

AVON LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

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Website: www.alha.org.uk

Events: <http://www.alha.org.uk/events.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AvonLocalHistoryandArchaeology>

Material for Newsletter 168 by 12 noon 23 September
2021 please

Magazines and books to reviews editor, Hardings Cottage,
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Other news, comments, and changes of contact details to
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ALHA NEWS

NEW ALHA TRUSTEE: JENNIFER MULLER

Welcome aboard to Jennifer Muller, joining the ALHA committee and restoring ALHA's connection with University of Bristol, which had lessened somewhat after the retirement of Joe Bettey, and with archaeology, which had reduced since the death of James Russell. Having worked in publishing, JM obtained a Masters degree in archaeology and has been a professional archaeologist since 2017 in Wales and other parts of the country. She is working on a doctorate, investigating the Blaise Castle estate landscape. This research will be a part of a larger project examining how archaeological methods can be used to promote long-term community investment in local-council owned historic landscapes.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

ALHA's facebook team has been working on a brief for design of the proposed replacement website and will soon be advertising for consultants. On the grants panel's recommendation the committee decided not to give a grant towards the cost of a time capsule recording local experiences during lockdowns. Work on a revised edition of the speakers list will be resumed as soon as circumstances allow. The committee agreed a recommendation from the events subcommittee to defer the local history day further to 2022: most of the speakers arranged for the day were willing happy to postpone their talk to 2022.

ALHA BOOKLETS

As mentioned in ALHA e-update 31 May 2021, sales of ALHA booklets, edited by Dr Jonathan Harlow, have passed 5,000. A new text on the port of **Bristol** in the seventeenth century is under consideration. A further booklet is planned for the end of 2021.

To meet continuing demand (a request this week from Australia), further copies of *The Butlers & the Coal Tar Distillery at Crew's Hole* by Brian Vincent and Raymond Holland have been printed. Stocks of *Homoeopathy in Bristol, 1840 – 1925* by Michael Whitfield are getting rather low, so if you want to buy a copy before it is sold out, now would be a good time to buy, via ALHA's website or direct from the treasurer.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

HISTORIC ENGLAND – MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT FUND

Jane Marley draws attention to Historic England's launch of a fund to help long-term pandemic recovery. 'We're working alongside Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport to deliver the Museum Estate and Development Fund. Grants between 50k and £5m will be available to help non-national accredited museums across England complete urgent maintenance and improve their core infrastructure,' says the blurb. Deadline for applications is noon **Monday 5 July 2021**. More information on the Arts Council website <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/museum-estate-and-development-fund-mend#section-1>

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021

Jane Marley writes: This year the national Heritage Open Days scheme is running for **ten consecutive days from 10 to 19 September 2021**; you can open your doors for as much or as little of this time as you want; all 10 days or you can pick just one weekend, one day or even one hour. There are lots of different things you can do as long as your event is free and accessible to all.

Covid-19: Events should run in line with local and national government guidelines at the time of the festival, currently at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>. Guidance for heritage sites is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/heritage-locations>. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities>

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has published events guidance in relation to Step 1a, 2, 3 and 4 of easing lockdown restrictions across England. It contains guidance for local authorities to use when assessing whether to give permission for events to take place and will also be useful for museums and organisations planning their heritage events, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities>.

EDWARD COLSTON STATUE

The statue of EC removed from **Bristol's Centre** is now on display at M Shed:

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed/whats-on/the-colston-statue-what-next/> . Also displayed



are placards from the *Black Lives Matter* protests and images and text explaining the background. A survey is intended to feed information to the We Are Bristol History Commission. Media coverage included questions why the statue is displayed horizontally [Image Ben Birchall]. Entry is free but booking is required. A Save Our Statues campaign group, which campaigns for the preservation of Britain's 'precious cultural furniture,' called on supporters to book tickets to the M Shed museum in order to prevent genuine bookings. The display can be viewed,

and the survey can be completed, online at https://exhibitions.bristolmuseums.org.uk/the-colston-statue/?utm_source=whatson&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=colston

AEROSPACE BRISTOL AWARD

Congratulations to ALHA member **Aerospace Bristol**, winner of the Best Museum Visit section of the 2020-2021 School Travel awards. <https://www.schooltravelorganiser.com/school-travel-awards/some-of-the-best-online-reaction-to-the-school-travel-awards-2020/21/9111.article>

AEROSPACE BRISTOL ARCHIVE REOPENING

Louise Clarke, Aerospace Bristol's archivist, writes:

ALHA member **Aerospace Bristol** will be reopening its archive for pre-booked reading room visits from **Wednesday 7 July**.

