

AVON LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Newsletter 159 *30 June 2019*

Website: www.alha.org.uk

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

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

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Material for **Newsletter 160** by **21 September 2019**
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.chartley@btinternet.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

JOAN DAY FSA 1928-2019



Tony Coverdale, chair of Saltford Brass Mill Project, writes: It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Joan Day FSA on 30 April 2019 at the age of 91. Joan was a tour de force in industrial archaeology whose research was linked with such people as Sir Neil Cossons, the former director of the Science Museum and chairman of English Heritage, Professor Angus Buchanan, Emeritus Professor of the History of Technology at Bath University and Professor R F (Ronnie) Tylecote, Professor of Archaeometallurgy at University College London. Although she had no technical or academic training, Joan's work was of the highest order and very well respected in her field. Her most lasting work is her book, *Bristol Brass* –

The History of the Industry, published in 1973, which remains the definitive work on the subject. As a consequence of this work, Joan was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1975. Joan also worked closely with Professor Tylecote, co-editing *The Industrial Revolution in Metals* published in 1991, with Joan overseeing the project to completion after the death of Professor Tylecote in 1990. Joan published on metallurgy in general and on copper, zinc and brass in particular, with papers in the transactions and journals of the Newcomen Society, the Association for Industrial Archaeology, the Historical Metallurgical Society and the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society. Joan went on to become a Life Member of the Newcomen Society and Historical Metallurgical Society. Joan also made a significant contribution to the Routledge 'Biographical Dictionary of Technology' published in 1992; her contribution comprising 11 biographies, and to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, published in 2004. Joan, and her late husband Roy, were most active in the industrial archaeology of the Bath and Bristol Region around their home in Keynsham. Joan was a founder member of the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society, founded in 1967, and was a lecturer in Industrial Archaeology at the University of Bristol for thirty-eight years from 1970 to 2008. Joan first attended one of the courses in 1964 which inspired her to conduct her own research. Joan went on to run the course from 1970 with her husband Roy and retired only in 2008 at the age of 80. Her speaking extended to the delivery of lectures in Belgium and Germany and she also contributed to a conference at the British Museum with a paper being published in the museum's Occasional Paper Number 50 *2000 Years of Zinc and Brass* edited by Dr Paul T Craddock. In the field of practical industrial archaeology, Joan's passion was Saltford Brass Mill. Joan was a founder member of the Saltford Brass Furnace Project in 1981 and was active in recording the evidence of what was then a decaying building. She was subsequently involved in the campaign to prevent the site's redevelopment and its eventual restoration. The building was restored by English Heritage in 1995 and thereafter Joan founded the Saltford Brass Mill Project to work with the local council to: conserve the building; interpret the industry for the public; and open the site to visitors. The Project continues to perform the work she started. Joan last visited the site in late 2018 and remained President of the Project until her death. But Joan's achievements were not confined to Industrial Archaeology. In her youth, she was an active cyclist and for a short time held the Western Counties Road Records Association cycling record for 'Land's End to Bristol'; in 1954 she knocked 1 hr 6 mins off the record, completing the 195 miles in 10 hrs 59 mins. Joan also held a glider pilot's licence and led pony treks in the Brecon Beacons with Roy. Joan was one of a kind.

ALHA NEWS

FROM THE ALHA COMMITTEE

The committee approved the charity's accounts for 2018-2019, which showed a surplus on the receipts and payments account of just over £100, and an increase in net assets of over £900, attributable mostly to investment growth.

No grant applications are pending.

Ian Chard replaces William Evans on the events subcommittee, which arranges the local history day and the annual general meeting and Joe Bettey lecture.

A new ALHA booklet, *The Butlers & the Coal-Tar Distillery at Crew's Hole*, by Brian Vincent & Raymond Holland, edited by Dr Jonathan Harlow, is ready for publication, and a flyer accompanies this newsletter.

The spring 2019 edition of ALHA's *Walks, Talks and Visits* list, compiled by Sandy Tebbutt, is now back from the printers. Light green cover. A paper copy will be sent to every ALHA member group and society that has paid its 2018-2019 subscription, and over 50 have been posted. If your group has not yet paid its sub, could you please arrange to do so? If your group has paid its sub, but has not yet received its copy of the speakers list, please tell ALHA's treasurer.

