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No **18**

# PENNANT



Brockley Church and Court (M. J. Tozer collection)

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

Previously published by Nailsea & District Local History Society.

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## Society News

The AGM will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7-30pm in Nailsea Library.

Nominations for new Committee members can be made up to 14<sup>th</sup> September. See also the enclosure which accompanies this edition of PENNANT.

Amendments to the constitution to counter the problems mentioned later that an organisation such as ours might have regarding the Data Protection Act will be proposed by your Committee.

Family History enquiries continue to arrive. They have come from New Zealand and Australia together with a few from nearer home. Details of some of the information sent comes later. What we do need to do is to thank Phyllis Horman for her knowledge of local families without which your editor would struggle.

In clearing out my garage I came across a couple of items that will have to be taken to the Weston Museum (the Time Machine) to go with other artefacts sent there by Society Members about a year ago.

*(And NO we don't know when the Nailsea Museum will be built - keep waiting and hoping!)*

I found a couple of hooks etc. from the slaughter house and also a "tin" name plate that I believe many years ago I picked up from the debris that lay adjacent to the winding tower in Scotch Horn. Beneath the debris lay the shaft which has been capped and covered.

The nameplate reads "**TROSTREY**". The name seemed familiar from the magazine. Searching I found it on page 9 of Pennant 13 in an article entitled "The Thatchers, The Farlers and a house called Trostry". Leaving aside the different spelling can anyone throw light on this find? Phyllis Horman author of the earlier article thought the house was in Tower House Lane. Why did I find the plate in Scotch Horn? Does it refer to the house or something else? Any suggestions?

Bid Wheeler at our last meeting said that she had had an enquiry about the Manfield family and had found a reference to one of them in Nailsea being a **Chelsea Pensioner** despite the fact that he was under 30.

Nobody could assist her at the meeting but I come across an explanation in *Practical Family History* magazine (a new magazine from the Family Tree Magazine publishers) which is aimed at those who are new to this absorbing hobby.

In the first edition dated June/July an answer is given to a question similar to that raised by Bid at the meeting. The answer runs thus:-

“In general a Chelsea Pensioner was a former soldier in receipt of a pension. The term was not confined to those who were residents of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, but includes out-pensioners.....” and goes on to list various references.

Wayne Brown wrote from Australia seeking news of the NEWTON family and Young family. The following is only part of the information we were able to supply about NEWTON & YOUNG

### **Marriage Registers Wraxall**

**1633 May 29 -**

William NEWTON & Francis PERRIN

**1685 Sep 24 -**

Gulielmus SPERING & Maria YOUNG

**1693/4 Jan 4 -**

Johannes YOUNG & Gratia NEWTON

**1698 Sep 29 -**

Roger WILLMOT & Elizabeth YOUNG of Bourton

**1703 May 23 -**

Nathaniel NEWTON otp & Joan DANIEL of Nailsea

**1717 Apr 23 -**

Samuel SPERRIN & Elizabeth YOUNG both otp

**1754 Oct 17 -**

John BRIDGEMAN (lab) otp & Hannah YOUNG sp otp

**1762 May 17 L**

William YOUNG (butcher) of Clevedon, Som & Ann JENKINS sp otp

**1768 Mar 21 B**

Aaron YOUNG (husbandman) of Corston & Sarah NEEDS sp otp

**1774 May 4 L**

John BRIMBLE bach of Nailsea & Martha NEWTON otp

**1774 Oct 3 -**

Isaac NEWTON (husbandman) & Mary HASELL sp

**1775 Apr 11 B**

William WEEKS (lab) of Portbury & Ann NEWTON otp

**1790 Dec 14 L**

William Young COKER of St Nicholas, City of Bristol & Elizabeth KING otp

**1792 Jul 31 -**

Charles YOUNG of St Stephen, City of Bristol & Sarah ADAMS otp

**1795 Oct 12 L**

John SQUIRES otp & Betty NEWTON otp

**1810 May 28 L**

Richard BANWELL of Wedmore & Sarah NEWTON otp

**1813 May 11 -**

Robert BAKER of Nailsea & Ann NEWTON otp

**1818 Apr 12 -**

Joseph STOKES otp & Rebecca NEWTON otp

**1823 May 4 -**

Richard CANNINGTON otp & Sarah YOUNG otp

**1835 Aug 23 -**

William NEWTON of St George & Ann EDWARDS otp

**1853 Jul 26 -**

Edward YOUNG 23 bach (blacksmith) otp & Maria KNIGHT 22 sp otp

Fathers John Young (lab) & Moses Knight (lab)

