

The Clevedonian

Spring 2014

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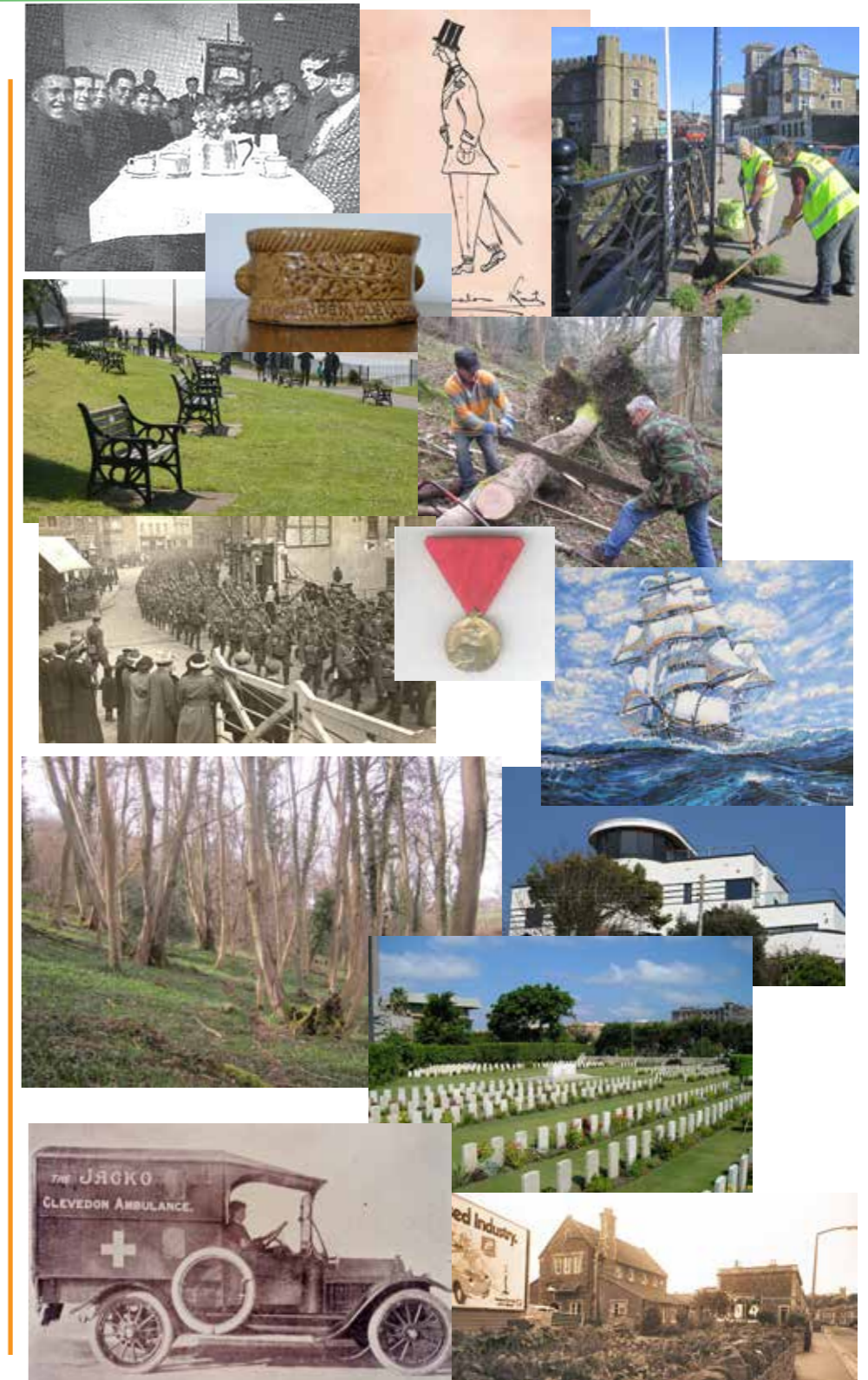
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The views expressed are those of the authors, and may or may not represent those of the Society.

A VIEW FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

by
Rob
Campbell



By the time you read this I'm sure Hugh and Christine will have settled back into Clevedon life, with only, I hope, fond memories of life on board ship, spending time with family in New Zealand and visiting Clevedon, New Zealand. Hugh

kindly emailed to say that he bumped into a lady in the town who had a copy of one of our books, great!

I am writing this in Hugh's absence, so I will be brief. I would just like to thank all the members of the Executive

Committee for their continued efforts, which ensure that the Society continues to be varied, vibrant and interesting to its members and one that people outside Clevedon look to as an example of how to run a happy and successful group. I'd also like to thank all the members for their support during these last few months - your friendliness ensured that I enjoyed it.

Rob Campbell



Hugh's cruise liner the P&O Arcadia

GROUP REPORT

The Footpaths Group has continued very successfully through the autumn and winter months with only one walk being cancelled due to bad weather on the day. We managed to do our postponed walk from Cheddar to Charterhouse via Velvet Bottom, where reminders of ancient lead mines and quarrying were in evidence. The following outing was a guided tour to view the Civic Society Environment Group projects and this was very popular, but had to be cut short due to gale force winds making it hard for everybody to hear. The tour of these projects will be revisited in the summer when we plan to meet on a Thursday evening to complete the tour, followed by a sociable drink in one of the local pubs. This will be on August 14th. During the period of unprecedented wet weather that followed we tended to avoid the saturated cross country routes. Walk leaders have been very resourceful in coming up with interesting outings,

Next meetings: 9 June and 1 September

Footpaths Group Report by Julie Slocombe (Tel: 872633)



suitable for the time of year, and so we had Paul Cronin's Bristol Harbour walk on a chilly December day, which required a coffee stop as well as a pub lunch to keep the cold at bay.

Civic Society books provided a source of inspiration during January with Liz Byrd's mid-Clevedon Victorian walk using material from "The Builders of Clevedon" by Derek and Jane Lilly. Many types of building erected between the 1850s and 1905 were admired, including the Market Hall and the grand mansions in Elton Road. Later that month Paul led a walk including paths through Court Wood that was based on his own "10 Clevedon Walks" booklet.

