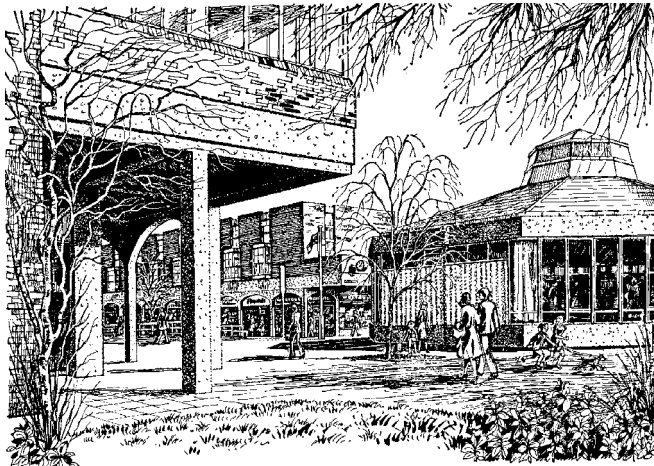


Tyntesfield

Tyntesfield was developed into the Gothic Revival mansion it now is, in the 1860's by William Gibbs. In 2002 it was bought by the National Trust after the death of its owner Lord Wraxall. Tyntesfield is unique in that it remained largely unchanged from its Victorian beginnings and this is the challenge that it faces today. Years of restoration work is needed to preserve its structure and interior, and until then public access will be somewhat restricted. Although the most spectacular, Tyntesfield is by no means the only impressive mansion in the area although it is the only one currently not used as a private dwelling.

Modern Nailsea and N&DLHS

Somerset County Council decided on Nailsea as the site for developing a new town and work on this was started in the 1970s with a new town centre and library. Nailsea is now a town of approximately 20,000 but there are still plenty of signs of its varied past to be seen in the town today. Nailsea & District Local History Society seeks to preserve Nailsea's history and to make it accessible to all. Regular talks are held for members and the public. Recording and preservation of Nailsea's heritage is taken on by the NEAT group (Nailsea Environmental and Archaeological Team) and by individual members. We also publish many differing booklets and a regular Society journal. The Society celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2005.



'The Precinct' - Nailsea 1979

- M Rummings -

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the local history of the area.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- free entry to our programme of talks
- free copy of *Pennant*
- free copy of our newsletter

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE PAYABLE ON JOINING AND ON THE 1st JANUARY EACH YEAR

For the year 2010

Individual membership: (living within BS48)	£12
(living outside BS48)	£10
Family Membership	£16

TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Please send your details together with your cheque or money order to: (cheques should be made payable to N&DLHS)

Membership Secretary
Nailsea and District Local History Society
5 The Uplands
Nailsea
BS48 4RS

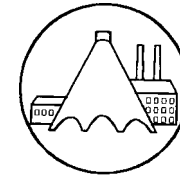
Forthcoming Talks

Contact

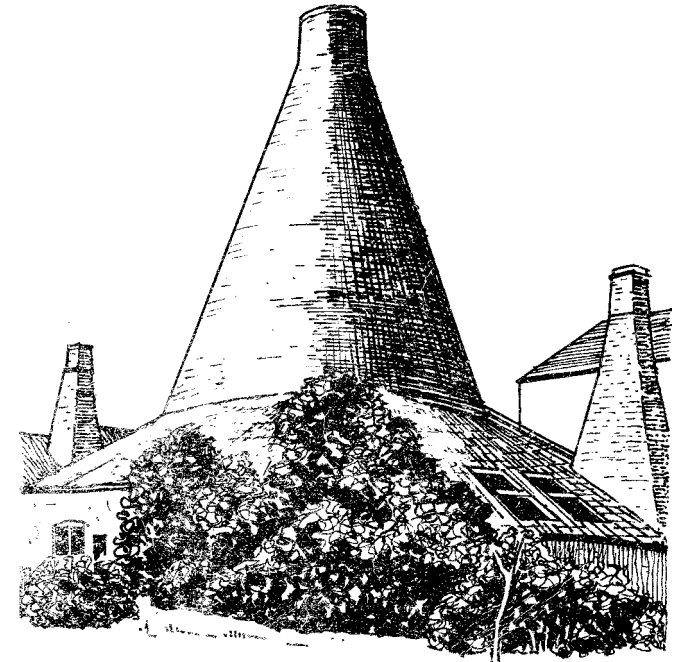
Nailsea and District Local History Society
PO Box 1089
Nailsea
BS48 2YP

W www.ndlhs.org.uk

E enquiries@ndlhs.org.uk



Nailsea and District Local History Society



"...persons of an enthusiastic turn of mind pronounce the Nailsea chimneys a picturesque feature of the landscape, faintly resembling the pyramids of Egypt seen afar..."

