

PENNANT 19

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

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**LOCAL HISTORY
GOSSIP - NEWS - RESEARCH**



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CONTENTS INCLUDE

**BACKWELL PUBS . NAILSEA SHOPKEEPERS
TICKENHAM HISTORY . WRAXALL IN 1930'S**

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Backwell

Extracts from 19th century Newspapers

(provided by Martin Bodman)

The George Inn

Free Public House, with lands to let.

The George Inn Backwell, Somerset ... Backwell fair held in adjoining closes ...
[*present occupier*] Mr William Pearce ...

Bristol Mirror 27 February 1841

Ploughing Match. Backwell, Nailsea, Wraxall, Tickenham and Bourton.

[*Premiums listed. Time allowed depending on two or three horses*]. - Mr Jas. Sperrin and Mr Jno Batt of Backwell, competition organisers ... John Batt, at the George Inn, Backwell [*offering dinner at 2s 6d a head: presumably taken over Inn from William Pearce above*].

Bristol Mirror 1 January 1842

Inn and Several Closes of Land for sale Backwell Somerset:-

Lot 1. All that free and well accustomed public house called the George Inn, situate at Backwell, and contiguous to the Turnpike Road from Bristol to Weston-super-mare together with the Orchard. Garden and Barton adjoining, and commodious Stabling, Coach House, Barn, Brewhouse and other buildings attached thereto.

Lot 2. All that close of Pasture land called the Fairfield - 5 acres.

Lot 3. [*Arable Land Backwell Hill*] 3A 3R ...

Lot 4. Close of Arable, adjoining Horse-Croft 2A 0R 12P

All which said premises are now in the occupation of Mr John Batt [who will show the same], and are held under the Marquis of Bath for the remainder of three several terms of 99 years, respectively aged 40 years, 36 years and 40 years and under the yearly rent of 8s 9d and £1 10s for a Heriot - [apply] Mr Hamlin Solicitor, Redhill, Wrington.

Bristol Mirror 12 November 1842

Fat and Store Stock

Mr George Nicholls begs to announce that his next periodical sale of Fat and Store Stock will be held at the end of March. Luncheon will be provided at the George Inn as usual.

Bristol Mercury 1 March 1884

Other Inns

Backwell - The Rising Sun & Nailsea - Royal Oak and Sawyers Arms

To Brewers and others.

West Town Backwell Somerset.

Freehold Public House, Cottage, Gardens and Orchard.

Mr Henry Shiner is instructed to sell by auction at the Hope and Anchor Inn, Redcliffe Hill ... [*Bristol*] ... the following, old established, well frequented, roomy, Freehold Public House known as the Rising Sun ... [Nos in Backwell Tithe Award ... 573, 574, 575, 576, 598, 599]

... The above property, which has recently been substantially repaired is licensed for the sale of beer, adjoins the public road at West Town ... adjoins the properties of Wm. Devenish Esq. and the Marquis of Bath ... W E Persham, Solicitor, 5 Exchange Bristol and Flax Bourton ...

Bristol Mercury 2 February 1884

Nailsea

Royal Oak Brewery and Inn, Nailsea, Somerset. To be Let. Gas is manufactured on the Premises.

Bristol Mirror 15 September 1860

To Brewers, Beer - Retailers, and others

George S Tricks and Co are instructed to sell by Auction at the Royal Oak Inn, Nailsea, Somerset, on Wednesday the 6th day of July 1881, at six for seven o'clock in the evening all that well-accustomed Free Beer - House, known as the **Sawyer's Arms**, with garden, stable and outhouses, containing altogether about half an acre thereto, being situate at Nailsea in the county of Somerset adjoining the main road from Bristol to Nailsea at present and for many years in the occupation of Ann Wright, at the exceedingly low rental of £16. Term of 999 years from 25th March 1880 at a yearly rental of £2.

Bristol Mercury 11 June 1881.

In researching the many pubs in Nailsea N&DLHS has on file the following information regarding the Sawyers Arms

The Sawyers Arms

stands on the road to Wraxall on the eastern edge of Nailsea.

It first appears in the 1861 census when Elizabeth Burchell was the beerhouse keeper. At that time she was 45. With her was her assistant and sister Ann Rogers aged 40 and George Burchell her son aged 14 a scholar. All had been born in Downend.

Shortly after the census Elizabeth died and only a few hours later "George Burchell aged 15 years the illegitimate son of a woman of that place....went out with two little boys to shoot a land rail and in taking the gun through the "edge" it went off and the whole charge entering his heart killed him on the spot; he never spoke but groaned heavily".

Both were buried at Christ Church on 19th May 1861.

In 1871 the address was shown as Wraxall Road and John Wright is head of household aged 54. His wife Ann is 45 and they have with them step daughter Emily Wright aged 26 and step son Wm A Rogers aged 20. John Wright's occupations are Glassman and Publican (he was born in Shropshire) while Wm A Rogers is a glassmaker born as were the other two in Gloucestershire. Despite the discrepancy with regard to Ann's age it seems

likely that she was the Ann Rogers of 1861 especially as in the next ten years she ages only by 5 years.

The 1871 census does not identify the Sawyers Arms but shows:-
Ann Wright H 60 Liv Vic Mangotsfield William Rogers S 30 Glassworker
(Unemp) Kingswood Hill
Emily Dodds GD 10 Scholar

From the entries in various registers it does seem that there is a close family connection with the Burchell family at the Wheatsheaf and with William and Peter Dodds who were lodgers at the Queens Head in 1861. They were both Glassmakers and had been born in St Helens Lancs c1838/9.

Mrs Ann Wright was still a beer retailer in 1894 while a Mrs Elizabeth Dodd was a beer retailer in 1897. She was followed by Mrs Lavinia Burchill Dodds. In 1927 Miss Laura Dodds was shown as a beer retailer as she was in Kellys in 1931.

Between May 1956 and September the Sawyers Arms acquired a full license.

Nailsea Cricket Club

The Society has received from an ex-player the fixture list for the 1937 Season. Mr Morgan Fletcher who now lives in REDLAND has other items available which the Society hopes soon to examine and publish. If readers have similar items that relate to clubs in Nailsea (especially those that no longer exist) would they please contact the Editor?

