



AVON LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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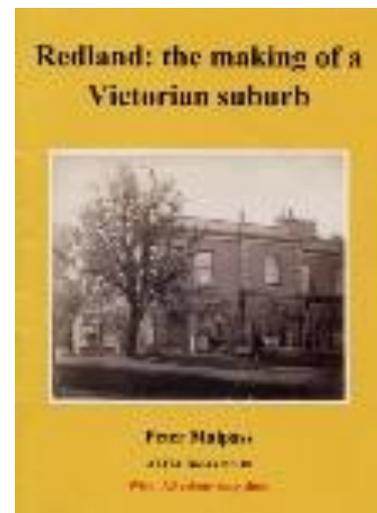
ALHA ITEMS

ALHA BOOKLET: REDLAND

ALHA booklet no. 10, *Redland: the making of a Victorian suburb* by Peter Malpass, has been out of print for some time, but enquiries are still being received, so ALHA's publications team has ordered some more copies. The booklet can be bought off the ALHA website, or from the treasurer, price £3.95 if collected or £4.60 post free.

CATALOGUE OF PRESENTERS

The committee intended to send copies of the new speakers list, compiled by volunteer Mike Leigh, to member groups and societies once they have paid their



subscriptions, from 1 April onwards. Mike has completed the work earlier than expected, and the new edition has been printed. As programme secretaries are booking speakers and are asking when the speakers list is going to come out, and there is no point in the printed copies lying idle until April, the committee has decided to issue copies now to those groups that have paid their sub for 2021-2022. One printed copy has been sent by post to the contact named in each ALHA member group and society's last membership application form, or to the last address notified to the ALHA membership secretary. If your group or society has paid its subscription but has not yet received a copy, please contact the membership secretary, wm.evans@btopenworld.com.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

AEROSPACE LIVES

Aerospace Lives is a community history platform with trails around the museum landscape, featuring archive material and oral histories: <https://www.aerospacelives.org/en/>

AEROSPACE COLLECTIONS

The Aerospace Bristol collections team writes: 'To find out more about our archives and collections visit <https://aerospacebristol.org/archives>. The archive reading room is open for pre-booked visits. The reading room will be open on **Wednesdays from 10am-12.30pm and then 1.30pm-4pm**. Normal museum admission charges apply. Our archive catalogue is available through The National Archives' 'Discovery' Catalogue. At the bottom of the advanced search page (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search>) select 'search other archives' and type 'Aerospace Bristol' in the box that comes up below. Once that is selected, any search terms that you put in will only return results for material held at Aerospace Bristol. Archive researchers may also be interested in the Aviation and Aerospace Archives Initiative guide. This guide provides information on archive collections which hold material relating to aircraft manufacturing in the UK and there are sections specifically for the Bristol family of companies. It can be accessed here: <https://aviationarchivesuk2.wordpress.com/survey-of-aircraft-manufacturer-archives-in-the-uk/>.'

The Collections Team: collections@aerospacebristol.org

And congratulations to the team on getting Arts Council accreditation:

<https://aerospacebristol.org/news/aerospace-bristol-accredited> .

DOWNEND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY LIBRARY

Longstanding ALHA member **Downed LHS**, founded 1971, wound up 19 October 2021. One of its assets was its local history library, consisting of many hundred books, maps etc. *Peris Jones writes* that **Kingswood Heritage Museum** has taken over the collection, has catalogued it, and will make it available to the public.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES CATALOGUE TRAINING

Kate Maisey, Archives Development Manager, Gloucestershire Archives has circulated a link to the online training in use of the new catalogue that was delivered by Claire Collins on 8

December 2021. The link is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FbH9-vBIGY&list=PL0MmQbMAGLWK45Ywd2duQ3yo8wPattMY_&index=4

KEYNSHAM ABBEY

Elaine Cook writes: ‘In October 2021 the Keynsham Abbey Working Group of ALHA member **Bristol History and Archaeology Society** received funding from Love Your Park Community Fund (a fund launched in July 2021 by Your Park Bristol and Bath). Part of this funding was for the development and launch of a website featuring **Keynsham Abbey**, its history, archaeology and current events at the Abbey remains located in **Keynsham Memorial Park**.

