

AVON LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Registered charity 270930

Newsletter 169 *15 December 2021*

Website: www.alha.org.uk

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

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



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Material for **Newsletter 170** by **12 noon 23 March 2022** please

Magazines and books to reviews editor,
Hardings Cottage,
Swan Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1RJ
jonathan.harlow@uwe.ac.uk

Details of events to website manager,
Flat 1 Chartley, 22 The Avenue, Bristol BS9 1PE
ALHAWebmaster@gmail.com –
Please note new e-mail address

Other news, comments, and changes of contact details
to newsletter editor and membership secretary,
5 Parrys Grove, Bristol BS9 1TT
wm.evans@bopenworld.com

ALHA NEWS

PETER FLEMING

The committee has received with great regret the resignation on grounds of ill health of Professor Peter Fleming as a committee member and trustee of ALHA. PF has long represented the University of the West of England and its Regional History Centre on ALHA, and has been outstanding in reminding us of the medieval and early modern history of our area and its wider contexts. PF has been a generous and amiable contributor to many ALHA activities, giving presentations at local history days, delivering the Joe Bettey lecture, and leading summer walks, particularly drawing attention to traces of the ancient city of Bristol not always obvious to the rest of us.

OLIVE WOOLCOTT

The committee is also saddened that Olive Woolcott has stood down as a member of ALHA's committee after many years representing **Keynsham & District LHS** and volunteering support for many ALHA activities and events. The committee has recorded its thanks to her, and is pleased to hear that OW will continue to help as a volunteer at events and as a link with **Saltford** Brass Mill.

MARGARET SHORE

OW draws attention to the death of Margaret Shore, widow of John Shore, also of **Keynsham & District LHS**. They were ALHA's joint treasurers from 1992/3 for some years, and MS was an active supporter of ALHA and attender and helper at its events.

ALHA WEBSITE – NEW ADDRESS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note the new e-mail address for sending information to go on ALHA's website, including the events list: ALHAWebmaster@gmail.com

ALHA COMMITTEE

The executive committee has continued to meet online. The committee has now entered into a contract with Community Sites for the provision, hosting and maintenance of the new website. Some investment has been sold in order to pay for the work, ALHA's largest ever single item of expenditure. Thanks to ALHA trustee Jennifer Muller, some Bristol University students are likely to offer help with the existing website and ALHA's facebook page, managed by ALHA trustee Veronica Bowerman. The committee continues to anguish over the next local history day: discussion took up a large part of the last committee meeting. The intention has been to try to carry forward the day previously planned, on the topic of experiences of the civilian population in wartime. Some of the speakers previously lined up have agreed to speak; others have declined or are uncertain about committing. Possibilities being discussed by the committee include a shorter day, with fewer speakers, thought possibly to be more attractive to attenders who might have coronavirus reservations about attending a full day but see less risk at a half-day event; premises, including audiovisual options, hearing loops and IT support; the need for volunteers to assist with stewarding and giving information to attenders on the day; a limit on the numbers attending, which may be necessary if venues impose anti-virus restrictions; whether sponsorship should be sought; and the financial implications and risks of each option. The main problem remains uncertainty about anti-virus restrictions and government requirements.

WEBSITE IMAGES

Bob Lawrence writes: With the appointment of Community Sites as the designers of the new ALHA website, we are currently looking for illustrations that we can use in the design. These can be photographs, drawings or paintings, and should ideally be available without any copyright restrictions or royalty payment. We hope they will together represent the whole of our geographic area, and include both local history and archaeology. Please send your suggestions to the current webmaster Bob Lawrence at roblawr1944@gmail.com.

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2022

Bob Lawrence writes: Although the coronavirus situation changes daily, we are still hoping to hold a Local History Day in Spring 2022. This will be largely the programme entitled *Conflict in the west: war and the civilian population*. However, we need volunteers to help with the organisation on the day itself, and need everyone from people to chair speakers to others to help visitors find the toilets and help the treasurer sell books and collect money. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Bob Lawrence at roblawr1944@googlemail.com.

