

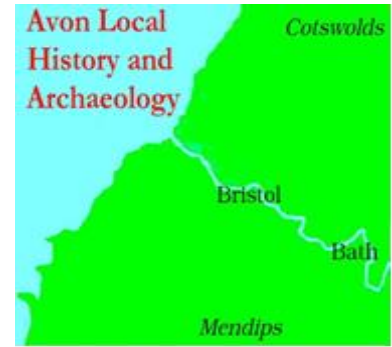


Francois Boucher

**AVON LOCAL HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY**
**AVON LOCAL HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY**
Registered charity number
270930

**NEWSLETTER ONLINE
UPDATE**
30 April 2017

From: William Evans
5 Parrings Grove
Bristol BS9 1TT
Tel, ans and fax 0117 968
4979
wm.evans@btopenworld.com



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

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ALHA LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2017

Thanks to all who contributed to ALHA's 2017 Local History Day. Attendance again over 100. Takings allowed donations to organisations including Weston Hospicecare, Underfall Yard, Bristol Museums Trust, Gloucestershire County History Trust, and UWE's Regional History Centre. Summaries of the talks are due to be included in the June 2017 *Newsletter* no. 151.

ALHA SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Pieter Brueghel the younger's depiction of ALHA members paying their annual subscriptions (which some call *The rent collectors*, *Paying the tithes*, and *Paying the tax*) can be seen at the **Holburne Museum, Bath**, as part of its exhibition *Bruegel: defining a dynasty*, **until 4 June 2017**.

http://www.holburne.org/events/bruegel-defining-a-dynasty-exhibition/?instance_id=10325

ALHA's treasurer thanks those who have already paid their 2017 - 2018 subscriptions, and looks forward to receiving the rest.



Image Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery many thanks.

ALHA BOOKLET: WILKINS OF WESTBURY ON TRYM AND REDLAND

ALHA's latest booklet was launched at the local history day. *Wilkins of Westbury on Trym and Redland: the life and writings of the Rev Dr Henry John Wilkins (1865-1941)* by Richard Coates is available from Peter Malpass.

ALHA WALKS, TALKS AND VISITS LIST

The new edition (bright blue cover), edited by Sandy Tebbutt, is now out, and has been sent to those members groups and societies that have paid their 2017-2018 subscription. If your group has paid its sub but has not received its copy, please tell ALHA's treasurer. If it has not yet paid its sub, please nudge your group's treasurer.

NEW MEMBER – CITY OF BATH HERALDIC SOCIETY

Welcome to new member the **City of Bath Heraldic Society**. *Its secretary Michael Furlong writes:* The City of Bath Heraldic Society has existed as a small group interested in and learning about heraldry since 1950, (stimulated by an heraldic exhibition in 1948 for the forerunner of the Bath Festival), making it the oldest heraldic society in the country. Heraldry has always been seen as rather a 'niche' interest and is perhaps why the society has remained small (at present 24 members). Meetings are held each month from September through to May at Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath on the third Saturday of the month, with the occasional outing during the summer. Most of the talks are given by members of the society on a range of heraldic topics and a guest speaker is invited for at least one of the meetings. Our members enjoy a close friendship with Somerset Heraldry Society, and individual members belong to The Heraldry Society, The Society of Heraldic Crafts, The White Lion Society, The Flag Institute and other heraldic groups throughout the country. One of our founder members, the late Peter Summers FSA was the driving force for producing the series of books: *Hatchments in Britain* (Phillimore 1974 - 1994) with several members of the society assisting.

ALHA SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2017

Mike Hooper has arranged the following programme. No need to pre-book, but there will be a £2 fee payable on the day. If you have any queries please telephone Mike Hooper on 0117 9775512, or mobile: 07443 229499.

MONDAY 8th MAY – BRISLINGTON

Leader Jonathan Rowe – local historian and Brislington resident

Walk A look around what was once one of Somerset's prettiest villages.

Meet at
6:45pm in the car park above Miss Millie's (BS4 5BG) - driving out of Bristol on A4 Bath Rd, turn left after Texaco garage into Church Parade then immediately right into Glenarm Walk. Car park entrance is on the right.