Sandy is grateful for feedback and comment on speakers and walk leaders listed, and is always on the look-out for new names add to the list, so if you would like to recommend anyone, please tell her: sandy.tebbutt@hotmail.com

In light of the difficulties in hearing speakers at the local history day at Thornbury Leisure Centre, the committee has asked the events subcommittee to explore purchase of portable amplification equipment.

The committee has discussed, but without conclusion, reports that some local groups and societies have reported difficulty in filling key posts: the disbandment of **West Bristol History Group** is noted below. **Frampton Cotterell & District LHS** however survives with a new secretary.

ALHA SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019-2020

Many thanks to all those groups and individual members of ALHA who have paid their subscriptions, due 1 April 2019. Early payment helps ALHA's cashflow considerably. Subscription rates continue as before: for groups and societies, £5 for receipt by e-mail and £7 by post; for individuals, £3 by post and £5 by e-mail. If you would like a bank standing order (saves time, saves postage, saves memory), do ask the treasurer for a form.

ALHA SUMMER WALKS 2019

Organised by Mike Hooper. No need to pre-book, but there will be a £2 fee (£3 for Thornbury) payable on the day. If you have any queries please telephone Mike Hooper on 0117 9775512 (mobile: 07443 229499). Rest of the 2019 programme:

MONDAY 15 JULY – OLD MARKET STREET, BRISTOL

Leader Mike Manson – Local historian and author

Walk Just outside the old castle walls: Old Market street was the original marketplace. A walk with a lot of history packed into a small area

Meet at The Stag and Hounds pub BS2 0EJ
6:45pm for 7pm start

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST – THORNBURY (Cost £3)

Leader Jane Marks of Thornbury & District Museum

Walk A guided walk along the High Street. See how it compares to Old Market, Bristol

Meet at Meet at the Museum in Chapel Street, between the Cossham Hall and the Wheatsheaf pub.
1:45pm for BS35 2BJ
2pm start

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2019 - TALKS

Summaries of some of the talks delivered at the ALHA local history day at Thornbury 27 April 2019 can be read and downloaded at the ALHA website, www.alha.org.uk . The talk by Dr Jonathan Harlow on the management of traffic in the port of Bristol is not included, as he intends to publish elsewhere.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

CBA FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2019

The Council for British Archaeology's 2019 *Festival of Archaeology* will be held from **13 to 28 July 2019** across the UK. Details at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/> Events in our area include

1. TEST PITS IN CONGRESBURY

Over the weekend of **27 and 28 July** YCCCART, a community archaeology society, will carry out a series of test pits in local gardens. Janet Dickson, 01934835055; j.dickson7@sky.com

2. WESTON MUSEUM



20 July, 10:30am - 4:30pm

Showcase of Local Archaeology

Visit our showcase of local archaeological societies, who are active throughout North Somerset. Come and find out about what they all do! Join the young archaeologists' 'Rusty' Club

and speak to some of our young ambassadors. Drop in and take part in some children's craft activities. Speak to our costumed demonstrators and find out about Iron Age spinning and weaving. Get your archaeological finds identified by our metal detecting expert. Find out about the 'Know Your Place' digital mapping project run by museum volunteers. In partnership with North Somerset Council historic environment team & funded by a National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sharing Heritage grant and Great Weston Heritage Action Zone. Admission to Weston Museum and all the activities are **FREE**

3. BRISTOL'S BRILLIANT ARCHAEOLOGY: FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY, BLAISE CASTLE HOUSE

Saturday August 3, 2019. More on the Bristol & Avon Archaeological Society's and the Bristol City Museum's websites in due course.

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, ST JUDE'S, BRISTOL



Roger Leech draws attention to consultation by Historic England on whether the Department for Culture, Media and Sport should list as of special architectural or historic interest the *Swan with two necks* public house, 12 Little Ann Street in the area between Old Market and the Frome once known as Crotwell but now **St Jude's, Bristol**. 'If it has now proved impossible to list and/or preserve no.17 Wade Street, then this is the sole surviving house of the approximately 560 houses built between 1700 and 1730 in the development promoted by Nicholas Wade. It was sufficiently noteworthy to be commented on by Daniel Defoe in his *Tour through the whole island of Great Britain* of 1724-6.' Dr Leech mentions it at pp.40-41 of his *The town house in medieval and early modern Bristol* (English Heritage 2014), reviewed in *ALHA Newsletter* 141, January to March 2015.

Image from Stephen Harris at

<https://pubshistory.com/Gloucestershire/BristolS/SwanwithTwoNecks.shtml>

SALTFORD BRASS MILL

The mill will be open **10am to 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays through to October**. Groups welcome by arrangement. www.brassmill.com; e-mail enquiries@brassmill.com .