ALHA ANNUAL LECTURE 2021

Following the annual general meeting, the annual ALHA lecture was given by Dr Richard Stone, Lecturer in the History Department at the University of Bristol [image University of Bristol]. He titled his talk *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants, Holding a Laptop: Researching Bristol's History in the 21st Century*. A summary follows.



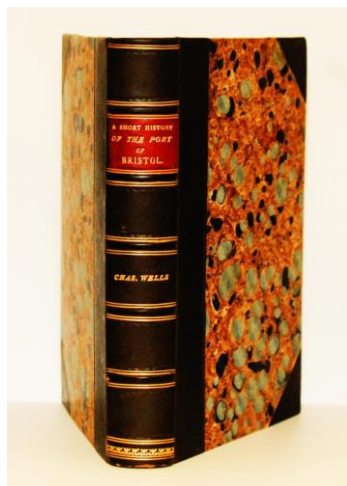
Just as Isaac Newton's discoveries depended on work done by earlier scientists, so present-day historians build upon what other historians have discovered before. One difference is that present-day historians have the advantages of digital technologies: they can take digital photographs of documents in archives; they can count, sort and analyse data using computerised spreadsheets; they can get access to datasets and digitised texts, eg those published by Bristol Record Society; they can get information from anywhere in the world; and they can do so quickly.

RS illustrated the above propositions with three examples of research he had undertaken using digital technologies:

- Taking data from the Port Books in The National Archives to measure the development of Bristol's trade in the mid C17, from which he concluded that the period of development was much earlier than had previously been thought;
- Taking similar data from customs records showing that, notwithstanding legal prohibitions, when England was at war with Spain 1585-1604 Bristol merchants traded with the enemy;
- With help from independent researchers, amateur enquirers and family historians, building a Bristol and slavery database.

Development of Bristol trade in the mid C17

The Port Books, totalling some 120 folios, are in TNA at Kew. They record every consignment of goods into and out England. Computers allow the researcher to marshal the data into a form that remains can be supplemented by information from local wharfage books for years for which port



books have not survived. The analyses can be displayed in bar charts, showing that between 1636 and 1671, that is, before Bristol became involved in the slave trade in 1698, Bristol's trade grew from about £100,000 a year to over £600,000. The data can be put into a pie chart to show how that trade was split into some 15 markets. Trade with Ireland, Spain and France was much the same each year, but in 1654-5 imports from France fell to 4%, and from Ireland to 20%, with a huge inflow from the Caribbean and the Chesapeake. By the end of the decade half of Bristol's trade was with the colonies. In the 1670s more than 60% of Bristol's trade was coming from the Chesapeake, mostly tobacco and brown sugar. On the export side, 116 different entries show that exports to America of manufactured goods – hats, lead, wheels etc – accounted for 79% of exports. This will have boosted the development of crafts and industries in Bristol and its hinterland. The important point disclosed by the data, which it would have been slow

and difficult to reach without using computers, is that the big development in Bristol's trade occurred some 50 years earlier than historians had previously thought.

Trading with the enemy

Data from the port books and wharfage books show that in spite of England being at war with Spain 1563-1608, there was no decline in trade, which rose from £12k in 1563 to £34k in 1600. Some of that can be attributed to licensed privateering, up to a third in 1595-5, but most of it was ordinary trading, which was illegal but evidently profitable. Computer analysis by region of Bristol's trade in 1600-1 shows imports from, but no exports to, Spain. That suggests that Bristol ship owners or captains were making false declarations for customs purposes. Bristol merchants probably had closer relationships with Spain than with London. Similar analysis of Bristol's exports to France 1600-1 show most going to La Rochelle but also to Bayonne and St Jean de Luz, close to the Spanish border. In 1594-5 most exports went to Brest and La Rochelle. Bristol's trade with St Jean de Luz was particularly active during wartime, notably 1600-1 and 1624-5. [image of the port <https://www.bateaux.com/plaisance/port/saint-jean-de-luz-socoa-REFuQO3LE6mOdE>]