‘We are pleased to announce that a website has now been created and launched. The site can be found at: www.keynshamabbey.com .

‘Please do explore the site. You will see that there is room to add information in the form of future events listings and also in the form of blogs which can explore specific aspects of the Abbey’s history and archaeology or showcase recent events.



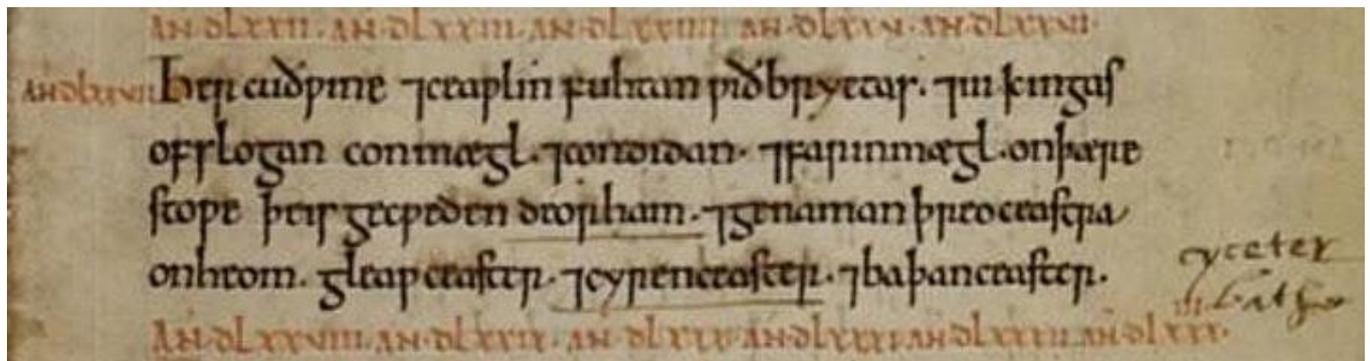
‘The remainder of the funding from Love Your Park Community Fund is for the creation of a new sign located at the Abbey remains and for additional medieval planting.

‘We expect to be able to give further information on the rest of the project within the next few months.’

[image Advisor Travel]

BATTLE OF DEORHAM

Newcastle University offers a 1-day online conference on **Saturday 2 April 2022: *The Battle of Dyrham, AD577***. Tickets are free via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-battle-of-dyrham-ad577-an-interdisciplinary-conference-tickets-230748323447>



577 Here Cuthwine and Ceawlin fought against the Britons, and they killed 3 kings, Coinmail, Condidan and Farinmail, in the place which is called Deorham, and took 3 cities: Gloucester and Cirencester and **Bath**. [Cotton MS Tiberius B I f.120r (British Library)]

SOMERSET ARCHIVES ON LINE TALKS

Somerset Archives offers a series of talks online, starting **Friday 18 February 2022 1030am** with Meteorological Office archivist Catherine Ross. From sorcery to supercomputers is the first talk. 'Discover the Treasures of the Met Office Archives with their archivist Catherine Ross. These include a 12th century illuminated manuscript discussing the shape of raindrops and the tender for the first operational Met Office Super Computer,' it says. Full details of the series at https://swheritage.org.uk/news_tags/coffee-time-talks/ . £5.00.Booking required.

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS NOTICED

Richard Coates, *Shirehampton sketches*, Bristol Books 2020, sb, full colour, £14.

