

AVON LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Newsletter 152 *September-December* *2017*

Website: www.alha.org.uk

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

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Material for Newsletter 153 by 16 December 2017
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
lawrence@hazels.u-net.com

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

ALHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND JOE BETTEY LECTURE

ALHA's 2017 annual general meeting will be at the **Friends' Meeting House, Beckspool Road, Frenchay on Wednesday 18 October 2017, starting at 7pm**. Refreshments will be available from 6.30, courtesy of the **Frenchay Tuckett Society**. Notice of the meeting, and a copy of the examined accounts, accompany this newsletter, together with a list of the amendments the committee proposes to the constitution, and some notes explaining why.

After the AGM the 2017 **Joe Bettey lecture** will be delivered by Professor Helen Meller, formerly professor of history at Nottingham University and author of *Leisure and the changing city, 1870-1914*, which in spite of its general title is about the Bristol area. Her lecture is titled *How to live in the modern city: women's contribution in Bristol 1860s-1930s*. ALHA is grateful to ALHA member **Frenchay Tuckett Society** for agreeing to host the event.

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2018 – CALL FOR PAPERS

The theme for next year's local history day, again at UWE's Frenchay campus, **Saturday 21 April**, will be around **religion and change**, broadly interpreted. We hope to look at how religious beliefs changed, how religious organisations changed within themselves, and how those changes affected local people at large. Our

area is rich in religions and their impact: two abbeys of historical importance; a battleground of the reformation and of the religious ferments on the 17th century, which both had political consequences; a hotbed of nonconformity in the 18th century, with Moravians, Unitarians, Baptists, Quakers, Independents and Methodists prominent, and driving political and social reforms in the following century. Sects (Lady Huntingdon's in Bath and Bristol?) have come and gone. Religion declined in Victorian times, yet it was then that it was prominent in public life. Church buildings have dominated our towns and villages for centuries, but not all are still in use and the uses of some have changed. Wesley's new room has been revamped, but Whitfield's tabernacle is at risk. In the 20th century we have seen gurdwaras, mosques and other buildings to meet the needs of immigrant communities, while St Werburgh's is used for climbing, St Paul's for circus training, and St George's for concerts. Highbury chapel, originally Congregationalist, became Anglican. Some chapels, in villages as well as towns, are now flats. Topics could include the importance of religious beliefs and practices at various times; how they changed; and how they changed the lives of people, places, and politics. ALHA invites proposals for talks, presentations and displays: max 500 words please to Bob Lawrence, Flat 1 Chartley, 22 The Avenue, Bristol BS9 1PE, lawrence@hazels.u-net.com or William Evans, 5 Parrys Grove, Bristol BS9 1TT, 0117 968 4979, wm.evans@bopenworld.com

JOHN BARTLETT, FISHPONDS LHS

The death is reported of John Bartlett, who for many years was the secretary and one of the engines of **Fishponds Local History Society**, formed in 1979 by John Bartlett and John Penny, both Fishponds born and bred, to promote the study of, and disseminate knowledge about, the local history of **Fishponds** and the Bristol area. A staunch supporter of ALHA, John, a retired physiotherapist, was active and productive in many aspects of local history, not least in organising and leading a pioneering survey of nonconformist chapels in the east Bristol area, as well as writing several books and articles about the history of Fishponds. These included *Images of England: Fishponds* (Tempus 2004) and a video, *The Fishponds story* (First Take). With John Penney he jointly authored *Bristol's Vanished Georgian Armoury and the Development of Armoury Square, Easton*, which he published himself. Fishponds LHS ceased to meet in 2016, when John stood down from helping to lead it. He will be sadly missed.

NEW ALHA MEMBER – PILNING & SEVERN BEACH HISTORY GROUP

Welcome to **Pilning and Severn Beach History Group**. ALHA's newest member has 60 members and is collecting photographs of the **Pilning/Northwick/Severn Beach** area. Secretary Mrs Val George, 132 Beach Road, Severn Beach BS35 4PQ; 01454 632 287; psbhistorygroup@gmail.com.

ALHA BOOKS – CHANGE OF STOCKHOLDER

Peter Malpass having stood down as a member of ALHA's executive committee and as holder and distributor of ALHA books (edited by Dr Jonathan Harlow), the treasurer will hold the stock of ALHA books until a new stockholder volunteers: wm.evans@bopenworld.com.

ALHA FACEBOOK

Veronica Bowerman writes:

1 – THE NEXT MILESTONE?

Many thanks to all who helped us achieve our milestone of more than 500 fans for the ALHA Facebook page. Please continue to share any interesting posts with others in order that a new milestone can be achieved!

2 - FACEBOOK – EVENTS INFORMATION

The number of viewings continues to increase when ALHA member societies submit photos that epitomises their area or ones that relates to a forthcoming event and/or society logo if in existence.

nb You don't have to post to facebook yourself - contact us at avonandbristolarchaeology@gmail.com and we'll do the job for you and hope you attract extra visitors. **We can usually react within 24 hours to help you advertise local history-related events.**

Events hosted by ALHA e.g. Summer Walks and the Local History Day have benefitted from the additional Facebook coverage. The last of the 2017 Summer Walks at Clevedon in August was really enjoyed.

