

The Clevedonian

Autumn 2014
Issue 10



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The views expressed are those of the authors, and may or may not represent those of the Society.



A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

by Hugh Stebbing



Welcome to edition 10 of The Clevedonian, which is a vital ingredient in our menu of methods of keeping in touch with Civic Society members and the wider community. Our website – www.clevedon-civic-society.org.uk – gives access to news, selected records and resources and gives details of all forthcoming events. It is available worldwide and has recently been revised. The colour version of The Clevedonian is available on the website so we can limit the cost of the printed version by having it in monochrome. Do use the website for information – Geoff Hale updates it very frequently. Our membership continues to grow, our influence is extending, both in our town and through the wider Civic Society movement, and we have much

for which we can be proud. Frances Hardcastle has generously taken on the role of Publicity Officer and this has already resulted in an increase in the profile of the Civic Society across a range of local publications. We have an excellent programme of events and speakers planned for 2015 and much to look forward to as the Marine Lake project moves from plan



Hugh Stebbing

to implementation with a deep involvement and support from the Society. Small things matter so access to the network of local footpaths, clearing overgrowth and rubbish are just two of the more routine activities that make a big difference for the whole community. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can over coming months and thank all members and the Executive for your continuing support and commitment to all we do.

GROUP REPORT

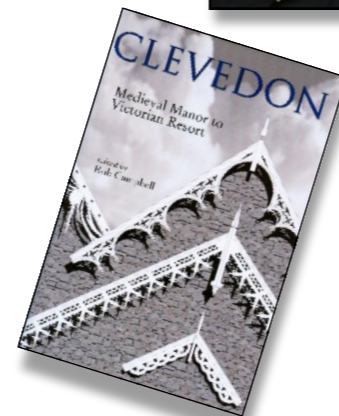
Local History Group

by Rob Campbell



Work on next year's programme is complete, with a varied selection of topics. Once again it is good to see group members and our President coming forward and volunteering their skills and expertise for talks. **Report on past and forthcoming events:** **July Meeting:** The members came up trumps and put on some very interesting displays relating to Clevedon and WW1. One or two non Clevedon items surfaced but only added to the overall theme. As always, the food supplied by everyone was superb and the modest drinks enjoyed by one and all.

100th Anniversary Trip to Ypres/Somme: The trip proved to be a great success with excellent hotels, a fine itinerary and good company. Jon our guide never failed to answer one of the myriad of questions. **Lights Out Ceremony:** This was organized by the Town Council and held in Queen's Square. It was an honour to be asked to do a short presentation. Everyone, especially council officials, were amazed at the numbers that attended. **Book Sales:** Good news on this front. A new shop called 'Books on the Hill' has opened on Hill Road; two orders



have already been placed. We have also sold a few books online thanks to Geoff who has made that facility easier. Regarding the new website, it was initially decided to omit the records, but after a number of cries for help this decision was rescinded and once again 'Thanks to Geoff' for his prompt actions. I for one think the new site is excellent.

Finally I hope all members had an interesting and productive summer break and are now looking forward to the new season of talks and activities.

Rob Campbell



Rob at the Lights Out ceremony



Environment Group

by Bob Hardcastle

Much of the work of the Environment Group over the last few months has been "behind the scenes" although hopefully it will soon bring about concrete results. Most of the work relates to the Marine Lake. As members will know the Heritage Lottery Fund made a significant grant to North Somerset Council towards the repair and upgrading of the Lake's retaining wall and surrounding area. To bring the project to completion in August 2015 the Council have set up a Project Board and a Technical Group. The Society is represented on both of these. Work is due to start on site in April next year – so we hope to report on good progress in the Spring 2015 Newsletter. We have also been lobbying to get the second phase of the Bandstand repairs carried out. The Society has also made a

financial contribution to assist with this work and at the time of writing I am pleased to report that all of the wooden panels around the Bandstand have been replaced and it is now near to being returned to its former glory as one of Clevedon's iconic landmarks. North Somerset were also contacted by us about the state of the Memorial Chapel in the Town Cemetery and it is encouraging to see that work has started on these essential repairs. To help improve the appearance of the cemetery we have also painted the entrance gates and tidied up the area by the wall to Old Church Road.



Marshall's Field



New panels on the Bandstand

The Environment Group's regular working parties in August and September also cleared the steps and the bridge onto Marshall's Field as well as contacting Wessex Water who, as a result, cleaned up the site of their pumping station

This is not to forget our wonderful Pier, Bandstand, Marine Lake and all the other large scale iconic features that make Clevedon what it is. It is just to remember that the small things are important too. So next time you are walking in the town please look out for those "Everyday Treasures" and let the Environment Group know if there are any problems with them. We may be able to deal with the matter ourselves

Next Meetings: 21 January, 18 March and 20 May 2015

from weeds and litter.

The painting of gates and clearing of steps may seem to be small items but it

Bob Hardcastle

Civic Society Executive Members

Chairman - **Hugh Stebbing**
Secretary - **Wendy Moore**
Treasurer - **Carl Peries**
Membership - **John & Helen Bussell**
Local Government Representative - **Carole Wring**
History Group - **Rob Campbell**
Environment Group - **Bob Hardcastle**

Conservation & Planning Group - **John Tranter**
Footpaths Group - **Julie Slocombe**
Programme Secretary - **Jean Hannaford**
Publicity - **Frances Hardcastle**
Editor - *The Clevedonian* - **Geoff Hale**
Newsletter Distribution - **Dave Long**
Web Master - **Geoff Hale**
Co-opted Member - **Bryan Osborne**

Next Executive meetings:

Tuesday 18th November 2014 and 17th February and 21st April 2015

Should any member have a point to put forward it is always possible to contact an Executive Group member to have it brought up at a meeting.

GROUP REPORT

Looking back to our walk at the end of April, it was a testament to determination that we got out at all. Twice the recces found impassable muddy stretches but we used the Strawberry Line as a safe passage and walked as far as Thatchers cider orchards and back to Congresbury. Then in May came a wonderful 6 mile walk on the Quantocks with a picnic lunch, blessed with sunny weather, and from there on we were into a fantastic summer which smiled on our many and varied walks.



Walk round Blagdon in March

Our walk from Uphill took us through woods, along the beach and finally through an award-winning nature reserve.

For Midsummer's Eve we were once again taken for a stroll around local roads before enjoying a superb BBQ in

Next Meetings: 1st December 2014 and 9th March and 1st June 2015

Footpaths Group

by Julie Slocombe



Dial Hill in June

Geoff and Wendy Moore's lovely garden. In July there was a walk in Portishead, part of which followed the sea wall towards Portbury, and later in the month we tackled the coastal path from

At the end of September we were delighted that one of our newest members was keen to lead a walk and so we skirted Blagdon Lake and rambled across country to Butcombe using yet another of the routes which appear regularly in North Somerset Life magazine.