With the ground still very wet and muddy underfoot, we were fortunate that February's walk was Liz's tour highlighting some of the history of Long Ashton, this being based on research carried out by Roy and Joan Girling. As well as the historical buildings pointed out and the site of the old Hobwell, we were fascinated to see a shop that had

been closed some 45 - 50 years ago and that remains untouched together with two ancient delivery vans outside. Subsequently we ate our lunch at The Angel (15th Century Inn) in the very room where the local Court sat and above the cells where the prisoners were kept during the 1700s.

Early spring arrived and we were able to cross a few fields by the time Geoff and Wendy Moore took us on a trek around Blagdon in March, but this was in stark contrast to the walk around Blagdon a year previously when we had barely walked on roads.

Finally, we enjoyed a walk led by Denis through Leigh Woods down to the River Avon and back to Brakenwood via a small grotto, and apparently including the sight and song of no less than 14 different birds - if only one is knowledgeable enough to recognise them!

Julie Slocombe

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 - Mike Wheatley
Co-opted Member - Bryan Osborne

Next Executive meetings:
Tuesday 10 June and 16 September

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.

Conservation & Planning Group

Report by John Tranter (Tel: 873507)



The Group has met four times since my last report to *The Clevedonian*, with an average membership of about five people at each meeting. We would welcome any Civic Society member who has an interest in our activities to come along to future meetings. See below for dates and please give me a ring on the above number.

Among the planning items discussed recently were:

Clevedon Hall. All applications, including those for change of use to Boutique Hotel and Wedding Venue, have now been approved, but as far as we know building work hasn't yet started.

Pier Hotel and Regent. Building work has now started on the Pier Hotel development with an undetermined finishing date. Revised drawings for the Regent have been submitted by the applicant, but they still show internally illuminated signs, which are contrary to North Somerset Council policy on signage in Conservation Areas. On behalf of the Civic Society, the Committee wrote to the Council reiterating our objections.

22 Marine Parade. An application to build nine town houses on this site, to replace the present bungalow, was made just before Christmas. At the Town Council planning committee meeting on 22nd January the developers presented their scheme. The Civic Society was one of the objectors who spoke against the application, which was subsequently recommended for refusal by the Town Council.

Next meetings: 6 May, 15 July, 19 August and 23 September



Clevedon Hall



Pier Hotel



22 Marine Parade



Cavell House, Elton Road

Following a concerted effort by residents, Town Council and Civic Society, the North Area Planning Committee voted on 10th April to refuse the application, against the Council's own officer's recommendations to accept it. Objections centred on the loss of unique views and all the objectors felt that sufficient planning policies existed to protect the unique qualities of Clevedon seafront and that they should be used.

15 and 32 Old Street - Two proposals for a 'change of use' order to turn the premises into fast food takeaways. We have objected to both.

Cavell House, 1 Elton Road - Application for new illuminated signs in Elton Road and Hallam Road. As this is a predominantly residential area several neighbours have objected as the signs would be very dominant. Civic Society concur with this and have written to the Council to object.

It was good to have the opportunity to talk about the activities and discussions of the Conservation and Planning Group at the main Civic Society meeting on the 10th April.

In order to make our activities more relevant to the membership we propose to forward our responses to planning applications to members who live close to the application site. The membership database is an ideal way to identify those members affected by specific applications.

John Tranter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

Gift Aid

by Carl Peries



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

GROUP REPORT

Environment Group

Report by Bob Hardcastle (Tel. 871633)



We hope to complete this survey by mid May and will let members know the outcome.

Our Working Party sessions this year have pruned, swept and litter picked the seating area in Pier Copse and also helped the Pier Trust, as a one off exercise, to tidy up the garden in front of the Heritage Centre. Our most recent event was the Big Litter Pick on Clevedon seafront on 14 April to "spring clean" the area for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend's visitors.

Bandstand and replace the adjacent rusting bollards.

Finally a date for your diary. On the evening of Thursday 14 August the Environment Group will combine with the Footpaths Group to do a walk around the seafront area to look at the projects carried out by the Environment Group in the past. We hope to finish at a local pub and have better weather than when we tried to do this walk last November. It was so wet then the walk had to be abandoned in favour of the attractions of a dry and warm cafe on the sea front!

Bob Hardcastle

Do you think that there are too many memorial seats in Clevedon? The Environment Group thinks so and are going to do a survey of all the existing seats in the town so that a future strategy for memorial seats can be agreed with North Somerset Council.

The Group has the benefit of a survey done for the Society in 2003 entitled "Clevedon's Resting Places". This survey identified 186 seats or benches in Clevedon at that time. We suspect that the number has increased considerably since then. Indeed we wrote to North Somerset Council a couple of years ago to ask them to stop placing any more seats on the Green Beach, near the Bandstand, as we think that this area has been ruined by the multitude of seats on the grassed area.

The final straw, and what prompted a response from the Environment Group and the Friends of Poet's Walk, was the intention of North Somerset Council to place a memorial bench on a new site on the top of Church Hill, which is a designated Local Nature Reserve. We hope that as a result of our opposition to this idea North Somerset Council has put additional memorial seats "on hold" until a policy can be agreed.

We await the outcome of North Somerset Council's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant towards the Marine Lake enhancement. The HLF are making a visit to the town on 15 May and will be inspecting the Lake and meeting the organisations related to the bid. The Society has been very involved with this submission which we hope will be successful. We also continue to press NSC to complete the work on the

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Next meetings: 14 May, 16 July and 10 September

CONGRATULATIONS

To Rob Campbell and Geoff Hale on receiving a Citizen and Personality Award from the Chairman of the Clevedon Town Council - Cllr Patrick McNeill.

Rob's award was for his work at the Clevedon Branch of the Royal British Legion and for his many years as a leading member of our own Civic Society.

Geoff's was for his production of *Clevedon News*.

Congratulations to both.



Stewart Edwards, Cllr Patrick McNeill, Ursula Marks, Geoff Hale, Rob Campbell



Local History Group

Report by Rob Campbell (Tel. 877038)

GROUP REPORT

Office in June. A special thank you goes to Frances Hardcastle who has given us some great publicity.

Our February and March meetings had a distinctive military feel about them. Clive Burlton gave an excellent presentation on Bristol and the Great War, and many people were fascinated about the 1914 Bristol International Exhibition known locally as the 'White City', its temporary buildings later being used as barracks and training grounds for the thousands of volunteers. It's always a great pleasure and privilege to welcome Arthur Spencer DFC. This time Arthur gave a thrilling and amusing account of the raid known as Operation Bellicose in which he took part on 20 June 1943. The story of the 'two finger wave' will remain in our minds forever!

