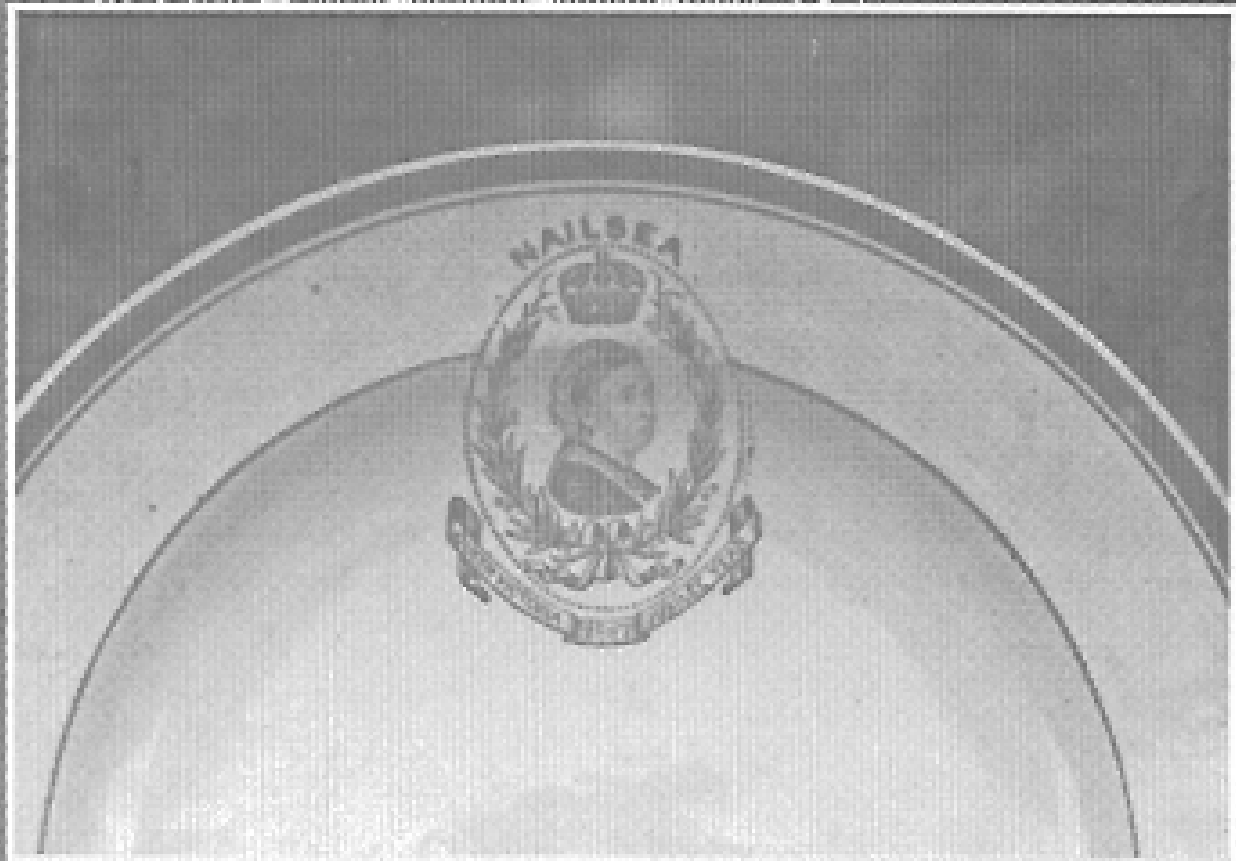


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PENNANT



A Commemorative Plate

THE LOCAL HISTORY JOURNAL OF
**BACKWELL, NAILSEA, TICKENHAM
AND WRAXALL**

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Society News

The Annual General Meeting held on 14th October 1996 brought forth many changes.

For personal reasons Judith Codrington our President stood down. A presentation has been made to her on behalf of members in appreciation of her service to the Society during the whole period of its existence and to the cause of Nailsea's Local History for many years before that.

Margaret Thomas has accepted our invitation to become our new president and Norma Knight who wished to stand down after serving many years on the Committee has agreed to become one of our two Vice Presidents. The other is Peter Weaver BEM who was Clerk to Nailsea Town Council for many years.

On behalf of the Society's members I welcome them and hope that they enjoy their new responsibilities.

The remainder of the Committee was willing to stand again and was elected. A new face on the Committee is George Knox who has volunteered to take over the duties of Membership Secretary and distributor of Pennant. He was elected to the Committee.

Your editor greatly appreciates the honour since bestowed on him of becoming deputy Chairman.

The AGM was speedily dispatched and was followed by a talk by Douglas Burgum entitled "Henry Burgum - The Rise and Fall of a Bristol Pewterer".