The following are the names of the playing members:-

W.J Simmons Capt 1st XI
J. Ridley Vice Capt 1st XI
J. Fisher
C. Heath
E. Morgan-Fletcher
S. Newton
J. Nicholas

H. Cox Capt 2nd XI
H. Watts V. Capt 2nd XI
J. Griffin
J. Ward
V. Badman
J. Neate
G. Burge

G. Penny
 T. Ridley
 F. Lilley
 N. Beachgood
 H. Wyatt
 J. Brown

D. Shipway
 E. Powell
 C. Baker
 W. Summerell
 C. Griffin

Nailsea Postmasters

based on preliminary research by Peter Wright

(see also information from the Royal Mail in Pennant No 18)

1875 James Rendell, Grocer & Draper
 1866 Sam Shepherd, Shopkeeper
 1859 Isaac Hyde, Grocer and Draper
 1840 No mention

Examination of the Poor Rate registers that have been sent to SRO at Taunton revealed the following which leaves further investigation essential if the precise locations of the premises used at various times as Post Offices are to be ascertained..

indicates shown as postmaster in Directory

Date	Ref No	Occupier	Owner	Property		Size
1845	1016	Hyde	Hyde	Hse & Shop	Heath	0-3-29
1845	1036		R.H. Bean	Land	Pt of Mizzy Mead	3-2-8
1859	108	Isaac Hyde ##	Isaac Hyde	Hse & Gdn	Heath	0-3-29
1859	108	Isaac Hyde	Rodbard & Bean	Land	Heath	2-3-16
1863	210	Saml Shepherd	Henry Pullin	Hse & Gdn	Parade	0-1-26
1863	210	Miss Locke	Henry Pullin	Hse & Gdn	Parade	0-0-1
1865	213	Saml Shepherd	John Alvis	Hse & Gdn	Heath	0-1-26
1865	213	Saml Shepherd##	John Alvis	Hse & Gdn	Heath	0-0-1
1866	129	Timothy Park	Timothy Park			0-3-29
1866	213	Timothy Park	Rodbard and Bean			2-3-16
1871	129	Ann Newton	Ann Newton	Hse & Shop	Silver St	0-0-24
1871	225	Charley Sims late Shepherd	John Alvis	Hse & Land	Heath	0-1-26
1871	225	Charley Sims /Wm? Moore	John Alvis	Hse & Land	Heath	0-0-1
1873	127	James Rendell	Ann Newton	Shop & ?	Silver St	0-0-24

1875		no book available				
1900	161	George Russell	T Park	Post Office		0-3-29
1900	162	George Russell	Rodbards Trustees	Land		2-3-36
1920	569	Collard	Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1920	570	Hart	Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1920	571	Weavil	Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1920	572	Durbin	John Light	House	Moorfields Ln	not shown
1921	569		Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1921	570	Meade P C	Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1921	571		Geo Russell	House	High Street	not shown
1921	572	Russell	Geo Russell	House	Moorfields Ln	not shown

Glassmakers

From Janet Beavan Weston Zoyland comes a request for help in finding the burial place of George and Mary Gore. Can any Reader help?

George was a glassmaker from Ireland who in 1790 at Holy Trinity in Nailsea married Mary Glew (daughter of John Glew a glassman in Bristol who was born in Mid Glamorgan).

George worked for John Robert Lucas the founder of the Nailsea Glassworks.

The couple had two sons William, born 1792, and George, born 1794.

By 1797 Mary was a widow receiving poor relief after facing examination by A Elton and W Morgan. The last payment was made between Easter 1801 and Easter 1802. In May 1802 the children were put on board the ship Prince William Henry (Master Captain Knight) at Bristol bound for Cork. The Overseers of Nailsea paid 15/- for their journey, also 6/- for Mary Guildray "for maintaining the two Gores on their passage". 1/- was also paid for expenses in Bristol.

Mrs Beavan goes on to say

"Presumably their Irish family had been found although Mary in her examination had only known that her husband was Irish and had not known what part of Ireland he had come from".

"Despite searches in the records for Nailsea and surrounding parishes the burial place of neither the elder George Gore nor his wife Mary has been found".

"The two children William and George were both back in Bristol by 1807 *when they would have been 15 and 13 respectively*. William became a glassman and a Burgess of Bristol due to his father's trade. William's son Joseph also became a glassman and a Burgess. Altogether the glassmaking tradition was maintained for 5 generations".

In connection with the Nailsea Glassworks the Society's attention has been drawn to "The Greenwood Tree" (The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society's Journal dated August 1997) wherein is recorded the following extract from The Bristol Mirror of Saturday 9 November 1811

Death: On Friday evening last after three years' illness, at his home in Nailsea in Somersetshire, to the poignant grief of his numerous relatives and friends, Thomas SIMS, foreman to Messrs. LUCAS, CHANCE, HOMER & COATHOPE, glass manufacturers whom he had faithfully served 23 years. He was in his 47th year and was a true follower of Christ. He has left a wife and ten children to bemoan his loss" Bill head of Lucas, Coathupes & Co Owners of Nailsea Glassworks from the Local History collection in Nailsea Library

The Nailsea Town Council Archives

Report

by Peter Wright

That part of the archives of the Town Council previously stored in Nailsea Library have been deposited at the Somerset Record Office in Taunton. The Local History Society has been involved in the transfer and is preparing a catalogue for the items. The opportunity has also been taken by the Society to provide the Record Office with extra information that we hope will facilitate the use of the records at the Record Office and also reduce the need to produce original documents.

Julie Mansfield North Somerset Archivist has provided the following article.

What Happens Next?

by Julie Mansfield North Somerset Archivist

During September the last boxes containing the Nailsea parish and Town Council archives were transferred from Nailsea Library to the strongrooms of the Somerset Record Office in Taunton. Now, having reached the shelves of the county archives, the question is: what happens next?

All archives received by the Record Office are immediately given a unique accession number, and information about when the records came into the

office, where they came from and who brought them in is recorded. At this stage

fragile or damaged documents are added to the office conservation programme. Although one or two items from the Nailsea records are in need of some attention, the vast majority are in a very well preserved state - the result of careful handling and good storage over the years.

