet is devoted to the establishment and life of the Iron Age community living within the massive stone wall defences, whose remains are still visible today. Their story, culminating in a violent and gory end, possibly at the hands of the Romans, is vividly described. Even more poignant is the description which follows 'after the massacre survivors of the tribe crept back to the smouldering ruins . . . gathered up their dead and buried them hastily in the burned out grain pits . . .'. The text is laced with a profusion of illustrations including plans, photographs and artists impressions. Although this booklet is aimed at visitors, who out for a stroll in Weston Woods might wonder at the great mounds of stones (the remains of the defences) amongst the trees, it should also be of interest to local residents, especially at such a reasonable price.

One final thought. Worlebury is one of the most important field monuments in Avon. Woodspring Council, who own and manage Weston Woods as a public open space, are obviously proud of this historic acquisition to have published this booklet. In view of the number of similar monuments on agricultural land currently being eroded away, would it now now be opportune to consider Worlebury hillfort's long term management? Although Weston Woods were planted over 150 years ago, the growth of small trees on the stone defences is relatively recent, as evidenced by the old photographs in this booklet. Unless that new growth is checked, this interesting and important visual link with the past will be lost for ever to future visitors and Weston residents.

R. Iles.

POUNDS OR PINFOLDS, AND LOCKUPS: BEAST AND MAN IN CUSTODY

by B.M. Willmott Dobbie. viii, 64pp; 30 photographs. Bath University Library, 1979, £2.00.

The agricultural system of the Middle Ages and early modern times was based on the use of open fields and common grazing grounds. Even after the beginning of the extensive enclosures in the 15th and 16th centuries, most lowland counties still had large areas of unenclosed land, and in the extreme west and in the north much open land still survives. In such conditions straying animals were inevitable, and the pound, maintained by the manor, was an essential part of the agricultural equipment of each community. In a society where animals were almost the only kind of moveable wealth for the majority of the peasant population, they were early targets for creditors, bailiffs and other legal personages. B.M. Willmott Dobbie explains the legal and social background to these surviving manifestations of a system now almost extinct. This little book provides illustrations of medieval and early modern administration of the pounds, and examples of the seizure and rescue of beasts. The gazetteer, county-by-county, describes the surviving pounds, including a fair number within the old Gloucestershire and Somerset borders.

Also included is a description of local lockups, occasionally found in the same complex as the pound, but more often separate structures. The description of lockups is not exhaustive, since the social and legal background to their construction and use is very different from that of the pounds. Still, the gazetteer gives the enquiring traveller a chance to find such as examples as survive. "Relatively few (lockups) survive, compared to the number of pounds still existing, but such as survive are nearly always kept in repair, a matter of local pride". It is a sad comment on our society that this local pride has not extended to the upkeep of many pounds (Batheaston being one notable local exception).

Michael Costen

BRISTOL INNS AND ALEHOUSES IN THE MID-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

by P. McGrath and M. E. Williams. 61 pp; Bristol Record Office, 1980, £1.00 (plus p. & p.)

This well-produced booklet presents the interim results of work conducted by an extra-mural class working at the Bristol Record Office under the direction of the editors. It concentrates on lists of inns and alehouses prepared for licensing purposes in the period 1752-64, though not all the lists for that period have yet been examined nor are all those that were examined complete. Nevertheless, this work represents an admirable start and it is much to be hoped that it will be continued both before and after the period now covered, and that local historians elsewhere in Avon will be stimulated to compile lists for their own areas

from records at Bath, Gloucester and Taunton. For the inn and alehouse occupied a very important place in local life in the past, not only as a place for pleasant drinking and companionship, but also as a convenient place of business (directories, for example, show that local carriers used local inns as their headquarters, and merchants often concluded dealings in an inn), as a place for more serious meetings (political clubs and associations are a case in point), and, especially in the countryside, as a point where manorial and hundredal courts and parish vestries frequently met for business. It is perhaps a pity that the editors did not enlarge on some of these aspects in their otherwise excellent introduction, which deals with some of the source-problems and also shows how well-provided 18th century Bristol was with inns and alehouses, having about one inn or alehouse for every 50-70 residents. (It is necessary to add, of course, that a port like Bristol also had a large 'floating' population of seamen and country visitors). Finally, a little more might have been said about other sources worth investigating, e.g. ecclesiastical and secular court-records, probate records (especially inventories) and some War Office records in the Public Record Office. All in all, nevertheless, this is a work well worth producing and well worth buying: given the attractive presentation it is also very reasonably priced.

John S. Moore

Avon Present

We have an original and unique selection of presents for everyone

BRISTOLGUILD

68/70 Park Street, Bristol 1. Tel. 25548

Have you considered

THE CITY OF BRISTOL
MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY SHOP

for your Christmas Shopping?

Although we hope you will come to us throughout the year for Museum Monographs (there are still some copies of "Rescue Archaeology in the Bristol Area: 1" available at £4.95) and other relevant publications, the coming of Christmas means that a visit to the Museum Shop now would be particularly worthwhile.

For instance, our prices are recognised for their value, and we try to give a friendly service. Helpful advice is available if required in the choice of that special gift, and there is no doubt that some of our range is very special indeed.

In addition to the mementoes that visitors of all ages love to take away with them, our fine giftware selection now includes an assortment of Millifiore Paperweights, all handmade in Britain. These come from such well known makers as Perthshire Paperweights and Whitefriars Crystal. With so much imported merchandise in the shops today, it is a joy to handle these outstanding examples of our own craftsmanship. Prices are not unreasonable: they range from £8.50 to £160.00.

Christmas Cards: we have a comprehensive range to choose from, with prices starting at 45 pence for a packet of five small, but very pleasant, cards. Best of the larger, single, cards is probably the reproduction of the rather fine Farquarson we have in our own collections: "When the West with Evening Glows". These, with envelopes, are 20 pence each. When you consider these cards were 30 pence each a year ago, today's value for money price cannot be doubted.

WHY NOT COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?

Printed by
Typing Facilities,
Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol, England.

ISSN 0260 - 2954