On the import side, analysis by commodity of trade 1594-5 shows goods coming in from St Jean de Luz, in fact coming from Spain. Analysis by origin of imports 1594-5 shows a cluster of places of origin around Seville, eg Cadiz. Seville was prospering because of the influx of silver from the new world: it would be understandable for Bristol merchants to want to cash in. Data for 1600-1 show Seville sending goods to Bristol. The inference is that Bristol merchants were declaring that they were trading with ports in France eg Toulon, but were in fact trading with Spain. In 1575 shipping from Spain was dominated by English ships. In 1600 English ships were engaged mostly in privateering or were transferring to neutral destinations. The conclusion is that merchants all over Europe were co-operating to make trade happen, irrespective of war.

Building a Bristol slavery database

This is work in progress. Some of the work, to identify SMV slavery links, is being funded by the SMV. The aim is to produce a database listing every individual known to have been involved in the slave trade, including SMV members and all local recipients of compensation on abolition. A computerised database makes it easy to identify and eliminate duplicates in the written records, and to identify those individuals with incomplete records where further enquiries are needed. The database includes columns for various descriptions, eg MPs, common council members, mayors, sheriffs, apprentices and masters. The intention is to put the database online with open access, and to enable people to add information of their own.



Findings so far include:

- a. Of the 806 members of the SMV between its foundation and the abolition of slavery, 88 were involved in the slave trade, out of a Bristol total of 571 so involved.
- b. 930 voyages involved SMV members out of a Bristol total of 27,731.
- c. Not all SMV members were in the slave trade. Many Bristol people who were not SMV members were involved.
- d. As to slave ownership, on abolition 8 SMV members received compensation,

out of a Bristol total of 95. 56 SMV members' claims for compensation totalled £134,904. Total awards to Bristol owners amounted to £410,831. Claims were for 8824 enslaved people. SMV members accounted for only a third of Bristol owners/claimants/recipients of compensation.

e. The database makes it easier to link with the slave registers, and thus to write the histories of individuals. [image SMV]

Money conversions

For converting 1834 sums to modern values RS suggested use of the <https://www.measuringworth.com/> website, which offers conversions by reference to the retail prices index, average earnings, and percentage of gross domestic product. The SMV's members' payments would approximate to £13.3m using RPI, £122m using average earnings, and £618m using percentage of GDP. Total Bristol payments would equate to 340m using RPI, £371m using average earnings, and £1.88 billion using percentage of GDP. Whichever method is used, the conclusion is that members of the SMV owned only a fraction of the total number of slaves owned by Bristol people.

One consequence of the compensation payments on abolition was to inject capital into the economy of the Bristol region. That kick-started industrial development in Bristol, particularly in railways during the 1840s, but also in a range of other industries.

RS also looked at the involvement of SMV members in abolition. Three members, Robert Bruce, James Harford and William P Lunall subscribed to Olauda Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*. Lunall, member of the SMV in 1812 and a merchant and sugar refiner, was a member of the Bristol Abolition Society committee in 1788, and later chaired the Abolition Society. Bristol was a complex community, with abolitionists working with and alongside the pro-slavery lobby. Discoveries of this sort would not have been possible without use of computerised spreadsheets.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

BRISTOL ARCHIVES VIRUS CLOSURE

The searchroom at **Bristol Archives** will close from **Tuesday 14 December**. 'Following the recent Government advice on home working and the increased security around the Omicron variant, we have decided to close our public searchroom. We aim to reopen to the public as normal after Christmas on **Tuesday 4 January 2022**. Our remote enquiry service, copy order service and paid research service will remain open throughout this period, with the exception of public bank holidays at Christmas and New Year. Please contact us if you cannot postpone your research requirements until January and we will try to accommodate your request.'

