

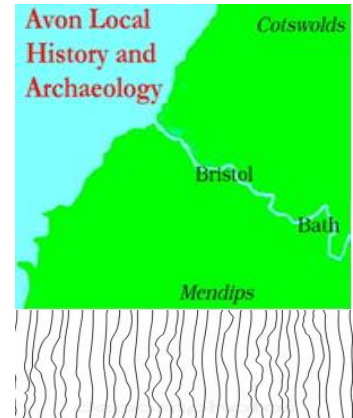


1Van Ostaade The Ballad Reader

AVON LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY 31 October 2018

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ALHA ITEMS

ALHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND JOE BETTEY LECTURE 2018

ALHA's annual general meeting was held at UWE's imposing and historically interesting Glenside campus on 17 October 2018, kindly hosted by Glenside Hospital Museum and UWE's faculty of Health and Applied Sciences. The secretary's report and the accounts for 2017-2018 were approved, a

vote of thanks to our volunteers was passed, and the committee was re-elected. Stella Man, development director at Glenside Hospital Museum, delivered the Joe Bettey lecture, *Discover the secrets to well-being by examining the history of Glenside Hospital*, a fascinating account of the ideas and principles that informed the founding of the hospital and an examination of how they are still relevant to the treatment of illness today. ALHA expresses thanks to UWE and Glenside Hospital Museum for hosting the event, and to Stella Man for the lecture (a summary of which it is hoped will be printed in ALHA's December 2018 Newsletter) and the excellent display of objects from the Glenside Hospital Museum.

ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2019 – GETTING ABOUT

The theme for ALHA's 2019 local history day will be **transport**, broadly interpreted.

Our area, past and present, has been shaped by transport. By boats, because we have a coastline and navigable rivers that facilitated trade and communication: along the coast, up the Severn and its tributaries, to Ireland, Iceland, France, Spain, Portugal, America, the Caribbean, the Baltic. That led to seafaring, ships, including the SSGB, shipbuilding and its financing, and the wealth of many commercial families. Roads started with ridgeways and tracks, then roman roads, carriers' routes, turnpikes, town streets, by-passes, motorways and their engineering. Canals carried stone, coal, agricultural produce, manufactured goods. Railways made links to London, Exeter, Gloucester, south Wales, the midlands and beyond. For centuries transport depended on the horse and all sorts of things connected with it, not least the agriculture that produced its fodder, and those who cleaned up behind it. It also depended on people, thousands of them, not just the likes of Macadam, Charles Dundas, IKB, William Taylor, Holman Fred Stephens, George White. There were builders of vehicles, carts, wagons, private and stage coaches (and their coaching inns), cars, lorries, aircraft, trams, buses, ambulances, fire engines, bikes (both sorts), balloons, many made locally. Transport generated architecture. People travelled for trade and business, to see relations, to get to and from work and school, for leisure and for tourism. Transport dominated some areas: **Filton, Patchway, Brislington, Temple Meads, St Philip's, Lulsgate**. In WW1 **Shirehampton** specialised. Who paid for it all? Who initiated the ideas? What did people think of the new forms of transport? What work did the employees do? How come trade unions and the domination of the T&GWU? There was a colour bar on the buses. What about modern developments? Buchanan's **Bath**? Bristol's inner and outer circuit roads? A Bristol metro? Guided transport? The Portishead branch? The Avon ring road? Anton Bantock Way?

ALHA's events subcommittee thanks those who have submitted proposals, and invites further proposals for talks or presentations on or connected with any aspect of the theme: maximum 500 words, please, to Peter Fleming, Peter.Fleming@uwe.ac.uk; Bob Lawrence, lawrence.chartley@btinternet.com; or Bill Evans, wm.evans@btopenworld.com.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

CHAPELS IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

David Dawson has updated *South Gloucestershire Nonconformist Chapels Heritage Trail*, previously published as a booklet, but now in .pdf form at: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/heritage-walks-and-trails/>. South Gloucestershire Council will not be printing the leaflet, but it can be printed out, or viewed on a mobile telephone while on the trail. All the other heritage trails also available on the South Gloucestershire web site.



KNOW YOUR PLACE

Geoff Gardner writes: One of my other activities as Bristol and Avon FHS Rep was on the *Know Your Place* co-ordination group, the amazingly successful historic mapping project for Bristol which has now spread through the southwest. The project is up for an Historic England Angel Award (supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation). These celebrate heritage heroes who save historic buildings and places, in this particular case in the Research, Recording and Interpretation category of the awards.

I am obviously a fan of the scheme because in family and local history research circles it has provided an incredibly valuable tool for looking at the past on maps and doing informative presentations to people. I am sending this to you in case you might consider voting for this 'Bristol first' project which is becoming the envy of many other parts of Britain. Please have a look at www.historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/angel-awards You are looking for the name Pete Insole on the nominees' list.