Julie Slocombe



Portishead in July

Clevedon to Portishead. We also undertook a footpath survey walk in July and were able to clear brambles from a footpath leading off Lower Strode Road and also to report an unmarked right of way which had been re-

routed through the garden of a newly built dwelling.

There followed walks from Compton Martin and from Shipham which took us through wooded areas and on to higher ground allowing wonderful views of lakes, neighbouring hills and out to the Bristol Channel.

At the end of September we

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday 11 December



At the Dig for Victory Show

The Society's Christmas Party will be a ticket only affair open to members and their families.

Tickets priced at £7.50 (cash) will be available at Society meetings and from Wendy Moore on 01275 874767.

Fork buffet and drinks included.

The entertainment this year will be **The Goodnight Sweethearts, 1940s entertainment.** (40s dress optional)

Please note that the cut off date for tickets will be Thursday 4th December.



Planning & Conservation Group

by John Trantor



We are pleased that Peter Longman and Chris Hunt have joined the group, and their contribution is appreciated, as is that of the long standing members.

2014 has been a busy year as far as significant planning applications are concerned, and the group has commented on the following:

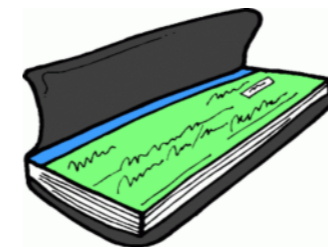
22 Marine Parade,
59 Hill Road,
The Regent Hill Road - (Sainsbury illuminated signage),
32 Old Church Road,
Clevedon Pier- (amendments to design of glass "funnel")
Campbells Landing,
Cafe on Salthouse Field,
New Car Showroom, Clevedon Garage, Tickenham Road.

Many of these comments are now added to the Civic Society website at the same time as they are sent to the planning authority, and Geoff adds illustrations to them as appropriate, a very useful way to inform the wider membership of the activities of the group.

As we are non-statutory consultees, the planning authority do not have to take account of our comments; however in four of the applications listed above the approved drawings have been amended in accordance with some of our comments.

Where the applications relate to listed buildings our input is more likely to carry weight since it often coincides

Next Meetings: 2nd December 2014 and 13th January, 24th February, 7th April and 19th May 2015



Membership fees will become due at the end of the year.

John and Helen Bussell will be pleased to collect your £15 at the next meeting.

GROUP REPORT



59 Hill Road



Car Showroom - Clevedon Garaae



Cafe on Salthouse Fields

with, and supports, the views of the conservation officer (but not always!). Although these may seem small gains for the effort involved, Clevedon Civic Society is the only body concerned with preserving the best and protecting the rest, and for this reason the effort is worthwhile.

We commented on the Clevedon Garages application because, if approved, the already car sales dominated approach to the Town will be further degraded and traffic congestion will be worse. No statutory consultee has made this objection but it is an entirely appropriate view for the Civic Society to express, and it remains to be seen whether our comments carry any weight when the application is determined.

The Environment Group report summarises our involvement in the Marine Lake project, and no further comment is required at this stage. However, upgrading the environment of the Marine Lake creates the opportunity to spread the effect to the surrounding sea front, hence our comments on the design of the proposed cafe on Salthouse Field. MARLENS is already considering other projects around the lake with alternative funding sources, the first being changing rooms and toilets for lake users. We are supporting them with concept drawings so that user organisations can be involved in the scheme development and the initial views of the NSC planners can be obtained.

John Trantor

A REMINDER




COMING SHORTLY...

All meetings are held at St Andrew's Church Centre
All are welcome, visitors £3

2014

20 November 2014
Members' Own
The Great War - Family History & Winter Supper




11 December 2014
Christmas Party
The Goodnight Sweethearts 1940s entertainment



2015

Civic Society Meetings

8 January 2015
Early Electricity in the South West + AGM
Peter Lamb




12 February 2015
Windmills
Sarah Harris



12 March 2015
Clevedon's Maritime Past
Peter Gosson



9 April 2015
Scenes, Societies and Surprises around the Globe
Hugh Stebbing



14 May 2015
Climate Change
Marcus Badger




Local History Group Meetings


15 January 2015
Mary's Garden
Jane Lilly



19 February 2015
The Ashmeads of Bristol
Alan Bambury



19 March 2015
Hatches Matches and Dispatches
Breeda Morton



16 April 2015
Roman Baths Museum
Beau Street Hoard



21 May 2015
Somerset Women
Esther Hoyle



A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER



The Gift Aid scheme is for gifts of money by individuals who pay tax. Gift Aid donations are regarded as having basic rate tax deducted by the donor. The Civic Society will take your subscription, which is money you have already paid tax on, and will reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue and Customs on its gross equivalent i.e. the amount before basic rate tax was deducted.

Basic rate tax is 20%, so this means your subscription of £15 will be worth £18.75 to the Civic Society. That means we will recover £3.75 for each £15 paid.

If you would like to gift aid your subscription and you have not already done so, please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration Form from membership secretaries John and Helen Bussell.

Carl Peries

by Wendy Moore

THE YPRES PILGRIMAGE

Early on a June morning 34 members and friends of Clevedon Civic Society left Clevedon for a coach trip to Belgium and France to see various WW1 memorials and cemeteries.



We travelled to Folkestone and through the Euro tunnel and arrived in Ypres in the afternoon. At the Friday evening service at the Menin Gate, Julia Elton, Rob Campbell and Wendy Moore laid a wreath to remember the servicemen from Clevedon that were lost in WW1. During the ceremony Bryan Irwin and Ron Collins also laid a wreath in memory of those lost from Nailsea.

We visited Langemark, a large German cemetery where 45,000 men are buried, 24,000 of which are in a mass grave. The Battle of Langemark was a massacre as the Germans used student volunteers who lacked training.

headstones marking the graves of so many young men in all of the cemeteries.

British volunteers led by Fabian Ware marked and recorded burial places, which was good for morale and was later taken on by the army and then became The War Graves Commission who are still responsible for the upkeep of the cemeteries which are all beautifully kept. It is so sad to see rows of



We visited Tyne Cot (named for regiments from the Tyne), Polygon Wood, a small cemetery where casualties were buried under gunfire so the graves are scattered. The wood has been regrown and is now used as a recreational centre.