'**Shirehampton** is a place of great and varied interest, both historical and modern. With its neighbour **King's Weston**, it has been a Gloucestershire farming village, a retreat for Bristol gentry, a destination for tourists to see one of the best views in the country, an industrial suburb, a major military centre, a place of experiment with housing of many different sorts, a beautiful place to play golf, and, through being the place out of which **Avonmouth** was carved, one of the most important middle-sized ports and specialized industrial zones in England. This book of 84 short chapters and three features deals with many different aspects of life and history in the Shire area, some well known, many tantalizingly hidden in plain sight, with much on historic local people, buildings and other features that you can see today when you visit.' <https://www.bristolbooks.org/shop/shirehamptonsketches>

Brian Vincent wrote ALHA booklet no.21, *The Herapaths of Bristol: a medical and scientific dynasty* (2016, copies available from the treasurer for £4.15 post free). BV recently delivered a talk on the Herapaths to the Bristol & District section of the Royal Society of Chemistry. They have issued a video of the lecture on You Tube: <https://youtu.be/MG4D-hH5hL0>

COMMENTARY AND RESPONSES

Money comparisons

Richard Stone drew attention in his ALHA annual lecture (Newsletter 169) to the comparison website <https://www.measuringworth.com/> . *Ruth Hecht writes*: 'I thought I'd follow up on the piece about how you make a relevant value of money from the past to the present. I imagine that this is the website which Richard Stone referred to: <https://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ppoweruk/> - this has a calculator which allows you to put in any sum of money for a given year from 1270 onwards and compare it with any date from 1970 onwards.

It will always calculate different comparison values, so in the case quoted in the newsletter, for **one shilling** in 1778 its value in relation to income in 2020 is:

- **£6.52** – the amount of goods or services you could buy at today's prices
- **£84.76** – the amount of earnings relative to the average worker
- **£92.93** – the amount of income or wealth relative to per capita GDP
- **£676.90** - the relative "influence" the person has in controlling the total amount of production in the economy

The website explains what all this means and which data they use for the various comparisons. Obviously the values are vastly different, and so when quoting in an article, the author has to make it clear which relative value they're referring to... and I would say that

both author and reader need a basic understanding of economics for it to be meaningful. It would be interesting to know if there are other tools which people use... and what an economist thinks of this one!

Money comparisons and gross domestic product

Using gross domestic product for comparing sums of money at times in the past with current values produces, as Richard Stone showed in his ALHA annual lecture, some spectacularly high figures. GDP has the advantage of taking into account all the economic activity in an economy that has put a monetary price or value on the activity. By contrast, yardsticks such as wage rates and retail prices compare only one aspect of an economy's activities, and in the case of the retail prices index are misleading because they do not take account of things like housing costs.

GDP however does not take into account all activity in an economy, but only those activities on which a money value or price has been put. So GDP ignores labour by enslaved people, voluntary work, unpaid domestic and neighbourly work, and forced labour.

So any attempt to calculate by reference to GDP the present day value of say, a ton of sugar imported into **Bristol** docks in 1780, will under-value the sugar, because the value of the labour that went into producing it on the plantation will not have been taken into account. So should we adjust the value upwards? If that is not practicable, because the price of a ton of sugar on the market will not have changed, should we adjust the total of GDP in order to reflect the value of the enslaved labour? That would give a higher figure for GDP, which would alter the price comparison.

A similar argument could be applied to prices and values in an economy in which women do unpaid work, such as looking after children or infirm relations, shopping, cooking, cleaning and mending, and managing a household, which in our area in the nineteenth century will have included managing servants in those households that had them. Should we up the figure for GDP accordingly?

Similarly where work is done by charities using unpaid volunteers, as in modern charity shops, food banks, the St John Ambulance, lifeboat crews and so on, should the total figure for present-day GDP reflect that? Ought the figure for the GDP of present day China be increased to take account of forced labour exacted from Uighurs and other minorities under the pretext of re-education? Should the UK GDP be increased to take into account the work of magistrates?

Such an approach sounds fair, but has its problems. One is the absence of comparators. How should we calculate the value of the work of an enslaved person on a plantation in eighteenth century Virginia, Barbados or Jamaica? Unless some plantation owners employed people for similar work and paid them a wage, which seems unlikely, it would be difficult to find a comparator there. So should we assume that the enslaved person's work is to be priced at the same rate as that of an agricultural worker in our area at that time? If so, would we be comparing like with like?