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives/>

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES

Gloucestershire Archives remains open at the time this newsletter goes to printer. 'We will close to the public on **24 December at 4.30pm**, reopening on **4 January 2022 at 9am**. Customers wishing to visit during the first week of January, please send in your pre-orders as soon as possible, no later than **24 December 2021**. <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/>

BATH ARCHIVES

Bath Archives is similarly closed **24 December to 4 January 2022**:

<https://www.batharchives.co.uk/visit>

SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE

Somerset Heritage Centre will also close **24 December to 4 January**; it continues with limited opening, **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only**. Morning or afternoon slots only, booking required: <https://swheritage.org.uk/archives-reopening-information/>

1921 CENSUS

The National Archives announces: 'Two regional hubs will provide free online access to the 1921 Census of England and Wales from **6 January 2022**. The census will be available online via our commercial partner [Findmypast](#) and will be free to access in this way at [The National Archives](#), in Kew. In addition, visitors to the [Manchester Central Library](#) and the [National Library of Wales](#) will also be able to access the 1921 Census via the Findmypast website for free next year.' More at https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/regional-hubs-to-offer-free-online-access-to-1921-census/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_30_november_2021&utm_content=2021-11-30

REVIEWS by Dr Jonathan Harlow unless otherwise said.

The Women who built Bristol, Jane Duffus (Tangent Books Bristol Vol I 2018 £13, Vol II 2019 £13) These are two comprehensive compilations, (with a third to come we understand) and deserve credit for bringing to light so many of the women who are too often hidden from what used to be mainstream history. I apologise to our readers for having missed it/them on first appearance.

Having given credit, some reservations. The women are listed alphabetically, but a Contents list would have been helpful. There are several drawn portraits, but they seem to be in a very similar style – are they from life or what?

The books are listed as 'by' Jane Duffus, but many entries are contributed by others; and this makes for great disparity in value. Some entries are properly referenced but many are not.

The title? No-one will doubt the claim of some to have built Bristol, or at least to have made a difference to our history. But many others are included on slender grounds. I have not attempted a full survey, but of the first twenty entries in volume I, five left Bristol for ever after completing their education, and two lived and worked in Bristol but made no contribution to public life here.

Still, better too many than too few, and for all these reservations, these are valuable collections for anyone interested in Bristol history.

Journal of the Bristol & Avon FHS 186 (December 2021) This has all the usual and useful family history features. There is an interesting article by Ann Pople on 'Pophams Royal Tepid Swimming Baths' (1880-1970), a combination of press cuttings and personal reminiscence. And another, by Robert Parfitt, on the William Parfitts who captained west country steam packets, and themselves from a family of **Pill** pilots. General opportunities were narrower in those days, but it was usually not too difficult to follow in family footsteps. And a biography of the American George Frederick Ehlers by his granddaughter Brenda Rogers: not much Bristol connection, but exemplary referencing. It would be good if the editor could include a routine reminder to contributors that references greatly enhance the historical value of their stories – several other potentially interesting articles have none.

The Local Historian 51.4 (October 2021) has no articles of Avon interest. But there is a piece by Mike Deerbyshire on the 'The Present Value of Past Money'. This is an excellent survey of the various sources which attempt to assess changing money value over time. But like them, it seems misconceived, in that the question addressed is meaningless.

Money is a measure of relative value and a unit of account and a transferable quantitative claim. In none of these capacities does it work across centuries – or even generations. We have no dealings with our ancestors; and where claims survive as in the case of long-dated or undated bonds, they are worth simply what you would have to pay today for the same interest stream, utterly regardless of the face value when issued.