Projects for 2014: Our project is to add to the Oaklands Story, the history of our own Red Cross Hospital during World War 1. We will be laying on a display in Clevedon Library in May to mark 'Local History Month'. The display will move to the newly refurbished West End Post

North Somerset Council's WW1 VC project: Full details of the 3 VC recipients with a Clevedon connection have been sent to John Flannigan at his request. Sadly he has come back to me saying that it only applies to recipients born in the town and we don't have any.

Trip to Ypres and the Somme: We are all looking forward to this trip. It will be good to have our President Julia along and nice that she is excited about it. We have one double room left so if you would like to join us, give me a call on 877038.

James Shopland's World War 2 'Dig for Victory' event: To be held on the North Somerset Show Ground 5/6 July 2014. We will

be in the 'Victory Marquee' with our displays. Check out the website on www.digforvictoryshow.com Please come along to support us. Any help will be gratefully received. Items of local interest pertaining to that period will be displayed and cared for.

It looks like a busy spring and summer for us!

Rob Campbell



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

COMING SHORTLY...

Local History Group Meetings

15 May 2014

We inherited a Bishop
Roy Girling



19 June 2014

Traditional Songs and Music of Bristol
John Shaw



17 July 2014

The Great War - Clevedon
Members' Own



Civic Society Meetings

11 September 2014

Slimbridge
Bill Francis



9 October 2014

John Lewis PLC
Andy McLaren/Steve Hill



13 November 2014

Tyntesfield Updates
Terry Stevens



Local History Group Meetings

18 September 2014

Bristol Blue Plaques
Cyril Routley



16 October 2014
Over the Mountains Under the Sea
John Rostron



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



YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

by Frances Hardcastle

An exciting project to record the history of Clevedon's very own Red Cross Hospital during World War 1 has been launched by the Society's Local History Group. Our new Publicity Officer, Frances Hardcastle, reports.

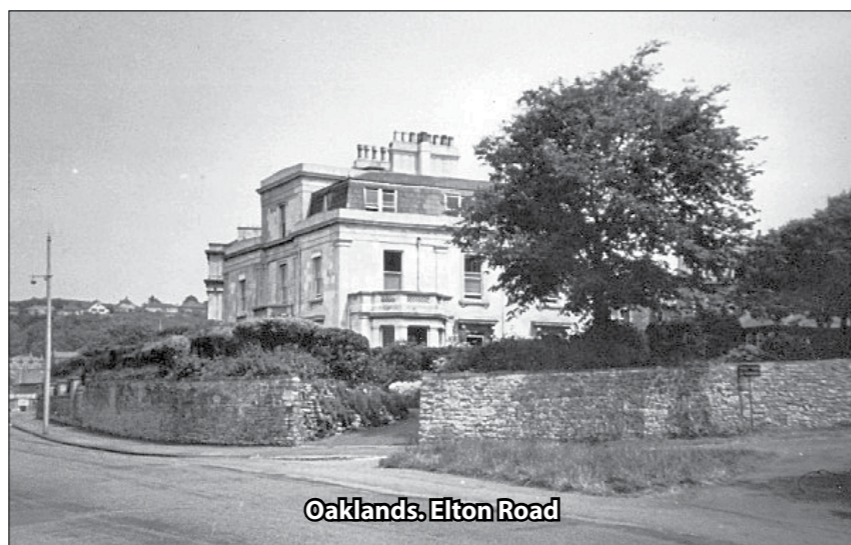
It was in the middle of August 1914 that the town was appointed as a convalescence base and Mr and Mrs Ernest Mills of Ramsbury Manor, Wiltshire, offered their residence, Oaklands, in Elton Road (now demolished and replaced by the Oaklands flats) free of charge for use as an auxiliary hospital.

The Oaklands Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital was opened in November 1914 and had ten wards and a total of 45 beds. There was an operating theatre and dispensary plus offices and a kitchen. Equipment was acquired by voluntary gifts from the people of Clevedon and district, in addition to the clothing and linen supplied by the local War Workroom.

The Local History Group is appealing for memories and stories from anyone who had relatives who helped with this amazing project.

'The whole town rallied round to equip the hospital,' said Rob Campbell, chairman of the Local History Group. 'Whilst researching I found, in the Mercury, a statement saying that girls as young as 8 were busy sewing and knitting to get things ready.'

As part of the Clevedon Library's Local History Month in May, the group is staging a display relating to Oaklands. Members will be delighted to see you there and hear your stories. They will be on duty at the display on the five Thursdays in the month from 10am to noon and 2 to 4pm. Alternatively call Rob Campbell on 01275 877038. Email: rob.g.campbell@btinternet.com.



Oaklands, Elton Road



The 'Jacko' Ambulance was a familiar sight around the town



'Very few records exist today about The Oaklands Project but with your help we can add to the research that I have carried out and donate copies to the Somerset Heritage Centre and the Red Cross Museum in London for future generations to study,' said Rob Campbell.

Frances Hardcastle

Both drawings, made by patients, were taken from an autograph book that belonged to Rose Norton Harper, one of the nurses who served at Oaklands from November 1914 up to 1917, when she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and served in France. She also drove the 'Jacko' ambulance.