RECORDING ORAL HISTORIES

Gloucestershire Archives offers training **Thursday 4 July 2019 9.30 am - 12.30 pm**. Do you want to capture the memories of people in your community? Do you want to learn how to gather, keep and share oral histories? Do you need "hands-on" experience in using audio recording equipment? We will look at:

- Project planning & oral history interview preparation

- Relevant legal and ethical issues
- Do's and don'ts of conducting an oral history interview

Book online at www.heritagehub.org.uk e-mail archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk; 01452 425295 **The Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin St, Gloucester GL1 3DW**

WEST BRISTOL HISTORY GROUP

West Bristol History Group, originally named **Stoke Lodge History Group** and a longstanding member of ALHA, has disbanded for lack of people willing to undertake key posts of chair, secretary and treasurer.

POSTAL HISTORY

Keith Wright writes: **Bristol Postal History Group** was formed to study the history of mail travelling to/from and through Bristol from the very earliest times. A postal service of a very rudimentary nature began in 1635, primarily to serve the monarch. In 1660 an official government mail service commenced and has developed and evolved ever since.

Our small group take a keen interest in the routes travelled, the rate of postage applied and the postal markings the letter has collected. Prior to the introduction of postage stamps in 1840 these matters were less than straightforward and not always consistent. In 2017 we published a comprehensive 4 volume book covering all these matters and the receiving houses (rather like a sub post office) that served Bristol - 70 in total prior to 1840. A few personal names do feature where known within the postal service but this is not a main feature of our publication.

Further details from Keith Wright 07542 163303; keith_a_wright@btinternet.com

WILLIAM FRIESE-GREENE

Victorian film inventor: Friese-Greene, film, **Sunday 28 July 5.50pm**, Watershed 2, £3.50; £2 concessions. <https://www.watershed.co.uk/whatson/9772/victorian-film-inventor-friese-greene>; box office 0117 927 5100 or e-mail info@watershed.co.uk

REVIEWS by Dr Jonathan Harlow unless otherwise said

No Swinging on Sundays: the story of Bath's lost pleasure gardens Kirsten Elliott (Akeman Press 2019, 370 pp fully ill. £19.99)

Kirsten Elliott has already treated us to accounts of several aspects of Bath's attraction for resident and visitor. This time it is the public parks and pleasure gardens from the 18th century to this day – for, despite the sub-title, the book ends with good hope for the future of the Parade and Sydney Gardens whose past has been so carefully described. This is a very well researched volume, as the foreword by Professor Chalus testifies. It is also superbly illustrated with two or three pictures to almost every double spread. And handsomely produced: paper cover yes, but properly bound paper of high quality.

Although it follows a well-known trajectory – at least for the 18th and early 19th century – it is from an unfamiliar angle and most of the usual suspects are not rounded up. Nash appears, but outdoors is not really his scene. Smollett mentions the Spring Garden, which his character is not even allowed to enter. Jane Austen says a bit in a letter to Cassandra. Herschel appears only as brother of the cellist for a garden band. But what is here is excellent and delightful.

So far the weather this year has not conducted to much pleasure in a park. But sit snug with this book for a pleasure at least as great.

***BIAS Journal* 51 (2018)** This is as always a feast. 'Bath & the advent of roller flour mills' follows up the story begun in the previous issue. In 'Alum – one of Bristol's forgotten industries' Julian Lea-Jones describes the business whose dockside premises closed only in the 1980s. John Penney has to be a contender in the Doyen stakes: and here he celebrates 60 years of fireworks making at Warmley. Keith Hickmann reminds us that entrepreneurship can mean failure, with a sketch of John Scott Russell (1808-1882) who engaged in so many ventures, always at a loss. Lastly Andy King documents 'Drag Boats &

Dredgers' in Bristol's docks. The articles are all well researched, fully documented and finely illustrated. Remember if you join BIAS you get the Newsletter too, so join at once.

BAFHS Journal 176 (June 2019) This issue has not got Pat Lindegaard who has for so long been so helpful to family history researchers. But Bob Lawrence is still there with his reliably useful pointers to on-line sources. And there are articles of more than family history interest – but alas of less than historical status. That is because of the general habit of not giving references. So an interesting article about Elizabeth Marchaunt has several footnotes but no references even for the will which the author reckons poses the big question. If that has intrigued any researchers, they will just have to start from scratch.