**1861 Dec 28 -**

Thomas Thayer YOUNG 28 bach (farmer) of St George's & Eliza Sarah WEYMOUTH 23 sp (farmer) otp Father's Barnabas Young (farmer) & Richard Weymouth (farmer)

**1871 Jul 11 -**

Arthur Charles Alfred Henry YOUNG 22 bach of Tickenham & Ann GLADMAN 30 sp otp

Fathers John Young (limeburner) & William Gladman (farmer)

**1874 Jul 24 -**

Ralph King WILLIAMS 31 widr (Deputy Controller of Government)

Alice Mary NEWTON 30 sp otp

Fathers James King Williams (merchant) & Robert Newton (builder)

*While producing this from the information supplied to me by David Chappell I came across the following entry. Is this Lord Kitchener's brother? If so what was he doing in Wraxall? Can anyone tell me about the Lustington family or what they were doing in Wraxall at the time? Was there a local Kitchener connection?*

**1877 Oct 9 -**

Henry Elliott Chevallier

**KITCHENER** 29 bach (Capt in HM Army) of Curragh Camp, Ballisax & Eleanor Fanny

**LUSTINGTON** 21 sp otp

Fathers Henry Horatio Kitchener (Lt Col in HM Army) & Franklin Lustington, CB (Lt Col in HM Army)

We have also had further enquiries about the Coombs and Wedmore families from another descendant in New Zealand. Phyllis has given me the results of searches she has made in the local registers. These will be entered in my Nailsea and district families file on Pedigree and will be available for publication later in the year.

**Information supplied to enquirers**

1738 John **DURBIN**

base s of John d & Mary STEPHENS

1701/02 Jan 31

William **DURBIN** & Joan COOK of Nailsea

## **BADMAN**

### **Wraxall marriages**

1799 Mar 31 B

Samuel BADMAN otp & Ann KINGTON

1808 April 19 B

Samuel KINGTON otp & Jane BADMAN

1823 October 20

Daniel AMBROSE otp & Harriett BADMAN otp

### **Tickenham Marriages**

1701

Thomas HORWOOD & Mary BADMAN

### **Tickenham Burials**

1674 BADMAN Elizabeth

1897 75 BADMAN Elizabeth

1898 65 BADMAN Henry

1657 BADMAN Joane wife of Thomas

1700 BADMAN John

1794 BADMAN Mary

### **Tickenham Baptisms**

1656 BADMAN Henry s Thomas & Joane

1649 BADMAN Martha d Thomas & Joane

## CENSUS RETURNS -

### Tickenham

Date	Place	First Name	Surname	Position	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
1881	Tickenham Hill	Henry	Badman	Head	49	Ag Lab	Clevedon Som
1881	Tickenham Hill	Elizabeth	Badman	Wife	59		Tickenham

None Backwell 1881, Bedminster Union 1881, Brockley / Chelvey 1881, Flax Bourton 1881.

### Nailsea

Date	Place	First Name	Surname	Position	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
1841			None				
1851	Silver St	Charles	Badman	Head	75	Ag. Lab (Pauper)	Churchill
1851	Silver St	Jessy	Badman	Sister	46	Ag Lab??	Churchill
1851	Silver St	Ann	Badman	Dau	42	Staymaker	Churchill
1851	Silver St	Sarah	Badman	Dau	35	Servant	Churchill
1851	Silver St	Elizabeth	Badman	Dau?	11	School	Churchill
1861	Street	Charles	Badman	Head	88	Ag Lab	Churchill
1861	Street	Ann	Badman	Dau	46	Staymaker	Churchill
1861	Street	Elizabeth	Badman	Dau??	22	Staymaker	Churchill
1871	Not	Ann	Badman	Head	59	Staymaker	Churchill
1871	Shown	Elizabeth	Badman	Dau	31	Staymaker	Churchill
1881	Silver St	Ann	Badman	Head	68	Staymaker	Churchill
1881	Silver St	Elizabeth	Badman	Dau	39	Staymaker	Churchill

### Wraxall

Date	Place	First Name	Surname	Position	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
1841	Village	Hunniford	family	plus			
1841	Village	James	Badman		30	Ag Lab	Somerset

### Wraxall

Date	Place	First Name	Surname	Position	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
1841	Park(nr West Hill)	Badman	George		25	Teazle Packer	Somerset
1841	Park("")	Badman	Hester		22		Somerset
1841	Park("")	Badman	James		1		Somerset
1841	Park("")	Lodger					