Julia Elton, Rob Campbell and Wendy Moore

Jon, our guide, joined our group the next morning to lead us around the Ypres (known to the British soldiers as wipers) Salient. The first visit was to Essex Farm Cemetery where John McCrae (the author of the poem "In Flanders Fields") ran an advanced dressing station. There are a lot of British cemeteries but not as many German ones as they are larger. Also, quite a number of German dead were repatriated - not so the British. All ranks were treated the same and British dead were buried where they fell.



Tyne Cot Cemetery



Langemark Cemetery

We passed by Hooze Crater & museum, Hill 62, Bedford House Cemetery, built on the remains of a chateau and stopped at the Aristocrats cemetery at Zillebeke churchyard where some families erected headstones before the War Graves Commission was introduced. Ypres was originally the centre of the cloth trade but was flattened during the war and later completely rebuilt. The Cloth Hall now houses the WW1 museum. A second pleasant evening was spent in Ypres and the next morning we went on to France and Albert.

Wendy Moore

A report of the French visit can be found overleaf

IN THE WW1 TRENCHES

Following on from Wendy Moore's account of the first half of the WW1 visit, Barbara takes up the story

We left Ypres and made our way to the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge, most impressive, with the twin pylons bearing the Maple Leaf and the Fleur de Lys soaring upwards. Overlooking the Douai Plain, a cloaked, sorrowful figure represents Canada, mourning her dead. Engraved on the walls are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who died in France. The limestone monument, designed by Canadian sculptor Walter Allward, was unveiled on 26 July 1936 by King Edward VIII; it was his only overseas engagement as King. There is great competition by bi-lingual students and graduates to become guides in the Interactive Centre.

We arrived in Albert at lunchtime and had two hours to explore. I revisited



Canadian memorial, Vimy Ridge

Basilique Notre-Dame de Brebières. The Golden Madonna and child on the tower was damaged by German action, stabilized by Allied engineers but was never found after British shelling toppled it in 1918. It was replaced with a replica gilt statue when the basilica was rebuilt to the original 1897 design. The Somme Trench Museum was well worth a second visit.

Our guide Jon Haslock joined us the following morning and took us to the 84 acre Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont Hamel. The dominating feature is the caribou standing proudly on a rocky outcrop. Below it are the names of 820 service personnel who have no known graves. Among the trenches and fenced off areas, due to unexploded ordnance and German barbed wire supports, is the lifeless trunk of the Danger Tree, where

casualties were heaviest on 1 July 1916. We passed the memorial to the 51st Highland Division and the circular Hunters Cemetery, situated on a former shell hole. Noting Hawthorn Cemetery 2, we walked on through a winding trench, on dry, flat duckboards to the Visitor Centre, where one particular picture caught my eye – an officer, astride a horse which was up to its knees in liquid mud.

Inscribed on the walls of the memorial at Thiepval are the names of 73,000 men who have no known grave. This is the largest British memorial in the world. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, it was unveiled on 31 July 1926 by the Prince of Wales in the presence of the President of the French Republic. Behind is a small Anglo-French Cemetery where again I found the name of Sergeant Hugh Victor Hember, who died on 1 July 1916 and was the uncle of a life-long friend.

We stopped briefly at a corner named Gibraltar, where the entrance to a block house has been uncovered and a viewing platform affords information from a German perspective. As we approached the Australian 1st

Divisional Memorial Rob told us that his grandfather was seriously gassed at this location. Afterwards, we visited Pozieres Cemetery where the surrounding wall commemorates over 14,600 Commonwealth and British servicemen. There are over 2,700 burials of men from the UK, Australia and Canada,

including that of Sergeant Claude Charles Castleton VC of the Australian Machine Gun Corps. He died on 28 July 1916 aged 23.

We enjoyed a baguette lunch in the Old Blighty Tearooms in La Boisselle, which is



Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park

by Barbara Connell

owned and run by Jon and his wife Alison. On display is his collection of uniforms and memorabilia, some of which are for sale. I bought a small brass shell case. On a previous visit, he had told us that he had found the skeletons of five German soldiers when digging his garden.

En route to the German Cemetery at Fricourt we made a brief stop by the British Cemetery. Here a Celtic Cross is dedicated to the 7th Yorkshires (Green Howards) and lists those who fell on 1 July. In the German Cemetery there are rows of crosses, some bearing the names of two or even four names of the 5,065 burials and 11,970 in two mass graves. A Jewish headstone had a stone balanced on top. The remains of Baron von Richthofen were interred here, subsequently moved, and finally laid to rest by his brother when the Berlin Wall came down and Germany was re-unified.

We visited the Delville Wood Cemetery and crossed the road to the South African Memorial and museum, not open so we were unable to view the bronze reliefs within. On the imposing entrance archway these moving words are carved: 'Their ideal is our legacy: Their sacrifice our inspiration'.

Our last stop was at the Welsh Memorial at Mametz.

It commemorates the 600 men who lost their lives and the 600 missing who fought in the wood between 7 and 11 July 1916. Inaugurated on 11 July 1987 it has a magnificent Red Dragon on top. At the bottom of the steps, Jon searched the undergrowth for anything remaining, but it was Hugh who was successful! Thanks to Jon, we had seen and learnt so much on the two days he was with us.

Rob had found a small hotel, the Royal Picardy, just on the edge of town. Our party were the only guests and we were extremely well looked after and the food was superb! On our second evening Julia made a speech in appreciation, followed by a presentation by Hugh to Rob and Norma. We then spent a convivial hour or two in the lounge.

As has been reported elsewhere, on our last morning a group of us went to the amazing, privately owned Musée Aéronautique. To my great delight, among the many sewing machines on display, I found a Singer treadle, the exact model my mother owned when I was a child. O happy days! Thank you Rob, for arranging a truly memorable tour.



Thiepval Memorial

Barbara Connell

Photographs by Malcolm Case
Bryan Osborne and Rob Campbell

The trip was made especially good with great hotels, an excellent coach driver, Peter from Bakers Dolphin, and an enthusiastic guide, Jon Haslock, who is based in the Museum in Albert and who also gave us an excellent lunch in The Old Blighty Tea Rooms that are run by his wife.

Grateful thanks go to Rob Campbell for all his skills and hard work in organising the trip which held many bitter sweet moments.

by Dave Long

This report was found in the Western Daily Press published on the 15th January 1916.

Alfred Tipper, dressed in khaki uniform, was charged with attempting to steal money from a till at Clevedon on the 12th of January.

Charles Hedley Long, manager of a tobacconist's shop, No. 1 Station Road, Clevedon, said he was in a room behind the shop, separated by a door with glass panels, when he heard the till bell ring twice.

He found the prisoner behind the counter. He was in khaki, but was wearing a civilian cap, and had no boots on. Another soldier stepped in at the door and said, "Hold that man, I've been watching him."