The collection is given a reference code and is then listed. Each item is given a temporary number and a handwritten slip is completed, recording the date, description and physical format of the item. As the archivist sorts through the collection at this initial stage rusty pins and paper clips are removed and replaced by non rusting brass paper clips. Dirt and dust are carefully brushed from the documents and creased or folded papers are flattened.

Once all the slips have been compiled they are arranged into an order, often reflecting the processes by which the archives were originally created: parish records are arranged by the individual officers and bodies within the parish who created the records, e.g. archives will be grouped under headings such as churchwardens, overseers of the poor, and the vestry. The listing which has already been carried out on the Nailsea records by the Society certainly makes this stage of the process much easier to undertake.

Once the final order has been decided upon and the information from the slips has been entered on the word processor, the archivist returns to the documents to number them. Loose papers are placed in acid free envelopes and all the items are labelled and then boxed in acid free containers, similar to the brown boxes the Nailsea archives have been kept in for so long. Listed,

labelled and boxed the collection is then assigned to its permanent resting place amongst the other historic archives of Somerset. The environment within the strongrooms is closely monitored: if the temperature falls, the air can become damp and mould is encouraged to grow; if the temperature rises, it becomes drier and the documents may become brittle. However at the correct temperature and humidity we can ensure our holdings are safely preserved for many centuries to come.

Meanwhile the list is printed out and indexed, with references relating to places, surnames and subjects being recorded in our indexes. Members of the public are then able to find out about the archives we hold, call up the documents they are interested in and consult the archives in the security of the supervised searchrooms.

The Nailsea Archives are certainly a very welcome addition to the Record Office and are currently undergoing this process so that they are once again available to the public. In the last edition of Pennant the Editor published his comprehensive list of items deposited with the Record Office. If you would like to consult any of these items during the archivist's visit, please contact me at the Record Office tel. no. 01823 278805.

New dates for the North Somerset archivist have recently been drawn up for 1998. The archivist is to continue to visit Nailsea on the second Thursday of every month. Other libraries to be visited during the forthcoming year (1998) include Clevedon, Portishead, Long Ashton, Congresbury and Yatton

Nailsea Pennant

Before going on to consider the past attempts by the Society to communicate with a wider public it is convenient to fill the remainder of this column with a reference to an illustration in Pennant 16 which referred to the opening of the Junior Football Club's ground in Greenfield Crescent. The press report on the match referred to has come to light and it reads:-

"Villa tumble to Nailsea"

"Nailsea United under-16 soccer team gained a 3-1 victory against an Aston Villa Youth XI to mark the opening of their new ground at Greenfield Crescent.

On target for the United were Nigel Aubin, Neil Sillett and Steve Wright".

Nailsea Pennant

a brief history of communication and publication of research by the Nailsea and District Local History Society

by Peter Wright

It seems likely that there had been Newsletters before that issued in July 1977 which stated "With this edition we open a new era in the Society's affairs".

The title Nailsea Pennant was adopted by the Nailsea Local History Society for its next Newsletter dated February 1978. This was numbered Vol. II No 1. Use of the title continued at least until December 1978 when Vol. II No 4 was published.

In my own records there is then a gap of about 2 years before the Title was applied to a new "part" publication in February 1981.

Nailsea Pennant was "relaunched" with a blue cover and the content made up of four quarterly inserts with the intention that all four parts be bound with a slide binder.

This continued for four years.

Volume 1 (1981) 42 pages+index;

Volume 2 (1981/2) 99pages+ index;

Volume 3 (1982/3) 92 pages

Volume 4 (1983/4) 46 pages.

Unfortunately there was little support by way of articles and the cost was increasing despite the fact that it was prepared by typing stencils and duplicating it in the garage of "No 5" (the editor's house). The Society could not find anyone to take on the task of producing this "Newsletter" and it therefore went into "mothballs".

Eventually Volume 5 was produced as a photocopied product from one or two pages prepared for the editor. This took the form of a monthly newsletter and No 1 was dated October 1990. Editions come out more or less monthly up to No 12 which was dated Nov/Dec 1991.

The editor had retired by this time and felt the time was opportune for a change. Edition 12 carried the following comment "*One of the problems that a Society such as ours has in producing a monthly newsletter is the very short gap between one edition and the next. It is difficult to commission articles, or rather twist arms when the deadline is only days away*".

"Your Committee has given the matter careful consideration and has decided that in future our journal will be produced quarterly. The Committee is reviewing the layout and content to make it more attractive to members of the general public to whom it will be available on subscription. To make clear the area which the journal will cover it has been decided to drop the word Nailsea from the title which will now be:- PENNANT The Local History Journal of Backwell, Nailsea, Tickenham and Wraxall".

Six years have elapsed and it seems opportune to consider how well have we succeeded in our aims?

This is No 19. During the years that have elapsed the major changes have been

- 1 to change from quarterly to four monthly *and*
- 2 to improve the quality and to include copies of photographs.

The extra month proved particularly useful in the preparation of each edition.

At the time this article is being written moves are afoot to bring the library in Nailsea into the 21st century by adding computers to help its administration.

While this is greatly to be encouraged it has caused great pressure on space downstairs and much work has been undertaken by the Local History Society to copy important documents so that the originals can be placed in the safekeeping of the Somerset Record Office.

The copying of documents has been costly and further expense was occasioned while the settlement examinations were being copied by taking an extra copy for the use of the Somerset Record Office to reduce the amount of handling of the originals.

Copies of all issues of Pennant are still available in sets, some are available as individual copies.

Publications by Nailsea and District Local History Society

While most of the information available to the Society relates to Nailsea and especially the Coalmines and Glassworks the Society has attempted to cover a wide area in its range of publications both past and present. In recent years it has established the Pennant Special series to publish manuscripts that cover a broader area viz "Mills on the Land Yeo" and "Mills on the Land Yeo - Further Discoveries" and "A Short History of Chelvey".

When the Society first thought of producing some or part of "A Short History of the Village of Tickenham" in the early 1980s (*even though some 50 years had passed since its original publication*) the Society sought to obtain suitable permission or agreement. After some considerable effort this was forthcoming from those we considered best able to give it.

In giving consideration to republishing this booklet on Tickenham in that series it was realised that current knowledge may well affect some of the comments made by the authors in 1932.

With this in mind it was felt that to publish separately might lead to readers drawing the wrong conclusions and that it would be better suited to Pennant. Here then is the first instalment.