MONDAY 12th JUNE – VICTORIAN CLIFTON

Leader Professor Peter Malpass – a return for this popular speaker, continuing his exploration of another Bristol suburb.

Walk Although Clifton is mainly known for its Georgian terraces, Peter will show us that the Victorian development is equally as interesting.

Meet at
6:45pm middle of Victoria Square (BS8 4ES) – parking is available in surrounding streets

SUNDAY 9th JULY – OLVESTON VILLAGE

Leader Eric Garrett – local village resident and keen amateur historian.

Walk A walk around a typical small Gloucestershire village but definitely not to be confused with Alveston.

Meet at 1:45pm in the car park near the church. Parking is limited, so please park with consideration and car share if possible.

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST – CLEVEDON

Leader Jane Lilly, historian and local resident

Walk A short wander through the seaside resort's history, from medieval west end to Victorian pier

Meet at 1.45pm at the west end Salthouse car park (BS21 7TY) near the hotel gates on Old Church Road.

EVENTS AND SOURCES

A FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Latest at <http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5a1c4370a35827939f3c8d02b&id=7d9765b47f>. The talks are at **Tockington Methodist Church, Lower Tockington Road, Tockington BS32 4LG**. Talks start at 7:30 and run for about an hour. They are free but you MUST book a place - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tuesday-talk-2-the-old-aust-ferry-tickets-29579505096>

KNOW YOUR PLACE WEST OF ENGLAND

Now into Somerset: <http://www.kypwest.org.uk/project-diary/launch-kyp-somerset/>
Congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

Free Workshops to help you put your collections on the map - this May 2017

Learn how to navigate and add to [Know Your Place](#) with confidence, at a FREE workshop.

Workshops are open to researchers, volunteers, museums and heritage organisations across the West of England and FREE places are available at the following dates and locations:

- **Friday 5th May - Bristol**
- **Thursday 11th May - Bath**
- **Thursday 18th May - Taunton**
- **Tuesday 23rd May - Portishead**

Places are limited and advanced booking is required. For further information and to book your place, www.kypwest.org.uk/project-diary/free-workshops/

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Jane Marley writes: If you wish to organise an archaeology event this year, why not use the Festival of Archaeology, organised by the Council for British Archaeology, for national advertising:

http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/registration?dm_i=10MV,4SA89,MWHGXC,I7MIO,1

Jane Marley, Museums and Heritage Officer, South Gloucestershire Council, 01454 865783
MOB: 07808 364704

CLOTHING YATE EXHIBITION

The way they dressed: discovering the way people in Yate were dressed 1890s – 1980s, at **Yate Heritage Centre until 10 June 2017:** <http://www.yateheritage.co.uk/>. Items include a Yate flying jacket, workhouse shoes, and a **Sodbury** Queen jacket. 'We are also pleased to exhibit the Henry Blathwayt Dress Jacket from the First World War period courtesy of the National Trust **Dyrham** Park and recently conserved with an HLF grant. This is also part of the South Gloucestershire First World War project.' **Yate Heritage Centre**, Church Road, Yate BS37 5BG. Tel: 01454 862200

ACTON COURT

The Acton Court 2017 events programme is now at www.actoncourt.com . Acton Court will open to the public from **5 July to 13 August 2017, closed Mondays and Tuesdays**. You can also book a guided tour of the **House & Grounds**. For further information, www.actoncourt.com or 01454 228 224.

SATELLITE GEOS 1



Terry Ransome writes: 20 April 2017 was the **40th anniversary of the launching by NASA of the satellite GEOS 1** the work of a team from **BAC Filton**. GEOS was a geostationary multi-experiment satellite dedicated to magnetospheric research. The instruments for this project were provided by several European institutions. When GEOS was launched in 1977, the launcher malfunctioned and the planned orbit was not achieved – but a bit

of quick reprogramming got it into a geosynchronous orbit. A modified qualification model of the same payload was successfully launched (as GEOS 2) in 1978 and remained in operation until 1982 when it was turned off.

The two performed simultaneous data collection and correlation, a bonus after the hiccup in 1977. A half scale model of GEOS is going into the Filton museum. More at <https://directory.eoportal.org/web/eoportal/satellite-missions/g/geos-esa>



Images: NASA and ESA, many thanks.