History & Heritage Matters 15 (May 2019) has a good 'Diary of a Dig' from the 1980s by Trevor Bowen, and a well-deserved tribute to Peter Wright. There is an extract from the Tickenham school log book of the late C19, marking special holidays and treats, with commentary; and an interesting article on an unusual C19 coal pit, Farler's.

BG&AS Transactions 136 (2018) is as usual welcome if, as usual, belated. Of strictly Avon interest, I noted with pleasure 'Robert Gyen of Bristol: C14 merchant, Crown official and swindler extraordinaire' by Robert McCallum & James Davis; and 'Victorian Clifton: a suburb of privilege' by Peter Malpass – definitely include this with his *Victorian Bristol* (reviewed in ALHA Newsletter 158). An appreciative article on Defoe's description of Bristol by Pat Rogers includes a transcript and an endorsement of his contemporary knowledge and just treatment. And perhaps we may claim the Bristol part of the story of Captain Henry Skillicorne who left the sea to found Cheltenham's spa, all told by James Hodsdon.

There is the usual, and useful, survey of the latest archaeological work.

Reviews include my own BRS volume on *Religious Ministry in Bristol 1603-1688* (so-so); Steve Poole and Nicholas Rogers's *Bristol from Below* (reviewed ALHA Newsletter 153) – enjoyed the local, reservations about national background; Maggie Shaplands's *Clifton Rocks Railway* (reviewed ALHA Newsletter 154), good if hurried; Chris Stephens on *Bristol's Australian Pioneer* (reviewed ALHA Newsletter 149) – recommended for the material; and Richard Coates' *Place Names, Bristol* (reviewed ALHA Newsletter 155), 'should become the first point of reference'. Note the ALHA Newsletter refs – you read about them first here.

Reviewed here but not in any ALHA Newsletter is Martin Crossley Evans & Andrew Sulston on the *History of Wills Hall* (University of Bristol 1917). As well as being a good account of a Bristol institution, this provides us with an opportunity to pay tribute to Martin C E, not only a figure in Bristol historiography but a well-remembered and much loved Warden of Manor Hall.

The Harptreenian 19 (September 2018) has only just reached me. Colin Budge introduces the 1721 journal of an early Somerset geologist, John Strachey, whose mapping of strata was much later drawn on by William Smith. Steve Ward looks at the 1930 report on road developments for the Avon area under the sub title 'So many missed opportunities'. Nick Roberts looks at some 'Historic Maps of the Harptrees'. Gill Hogarth profiles Eldred Walker (1867-1947), long time agricultural correspondent and a real farmer – short on references this one. Lesley Ross prints some oral histories from 'The 1968 Great Flood'. Jerry Dorber gives a very full account of the inhabitants of 'White Rose Farm' over the last two centuries. And Andrew Sandon chronicles the stopping up of a right of way two hundred years ago. Altogether this is a very good collection: congratulations to the Harptrees History Society and editor Nick Roberts.

BOOKS etc NOTICED

Catherine Hanley, *Matilda: empress, queen, warrior*, 277pp. Yale University Press, £20. Relevant to **Bath** abbey, **Bristol Castle**, Richmond castle **East Hartptree** etc during the anarchy of King Stephen.



Whitchurch LHS, *Whitchurch village memories: a third collection*, a collection of memories of the 20th century, **Whitchurch** LHS 2019, 56pp A4 illustrated. £5 from Keith (01275 541512), Sue (01275 834677) or Geoff (01275 830869). More about the society at <https://whitchurchvillagecouncil.co.uk/the-whitchurch-local-history-society/>

Susie Parr, *The Lake*, Henleaze Swimming Club, illustrated, £25. A centenary history of Henleaze Swimming Club (not to be confused with Bristol Henleaze Swimming Club). Book will be launched **Sunday 7 July 2019, 2pm-6pm** in the club grounds. Live music and a 1920s tea-party. Henleaze Swimming Club, Henleaze Lake, Lake Road, Bristol, BS10 5HG, <http://www.henleazeswimmingclub.org/>

Tony Cherry, *Thornbury castle revisited*, updated edition 2019, £20, from 10 July 2019 from **Thornbury & District Museum**, Town Hall, 35 High Street, Thornbury BS35 2AR, 01454 857 774, enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk.