3 - HOW TO CONTACT ALHA FACEBOOK REMINDER

As always, the ALHA Facebook team is seeking to increase the number of visitors to the page. They welcome any suggestions e.g. copy and non-copyright photos. The latter should be submitted as jpegs to the dedicated ALHA Facebook email. avonandbristolarchaeology@gmail.com

EVENTS AND SOURCES

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY – SODBURY AREA

Philip Baker writes: Researching the social history of the three **Sodbury** parishes provides a good excuse for writing about, and even visiting, some of their numerous pubs. The Cross Hands hotel in **Old Sodbury**, which is situated next to the A46 to the east of the main village, is a former posting house with a history that can be traced back to the fourteenth century. The building takes its name from the inscription on an ancient coin that was found in the nearby Roman encampment in **Little Sodbury**, and during the seventeenth century its cellars were used to house criminals convicted by ‘Bloody’ Judge Jeffreys. The local court of petty sessions was convened well into the nineteenth century in what is now the hotel’s main dining room, and friendly societies used the venue for their meetings in the early 1800s. The building served as a post office during the mid-nineteenth century and was also a working farmhouse on the Beaufort estate into the early decades of the twentieth century. Fortunately, it retained its licence throughout this period as the Cross Hands proved a popular ‘watering hole’ for the many navvies who built the local section of the Wootton Bassett to Bristol **Patchway** railway line and tunnel. Another **Old Sodbury** pub, The Dog on the Badminton Road in the village centre, was also frequented by the navvies, where the barman allegedly saved time serving his thirsty customers by dipping mugs into a bath of ale! Although many UK pubs maintain that Queen Elizabeth I once stayed under their roof, the Cross Hands has a very genuine claim to fame in terms of royal visitors. On the evening of 13 December 1981,

over 100 people packed into the building when motorists were forced to abandon their cars and seek shelter during a blizzard, one of whom was Queen Elizabeth II. Unable to drive back to Windsor Castle after visiting Princess Anne at Gatcombe Park, the Queen and a small royal entourage were forced to make an extremely rare unscheduled stop at the hotel for some seven hours. To keep her presence unknown to all but the staff of the Cross Hands, the Queen entered the building via the service steps, which also served as the fire escape, and ate her dinner – allegedly chicken liver pâté and Dover sole, washed down with a gin and tonic – in the manager’s private apartment. The Queen left the hotel just before midnight but her visit is celebrated in a commemorative plaque in the building, where guests can still ask to stay in the room that was once fit for a queen. I will be finishing off my work on the social history of the Sodburies over the next few months, after which I will be leaving the VCH, somewhat reluctantly, in order to concentrate on other work commitments. Although my time working for the project has been only fairly brief, it has been an immensely enjoyable and educational experience, learning much about an area of the country that was relatively unknown to me. I wish my fellow editors, the volunteers and everyone else associated with the VCH Gloucestershire Academy my very best wishes for the future, and I much look forward to seeing the planned VCH ‘Short’ and red book volumes in print over the next few years.

THORNBURY MUSEUM has an exhibition, ‘*Curious works and stately lodgings*’: *the art of Thornbury castle*, **until 22 December 2017**. 4 Chapel Street, **Thornbury**, BS35 2BJ, Tuesday to Friday 1pm to 4pm, Saturdays: 10am to 4pm. Free. More at <http://www.thornburymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/>

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM

Jane Marley writes: You are invited to the next South Gloucestershire Heritage Partnership Meeting: Local Heritage and Public Engagement on **Friday 13 October 2017 at Emersons Green Village Hall**. The meeting is about ways in which local town, parish and area councils and heritage organisations can engage the public with their local heritage. This is an opportunity for you to hear about examples of good practice and to talk about and share how you engage the public with your local heritage through questions and the lunch break. In a response to a request for more time for networking, this meeting has been arranged over the lunch hour. Please bring a packed lunch and drink (tea and coffee will be provided) or buy a sandwich at a nearby supermarket on the day. Topics include industrial heritage support networks; ways to add to Know

Your Place; Page Park, **Staple Hill**; Whitfield tabernacle, **Kingswood**; public engagement projects at **Kingswood Heritage museum**; and **Thornbury** heritage trails. If you wish to attend, please e-mail Jane.Marley@southglos.gov.uk for an Eventbrite invitation.

A FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Latest from **Severnside** at <http://mailchi.mp/c1a67f269bd7/9ra2vzxib8-1326197>
Emma Cross, HLF Project Assistant, A Forgotten Landscape, South Gloucestershire Council 01454 864265
<http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/>. Our new Tuesday Talk series will be held at **St Peter's Church, Cross Hands Rd, Pilning BS35 4JB**. All talks start at 7:30 and run for about an hour. They are FREE but you MUST [BOOK YOUR PLACE](#).

WINTERBOURNE MEDIEVAL BARN TRUST

Latest events at www.winterbournebarn.org.uk and on facebook. 'This is a crucial year for WMBT, being in the final stages of a major bid for HIF funding, so the Trust is keen to spread awareness about this amazing building. To be successful in getting the HLF money we also have to raise £400,000 ourselves by December.' Next event is an orchard day, **Sunday 8 October 2017, 11am – 4pm**.



JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

Journey to justice is a series of exhibitions, talks and other events across Bristol throughout **October 2017**. The charity aims to explain and celebrate human rights movements. Several of the events have a local history content or connection. There are leaflets in public libraries and a full list is at www.journeytojustice.org.uk/bristol. Among many events of possible interest are archive films; history of **Knowle West**; Wesley and the anti-slavery movement; walks round sites associated with women campaigners from 1640 onwards, and with ethnic minorities and refugees; **Southmead** in 1948; Ava Vachell's Guild; and conscientious objectors in WW1.

M4 JUNCTION 18A CONSULTATION

The recent [Joint Transport Study](#) for the West of England proposed a new motorway junction between M4 Junction 18 and Junction 19 (Junction '18a'), and a link road to the A4174 Avon Ring Road. The scheme would help tackle congestion problems in the north-east fringe of Bristol and help businesses operate more efficiently, it says. The Department for Transport is funding a feasibility study by South Gloucestershire Council, who are consulting at <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/M4J18a/consultationHome>.

Two of the options would affect the **Pucklechurch** and **Siston** conservation areas, a landscape of some archaeological interest, and some listed buildings and their settings (a dual carriageway would go near Siston Court in both cases). Archaeological work in and around Moat Farm by CAT/BaRAS suggested the presence of a high status Roman site nearby. The full report on possible routes is at https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/gf2.ti/-/834018/29400325.1/PDF/-/M4_J18a_Link_Study_brochure_v_1_0.pdf The consultation closes **16 October 2017**.

REVIEWS by Dr Jonathan Harlow unless otherwise said:

Memories of west country railway journeys 1960-1962 by Peter Barnfield, Wild Swan Books (3A Upper Lambridge Street, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6RY) 2017; 120 pp plus maps; illustr b&w; ISBN 978 1 912038 72 5; softback £14.95 reviewed by William Evans

When a teenager, **Stockwood** artist and photographer Peter Barnfield lived in **Windmill Hill**. This book consists of a selection of the many photographs he took on railway journeys from **Bedminster or Temple Meads** to Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, with explanatory commentary, one chapter to each route. Apart from the sheer technical and artistic quality of the (pre-digital) photographs, they are of interest because they record the last days of steam and the change to diesel traction on main and branch lines; they record stations, railway paraphernalia and landscapes now lost since the Beeching cuts and later privatisations; and they record not just locomotives and rolling stock but their wider railway, economic and social contexts: buildings, bridges, engineering works and surrounding industrial, agricultural and architectural landscapes, as well as details such as seats, lighting, signs and so on. PB also evokes vividly

aspects of 1960s travel that those who experienced them will remember: rainy holidays, soaked holidaymakers, overcrowded and dirty trains, smoke-filled compartments, the noises and smells of steam, and the air of melancholy abandonment, neglect and dereliction that characterised much of British Rail in our area at that time.

Bristol Lodekkas by Stephen Dowle, Amberley Books 96 pages softback £14.99

If you are still exhilarated by Mike Walker's **Bristol Country Buses** from the same stable (*Newsletter* 151), you are advised to leave this one till your heart rate is back to normal. Nearly one hundred pages devoted to a single bus model, the Lodekka! It was designed by the Bristol Tramways and Carriage Construction Company and built by the Bristol Omnibus Company (I think - the text is not clear on this) with bodies by Eastern Coachworks of Lowestoft. The unique selling point was that it was, er, lower: the text doesn't seem to say how much but the blurb says it was a whole foot. From the 1950s to, I think, 1968, some 5000 of them were produced and saw service over all of Great Britain. Nearly 200 photographs show it in various modes and routes and years (the blurb refers mysteriously to 'the period covered here' nowhere specified). But there is no index and no contents list, so you will have to search for your favourite models and locations. Have fun!

Journal of the Bath & Avon FHS 169 (September 2017) has all the usual good things for those who are into family history, but not much, I thought, of wider local history interest. I enjoyed the account of a storm in a teacup on page 37 though.

Dr Harlow welcomes reviews of recently published books or articles relevant to ALHA's area and objects

BOOKS NOTICED

MJ Crossley Evans and Andrew Sulston, *A history of Wills Hall, University of Bristol*, Wills Hall Association, ed 2, 2017, hb, 112pp, illustr b&w. ISBN 978-1-78808-536-6. Expands and updates a first edition published in 1994.

BOOKS FORTHCOMING

Maggie Shapland writes: 'A definitive book about **Clifton Rocks Railway** and the development for the **Clifton Spa** is in preparation at the moment (me being the author), and hopefully will be ready for printing in October. It will be about 300 pages long and have about 360 plates, many in colour. Price is dependent on how many are printed. May be about £15. Contact me if you are interested, so I can get a better idea of demand.' Maggie.Shapland@gmail.com

COMMENTARY

Cultural vandalism again

Readers' reactions to reports of the destruction of a Jacobean plaster ceiling at 15 Small Street, **Bristol**, will range from indifference to rage. Many will feel sadness, annoyance or anger, or all three. According to media reports (www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-41109143 ; <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/developer-pulled-down-400-year-411431> ; (images below from *Bristol Post*) <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/destroyed-17th-century-ceiling-in-bristol-did-not->

[meet-criteria-for-listing/10023279.article](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/destroyed-17th-century-ceiling-in-bristol-did-not-meet-criteria-for-listing/10023279.article)) , the ceiling, which was probably commissioned by sheriff Humphrey Brown between 1607 and 1620, was substantially ripped out by a property developer, Joe Baio, trading as Midas Property Services, who intends to convert the building into student flats. The developer claims that as owner of the building he was entitled to destroy the ceiling because it had not been listed as of special architectural or historic interest.