There is a striking example in one of the articles in the BAFHS Journal above. ‘One shilling [in 1778] is equivalent to four pounds in today’s money and would pay for half a day’s work of a skilled craftsman.’ (p 29) But £4 is about *half an hour’s* minimum wage for an unskilled worker today; and half a day’s work of a skilled craftsman will cost you about £200 now. I repeat the advice I gave in an earlier piece on this subject. When you come across a sum of money in a historical account, give its *relative value at the time in relevant terms*: so for the craftsman’s shilling, the contemporary cost of a loaf, of cheese, of beer or a night’s lodging. If you like, also compare with the price of a similar item today, eg craftsman’s hourly rate today; but for curiosity, emphasising how relative values have changed. And don’t indulge meaningless generalities about the value of different sorts of money.

[Richard Stone touched upon this in his ALHA lecture, summarised above, with a link (page 5) to a website offering different means of comparison. Ed.]

Local History News 141 (Autumn 2021) has a well-deserved tribute to the distinguished local historian David Dymond. And there is an article on ‘Looking for links between your community and slavery’ by Gill Lindsay and Violette Valentine, based on the work of the Evercreech History Society (not in ALHA’s area but in **Mendip**). Well, by all means. But please try to be clear what sort of ‘link’ you mean. There was hardly anybody in 18th century Britain who did not have *some* link with slave trading or slave ownership (distinguish these too). There are a great many people in Britain today who have some link with a politician or a journalist – but that does not mean they are all habitual liars.

[Again, see the summary of Richard Stone’s ALHA lecture, above, and the evidence that whilst some SMV members were involved in the slave trade and slavery, so were many other Bristolians. As a former chancellor of the exchequer put it when imposing austerity measures, ‘We’re all in this together’? Ed.]

History & Heritage Matters* 19 (Nov 2021) **Nailsea & District LHS**.

The second part of an article on local Enclosure by Margaret Thomas is, naturally, properly referenced but a map would have been handy. The account of Rock Farm, by Dave Sowdon, has both maps and references, and takes us well through the first half of the 19th century. To be continued – good.

* One of the most hackneyed title forms going (along with *The secret history of*) and often as here missing its point which works only with a singular subject. *Music Matters* for example both proclaims a subject: these items are about Music; and a proposition: music is important; while *Music & Merseyside Matters* only states a subject. But good for **Nailsea & DLHS** to be producing a magazine at all!

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS NOTICED

Melanie King, *The secret history of English spas*, Bodleian Library, Oxford, hb 224pp, colour illustrated, £25. <https://bodleianshop.co.uk/products/secret-history-of-english-spas-the> . [And see Dr Harlow’s comment on the clichéd title, above. Ed.]

John Orton of Portishead says he has been fascinated by the account of local press gangs in Nicholas Rogers’s *Manning the royal navy in Bristol: liberty, impressment and the state 1739-1815*,

Bristol Record Society vol. 66, 2014. JO draws attention to John R. Hutchinson, *The press-gang afloat and ashore*, available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/6766/6766-h/6766-h.htm#link2HCH0003> . Also at <https://www.hotfreebooks.com/book/The-Press-Gang-Afloat-and-Ashore-John-R-Hutchinson--4.html>

Corrine Fowler, *Green unpleasant land: creative responses to rural England's colonial connections*, Peepal Tree Press 2020, £19.99. <https://www.peepaltreepress.com/books/green-unpleasant-land> . Looks at literary as well as historical responses.

COMMENTARY AND RESPONSES

Reviews

Peter Cullimore objected to criticisms in Dr Jonathan Harlow's reviews in Newsletter 168 of his *Saints, Crooks & Slavers: History of a Bristol House* and *Pills, Shocks & Jabs: the remarkable Dissenting doctors of Georgian Bristol* (both Bristol Books, 2020 and 2021, £12). PC draws attention to reviews by other reviewers in <https://bshm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Pillspubpdf.pdf> ; one by Eugene Byrne in *The Regional Historian* (not yet seen); his spread on *Pills, Shocks & Jabs* in *Bristol Times* 12 October 2021; one by Rob Pritchard at <https://www.facebook.com/BristolHistoricalAssociation/> ; and another in 84 (November 2021) *Quaker Connections*, a magazine of the Quaker Family History Society.