Readers of Pennant may remember that we featured Henry Burgum in two articles by David Chappell in editions 1 & 2. Copies of the articles can be obtained by sending 4 first class stamps to the editor. Back numbers of Pennant are still available.

Transport to Meetings

The idea of providing our members with transport to and from meetings was suggested by our new Vice President Peter Weaver and is being explored at present. Please contact the Committee if such a service would help you. Do you know anyone who is a member, or wants to become a member, who is prevented from attending meetings by lack of transport? If there is sufficient interest in using such a service would anyone be willing to drive / learn to drive the Community Bus?

Education is the subject of the next ALHA symposium on 22nd March 1997 at UWE St Mathias Campus. Make a note in your diary and ask at the January meeting for more details. *See also article below regarding the Nailsea Parochial School.*

Noah's Ark John Christiansen has recently returned the typed draft duly amended. This is being lined up for publication soon as is

Studies in the North Marsh by Keith Gardner which we hope to publish when he speaks to the Society later in the year

An old Trackway across the Moor?

Readers will remember that not long ago we had new gas mains laid in various areas including one that ran across the moor towards Portishead and Portbury.

I was fortunate that I was able to take a few photographs when Geoffrey Milton contacted me as they cut through the Causeway.

The Society had asked that an archaeological team be available in case signs were revealed of the foundation of the Causeway. Unfortunately because of the method used to bore a hole for the main this came to naught.

However there were some signs of a solid foundation in one place and we took notes and a photo. Since then we have held an exhibition at Christ Church Vestry Hall. Among the items on show was an old map which Geoffrey points out showed a track in roughly the place where we found the hard core!

Investigation will be necessary. Further advices in due course.

An Old Plate

Searching through my many photos I came across one that I took of a plate on sale in an antique shop near the top of Perry Road in Bristol. I suspect that the photo was taken over 10 years ago.

Has anyone seen a similar plate? If so do you know who made it and how it was distributed in Nailsea?

A search for records of the Nailsea Parochial School
by Peter Wright

It was while talking to Jonathan Harlow the ALHA Secretary about the Symposium that the Nailsea Parochial School Admissions register was mentioned and I asked him whether the next Admissions register to that which we had published was at Backwell School.

The Parochial School was divided in 1954 and the senior part became Backwell Comprehensive School where Jonathan teaches. I suggested to him that maybe the admission register after 1911 had arrived with the first intake. To cut a long story short he has examined the documents at Backwell School and they are as follows:-

Admissions Register from 1954
Log Book from 1931
Punishment Registers 1903 to 1920
Detentions

The following are in the archives in Nailsea Library:-

Admissions Register 1877 to 1911
Log Book 19 July 1882 to 29 May 1903
Log Book 8 June 1903 to 2 March 1931
Minute Book 21 July 1903 to 6 Dec 1945
Minute Book 13 April 1945 to 20 Oct 1952
Minute Book 5 April 1954 to 5 Oct 1971
Cash Accounts 1912 to 1927

Assuming that the latest ones with the three schools cover the period from the latest date shown above it would then appear that the following are "MISSING"

Admissions Register(s) 1911 to 1954
Log Book(s) prior to 19 July 1882

The first entry on 19th July 1882 refers to a previous comment so I assume that the earlier log book did once exist.

With regard to the Admission register covering the period from 1911 to 1954 I noted in one of the minute books a comment in the Headmistress's report "She was sorry that the Honours Board had been removed and that no log book or Admission Register had been left. She felt that there had been a break in tradition and accordingly the Correspondent promised to make enquiries concerning the latter documents."

The minutes of the next few meetings did not refer to the matter.

The missing items are not at:-

Somerset RO, Bristol RO, Grove School nor Hannah More (whose admission register runs from 1954 as does that at Backwell School). I have asked Backwell School to have another search for the honours board and admission register. Somerset Record Office has no registers from the school but has some slips sent out by the education authorities. I did not ask precisely what these are.

I have spoken to Mrs Pollard the Clerk to Nailsea Town Council. NTC has nothing in the office relating to the school for this period and the missing register was not among the items recently sent to Somerset RO at Taunton.

Does anyone have any idea where the missing items might be?

Christ Church Magazine 1909

January 1909

£4:1:6d had been handed to the Waifs and Strays Society. The first half of the session for the Men's Guild had ended in December with an enjoyable trip to the White City (see *Editor of Pennant note below*) per a series of capital slides shown on Mr Armstrong's excellent lantern.