Several issues arise. First, why was the building not listed? Bristol City Council and

Historic England will no doubt answer for themselves, if they still have the staff to do so. They cannot plead that they did not know the ceiling existed: it is well recorded eg in Roger Leech's *The town house in medieval and early modern Bristol* (English Heritage 2014). HE might claim that the imminence of destruction was not drawn to its attention: HE employs inspectors, but they do not scour the nation looking for buildings to list that might contain features worth preserving. The city council's position is less defensible: it ought to have taken steps to get such a building listed, long ago. As the building is in a conservation area, one would have expected the council's planning department to be alert to any development proposal and to have acted promptly. Since when has it been enough to assume that property developers will behave with cultural awareness, historical sensitivity, or a sense of public responsibility? One excuse may be that the city council no longer has the professional staff to monitor building proposals. Staffing cuts, against other priorities, have reduced the number of relevantly qualified professional archaeologists, architects and planners the city council (and many other local authorities for that matter) employs. Party political policies apart, lack of staff can be attributed to the public expenditure cuts imposed by the government in reaction to, or under pretext of, the banking-induced financial difficulties of 2008-2009.

Some might criticise the legal framework for UK planning which incentivises developers to do works to a building before it can be listed or given some other form of protection. Some consider that that incentive would be removed if the state or local authority were obliged to compensate owners whose buildings are listed. That would have made no difference in the present case: until a building was listed the owner could still carry out works anyway, and might prefer profit to compensation. Compensation for all listing

would be so enormous as to be publicly unaffordable. It would also be unnecessary and wasted in those cases



where the owner did not intend to do any works to the building, and would be abused by some owners who might try to get their building listed just in order to get the cash. The cost of compensation would deter local authorities from seeking listing, in much the same way as the requirement to pay compensation when a planning authority directs removal of the right to permitted development under the Town & Country Planning General Development Orders (ie development without the need to apply for planning permission) deters councils from issuing such directions. If it is accepted that private property is a necessary or inevitable institution of western capitalist society, it is fair that the public should compensate owners whose rights it restricts, in much the same way as a public authority is required to compensate those whose land is compulsorily purchased. But not every interference with private rights ought to be compensatable: examples include public health and other public protection measures; and even property-privileging English common law outlaws nuisance.

A more practical criticism of the law is that it does not prevent a building being damaged while HE or the local authority is considering whether to list it or to apply for listing. There was a provision to that effect in a past parliamentary bill, but that failed when time ran out, and the subsequent government did not retable it. *Maggie Shapland, below, addresses that issue.*

Another question is whether one early C17 ceiling in an otherwise modernised building is worth preserving. The mere fact that something is old is not by itself alone justification for preserving it, let alone preserving it at all costs. First, it is not unreasonable to want to improve living conditions, whether in a dwelling or in the wider environment. It is not unreasonable to want to demolish slums and to rehouse the residents in decent dwellings. If efficient and

safe movement of people and goods is thought necessary to society, road improvements involving demolition of old houses may be justifiable. Second, natural rocks are far older than any human artefact, but people do not object to them being quarried for building or for roadstone. So what is it that makes us feel it is wrong to damage an old ceiling? Some people make a fetish of objects from the past, just as some make a fetish of the dead. Some such beliefs are grounded in religion, or superstition, or irrational fears, or belief in the supernatural or life after death, but that is not so in all cases. Rational, as distinct from emotional, arguments in favour of preserving artefacts from the past ought to rest on considerations such as whether the item is unique or rare; whether it has historical, educational or informative value; whether it has aesthetic or artistic merit; and whether its destruction or damage would deprive people, including future generations, of the pleasure of experiencing and appreciating it. A consideration less often acknowledged is that much skill, creativity, effort and hard work will have gone into the making of many an artefact from the past. That is what makes the difference between age-old natural rock and a C17 ceiling. To destroy without good reason something that human work has gone into,

Cinema

An application for planning permission to convert the *Gaumont* cinema in **Bristol**'s Baldwin Street to student flats might provoke sighs, or suggest two topics for local history enquiry. More about student accommodation some other time. Cinema could be regarded as one of many forms of popular entertainment: dance halls and discos, theatre in its many modes, live and recorded music, pubs, social clubs, bingo, radio, television, videogames and the internet. Or local cinema could be studied by itself, in its own right as it were. You could start by mapping where cinemas were, when they appeared and closed, and why. Which were branches of nation-wide or overseas enterprises, and which were local initiatives or got taken over? Apart from film content, how much cinema was American-influenced? Did WW2 make any difference? Where do art house and film clubs fit in?

even a mere decoration, is to insult those who made it.