YATTON LIBRARY

Yatton library closes for refurbishment from 29 April until about 14 August 2017. <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/services/yatton-library/>

For events at North Somerset libraries generally, see <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/libraries/libraryevents/events-libraries/>

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

BALH's local history day is on **3 June 2017** in London. The keynote speaker will be Professor Christopher Dyer, whose theme will be 'Local societies on the move: migration and social mobility in the middle ages'. Other speakers include Professor Geoff Timmins and Dr Alan Crosby on 'Housing and local history: research agendas and practical issues'. More details [here](#) .

BOOKS ETC NOTICED

James Meek, 'Somerdale to Skarbimierz', 39 no. 8 *London Review of Books* 20 April 2017. Not a book, but a longish article, looking at the histories of Fry's/Cadbury and of the place in Poland to which Kraft/Mendelez shifted **Somerdale's** work and its workers' jobs, having promised not to do so. At <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v39/n08/james-meek/somerdale-to-skarbimierz>

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society vol 134 (2016) includes articles on **John Young** and **Joan Young** and **the Great House in Bristol** by Dr Joseph Bettey; the **Avonmouth Light Railway** by Professor Richard Coates; and the place name **Godringhill** in **Henbury**, also by Richard Coates.

COMMENTARY

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is in the news. Smogs have returned to London; public health officials warn of dangers from diesel emissions; newspaper photographs show people in China and Japan wearing masks. The problem, and popular conceptions of its nature and causes, vary over time. We imagine our medieval ancestors to have breathed mostly unpolluted air, but smoke from wood fires, including indoor ones, must have been widespread and frequent. Stubble and heath burning have been traditional in many areas, but were seasonal, and our ancestors lived, as we do now, in an often breezy coastal climate.

Air pollution seems to have been first noticed in the 17th and 18th centuries. People burned more coal, which was comparatively plentiful and easy to get in many parts of our area including **Coalpit Heath, Kingswood, Radstock, Pensford, Nailsea** and so on. Because limestone was comparatively plentiful and easy to quarry, people burned it to make lime, in demand for building Bath and Bristol, and in some arable areas for neutralising acid soils. Limekilns were all over the place; those in **Hotwells, Clifton, Redland and Bath** gave rise to complaints of nuisance. Brickmaking, glass and pottery manufacturing, all coal-fuelled, and coal-burning steam-driven machinery added to the fug. In Victorian times smog was a regular problem in towns. Charles Dickens's description of a London fog in *Bleak House* could equally have applied to **Bristol** or **Bath**. Photographs of both towns in the 19th century show grimy, soot-blackened buildings; Bath wasn't any better in the 1960s. Towards the end of the 19th century alkali and chemical works, especially at **Redcliffe** (Alderman Proctor) and **Crews Hole** added to the murk: not as bad as places like St Helen's in Lancashire, where many leading legal cases on public

nuisance were fought, but getting on that way. The Society of Merchant Venturers' shrewd donation of part of the Bristol **Downs** in 1861 was as much to protect the amenities of **Clifton and Sned Park** by getting the quarries and limeburners off the Downs as it was to provide a green lung for the coughing and spluttering less affluent citizenry.

The coming of oil changed air pollution in two ways: cars, vans and lorries replaced horses, but added a new and widespread form of air pollution, and with implications not just for respiratory diseases but also for cancers. Tobacco smoking similarly, to which **Wills, Imperial** and their thousands of employees have made a major contribution, not just by making cigarettes, but by making them cheap.

As now, parliament was slow to react. The



Clean Air Act was not passed until 1956. Over the next 20 years it slowly reduced atmospheric pollution, at least from domestic fires and factory chimneys. Pollution from car, lorry and ship exhausts continues. As medicine becomes better informed by science, some of it from our area, doctors draw attention to dangers not previously perceived: lead was removed from UK petrol, and we were encouraged to go over to diesel; now diesel is seen as a killer. Health and safety advisers warn that the really dangerous things are ones we can't see. Measures to reduce air pollution in

our area are being taken on several fronts – in epidemiology, in manufacturing, in transport and in the case of smoking by attempting to modify people’s behaviour in public places. A history of air pollution in