## Wraxall

**BADMAN** No entries for this name in censuses for 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881.

### Christ Church Baptisms 1843 - 1939

26 April 1908

Frederick Charles BADMAN s of Frank and Mary Jane Ch. Ch. District Labourer

28 January 1912

Kathleen Frances BADMAN d of Frank and Mary Jane Ch. Ch. District Gardener

14 November 1928

Beryl Rosemary BADMAN d of Eli Victor and Dorothy May Chapel Ave. N  
Gardener

### Christ Church Burials 1843 - 1982

21 August 1921 Arthur George BADMAN 25 Chapel Av. Nailsea

6 September 1935 Frederick Charles BADMAN 27 Nailsea

29 November 1949 Dorothy May BADMAN 53 Nailsea

8 April 1953 Frank BADMAN 82 188 Kenn Rd Clevedon

26 April 1974 Eli Victor BADMAN 76 Bournemouth

### Christ Church Marriages 1843 - 1981

26 October 1940

Ernest Henry Charles POWELL Bach 31 Boot and Shoe Operative 122 Kenn Rd  
Clevedon *F. Harry Stuart Powell Lab* and Kathleen Francis BADMAN Spin.

28 Dressmaker, Aubigny House Nailsea *F. Frank BADMAN Gardener*

11 July 1947

Arthur Victor BADMAN Bach 29 Electrician, Nailsea

*F Eli Victor BADMAN Gardener*

Margaret Isabel ELLIOT Spin 36 Durban South Africa

*F Edward Elliot Mfgs. Agt*

16 May 1953

Charles William Dennis TUCKER Bach 33 Warehouseman Bedminster

*F Charles Henry Tucker Printer*

Beryl Rosemary BADMAN Spin 24

Nailsea

*F Eli Victor BADMAN Private Gardener*

## **Society Publications**

Bryan Button's book on Backwell 1891 census should be available by the time you read this, Keith Gardner's further work on the Land Yeo will probably not be available until after his talk.

On the subject of talks the Society welcomed John Jones in April to learn about the Post Office. Since then he has supplied details about some of the postmen who worked from Nailsea. The information forms part of an article elsewhere in this issue.

Martin Bodman has written drawing attention to a study by Derek Lilly entitled "A Study of the Drainage of the North Somerset Moorlands". At the time I write this I have not been able to read the text but a quick glance shows that it has an important bearing on what we have already published. I have tried to contact Keith Gardner for his views and hope by the time this edition of Pennant is out we will have more information.

Now that we have settled into a three times a year format I thought it as well to fix publication dates and deadlines.

**The intention is to publish editions at the end of January in time for distribution at the February meeting; at the end of April for distribution at the May meeting and in August for issue in August or very early in September** with the subscription reminder and the notice for the AGM.

Deadlines for contributions will be roughly 6 weeks before publication but your editor would appreciate advice of an intention to contribute a little earlier. With regard to record keeping of names and subscribers we hold on disk name, address and subscription details for all subscribers. The fact that we do this has been well publicised to members without objection being raised. It was therefore with some concern that I read an article in Local History Magazine headed as follows:

### **Personal computers: local history societies risk court action**

*This article contains the following statement:-* "Maintaining membership records for a local history society (or any other group) on a personal computer is illegal in the absence of registration with the data Protection Register. The only

way to avoid registration is to legally establish that your society is "an unincorporated members' club".

In November 1996 the President of the Association of Organ Enthusiasts was fined £50 with £683 costs for illegally maintaining a membership list on his home computer - a fact which demonstrates that if the Data Protection Registrar does find out that your Society is illegally using a personal computer it will take action through the Courts. "

Your Committee has discussed the matter and feels that it is appropriate to amend the Constitution to make clear that the Nailsea and District Local History Society is an "unincorporated members' club". A proposal to this effect will be made by the Committee at the AGM. The opportunity will also be taken to make clear that subscribers to the Journal are members and an appropriate proposal to this effect will also be put forward by the Committee for members to vote on.

In response to comments made by members about "visits" arranged by the Society your committee has decided that all such events in future will be by "ticket only".

For many reasons besides the Data Protection requirement it is essential that if renewing you complete the form and return it with your remittance.

## **Recent Finds!**

One of our members, Mr Lord from Trinity brought to me some notes and photos he had taken in Lodge Lane where a mine shaft was exposed adjacent to Lydcott when Lodge Lane was widened in 1986.

This is very roughly in a direct line from the eastern wall of Elm farm and lies in the centre of the carriageway heading towards Wraxall.

The shaft had an internal diameter of 5 feet and the thickness of the wall was 12 inches (for our younger readers 1.52m and 300mm).