The reading room will be open on Wednesdays from 10am-12.30pm and then 1.30pm-4pm. Normal museum admission charges will apply.

If you are not able to visit the archive, we may still be able to help with enquiries remotely.

Please visit <https://aerospacebristol.org/archives> to find out more, book an appointment or make an enquiry.

Find out more about our collection and how to search our archive catalogue on our YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/3pFRise>. Image, courtesy BAE Systems, shows Bristol Aeroplane Company photographic department, records and filing, 1955.



ELLACOMBE CHIMES

Congratulations to ALHA member **Bitton Parish History Group** on going international on 26 June 2021 with its contribution to organising a ringing of Ellacombe chimes in every time zone.

Explanation at <http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/ellacombe-chimes/>.

REVIEWS *by Dr Jonathan Harlow unless otherwise said.*

Johannes Kip: the Gloucestershire Engravings ed Anthea Jones (Hobnob Press, 2021) 173 pp illustrated in b&w with colour photos. £20

This is a very handsome book, in which editor Jones and the Hobnob Press have done justice to Kip's 65 engravings and etchings of country seats in Gloucestershire. They were commissioned by Sir Robert Atkyns jnr for his book on the county. The originals are reproduced in large images, together with details, relevant maps, early modern or C20, and with photos of the sites today. The text discusses both the foreground subject and the incidental but revealing items which tell us yet more of country life in those days.

The only people who rather disappoint in this volume are the landowners and their architects. Page after page of gabled roofs, mullioned leaded windows, and boringly formal grounds. Big Boxes, like Little Boxes, they all look just the same. Dullsville!

But a fine book and good value at the price.

Manson's Bristol Miscellany: searching for the soul of the city Vol I Michael Manson, Bristol Books/Tangent Books 2021, 160 illustrated col & b&w £18.

This is a large (18.5 x 24.5 cm) and very pleasing volume. The material is thematically arranged and lavishly illustrated. Indeed it might be thought of as a collection of interesting images with an explanatory text. The text is mostly related to sources though not exactly referenced and should not be taken as authoritative. I noted particularly the statement in the section on the slave trade that the Goldneys had exported metal goods to West Africa, which I believe to be untrue in itself and even more so in its implications – for it appears against Goldney House under the heading 'Many of Bristol's grand houses have slavery connections'. Nobody exported to West Africa except to purchase slaves, and the Goldneys did neither. However this is not meant to be a work of reference. It is an introduction to a fascinating pursuit and a very inviting one.

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 2020 Vol 138

This is a work of reference and a hefty one at over 430 pages. The illustrations, many in colour, are all of a high standard. Everyone will find their own interests among the many articles. Several are on the archaeology of Gloucester itself including the Roman waterfront. Professor Peter Malpass and William Evans revisit the dealings of Bishop Monk with the manor of **Horfield**, first adumbrated by the latter in *TBGAS* 132; and find generally benign intentions working themselves out in the intricacies of English land law. Dr Crossley Evans gives a brief but comprehensive sketch of the Rev Thomas Cottle, leader of the **Bristol** Primitive Methodists (and grandfather of a BGAS president). Professor Richard Coates treats us to another expert study of a place name: **St Tecla's Island**, perhaps originally St Tyrfrïog/Brioc/Briavel, and authentically St Treacle's.

There is the usual thorough review of archaeological work in 2019, and nearly 30 pages of book reviews. These include William Evans on Peter Malpass' *Making of Victorian Bristol* (ALHA Newsletter 158); and our ALHA booklet no.30 *Taking the Pledge*.