A Short History of the VILLAGE OF TICKENHAM

by Members of the Women's Institute February 1933

Edited and abridged in 1998 by Peter Wright (for Nailsea and District Local History Society)

Publication of this booklet now in Pennant is an attempt to establish a base of information and to encourage those interested in Tickenham to increase the Society's knowledge of the village by contributing information to this magazine to amend or build on the information supplied here. No attempt has been made to amend the text because of later knowledge. The Society claims no rights over the text reproduced in Pennant from the above mentioned booklet except to hope that those quoting from the text will acknowledge both sources.

The book begins:-

This is the story of Tickenham, a Somerset village with many unusual and interesting features.

It lies in the extreme N.W. of the county, for some 2 ½ miles along the side of the spur of hills running from the Avon Gorge below Clifton to Clevedon.

The parish may conveniently be divided into three geographical areas:-

1. The low lying "Moor" stretches across the south from Jackland's Bridge, by which the road from Nailsea enters Tickenham over the Yeo. This stream soon bifurcates, one part flowing each side of the Church and Court. They unite again and flow over the west boundary of the parish to find the sea at Clevedon.

2. North of this lies the main agricultural areas, with hamlets and farms and, of course, roads. The eastern boundary lies on the hill above the Batch and touches Wraxall. The western boundary is just beyond West End Farm, where Clevedon begins.

3. The third area is the upper slope and hilltop, mostly woodland, the boundary here between Tickenham and Clapton is for part of the way a very old dry stone wall. At the eastern extremity the hilltop rises over 400 feet above the sea level.

The Moor

This land is now drained and divided by broad ditches or rhynes into rectangular meadows, reached by a causeway or drove; and often in a wet season the whole area is under water.

In the very distant past the sea covered this. Tradition says that folk came to Church by boat, but all trace of the ring in the wall below the Church, to which boats are said to have been tied, has kenham Moor and Church & Tickenham Moor around 1905 from the Peter Wright collection.

For long after the sea had retired, this land must have been useless, impassable marsh. In the 18th century some part of it was useful for pasture and belonged in common to the inhabitants of Tickenham till in 1804 by the Enclosures Act it was appropriated by private owners, in return for cutting waterways and putting bridges.

It will be noticed that two streams of the Yeo intersect the parish.

The Mill

The Mill must have been for a very long time an important part of the village. The records of 1048 state of the total acreage of 1,627, no less than 1440 acres was arable land, so there is little doubt that a mill would be of great importance. It certainly ground corn until recently, when it was bought by Lady Smyth, of Ashton Court, a landowner in Tickenham, and converted into a water pump for supplying water to farms, etc., on her Estate. It now belongs to a company of those whose property it supplies.

The Hill

Next let us consider the northern part of the parish. It is evident that this hilltop will play a very different part in history. Long before there was any village of Tickenham in the valley, the ridge was inhabited. Proofs of this are abundant; a cave in the limestone hillside west of the "Camp" was explored by the Archaeological Society in 1924, who found a number of human bones, some pottery, made with, and without, the wheel, and other articles, including a comb such as would be used for decorating pottery.

Nearer the North-west boundary is a Tumulus, and Celtic fields and foundations have been located at several spots on the ridge.

The Camp

Of far greater importance however is the remarkably perfect earthwork ring known as Cadbury Camp. This was an ancient British stronghold and evidently an important outpost used by the Romans during their occupation.

A double ring of earthworks, the outer rampart about 10ft. high, the inner one about 16ft., enclose an area of over 7 acres. There are three original entrances, the chief one on the north-east.

The so called "Roman Road" passes the Camp on the north; following the ridge eastwards it joins the present road to Portishead near Naish House.

As a view-point the position of the Camp is marvellous. *(there follows a description of the places to be seen. The paragraph ends-)* Roman coins have been found in the vicinity on several occasions about 1770, 1821 and again in 1926.

Today the hillside is important because its aspect and its soil made it an ideal spot for market gardening. So between Middletown and the West End some eight or more gardens lie, in some parts so steep that they are almost like a cliff, and some slope down to the main road more gently. Famous for early strawberries and violets, specially, they send all kinds of garden produce to Clifton and Bristol shops. Some gardens have been in existence over 100 years; others are quite recent ventures.

The Valley

Now let us turn to the district between the Moor and the Hill. The village consists of three hamlets, Stonebatch, Middletown, and West End; the Church and Court House, away from all three hamlets, and a few isolated farms.

Name

The name "Tickenham" may be accounted for in at least two ways.

One is :- As 'OK' is said to be Celtic for a stream, "At-icken-ham" may mean the hamlet by the stream, *and as Church and Manor House are between two streams this seems a likely derivation.*

Another is:- Tickenham may be connected with Ticca or Tica, Abbot of Glastonbury about A.D. 760, who preceded Dunstan.

In the time of Edward the Confessor there were certainly two Manors with their Court Houses for the lord, and cottages for the villeins, and a church. During the centuries that follow the Norman Conquest the life of Tickenham will centre round the Manor Houses and the Church, so let us study these next.

Tickenham Court

Tickenham Court stands close to the Church on its north side. It is now used as a farm and the two fine buildings at right angles to one another, important parts of the fifteenth century house, adjoin the present farm dwelling.

The Hall* is almost perfect, and one longs to see its fine, dignified proportions restored to their original beauty. The interior has a fine oak roof. Between the pair of windows that light it on the north are carved stone brackets, probably used to support military trophies. At the lower (east) end of the hall are three original arched doorways which would have led to the kitchen and offices now destroyed. Over these across the width of the hall was probably the minstrel gallery. At the upper end, where the dais would have been, there are traces, now hidden by farm gear, of a bay window and a lofty doorway. **(The Hall is one of the two fine buildings shown in the photograph printed in the original book but not reproduced here as copyright still rests with Mr W H Budgett the original photographer or his estate)*

At right angles to the hall is the beautiful "withdrawing room" and chamber reached by a stone stairway in the original octagonal turret.

TOWN LIFE - COUNTRY LIFE

Comparing life in Town with that in WRAXALL in the second quarter of the 20th Century

by Phyllis Horman

I have read in the past few years articles in the press about the conditions in which the poor people of Bristol lived between the two World Wars. Their houses were small, only two bed rooms, one living room, one kitchen cum scullery. The toilet was often shared by two or three families, no flush toilets merely cleaning through by throwing down a bucket of water. One water tap between several families, cooking and lighting mainly by gas.