## A Computer Crash - 400 years ago?

by David Chappell

*The first page of the Tickenham Register, to which this article refers, is shown on the inside back cover of this edition.*

The following is a transcription of parts of the first page of the Tickenham parish register. Parish registers were started in 1538 (after eight years legislation - is there nothing new?) They were usually on separate folios of parchment which easily became lost, misplaced or even deliberately destroyed when it was thought they could form an early data base for taxation. In 1599, the government ordered their re-writing, and more importantly, binding into book form. This would explain the continuity and quality of penmanship.

An<sup>o</sup> Henrici 8 30  
Burials 1538 Mathew Bryan Vicar

1538  
John Higans child of a month was buried the vij<sup>th</sup> day of ffebruary an regis 30  
An<sup>o</sup> Dei 1538

1539  
Margaret Lewis, wyffe to Richard Lewis buried the xxij<sup>th</sup> of Aprill (the coronation day therefore) an<sup>o</sup> regis 31 & an<sup>o</sup> dei 1539

1540  
Regis  
32  
Jone Colman buried the xxij<sup>th</sup> of Aprill an regis dei 1540

*Note, Mr Mathew Bryan erred in my judgement, in the burialls of the same Jone Colman and Marget Lewes, belyke not knowing the date of the coronation which was xxij<sup>th</sup> of Aprill and must therefore stampe the yere of the raigne of the Kynge and the yere of the Lord also of necessitie must change the xxvth March before for he the said Mathew Bryan affirmeth both these burialls a yere sooner than this new booke.*

The copier had the original before him: unhappily we do not, and the remark "the coronation day therefore" was not in the original. Otherwise there is no point in the "Note".

At that time, the church year began on 25<sup>th</sup> March (the Feast of the Annunciation). Mathew Bryan was probably trying to be helpful by also quoting the year of the reign. But he got it wrong, and was not helped by the regnal year then sometimes meaning the year of accession, and sometimes the year of the coronation.

Here we are lucky: Henry VII died on 21<sup>st</sup> April and Henry VIII was crowned the next day. In any case, the dubiety was removed with the reign of his son Edward VI, when accession was presumed on the death of the sovereign - " Le Roi est mort: vive le roi".

The date was written in Roman numerals with j as the last i. Thus xxij<sup>th</sup> of Aprill would now be written as 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

And what a pity that the baptism of John Higans was not recorded - it would have been one of the earliest parish register entries of all.

## **Catalogue of the Records of Nailsea Town / Parish Council**

The following notes have been taken from a brief catalogue of the contents of 26 boxes of archives deposited by Nailsea Town Council in Nailsea Library some years ago. The papers etc. are now to be sent by the Nailsea Town Council to the Somerset Record Office in Taunton for safe keeping. N&DLHS has had the opportunity to examine the boxes prior to their dispatch and to endeavour to prepare a more detailed catalogue for use by researchers to maximise the usefulness of their time spent at Taunton. This inspection also gives an opportunity to obtain more information and to relate the various items to particular boxes.

The Parish Council of Nailsea was established in 1894, and its records survive from its inception to the present.

In addition, certain pre-1894 records of officers of the ecclesiastical parish (churchwardens, vestry, overseers, surveyors), whose functions were partially or

wholly taken over by the civil Parish Council after 1894, have also been preserved in this collection.

The records are catalogued and stored under the title of the officer or body that produced them in the following six sections:-

- 1. Churchwardens,**
- 2. Vestry,**
- 3. Surveyors of the Highway.**

*Functioning, pre 1894, as officers of the older ecclesiastical parish*

#### **4. Overseers of the Poor**

*Functioning originally as an officer of the ecclesiastical parish, but coming increasingly under the civil parish organisation after 1894.*

#### **5. Parish Council**

*The civil parish organisation itself, after 1894, the main creator of this collection of records.*

#### **6. Miscellaneous**

*Papers which seem to have come into this collection by chance, and not through any direct connection with the work of the Parish Council.*

Within each section, the records are subdivided by kind, using sub headings where convenient (minutes, correspondence, allotments, etc.). Documents are listed, as far as has proved feasible, in the order in which they would have originally accumulated, i.e. older documents before later ones, bringing money in, before accounts of its expenditure. Original files and bundles of paper have been left intact. Groups of dates which may appear to duplicate or overlap each other, are usually a reflection on these original arrangements. It is hoped that the headings will prove sufficiently flexible, for additions to be made as necessary to keep the catalogue up to date.

It is hoped that this catalogue may fulfil two functions; to demonstrate clearly that the records of even such a comparatively modern institution as the Parish

Council are already an historically valuable source of information about Nailsea's past - with the added implications of the value of preserving current records safely for the future; and secondly, to act as a checklist and safeguard against the disappearance of any of these records.