History & Heritage Matters 18 May 2021 (Nailsea & District) has two lockdown diaries, one collective and one which is personal but anonymous; and a pre-Covid profile also anonymous. There is a very useful extract on Enclosure in **Nailsea** from Margaret Thomas's M Phil thesis; the first part of a study on two houses, the Elms and Golden Valley by Anne Hills; and an article on Elm Farm by Dave Sowdon. The front cover has a striking photo of the Hannah More statue in the **Nailsea** Millennium Park. Altogether a useful contribution to local history and a credit to the Society.

The Local Historian 51.2 (April 2021) has no articles or reviews of local interest. The article on 'Inter-war cookery books' by Margaret O'Sullivan goes a generation beyond WWII, into the cookbooks on which I grew up, including Elizabeth David who helped to bring about the end of the long era in which continental cookery (and garlic!) were viewed with suspicion in British households.

Local History News 139 (Spring 2021) is likewise a void apart from 'Local History Publishing Checklist' by Heather Falvey, which enjoins proper referencing, though not perhaps as sternly as she might. Me, I'll stick to it: if not referenced to sources, then not history.

BAFHS Journal 184 (June 2021) has the usual helpful features including Bob Lawrence 'On the Internet'. There are also several family history articles, but all unreferenced.

If you are aware of a new publication that warrants review, please draw it to Dr Harlow's attention. If you or your organisation has published a new book, do send Dr Harlow a review copy, preferably before it is published.

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS (and a toy) NOTICED

During the pandemic ALHA member **Bitton Parish History Group** has been posting on its website articles about various aspects of the group's area of interest, which includes **Oldland Common, North Common, Swineford, Upton Cheyney, Beach** and **Willsbridge**. An article this month is by David Noble on local industries. <http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/articles/>

Itinera is a new journal, published by the Roman Roads Research Association, whose website is at <http://romanroads.org/publications.html> . Paper copies of the journal cost £20 plus postage, but it is free in portable document format to members of the RRA. More at <http://romanroads.org/itinera.html>

DP Lindegaard's collected local history works have been published on a new website at <https://www.bristolhistory.co.uk/> . Amongst the documents – all free to download - are seven volumes on the history of **Brislington** (*Brislington Bulletins*), four volumes of the history of **Kingswood** (*Annals of Kingswood*), and other indexes such as *Black Bristolians of the 18 and 19th centuries*. Recent publications include "*We shall remember them*" - *Brislington and St Anne's in the Great War 1914-1919* and *Sappho & her sisters: steamships and mariners of the Bristol Channel ports in the age of steam*. For further information please contact: Kevin Lindegaard, 15 Sylvia Avenue, Knowle, Bristol BS4 4NH Tel. 0117 908 9057, kevin@wondertree.co.uk

Statue wars: one summer in Bristol, BBC Four 10 June 2021, available on i-player at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000wvzx/statue-wars-one-summer-in-bristol>. Follows the mayor of **Bristol**'s responses to the removal of John Cassidy's Edward Colston statue and subsequent events.

James Hall, *At the mercy of the public*, TLS 9 April 2021, traces the nineteenth and early twentieth century fashion of erecting statues of male worthies in public places. Includes discussion and photographs of the Cassidy and Marc Quinn figures.

Excavation kit. Scrape and brush away the surface of a block to reveal a little dinosaur. Tiger, £2.

COMMENTARY

STARBUCKS AMAZON FACEBOOK ALPHABET BRISTOL DOCKS BANANAS NEWPORT CHEPSTOW

Companies, not all foreign-owned, have provoked outrage, distaste and boycotts in the UK because they have arranged their affairs so as to pay tax, if any, not in the countries where they make profits, but in other countries where the rate of corporation tax or the equivalent is lower. This sort of tax dodging or, as those involved prefer to call it, avoidance, is not new. For years UK business people have been retiring to places like the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Monaco, and moneymongers have channelled UK wealth into tax havens such as the Caymans and the British Virgin Islands, whose shores the winds of change and morality have yet to caress.