Editor's Note - The White City was an Anglo French Oriental exhibition sited in Shepherds Bush. The Sports Stadium built at the time was used to host the 1908 Olympic Games and was the reason that the "standard Marathon distance is now 26 miles 385 yards. The story goes that the race was to have been 26 miles but it was realised that the finish line would have been on the side of the track opposite to the Royal Box. The officials therefore moved the finishing line 385 yards further on so that King Edward would have a closer view.

As it happened an incident at the finish of the race has become legendary. Pietri Dorando (some say Dorando Pietri) came into the Stadium in the lead but collapsed near to the finish. Officials rushed forward and helped him to his feet and pushed him over the line. Dorando was disqualified.

Do you know who won?

February 1909

A whist drive held in the Schoolroom on January 7th had raised £7:10:0d as a nucleus for a fund for the new building. A concert in aid of the Men's Guild Fund was held in the Schoolroom.

March 1909

Donations towards the new room were mentioned. Canon Barff £100, C.H. Evans 15 guineas (£15.75)

Prizes and medals for attendance at Day School were presented. Medals and books went to those with the maximum number of attendances 415 who were named as follows:-

Arthur Badman, Edward Sevier, Worthy Allsop, Ernest Gamlen, Gladys Alvis, Chedwin Jarrett, Victor Badman, Grace Daniels, Maud Maggs, Lily Brickell.

Book Prizes were awarded to those with 385 or more attendances.

(I feel a little sorry for Frederick Sevier and Harold Alvis who scored 414 and especially the best infant Clifford Maggs who scored 413 as they missed out on the medals)

April 1909

This contains notices that on

April 6th the Bazaar General Committee Meeting would take place in the Schoolroom at 8pm

April 12th The Easter Vestry Meeting at the Church

April 19th The Coal Club will re-open at the Vicarage.

May 1909

Easter Vestry -

Mr Winstone presented the Churchwarden's accounts showing a balance in hand of £17:13:1d. £8 was to be paid to the Organ Fund. Thanks were expressed to all Churchworkers of the parish. A collection at an organ recital raised £2:9:1d for the Organ Fund. There is mention of the celebration of the thousandth anniversary of the founding of the Bishopric of Wells and the possibility of parishioners attending.

June 1909

The Bazaar and fair to be held on June 9th and 10th is "advertised" with thanks being offered to those involved.

The programme proposed is as follows

June 9th Pierrots at 4pm, 7pm & 9pm
Maypole Dances 5.45pm
Mr Gass' Concert Party
June 10th Maypole Dances 4pm & 8pm
Hat Trimming)
Box Making)
Toy Competitions 5.45pm
Conjuring Entertainment by Mr Wethered 7pm
Dancing 8.30pm

Side Shows
Hall of Laughter
Houp La!
Electric Dip etc.

The members of the Football Club are to be congratulated on a successful season; out of 22 matches played 11 were won, 5 drawn and 6 lost. The team established a record by scoring 78 goals for the season whilst 48 were scored against them. The rifle club had won 3 out of 8 that were shot with 2 drawn and 3 lost.

July 1909

The Bazaar had been a great success and a balance sheet will follow.

Boys' Brigade
Hearty congratulations to the captain, officers and rank and file of the Nailsea Company on again carrying off the Colours at the annual inspection and competition. They seem likely to become the permanent property of the Nailsea Company.

August 1909

Members of the Mothers Meeting had their annual outing. This year it was by brake to Clifton Zoo. Thanks were offered to Miss McMillan, Miss Farler and Miss Coates. The Men's outing was to Portsmouth where visits to the Dockyard, "Victory", Southsea and the Isle of Wight filled the day pleasantly. Mr Kingdon retired from the post of Station Master which he had held for 34 years. He was presented with an illuminated address and a purse containing £75 as an expression of the esteem he is held by the inhabitants of the district. Mr Chalk lately Station-Master of Wrington was appointed to the vacant post.

September 1909

Prebendary Vaughan had visited Christ Church School and examined the scholars in Religious instruction. He reported that the school was in very good order. HM Inspector visited the school two days later and stated "For some time past sickness

amongst the children has seriously interfered with attendance and hampered the work of the teachers. In spite of this however work is well advanced.

October 1909

The need for a new building is still the subject of much comment. It was decided to seek tenders for the new building and it was reported that the sum of £410 was in hand. The Bazaar had raised £292:11:5d with expenses of £39:2:9d leaving a balance of £253:8:8d. The Vicar thanked all those involved.

November 1909

The Church Room - It was noted that it had been decided to accept Mr Cobbett's tender for the erection of the whole building. The sum of £135 still remains to be obtained. Mothers' Union Members had enjoyed an outing to Nailsea Court by the kind invitation of Miss Evans. The G.F.S. held their opening meeting at the Vicarage which was also the site of a meeting of the Committee of the Men's Guild.

