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BACKWELL, NAILSEA,
TICKENHAM AND WRAXALL



Christ Church Nailsea 1843 from the Architect's drawing



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It's Criminal in Nailsea!

Julie Mansfield North Somerset Archivist

Whilst recently scouring the Shepton Mallet prison registers a name jumped out at me that regular readers will quickly recognise, especially in connection with the theme of crime and punishment! Within one of the huge, cumbersome registers which record the details of prisoners awaiting trial in Shepton Mallet prison, there is an entry for labourer Thomas Manfield, aged 21, who had been admitted into the gaol on 14th February 1857 for a felony.

It appears that Thomas was not unfamiliar with his surroundings that springtime. The register records a number of previous convictions. In September 1849 (presumably at the age of 13 or 14) he had received three months hard labour for being a rogue and a vagabond', having been discovered in someone's garden without any lawful purpose. A year later he was fined a shilling for assaulting constable George Stokes and for enabling Stokes' prisoner, George Manfield, to escape from his custody.

Thomas's arrest in February 1857 arose from a crime committed almost year beforehand. This time he was charged with stealing two live tame Rabbits, value four shillings, the property of William Barnett at Nailsea on 27th February 1856.' Evidently the long arm of the law had finally caught up with him! Thomas remained in Shepton for a month, until he was conveyed to Wells on the 24th March in order to appear before the Justices of the Peace in the court of the Quarter Sessions.

Two witnesses testified against Thomas: Barnett, the owner of the rabbits, and local labourer George Hobbs. Both witnesses made their statements on the 13th February, enabling a warrant for Thomas's arrest to be drawn up; by 5pm the next day he had found himself in Shepton Gaol.

Within his statement Barnett declared that he worked in the Glass House as a labourer' and at 6 o' clock in the morning on the day in question, he had seen Thomas's brother, James, climbing over a wall near Barnett's house. Soon after Barnett discovered two large black and white rabbits missing. Barnett insisted that the night before his grandson had carefully locked up the animals and passed the key on to his grandfather. Hobbs testified that as he had walked by his father's stables in the early morning, he had seen a dog in the road. Looking at the dog for a moment, he then saw Thomas walk by with

two rabbits in his hand. Dropping one rabbit, Thomas had stooped to pick it up and then went on his way.

From the court roll, the trial seems an open and shut case. Thomas put up no defence nor pleaded any alibi. When asked by the court whether he had anything to say in answer to the charge, he replied that he had nothing to add, and signed the charge sheet with his cross.

Perhaps Thomas's cause had been helped by the luck of eight large, black and white rabbit feet. He certainly had a fortuitous escape. The justices acquitted him of larceny, leaving him a free man. Maybe the time lapse between crime and capture was too great, or perhaps the witnesses' statements failed to stand up to the JPs' scrutiny; we shall never know. However it is not hard to imagine future entries cropping up in the Shepton registers for members of the Manfield family. Unless of course they learnt to be even more elusive with age!

A List of files of newspaper cuttings kept in Nailsea Library

which may be of interest to anyone studying Local and Family History

This list was compiled some time ago from library sources by Betty Brooks and Jim Munby members of N&DLHS whose assistance is hereby acknowledged.

The list is published by N&DLHS by arrangement with Nailsea library.

Abattoir

Archives

Alcoholism

Ambulance

ATC

Art, crafts, needlework

Avon structure plan

Bells & bellringers

Brunel

Biography 20th century

Biography a - f

Biography g - m (inc Hannah More)

Biography n - z

Boys' brigade

Boundaries - parish
Brewing & inns
Bucklands pool
Burial grounds

Census
Charities for the poor
Church land (Holy Trinity) deeds of Land 1842 - 1889 + sale catalogue.
Church house
Churches - Baptist
Christ church (old press cuttings of
Church history, boundaries, etc. Pre1966).
Christ church old vicarage
Christ church 1969 onwards. (newspaper cuttings magazines, etc.)
Christ church register transcript. (baptisms, marriages)
Christ church story 1983 onwards. (and annual report)
Churches Christian fellowship.
Churches - Methodist.
Churches - Holy Trinity, Nailsea.
Churches - general
Church council of Nailsea and District
Churches - United Reformed.
Churches - Gospel Hall, Southfield Rd.
Churches - St. Francis Roman Catholic.
Citizens' advice bureau
Civil defence

Clubs
Coalmining & canal
Coates cider
Community action - Nailsea
Conservation area - Nailsea
Crimes
Cyclists

Dance
Deaths & funerals
Development - general
Development - early proposals

Development - phase three
Development - new town centre, architects' plans, etc.
Development - elm farm
Development - Nailsea town centre 1989 onwards
Development - town centre planning
Development - Youngwood lane
Development - land purchased by council for development
Development - first phase
Directory - Kelly's of Somerset. 1859 - 1939 extracts on Nailsea.
Disabled
Disasters

Education - general
Education - nursery schools & play-groups.
Education - primary.
Education-primary. Four Oaks sch(Christ Ch).
Education - primary. Golden valley.
Education - primary. Greenslade.
Education - primary. Grove County Junior Sch
Education - primary. Hannah More Infant sch.
Education - primary. Pound lane VC CofE Sch
Education - primary. St. Francis
Education - secondary. Nailsea Grammar / comprehensive.
Education - special. Ravenswood.
Education - Nailsea School Association (NSA) (PTA)
Education - further.
Education - history
Elections - national
Elections - parish council
Electoral - registers
Electricity
Employment.
Enclosure awards.
Engineer volunteers.
Entertainment.
Environment

Family history.
Farms.