Recognising this fact of financial life, a previous chancellor of the exchequer argued that, in order to attract businesses to the UK and make it less tempting for existing businesses to leave, the UK's corporation tax rate should be cut, to compete with countries such as Ireland, whose main corporation tax rate has attracted the likes of Aldi and Apple. Now leaders of the Group of 7 wealthiest nations have agreed a minimum 15% corporation tax rate:

<https://www.euronews.com/next/2021/06/05/the-g7-has-agreed-to-set-a-global-minimum-tax-rate-what-does-it-mean-and-how-will-it-work>

An international matter not relevant to local history? No, because what happens internationally can have local consequences. Does that apply to taxation? Yes: two local history examples from our area might shed light on the question, if not the answer: **Bristol docks** and **Avon rates**. Contemporaries and historians have reckoned one reason why Bristol lost trade to Liverpool in the 19th century was that the dues charged by Bristol's dock company, and after 1848 by the city council, were too high. In *The Bristol Dock Company 1803-1848* (ALHA books 2010) Peter Malpass has explained why the dues were so high, but the fact remains that Bristol's charges were higher than those demanded by other ports. Taxes, however, are only one component in a business's costs, and costs are only one factor influencing decisions where to locate a business. When Abraham Darby moved his smelting and related operations from **Baptist Mills** to Coalbrookdale in 1710, it was not for tax reasons but because his partners did not agree with his business plans. When William Cookworthy moved his porcelain manufacturing from Plymouth to **Bristol** in 1770, it is thought that he did so because Bristol offered a bigger market and a more skilled workforce, and it may have been cheaper to sail the china clay from Devon and Cornwall to Bristol than to lug or sail the coal from the Bristol and **Kingswood** coalfields to Plymouth. In the case of Bristol docks, the narrow, winding, tidal Avon would not take large ships; Liverpool built ships quicker and cheaper than did Bristol; and the dock company's financial constraints meant that Bristol was slower in providing dockside facilities that other ports offered. So it is difficult to single out high charges as the only reason why Bristol was out-competed by Liverpool, and even more difficult to pinpoint ships and shipping operations that would have come to Bristol but went instead to another port. A more recent and obvious example is bananas. Once Fyffes achieved a virtual monopoly in importing bananas from the Caribbean, it played **Avonmouth** and **Newport** docks against each other so as to get the best deal on dock charges, and shifted the trade from one port to the other accordingly. When dock labour was casual, the social consequences were serious and immediate.

Another example is more recent. Popular lore has it that once the **Severn Bridge** made the **Aust** ferry redundant in 1966, lower rates in **Gwent** attracted Bristol workers to live beyond the bridge and to commute to work in Bristol. Even allowing for bridge tolls and the other costs of travel, it was said to be cheaper to live in Gwent because rates were much lower there. As with business costs, rates are only one of the elements in the calculation, which must include house prices (also lower in Wales), mortgage interest and repayment rates, food prices and much else. So it would be difficult to isolate rates as the only or the determinative reason. Moreover, there is little evidence either that businesses moved out of Avon into south Wales because of high rates in Bristol, or that businesses looking for a site in Avon went over the bridge just because of the difference in rateable values and rate levels. Hewlett Packard at **Stoke Gifford** was a large manufacturing employer that moved into Avon in the 1970s, as did DuPont later. The main reason for the likes of Inmos and, later, LG locating in Gwent was the grants the UK government and the EEC commission gave to encourage inward investment in areas of high unemployment, and which were not available in comparatively affluent Avon where (**Weston-super-mare** apart) there was near full employment.

These local examples suggest that decisions about where to locate a business are complicated; and that differential taxes are only part of the calculations. A remedy for evasion is not to cut taxes, but to impose taxes on profits not where they are contrived to end up but where they are made. At last governments seem to be inclined to take action.

Archaeology in universities

Sheffield University is reported to have decided to close its archaeology department. The Council for British Archaeology has made representations: <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/news/the-cba-speaks-out-in-response-to-the-university-of-sheffields-archaeology-department-cuts> . Should local history and archaeology people be worried? It may help to look at what has been happening of recent years in UK higher education, and in education generally.

Like all businesses and public institutions, universities must keep themselves solvent. Their income comes mostly from tuition fees, research and consultancy contracts, and government grants. Universities proclaim and demand independence, but since 1919 in the UK they have increasingly depended on government grants which make up about a fifth of their income – more if you regard student loans as a disguised government grant. It is understandable, and some would say not unreasonable, for government to expect to have some say in how its grants are spent.