Another soldier went for a policeman. Accused said, "I did not take any money from the till," which was quite right. His boots and overcoat were in the next doorway.

Arthur Freeman, a private in the Warwickshire Regiment, stated that he saw the prisoner drop on his hands and knees in Mr Long's doorway. Mr Long came out into the shop at the same time that witness went in. He said to prisoner, "What game are you up to?" and he replied "it's alright old chum I have not taken anything yet."

A SOLDIER'S BAD RECORD

P.C. Bale said that the prisoner wanted to be handed over to the military, but witness said he would have to go with him.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and asked for a chance to fight for his King and country.

He was questioned as to a number of previous convictions, including five years of penal servitude, but Prisoner said, "My memory seems to go," adding, "I think it must be a mistake."

An officer said that prisoner enlisted at Birmingham, on 26th September, but he absconded. He gave himself up on the 5th January, saying that he had been under the influence of drink and he forgot whether he had enlisted. He was under detention until four o'clock on the day of the offence.

It was stated that prisoner had been 22 times summarily convicted and five times on indictable offences.

He was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

Charles Hedley Long was my grandfather and along with his wife, Alice, ran the tobacconist's shop at 1, Station Rd. I believe it was known as The Clevedon Cigar Store. Charles had enlisted but failed the medical due to flat feet. He was



later called up and served as a clerk in the Army Service Corps where he worked in one of the government departments. He never served overseas. After the war one of the officers he worked with got him a job with Tanquery Gordons & Co. Ltd., the gin distillers, in London.

He stayed in London during the week and came back to Clevedon at weekends.

Dave Long



BEATRICE STELLA PEDDER

1875 - 1965

Miss B. S. Pedder was a gifted water colour artist who was born in the East Clevedon Parsonage in 1875.

In 1965, just a few months before her death, she wrote of her memories of Clevedon. She also donated these paintings to the town and they now hang in the Clevedon Town Council chamber in Old Street.

"Change may, or may not, be progress," says Frith, the painter, in his autobiography. But change is certainly inevitable, and Clevedon has changed as much as most places since I was born in East Clevedon Parsonage 90 years ago.

My grandfather [Rev W Pedder] arrived (in a Postchaise, I believe) with his newly married wife Elizabeth Cotes, in 1830 to be Vicar of Clevedon, and remained there until his death in 1871. The Parish Church was then, of course, the only church in Clevedon, until Christ Church was built a few years later. My Uncle Digby continued to call it "the new church" all his life! My grandfather's family (two sons and three daughters) were all brought up in the old Vicarage, of which the - now hardly visible - remains are used as the Church Hall.

I love to think of Clevedon as it was in those days - the quiet Green Beach with its (I suppose) early Victorian houses and wind-twisted bushes and trees, the seaweed-covered rocks (and plenty of mud too!) Stretching out to the 'Look-out' point and the Salthouse with the woods of Old Church Hill behind it, and flanked by the seawall. No Marine Lake then.

I am sure that the town of Clevedon never made a wiser decision than to buy the Old Church Hill and Wain's Hill so as to preserve them - peaceful and unbuilt on - for future generations.

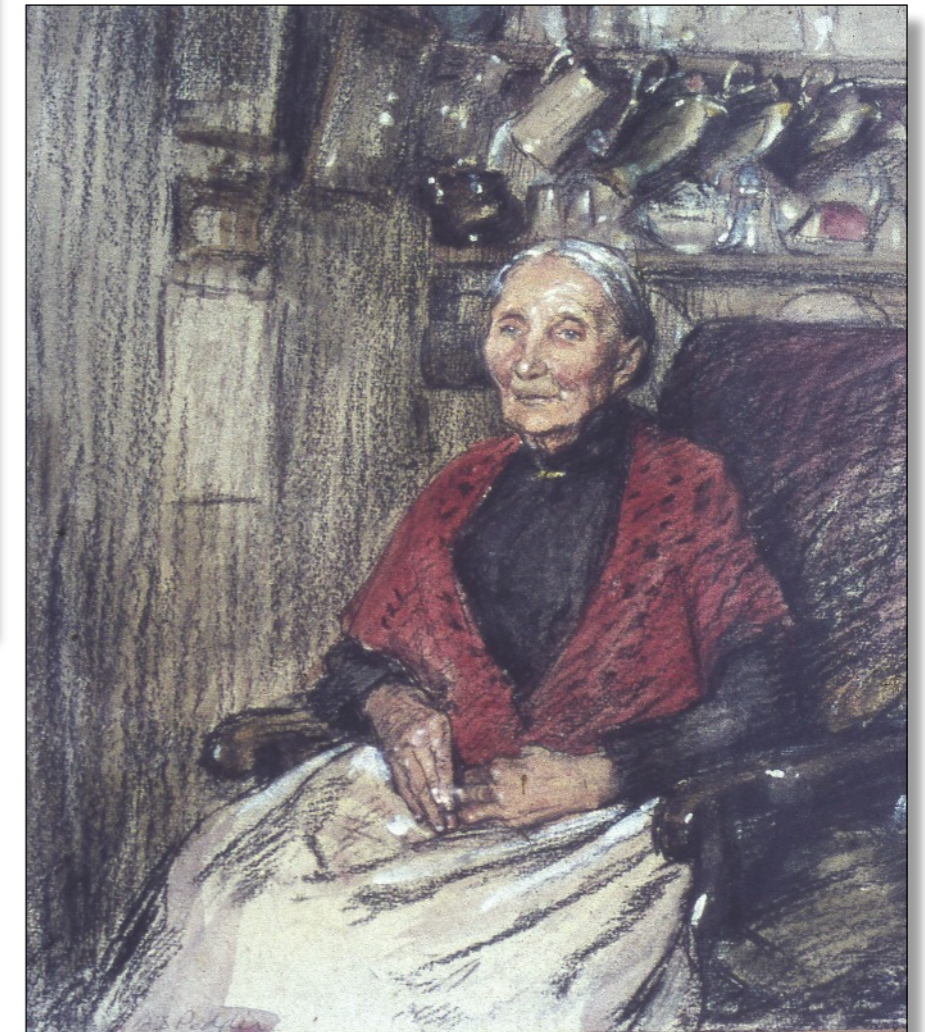


Strawberry Hill and Dial Hill were rural and undisturbed by the builder. I think for the next 40 years or more, Hallam Hall and two or three other houses were perhaps the only buildings on Dial Hill, which, with the little pine wood on the Strawberry Hill side and its numerous copses, was very rural and charming. Seen from the top of the hill, the sunset effects over the Channel were magnificent - as, no doubt, they still are, for anyone inhabiting a bungalow near the summit.