## **NAILSEA**

### **Ecclesiastical Parish Records**

#### **Churchwardens**

##### **Church Rate Books**

1846, 1853, 1862 (3 vols.)

##### **Bills and Receipts**

for building, plumbing & glazing work in the church, for work in the churchyard, for writing materials, etc., for church registers, 1793, 1795, n.d. 18<sup>th</sup> C, 1800-1830 (1 bundle).

#### **Vestry**

Minutes of Vestry Meetings,  
1836-1861 (1 vol.)

#### **Surveyors of the Highways**

Account Books

1843/4, 1844/5, 1846/7, 1847/8,  
1850/1, 1852/3, 1854/5, (7 Vols.)

*Note:- These are purely ecclesiastical parish records, and nothing to do with the civil parish, which they all antedate; although highways later became a concern of the civil parish. The reason for their presence in this collection is not clear, but at least it has ensured their survival as some of the oldest papers in the collection.*

## **NAILSEA**

### **Ecclesiastical / Civil Parish Records**

#### **Overseers of the Poor**

**Appointments** 1910 (3 Sheets)

**Minutes of Meetings of the Overseers** 1911 - 1925 (1 Vol.)

#### **Poor rates:**

#### **Assessments and Valuations**

Valuation Lists 1897-1910, 1910-1912, 1913-1922, 1922-1927. (4 Vols.)

Assessment Papers 1911-1912

Assessment alterations 1913-1926

Assessments of Long Ashton Union (1922-1924) and R.D.C. (1922-1925)

Assessments of Long Ashton Union, including lists of appeals 1922-1926

Blank Valuation list, n.d.

Poor Rates : Rate Books

1805 2 fragments

Poor Rate Books

1837(1), 1843(1), 1844(1), 1845(1), 1847(1), n.d. c1840's(1), 1854(2),  
1855(3), 1856(4), 1857(3), 1858(2), 1859(1), 1860(1), 1862(3), 1863(3),  
1864(2), 1865(1), 1866(4), 1867(4), 1868(4), 1870(1), 1871(3),  
1872(2), 1873(2), 1894(1), 1895(2), 1896(1), 1897(1), 1898(2), 1899(2),  
1900(2), 1901(1), 1902-1926 inclusive 2 p.a.



Poor rates: Other papers:

Rate Collector's monthly statements 1911, 1911-1915, 1923-1927 (3 vols.)

Unpaid Rates Statement n.d.

Poor rates receipt Book 1919-1922

Poor rates counterfoils 1916, 1917, 1919, 1919-1920, 1921 1922 (2 books)

Accounts and Financial Papers

Overseers' Account Books

1679-1767, 1768-1819 (2 Vols.)

*(the second being titled 1797-1819)*

Receipts and payments 1896-1911; 1904-1911 (2Vols)

Balance Sheets, 1909-1927 (1911 includes some receipts and papers)

Bills and Receipts; 1799-1812 and n.d. (inc. legal work, clothing for the poor, schooling for poor, medical, building work at poorhouse, shoe repairs etc.), 1911-1912, 1917-1918 (3 bundles)

Order for contributions from Poor rate 1899

Receipt and Deposit Books :

Bank Paying - In Books 1902/3, 1904/8, 1906/7, 1907/9, 1909/10, 1910/11, 1911/14, 1911, 1913/14, 1914/15, 1916/7, 1917/9, 1919/20, 1920/1, 1921/2, 1922/3, 1923/4, 1924/5, 1926, 1926/7, 1927/

Cheque and Paying in Stubs

1920, 1923, 1926 (1 Bundle)

Examinations and Orders

Settlement Examinations 1758-1832 (1 Bundle)

Settlement and Removal Orders, including some passes and examinations 1761-1841 (1 Bundle)

Bastardy Examinations and Orders  
1763-1835 (1 Bundle)

Removal Orders 1772-1819 (1 Bundle)

Settlement Examinations,  
14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1798 (mainly masons, labourers, and glassworkers (1 Bundle)

Settlement Examinations 1816  
Apparently mostly re Lucas Glassworks employees (1 Bundle)

Parish Apprentices  
Apprenticeship Indentures and one order 1783-1784 (1 Bundle)

List of Paupers etc.

Lists of Indoor and outdoor paupers, paupers relieved etc. 1855, 1911-1912,  
1912, 1914.

Bread supplied to the Poor 1891-1910 (1 Vol.)  
Returns of deaths 1901-1902, 1913-4  
*several copies of each*

Militia

Family Maintenance Orders and related Papers 1799-1816

Miscellaneous

Loose sheet of a debit/credit account perhaps in W.H. Shepstone's hand n.d.  
?c.1920

Note of apology "GB" n.d.