Following the financial crisis that the financial services industries got us into in 2008, the UK government ordered cuts across most public services, including higher education. One question that arose was about what universities are for. Some argue that they exist to promote, expand and transmit knowledge, without further qualification. Others see all education as instrumental in the sense that it should deliver practical public benefits. Hence political campaigns and government incentives and sanctions to get more students into sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics, on the ground that those subject are of more practical use and benefit than medieval history or dead languages. Hence funding formulae which nudge universities into expanding their research and teaching on the sciences and to reduce their provision in the humanities, including history and archaeology.

Unlike history, archaeology is not studied in all universities. Bristol University has long been into it. University of Gloucestershire once taught archaeology, but no longer. UWE, Bath and Bath Spa universities have never taught it, at any rate as a single degree subject, largely because they did not inherit archaeology from their predecessor institutions. As a result, archaeology does not have the numbers of students and staff that would give it the political clout that some other subjects have. That is relevant when it comes to allocation of resources within a university: revenue-generating departments may resent having to subsidise the un lucrative.

Like psychology, archaeology is a composite subject drawing on a number of skills and knowledge bases. Some universities link it with the classics, others with history (ancient or modern), geography, anthropology and even forensic biology (In the hope that it will be seen as a science and therefore protected?). Is archaeology a separate subject, or is it interdependent on others? A recent phenomenon, recognising that archaeology involves interpretation, is the application of postmodernist theories to archaeology, as to literature and to history: a development seized upon by those who claim that not only does archaeology have no practical use, but is incomprehensible as well.

Another problem is archaeology's professional status. In the western world many activities are governed and have their standards set, not by universities but by professional bodies. Law, engineering, architecture, medicine and professions allied to medicine are examples. If you want to practise, it is not enough to have practical experience or a university degree: you need to be trained and pass examinations set by professional bodies. A university degree may exempt you from only part of the profession's requirements, and professional bodies will not recognise university courses unless they comply with what the professional body thinks is required. Archaeology has not developed that way. CIfA accreditation at member level does not have entry requirements as stiff as say medicine, law, accountancy or engineering. Whether that is right is open to question: free-market politicians and some socialists see professional bodies not as upholders of standards but as closed shops and impediments to social mobility and as inhibitors of price-lowering competition. But other professions' experience suggests that rigorous selection enhances professional status, as well as protecting the public from incompetents and fraudsters.

Apart from impact on existing staff and students, what effects will closure of a university department have? One will be a reduction in the supply of information to people interested in the subject. Fewer archaeology departments will mean fewer archaeologists produced, which will mean less archaeology done, hence less information to the public. Yet at the same time there are said to be over a thousand vacancies in archaeology jobs nation-wide, almost as many as in the NHS. As with agriculture, hospitality and social care, the UK having left the EU seems likely to impede recruitment. A neoclassical economist would argue that demand will result in higher pay for archaeologists, which will attract more people into the profession – but that does not seem to have happened in agriculture or social care.

One possible result may be a shift of archaeology out of universities and into other organisations doing archaeology, be they local authorities, archaeology companies or even voluntary organisations. Constraints on local authority expenditure make an increased contribution from local authorities unlikely, but archaeology companies, many of whom already offer apprenticeships and other forms of training, could become trainers and educators as well as operators. That might increase pressure for professional reforms. Watch this space.

Black castles

The days of vernacular brick and tile are long gone, except perhaps in mass housebuilding, where old habits die hard. Tower blocks, like Grenfell Tower, tend to be clad in plastic composites. These days large new commercial buildings come in a variety of constructions. Most in our area are in subdued colours: beige, grey and cream predominate. If not inspiring, most at least are inoffensive.

Two new buildings in south Gloucestershire are in stark black. Both are hotels. One is high-rise, one low. Both are assertive and ugly, and in certain lights and weather conditions a bit sinister. Both advertise themselves in disproportionately large lettering.

One is the Village (sic) hotel in **Patchway** on the former Rolls Royce site east of the A38; the other is Mollie's (sic) hotel and diner at the **Compton Greenfield end of Cribbs Causeway**, due to open July 2021. No inn sign has as yet appeared. Eighteenth century specialists might like to offer design suggestions.