Festivals - 1972-77
Festivals - 1978 onwards.
Films.
Fire brigade.
Footpaths, walks

Guides and brownies.
Girl guides.
Glassworks - excavation 1983.
Glassworks - history of factory 1788-1873.
Grove sports centre.

Harvest home - Nailsea.
Health centres.
Hearth tax - exemption & lay subsidy.
Holidays - young people.
Hospitals
Housing - new developments, building Prospectus.
Housing - planning & planning Permission.
Housing - general.

Industry.
Industry - bygone.

Jacklands.

Kingshill farm house.
Leisure facilities.
Legends.
Libraries, including Nailsea.
Library (Nailsea - exhibitions and lectures).
Lighting
Listed buildings - Nailsea.
Local government.
Local government - Woodspring District Council.
Local government - Long Ashton RDC
Local history- Nailsea, inquiries by post.
Local history - Greenhill papers.
Local history - Greenhill publications.

Local history society- Nailsea and district.

Local history society - publications.

Local history society - sources of information: B J G 1977, Nailsea parish documents duplicate list, maps & other materials. I/s 1978.

Local history - general.

Lock up - agreement.

Lulsgate airport.

Maps - Nailsea and district..

Medical services.

Middle Engine Pit - or the Elms.

Mizzymeade club.

Monumental inscriptions on War memorials.

Monumental inscriptions - Holy Trinity church & Christ Church.

Museum.

Music - general.

Music centre.

Mycon.

Nailsea -general history 20th century.

Nailsea community centre - community association.

Nailsea Court (also called Nailsea manor)

Nailsea glass

Nailsea House, Kingshill.

Nailsea moor expenditure rate - article by B J Greenhill

Nailsea paper - commenced march 95.

Nailsea town centre - local plan 1983.

National historic events.

Natural history.

Nature conservation - Avon Wild-Life Trust, Nettcott's meadow, etc.

Newspapers - old.

Newspapers - 'the marksman', local paper.

Newspapers - 'Nailsea observer'.

Noah's ark, Station Road.

North Somerset.

North Somerset news.

Old Church road - the old paddock.
Old people - Sycamore House & Close.
Open spaces & lake.

Parish council (later Town Council)

Place names

Planning - green belt, etc. 1987.

Planning - green belt, white land, etc.

Playing fields - Nailsea.

Playgrounds

Police

Political associations.

Post office.(GPO)

Public houses.

Quarries.

Quest - Avon Local History Association. (ALHA)

Railways - local stations.

Railways - Nailsea / Backwell station.

Rates - county, district and parish.

Residents' association, Nailsea.

Residents' complaints.

Restaurants, etc.

Roads.

Roads - safety.

Roads - names.

Roads - road closures and signposting.

Roads - Nailsea ring road.

Roads - parking .

Roads - maintenance and improvement.

Roads - south Bristol spur. M5 - A370.

Roller skates.

Royal jubilees and coronation - programmes, service sheets, etc.

Royal silver jubilee 1977.

Sale catalogues - houses, land, Farming, pre 1950.

Sale catalogues - houses, etc. Alphabetical by street name, A-S

Sale catalogues - Alphabetical by Street name, S-Z

Sanitary engineering and Refuse disposal.
Scotch horn centre.
Scouts & cubs.
Senior citizens
Shops
Skate boarding
Social centres.
Societies - Allotments & Produce Association (Nailsea).
Societies - miscellaneous.
Societies - Nailsea choral society
Societies - C of E children's society..
Societies - Nailsea Civic Society 1994+
Societies - Nailsea Croquet Club
Societies - footpath gp, Nailsea and district.
Societies - Horticultural society (flower show, etc.).
Societies - Musical comedy club.
Societies - Parkinson's Disease Soc 1993.
Societies - Red Cross
Societies - St. John's Ambulance.
Societies - St. Peter's Hospice.
Societies - sports.
Societies - theatre club.
Societies - Toc H men and women.
Somerset county canal.
Street cleaning
Street directory.
Street lighting
Streets

Television.
Tithe schedule.
Town centre development - fountain, notice board, podium.
Town council.
Town council (prev Parish Council)
Town guides - Nailsea.
Town planning
Town talk
Traction engine rally, 1977.
Transport - buses, railway, airport.