Maggie Shapland writes: The destruction of a 17th century ceiling in Small Street, **Bristol**, controversially ripped out by a developer before it could be assessed by Historic England, has prompted renewed calls for an interim protection system. See images on <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/destroyed-17th-century-ceiling-in-bristol-prompts-calls-for-new-protections/10023279.article?blocktitle=News-features&contentID=13634>

I signed the petition "UK Parliament: Give automatic interim protection to buildings proposed for listing" and wanted to see if you could help by adding your name. Our goal is to reach 5,000 signatures and we need more support. 4,488 have already signed. You can read more and sign the petition at:

<http://chn.ge/2x1Y2YA> -- Maggie Shapland: Maggie.Shapland@gmail.com ;

Web pages: <http://www.b-i-a-s.org.uk>, <http://www.cliftonhotwells.org.uk> , <http://www.cliftonrocksrailway.org.uk>, <http://www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk>, <https://www.facebook.com/maggie.shapland.9>

What about niche outlets like the one on **Old Market**? And what about the cinemagoers, their demographics, tastes and finances? One guesses that in **Weston-super-Mare**, with seasonal changes in population and demand, cinema finances and programmes differed from those in, say, **Bath**. And the stars: no doubt Archie Leach would have to be mentioned somewhere. As to the buildings themselves, their architecture alone is worth looking at. Did the same architect design the *Whiteladies* in **Bristol** and the railway station in Rouen? (No, but the connections are interesting). Then there is cinematographic technology, which could start with John Arthur Roebuck Rudge, a contemporary of William Friese-Greene, in his workshop in a cellar in New Bond Street Place, **Bath**. And cinema management, how they advertised, how they showed others' advertising. How

did local cinemas reflect and influence social change? Local authority minutes will record issues and changes in policy regarding fire safety and censorship, and local newspapers will report the arguments and name the fulminating protagonists. A chapter could be devoted to the role of the cinema in twentieth century courtship and mating rituals, though illustrations might be hard to come by for technical and other reasons. For those youngsters in the 1950s whose parents could afford it and did not disapprove, Saturday morning flicks (including a western, cartoons and an adventure thriller) was part of childhood, with a format as predictable as a chapel service, but more interesting. What about the impact of multi-screen cinemas, television and the internet? Histories could be written of individual cinemas, not least the *King's* and the *Empire*, mentioned by Mike

Not the gorgon

In 1790 when **Bath's** pump room was being rebuilt, workmen unearthed a sculpted roundel of a magnificent hairy face. The striking image became iconic: the University of Bath adopted it as a logo. Archaeologists have identified the image as being of the Gorgon, a fearsome character in ancient Greek and Roman mythology, whose mane was a nest of writhing snakes and whose stare turned to stone anyone whose gaze met hers. When Perseus killed her he avoided eye contact by using a mirror; he must have had his hands full. The Bath sculpture, which is similar to one found in York, was dug up with remains of a collapsed pediment, so archaeologists' reconstructions of the temple buildings place the roundel in the centre of the pediment.



The argument that the image is of the Gorgon runs as follows. Inscriptions identify the goddess of the hot spring, Sul or Sulis, with Minerva. She corresponded to the

Greek Athena, goddess of the arts and protector of civilisation. She is usually portrayed carrying a spear and wearing armour. Many sculptures, including one

Manson at ALHA's 2017 local history day. **Clevedon's** *Curzon* continues, under different arrangements. **Henleaze's** *Orpheus* operates from within a supermarket building. What happened when a cinema closed? What happened to the *Gaiety* in **Knowle**, the *Palace* in **Radstock**, the *Odeon*, the *Palace* and the *Scala* in **Bath**? In **Westbury-on-Trym**, not nowadays famed as a place of popular entertainment, the *Carlton* was demolished and replaced by a small pedestrian shopping precinct, only its name indicating what was once there. Plenty to enquire into, and much entertainment along the way.



found at Bath, have an image of the Gorgon on her cloak, presumably to frighten enemies rather than to advertise sponsorship. In the Bath roundel there are wings behind the hairy face, and the deep cutting of the eyes produces a stare, which was the Gorgon's unique slaughtering proposition. So the image is of the Gorgon.

Many lawyers would reject such an argument as too circumstantial. There are also several objections to it. The sculpture is now worn, weathered and damaged, so that it is impossible to tell whether the face is surrounded by snakes or just thick locks of hair. The facial expression, though powerful, is not fierce or malign. In both Greek and Roman mythology the Gorgon is female, whereas the Bath face is unambiguously male, with heavy moustaches over the upper lips. The facial type is Gaulish, 'Celtic' or British, not Roman or Greek.

Some scholars, recognising the mismatch, have concluded that the image is not of the Gorgon but of some other deity. Sul herself can be ruled out, because inscriptions show she was female and identified with Minerva, also female. One suggestion is that the hairy bloke is Neptune or Oceanus. Unlikely, because although any Roman visiting Bath

would have had to cross the ocean and would have wanted a supernatural ticket for a safe voyage back, why should a town miles inland honour a god of the sea? One suggestion is that the image is intended to represent Sol, the god of the sun. The male face, the penetrating gaze of the all-seeing eyes, and the ray-like burst of hair, all fit. One of the other sculptures found nearby is said by archaeologists to represent Luna, the goddess of the moon, whose image may also have been in the pediment of an adjacent building. It would be aesthetically neat for the pediments of neighbouring buildings to show images, one of the moon, the other of the sun.