COMMENTARY AND RESPONSES

Tied accommodation

Employers are not the only people to grumble about how difficult it is to recruit key workers such as nurses who cannot afford to rent or buy somewhere to live in **Bath or Bristol**. Simple souls might ask why the free market does not result in key workers being paid more. Local history people might wonder how important tied housing has been in our area's past. How much existed, and when? Were any of the miners' cottages in places like **Pensford, Paulton, Radstock, Shoscombe, Clutton, Hanham, Kingswood, Speedwell, Nailsea** and so on let as tied accommodation? For what jobs did employers provide it? Did it help social and employment mobility? Was it a means of social and electoral control? Was eviction frequent? What happened to the families of employees who died? Where has it ceased to exist, and why?

Some kinds of tied accommodation were common throughout England and Wales, but not all the time: rectories and vicarages for the established church's local reps; cottages for agricultural workers; rooms for live-in domestic servants; and later, for turnpike keepers, schoolmistresses and caretakers. Our area never had company towns like Port Sunlight or Bournville: did Cadbury ever intend a similar venture at **Somerdale** or Wills or Robinson in **Bedminster**? George White did not build houses for his employees at **Filton** or **Patchway**: they could pay him to get there by bus.

The motive for providing tied accommodation will have varied from one type of worker to another. For agricultural workers and domestic servants tied accommodation may have been the result of the practice of annual hiring, otherwise many employers would not have been able to recruit. Tied accommodation for farm workers probably grew as the manorial system broke down and inclosures made people landless: the lord of the manor or estate owner still needed labour to look after the stock and work the fields, and if the manor or estate could not supply enough labour one way of attracting workers was to offer a home tied to the job. Use of tied cottages increased in the nineteenth century; as late as 1948 a third of farm workers lived in tied housing; and whilst the number of people employed in agriculture continued to fall as mechanisation increased, in 1976 over half of all agricultural employees lived in tied accommodation. For domestic servants, it will have been convenient to have had them living close at hand. Turnpike keepers had to be there day and night to open the gates and collect the tolls, so on-site housing was required. In the case of schoolmasters and mistresses the motive may have been partly for recruitment, but also to ensure continuity of employment and hence continuity of teaching. In the case of medieval warreners, victorian school caretakers and gamekeepers it was as much about security and deterring trespassers, burglars and poachers as about recruitment.

Examples of houses that were once tied accommodation abound in our area: the Temple Meads station master's house at **Totterdown**; the turnpike keeper's at **Ashton Gate**; the farm bailiff's at Wallscourt farm in **Stoke Gifford**; the principals' houses at St Matthias **Fishponds** and **Redland** teacher training colleges; rectories and vicarages at **Horfield** and **Coalpit Heath** and

elsewhere; police houses in **Coombe Dingle**; firemen's houses in **Easter Compton**; and the bishop's palace at **Stapleton**, now the premises of a fee-charging school.

Except in the case of the higher clergy – deans and bishops were long provided with status-enhancing houses – accommodation has usually been accompanied by low pay. Historians a hundred years hence may marvel at how many children of families in tied agricultural workers' housing on great estates like **Tyntesfield** and **Badminton** received free school meals.

Of recent years the shortage of affordable housing, coupled with and exacerbated by government restrictions on the building of council houses by local authorities and the rise in prices and rents of houses and flats, have led some to call for key workers in low-paid jobs to be given tied accommodation, not always out of a sense of social justice but in order to maintain continuity of public services. In the case of nurses, there is local history. Bristol Nurses Training Institution, founded in 1862, provided accommodation for its nurses in training and for those it deployed into private houses, from its premises first in **Trinity Street** by St Augustine the less, then **Richmond Terrace Clifton**; then **Chesterfield Buildings**, then **Clifton Court**. In 1885 Edward Phillips left a legacy to Bristol Royal Infirmary, which bought Camden House, a large 18th century building in Terrell Street up the slope towards **Kingsdown**, and fitted it out as a nurses' home. It was enlarged in 1889, and added to by the acquisition of nearby properties later. The problem has not gone away.

Crooks Marsh

is something of a puzzle. It lies northwest of **Hallen**, and straddles the present-day border between Bristol and South Gloucestershire. In ancient times most of it will have been in the parish of **Henbury**. It is low-lying, flat, and with no natural distinguishing features except as marshland: it was part of the ancient **Saltmarsh** (Saltmarsh Drive in **Lawrence Weston** leads to it), the tract from **Avonmouth** to **Aust** and beyond that for centuries was mostly under water in winter. Part of it is now occupied by industrial plants on Severnide: some of it is now the Seabank gas-fired electricity generating station, whose plume of steam on a cold day has become a local landmark and an indicator of electricity demand; and Sevalco's carbon black factory was at the south end. Local sheep were grey.