Tree protection orders.

Twinning - Nailsea with Odrzanow, Poland, 1991.

Vandalism & offences.

Victorian fair

Village pound.

Water supply.

Watery lane - John Whiting.

Weather.

Weddings.

Wellspring counselling

Women's institutes

Woodspring

World War 1.

World War 2.

WRVS. - Nailsea group.

Yeo Valley Protection Association.

Youth clubs .

Young people.

Youngwood Lane development.

Youth training schemes.

Surrounding districts

'Round and about' - cuttings of Somerset.

Backwell - miscellaneous.

Backwell church, St. Andrew.

Backwell listed buildings 1984.

Backwell - manor survey microfiche.

Backwell 1861 census.

Backwell tithe award schedule.

2 copies.

Backwell sale catalogues.

Barrow court, Barrow Gurney.

Brockley & Chelvey listed buildings.

Brockley (Chelvey) churches.

Brockley/Chelvey.

Brockley sale catalogues.
Clapton-in-gordano.
Cleeve.
Clevedon.
Congresbury
Dundry
Failand.
Flax Bourton listed buildings 1984.
Long Ashton - Ashton court estate,
Smyth estate.
Tickenham
Tickenham - Cadbury camp .
Tickenham church.
Tickenham listed buildings 1986.
Tickenham tithe awards.
Tickenham sale catalogues.

Wraxall - research by Mr. Makepiece.
Wraxall
Wraxall - Belmont.
Wraxall - Birdcombe Court.
Wraxall church.
Wraxall court.
Wraxall listed buildings.
Wraxall - Tyntesfield, Baron Wraxall.
Wraxall - Wraxall house.
Wraxall story by Harry Dommett, South Avon Mercury and Mercury extra.
Wraxall sale catalogues.

Neighbouring areas

Place names filed alphabetically.
Churches.
Wells cathedral - history, appeal.
Wrington.
Nailsea and district - miscellany.
Electoral registers.

Editor's note - I understand from Nailsea Library that these files of cuttings are being kept up to date.

COAL STRIKE AND RIOTS IN NAILSEA Part 2

*Original text prepared by Phyllis Horman from Newspaper Cuttings.
Text edited and shortened by Peter Wright.*

In part 1 we dealt with the background to the strikes and to the events leading up to the disturbances in Nailsea. In part 2 we deal with the appearance before magistrates of those deemed to be the ringleaders.

EXAMINATION BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

On Tuesday, George Noble, William Masters, Charles Pullen, George Windsor and Edward Broom, who had since Sunday been in custody at Bristol, and Isaac Hale junior, who had been apprehended subsequently, were taken before Sir A.H. Elton, Bart., Col. Burrowes and John Shoreland Esq., in the Boardroom of the Bedminster Union. The proceedings attracted considerable attention, the Courtyard and the approaches thereto were completely thronged with colliers and their wives, whose behaviour was orderly throughout.

In consequence of some unexplained circumstance the prisoners were not brought before the magistrates till half past two o'clock, instead of the appointed hour of eleven, and consequently hundreds of persons were kept in suspense during that lengthened period.

Mr. Nash, instructed by Mr. H. Abbot, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Edlin instructed by Mr. Tucker, appeared for Noble, Masters, Pullen, Windsor and Broom; Hale was undefended. Mr. Chadwick (Magistrates' clerk) read the information preferred against the prisoners by Mr. Isaac White, for unlawfully assembling together in the parish of Nailsea, on the night of 26th. of May, making a great noise and disturbance, and beating several of the inhabitants. All the prisoners pleaded "not guilty".

Mr. Nash stated that he appeared on behalf of Mr. White, the prosecutor in the case, and from the information which had been read, their Worships would be aware that the six prisoners were only a portion of those concerned in the riotous conduct of which complaint was made on that occasion. He should not enter into the circumstances which preceded those occurrences, because, if the charge preferred against the prisoners were proved it would be sufficient ground on which they might be committed to prison without them

so mistakenly to act. It was necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoners should be taught that the majesty of the law must be maintained, and that such proceedings could not be indulged in without subjecting those engaged in them to the penalties laid down for such offences.

The Learned Counsel then detailed the circumstances under which the prisoners were taken into custody, from which it appeared that on Saturday night last, the prisoners, in company with a large number of others, assembled together and broke the windows of many of the inhabitants of Nailsea, they assaulted and beat several persons, conducted themselves in a manner so as to alarm the whole neighbourhood, and committed breaches of the peace whereby the lives and property of many persons were placed in jeopardy.

Mr. White, the prosecutor in the case, had done no more than he considered to be his duty in bringing the prisoners before the Magistrates; he had no personal vindictive feelings in the matter, but knowing that conduct of the nature of that charged against the prisoners could not be tolerated, and that it must be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the law, he had caused the prisoners to be brought before the Magistrates to prevent if possible, a recurrence of such conduct, to avert the consequences that in all probability would follow.