For various returns made by the overseers to other national and local authorities, see also under Parish Council: Returns and Electoral Papers.

*NOTE: Created in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the Overseers of the Poor were originally a part of the ecclesiastical parish organisation. After 1894, the civil Parish Council gradually took over increasing responsibilities for social welfare. These records of the Nailsea Overseers span the period both before and after the creation of the civil parish organisation in 1894.*

## **Victorian Landscape of Nailsea Revealed**

by Julie Mansfield

North Somerset Archivist

Recent investigations into the vaults of Nailsea Library have revealed the existence of a first edition Ordnance Survey map for the Nailsea area, dated 1884. The map measuring approximately eight feet in length is a composite map created by joining a number of smaller maps together, resulting in a bird's eye view of the village (as it was then) and its surrounding countryside. The scale of 25 inches to 1 mile provides a detailed illustration of the area from which it is possible to see streets, woods and fields of Victorian Nailsea.

Mounted on a wooden roller, it was originally hung for display purposes in the Council offices, but it is currently safely stored and protected, along with other historic documents and records from Nailsea at the Library.

The map was compiled during the first large scale survey of the Country by the Ordnance Survey. The Ordnance Survey was founded in 1791, and its initial purpose was to provide accurate maps for military manoeuvres. However the maps were increasingly adopted by other professions, and, amongst other purposes, were annotated to show the ownership of property in landed estates, depict the extent of archaeological sites, and to map geological features. With the Victorian growth of towns and the increased need for better communications and improved sanitary conditions in many areas, it became increasingly important to have an accurate and consistent map of the nation. In 1858 the Ordnance Survey embarked upon the creation of 25 inches to one mile maps for all cultivated areas across Great Britain. The survey was not completed until 1896, reflecting the mammoth size of the task undertaken.

The Nailsea map is the result of a remarkable achievement of the Victorian period, providing a wonderful illustration of the farms, public buildings, meadows, woods and rivers of the area. Having pored over the map, it becomes easy to imagine the landscape walked by local inhabitants over a century ago.

Unfortunately the map is no longer fit to be hung, and now require careful handling, made difficult by its large dimensions. However Nailsea and District Local History Society is considering methods of copying the map by photography or video.

Further news as the project develops.

### **Somerset Gazette Directory**

c 1840-1844

details from Martin Bodman

### **Backwell**

... formerly a market town ... a great number of the labouring class is employed in extensive collieries within the parish ... there are also quarries which produce a reddish calcareous stone, variegated blue and white veins susceptible of a high polish ... population at the last census was 1038 ... in the electoral division of East Somerset and in 1839 contained 67 registered electors, of whom 19 were freeholders, 26 leaseholders and 22 occupying tenants ... Polling place at Bedminster ... there is a fair for cattle and pedlary on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Brockley**

... ore of lead is found here and it is remarkable for a number of basaltic columns, not unlike those at the Giant's Causeway ... population at the last census 171 ... in 1839 contained 5 registered electors of whom 2 were freeholders and 3 occupying tenants .. polling place at Congresbury.

## **Chelvey**

... in the electoral division of East Somerset .. in 1839 contained 7 registered electors of whom 2 were freeholders, 3 leaseholders and 2 occupying tenants ... polling place at Bedminster.

## **Wraxall**

... fair held here at Allhallow-tide which lasts 6 days ... in 1815 a quantity of Roman coins were found on opening a tumulus on Leigh Down where are two entrenchments one called the Old Fort ... population at last census 802 ... in 1839 contained 36 registered electors of whom 13 were freeholders, 8 leaseholders and 15 occupying tenants ... polling place Bedminster.

Illustration

## **Historic Hedges**

### **Important new legislation affecting the Society's area of interest.**

Brought to the Editor's attention by Philip Barclay

Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (SI No 1160):

It is against the law to remove most countryside hedgerows without permission.

To get permission to remove a hedgerow, you must write to your local planning authority,

If you remove a hedgerow without permission (whether it is important or not) you may face an unlimited fine. You may also have to replace the hedgerow.

This information has been extracted from a leaflet produced by the Department of the Environment. Crown Copyright exists.

Philip suggests that we need to undertake a new project to identify "historic" hedges and, possibly, walls.

You will be aware that Philip raised the question of Stone Walls and their conservation some months ago. (See Pennant 17/10).