ADANAC HOUSE, KENN ROAD

by Jane Lilly

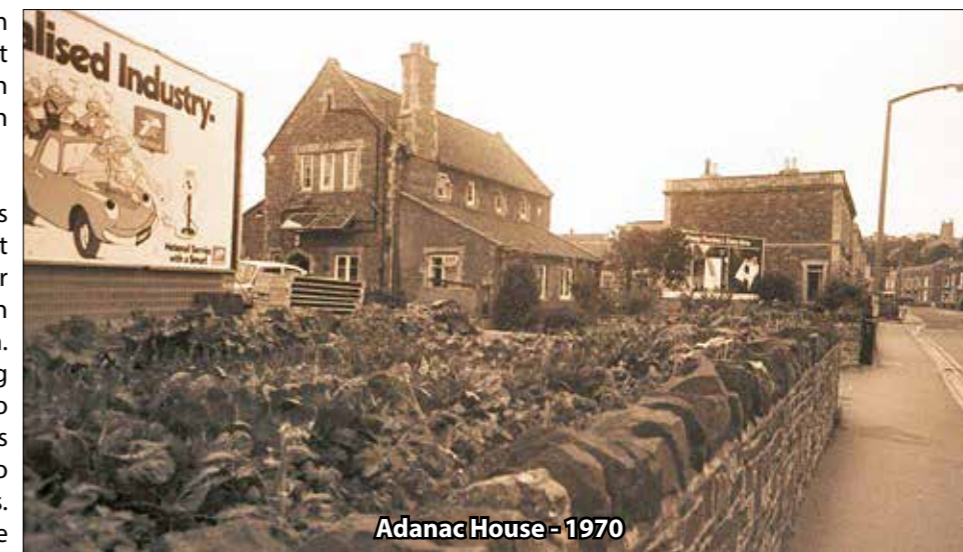
In October Jane Lilly, a Civic Society member, had an email passed on via our website from Susan Foster, who was researching her family history.

The family originated from Lancashire, and her great great grandmother appeared to be living in Clevedon in 1871, in what was then known as the Orphan School.

Known to most Clevedonians as Adanac House, this building was first conceived early in the 1850s by Arthur Elton as a lodging house for single men working on building sites in the town. He had begun an extensive building programme in the town, aiming to erect not only large, high status villas to be rented out for income but also cottages suitable for estate workers. With building plots sold in Bellevue Terrace and Elton Road as well as Albert Road, there should have been enough men to use the facility. The builders working on these projects often came from outside Clevedon, especially when there were not enough local skilled men to carry out the work. The house stood opposite the junction of Moor Lane with Kenn Road, and was demolished when Great Western Road was laid out.

The lodging house proved unsuccessful in a few years and Sir Arthur let the building to two benevolent ladies of Clevedon to be run as a school for orphans. Eighteen girls were living there in 1861 learning to be servants, aged from ten to sixteen years and cared for by a matron and an assistant matron. At that time the majority of the girls were from Bristol, with others from Kent, Staffordshire and Surrey.

In 1871 twenty four girls were in the orphanage, together with the matron, under matron and a laundress. Here was Susan Foster's great great grandmother, Janet Lowe, aged fourteen and born in Lancashire. Her grandparents had died by then, and her mother was absent, so it would seem that she was sent here as an orphan. Susan discovered that she was a resourceful girl, as eighteen months later she had married and was living in Manchester, having lied about her age. She lived to the age of eighty five and is fondly remembered by Susan's father.



Adanac House - 1970

Ten years later, there were eighteen girls at the school, among them Mary Harrup aged thirteen and her sister Rachel, ten years old. From an enquiry some years ago I learned that the sisters sailed from Liverpool to Quebec in May 1883 aboard SS Sardinian under the 'Home Children' scheme. Their father had died and mother had vanished. Their little brothers were in the Workhouse in Bath.

By 1890, the Orphan School is listed as vacant in the local directory. Various people lived there for a few years, using it as a private house, until in 1911 it is listed as the Parish Room attached to St John's Church. It seems to have been

used as a house again during part of the 1920s and 1930s, until a directory surviving from 1937 lists it as the Labour Office, run by Mr and Mrs RT Holley.

The rest of the domestic quarters were occupied by Mr and Mrs G S Ware - he was, I believe, Sid Ware, who on his return from a spell in Canada named the old building Adanac House. This often puzzles people, but if you write the letters in reverse order, they spell Canada!

Jane Lilly



BRANCH LINE

by Angela Slotte

Norton's Wood was the first nature conservation site in Clevedon to be managed by the volunteer group **Woodcutters for Wildlife**.

Norton's Wood in east Clevedon is part of Clevedon Court Estate and comprises 16 hectares (ca 40 acres) of ancient semi-natural woodland. There is no public right of way through this private woodland but walkers are welcome to follow permissive paths, provided dogs are kept on leads. A stony bridleway that leads uphill to the motorway bridge marks the eastern boundary of Norton's Wood.

Each year since the early 1990s, under an agreement with Clevedon Court Estate, the Woodcutters for Wildlife have coppiced a new quarter hectare (50m x 50m) square by cutting down hazel to near ground level to promote the growth of fresh shoots from the resulting 'coppice stools'.



Hazel coppice



Bluebell and Yellow Pimpernel

Mature trees have been thinned out to allow in more sunlight, and young native species planted. These combined management techniques enhance the value of the woodland to wildlife by promoting a succession of habitats, which in turn provide seasonal interest to walkers.

Norton's Wood

The mature, standard trees growing alongside the coppiced hazel are predominantly ash and small leaved lime. Other species include oak, beech, birch and holly, and the occasional wych elm. In accordance with the official Norton's Wood Management Plan, non-native species such as Holm oak and laurel, as well as sycamore, are removed.



Wych Elm



Angela Slotte



Wood Anemone



Fritillary

The Woodcutters currently work with hand tools only, and particularly enjoy the challenge of cutting timber with a traditional 2-man crosscut saw. The volunteers only work in the wood between October and March each year, after which the site is left undisturbed for the breeding and bird nesting season.

Following coppicing and thinning, wild flowers quickly re-establish in

the restored sunlight; carpets of wood anemones and bluebells re-appear, and are joined by less common species such as yellow pimpernel. In spring the wood is filled with bird song and in summertime fritillaries and other butterflies frequent the glades.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Where do the street names in Clevedon come from?



Rev Stephen Henry Saxby
(1831 to 1886)

The first Vicar of All Saints Church, he was also a world authority on astronomy.



Rev W. N. Pedder

Vicar of Clevedon from 1830 till his death in 1871.

Miss Beatrice Pedder

A gifted water colour artist, she was the grand-daughter of the Rev W. Pedder. Born in Clevedon in 1875.

Bob Hardcastle, chairman of our Environment Group asks, 'Can anyone think of a building in Clevedon, constructed since 1914, that might be worth listing and preserving for future generations?'

THE C20 SOCIETY

by Bob Hardcastle

I ask this question as I have recently joined the Twentieth Century Society. For those of you who have not heard of it, and I suspect that will be the majority, I will quote from one of its publications.