I remember the old "snail man" as we called him (I suppose he had a real name, but I never heard it). He would rid your garden of snails. He put them into a sack, and was reputed to sell them in Bristol to be made into a decoction for the relief of chest complaints. He never, I believe, slept in a bed, but always out of doors during the summer, but had to go to the Workhouse for shelter in winter.

I remember the old Sexton who boasted that he had served "boy and man" under (I think it was) five vicars, of whom the first two were my Grandfather and Mr Marson, but had never heard a sermon from any of them! The reason he gave was that he had to go outside to prevent "the boys" - whoever they may have been - from making a noise in the churchyard!



A full version of Miss Pedder's interview, first published in the *Clevedon Mercury*, can be read in our book - **The Annals of Clevedon** (£4.50) - see our website for details.

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG

When Jane thinks about her childhood she realises that much of it was some 50 years ago. It makes her look back and see what great changes there have been since then. It also makes her feel old!

My parents were the first people to move to the newly-built, brick Council houses in Griffin Road, in February 1956. Until then, they had occupied a flat in Peterhurst, a Regency house in Copse Road, opposite St Peter's Church where I was christened – this was in the old tin tabernacle days, before the new church went up. Peterhurst was replaced with modern housing in the 1960s.

The house was heated with one open fire in the sitting room and the anthracite stove in the kitchen which also provided hot water. An immersion heater gave hot water in the summer. We made toast in the winter on the open fire, afterwards watching the flames and the sparks making their way upwards. What a treat after your bath to come down and be dried with a warm towel in front of the fire!

The windows had metal frames, the very latest thing; however, as the rooms upstairs were not heated and there was no double glazing, we had ferns and flowers of frost on the insides in very cold weather, especially the long cold winter of 1962-3. By then I was at what we called the fire station school, St Andrew's Junior, on Old Street, having left the Infant School along the road which my two younger brothers attended.

When our bottles of milk arrived, they were frozen, and had to be taken out of the crate to stand around the old anthracite stove in the classroom. We watched, fascinated, as the milk which had been forced upwards defrosted and retreated into the bottle again, cap and all! There was a hand bell which was rung around the building by old Mrs Ball, who occasionally let some lucky child have this duty. I thought I'd love to do this, but when she offered me the bell, I refused, completely flummoxed. I've often regretted that refusal in later life.

When there was a fire, the siren was sounded to let the various firemen know that they were needed. Very few people had telephones in those days. The siren was right next to the school, so the noise was deafening, and we all

waited with our fingers in our ears for the siren to stop, at which point normal service was resumed and the lessons went on as usual.

By the time I'd been at the fire station school for a couple of years, the new senior school had been built out at Swiss Valley. The children from St Andrew's School and St John's School moved into the old senior school at Highdale Avenue, and it became Highdale Junior School. It's now St Nicholas Chantry.

Of course, we took little notice of what became of the old buildings we'd moved out of, but in the course of time new uses were found for them. St John's is the Library and St Andrew's Junior is apartments. The old Infant School in Old Street houses the Town Council, and I wonder whether any of our councillors went to the school there?

Going back to our life at home, we were able to go for walks around Moor Lane past the farms, as far as Court Lane, coming back carefully along the Tickenham Road and Old Street. No motorway and no Craft Centre then, Regular callers at the door were the local tradesmen. Notably for us, Uncle Derek, who drove the delivery van for Grandpa Lilly's grocery shop in Kenn Road. There was a system every bit as good as the internet, where you wrote your order in a note book and left it with the shop. The groceries were packed up in a cardboard grocery box and delivered to your door, and if you wanted some paraffin for your paraffin stove (so useful in the in-between days,



Bert Lilly in the shop, c1938

by Jane Lilly

when you didn't want to light a fire), there was a large tank in the van.

On Fridays, we generally called at Grandpa's shop for the weekend order, making sure we picked up the box with 'Lilly' written on the side. This meant that we could also go and spend our pocket money on sweets – Mojos, Trebor chews, spangles, sherbet pips and so forth. It was quite something to be allowed behind the counter with Grandpa and my dad. Dad worked at the shop after the War for some years, and if the queue began to build up he still lent a hand. It was a treat to watch him as he cut the exact weight of cheese wanted from a big block and wrapped it neatly in greaseproof paper. The shop was the old-fashioned kind. A big paraffin stove stood in the middle of the floor in the winter, and the customers waiting sat on bentwood chairs around it, chatting as their turn gradually came along. If you were at the end of the queue you learned everyone's business! Grandpa and other family members fetched the items people wanted from shelves behind the counter.

Here's a sample of prices in April 1954 from a surviving order book translated into decimal money. Half a pound of cheese, 6p. 2 lbs of sugar, 7p. Half a pound of bacon, 15p. 2 half pound packets of biscuits, 10p. 6 eggs 7.5p. 1 lb of golden syrup, 4.5p. Happy days!

Other than Derek with the grocery van, Bill Griffin, the butcher in Alexandra Road offered a van delivery as well. Parker's bakery, around the corner in Kenn Road, was where we placed our regular order for bread, a large crusty loaf on a Tuesday, and a large crusty together with a currant loaf for Sunday tea on a Saturday. They too had a van which brought a selection of cakes. My usual choice was a custard tart, lovely!



The exuberant dancer, 1959

A rag and bone cart used to come on Sunday mornings. He was George Youde from Strode Road, and his grandson Stan lived opposite us.

We used to have Sikhs calling, selling cardigans and the like from suitcases. The scissor and knife sharpening man came along too, with an adapted cycle which could be made to power his circular stone. Now and again there would be a Breton on his bicycle, with long strings of onions.

Major excitement was caused if you managed to catch sight of the Council steam roller, or had the chance to watch the lorry that came to clear the drains – during school holidays these were dogged by every kid in the street. Even coal deliveries provided entertainment, with the chaps heaving the sacks up on their shoulders and then emptying them into the bunker in a cloud of grey dust.

We knew a lot of the neighbours, so that meant when there was a funeral in the street everyone drew the curtains to show respect. I discovered this for the first time when I opened the curtains, thinking they'd been forgotten – then had to go and close them again, because Mr Norman along the road had died, and it was the day of his funeral.

Griffin Road led round via Beaconsfield Road into Moor Lane, and in those days before the motorway there were open fields beyond. There was also a field which led off Beaconsfield Road, which we called Hale's Field. This caused annual excitement when the fair was set up there, and music played into the night accompanying the roundabouts and fairground rides.