Extract from *A New Handbook to Clevedon and the Neighbourhood*, 1864

Prehistoric and Historic Nailsea

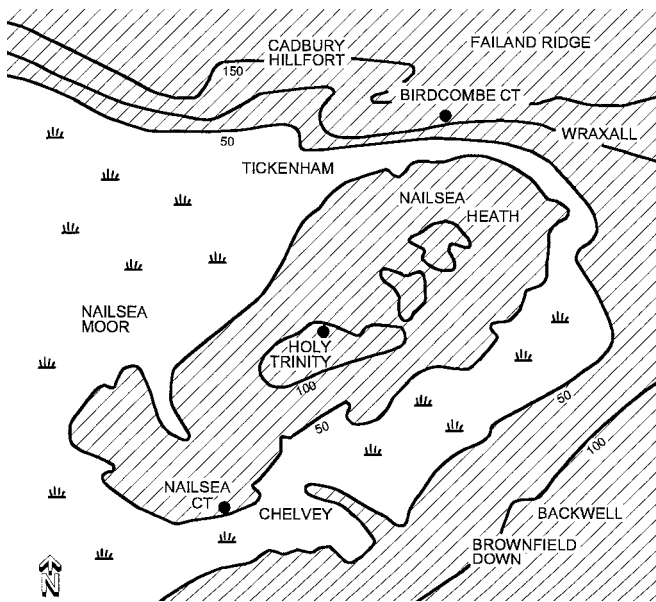
From prehistoric times there have been people living in the Nailsea and District area. Earliest people were here from around 4000 BC. The evidence consists of deposits of flints and traces of a track way between Nailsea and Kenn. More noticeable is the Iron Age fort at Cadbury Camp high above Tickenham. This is now in National Trust grounds but public footpaths can take you up right into the fort.

Later the Romans made their mark, at Cadbury Camp and also building a Roman Villa near Gatcombe Court.

The North Somerset Levels were subject to seasonal flooding from the sea and it is likely that the name Nailsea comes from the Anglo-Saxon times when Nailsea was a piece of high land that was largely surrounded by flood water for several months a year.

In the Middle Ages, there was a permanent population on the island of Nailsea and the church of Holy Trinity was built to serve that community.

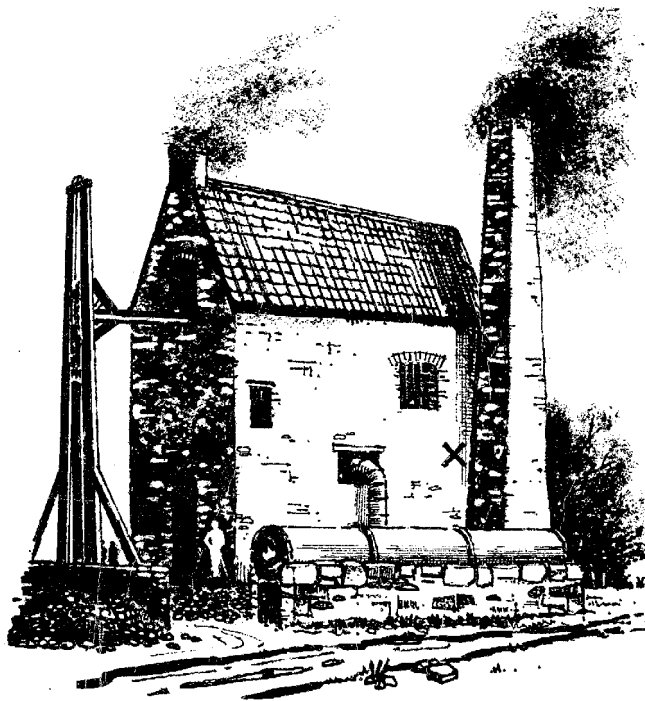
Although Nailsea was largely agricultural there has been industry in the form of quarrying, mining, glass making and more recently, cider making.



Quarrying

Quarrying was carried out since Roman times. The local stone, pennant, was particularly useful as it can be used in large blocks, but can also be split to make very thin, even, slabs that can be used for paving and roofing. In one of the pennant quarries, Nowhere Woods, the stone is exposed and you can see the levels in the geology. Nowhere Woods has since been reclaimed by nature and is now in the care of North Somerset Council.

Mining



Nailsea is at the centre of a small coalfield which has been mined since the fifteenth century and evidence can still be seen at Golden Valley, Scotch Horn and Queens Road. The mines soon became exhausted of the easiest accessible coal and that, added to the cost of transporting the coal, meant that many closed, even after the arrival of the railway. Some pits remained open to serve the glassworks as the costs of transportation was then not a problem.

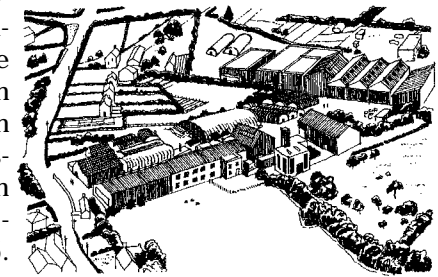
Glassworks

It was the presence of coal that led to the development of the glassworks. There was also plenty of lime available and good quality sand nearby. The glassworks were started up by John Lucas, who had experience as a glassmaker and had interests in glassworks in Bristol and in Stanton Wick. The work was hard and hot, with the works running day or night according to the stage the glass was at. But the wages were good for the times, although Hannah More, who visited the glassworks, was horrified at the conditions with the men stripped to the waist due to the intense heat and the quantities of beer drunk to counteract the conditions.

At its height Nailsea was the fourth largest glass producer in England. The kind of glass made was crown glass, for windows or bottles. The beautiful decorative Nailsea glass was often made by the men at the end of the day as show pieces or for their own domestic use. Much of the Nailsea glass sold as such today was not in fact made in Nailsea but refers to the style of decoration. Many lovely examples of Nailsea glass, made in Nailsea, can be seen at the Bristol City Museum and at Clevedon Court. A mural of the glass making industry by artist Ned Heywood can be viewed at the side of Tesco's which stands on the site of the works.

Cider Making

Somerset is famous for its excellent ciders and Nailsea was no exception. At one time Nailsea was the country's second largest producer. Many farmers would produce their own ciders in Somerset, but in Nailsea the industry took off with Coate's Cider established in 1925.



Coate sold the cider works to Showerings who also produced Babysham at Shepton Mallet. Sadly, when the appetite for Babysham died away, Showerings chose to close the works at Nailsea in 1973 and concentrate production of cider at the Shepton Mallet site.