Do they realise how lucky they were? I was a child in the 1930s and lived in a country cottage in Wraxall. We had two bed rooms, one living room one kitchen cum scullery. As we had no cesspit (the pipes had broken many years before and the landlady wouldn't or couldn't have them repaired) our toilet, only for one family praise be, couldn't be cleaned by throwing down a bucket of water, it was just a bucket which had to be regularly emptied into a hole in the garden.

We had no mains water until the 1940s and even then that was only a standpipe in a shed. Our drinking water previously, was drawn from a well, which during a dry summer could almost dry up. Water for washing was caught in rainwater barrels, draining from the roof. Until 1948 we had no electricity in the cottage, when my now husband put it in for my parents. Before this our only means of lighting was oil lamps, and if you ran out of paraffin during the evening then it was candles. How romantic some will say!

Cooking was by an open fire with an oven at the side, that is until the wall of the oven burnt through, then it was cooking by oil stove. Gas? I don't think there was any in the village at all.

In town were various forms of entertainment. Cinemas, dancehalls, swimming baths, playgrounds for the children. Various groups such as the Band of Hope for them to join and the Saturday morning cinema.

We had no cinemas, dancehalls, swimming baths; our parents couldn't have afforded the few pence entrance fee anyway. Once or twice a year talented villagers would put on a concert, which was much enjoyed and appreciated by everyone, and, maybe, once or twice a year a dance would be held in a small

village hall. That was all the entertainment we had. I joined the "Brownies" as a child but by the time I was eleven I couldn't proceed to the "Guides" as there was no one to take them, in fact even the Brownies was disbanded for the same reason. Despite no other means of entertainment, the boys and young men kept out of mischief by joining a cricket or football team. This did not mean they were "cissies" they were typical lads.

Some people will say we had green fields to play and walk in. To a certain extent we did, but there were many fields that were out of bounds, either crops growing or grass for haymaking, and in any case we didn't wander far from home. Playgrounds? Yes the lane where we lived! But you couldn't put up a swing or a seesaw (as I have read the town children did in their back streets) as there was a small amount of traffic, such as a baker's van likely to come. Of course you may have been one of the lucky ones and have a swing in the garden, but in general the gardens were used for the more practical purpose of growing as many vegetables as possible. We were fortunate to benefit by these fresh veg. but other groceries and meats were much more expensive in the country than in the town.

I understand that it was possible to buy yesterday's bread and cakes more cheaply and that on Saturday evenings joints of meat were sold at a much cheaper price in town. How Lucky! We had none of this, the bread and cakes and the meat were the same price both weekday and weekend. I have been told of two elderly ladies who walked over eight miles from the country to Bedminster on a Saturday evening to buy cheap meat for their Sunday dinner simply because they could not afford the prices in the country.

On rare occasions when Mother could save enough from Dad's farm labourer's wages (they were I believe the lowest paid workmen) to pay the bus fare: 1s 3d return, half price for children for 7 miles. We went to Bedminster or Castle Street and I can remember my parents remarking on the difference in prices of items to what we had to pay in the country.

It seems that poor families in the town could get free boots for their children and that there were other charities which of course were greatly appreciated and were there not soup kitchens? Here is one similarity between town and country, we too had some church charities for our poor families. One was for bread, one for childrens' clothes given, I believe, as a docket for a certain amount of money to be spent at a certain shop in the village. Our charities were greatly appreciated too. Soup kitchens in the country? No such luck.

I think the town folk imagine that those living in the country had a far easier and cheaper way of life. They certainly did not! Nevertheless I am not complaining, my childhood was happy though I now know for my parents it was very hard to make ends meet. I'm glad I grew up in the country and not the town.

Nailsea United AFC - Annual Sports Day

For many years the local football club organised an event to provide funds for the British Empire Cancer Campaign. The following are extracts from the programme for 1957 showing the local shopkeepers who provided their support.

Nailsea Sports Day Saturday July 13th 1957

at Old Church Nailsea in a field opposite the church by kind permission of Mr A Coombs free transport from Village Green to Field from 2.30pm until 8-30pm.

Editor's note - The address & the Tel No are Nailsea unless otherwise indicated. The extracts are taken in the order they appear in the programme.

NAME	Address Road etc	Advertising	Tel. No.
R. GILBORSON	Little Orchard Rock Rd YATTON	Plumber and Heating engineer Estimates free	Yat 3329
I. NICHOLAS	High St	Local agent for "Clarks" "Wearra" "Dorchester" and other well known brands of footwear also High Class Shoe Repairs	406
KAY'S	Clevedon Road	Dresses, Blouses, Peter French Skirts, Children's Wear, Dainty Lingerie AND FINEST QUALITY Household Linens	
BRUCE T. DODDRELL	High St	THE GROCER	40
CLAUDE HIMS	High St. Garage	Automobile Engineer Electrical Repairs and Overhauls of all Descriptions Six Day Service 8.30am to 6pm. Batteries, Petrol, Tyres, Accessories All Classes of Motor Insurance	24
V.J. RIDLEY	near Old Church	Family Grocer	114
E.N. HOLDER	Dairy, Silver St	Dairyman - Tuberculin Tested Guernsey Milk Sukie Sunkap Orange Drink	1279
GARDNER & BADMAN	High St	Commercial TV presents the 64000 question. WE CAN SUPPLY THE ANSWER. With the coming of Commercial TV later this year many sets will need converting to receive the new programmes, also Band III aerials will be needed. Waiting may mean delay and disappointment so Consult Gardner & Badman NOW. Our expert Technical Staff will help you with your problems.	389