As well as that and the various delivery vans and the dustcart, there was the excitement for us of seeing Philip

Flowers pop into his mother's house opposite for lunch. He worked at Triangle Farm in Moor Lane (since demolished), and often drove a tractor home with various attachments that fascinated us. He was a quiet, kind chap, and always let us have a sit on the seat or have a look at the tools hooked up to the tractor.

My mother was a dressmaker from home, so a great many people came to have garments made. I'm amazed that she managed to do such a lot, when

I think that she had the three of us children in three and a half years – but once we were at school there was more time for her to be able to do some work. She had a treadle machine in a corner of the sitting room, eventually replaced with an electric machine which could also embroider. I learned to thread the machine for her, but I never got the hang of taking my foot off the pedal as I reached the end of the cloth, so I always had a tangle of wasted cotton to deal with!

My dad worked at BAC at Filton, travelling in for years on a little BSA Bantam motorbike. We used to enjoy meeting him at the corner of Parnell Road and Old Street to take turns having a lift back home on the pillion, all a big thrill for little kids. The bike was no joke in the winter, and eventually when one of my mother's sisters had to retire early and came to live in Clevedon, they shared her car. Eventually that was replaced with an estate car and my mother learned to drive when dad joined a car pool and

only had to use it a couple of times a week.

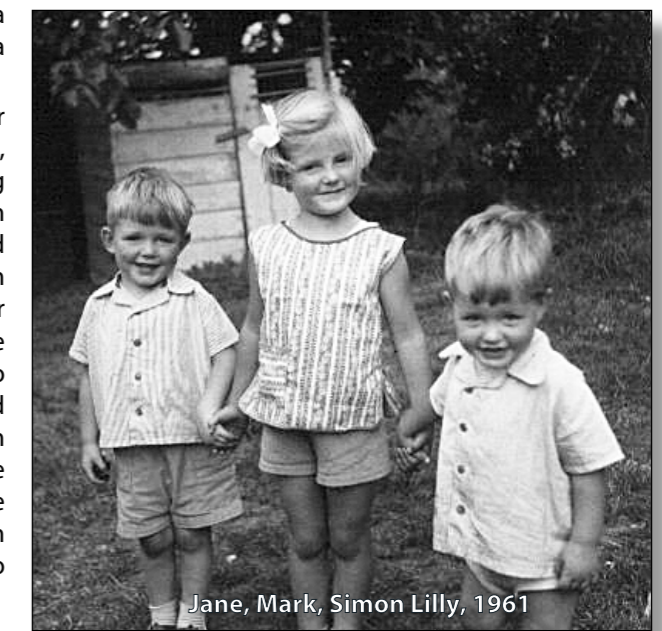
The car opened up her life and ours, especially during school holidays, when we were all packed into it along with mum's friend Vi Moor and her three children. We used to set off with packed lunches, three kids on the back seat and the other three in the back, ending up out in the countryside to play and picnic.

Till I was eleven or twelve, children in the school playground still played the old games our parents had played – What's the time Mr Wolf, Creep mouse, Chinese puzzle, The farmer wants a wife and so forth. If a couple of kids wanted to gather enough of us to play one of these games they would walk round the playground, arms round each other's shoulders, chanting 'All come round with who wants a game of Chinese puzzle'. If you wanted to join in, you put your arm round the shoulder of one of them and joined the line – and so on, till there were enough for the game to go on.

By the time I was at Nailsea School, we were thoroughly saturated by television programmes and their characters, playing out scenes from Emergency Ward 10, or The man from UNCLE and so forth. Life had changed, and the old games faded away. At junior school the other kids had all been brought up locally, like me, but by the time I was at Nailsea, I was in a community of friends many of whom had moved here with father's job.

Clevedon itself grew to a point where, after the development on Strawberry Hill was completed, and more housing was built around the south of the town after the motorway was laid down, our old walk round the corner into the countryside was hardly possible. You could walk up to the junction and cross the interchange safely, but the peace and quiet had gone, along with the lanes and hedges.

Jane Lilly



Jane, Mark, Simon Lilly, 1961

AROUND THE WORLD IN 91 DAYS

by Hugh Stebbing

Hugh asks: 'How do you start your "third age"? You know – that time when children are through school and study and you've done that thing called retirement. Retired from what? We're pretty fit, lively and it's definitely not time for chairs and slippers.'



Our solution was to go round the world. To go to places we may never visit again. We might find places we do want to see again and places we may not like so much. We'll challenge our senses and experience the sounds and smells of our world. We can also spend time with our daughter in New Zealand – that's about half way round! But we don't really like very long haul flying ...



atoll that is Tonga. We'd be able to compare the State capital cities of Australia with the metropoli of San Francisco, Auckland, Singapore, Mumbai and Dubai.

Talking to folk of all cultures and creeds and experiencing wildlife on the seas, in deserts



And so it was that Christine and I planned our circumnavigation earlier this year. We would go by ship and cruise. More accurately we would go by two ships – MV Aurora from Southampton to Auckland and then after a break in New Zealand, MV Arcadia from there back to England.



and rainforests were sometimes challenging, never dull but always so much better "in the flesh" than can ever be on TV or film.

Christine and I had prepared for the port based stopovers, knew where they would be and had some expectations for what we might see and do. What surprised us was the wealth of

We'd pass through both Panama and Suez Canals. We'd cross the great oceans. We'd experience the laid-back Caribbean, volcanic and mountainous Hawaii and Samoa and the flat coral

activities available on board the ships. We knew there would be a range of things to do but the scope far exceeded what we had imagined and the quality of lectures, musicianship, performance and opportunities really did make us feel we were on a floating university! The daily news bulletin set out events and activities for the following day so we could plan our schedule and, quite often, try something completely new to



us. There was so much of interest that on some days we barely ventured onto outside decks. Mind you, we were in the Tropics either side of the Equator for much of our cruise so it was hot which, for us, meant selected spells taking the air and getting our daily exercise. Four times round the Promenade Deck was



route we became the eyes and ears looking for MH370 off Australia and in the Indian Ocean, and in Middle Eastern waters we had armed guards on board and the multi-nation naval task force to protect us from pirates. We saw neither – sadly for the former and reassuringly for the latter!

And so much more ... as we travelled 31,000 miles by sea.

about one mile. We walked briskly; a (very) few jogged!

There were some who steaked themselves in the sun all day, every day. We soon worked out that these were

folk who were on our ship for just a short stay – say from Southampton to Antigua or Perth to Bali. They seemed to just want the sun tans!

We left England on 4th January and returned to home port on April 13th. En

Come to our Public Meeting on 9th April 2015 and I'll give you the whole story with lots of photos like these samples.