Nowadays we could try to calculate the monetary worth of domestic work within a household because paid comparables exist, such as local authority foster parents, social care workers, home helps, gardeners, decorators and so on, but did such occupations exist in Victorian **Bath or Bristol**? If they did not, how should we calculate their notional wage?

Another problem is one of definition. If you mow your infirm neighbour's lawn or put out their wheelie bin for them, ought your unpaid work be added to the national GDP? If you take your own dog for a walk and foul pavements and sports pitches, ought we to put a money value on that just because there exist dog walkers who would do the same for payment?

Leaving aside Michael Sandel's argument in *What money can't buy: the moral limits of markets* (Allen Lane 2012) that there are some acts or activities on which it is just not right or appropriate to put a money value, how could we identify, let alone calculate the value of, all the millions of little acts that we do for each other for free as part of living in a civilised community?

[For other contributions on this topic, see Dr Jonathan Harlow's piece in ALHA Newsletter 150, March 2017; an article by Roderick Floud in *History Today*, April 2019 69(3); and a piece in ALHA e-update 30 November 2019. Ed]

Colston statue removal verdict

Lawyers will have been surprised at the **Bristol** crown court jury's acquittal of the defendants charged with criminal damage in removing and disposing of the Edward Colston statue, reported at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-59892211.amp>. The facts were admitted by the defendants. All the requirements for conviction were met. One would have expected the defendants to have pleaded, or to have been found, guilty, and for the sentences to have taken the context and the defendants' motives into account, as appears to have happened with other defendants who pleaded guilty.

The jury's verdict is not the end of the story. The attorney general is reported as considering whether to refer the case to the Court of Appeal. That court would have power only to clarify the law – unnecessary, because the law is clear – and would have no power to overturn the jury's verdict. The government has talked about legislation to prohibit removal of public statues, but details are not known.

Juries acquitting in spite of the evidence has a long history. Some of the acquittals mark important developments in English legal history. Some of the events were connected with our area. In 1670 William Penn, son of the admiral whose memorial is in Mary **Redcliff** church, was acquitted of conventicling, ie preaching quaker doctrines to an assembly that had been prohibited by statute: they congregated in the street because they had been locked out of their meeting house. Four jurors refused to return a guilty verdict. They were imprisoned and starved for four days in an unsuccessful effort to make them change their minds. The result, via applications for habeas corpus, was Bushel's case, which established the principle that the state has no power to punish jurors for their verdicts.

In the eighteenth century juries acquitted defendants of stealing, knowing that if they were to convict, the defendant would be hanged or, in the early nineteenth century, transported. In 1979 a jury acquitted the former leader of the Liberal party, Jeremy Thorpe, of incitement and conspiracy to murder. In 1985 a jury acquitted a civil servant, Clive Ponting (a former **Bristol** grammar school pupil) of breaking s.2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 by leaking documents relating to the sinking of an Argentine ship during the Falklands war. Later, and into the present century, juries have acquitted doctors and relations accused of hastening the deaths of patients suffering incurable and painful medical conditions. The most recent example is the acquittal of demonstrators, some elderly, including one from **Bristol** and one from **Patchway**, who in 2019 climbed on a train in London to draw attention to concerns about climate change.

Because juries in the UK deliberate in secret and do not give reasons for their verdicts, it is difficult to guess and, contrary to assertions by the media and defendants, impossible to know, why in a particular case a jury has acquitted in the face of the evidence. Possible reasons include belief that the law under which the defendant has been charged is itself wrong; or that the case ought not to have been brought; or that there was nothing morally wrong in what the defendant did; or a lack of understanding of the distinction

between conviction and sentence, and the possibility, if the defendant is found guilty, of the judge granting an absolute discharge.

Meanwhile the inequalities and discriminations that gave rise to the events that led to the Bristol prosecution remain and continue.