"The Twentieth Century Society campaigns to protect the most significant buildings of one of the most innovative and diverse periods of architecture. From the playful Deco of seaside villas to the Brutalist concrete of London's Hayward Gallery, you don't have to love them all to believe that the best of these buildings deserve to be protected."

It seems possible that our attitude to buildings constructed in the last one hundred years is similar to previous generations' attitude to Victorian buildings. Thinking has changed however and many of these Victorian buildings are now loved and Listed!

What, I wonder, will bring about that change in our response to more recent buildings? It is accepted that many buildings of the last century were poorly designed and poorly built. Witness the demolition of many post Second World War tower blocks in recent years.

The Twentieth Century Society is this year compiling a list of the best 100

buildings of the last 100 years on a year by year basis. Looking at the provisional list on their website www.c20society.org.uk I cannot find a single building in the South West being proposed for inclusion, let alone in Clevedon.

So – any suggestions for Clevedon – or Bristol – or the South West?

Bob Hardcastle



Eileen lived in Clevedon for the first fourteen years of her life, but her family's connection with the town goes back a long time. In the last edition Eileen told of her family's history up until 1939, the year she was born.

MY FAMILY

My early memories are of the war and its aftermath of severe shortage. Iron garden railings were cut up to be used in the war effort – you can still see the ends of these embedded in some garden walls, e.g. at the top of Alexandra Road. Food was very important, as it was so scarce – I used to wonder why we had such a small butter ration when there seemed to be huge crates of this on the top shelf of the Co-op on Old Church Road! I did not realise that it was old butter advertisements stuck on the glass doors to disguise the empty shelves!

During the war, Alice, known to everyone as "Grannie Mitchell", visited the soldiers who were billeted in Clevedon. Her loving interest and way of chatting about her Saviour and Lord made her a great favourite with the young men. One said "We like our padre but we love our madre!" She even ordered a supply of John's Gospels in Italian and Polish to give to the prisoners of war stationed in Yatton.

In those days shopping was very different, as so little was available. We went to Ayres, at the top of Alexandra Road for our groceries, which were delivered each week in a cardboard box. We never knew what would be there, for as well as the very small rations, Mr Ayre would distribute anything available to his regular customers. I can still remember the thrill the day there was a paper bag with 15 eggs on the top of the box – I had never seen so many eggs outside a shop – often we only had 3 or 4 a week for the 5 of us!

Our bread was delivered by Alec Streetley, from his bakery in Kings Road – his father had gone to Alice's class, though he had not been a donkey boy; in fact, she used to call him "her little gentleman". Alec would visit his customers with a basket of bread on his arm. One Boxing Day, he remarked that he was "taking the bread for a walk" as everyone had bought too much before Christmas – discouraging when he had been up by 4am to bake it! When it became uneconomic to deliver the bread, I was old enough to walk alone up the Zigzag and along the path round Dial Hill with a basket on wheels to fetch bread three times a week. Mother gave



Our 'Madre'

me an extra 3d for an ice lolly to refresh me on the way home with the heavy basket; I could never decide which was easier – to push it over the grass, or along the rough unmade Kings Road.

Dad kept bees, so we had our own honey, and he was given extra sugar to make the syrup to feed the bees in winter. As Mum tried to make our sugar ration last the week, she sometimes eyed the bees' 7lb bags of sugar longingly – I however, had no compunction in tearing a corner of the 7 lb bags so I could pinch a little sugar! I craved sweet things and was allowed 2 wholesome boiled sweets after dinner, so it was a thrill at the end of the Copse Road Sunday School Christmas party to be given 2 squares of milk chocolate – Miss Sweet and another elderly lady saved their sweet ration all year for this!

There was always an orange and apple in my Christmas stocking, but one year I had not seen any oranges in the shops. When I woke up, I anxiously felt the bulges in my stocking – yes, there were circular ones at both heel and toe – and lay clutching my precious orange until it was time to put on the light and eat it.

Each week my aunt walked to Clevedon Hall to fetch fruit and vegetables which were sold from a stall in the garden. I used to ask my mother why we could not buy these – they seemed much more interesting than the "greens and tops" which grew on the stems after our cabbages and sprouts had been harvested.

When I was very small, there was a children's mission at Clevedon Baptist, and my brother and I were taken to it. The seats were very modern, cinema-style tip-up ones, but unfortunately, when I sat too far back, they tipped up with me inside. I was hastily rescued and comforted, but it was an unfortunate introduction to church! Later, when I was old enough to attend the morning service, I was warned about this, and sat very carefully on the extreme edge of the seat!

When the war-time black-out ended, Dad took my brother and me up to Dial Hill so that we would have the thrill of seeing the town lit up for the first time. He thought we would never forget such an experience and was disgusted to find, years later, that neither of us remembered it!

I spent my schooldays at Wycliffe Lodge, in Linden Road; the headmistresses were Miss Starr and Miss Way. In the kindergarten, I was taught by Mrs Maynard, of Maynard's Creamery on Hill Road – when I was older, I bought ice creams from her at a stall on the beach.

After the war, when there was a fire, the "All Clear" air-raid siren sounded to summon the part-time firemen from their work or homes. They all dropped whatever they were doing and ran to the fire station as fast as they could. Mr Dodge (?), a carpenter, made the coffins

IN CLEVEDON

Part Two

and was one of the bearers, so one day Alice asked him: "What do you do if the siren sounds when you are carrying a coffin?" He replied, "I says, 'the living come first', drop the coffin and run!"

My brother and I were brought up on Bible stories, so when we walked through Clevedon Court woods and admired the extensive views from Abraham's Heights, I was convinced that the Biblical Abraham had stood on that very spot with his nephew Lot and surveyed the land God had promised to give him!



Harold and Alice Cole, my parents, early 1950s

Once a week, I went to a pottery class run by Mr Norris at his denture workshop at 26 Alexandra Road. Mr Fishley Holland, from the pottery in Court Lane, would sometimes come to encourage us, and take our work to fire in his kiln. When I was 12 or 13, I joined a small class at the pottery for a week in the summer holidays. His son, George, taught us to throw pots on the wheel, using clay dug on the local moors – his father bought better quality clay, I think from Cornwall.