History and References

Dr Jonathan Harlow writes: My proposition is that no writing about the past, other than personal memoir, should count as *history* unless it cites references to original sources, or to other work so referenced. There should always be an audit trail which allows interested readers to see for themselves the sources on which the account is based: at the least that there are such sources; at the best that they support the author's interpretation. Two case studies.

First, Latimer in his *Annals of Bristol in the Seventeenth Century* writes:¹

Whilst the Corporation was struggling with its pecuniary embarrassments a brilliant thought occurred to Mr Romsey the Town Clerk and was hailed with delight by the Council. Admission into that body could be gained only by taking the test oaths; but Quakers were forbidden by their consciences to take any oath at all. Nothing therefore was easier than . . . to elect prosperous Quakers as Councillors and then to fine them heavily for refusing to accept office.

Now this is a vivid presentation – what an air of jovial rapacity is conjured up in a few words. You can almost see the Councillors rubbing their hands and grinning evil grins. So Latimer's vivid story has entered the record. Russell Mortimer, the painstaking historian of Bristol's early Quakerism repeats it even down to the attribution to the Clerk²; as did Peggy Stembridge.³ Yet it is made of whole cloth. The interested reader may search the minutes of the Council and any other possible source in vain for any such scheming. In fact Quakers of standing were elected like others and like others paid a fine if they declined – and the Quaker fines were no higher than others. Latimer is *generally* reliable – and valuable – but how much better if one did not have to check any given item!

My other example is *The Widening Gate* by David Sacks.⁴

Aldworth and some of his supporters seem to have favored the Laudian or Arminian position in the church . . . Aldworth himself was a distant kinsman of Archbishop Laud. In the 1630s, he and some of his allies favored church beautification and church music in their wills.⁵

¹ *Annals* p 431

² Mortimer, R 'Quakerism in seventeenth-century Bristol' MA dissertation, University of Bristol 1946 p 346

³ *The Goldney Family* Bristol Record Society XLIX 1998 p 8

⁴ University of California 1991

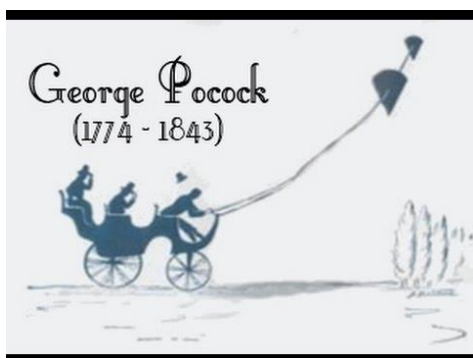
And Sacks' note 29 refers us to the wills of Aldworth and of just one other, Alderman Yate. If we follow these up, we see that Aldworth left all of £20 to beautify the family church at Wantage (and £1100 to various **Bristol** charities) while Yate had wanted a fancy tomb for himself. This may seem a slender if not a specious basis for the ascription of Laudian sympathies to Aldworth. Yet by Sacks' article 'Wars of Religion' this becomes itself the basis for the assertion that in the 1630s 'a Laudian party rose to influence among the civic elite . . .'.⁶ Now this is very bad history but, thanks to the referencing system, it is at least readily detectable as such.

The reference, for history, is like the repeatable experiment for science. Without it, there is no way to tell good history from bad or either from invention. If readers do check out and record the sources for themselves, then they, not the original author, deserve the credit as historians.

For writers too it may be a useful discipline to remind themselves of the evidence for their chosen treatment. Anyhow, it is not difficult to cite the evidence. It is so easy in fact that failure to do so implies either laziness or fabrication. Whichever, there's plenty of proper history to read instead.