The Learned Counsel observed that the prisoners had no one to blame but themselves, and he had no doubt the cases would be clearly brought home to them, as being a portion of those who unlawfully assembled together on Saturday night and committed the several breaches of the peace which they stood charged.

The following witnesses were then called in :-

William Wookey, coalminer, living in the parish of Nailsea, deposed:

"On Saturday night between ten and twelve, I was at home in my own house: Samuel Wright and Edwin Rodgers came and enquired for me, and while they were in the house the windows were smashed by other parties; I did not see any of the persons who were outside, neither did I see any of the prisoners; I should think there were fifty persons outside; several earthen-ware things in the house were broken by the stones that came through the windows; I heard

the report of a pistol, and there were noises and shouting in the street; Edwin Rodgers said he would kill me, and I was afraid of my life; In consequence of the threats and the conduct of the persons assembled, I concealed myself in the chimney"

Cross examined by Mr. Edlin

"I did not see any of the prisoners near my house".

By Sir A. Elton

"I was on the bob when White (this should be Wright.) and Rodgers came to my house; the reason they used threats towards me was because I took my candles to go to work".

William Bacon, collier of Nailsea, deposed:

"I was at the Royal Oak, at Nailsea, about ten o'clock on Saturday night last, in the tap room; my wife was standing at the door; several people came into the room, and as soon as they were in the candle was blown out; Henry Wright was the only one I knew that came into the room; neither of the prisoners were in the house to my knowledge, but when I came out George Noble was leaning over the wall of the skittle alley, but I did not see him take any part in the proceedings; I heard a pistol fired off, but I did not hear anything about smashing the windows".

Mr. Edlin said he had nothing to ask the witness.

Re-examined

"I know William Wookey; he lives at a short distance from the Royal Oak".

By Sir Arthur Elton

"There were only one or two persons near George Noble when he was standing at the bottom of the alley".

James Yendole deposed

"I was at Wookey's house on the night of Saturday last, and heard stones thrown through the windows, but cannot tell who threw them. Rodgers caught hold of me and knocked me down; Henry Wright also knocked me down; I did not see anyone else there on that occasion; a mob congregated near the house, but neither of the prisoners were there; I know the prisoners

by name; after I had been struck I went out among the crowd but did not see any of the prisoners there”.

William Yendole, brother of the last witness, deposed

“I am a collier living at Nailsea, on Saturday night about eleven o'clock, I was at Wookey's house; someone came to the house and broke the windows, but I do not know by what means; Edward Broom, George Windsor and Charles Pullen were there; Isaac Hale senior was also there; the prisoner Isaac Hale was not there; I was not struck by any of the parties. Cross examined by Mr. Edlin The prisoners whose names I have mentioned did not insult me or threaten to do so; I did not hear them make any noise; they had no weapons in their hands; had I been in the street I should have been obliged to move on with them. By Sir A. Elton Several windows were broken at Wookey's house”.

John Barrell, coalminer, deposed

“On Saturday night about ten o'clock I was at Squire's beerhouse, where a great many people congregated together, among whom were John Birch and Henry Wright; Edward Broom, George Windsor and William Masters were there; James Sainsbury and Edwin Rodgers were also there; I was beaten by some of the mob, but cannot say who it was; Broom and Windsor were there before the mob came in; they afterwards left and I do not know whether they returned again with the mob; I do not think Broom and Windsor were there when I was being beaten”.

By Mr. Shoreland

“No person told me what I was beaten for, but I knew that very well; it was because I took my candles to go to work”.

Samuel Harvey deposed

“I know William Wookey; I was at his house on Saturday night last, and on leaving after the windows were broken, Charles Pullen struck me down; Edwin Rodgers and Samuel Wright were also there; I did not see any of the other prisoners there; Samuel Wright was looking for Wookey but could not find him”.

Cross examined by Mr. Edlin

"I could see that it was Charles Pullen who struck me in the face and knocked me down".

Re-examined by Mr. Nash

"Charles Pullen and Edwin Rodgers were in front of the mob".

Louisa Wookey, wife of William Wookey, collier of Nailsea, deposed

"I was at home on Saturday night last when my windows were broken with stones; I did not hear anything said by the crowd who were assembled outside; Samuel Wright came in and asked for Wookey and for another person who was in the house; he opened all (illegible) swear to any of the prisoners as I was so frightened at the time, I did not know what to do".

Mary Ann Wookey daughter of the last witness deposed to seeing a mob near her father's house, and among those present were Charles Pullen, John Birch and Isaac Hale.

Cross examined by Mr. Edlin

"I did not see George Pullen do anything, nor hear him say anything".

Mr. Nash then asked the Magistrates to remand the prisoners to enable the prosecutor to produce further evidence, and to cause other parties to be apprehended. That was the whole of the evidence he was then prepared with, but he was instructed, if time were given, more would be forthcoming.