In its natural state **Crooks Marsh** must have been of little use. Undrained and unpredictably inundated by salt water, the range of plant life it supported must have been limited. It would have been useful only for rough grazing, and even then, only when ground, weather and tide conditions allowed. There have been prehistoric and roman finds, but not many.

Yet an aerial photograph taken in the 1940s shows what looks like a cluster of ridge and furrow fields and farm buildings. The area looks as if it must have been farmed and populated as part of a manor with an open field system. Salt apart, its fertility will have been enhanced by silt deposited by inundations of the Severn. The flat, low-lying coastal strip from **Avonmouth** to **Berkeley** was drained in early modern times. By the 16th century the digging and clearing of rhines and the constructing and maintaining of sluices was controlled by commissioners of sewers, predecessors of the modern land drainage boards. Their records are in Gloucestershire Archives (D272), and an edition of some of them is planned to be printed in 2020. The land is part of the area studied by the *A forgotten landscape* project. It will be interesting to see what light is shed on the origins of farming on **Crooks Marsh**: how and why the changes came about, when they happened, and who drove the initiatives, all warrant investigation.

Celebs

Celebrities are people who are famous and attract a large following because of who they are, because of what they have done, or just for being famous. There is an historical progression. Time was, when you acquired reputation because of your status, eg as a monarch. In royal courts and aristocratic salons celebrity was controlled by entry requirements and by codes of behaviour, often trivial, designed to deter, detect and demean outsiders. Traces of that, eg deference to royalty,

political leaders, and even to their descendants, however distasteful, who have done nothing to earn attention, continues the tradition. Once the modern age arrived, you earned celebrity by your achievements, eg as war leader (Pitt, Washington, Churchill); musician (Mozart, local talent Clara Butt, the Beatles); serious writer and thinker (Voltaire); actor (David Garrick, local talent Cary Grant); sage (Samuel Johnson); religious reformer (Martin Luther, John and Charles Wesley); freedom fighter (Byron, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela); light novelist (Charles Dickens). Entrepreneurs cashed in on others' celebrity. During their lifetimes you could buy prints of Voltaire, busts of John Wesley, medals of Benjamin Franklin, photographs of Mao. That practice continues: barring accidents, soon there will be Charles III mugs. Are they being manufactured in China already?

Our area's record with celebs is patchy. In **Bath** Richard Nash organised events and acted as social arbiter. In so far as that helped maintain public order in a competitive arena, he may have performed a useful social function. Perhaps he can be seen as a transitional figure between those who got celebrity from inherited status or connection with it, and those who did something to deserve it. In **Bristol** Chatterton achieved enough fame for Samuel Johnson to examine his claims, and was accorded James Dean-like celebrity after his death, but he did not attract crowds during his lifetime, any more than Jane Austen did in **Bath**. Nor did Hannah More, who enjoyed a national reputation as versifier, storyteller, educationist, moraliser and campaigner. Victoria drew crowds at **Clifton**, but only when she was a little princess. Garrick and Dickens drew crowds, but did not have the following that modern pop stars attract. Adelina Patti packed them in at the Victoria Rooms, though local newspaper reports imply it was not to her musical expertise that the Bristolian male gaze was directed. The celeb who drew the biggest crowds was Garibaldi, when he visited **Bristol** in 1864, though his train overshot the platform at Temple Meads, leaving the civic welcoming party standing and disappointing the thousands who had turned out to catch a glimpse of their hero. Our area produced the musical celebrity, Clara Butt: would you add Adge Cutler or Acker Bilk? Or Portishead, Tricky, or Massive Attack? What about visual artists? Banksy drew crowds on one occasion, but most of his works depict only a lone figure. It is strange that of recent years Bristol's celebs have been non-human animals (Alfred, Rosie); imagined animals (Gromit, Shaun the Sheep); or imagined people (Morph, Wallace). For a few weeks in 2016 the crocodile looked as if he (she?) was going to make it, but seems to have sunk without trace.

EVENTS DIARY

Events notified to ALHA's website manager are listed on the ALHA website. 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.

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 S 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: 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 Church, 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 History Group 7.30 Stoke Bishop Village Hall BS9 1EX 0117 968 6010 Visitors £3

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