If you believe history consists mostly of accidents – and our area’s past would give

you plenty of support – there is a further possibility. Could the sculptor, brought in from elsewhere in the empire because the British education system did not produce people with the skills needed, have been told to carve an image of Sul, but misheard and instead carved an image of Sol? If so, it would not be the only occasion of linguistic misunderstanding. The Domesday scribes, being French, had difficulty with the ‘th’ sound, so one of the English tenants in our area, Thurstan, got recorded as Turstin. Some present-day native German speakers have difficulty with the French ‘oui’ and the English ‘w’. And look at what the English did to Jerez, Gades, Livorno and Mumbai.

CAN YOU HELP?

Please see under **Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust** above.

Don Neal writes: I am researching recipients of honours and awards by the USSR during WW2. **JOHN RICHARD BUSWELL** served with the RAF for almost 37 years rising to the rank of Warrant Officer. For distinguished service in Archangel he was awarded The Order of The Red Star by the Soviet Union, this was announced in the London Gazette in April 1944. I have done some preliminary research and discovered that he was born (1912), married (1945), and died (1994) in **Bristol**. As you are aware, research on WW2 Servicemen is hard to glean and I wondered if there were any reports of his very rare award - (only 145 for the whole war) in your local papers of that time, and if you could help me. I am quite willing to cover any expenses or make a donation. I look forward to any guidance. don.neal55@gmail.com

DIARY

Events notified to ALHA's website manager to end of January 2018. January listings will be repeated in the next Newsletter. Venues for each group are listed at the end if not stated here. If you want your event to be listed, please make sure that you send details or a copy of your programme to Bob Lawrence, contact details on page 1 top right.

- 03/10/2017** **Kingswood History Society** Talk Jim Pimpernell - *The Dramway and Avon Wharf*
- 03/10/2017** **Yatton Local History Society** Talk Chris Bigg - *Bristol old and new*
- 04/10/2017** **Olveston Parish Historical Society** Short AGM and talk Meg Wise - *Heraldry and Symbolism at Thornbury Castle*
- 05/10/2017** **Downend Local History Society** Talk Mike Britton - *Images of change from the 1930s*
- 08/10/2017** **Winterbourne Barn** 11.00 to 4.00 - *Orchard Harvest Day*
- 09/10/2017** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bristol** Talk Barry Williamson - *Chasing red herrings*
- 09/10/2017** **History of Bath Research Group** Talk Cai Mason - *Recent archaeology of Bath Quays*
- 09/10/2017** **Nailsea & District LHS** AGM and talk Paul Hodge - *The history of Bristol Water*
- 09/10/2017** **Westbury on Trym Society** Talk. Professor Peter Fleming - *Bristol in the middle ages*
- 10/10/2017** **Weston super Mare ANHS** Talk Gail Boyle - *A day in the life of a curator*
- 11/10/2017** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Sodbury Vale** Members' evening -
- 12/10/2017** **West Bristol History Group** Talk Gail Boyle - *Archaeology, exhibitions and the modern museum audience*
- 13/10/2017** **Banwell Archaeological Society** Talk Colin Budge - *Gentleman's estates in the 17th & 18th centuries, with reference to North Somerset*

- 13/10/2017** **Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym** 7.30 p.m. £2 including light refreshments
Jinx Newley - *Bristol, a city of monks and bones*
- 16/10/2017** **Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society** Talk Mike Hooper - *Broadmead before the blitz*
- 17/10/2017** **Bishopston, Horfield & Ashley Down LHS** Talk Research Group - *The work of the research group*
- 17/10/2017** **Marshfield & District LHS** Talk Dr Matthew Spring - *Benjamin Milgrove, musical toy maker of Bath*
- 18/10/2017** **ALHA** AGM and Joseph Bettey Lecture at Friends Meeting House, Frenchay Common. 7 p.m. Professor Helen Meller - *How to live in the modern city: women's contribution in Bristol 1860s-1930s*
- 18/10/2017** **Western Front Association - Avon Branch** Talk Charles Booth & Kent Fedorowich - *Returning home to fight: Bristolians in the Dominion Armies 1914 - 1918*
- 19/10/2017** **UWE Regional History Centre & M Shed** Seminar. M Shed 18.00 - 19.30 Admission free Debrah Hutchison - *Geology in Victorian Bristol: curating the Bristol Institution, 1823 - 1872*
- 23/10/2017** **Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society** Talk Dr Toby Parker - *Recent research at S John the Baptist church, Bristol*
- 24/10/2017** **Avonmouth Genealogy Group** Talk Jean Routley - *The visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1908 to open the Royal Edward Dock*
- 24/10/2017** **Malago Society for Bedminster & Bishopsworth** Talk John Penny - *Planes, boats and trains*
- 25/10/2017** **Harptrees History Society** Talk Kim Thompson - *The work of the Churches Conservation Trust and local churches in their care*
- 26/10/2017** **Brislington Conservation & History Society** Concert. 7.30 p.m. £1 admission, with a retiring collection for the British Red Cross Hotwell Howlers - *Stoney Broke in No Man's Land - Songs relating to World War I*
- 27/10/2017** **Whitchurch Local History Society** Talk John Page - *Hannah More and the Mendip schools*
- 30/10/2017** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bath** Talk Roger Jaques - *The poor and the not so poor*
- 01/11/2017** **Olveston Parish Historical Society** Talk Eric Garrett - *The History of Olveston United Football Club, 1926 -76*
- 02/11/2017** **Downend Local History Society** Talk Peris Jones - *Mangotsfield society in the 17th century*
- 07/11/2017** **Kingswood History Society** Talk Roger Angerson - *Cleeve and Beaufort Military Hospital*
- 07/11/2017** **Yatton Local History Society** Talk Clive Burlton - *Bristol's lost city: the Bristol International Exhibition of 1914*
- 08/11/2017** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Sodbury Vale** Talk Jaqueline Wadsworth - *No news of Fred*
- 09/11/2017** **West Bristol History Group** Film show Clive Burlton - *Bristol's Great War*
- 10/11/2017** **Banwell Archaeological Society** Talk David Sebborn - *My brother Admiral Blake*
- 10/11/2017** **Stoke Bishop & Sneyd Park LHG** Talk Peter Weeks - *Stoke Bishop and WWI The men on the memorials*
- 12&13/11/2017** **Harptrees History Society** East Harptree Theatre. 12 and 13 November - *Twenty years of Harptrees History Society: celebrating more than 100 years of history*
- 13/11/2017** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bristol** Talk Chris Bigg - *History of Bristol companies*
- 13/11/2017** **History of Bath Research Group** Talk Barbara White - *Fanny Murray - the Bath girl who became England's most famous courtesan*
- 13/11/2017** **Nailsea & District LHS** Talk Jean Routley - *The carols are coming*
- 14/11/2017** **Weston super Mare ANHS** Talk David Dawson - *Archaeology and pottery production in the south west of England*
- 15/11/2017** **Western Front Association - Avon Branch** Talk Peter Caddick-Adams - *The Italian Front, 1917 - 1918*
- 16/11/2017** **UWE Regional History Centre & M Shed** Seminar. M Shed 18.00 - 19.30 Admission free Mark Hailwood - *What did women do all day in the Tudor and Stuart South West?*
- 18/11/2017** **Bishopston, Horfield & Ashley Down LHS** AGM and lunch at BAWA, Southmead Road, Filton, BS34 7RG
- 20/11/2017** **Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society** Talk Chris Bigg - *Concorde - Queen of the Skies*