Mr. Edlin opposed the application, on the grounds that no evidence whatever had been adduced against four of the prisoners, for whom he appeared; and he thought the Magistrates would not grant a remand wholly for the purpose of getting up a fresh case against them. As regarded Charles Pullen, he admitted that a charge of assault had been proved; but in that case the person on whom the assault was committed did not prefer any charge against him; and he therefore, thought, under the circumstances, the Magistrates would not grant the remand asked for by his Learned Friend. If, however, they were of an opinion that a case had been established against Pullen, he submitted they would only grant a remand as regarded him, and that the other prisoners for whom he was engaged (and the same remark would apply for Hale, for whom he did not appear) must be discharged, as there was not a tittle of evidence against them. He also thought that detaining the prisoners in

custody might have the effect of rendering the settlement of the unhappy differences between the workmen and their employers more difficult.

Sir Arthur H. Elton asked Mr. Nash what length of time he required. Mr. Nash said a fortnight.

The Magistrates having consulted, Sir A.H. Elton said, with respect to Hale, the Magistrates were unanimously of opinion he must be discharged, as none of the witnesses had proved anything against him. But in the other cases they thought there was sufficient evidence to grant a remand for a week. After a consultation between the Bench and the Learned Counsel, the prisoners were ordered to be brought up again on Monday next at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Edlin then made an application to the Bench that the prisoners should be admitted to bail, which after a brief consultation was granted on their severally producing two sureties £20 each, Sir A. Elton remarking that he hoped the leniency that had thus been shown them would have a beneficial tendency; and that the differences that existed would be speedily arranged to the satisfaction of all parties; but if such riotous conduct was continued the law must take its own course.

Bail was immediately tendered and accepted for all the prisoners, who left the Court with a large number of their friends.

The final part of this account of the Coal Riots will be published in Pennant 26 to be published in May 2000.

Magic Lantern Shows

By Bid Wheeler

What a superb evening members of the Society had on 13th December watching the Magic Lantern Show as a pre-Christmas treat.

It gave us a good insight into what a real show must have been like, with members of the audience joining in making sound effects for a story about a fire (coconut shells for horses hooves, scrunching cellophane for the flame noise!) and the singing of Music Hall favourites such as Joshua(h). In parish magazines for Christ Church, Nailsea dated 1906 - 1909, there are several references to Magic Lantern Shows; perhaps you could now imagine what these could have been like:

"February 1906.

Men's Guild. During January, we were favoured with two most interesting and instructive lectures, the one by Canon Parker on "A drop of water", and the other by Rev N S de Jersey on "The Holy Land". Canon Parker showed us some of the most beautiful lantern-slides to be seen, and Mr de Jersey's lecture was very helpful in making the scenes of our Lord's earthly life more real and vivid to us".

December 1906: " On Tuesday December 18th, the Vicar lectured at the Schoolroom upon the Life of Christ, the lecture being illustrated by a set of unusually beautiful coloured slides, taken from paintings by a well-known artist.

The lecture was followed with tense and reverent interest. "

February 1907:

Men's Guild: "On Tuesday, February 5th, Mr F.S Hawkes has kindly agreed to give us a Lantern-Lecture on "Railways - their growth and development" "

December 1907: "Guild Programme for December" "Tuesday December 17th, Lecture on "Scenes in our Lord's life" illustrated by Tissot lantern slides by the Rev R V S Penfold. "

The following month, it was reported that December's programme also included Mr C W N Rolfe showing lantern slides on "The trials of the early Christians in Rome".

The February 1908 magazine refers to : "Sunday School Presentation of Prizes evening- Monday 27th January". " The large room at the Gymnasium was quite crowded with parents and children; and it was a pleasure, in particular, to see so many of the former present. A lantern exhibition, kindly provided by Mr Armstrong - the comic slides evoking shrieks of delight from the youngsters - and a capital selection of items on Mrs Curry's gramophone,(The spelling is as in the magazine, though wrong!) made up an entertainment that was thoroughly enjoyed. The children showed their appreciation by very vigorous votes of thanks to Mrs Curry, Mr Armstrong and Miss Reed, who kindly read the stories illustrated by the lantern slides" ... "We are fortunate in having the use of a powerful lantern like Mr Armstrong's- one that, under the efficient manipulation of our Secretary, is able to do full justice to the slides that have been shown us."

Having seen some of these comic slides at our show, can't you just picture the youngsters being delighted!

In the same issue, there is a report of the Girl's Friendly Society (GFS) meeting on January 30th:

"Rev R V S Penfold entertained us with a number of interesting lantern slides from photos taken by himself, and songs and recitations filled up the rest of the evening."

January 1909: " Men's Guild: The first half of the session on December 22nd closed with an enjoyable trip to the White City per a series of capital slides shown on Mr Armstrong's excellent lantern. "

As you can see from the above selection, a wide range of subjects was covered by these shows, as a means of providing a visual image to accompany the spoken word, both to educate and entertain.