PRIVATISATION AND LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY

Since the 1980s in the UK, privatisation of services previously delivered by public bodies has been politically contentious. The issue is part of a larger question, viz what services are best delivered by central government, local authorities, the voluntary sector, commercial concerns, or DIY. Over centuries the proportions of that mix, and the boundaries between the components, have varied. The boundaries have been fuzzy, there have been overlaps and changes. In medieval times in our area, as elsewhere, few services existed. Those that did were mostly in the voluntary sector, often overseen by the church, which from the time of Henry VIII was a department of state. After 1835 many services were developed by local authorities, especially in towns, with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Under prime minister Attlee central government took control of many services, including hospitals from the voluntary sector and local authorities, as well as large industries. Under prime minister Thatcher the government began privatising public services. That has continued, so that now, apart from the military and a bank the only large-scale operations remaining in the public sector are the NHS and schools, and it is government policy to take schools away from local authority control and to privatise what it can of the NHS.

Whether that is a good thing will be disputed, sometimes intelligently. Political activists will take sides according to

our area, with all its social and economic implications, and with links to epidemiology, would be interesting and valuable.

ideology or party dogma. Others will be pragmatic: will services be cheaper or more efficient or accessible? Will the need to produce a profit make private sector services dearer, or will some services not be delivered at all?

There is one aspect of privatisation that affects local and family history people. As anyone who has hounded their ancestors will tell us, public bodies have always tended to keep records, whereas private sector bodies have tended not to. (There are exceptions, eg the archive of Nat West bank).

Accountability requires accounts and records, so that those entrusted with public money can show what they have received, held and spent, and how they have applied it. Armed services records note enlistment, rank, pay, promotion, postings, discharge, pensions and so on in meticulous detail. Local authority and nationalised industry records are similarly informative. As services get privatised, the extent and availability of such records diminishes. Private sector organisations tend not to keep records, partly to keep costs down, partly to maintain commercial confidentiality, partly because there are occasions when exercise of the shredder has been deemed advisable, and partly because conserving an archive for future historians is not seen as core business or a priority, but an on-cost to be avoided. Privatisations will increase this, and local and family history people will be the poorer.

THE BRISTOL (CLEVEDON) HOUSE



One of the things we learn from local history, as from John Donne, is that few localities are isolated: we are all interdependent on each other, as were our ancestors and predecessors. Although geographers and sociologists have drawn distinctions between town and countryside, as did the 1888 and 1894 Local Government Acts, their links are many and complicated,

and go well beyond the view of rural areas as just producers of food for townspeople. Even so, we often tend to think of towns as leading the way in social change, taste and fashion. One example of traffic going the other way is to do with the architectural styles of large private houses in towns. 'The Bristol House' is now architectural history shorthand for a type of villa, detached or semi, in a variety of styles, sometimes in the same building. The most assertive examples are in **Clifton** and **Redland**, with smaller but still stylish derivatives repeated in the inner city's tracts of private housing, from **Horfield** to **Easton**, from **Bedminster** to **Brislington**, and beyond. The story is told in Keith Mallory's *The Bristol house* (Redcliffe 1985), with photographs by John Trelawny-Ross. The styles of the earliest large 19th century houses in Clifton were neoclassical, but during the reign of Victoria builders or their clients started favouring Italianate styles, deriving from or adapting renaissance or gothic originals. According to some architectural historians, tastes were influenced (or reinforced?) by John Ruskin's *The seven lamps of architecture* (1848) and *The stones of Venice* (1851-1853).

It has been claimed, eg by Pevsner, that William Butterfield's vicarage at **Coalpit Heath** (1844-1845) was the trendsetter, but more obvious models for the styles of house later built in Clifton and Redland are villas built in **Clevedon**. In 1821 the Eltons, having acquired a lot of Clevedon land,

began disposing of plots along what are now Hill Road and Wellington Terrace.