- 21/11/2017 **Malago Society for Bedminster & Bishopsworth** Talk Peter Davey - *To Knowle by tram*
- 21/11/2017 **Marshfield & District LHS** Talk Alan & Jane Bambury - *The architecture, sculpture & symbolism of a Victorian cemetery (Arnos Vale)*
- 23/11/2017 **Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym** 7.30 p.m. £2 including light refreshments
Canon Jon Cannon - *Westbury church*
- 24/11/2017 **Whitchurch Local History Society** Talk Yvonne Bell - *Edwardian Christmas*
- 27/11/2017 **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bath** Talk Susan Moore - *More than family history*
- 27/11/2017 **Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society** Talk John Stevens - *Alfred George Stevens (1817-1875); the life & times of a West Country artist*
- 28/11/2017 **Avonmouth Genealogy Group** Film show Gordon Young - *To be arranged*
- 29/11/2017 **Harptrees History Society** Talk Terry & Jennie Stevens - *Tyntesfield progress and discoveries*
- 30/11/2017 **Brislington Conservation & History Society** Quiz. 2.00 p.m. M. Britton - *What is it and where is it?*
- 04/12/2017 **ALHA Executive Committee** - *Executive Committee meeting*
- 05/12/2017 **Kingswood History Society** AGM, American supper and Christmas quiz
- 05/12/2017 **Yatton Local History Society** Talk Marion Blackburn - *Arnos Vale Cemetery*
- 06/12/2017 **Olveston Parish Historical Society** Talk Nick McCamley - *Secret underground cities*
- 07/12/2017 **Downend Local History Society** AGM and talk Pat Hase - *Female convicts - women who were transported to Australia*
- 07/12/2017 **Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym** 7.30 p.m. £2 including light refreshments
Professor Richard Coates - *Dr Wilkins - vicar of Westbury and Redland*
- 07/12/2017 **UWE Regional History Centre & M Shed** Seminar. M Shed 18.00 - 19.30 Admission free
Helen Doe - *Challenging the Atlantic: Brunel's first steamship, the Great Western*
- 08/12/2017 **Banwell Archaeological Society** Talk Jonathon Weeks - *Medieval instruments part two - woodwind*
- 09/12/2017 **Winterbourne Barn** 11 to 4 - *Make a Christmas wreath workshop*
- 11/12/2017 **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bath** Talk Yvonne Bell - *Edwardian Christmas*
- 11/12/2017 **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bristol** Talk Terry Merrett-Smith - *Ration books to rock and roll*
- 11/12/2017 **Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society** Talk Verity Anthony - *Keynsham Abbey*
- 11/12/2017 **Nailsea & District LHS** Talk Garry Gowans - *The Christmas truce 1914*
- 12/12/2017 **Weston super Mare ANHS** Talk 7 p.m. start Derek Gore - *Recent work on the Vikings in the West Country*
- 13/12/2017 **Harptrees History Society** Film show Sue Giddings - *Show of vintage films*
- 14/12/2017 **West Bristol History Group** Talk and American Supper Professor Ronald Hutton - *The history of Christmas*
- 16/12/2017 **Winterbourne Barn** 3.30 £2 adult, £1 children. Includes mince pie and cup of mulled wine or fruit juice. - *Carols in the Barn*
- 17/12/2017 **Winterbourne Barn** 3.30 £2 adult, £1 children. Includes mince pie and cup of mulled wine or fruit juice. - *Carols in the Barn*
- 19/12/2017 **Marshfield & District LHS** Talk Professor Jim Davis - *The history of pantomime*
- 20/12/2017 **Western Front Association - Avon Branch** Christmas quiz and party
- 02/01/2018 **Yatton Local History Society** Talk Chris Short - *Congresbury church*
- 03/01/2018 **Olveston Parish Historical Society** Talk Jennifer Bone & William Evans - *Sir Samuel Astry of Henbury & Aust and the Glorious Revolution of 1688*
- 04/01/2018 **Downend Local History Society** Talk Charles Ashley - *For the love of maps - reading the past through the Ordnance Survey large scale maps*
- 08/01/2018 **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bristol** Talk Alan Freke - *The Fry family business*
- 08/01/2018 **History of Bath Research Group** Talk Jon Benington - *Clifford Ellis, Bath Academy of Art and his recent bequest to Victoria Art Gallery*
- 09/01/2018 **Weston super Mare ANHS** Talk David Brown - *"Out in the dark" - an introduction to bats*
- 12/01/2018 **Banwell Archaeological Society** Talk Gary Gowans - *Mycenae - city of gold*
- 15/01/2018 **Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society** Talk Peter Malpass - *Homes of the poor in Victorian Bristol*
- 16/01/2018 **Marshfield & District LHS** Talk Howard Burton - *Charmy Down: the history of a World War II airfield*