## **The Founding of Nailsea and District Local History Society**

*While searching for the catalogue to the Town Council Archives I came across a brief summary of how the Society started. The name of the Society has changed over the years from Nailsea Local History Research Group (which I believe was its first name) through Nailsea Local History Society to its present name shown above.*

"Nailsea has a tradition of good local historians, commencing with a noted Victorian Rev. Frederick Brown, a rector of Holy Trinity Church in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although he specialised in the study of noble Somerset families, his book "The History of Nailsea Court" was the basis of another excellent book on Nailsea Court written in 1923 by Miss Hope S. Evans, the sister of Lt. Commander Charles E. Evans, RNVR the owner at that time.

Prior to the WWII, a local resident, Mr Lander wrote three valuable notebooks summarising parish records. The notebooks of Rev. F. Brown and Mr Lander are deposited in the Local archives. After the war Mr B. J. Greenhill became a prolific writer not only on Nailsea, but other North Somerset villages and his newspaper articles covered such diverse subjects as Industrial and Church history.

In 1974 a history teacher, Mr John Reeves, had been studying documents deposited in Nailsea Library. It was the idea of the librarian Miss Judith Atkinson (*now Judith Codrington and who recently stepped down as our President*) that a study group formed to help Mr Reeves in his work.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1975 the group gathered in Nailsea Library for a study of deeds of settlement. Other meetings were organised in that year. These included a visit to examine Holy Trinity Church records at the Vicarage and a tour of Wraxall Church guided by church architect Mr A Rome. Regrettably Mr Reeves moved on shortly after the first meeting."

## *Editor's comments*

*There is more that is not relevant to the founding of the Society. It does seem to the editor that we had a much larger percentage of active members than we do now.*

*I have mentioned several projects in recent issues of Pennant but I get the impression that few of our members want to become involved and are happy to attend meetings and be entertained. If I am wrong will readers please pick up a pen or reach for their word processor and tell me so!*

## **Nailsea Post Office**

by Peter Wright

*Table based entirely and text based partly on information provided by John Jones a speaker at the Society's meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1997.*

In recent years there has often been references to the possible closure of the main post office in Crown Glass Place.

Ask anyone in Nailsea where the post office is and it is a fair bet that those who live in the area around Kings Hill will send you to the one in Silver Street. Those who use the main shopping area will, no doubt, refer you to the "one in the Precinct".

Old Postcards of the area often revealed the Russell's shop on the Green (opposite The Queens Head). This was the earliest Post Office, or rather, I thought that was the original.

In the information now provided there is the following extract from Bristol 5<sup>th</sup> Clause & Penny Post 1743 to 1840

by Ian Warn Pub 1980 ...

P 131 1817 April ...

*The establishment of Receiving House at Nailsea (Nailsea's First Post Office) on the " ..... Post to Bourton, Nailsea and Walton.*

Where I wonder was this receiving office? Maybe Louis Lippiatt can point us in the right direction. I have just come across a notebook (written c1967) in which he attempted to set out the various businesses in the area in the order in which one would come across them while walking around Nailsea in 1900.

The notebook has been typed and the text being prepared for more general use. Publication may follow. The following extract underlined maybe pertinent to the discussions about the possible site of the original building.

"The mail used to come from Bristol by mail van and I can remember seeing the driver with his gun to ward off those with evil intent Later the mail was sent by rail and had to be collected at the station and brought by hand truck to the Post Office. Now it comes by motor van."

*We pass the Sawyers Arms on the left and come to the Steam Mills which at this time were owned by George Yendole."*

*"A little further on was the Claypits where clay was taken out"*

*Phyllis Horman comments*

*"and used for brickmaking and it used to fill with water during the winter. We called them Clay Pools eventually it was filled chiefly with road dirt and mud from the scraping and roads got very muddy during the winter and very dusty during the summer."*

*Just a little further on the left hand side was a cottage which was used as a post office when the mail came from Bristol by horse van."*

*Again Phyllis comments remember the couple that lived there used to go round with a donkey collecting odds and end."*

*\* I understand from Phyllis Horman that the Claypits were situated between what is now Avon Motors and the old entrance to Nailsea Park.*

Julie Mansfield the archivist from Taunton who visits Nailsea on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month has provided the following information from various directories:-



## **NAILSEA POSTMASTERS**

1875 James Rendell, Grocer & Draper

1866 Sam Shepherd, Shopkeeper

1859 Isaac Hyde, Grocer and Draper

1840 No mention

The Post Office on the Green stayed for many years. It was still in use as a Post Office both before and after WWII and was referred to in an article in *Peace for our Time*

## **NAILSEA SUB POST OFFICE**

*by Muriel Chorley*

*My parents took over the Nailsea sub Post office on 31st August 1939 and were there until 1952 so they saw the village through the war. I lived there until 1943 when I joined the W.R.N.S. but I have several memories of the early days of the war.*