The use of black in buildings in our area has a longish history. Slag blocks, by-products of copper and zinc smelting, were used as building materials in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Local examples include the coping on the top of the walls bounding the **Ashton Court** estate, walls and buildings at **Warmley**, and the side walls of **Clifton Court** (1742), later the Chesterfield hospital. Atmospheric soot apart, only one surviving building was completely black: William Reeves's castle at **Arnos Vale** (1764). More examples, with photographs and background, at



https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Black_Castle,_Bristol, and

https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Copper_Slag_Blocks, from which the image is taken.

Will more black buildings appear in our area? Are we at the start of a fashion? Or, as the media would say, are they making a come-back? Civic societies will watch with interest.

Animals

In *How animals shaped Georgian London* (Manchester UP 2020) Thomas Almeroth-Williams describes the numbers, distribution, roles and economic and social consequences of animals in the eighteenth century capital. Although the media report more people acquiring pet animals during the pandemic (some estimates approaching 3 million), nowadays we see comparatively few non-wildlife animals in our towns except cats, which kill birds and damage gardens, and dogs, which

foul pavements and render sports pitches unplayable. But in georgian London horses in their thousands laboured in private and public passenger transport, in commercial haulage, as sources of motive power in factories and processing plants, and in pumping water. Milk sellers kept cows on site. Cats and dogs were kept to keep down vermin. There were legions of guard dogs. Smithfield market covered six acres. Drovers jammed main roads with flocks and herds several times a week.

Animals must have performed similar functions, and must have been similarly numerous and visible, in towns in our area, certainly **Bath** and **Bristol** and, once it started to become urban, **Weston-super-mare**. It ought to be possible to get local information from archival documents, public authority reports and minutes, business records, court reports, newspapers and so on. Families that could afford to kept one or more horses for private transport, whether for function or for show. Businesses large and small used horses to pull raw materials and to deliver finished goods. Wesley's local preachers rode to preaching appointments all over our area: the New Room in **Bristol's Broadmead** preserves the stable for the preacher's horse, and the statue of JW shows him on horseback. One wonders whether the **Hotwell** milk-seller poet Anne Yearsley kept cows. The Pneumatic Institution up the hill did. Street sweepings fed market gardens. Crossing sweepers were employed, at any rate in **Clifton**, to sweep away not just the dust.

Georgian animals are interesting for another reason, because it was in the eighteenth century that people started to question the Christian belief - derived from Hebrew myth and Aristotle's idea that everything has a purpose - that animals were created lower than, for rule by, and for the convenience of, humans. Only then did people begin to consider that ill-treating them was wrong. Anger about cruelty to animals rages in the writings of William Blake. In our area Hannah More saw reducing cruelty to animals as part of her campaign to improve morals in society generally. Several of her popular repository tracts, written from **Wroughton**, deplore characters who ill-treat their animals. Although HM appealed to self-interest – you get more out of your working animals if you treat them well – underlying her advocacy burned an emotional revulsion. HM's simple stories helped shift opinion in the direction of what later became animal welfare and ideas about animal rights, and the notion, accelerated by Darwin, that humans are animals too. Worth exploring further.

Monasteries as multinational corporations

Joe Bettey reckons that monasteries were the medieval equivalent of present-day multinational corporations. Analogies between the medieval and modern worlds do not always fit, because there are so many differences, both in how people behaved and thought and what they believed, and in the context. But medieval monasteries resembled modern multinationals in many respects. They were corporations, legal persons that continued to exist irrespective of who worked in them. Benedictines, cistercians, augustinians, carthusians and so on were brands. They were large and wealthy, certainly as compared with ordinary people, and several were richer than some large private landowners and warlords, in spite of the vows of poverty that some orders extracted from recruits. They held properties scattered over wide areas: St Augustine's abbey in **Bristol**, for example, held fourteen manors and owned fifteen churches. Monasteries were international in the sense that each religious foundation was part of an order that spread across Europe. **Bath** abbey, for example, was benedictine, the rule having come from Rome with Augustine. In **Bristol** St Augustine's abbey owed allegiance to the monastery of St Victor in Paris. Monasteries were businesses. Their manors at first supplied food, timber and other commodities for the monks' upkeep, and soon became producers of cash.