After we had left Clevedon in 1953, Mother and I came back on holiday, staying at Hawkins Guest House in Marine Terrace. We visited the pottery, and Mr Holland told us that the Queen Mother had admired a huge Elton Pottery vase. He had offered to copy it for her, but had made a number before he was satisfied with the result. So, after dispatching it to her, he was left with a number of very large vases that no one would buy. Not wanting to waste his time and material, he experimented with different ways of making them more



Alice Mitchel and Eileen Cole - 1942

attractive, and discovered a new glaze which became very popular.

Like all the other visitors, we went to Clevedon Court, which was opened at times – we had never done this before. We were being shown over the kitchen when a small woman dressed in what looked like old black-out curtains with a sack tied round her waist, waddled across the kitchen. I assumed it was the lowliest charlady about to scrub the floor, until, as the door closed behind her, Mother whispered in my ear "That was Lady Elton!"

Eileen Cole



Three generations, Alice Mitchel, Alice and Eileen Cole 6 May 1948

P	Q	G	C	W	Z	P	P	O	R	T	I	S	H	E	A	D
C	O	K	I	N	G	S	T	O	N	S	E	Y	M	O	U	R
A	L	R	P	Y	B	S	A	Y	V	C	B	W	X	W	T	V
V	I	E	T	P	W	I	Q	P	L	M	E	F	A	D	R	A
K	Q	R	V	B	I	W	Y	O	V	Z	S	L	B	I	Y	B
G	Q	W	C	E	U	H	L	M	X	H	Z	A	I	V	H	B
R	C	O	Y	L	D	R	P	V	S	Q	B	X	P	X	A	O
R	H	H	C	V	A	O	Y	L	D	D	P	B	S	G	L	T
T	E	V	L	R	D	V	N	G	E	H	K	O	G	J	B	S
M	L	N	A	I	L	S	E	A	N	X	Z	U	P	S	A	L
Y	V	X	O	K	C	E	G	R	L	B	X	R	D	P	C	E
J	E	X	S	P	T	Q	T	R	H	U	J	T	F	S	K	I
Q	Y	T	K	K	S	S	R	A	W	A	I	O	R	Z	W	G
M	C	V	T	C	R	Z	X	D	O	Q	M	N	I	L	E	H
B	H	U	T	T	O	N	Z	W	R	A	X	A	L	L	L	U
O	Y	B	A	N	W	E	L	L	L	S	G	S	J	Q	L	F
T	I	C	K	E	N	H	A	M	E	K	N	L	J	Q	E	D

WORD SQUARE

Set by Derek Lilly

How well do you know your countryside? There are fifteen North Somerset towns and villages hidden in the grid. Can you find them?

The answers are at the bottom of page 14

CLEVEDON'S OWN AND WW1

a personal view by Paul Kite

Tuesday 4th August 1914 to Monday 11th November 1918

The War to End all Wars

With hindsight it was not. The 20th Century has been quoted by historians as the century with the most wars in history.

The loss of life in the First World War was felt by every family in Great Britain - That much is true and its devastating effect on the generations that followed has been tolerably constant. I have two relatives listed on the War Memorial in Glastonbury and another in Midsomer Norton. So why then should 2014 be any different to all the other 100 years, just because this year is the Centenary? Already the Newspapers, TV, Radio are featuring programmes to remind us yet again of the conflagration, when in truth none is 'absolutely' necessary because we do remember them. The outpouring of individual family sorrow has been never ending since its beginning. Tales are passed by word of mouth from generation to generation and collectively via local history and the millions of names on memorials. Excellent books like *Clevedon's Own* by Rob Campbell have been produced in various forms ever since. Rob's is the story of a war as it affected our town. Other towns have done the same. Midsomer Norton has a book entitled 'No Thankful Village' and displays somewhat in anger the reaction of a Town 'not thankful' that it lost and had maimed so many of its 'best and most promising men of their generation'.

Since World War 2 we have had a generation that has been allowed to thrive and to grow old. Have they - we - through hindsight and wisdom, done better, prevented war and disharmony?

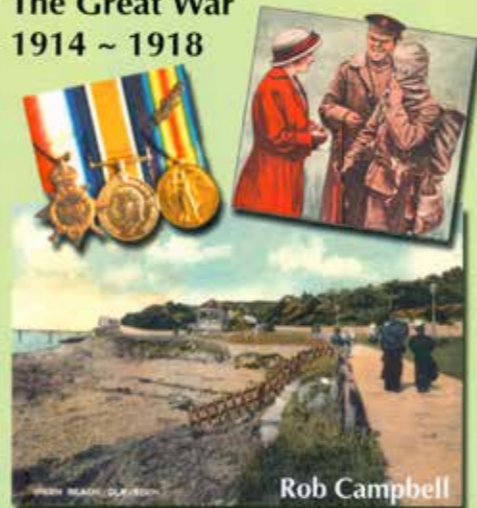
I think not. Yet it was for that reason - to end all wars - that men flocked to recruiting offices (in both world wars) to allow us to survive. (Or has our generation been allowed to grow old because of fear of the bomb!)

Rob's book does a great service to this town in revealing through dedicated research, the response to what was perceived as "a great danger to civilisation". Each member of the population had a story to tell, both civilian and service and thankfully Rob has gleaned rich colour from dusty dialect prose, poetry, anecdotes and heavily posed photographs. Men and women offering all to the conflict. The trench horrors of 1914 to 1918 cannot be appreciated by any one of us unless having been totally involved in brutal conflict. What do we make of the expressions: 'hand to hand' - 'lying where they fell' - 'the smell was enough to turn a man green' as recounted by Private Frank May in a letter to his parents. You would have to live the horrors to really understand. I would beg that even then, they didn't understand; the horrors being too much to bear. An uncle gassed but survived, an arm or leg or both lost here and there and a face needing re-structuring with primitive surgery.

As a child in WW2, living in Herbert Road,

CLEVEDON'S OWN

The Great War
1914 ~ 1918



£9.95 (£8.00 to members)

there were ladies, neighbours, living there, respectfully called Miss X and Miss Y all in their 40s and 50s. Each had lost a boy friend or more formally a fiancé to the conflict. Post war, the lack of eligible men committed them to a permanent, unfulfilled loneliness. Each had a picture of their loved one on their mantle piece, a reminder of a life of promise cut short, whilst still in this world.

Let's not celebrate 100 years of passing history. Let's just be thankful that most of us have been able to live off the fruits bequeathed to us over time, through so many sacrifices.