*The bomb which fell on 31st May 1941 killing a cow did damage to the Congregational Church. In those days it was a small chapel reached along a dark and often muddy path.*

*The huge lumps of clay thrown up by the bomb crashed all over the place; one piece crashing against the front door of the Post office. Luckily the door withstood the shock as it had been reinforced with iron in the times when coal mining was being carried on and drunken miners passed by.*

*I was sleeping on a mattress on the floor and quite thought my last hour had come. I still remember hearing the bomb whistling as it came down.*

Subsequently the Post Office was taken over by Mr Vance and, during the changes to the area as the new Precinct evolved, moved to Heath Road where it occupied the premises shown in the illustration in the centre of Pennant No 17.

## Information relating to Nailsea Post Office and Staff Dates of Employment cover 1898 to 1938

Wages for delivery staff prior to 1905 were:

16/- (80p) per week rising by 1/- per annum to a maximum of 20/- per week. Some recruits had started on 15/- per week minimum rising by 1/- annually to a maximum of 18/- until the rate was raised to 16/- pw rising to 20/- maximum. Others had their wage fixed at 16/- per week. As a result of a National review into Postmen's pay and conditions in 1905 wages actually fell for a while!

### List of Staff and Dates of Employment at Nailsea

SURNAME	Other Names	Dates of Employment at Nailsea	Remarks
AISH	Charles	1st emp. 31 Mar 1924	(see also 1931)
AISH	Charles	Emp. again 9 Jun 1931	Temp. Cas. Full Time Postman
BAKER	Leonard Albert	1st emp. 8 Dec 1923	
BURRIDGE	Albert Samuel	Comm. 24 June 1922	Hol. Sub Wage 55/- pw
CUTLER	Walter Thomas	Appt 3 Feb 1900	(ex Service) Rural Postman Route: Nailsea to Naish House
FISHER	Arthur	1st emp. 25 Sept 1934	Temp. Postman
HEDGES	Gilbert Donald	Comm. 14 Dec 1922	Hol. sub. Wage 46/6 pw
HOBBS	W.H.	Christmas Work 1933	Temp. Postman
HODGE	William James	1st emp. 16 Sep 1925	
HORMAN	Percy Walter T	Comm. 12 May 1923	Hol. sub. Wage 45/3 pw
HUTTON	Ruby Madeleine	1st emp. 12 Feb 1924	Postwoman
KITCHEN	Oliver John	Appt 14 Dec 1902	(Ex Service) Rural Postman Route: Nailsea & Tickenham
KITCHEN	Hubert	1st emp. 7 Mar 1932	Temp. Postman
MERCERON	Louis	1st emp. 29 Jul 1930	Temp. Boy Messenger
MINOR	H.F.F.	Christmas Work 1933	Temp. Postman
MOORES	George Robert	Comm. 22 Jun 1923	Hol. sub. Wage 45/3 pw
MURPHY	Edward	Appt 6 Aug 1902	Rural Postman Route: Nailsea & Tickenham
NICHOLAS	I. C.	1st comm. 30 Jul 1938	Hol. Sub
NICHOLSON	Philip	1st emp. 28 Sep 1934	Temp. telephonist at Nailsea Exchange. Friend of Caretaker op.. Prepared to assist any time.
PENNY	H.	1st comm. 31 Mar 1936	Temp. allowance deliverer
PRIDEAUX	E.J.	Christmas Work 1933	Temp. Postman
REED	Robin	1st emp. 21 Apr 1928	Temp. Postman
ROWLAND	Arthur Thomas	Appt 14 Oct 1899	Rural Postman. Route: Nailsea & Tickenham
SUMMERELL	Flora Evelyn	1st emp. 26 June 1933	Temp. Postwoman. Allce. deliverer
TITCOMBE	Henry Herbert	Appt. 23 Feb 1898	Rural Postman. Route: Nailsea to Naish House. Nailsea & Wraxall Tfd to Bristol 7 Jul 1898
VOWLES	James	Appt 2 Aug 1901	(Ex Service) Rural Postman Routes: Nailsea to Naish House. Nailsea to East End
WATKINS	William James	Appt 16 Oct 1898	(Ex Soldier) Rural Postman Route: Nailsea & Wraxall
WEARING	E.H.	1st comm. 3 April 1936	Temp. Allowance Deliverer
WHITE	T	Christmas Work 1933	Temp. Postman
WILLIAMS	Jesse Fredk. H	1st emp. 27 Sept 1934	Temp. Allowance deliverer