I don't know about you, but I came home from the December show with my spirits lifted, feeling I had experienced a very entertaining evening!

Greenhill Shield 1999

This shield named after our first President is the highest award the Nailsea and District Local History Society can bestow. Originally it was intended only for original research but in recent years has been used to express the Society's appreciation of work leading to a greater understanding of Local History in the Society's area of interest.

It is fitting therefore, that for 1999 it was given to Julie Mansfield the North Somerset archivist for the support she has given to those carrying out their own research and help she has given to N&DLHS. A fuller report appears in the Members' Newsletter but as this journal is more widely available it was felt appropriate to illustrate both the winner and the newly reconstructed shield here.

The reason for the reconstruction was that space for the names of winners had nearly run out. Ray Llewellyn one of the Society members offered to assist and made a matching but larger shield which has been affixed to the back of the original. It has left us with enough space to ensure that the names of the next 20 or so winners can have their names added.

Both Ray and Julie were also given a token of the Society's appreciation of their work. After the awards and Notices Society Members enjoyed the Magic Lantern Show that is mentioned in the article which precedes this brief report.

Holy Trinity - Nailsea Churchwardens 1742 - 1795

List in date order.

1714	Parkin	Johnathan
1714	Durbin	Thomas
1715	Parkin	Johnathan
1715	Lacy	John
1715	Durbin	Thomas
1716	Priston	John
1716	Coombe	Wm
1717	Priston	John
1717	Coombe	Wm
1719	Godwin	John
1722	Combs	John
1723	Combs	John
1723	Baker	Robert
1723	Godwin	John
1724	Baker	Robert
1724	Godwin	John
1724	Godwin	John
1725	Durban	William
1726	Parsons	William
1726	Tucker	Samuel
1726	Godwin	John
1727	Tucker	Samuel
1727	Vimpany	Jo
1728	Vimpany	Jo
1729	Mulgrey	Jacob
1730	Mulgrey	Jacob
1731	Durban	Daniell
1732	Bailey	George
1733	Merryfield	John
1733	Vowles	Tho.
1734	Durban	Daniell
1734	Parsons	Will
1735	Hinkes	Thomas
1736	Hinkes	Thomas
1737	Hinkes	Thomas

1737	Walter	Robert
1738	Walter	Robert
1739	Walter	Robert
1740	Green	James
1741	Barber	John
1742	Barber	John
1742	Baber	Richard
1743	Baber	Richard
1743	Bailey for Battens	George
1744	Bailey or Baily	George
1745	Bailey or Baily	George
1746	Godwin	Richard
1747	Godwin	Richard
1748	Godwin	Richard
1749	Godwin	Richard
1750	Vimpany	Richard
1750	Rumney	John
1751	Rumney	John
1752	Godwin of Fosters	William
1753	Godwin of Fosters	William
1754	Coombe	Webb
1755	Coombe	Webb
1756	Coombe	Webb
1757	Coombe	Webb
1758	Coombe	Webb
1759	Coombe	Webb
1760	Coombe	Webb
1761	Coombe	Webb
1762	Ruscombe	Christopher
1762	Vimpany	Thomas
1763	Vimpany	Thomas
1764	Vimpany	Thomas
1765	Vimpany	Thomas
1766	Vimpany	Thomas
1767	Wedmore	Samuel
1768	Wedmore	Samuel
1769	Wedmore	Samuel
1770	Wedmore	Samuel
1771	Coombe	Webb

1772	Coombe	Webb
1773	Coombe	Webb
1774	Coombe	Webb
1774	Coombe	Webb
1775	Coombe	Webb
1776	Coombe	Webb
1777	Evans	John
1778	Evans	John
1779	Evans	John
1780	Hurditch	Paul
1781	Hurditch	Paul
1782	Evans	John
1783	Evans	John
1784	Stokes	Joseph
1785	Stokes	Joseph
1786	Wedmore	Samuel
1787	Wedmore	Samuel
1788	Wedmore	Samuel
1789	Wedmore	Samuel
1790	Coombs	Alexander
1791	Coombs	Alexander
1792	Coombs	Alexander
1793	Coombs	Alexander
1794	Coombs	Alexander
1795	Coombs	Alexander

from the Copestakes' study of the Vestry Minutes and Churchwardens accounts published by N&DLHS in Nov. 1999 as Nailsea - Holy Trinity - Accounts of the Churchwardens 1714-1795 and Vestry Minutes 1762-1836 Price £4-50

Some queries to be resolved! Some answered Who remembers the bus that took the wrong turning in 1939?

The Society has recently heard from Ronald Webb who now lives in Scotland. At the beginning of the war he was evacuated from London with the Gascoigne Road School to Barrow Gurney where most of that school went to school. One bus however containing Ronald and his classmates is reputed to have taken the wrong turning and arrived at Tickenham where they were all found billets and where they attended school in the Scout hut.