NAME	Address Road etc	Advertising	Tel.No
A. E. DAVEY	Glenhurst Horwood Road	LUXURY COACH AND CAR HIRE SERVICE WEDDINGS, DANCES, PARTIES, THEATRES ANY SIZE PARTY TO ANY NAMED PLACE	307
F. GRIFFITHS	High St	Purveyor of HIGH CLASS MEAT- Poultry, Cooked Meats, Sausages	5
AUDREY BAKER	Silver St	GENERAL DRAPERY Agent for Willways Dry Cleaning. GOR-RAY SKIRTS BERKSHIRE NYLONS DONDROS KNITWEAR SPIRELLA CORSETIERE LYBRO WORKWEAR VAN HEUSEN SHIRTS	1229
HEWETTS STORES	of Nailsea and Bristol	THE GROCERS OF QUALITY FOR "VAUE AND SERVICE" Please give us a ring (Nailsea 47) for prompt delivery	47
A. T. HALL F.V.I	Silver St	INCORPORATED SURVEYOR & VALUER. LAND AND BUILDING SURVEYS ESTATE DEVELOPMENT HOUSING VALUATIONS FOR PROBATE OR COMPENSATION RATING APPEALS	
DAVIES & ELVERD	Springfield Goss Lane	BUILDING CONTRACTORS Repairs and Renovations Houses built to Architect's specifications	296
F. W. LONG	Kings Hill	FOR BEST QUALITY MEAT Home Made Sausages Fresh Daily Families waited upon in all districts. A Trial respectfully solicited	373
A. J. GRIFFIN	Forty Fathom	Repairs Decorating General Maintenance Estimates Free	360
F. WEBSTER, M.P.S.	Silver St	DISPENSING CHEMIST. PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES VETERINARY MEDECINES GARDEN REQUISITES FISON'S FERTILISERS	41
C. H. MARSH	High St	FOR FISH AND POULTRY Personal Service with Satisfaction Deliveries throughout the District Daily Your Patronage Respectfully Solicited	209
C. H. MARSH		For the finest Prime English Beef, Mutton, Lamb, Pork, and Veal, Canterbury Lamb and Poultry TRY PURVEYORS OF QUALITY C.H. MARSH NAILSEA Corned Beef and Pickled Tongues. Home - Made Sausages fresh daily. Families waited upon daily in all districts	209
SMALL'S LIBRARY	Silver St	SWEETS AND TOBACCO STATIONERY AGENT FOR FULLER'S CONFECTIONERY EXTENSIVE LENDING LIBRARY GREETING CARDS CHILDREN'S BOOKS	314
VICKY (MRS E SMALL)	Silver St	LADIES' HAIRDRESSER	314

The Society would welcome details in writing of the site of these businesses in relation to current buildings together with any relevant artefacts / memorabilia / ephemera. *In the four years which followed there were a number of changes, on the following page are similar details from the 1961 event.*

Nailsea Grove Sports and British Empire Cancer Campaign

present Nailsea Village Fayre and Sports Day

Saturday 1st July 1961 at Old Church Nailsea

in a field near the top of Whitesfield Road by kind permission of Mr R Baker

Advertisers in the programme

NAME	Address Road etc	Advertising	Tel. No.
Summerell & Son	Brook Cottage JACKLANDS TCKENHAM	BUILDERS AND DECORATERS GENERAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE HOT AND COLD WATER PLUMBING Estimates Free given for All Classes of Building Work HOUSES BUILT TO ARCHITECTS SPECIFICATIONS	474
DAVIES & ELVERD	Springfield GOSS LANE	BUILDING CONTRACTORS Houses built to architects specifications Repairs and Renovations	296
V. J. RIDLEY	The Stores Old Church Road	Your Local Spar Shop High Class Groceries and Provisions Frozen Foods Home cooked Meats A personal service shop deliveries to your home Est 1871	114
Gerry Parker	3 Station Road	May we introduce ourselves and supply you with FRUIT VEGETABLES FLOWERS and PLANTS GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES	
Audrey Baker	Silver Street	GENERAL DRAPERY GOR_RAY SKIRTS & SUITS DONBROS KNITWEAR BERKSHIRE NYLONS LYBRO WORKWEAR VAN HEUSEN AND VANTELLA SHIRTS agent for Willways Dry Cleaning	1229
THE POST OFFICE	NAILSEA	TOBACCO all your favourite brands CONFECTIONERY to suit all tastes STATIONERY for every occasion	1
E. COKER & SONS LTD	Silver Street	Nurserymen and Seedsmen. All types of Dog, Cat, Fish and Bird Foods Special offer to Bird Breeders: Best Budgerigar Seed 1/- LB. Finest canary Seed, plain or mixture 1/6lb. The success of Your Garden depends upon Your Seedsman	Shop431 Nurseries 377
J. Brown	High Street	Paraffin Hardware Floor Coverings and Household Furnisher. IRONMONGER WALLPAPERS< PAINTS	1368
The Blue Iris Coaches AND HIRE CARS	Glenhurst Horwood Road	Any size party to any named place in safety and comfort with careful and courteous drivers DANCES THEATRES	307
NAILSEA AND DISTRICT SCHOOL OF MOTORING	Alfoxton Whitesfield Road	Pick-up Service Phone for terms	517