Just how widespread and wealthy the monasteries were can be inferred from Domesday, according to which in 1066 some sixty monasteries held about 15% of the land in England. Later endowments and gifts added to their wealth and their influence. In our area the numbers are impressive. Place names often reflect monastic ownership. In what is now south Gloucestershire at least twenty manors were held by monasteries or were controlled by churches. Examples include **Hanham Abbots** and **Marshfield**, held by **Keynsham** abbey; **Elberton**, **Horfield**, **Almondsbury** and **Cromhall Abbots**, held by St Augustine's abbey; **Wick and Abson**, **Westerleigh** and **Pucklechurch** all held at first by Glastonbury abbey and later by **Bath** abbey, which also held

Olveston; Aust in Henbury held by the bishop of Worcester from as early as 691; he also held **Compton Greenfield** and **Westbury on Trym** including **Stoke Bishop; Littleton on Severn** was held by Malmesbury Abbey; the bishop of Exeter held **Tytherington**, and Llanthony priory had a grange there; **Earthcott** was held by the Gaunt's hospital; **Hambrook** by the bishop of Coutances; and so on. You could draw up a similar list for north and northeast Somerset.

That monasteries and other religious foundations held so many manors and controlled so much land had consequences. It gave the monasteries wealth, not just for day to day survival and activities, but also enabled them to survive in the longer term and to build, and to buy further assets. It gave the monasteries influence simply through being landlords. Similarly where the monastery owned a church, through being able to determine who was put in charge of it and exercise local influence. it also helped continue the status quo, stifling change, innovation and development. Contrast what happened when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and forced surrender of their estates and other assets. That resulted in a redistribution of wealth which some historians believe helped pave the way for economic, political and social changes, including the English civil war. Plenty to ponder.

CAN YOU HELP?

This is Your Heritage: Stories from the South Gloucestershire Indian Community

Jane Marley writes:

South Gloucestershire Council and partners have obtained funding from Arts Council National Lottery Projects Grants for a pilot project to engage local accredited museums with the South Gloucestershire Indian community through co-production of oral histories, filmed stories, contemporary collecting, an exhibition, learning resources and a celebration event. Amplifying the previously unexplored stories of Indian heritage, migration, settlement and the lived experience of now will enable museums to promote cultural understanding amongst communities.

SGS are looking for people to apply/tender short term freelance contracts for 2 roles:

Community Film Maker (required part time September to December 2021) with the launch in March 2022 and the **Engagement Content Coordinator** to start in September 2021 until March 2022 with a little work between April 2022 and May 2023.

The project will be managed by the Museums and Heritage Officer (M&HO) South Gloucestershire Council with assistance of a Steering Group consisting of representatives of partners: Avon Indian Community Association, South Gloucestershire Museums Group, Yate Heritage Centre (Yate Town Council), South Gloucestershire Libraries and Gloucestershire Archives.

Application deadline: **8 July 2021**

If you are interested in obtaining the commissioning brief for either of these roles, please contact:

Jane Marley, Museums and Heritage Officer, South Gloucestershire Council 01454 865783, mob: 07808 364704; Jane.marley@southglos.gov.uk (Tuesday to Thursday); Alka Mehta, Avon Indian Community Association alkam_g@hotmail.com (Mondays and Fridays).

Video cameras for streaming online

David Hardill writes: Has anyone had any experience of using video cameras to stream online? I am hoping to purchase one, but not sure which one to go for. I would rather get something which will do the job.

David Hardill, Community Heritage Officer, Yate & District Heritage Centre, Yate & District Heritage Centre, Church Road, Yate, BS37 5BG Call: 01454 862200 or Fax: 01454 862200

QUOTE

History is not what you thought. It is what you can remember.

WC Sellar and RJ Yeatman, *1066 and all that*, EP Dutton & Co, 1931.

EVENTS DIARY

Events notified to ALHA's website manager are listed on the ALHA website. If you want your event to be listed, please send details or a copy of your programme to Bob Lawrence, contact details on page 1 top right (Please note his changed e-mail address). Please tell him of any changes of regular venue or timing.

Because of the coronavirus, events may be cancelled at short notice.

Links or directions to **online events open to the public** appear on ALHA's website.