Ronald has promised more details later but wants to contact members of the Trigg family which lived at Southview when he was there and the Bradbury family before putting pen to paper.

Can readers help? I have some more information that will be included in a later edition of Pennant.

Von Ribbentrop in Nailsea? You must be joking! But was it true?

Your editor has heard mentioned that Joachim Von Ribbentrop the German ambassador to England for two years from about 1936 visited Nailsea. Does anyone have any information as to whether he came, why he came or who he might have visited?

Nailsea Court

I have recently been speaking to 'Jim' Harrison regarding some interesting items that he has which relate to the Court. The following is one of the snippets. Comments from the medical profession will be appreciated.

Barbara Cartland in her book "I seek the Miraculous" mentions that "Many years later (*than 1921*) some alterations have to be made to the chimney piece (*in Nailsea Court*) and in moving the hearth the workman find the skeleton of a young woman. As she is uncovered they see she has very long fair hair, which in the passing of a second crumbles to dust".

Does anyone have anything to add to this graphic description either in confirming the incident or even as to the circumstances that would enable the

sex of the skeleton and her hair to be noted in the moments between discovery and its crumbling to dust.

Backwell Nursing Home

A photograph recently supplied to the Society from the M J Tozer collection appears in this issue. Can anyone assist in identifying where it was and what became of it?

The 1881 Census of Nailsea

This will be the subject of a book by the editor of Pennant to be published in the Spring. There are a number of interesting details that are waiting to be sorted out. For some time I was confused by the number of people who lived at 'The Boss'. I believe that I have resolved the problem. Can you? If not watch out for the book when all will be revealed.

What's under your Carpet

by David Chappell

People who have to clear old houses often find the floors under the carpets covered with newspapers to improve the insulation. Often these are of some age, and sometimes, luckily, in good enough condition to be read and thereby offer a wealth of local history.

Tickenham church has under some of its carpets, not newspapers but memorial stones.

The oldest relates to Samuel Barber and his family. Over two dozen Barbers were buried at Tickenham between 1627 and 1973, but this Samuel's stone is a good place to start as it is against the South wall by the font. Samuel died in 1674. His son, John, and John's Joan are both here, John having died in 1706. They had had seven children. It may seem odd that of the six Barber families that presented 21 children in the 150 years from 1642 there is only one marriage record for the whole of that period (which of course included the Commonwealth).

Nailsea Glassworks -

More information about its products.

David Chappell recently drew to the editor's attention an advertisement in a catalogue issued by a Bristol dealer in maps etc. The Advertisement read

Nailsea ISAAC WHITE & COMPANY, MANUFACTURERS OF BOWDEN'S BRILLIANT CUT ORNAMENTAL WINDOW GLASS Nailsea, Crown, Sheet, and Plate Glass Works, Nr Bristol. Patterns of Cut Borders and Rosettes, executed upon Ruby, Blue Orange or White Obscured Glass. Advertising and sample sheet, size 20" x 15", illustrating 42 designs of borders in blue and 56 designs for rosettes printed in red, top edge slightly ragged along 3" at corner. C1870. £50

* 'The attention of Architects is respectfully directed to the Nailsea Glass Company's Ecclesiastical Leaded Window Glass

As Secretary I probably exceeded my authority by immediately launching an attempt to purchase the item which I was sure had not been seen previously by N&DLHS. Learning that a potential buyer was 'in front' of us with ready money I made a quick call to the SRO and to a couple of Society members who confirmed that they had not seen a similar item. I then contacted the seller who expressed a willingness to pass on a letter demonstrating our interest to the purchaser. I therefore drafted a letter and sent it to the seller:-

"The Society would be interested in examining and most probably purchasing this item if your client does not wish to do so. Somerset Record Office does not appear to have a copy.

If he does purchase it from you would you ask him whether he would be willing to allow a member of the Society to see it so that we can add the details to our knowledge of the Glassworks.

I look forward to hearing from you or your client."

Regrettably nothing more has been heard either from the seller or buyer.

Members are asked to bring similar items to the attention of the Committee. This article has been put in Pennant rather than in the Members' newsletter because it reveals there were types of glass coming from the Nailsea

Glassworks that may not have been identified previously. Can anyone confirm this?

What would the Society have done with the item if it had been purchased with your money? Probably after ensuring that it had generated some income we would have deposited it at the Somerset Record Office where it would have been available for inspection by future researchers thereby complying with items 2 & 3 of our constitution viz.

2. The aim of the Society is to promote an interest in, and study of, any aspect of history relating to Nailsea and its surrounding parishes by means of meetings and publications or other appropriate means.

3. The Society will safeguard any archives coming into its possession and will arrange for their preservation at an appropriate place.

Tickenham etc

noticed by David Chappell

Wells Sessions January 1636/37

Before William Piers Bishop et al

Noting that there had been 'certain difference' between Worle and Wraxall concerning Johane Haleston, the Court ordered that: 'she and her childe shall continue at Wraxall unless it be made to appeare at the next Sessions that she was taken as a vagrant and ther whippd, and sent to Worle where she was borne'.