AEROSPACE BRISTOL

The museum is not now acquiring any items for the collection (unless in danger of destruction) until a review of storage requirements has been undertaken. For general enquiries, please contact info@aerospacebristol.org or 0117 9315 315.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES OPENING HOURS

GA opening hours are now:

Monday: **Closed**

Tuesday: 09:00-16:30

Wednesday: 09:00-16:30

Thursday: 09:00-16:30

Friday: 09:00-16.30

1st Saturday in the month: 09:00-16.30 (started Saturday 6 October 2018)

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

Gloucestershire Archives says it has received a large deposit of over 500 minute books, documenting the business of South Gloucestershire Council, mainly for the period 2005-2009. More at <https://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com/2018/09/20/south-gloucestershire-arrivals/>, but it is not known how far the books have been indexed or catalogued.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM

The forum met at Thornbury 5 October 2018. Interesting presentations: one by Martin Pople of the **Bristol-Bath** Cultural Destinations project, <https://visitbristol.co.uk/destinationbristol/about-us/cultural-destinations-project>, on how local history groups can get involved in helping to promote tourism and the economic development of the region; one by James Hodson on the latest work of the Victoria County History in South Gloucestershire: some information at <https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/gloucestershire>, but JH said that the VCH was starting to work on **Dodington, Tormarton and Codrington**; one by Katie Scaife summarising what has been done by the *A forgotten landscape project*, soon to end; one by Kate O'Keefe of Gloucestershire Archives on the *Evoke* reminiscence project and the practical uses of local history for people with dementia (including groups at **Charfield and Patchway**); an explanation by Sue Parsons of **Winterbourne** Medieval Barn Trust on how the trust is securing the future of the barn, now planned to reopen spring 2020; and an outline by Sandi Shallcross and Jenny Newley on **Thornbury & District** Museum's plans for the future.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE WW1 PROJECT

Cherry Hubbard writes: Following the replies to my request for notification of First World War events, an events list is on the project website at: www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/world-war-one-events/ Please check that you are happy with your listing or if you would like to add anything, then please let me know. Cherry Hubbard - cherry.hubbard@southglos.gov.uk 01454 865790 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays.

For SGC's *Inspiring women* project, see www.southglos.gov.uk/inspiringwomen, which lists women and their stories; gives the dates and locations of the three travelling exhibitions; and offers book recommendations, both fiction and non-fiction.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE SEVERN ESTUARY

The **Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee** holds its annual **conference Saturday 10 November 2018 10am - 4pm** at **St. Fagans National Museum of History**, near Cardiff, CF5 6XB Talks relate to both sides of the mud, but include:

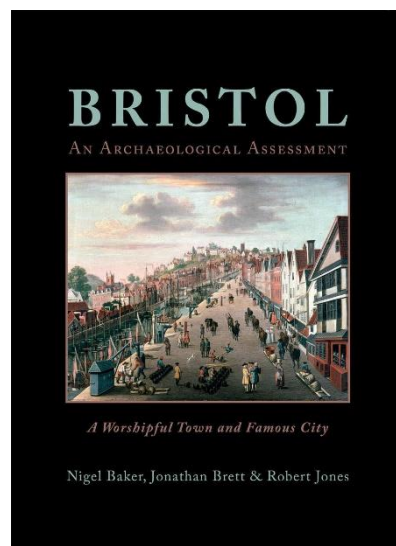
- Dr Jonathan Berry - World War II remains around the Severn Estuary
- Dr Craig Lambert - Medieval trade and shipping in the Severn
- Dr Tom Booth on the latest research in ancient DNA analysis that has altered knowledge of population change and migration. Talk is titled *The Genetic Prehistory of Britain: Mesolithic to Bronze Age*

Tea, coffee and Welsh cakes will be provided as part of the entry price. There are several places where lunch can be purchase at St Fagans – see <https://museum.wales/stfagans/> for more details. Tickets must be booked in advance: £12 from Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-of-the-severn-estuary-conferencetickets> Car parking at St Fagans costs £5 per day.

BOOKS ETC NOTICED

Nigel Baker, Jonathan Brett and Robert Jones, *Bristol: A Worshipful Town and Famous City: An Archaeological Assessment*, Oxbow Books 2018 £40.