NAME	Address Road etc	Advertising	Tel. No.
BOWYER'S TRAVEL BUREAU	Central Chambers Nailsea or 67 Hill Road Clevedon	can supply all TRAVEL TICKETS by Air Rail Road and Sea. HOLIDAY CAMPS INCLUSIVE TOURS HOTEL ACCOMODATION London Theatre Tickets <i>We apply no extra charge</i> Illustrated Brochures Free	635 or Cleve don 3711- 2
Clevedon School of Motoring	Central Chambers Nailsea or 67 Hill Road Clevedon	Let us teach you to be a SAFE DRIVER Dual Controlled Cars Pupils Carefully Trained Proprietor - Member of Institute of Advanced Motorists	635 or Cleve don 3711- 2
F Griffiths	High Street	FAMILY BUTCHER The very best home killed BEEF, LAMB, PORK, VEAL Sausages and Cooked Meats Poultry and Canterbury Lamb Regular Deliveries	5
A.T. Hall F.V.I.	South View High Street	Incorporated Surveyor and Valuer Land and Building Surveys Estate Development Housing Valuations for Probate or Compensation rating Appeals	1092
H Parson & Son	Central Bakery	Try our lardy Cakes , for BREAD, ROLLS, CAKES and PASTRIES** Fine selection of Chocolates and Sweets (Fullers, Meltis, Terrys etc) Agent for walls Ice Cream Mudds Frozen foods	223
G & A.M. Beaumont	High Street	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL NEWSAGENTS High Class Sweets and Tobacconists WALLS ICE CREAM Corgi Toys Airfix, Aurora and Kitmaster HALLMARK GREETING CARDS for every occasion	1051
F.W. AISH	Opposite Post Office Silver Street	DO IT YOURSELF? - THEN LET supply and deliver the materials. Glass Hardboard Timber Plastics - al cut to size. PAINT AND <u>WALLPEPER</u> (sic) ORDERS DELIVERED THE SAME DAY Sand cement and everything for Property Owners. Portable Buildings Greenhouses and Garages See Before you buy	135 & 380
C.H. MARSH	High Street	for Fish and Poultry Personal Service with Satisfaction Deliveries throughout the district daily Your Patronage Respectfully Solicited	209
C.H. MARSH		For the finest Prime English Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal, Canterbury Lamb and Poultry try PURVEYORS OF QUALITY... Corned Beef and Pickled Tongues. Home made sausages fresh daily. Families waited upon in all districts daily	209
A.E. HALL	6 Orchard Road	(Registered Plumber) Plumbing and Heating Engineer Small Bore Heating Installations	294
R. N.COATE & Co. Ltd.	Nailsea	COATES Somerset Cider There's no cider like Somerset Cider	
NAME	Address Road etc	Advertising	Tel. No.
Holder & Son	High Street	HARDWARE CHINA WARE ESSO BLUE and ALADDIN PINK PARAFFINS Delivery to all parts	36
HODDERS THE CHEMISTS	Nailsea	FOR ALL YOUR REQUIREMENTS MEDICINAL HOUSEHOLD TOILET & COSMETIC Everything at City Prices Films developed and printed within 24 hours MAKE HODDERS YOUR CHEMIST	41
HARTNELL, TAYLOR & COOK	Central Chambers Nailsea	Est 1922 Auctioneers Estate Agents Surveyors and Valuers Agents for properties throughout the North Somerset Area Manager M Berry	652

Using Your Imagination

by Bryan Button

What fascinating, imaginary pictures our minds can paint from a set of apparently dry facts! Recently I examined the admission and discharge register for Frome Union Workhouse in the mid nineteenth century. I came across a namesake, but of no relation to me, as far as I am aware.

Elizabeth Button was admitted to the workhouse on January 15th 1851. She came from Kilmersdon with her son William. She was 22 years of age and he was only 3. The reason given for admission was "No work" but she was pregnant and in May gave birth to a daughter, Clara. Elizabeth discharged herself and her family on August 16th. How did she hope to survive outside with, presumably, no husband to support her? Perhaps she hoped Clara's father would help. But then again perhaps she was a tragic young widow.

Anyway, nine days later she and Clara returned to the Workhouse. Where was William? With his grandparents, perhaps. Whoever was looking after him did not do so for long, for he too was readmitted on September 17th.

The family stayed at the Workhouse until December 27th when again Elizabeth discharged herself and her family. Why at that time? Had she waited to enjoy Christmas Day in the workhouse? That sounds like a Victorian song! Or was she so disillusioned after a terrible Christmas that she decided desperately to try to survive in the outside world once more?

In fact, not all workhouses were joyless at Christmas. In Durham City house in 1852, for example, inmates were given free beer and tobacco, and cakes and fruit for all children.

Sadly Elizabeth and her family returned to the workhouse ten days later on January 6th 1852, - again for "No Work".

Elizabeth next took her family out on March 13th but this time was readmitted after only four days. Had she intended to stay out or had she planned to return after a short break?

Her next 'visit' outside was for eleven days in August and then she discharged herself and her family once more on December 24th 1852. This time she did

not want to celebrate Christmas in the workhouse. She returned on January 3rd and then had a break away for ten days in May and again for twelve days in June. Where did she and her family go? Back to relations in Kilmersdon, perhaps. If so they could not maintain her there. Why could she not find work? Was she unemployable?

Her small children would not have been an obstacle, as in 1851 ancestors of mine, the family of Joseph Button, were working in Frome. His wife was a woolpicker, and so were her children, Henrietta aged 11, Eli aged 9, Moses aged 7, Emmanuel aged 5 and Silas aged 3. Only a baby aged 1 was unemployable!

The last entries I noted for Elizabeth was a discharge in August 1855 and readmission after 20 days. No mention of her is made in 1856 so she seems to have become resigned to permanent residence in the workhouse. No doubt there are later references to her however.

Elizabeth's details encourage us to recall the suffering of our ancestors. At this time I understand that children were separated from their mother in some workhouses. If this was so at Frome and it was from an early age William must have had a miserable childhood. Perhaps this is the main reason Elizabeth was so desperate to leave.

Even without this worry, she is unlikely to have stayed in the Union Workhouse by choice. William Howitt wrote in 1838, "Every poor man's family is liable, on the occurrence of some chance stroke of destitution, to have added to their misfortune, bitter enough by itself, the tenfold aggravation of being torn asunder and immured in the separate wards of a poverty prison".

Our image of the workhouse is helped by Dickens' description in *Oliver Twist*, and by the folk memory of the dread our grandparents had of ending their lives there. In fact it was by no means only the young and the very old who were inhabitants. On one page of the register (for 1856) picked at random, 7 men, 7 women, and 12 children were admitted. The average age of the men was 48 and that of the women 46 (if we count childhood as ending at 16).

Modern research reveals that workhouses were not as forbidding as anti-Poor Law writers encouraged us to believe. Conditions varied according to the part of the country in which the workhouse was built, but those in the north of

England were more humane than those of the south so, presumably Frome was not of the best.

Reasons for entry are various, but the most common is 'No Work'. Other reasons are destitution, infirmity, pregnancy, and desertion. One entry was "Husband in prison". Another interesting one was "Deserted by husband-who is third time punished for this offence". I wonder what the punishment was. Perhaps being forced back to his wife was the worst part! I do wish we could know more about Elizabeth and her family. Did she ever find a husband? Were her children apprenticed? Above all, what did they look like?

All the facts above were available as a result of the splendid service given to us by the Somerset Record Office, Taunton who readily transport massive tomes to Nailsea Library on request, so that we may examine them locally.