Paul Kite

Paul is a retired *Flight Sergeant* who saw 31 years of service as an RAF Ground Crew.

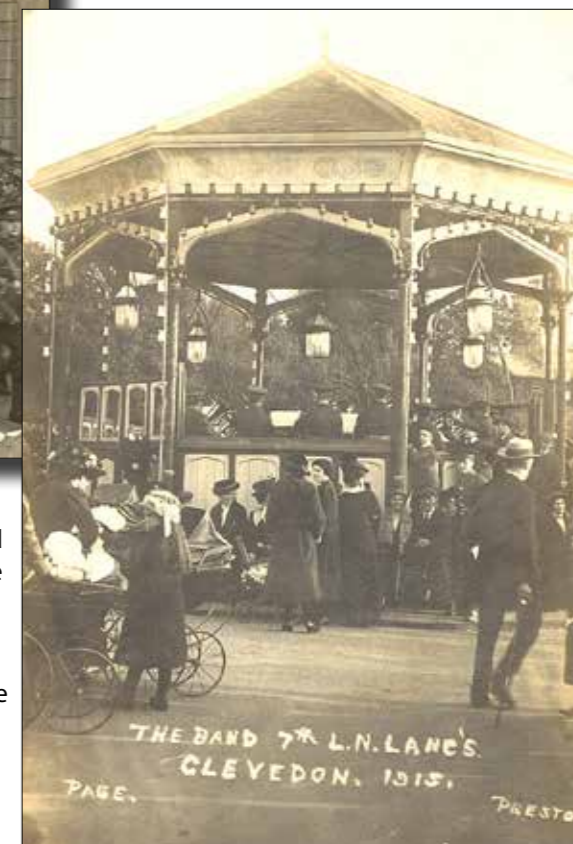


POSTCARD FROM CLEVEDON

Posted by Dave Long



Soldiers of The King's Own Lancashire Regiment that had been billeted in Clevedon, marching to the GWR station to go and do their bit. One wonders how many survived the war.



The band of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment playing at the bandstand. These men were also billeted in Clevedon.

"THE KING'S OWN."

To arms! against this bitter foe,
Who fills the earth with cruel woe;
Take arms now for "the cause of Right,"
And crush the foul tyrant's "Might."

"For King and Country!" sure we will;
God help and give us courage still.
Willing to shoulder gun and sword;
Aiding to break the monstrous horde."

"The King's Own" answered thus the call,
May God be with and keep them all;
Upheld by those at home who pray,
"May they be spared from out the fray."

"Grant triumph to our arms, we ask,
Be with our men about their task;
Give power to win this 'cause for Right,'
And overcome the one of 'Might.'"

All hearty, polite, cheery and brave;
Proud always to see their old flag wave;
They go, with the roll of drum and fife,
Into the midst of the horrid strife.

Amidst the din of shot and shell,
Surrounded, as it were, by Hell;
E'er fighting for their native land,
Loyal and true "The King's Own" stand.

CLEVEDON, March 1915. A.J.H.

Proceeds for Soldiers' & Sailors' Families Association.

PUBLISHED BY H. SEELEY, CLEVEDON.

This card was published by H. Seeley, Hill Road. Dated March 1915. All proceeds were for The Soldiers' & Sailors' Families Association. "The King's Own" refers to the King's Own Lancashire Regiment.

AN APPEAL.

I.
Wanted! Sandbags, for protection!
Made by women's kindly hands;
Walls thus, to save from danger,
Our men now in foreign lands.

II.
These noble men are asking
For more Sandbags over there,
To save life from shrieking bullets
That come whistling through the air.

III.
Oh! gallant sons of Empire!
Your requests shall not be vain;
We still will send you Sandbags
By the steamboat and by train.

IV.
Our homeland women are working
With their hands so willing and true;
All hearts beat in unison
For Old England, home and you.

Nov. 1915. A.J.H.

Proceeds for Sandbags.

Printer: H. Seeley, Clevedon.

This card was for the sandbag appeal and was printed by H. Seeley, Hill Road. Dated November 1915. Proceeds went to the sandbag appeal.

COLLECTOR'S LOT

The building that is now The Regent was built by John Maynard during 1857/58 and opened as a bakery and confectioner's. He was in business here until about 1880 when Alfred Wickenden bought the building, which also included a large tea room.



Early Occupiers of The Regent

From the Dave Long Collection



I don't have anything from Maynard's time but I do have the small pot in the top photo from Wickenden's time. These small pots have been found in various places, dug up from late 19th century to early 20th century rubbish dumps. They are usually a dark brown in colour without any marking. This pot is honey coloured with the name and town incised on the base rim. It is not known what these pots contained but it is thought to have been butter, clotted cream or paté. As this pot was found at a bottle collectors' fair in Cirencester it may have been "acquired" by a customer who may have thought it would make a nice souvenir.

In around 1914 John Ward Dawkins became the proprietor of the tea rooms etc. When The Regent finally closed, some plates were found (see photo). This is a dinner plate measuring 9.5 inches in diameter with a transfer printed logo for Dawkins. It is marked on the base Dunn Bennett Co. Ltd., Royal Victoria Pottery, Burslem.

John Dawkins was still at The Regent in 1931.

These two items are all I have from The Regent but there is a paper bag from Dawkins' time and this can be seen in Jane Lilly's book *The Shops on The Hill*.

Dave Long



WORD SEARCH - THE ANSWERS

from Derek Lilly

ABBOTSLEIGH, BACKWELL, BANWELL, CHELVEY, CLAVERHAM, CLEVEDON, FLAXBOURTON, HUTTON, KINGSTONSEYMOUR, NAILSEA, PORTBURY, PORTISHEAD, TICKENHAM, WORLE, WRAXALL

Civic Society member Bryan Osborne's uncle, 1965 Private Arthur Bryan, enlisted with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry in 1912 at the age of 19 years whilst apprenticed as a motor engineer. This was a Territorial Regiment and on the outbreak of war in August 1914 it was mobilised.

MILITARY CHEST

Pte Arthur Bryan

by Bryan Osborne

Private Bryan volunteered for Imperial Service, joined the 1st Battalion which was posted initially to Bury St Edmunds for overseas training and sailed, not for France, but for Egypt on 15th April 1915. The RGH were sent to Gallipoli in August, landing unopposed at Suvla Bay to fight as infantry, their horses having been left behind in Egypt. The Battalion were involved in fierce fighting against the Turks and were eventually evacuated to return to Egypt in December to rejoin their mounts. But their losses were so severe, due not only to battle casualties but also from disease and sickness, that only 81 officers and other ranks made the journey, out of more than 400 who had landed six months before.