Hugh Stebbing

by Frances Hardcastle

A TALE OF TWO SHOPKEEPERS

Poignant memories from the past landed in Frances' laptop the other day and she wondered if you would like to share a little piece of Clevedon history with her.

Jane Lilly forwarded me this picture of my mother's shop in Copse Road called Lilian's. Mum sold re-conditioned pine and satin walnut furniture plus an eclectic mixture of what she always called her "bits and pieces". These were all hand-picked by Mum from various contacts and auction rooms and her business flourished during the 1980s.

But I get a bit ahead of myself. My Mum (Lilian Trueman) and my father Horace Trueman moved to Clevedon in 1962.

My father was a fishmonger and game merchant and he bought the fish shop in Hill Road. They had moved from Teignmouth where they had a flourishing similar shop selling to the visitors to the seaside town. This was their second retail outlet in Devon as they also bought and ran a fish and chip shop in Chudleigh during the 1950s, having emigrated from Birmingham after the Second World War to give myself and my brother a lovely country childhood.

As a couple they were excellent retailers, good communicators and not afraid of hard work. Mum helped in the fish shop in Clevedon and supported Dad in many ways especially cooking him breakfast early in the morning after he had risen every weekday at 4am to go to the fruit and veg market in Bristol. "That's where I make my profit", he always said.



Their retail partnership worked successfully through the 1960s and into the 1970s when Mum decided to branch out and open her own shop. She had a good eye for the kind of furniture that she knew would appeal to people at the right price.

Her first shop was rented in Kings Road, Clevedon (now a house) and this was followed by a move into an empty shop in Alexandra Road (now a hairdressers). Her furniture, antiques and bric-a-brac were extremely popular and in the 1980s she took on the responsibility of organising the display cabinets in the Walton Park Hotel. These she filled with jewellery and exquisite choice pieces which she knew would appeal to the hotel guests.

Dad retired from the fishmongers and joined Mum in her business. Until his

untimely death in 1981 they travelled up and down the West Country enjoying themselves buying bits and pieces to stock Mum's shop in Copse Road.

We have a connection with the space left by the demolition of Mum's shop in Copse Road as Bob and I now live in one of the houses built where Lilian's once stood. After her death in 1990 many people said to me: "Oh you're Lilian's daughter. I have some of her furniture in my home and I love it".

I really like that!

Frances Hardcastle

BRANCH LINE

New Elms for Clevedon

by Angela Slotte

In the 1970s, Dutch elm disease, having arrived in Britain in 1967 on a shipment of elm logs from North America, wiped out 28 million elms in the UK, radically changing our landscape forever.

Britain's response to this disaster was the launch in 1982 of The Conservation Foundation. A number of mature elm trees had survived – and survive to this day – appearing to be resistant to the disease, and from these parent trees new elm saplings were produced, first from cuttings and more recently by the speedier method of micro-propagation. It is not yet known whether these are permanently immune to the disease.

Dutch elm disease is one of the most serious tree diseases in the world. The cause, first identified by scientists in the Netherlands (hence the name), is two related species of fungi in the genus *Ophiostoma*, which are spread by various elm bark beetles. Elms only become fully susceptible to the disease after 10-20 years of growth, when they develop a cork-like bark that can be attacked by the beetles.



in various parts of the UK, have been distributed to over 700 schools, as well as to community groups, local authorities and private landowners. Over the last 4 years more than 2,000 elms have been sent out and are



It remains to be seen whether our two Woodcutter elms will survive and grow into tall majestic trees.

Angela Slotte



growing across the UK as part of the experiment.

The Clevedon Woodcutters for Wildlife are proud to be taking part in the Great British Elm Experiment, having in autumn 2013 taken delivery of two small saplings of the species Smooth-leaved Elm (*Ulmus minor*) raised from mother trees in Essex and Suffolk. These were grown on for a year and have now, at over 5 feet tall, been planted out. Beames' Elm and Shaw's Elm have been named in honour of, and planted by, two veteran Woodcutters, one in Quinney's Wood, Davis Lane, and the other in woodland on Poets' Walk. The experiment requires data on these saplings, such as height, girth and signs of pests and diseases, to be recorded for a period of at least 15 years. Locations of the trees and other information on all the elms in the experiment can be found on an on-line map.



During the UN's International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 the Conservation Foundation launched their Great British Elm Experiment, in which they are attempting to unlock the mystery of why some trees survived Dutch elm disease. Small potted saplings, raised from mature, apparently resistant trees

Interestingly, despite the disappearance of mature trees, we now have a great many elm hedges around Clevedon, as well as stands of tall saplings, as on Poets' Walk! This is due to the fact that our local elms freely produce suckers from their roots, even after the main tree has been killed. Sadly though, the saplings will inevitably become infected by the fungus and die back to ground level.

by Dave Long

POSTCARD CORNER

This postcard is of Gannicliff's shop in the Triangle, a tobacconist and stationers with a gent's hairdresser in a room at the back of the shop. Standing outside are some of the soldiers of the East Lancashire Regiment, which were billeted at Clevedon in the early days of World War I, along with some of the local lads. The soldier on the extreme left has an armband with the letters R M P which I think stands for Regimental Military Police. The card was posted on the 3rd of May 1915 at Tidworth. I assume it would have been sent there by the army possibly for a censor check before posting. It was sent to Bolton Lancs. and the soldier writes:

*D'ae ye ken me?
Hope to be home on leave this next week end. Weather here is glorious. Best wishes, Tom.*



Where do the street names in Clevedon come from?



J H Woodington

In 1897 Mr J H Woodington, the owner of several boot factories in Bristol, decided to open a branch factory in Clevedon. He lived in the house we now know as 'Sunhill' – the Community Centre.

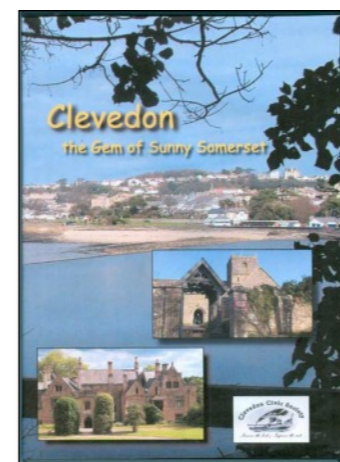
WHAT'S IN A NAME



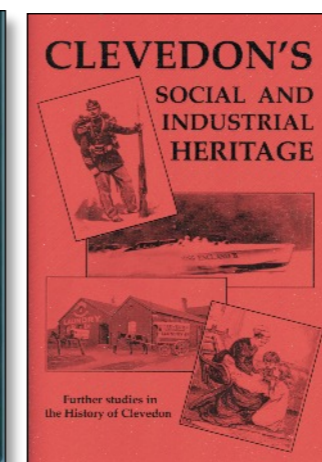
Abraham Elton Esq.