December 1909

Christ Church Sunday School Clothing Club. Miss Pavey reported that the club had just ended its 25th year of work. Children's names on the books numbered over 50 and their weekly payments amounted to £14:11:7d. For the bonus we have to thank old friends. £5:4:4d was given in various sums the highest award being 2s 6d the amount being regulated by the number of school attendances.

Ed. Note I finish as I started.

Family History

A Welsh Connection

by David Chappell

It is extraordinary the people you can 'meet' if you have an interest in family history and become involved in the pursuits of others. Some write to you, some ring you up, and, if you are Phyllis Horman, our doyenne in these matters, some just turn up on your doorstep at seven in the morning. I have been a member of both N&DLHS and the Bristol & Avon Family History Society for some years, and occasionally act as an unofficial link between the two. No one has appeared on the doorstep yet, but I have met people at the Library, at Tickenham Church, and through our postman; over thirty enquirers with an interest in the Nailsea area (OK - District). And one with an extraordinary coincidence, but that is the luck of the game.

Naturally, it is the commoner local names that generate the most enquiries. Having a particular interest in Tickenham, the Hollyman family come at the top of my league, but some are disappointed to find their hoped for connections with the Baves dashed when they see that sad gravestone in the church of the last male of that line, Samuel, who died of smallpox at the age of fifteen in the new year of 1731. But one recent visitor was so keen on his Hollyman connections that he has changed his name to include the Hollyman element.

A prolific Hollyman enquirer is a lady who lives in London and owns the only original copy of the Byrchmore History of Tickenham, that I know of; everyone else seems to have acquired a photocopy by fair means or foul.

Also connected with Tickenham Church was a lady who wrote from Ontario in connection with the Ashfield family originating from Suffolk. Her quarry was Edmund, whose grave is the oldest (and being of slate) the best preserved in the church. He died in January 1678/9, but his remains cannot still be there as that was the place under which the Victorians chose to build the boiler room. He had two children, but it is unlikely that they continued the line. But not, I think, a disappointed customer as negative information in this game can be as important as a great find.

An American lady contacted a friend of hers at Southampton University by e-mail, who wrote to the postmaster of Tickenham, who passed her letter to the parish clerk, who passed it on to me. Now there is ingenuity for you. She was trying to trace one Icabob Davis, and a son of his, James Davis, perhaps one of her ancestors, who was believed to have been in Tickenham sometime before he emigrated in 1721 to Williamsburg where he founded a printing press in 1740. And, by the way, was there a castle at Tickenham, and was there a Davis coat of arms there?

Now it is easy to joke about Americans and their interest in their origins, but this lady had been given a note by her grand-father which prompted these questions. He had apparently been fed the ideas by a professional researcher. Perhaps to enhance his

story, Tickenham Court had been promoted to castle. She now has a copy of 'The Making of a Manor' which explains all. She may also be pleased she was not descended from Rice Davis.

Strange goings on at Redland Police Station; well, not really. It was just that a man who lives at Dee Why, a Sydney suburb, wrote to enquire about the Smart family who were glass workers. I was able to introduce him to Poor Law Examinations, which he had not met. Three of those illustrated the move of his ancestors with Lucas from the glass works at Stanton Drew to Nailsea. My enquirer was born at Redland Police Station, where his father was the inspector in charge.

But it was Dee Why that scratched my memory until I found an article from their local paper about an aunt of mine who at 89 emigrated to join her son and his family. She was 100 last August, and still works, part-time, in her daughter-in-law's sandwich bar.

The most recent has been a Welshman enquiring about the Robbins family, who lived in the Drove, now Southfield Road. At first this seemed a routine enquiry until I got to his last paragraph. This was to say that in the course of his investigations, he had found ten or eleven Nailsea and Tickenham families together with a number of lodgers who had emigrated to one village in the Mountain Ash area of the Cynon Valley. They included John Barwell, William Rogers, Ralph Sims, James Roberts, Samuel Burridge (two of them) Samuel Brake, John Brookes, Fred Brake and Fred Robbins. So now its a question of getting hold of the 1891 census to find out who they all were.

Ed. Note: Would anyone like to follow this up? If so please contact the editor. David cannot at present spare the time to do this.

The BURCH family. In Pennant No 14 we mentioned that information was sought about Elwyn Richard Burch. Richard Pickens has written to say that his step son has found his father. I do not intend to reveal the actual address but hope that those involved are happy.

The LOCK family. Gary Boudier has recently visited the area from London and has left with the Society a family tree running to nearly 30 pages. Arrangements can be made for the list to be searched on behalf of enquirers for a small fee.