‘This volume provides,’ it says, ‘for the first time, a comprehensive overview of the historical development of Bristol, based on archaeological and architectural evidence. Part 1 describes the geological and topographical context of Bristol and discusses evidence for the environment prior to the foundation of the city. The history of archaeological work in Bristol is discussed in detail, as is the pictorial record and the cartographic evidence for the city. In Part 2, a series of period-based chapters considers the historical background and archaeological evidence for Bristol’s development from the prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman eras, through the establishment and growth of Bristol between about 950 and 1200 AD; the medieval city; early modern period; and the period from 1700 to 1900 AD, when Bristol was particularly important for its role in transatlantic trade. Each chapter discusses the major civic, military and religious monuments of the time, and the complex topographical evolution of the city. Part 3 assesses the significance of Bristol’s archaeology, and presents a range of research themes for future research.’



Anthea Jones, ed., *Dissenters' Meeting-House Certificates and Registrations for Bristol and Gloucestershire, 1672–1852*, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society vol. 32, 2018. Colour and B&W illustrations + 3 maps, ISBN 9780900197956; £30.

‘A dissenting meeting was an act of defiance,’ it says, ‘a declaration of individuality, of an unwillingness to follow the politically acceptable religious norms of the Church of England. Dissenters believed they followed a purer Christianity. Bishops they would not tolerate. Services were

purged of Roman Catholic practices. This volume shows how widespread were dissenting meetings in Bristol and Gloucestershire.



Dissenters did not have freedom to meet for religious worship, apart from Charles II and James II's short-lived declarations of toleration, against the will of parliament (some evidence of which is found in this volume), until William of Orange insisted that parliament pass a Toleration Act. This became law in 1689, allowing Protestant dissenters to meet with the permission of the county justices of the peace or of the bishop. Close to 2,000 meetings were officially registered in Bristol and Gloucestershire before 1852, when parliament accepted the freedom to dissent.

The Introduction reviews this historical background. Certificates requesting (in a few cases 'demanding') a licence to meet named those involved, some 7,000 men and women in this collection. Many and varied locations are described. Meetings were usually domestic in scale, for example in kitchens; only towards the end of the registration period did some dissenters build chapels.

This collection of certificates and registrations in Bristol and Gloucestershire bears witness to the determination of many to follow their religious beliefs in their own way. It documents an important dimension of social and political history.

The edition is fully indexed, [2000 surnames: this is going to be a mine of information for family historians. Ed.] and is illustrated with examples of surviving meeting-houses, selected original certificates, and three maps.'

Roger Leech, Jonathan Barry, Alison Brown, Catherine Ferguson and Elizabeth Parkinson, edds., British Record Society, vol. 135, *Hearth Tax Series vol XI*; published jointly with Bristol Record Society 2018.

'This edition publishes three transcripts of hearth tax material for Bristol: the 1670 Michaelmas hearth tax return from The National Archives in London (TNA) and the 1662 and 1668 listings from the Bristol Chimney Book housed in the Bristol Archives (BA). Alongside these are appendices contain supporting hearth tax transcripts covering outparishes within Gloucestershire in 1672 (TNA) and a BA exemption certificate. This is the eleventh volume in the *Hearth Tax Series* produced on a county basis, published by the British Record Society in partnership with the British Academy *Hearth Tax Project* based at the Centre for *Hearth Tax Research* at the University of Roehampton. This edition is a co-publication with the Bristol Record Society.

The survival of several hearth tax listings for Bristol between 1662 and 1673 offers a detailed insight into the people and places of one of England's leading provincial cities as it began a renewed period of growth and prosperity as an Atlantic trading port and manufacturing centre. With a wealth of names and topographical information about Bristolians, supplemented by several appendices with further documentary evidence and biographical data, this is an essential text for the local and early modern historian. The introductory essays also bring out the importance of these documents for understanding the workings of the hearth tax and government policy in Restoration England and draw valuable comparisons between Bristol and London and other towns and cities. The distribution of population and wealth across the city, and in particular its varied types of housing stock, can be closely analysed, revealing a city with a large and prosperous middling sort, but also substantial problems of poverty in some of its suburbs and back streets. Professor Roger Leech's extensive research identifies the actual buildings inhabited by the heads of households listed in the hearth tax, making this volume of particular interest, it says, to vernacular architecture historians.'

COMMENTARY

Clack mills

Lynette Hammet's request in Newsletter 156 for information about a mill on the Trym near Cherry Orchards in **Westbury on Trym** led to a question about the derivation of the name of Clack Mill, about a mile downstream in **Combe Dingle**. It is mentioned in a will proved in **Bristol** in 1745; marked but not named on the 1840 tithe map, which does not show the stream flowing under the building; marked and named on the late C19 and early C20 OS maps, which show the stream going under the building; demolished 1937. There is a photograph on the *Know your Place* website. Rose Hewlett referred to the explanation of the term in the *Concise Oxford dictionary of archaeology* (OUP 2009), which says it is so called from the noise it made: a horizontal water wheel drove grindstones on the floor above; the noise was made by a peg in the upper millstone hitting a chute through which grain was fed into a hole in the top stone, it says. 'Clack' has similarly been applied to a type of non-return valve, which makes a noise when the flap closes. If that is where the knocking noise came from so as to give that type of mill its distinctive name, it is difficult to see why only mills with horizontal water wheels made such a racket. How could the wheel being vertical have made any difference if the noise came not from the water wheel but the grinding stone and feed chute? RH also pointed out that there was a clack mill at **Olveston**, and Peter Newley drew attention to one near **Willsbridge**. PN also refers to a Click Mill at Dounby on Orkney, dated to about 1820, which has a primitive horizontal water wheel.