According to John Rutter's *Delineations* (1829), about 40 houses had been built by that date, and many more were in progress under the northern rocky slopes facing the bay. As the railway did not puff into Clevedon until 1847, those pre-1829 houses will not have been built for rail commuters wishing to put distance between their domestic comforts and the dirt, noise, squalor, smells and workers that financed them. Rutter hinted that they were suitable for (occupied by?) the invalid (the infirm, that is, not the illegal) and the retired. Some were let to Bristol worthies for the summer. Some may have been seaside villas, like those early ones at Weston-super-mare so ably and entertainingly mentioned by Pat Hase in her presentation to ALHA's 2017 local history day. George Braikenridge the **Brislington** antiquarian and collector (whose collection of topographical views also featured in Jenny Gaschke's presentation to ALHA's 2017 local history day) had two knocked into one. The Ladye bay end of Wellington Terrace ended with a hotel, as now. The convent on Marine Hill, built by George Fowler in 1834, was originally the York hotel. It was these seaview pads that influenced architectural choices in **Clifton** and **Redland**, and it is from them that the Bristol house derives, not the other way round.

CAN YOU HELP?

QUEENSLAND CONNECTIONS

From: Dianne Byrne [<mailto:Dianne.Byrne@slq.qld.gov.au>]

I am curator of the Original Materials collection at the **State Library of Queensland in Brisbane**, Australia. In July/August this year I will be visiting the United Kingdom with the aim of locating manuscripts, correspondence, diaries and photographs with a Queensland association for the State Library's collection. I am anxious to make contact with residents of your area who may have material relating to Queensland for donation or purchase. I would welcome the opportunity to promote my visit in your newsletter or alternatively, would you be able to pass this email on to members who may be interested?

Dianne Byrne | Curator Original Materials | Queensland Memory | State Library of Queensland | PO Box 3488 | South Brisbane 4101 tel +61 7 3840 7843 | fax +61 7 3842 9126 | e-mail Dianne.byrne@slq.qld.gov.au<<mailto:Dianne.byrne@slq.qld.gov.au>> | www.slq.qld.gov.au<<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au>>

REQUEST FOR 35MM SLIDE BOXES (AND SLIDES)

Ray Wilson of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology writes: GSIA has been scanning and writing captions for the various slide collections that were created by members. It is GSIA policy not to destroy the original slides, which we intend to deposit at Gloucestershire Archives. The number of slides runs into 1000s, and as the packaging they came in is not always suitable, we would be very grateful for the offer of any small plastic 35mm slide boxes that you may have and no longer need.

We are only talking about the plastic boxes in which the processors returned your slides, which would hold typically 36-40 slides. These were **green** from Fuji, **yellow** from Kodak, **black** from Agfa, and there were also a few other types. We do not have any use for the filing systems which would take 50,100 or 200 slides in individual slots, thank you. If you can help, please contact Ray Wilson (01453 860595, secretary@gsia.org.uk). We can probably arrange collection, or just bring them along to a meeting or visit. This is probably a good time to repeat our request for images (prints or slides) relating to the county's industrial heritage. These can be scanned and returned or retained according to your wishes. Again please contact Ray Wilson if you have any items you would like to include in the collections. The name of each image file always includes an identifier giving the name of the photographer as a means of a credit to them.

HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN WITHOUT, BRISTOL

Jeanette McCormack seeks information about the **hospital of St John Without**, especially its location. (Same as **St John the Baptist, Redcliffe?**). Believed to have been founded by a **Robert Strange** of Bristol, son of a mayor of Cirencester: BL Harleian Ms, 1543, fo.114b. Mrs J McCormack, 28 Hermitage Road, Staple Hill BS16 5JT, 0117 956 9310.

HENLEAZE LAKE

Alison Laity of Henleaze Swimming Club writes: In preparation for its centenary in 2019, the club is starting to collect people's memories of **Henleaze Lake**. These memories will go into the club archives, along with photographs and objects from the past hundred years. The centenary will be marked with events, the publication of a new book and an exhibition documenting the club's history. The Club would love to hear from past members and others who have memories of the lake - for example people who climbed over the back fence to swim or fish. The Club will also be holding a Lake Memories event on **Friday 9 June**. There will be tea and cakes on the lawns, guided tours of the Lake and the possibility of meeting up with old friends. The Club would be interested to hear from anybody who has old photographs of the lake, or objects associated with the club. The Club has an extensive collection of photographs of the Lake but very few of the lake during the 1960s and 1970 and would be keen to see any from this period. Please contact Alison Laity (alison@henleazeswimmingclub.org) or come to the Lake Memories Event on **Friday 9 June 11.30pm -4pm**. (www.henleazeswimmingclub.org)