Using Your Imagination by Bryan Button

Editor's note - Although the above article does not strictly comply with the usual requirement for Pennant articles (ie. that it is relevant to the four parishes named on the cover or those that are adjacent to them) it is, nevertheless welcomed as it demonstrates the effect of the Poor Law that was relevant to the locality and shows how facts gleaned from the Record Office can be woven into an interesting story. It supplements two articles contained in this edition of Pennant, namely Town Life - Country Life by Phyllis Horman and also What Happens Next? by Julie Mansfield the North Somerset Archivist. It is a good example to demonstrate to Family Historians how they can clothe the facts they have obtained about their ancestors with information about the times in which they lived. From the local history point of view it is an example of the type of observation that the Nailsea and District Local History Society would welcome from its members or from members of the general public.

The Society has published two other treatises which, inter alia, relate to the operation of the Poor Law.

The Care of the Poor in Nailsea by J. M. Pullan (Slide bound A4)

Accounts of the Churchwardens 1714 -1795 and Vestry Minutes 1762 - 1836

A Study by H S & E M Copestake

In Nailsea Library is an unpublished thesis by June Appleby - The working of the old Poor Law in Nailsea at the end of the 18th cent. and the beginning of the 19th cent. For further information about this enquire at Nailsea Library. Staff there will also be able to guide you as to further reading on this subject.

Lieutenant Commander Charles E Evans Ship Owner

These notes provided by Peter Wright from "The Memoirs of Lt. Commander Charles E Evans" published by the Western Mail & Echo Ltd in 1946

Charles Evans was responsible for the restoration of Nailsea Court shortly after the start of the 20th century. The full story of the Court and its restoration can be read in "The Story of Nailsea Court" by Miss S Hope Evans (the sister of Charles Evans). Miss Evans was also the author of "Sea Children" published Fisher Unwin in 1903.

Charles Evans was born Sept 14 1858 on the fully rigged ship Rhea Sylvia in Pisco Bay 100 miles south of Lima. He died on May 11 1944.

He was maternally descended from the eldest brother of Major Nathaniel Wade who was the son of Colonel John Wade one of Cromwells' generals and who (Nathaniel) in 1695 purchased Nailsea Court.

Charles Evans on leaving school was apprenticed to Messrs Stephens, Mawson and Kendrick a firm of shipbuilders in Newport.

On completing his apprenticeship he was appointed by T Benyon and Company to open a branch of their business in Cardiff. It was largely through his travels and efforts that Welsh Coals were introduced to the Baltic markets.

In 1890 he started business on his own in Cardiff. In 1901 it became Evans and Reid Limited with Stephen B Reid and Charles J Evans as joint managers. Eventually as the business expanded three companies were formed. Evans and Reid Investment Ltd. Evans and Reid Coal Company Limited, Evans and Reid (Pitprops) Ltd.

Prior to the 1914 war they obtained pitprops from Finland Russia Sweden and Norway. When the supply was cut off during hostilities the Company began to obtain supplies from Newfoundland.

He set up the Nailsea Steamship Company and the Bantham Steamship Company.

In 1931 Barclays Bank entrusted him to manage four steamers of which two bore the names H.H. Asquith and David Lloyd George. In 1932 he bought these vessels which became the Nailsea Steamship Company Limited of which he was the Chairman. In 1936 he not only formed the Bantham Steamship Company Limited (presumably named after the village of Bantham on the estuary of the Devonshire Avon where Nailsea Court (from the M. J. Tozer Collection)he spent many happy times) for which he built the Nailsea Court and the Nailsea Meadow each of 9,000 tons but acquired the two Strath Steamship vessels the Helmsprey and the Helmstruth and purchased four more Nailseas - Belle, Tower, Vale and Lass three of which were over 8,000 tons. In the next year he scrapped the Vale and Tower and replaced them with two new steamers the Nailsea Manor and the Nailsea Moor each of 9,000 ton to which in 1939 came the final addition of the Nailsea River.

In Pennant 2 the Society published a letter from Henry ABBOTT from Watford who has since died. It seems appropriate to repeat it here as being one of the few first hand accounts of a voyage in one of the Nailsea ships:-

The SS Nailsea Meadow, a Gunner's wartime voyage

The NAILSEA MEADOW's displacement was approximately 9,500 tons quite a good size for a cargo ship, I am not sure how many crew members were aboard but there were two R.N. Gunners and four army gunners of whom I was one. Our relations with the crew and officers was good.

The armament was one 12 pounder which the R.N. operated if necessary mounted on the rear of the ship and two Oerlikon 50mm machine guns mounted on either side of the bridge.

Our voyage was from Swansea to Montreal with a cargo of anthracite. We set sail Mid November 1941. The convoy assembled near the Firth of Clyde and the voyage across the Atlantic was uneventful as far as action by the enemy was concerned. This was probably because of the bad weather we encountered.

When we got near the Canadian coast the Nailsea Meadow left the convoy and sailed to Montreal up the St Lawrence river where we had ten days of freedom while the ship was being unloaded, and cleaned, to receive a cargo of wheat .

After this we went back on board the Nailsea Meadow and she sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia to join a convoy forming there.

Once again we were lucky in that the weather was bad as we sailed a northern route that took us near to Iceland to avoid enemy aircraft. Eventually we docked in London.

I spent 27 days on board the Nailsea Meadow but after 50 years I regret that I cannot remember much about her.

The "SS Nailsea Court

The SS Nailsea Court "hit the former "fever ship" MARGARIDA off the western moorings near the mouth of the River Avon on 17th November 1915 The Junction of Old Church Road and Station Road. Queens Road now meets Station Road between the signpost and the tree. Old Church Road has been

cut short and is now named Farlers End. The ruins are those of Farlers Pit, the Engine House of which still stands. (from the M. J. Tozer Collection) following which the Margarida was towed to Bristol and broken up. She had been replaced by Ham Green Hospital (opened in July 1899) as the reception hospital for persons arriving at the Port of Bristol suffering from infectious diseases, and had been moored near the mouth of the river since 1892."

This information appeared in the ETHEL THOMAS AVONMOUTH COLLECTION and was provided by Mike Tozer. It previously appeared in Pennant No 3. An article by David Sowden about the only warship carrying the name "HMS Nailsea" appeared in Pennant No 4 copies of which are available for £1-50 including postage from Mrs Jan Clark see address inside front cover.