- 18/01/2018** **UWE Regional History Centre & M Shed** Seminar. M Shed 18.00 - 19.30 Admission free Julian Warren - *From pageants to powerboat racing: the film collections at Bristol Archives*
- 22/01/2018** **Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society** Talk Michael Whitfield - *The Bristol & Clifton dispensaries; healthcare for the poor in the 19th century*
- 26/01/2018** **Whitchurch Local History Society** Talk Mike Hooper - *Further memories of 1950s Bristol*
- 29/01/2018** **Bristol & Avon Family HS Bath** Talk Shirley Hodgson - *Family history - have we forgotten the basics?*
- 31/01/2018** **Harptrees History Society** Talk Tony Coverdale - *Avon Valley copper & brass industry, 1700 - 1750*

Venues: Please let us know if any of these is no longer correct

Avon Gardens Trust: 01275 371398; **Visits** Non Members welcome Booking Essential: 01275 371398

Avonmouth Genealogy Group 7 pm Community Centre, Avonmouth Road, Bristol Mrs F J Andrews 0117 982 3435

Banwell Archaeological Society 7.30 Village Hall, Banwell 01934 632307

Bishopston, Horfield & Ashley Down LHS 7.30 Friends Meeting Ho, 300 Gloucester Rd, Horfield 0117 924 5226 Visitors £2

Bristol & Avon Archaeological Society 7.30 Clifton Cathedral, 50p, non-members £1 0117 951 9613

Bristol & Avon Family HS, Bath 7.30 BRLSI 16 Queen Square, Bath

Bristol & Avon Family HS, Bristol 7.30pm BAWA Leisure Centre, Southmead Rd, Bristol

Bristol & Avon Family HS, Sodbury Vale 7.30 Community Centre, Shire Way, Yate 01454 882 192

Bristol & Gloucestershire AS, Bristol 7.45, Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral £1

Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society **Visits** Details Will Harris 01453 843411 Bookings Maggie Shapland 0117 736653

Clutton History Group 8.00 Clutton Village Hall 01761 471533 £3

Downend Local History Society 7.30 Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend, BS16 2RW

Frenchay Tuckett Society 7.30 Friends Meeting House, Beckspool Rd, Frenchay £2 0117 957 0942

Harptrees History Society 7.30 West Harptree Village Hall 01761 221758 £2.50 **Visits** £3 Booking essential: 01761 221941

History of Bath Research Group 7.30 St Mary's Bathwick Church Hall 01225 859 427 (£2)

Kingswood History Society 7.30 Park Centre Room 4, High St, Kingswood 0117 983 4692 £2.50

Knowle & Totterdown LHS 7.30 The Redcatch Community Centre, Redcatch Road 0117 977 5512

Marshfield & District LHS 7.30 Church Hall Marshfield £2 01225-891977

Nailsea & District LHS 7.30 Nailsea School non members £2 01275 463479

Olveston Parish HS 7.30 Methodist Hall, the Street, Olveston 01454 202011 £2

Paulton History Group 7.30 Wesley Hall, Park Rd, Paulton 01761 412051 £2

Regional History Centre (UWE) Seminar 18:00 -19:30 M Shed, Princes Wharf, Wapping Road, Bristol, Free

Stoke Bishop & Sneyd Park LHG 7.30 Stoke Bishop Village Hall Jenny Weeks 0117 968 6010 £2

Weston-super-Mare Archaeological & NHS 7.00 for 7.30 Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 620785 £2.00

Whitchurch LHS 7.30 Whitchurch United Reformed Church Visitors £3 01275 830869

Winscombe & Sandford LH & AS 7.30 Community Centre, Sandford Road, Winscombe

Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust The barn is by the church, in Church Lane, Winterbourne 01454 775008

Yatton LHS 8.00 Yatton Methodist Hall 01934 838801