Bristol Rovers

Bristol Rovers association football club is reported to be planning to move to a new stadium, yet to be built, on the site of **Bristol's** present wholesale fruit market in **St Philips Marsh**: <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/bristol-rovers-stadium-fruit-market-6283388> . Reactions might include, 'Here we go again;' and ponderings whether a food market is more use than a football club, and whether it would really be a good idea to site a sports stadium so close to the A4.

'Rovers' in the sense of wanderers is a not inapt name for the club. It started under the name of Black Arabs in 1883 and played its first matches at **Purdown**. The following year it played in a field at **Ashley Down**, and in 1885 on **Durdham Down**. In 1891 it moved to a cricket ground in **Horfield**, and in 1894 to the **Ridgeway at Fishponds**, and from there to **Eastville** in 1897. The club settled on the name Bristol Rovers in 1899, and has retained it ever since. **Eastville** stadium, which also accommodated motor cycle and dog racing, was the club's home ground for nearly a century. The ground became a safety hazard that neither of the main political parties on the county council had the guts or integrity to close down. In the event resort to legal powers proved unnecessary and the prospective loss of votes was avoided when in 1980 one of the stands, consisting mainly of creosote-soaked timber, caught fire, for reasons never satisfactorily explained. Unlike a similar event in Bradford, no people were killed or injured. Many people were surprised that the club's lease of the stadium, which was due to expire the following year, was extended for another five years. In 1986 the club moved to **Twerton Park, Bath**. In 1996 the club returned to Bristol, this time to the Bristol rugby football club's **Memorial Ground in Horfield/Ashley Down** under a ground sharing arrangement. When in 1998 the rugby club ran into financial difficulties, the football club bought out the rugby club's interest. In 2011 Sainsbury's the supermarket chain agreed to buy the Memorial Ground and lease the stadium to the football club. The idea was that the ground would be redeveloped for housing and a supermarket, the proceeds of sale to fund a new stadium to be built on the Hewlett Packard end of UWE's **Frenchay campus in Stoke Gifford**. After opposition from local people during the planning application process, in 2015 Sainsbury's terminated the deal to buy the Memorial Ground; that resulted in litigation, which the court decided in favour of Sainsbury's. The club, which then came under new ownership - <https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/news/2020/june/club-statement/> - and whose average attendance at home matches is about 6,500, now proposes to construct a 20,000-seat stadium on the 11-acre fruit market site. The fruit market moved there in 1968 from **St Nicholas market by Bristol bridge**.

Quote

A place belongs forever to whoever claims it hardest, remembers it most obsessively, wrenches it from itself, shapes it, renders it, loves it so radically that he remakes it in his own image.

Joan Didion (1934-2021)

Can you help?

Zip disks

Geoff Gardiner writes: **Whitchurch LHS** has 'inherited' a handful of old technology 'Zip disks' purporting to contain a variety of pictures and articles about the village and surrounding area.

Is there anyone out there please who still has any kit that will run these and who would be prepared to help us to find out the contents – or even possibly transfer any relevant stuff onto DVDs?

Please contact Geoff Gardiner at geoff@thegardiners.org.uk

Swastika at Yate?



David Hardill of *Yate Heritage Centre* writes: I would be interested in anyone's comments on this document. It's a complimentary ticket from the King's Cinema, **Yate** c1938-39. Some of you may be aware of the oral history stating that the manager was a known blackshirt sympathiser during the war. I'm not sure whether he was in place when this ticket was issued as it is an estimated date. I was interested to know whether anyone had come across across Nazi insignia in their collections or had any comments. clearly there were Nazi sympathisers in Britain in the late 1930s, including royalty, but I don't know of this sort of thing brazenly adorning tickets to entertainment venues. Maybe the decoration was more palatable as it was a continuous design, which had been used before? Was **Yate** just a hotbed of this sort of thing? <http://www.yateheritage.co.uk/contact-us>