Horizontal water wheels did not require gears to transmit the movement of the vertical shaft to the millstone, because both were on the same vertical axis. One can imagine a design in which water wheel and millstone were both on the same shaft. As no energy would be lost in friction between gears, a horizontal water wheel may have been more efficient than a vertical one. The late Keith Gardner speculated that the mill at **Radford**, between **Failand** and **Abbots Leigh**, may have had a horizontal water wheel on the ground that the Markham brook current is too weak to have turned a vertical one.

New buildings next to old

Bristol Old Vic's new foyer, refashioned by the architects Haworth Tompkins, is the latest local example in our area of a modern design next to a historic one. For an appreciation by the architecture critic Rowan Moore, see *Observer* newspaper 30 September 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2018/sep/29/bristol-old-vic-haworth-tompkins-review-denise-scott-brown-wayward-eye-robert-venturi-riba> It is hoped to print a local assessment in ALHA Newsletter 157.

Recent similar juxtapositions, also involving foyers to performance spaces, include the extensions to **Bristol's Colston Hall** (a fire insurance reconstruction of a victorian neo-italianate renaissance palace façade), and to **St George's Brandon Hill** (a Greek revival church now music venue). No doubt the Old Vic foyer will rattle the cages of those conservationists who believe that a new building should never put a modern design next to an old one, but should follow the lines and style of the old one, with materials to match.

The issue was kicked around in ALHA e-update 31 August 2015, and must be familiar to ALHA member civic and conservation societies and individuals concerned about how buildings look and how they relate to their older neighbours – the neighbouring buildings, that is. Most towns and villages have buildings of different ages and styles next to each other. The mix gives a street interest and character, and often amounts to a visual history of the place. Bristol's **King Street** itself is an example, with at least three and a half centuries of architectural history in one block, William Halfpenny's grandiose neoclassical Coopers' Hall contrasting with the homely mid C17 (but much earlier-looking) gabled and hood-moulded St Nicholas's almshouses along towards the Llandoger Trow. In **Queen's Road** Frank Wills's chubby edwardian neo-baroque art gallery (and now museum)

sits between the museum's victorian neo-venetian building and George Oatley's soaring C20 neo-gothic university tower.

In 1974 Avon County Council inherited in **Midsomer Norton's** historic main street a library building in need of reconstruction. Councillors worried over whether the new building should be striking, distinctive and assertive, as would befit a town at the cutting edge of modernity, or should copy the styles of the adjoining premises. The architect, Alan Isaac, came up with a third solution: a modern building to meet the library service's then needs, but in an unobtrusive design that most passers-by would hardly notice. The requirements of the library (except for more space) were met, but without impairing the street scene or drawing attention from the buildings next door. No conservationists suffered apoplexy. That it was also a low-cost solution did not influence our elected representatives one little bit.

Help offered

Sea Mills Centenary

WARNING.—If you lose this Certificate a duplicate cannot be issued.

Certificate of discharge of N. 1000 (Rank) *Private*
(Name) *William A. B.*
(Regiment) *K.R.R. 4*
who was enlisted at _____
on the *21st 11/19*

He is discharged
Being no longer
after serving *3* years
at _____
(Date) *11/19*

*Description of the soldier when he left the Colours
Age *28 yrs 2 months* Marked for other purposes
Height *5 feet 11 ins* *Ampted left leg*
Complexion *Fair*
Eyes *Blue* *He is entitled to wear one gold wound stripe*
Hair *Dark Brown*

*Should agree with the description on Character Certificate Form H. 207



From the *A forgotten landscape* team:

‘Building began in **Sea Mills** during 1919. It was one of the estates built under the Addison Act to improve housing conditions, public health and to provide ‘homes fit for heroes to live in.’ During 2019, local people will be celebrating Sea Mills and finding out who those heroes were, about their families and how they lived here. If you live in Sea Mills and would be interested in getting some help to research the history of your home, one of the public buildings or the estate in general or if you would just like to know more about the project as it develops, take a look at www.seamills100.co.uk or email seamills100@gmail.com.’