A wealthy Bristol merchant. He bought Clevedon Court in 1709 and was created Baronet in 1717. There has been an unbroken line of Eltons since, with Sir Charles Abraham, the present holder, being the eleventh.

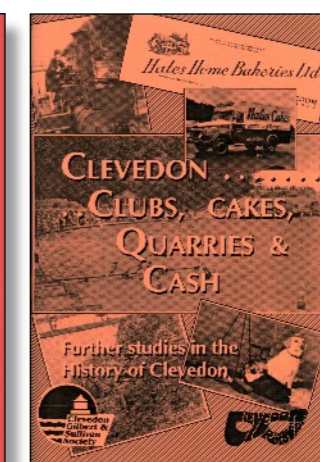
SOCIETY DVD AND BOOKS



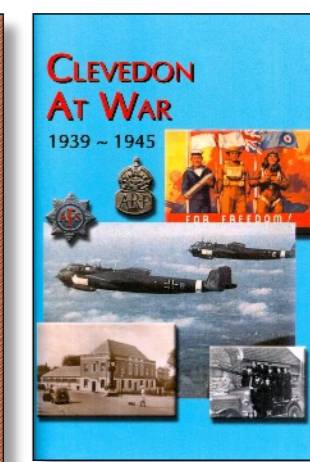
£3.00 (buy 2 get 1 free)



£7.50 (£6.00)



£7.00 (£6.00)



£9.95 (£8.50)

Prices in brackets are for Clevedon Civic Society members.

COLLECTOR'S LOT

by Dave Long



The Kingston Brewery was founded by A. E. Edwards in 1931 in an outbuilding at Kenn, with the Registered Office and retail outlet at the Triangle Store at Kingston Seymour. As only one bottle label for the Kingston Brewery - Special Milk Stout - has been found, it is possible that this was the only beer that was made in Kenn. In 1932 the brewery moved to the old market in Alexandra Road, Clevedon while the office and retail outlet stayed at Kingston

Seymour. The name changed to the Kingston Seymour Brewery Co. Ltd. Bottle labels for Kingston Seymour Brewery indicate that the range of beers increased to include Home Brewed, Indian Pale Ale and Bitter Ale. When the old market was restored in the early 80s some stopper labels were found for the Kingston Seymour Brewery.

The name changed again to the North Somerset Brewery Co. Ltd. and Amber Ale, Invalid Double Stout and



Guinness Extra Stout was added to the range of beers. They also produced a cider, Kingston Cyder. This was possibly made at Kenn or Kingston and bottled at the market. Bottle labels and stopper labels exist for all these brands of their beer. I have only seen two flagon bottles for the brewery marked Kingston Seymour Brewery in raised letters around the base of the bottle.

The brewery had a capital of £1,000 in £1 shares when registered, and the directors were A. E. Edwards and L. E. H. Day.

The brewery ceased trading in 1939.

Dave Long

C20 SOCIETY

by Bob Hardcastle

In the Spring edition of *The Clevedonian* I wrote about the Twentieth Century Society, which I joined earlier this year.

After explaining what the C20 Society was all about I asked for suggestions for the names of buildings thought worthy of retention and Listing and built in the last 100 years.

One of the reasons for asking is that the C20 Society is producing a book illustrating 100 buildings from 1914 to the present day. One for each year in date order.

As I understand it at least two West Country buildings will be included. One is Clifton Roman Catholic Cathedral in Bristol (1973) and the other is the Eden Project in Cornwall (2001). When the book is published I will let you know if any other South West regional buildings have been included.

Other encouraging news from the London based C20 Society is that they are in the process of setting up a Regional Group from the Somerset, Bristol and Gloucestershire area.

An initial meeting has been held and it is hoped that the Group can be formally set up by the end of this year.

I have expressed a wish to join this Group out of personal interest but also

because I think that the C20 Society could be helpful to the Civic Society if we ever need to campaign for the retention or Listing of a twentieth century building in the town. Tom Harper, from Clevedon Civic Society and a long standing member of C20, is also interested in this Regional Group. We will let you know how it progresses and hopefully what events and visits it organises.

Bob Hardcastle



Clifton-Cathedral

Colour Sergeant John Pitt (Gamlin) 23rd Regiment of Foot & 4th Herefordshire Volunteers

MILITARY CHEST

by Rob Campbell



John, born in Clevedon in 1835, attested for army service in Bristol in 1855. Promotion was extremely rapid as he was appointed Colour Sergeant within 4 years. He saw service in Malta, Turkey and the Crimea before being posted to India during the Indian Mutiny. This overseas service took its toll and he was medically discharged in 1861 due to pulmonary disease. Only a year earlier on the 20 August 1860 he was married to Eliza Durbin in St Andrews Church, Clevedon. On his discharge from the regular army he was appointed Drill Sergeant to the Bromyard Volunteer Rifle Corps, later D Company, Herefordshire Rifle Volunteers. He served with them and had a very good reputation amongst both his officers and men until his premature death on the 23 March 1869 due to his military service. For reasons yet to be confirmed he added Gamlin (Gamlen) to his surname post 1860. Whilst with the Bromyard Volunteers he became an active member of the Odd Fellows.

Press Cuttings

Hereford Times: 12 October 1861

Bromyard - Grand Volunteer Demonstration
Bromyard or 4th Herefordshire Volunteers
1st Prize 300 yards Standing, & 500 & 600 yards kneeling
Sergeant John Pitt: Total 9 points placing him 3rd.

Worcester Journal: 27 March 1869

Death Notice
Gamlin - March 23rd at Bromyard, in his 33rd year, Sergeant John Pitt Gamlen, drill instructor to the Rifle Corps and late of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers

Worcester Chronicle: 3 April 1869

Bromyard
The late Sergeant Gamlin - The remains of Sergeant John Pitt Gamlin (Sergeant & drill-instructor of the Rifle Corps) were interred on Sunday in the parish churchyard, with full military honours. There was a good muster of the corps, as well as of the Odd Fellows, of which the deceased was a member. There was a heavy fall of snow during the funeral, but despite the inclement weather the churchyard was thronged with people to witness the funeral. The service was read by the Reverend Nash Stephenson, after which the Odd Fellows funeral oration was read by Mr Charles Hinksman.

Worcester Chronicle: 31 March 1869

Death Notice
March 24th at Bromyard, after a long illness, aged 33, Mr John Pitt Gamlen, drill instructor of the Bromyard Rifle Corps and formerly sergeant of the 23rd Regiment of Foot.

Rob Campbell