Transport

Transport interests local history people for many reasons. One is that transport involves movement: people doing things, compared with much published history, especially in the furthest reaches of abstraction and theory. A more important reason is that whatever period you are interested in, transport can be relevant. ALHA's 2019 local history day at **Thornbury** included presentations on Britanno-roman roads, shipping in the port of **Bristol** in the 17th century, the dramway from **Coalpit Heath** to the Avon, and the **Clifton Rocks Railway**. Another day could have been filled with presentations on canals, turnpikes, postal services, IKB, stage coaches, trams, aircraft, Lodekkas, ambulance services, school transport, car ownership, commercial haulage and logistics,



travel to work, travel for leisure, balloons and so on. Another reason for interest in transport could be the variety of forms it takes: horses, with or without carts; boats; cars; lorries; aircraft; and now, for those who can afford it and consider it an appropriate allocation of resources, rocketry. Then there is the variety of fuels or other means of propulsion, as Dr Pococke [image Tom Mulligan] and Don Cameron worked out, and the different forms of infrastructure that modes of transport require, some of which have become part of our local heritage.

Transport also attracts because it has been so important for so many sorts of human activity (as well as one-off events like Lenin's single to Petrograd). Trade, distribution of goods and services, military operations, migration and other population movements, mail, colonisation and the growth and management of empire, diplomacy, sport, higher education, leisure: all depend on people being able to move around. Transport helps spread viruses, an obvious fact taken on board by bus and train operators but apparently not grasped by the intellects of airlines. There's also an emotional aspect to transport history, with elements of nostalgia, perhaps: a tall ship under full sail; the visual design of Concord; the sight and sound of a 2-8-0 pounding up from **Bath Green Park** to Maesbury summit; the atmospherics of a derelict canal, and so on.

Those different aspects are examples of how human activities and the environment are interconnected. Some of those interactions have a compound effect. Take football. Fixtures can be played only between teams within reasonable travelling distance of each other. In the 19th century the railways increased that distance for most teams, and made possible professional leagues and cup competitions composed of clubs miles apart. In the twentieth century coach travel proved cheaper

⁵ *Widening Gate* paperback p 234

⁶ D Sacks 'Bristol's Wars of Religion' in *Town and Countryside in the English Revolution* ed R Richardson (Manchester UP 1992) pp 100-129, 113.

than rail, and clubs adjusted how they got teams to away matches. Until air travel, European leagues were not practical, but clubs have used its availability to bring such leagues about. Similar changes can be seen in other sports. Once a defence of the ashes meant a 6 week ride on a ship, and there were few international matches: now some international cricketers are said to suffer from too many matches.

The combination of the coronavirus, the grounding of a cargo boat in a distant canal, and the departure of the UK from the EU have drawn attention to our dependence on distribution networks. Those must have started with getting produce to markets, and from suppliers to customers, but developed in different ways in different places, depending on the commodities transported, changes in demand and technologies, and local geographical conditions, leading to the present sophisticated computerised systems depending in the last mile on a human driving a van. As with football, distribution has created demand for transport, transport has developed and offered new possibilities, and users have exploited and developed those possibilities and so on.

For centuries people had to work within reasonable travel distance of home. The better off could afford a horse or carriage from a suburb or village into town, but for most people work had to be within walking distance. Trams lengthened the possible journey to work, and in **Bristol** were extended and electrified under George White. Housing and factories followed. **Bristol** was enlarged and its contents transformed. The advent of the car extended journeys even further for those who could afford it. That has had effects on public transport, roads, planning and the location of houses and businesses, and is part of our local history.

CAN YOU HELP?

IMAGES FOR THE ALHA WEBSITE

Please see page 2 above, under **WEBSITE IMAGES**. Please send them to ALHAWebmaster@gmail.com or roblawr1944@gmail.com

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2022

PLEASE see page 2-3 above, under **ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2022**. Please offer your help to roblawr1944@gmail.com

QUOTE

Our ... ideas are rooted in the poverty, inequality, and economic peril of the past. ... As a result, we are guided, in part, by ideas relevant to another world; and as a further result, we do many things that are unnecessary, some that are unwise, and a few that are insane.

JK Galbraith, *The affluent society* (1958).

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 the webmaster, 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.