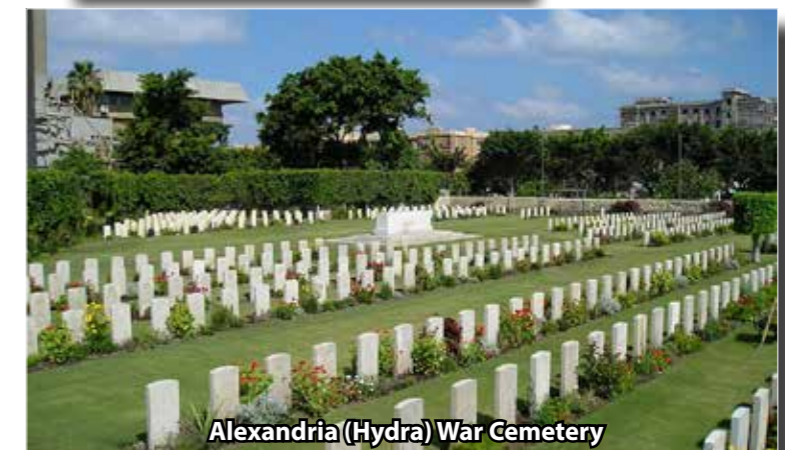


Corporal Bryan was severely wounded on 5th November 1917 during the Battle for Beersheba, when he was hit by a bullet in the back. He was evacuated to hospital in Alexandria and died of his wounds on 19th November. He is buried in Alexandria (Hydra) War Cemetery. An Uncle I never met, but whom I feel I now know.

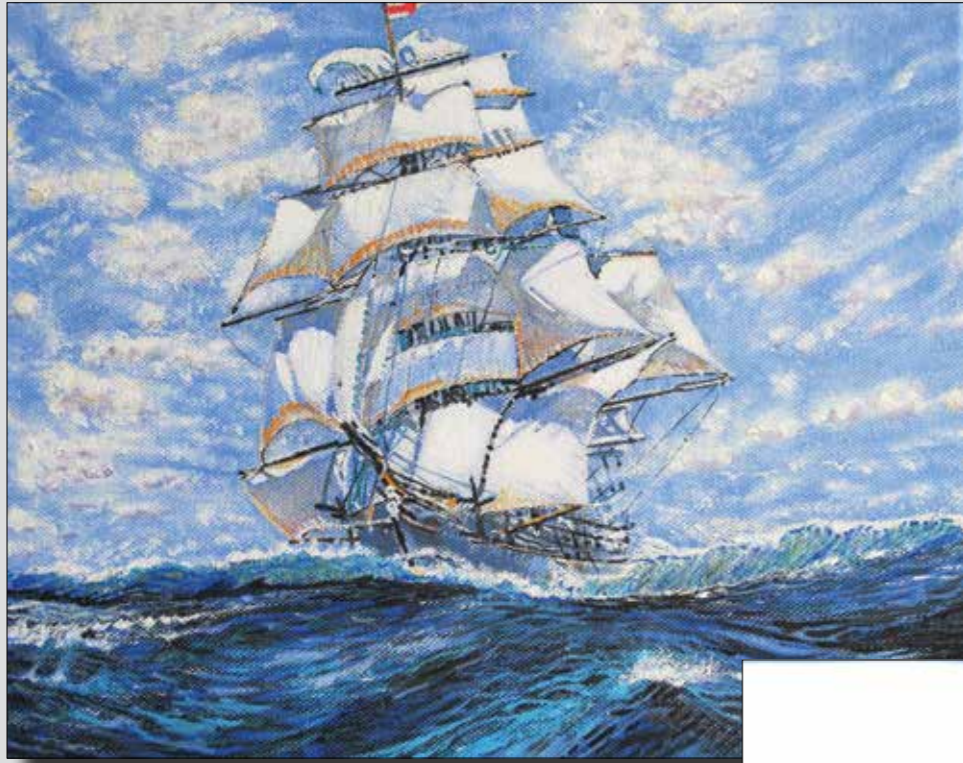
Bryan Osborne

He rejoined the Cavalry in the Imperial Mounted Division in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Army and was awarded the Serbian Gold Medal for "Conspicuous Gallantry and Bravery" in April 1916.

At this time he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry) with a new number - 110828 - and was promoted to Corporal. He is credited with inventing a self-feeding magazine for the Vickers Machine Gun for use as an anti-aircraft weapon against enemy aeroplanes, thus avoiding the need for a second gunner to feed the belt of ammunition into the breach.

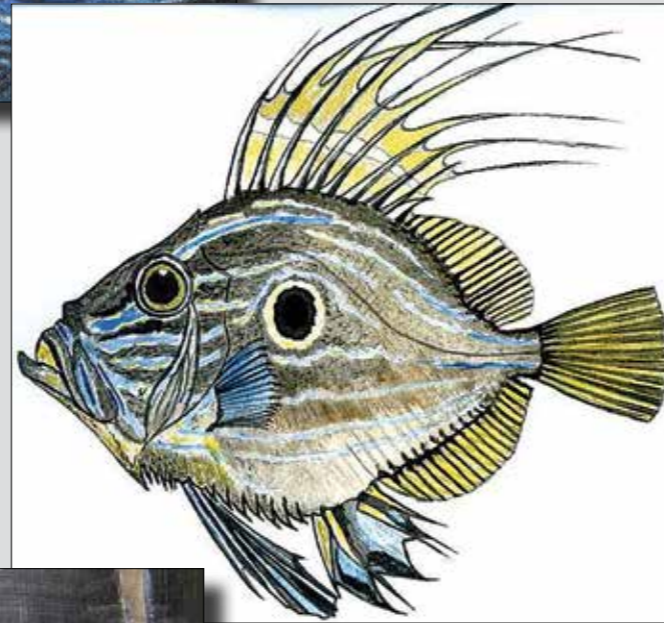


Alexandria (Hydra) War Cemetery



Westering Home

John Dory (Zeus faber)



Sweet Peas