General Sessions at Wells 8-11 January 1649/50 (i.e. two weeks before the execution of Charles I)

A warrant for the apprehension of Richerd Higgens of Tickenham and Bayliffe of the Hundred of Portbury, for not attending this court was addressed to the Constables of the Hundred of Portbury.

It is not clear which of the three cousins of the same name baptised at Tickenham between 1599 and 1606 this might be; they were a prolific family

in the area at the time. The burial of a John Higgins ('childe of a month') in 1538 is the oldest surviving entry in the parish registers.

Local Families

Hardy / Manfield

Mrs B M Tunks 21 Scarf Road, Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset BH17 8QG wrote to correct information from Pennant that was printed in the Greenwood Tree. She writes:-

"There is an error in the piece headed Pennant in the Shopfront section (August 1999) concerning the Manfield of Dorchester. Thomas Masterman Hardy's wife was Anne Emily Louisa Berkeley not Ann Manfield. She was the daughter of Admiral the Hon. Sir George Cranfield Berkeley and Lady Emily Berkeley.

Thomas Masterman's sister Catherine married John Callard Hardy of Holy Trinity, Dorchester at Portisham on 15th Nov 1787.

A number of letters from Thomas Masterman Hardy to John Callard Manfield were printed in "The Three Dorset Captains at Trafalgar" by A. M. Broadley and R. G. Bartelot. Manfield descendants were living at the old Hardy house at Portisham when a subsequent book "Nelson's Hardy, His Life, Letters and Friends" was published in 1909. The preface to the latter book states that John Callard Manfield was a solicitor and a former Mayor of Dorchester. Manfield was Paymaster of the Dorset Yeomanry and died at an early age in 1808. James Frampton Lieut. Col. Commandant of the Regiment at that date recorded a tribute in his memoirs. He said:-

"Mr Manfield the Paymaster, died after a short illness, he was a very able honest respectable man and was much regretted."

The pedigree of Thomas Masterman Hardy printed in "The Three Dorset Captains" is in need of revision as more information has come to light since it was printed."

Judith Gannaway has written from New Zealand. She is also a descendant of the Manfield family. She sends a photograph of Emily Elizabeth Manfield who married Benjamin Willis in New Zealand.

Judith asks if anyone can help her with the mother of Emily who was Elizabeth Blackmore b Yatton and baptised at Yatton on 26 Oct 1823. She married Samuel Frederick Manfield 12th October 1850 at Christ Church Nailsea. Elizabeth's father James was in 1823 a labourer but previously was, apparently, a soldier. He married Frances (Fanny) Jones at St John the Baptist Bedminster 26 May 1822.

Inventory of Parochial Documents in the Diocese of Bath and Wells

ed. V E King (1938) *printed with permission from a copy supplied by Somerset Record Office*

N.B. A 60 year old list; some items may now be in safekeeping at SRO.

NAILSEA, CHRIST CHURCH

Ecclesiastical District formed 1844

Ecclesiastical

1. 1843 to date (Baptisms)
1843 to date (Burials)
1844 -1933 (Banns) 2 volumes
1843 to date (Marriages)
2. 2 Churchwarden Account Books
1860-1874; 1922-1932
3. Vestry Minute Book 1858-1932
Contains copy of Declaration of Trust, 1918, as to Thatcher Charity
5. Terrier descriptive of Glebe Land and Vicarage 1907; List of Vicarage fixtures belonging to Queen Anne's Bounty; Plan of Churchyard & grave spaces; Graves Register 1843-1933.
9. See 3
10. Conveyance of School site to Vicar and Churchwardens, 1845, -
Conveyance of strip of Land to Vicar and Churchwardens for school purposes 1930 - Two school minute books 1903-1933.

Misc. - A parish diary kept intermittently by successive incumbents, 1851 - 1903

NAILSEA, HOLY TRINITY

Ecclesiastical

1. 1554 -1665 (Births, Marriages, Burials) with Index 1554 - 1653.
1653 - 1757 (Baptisms and Burials)
1653 - 1754 (Marriages).
There is a gap 1757 - 1761
1754 - 1812 (Marriages and Banns)
1761 - 1812 (Baptisms and Burials)
1813 - 1837 (Marriages)
1813 - 1838 (Baptisms)

- 1813 - 1860 (Burials)
- 1837 - 1911 (Marriages)
- 1838 - 1874 (Baptisms)
- 1861 - 1895 (Burials)
- 1874 to date (Baptisms)
- 1895 to date (Burials)
- 1911 - 1919 (Marriages)
- 1919 - 1927 (Marriages)
- 1927 to date (Marriages)
- 2. Three Church rate and Churchwardens Account Books
1714-1795; 1796 - 1905; 1846 - 1863.
- 3. Vestry Minutes 1762 - 1835
Parish Vestry Book 1861 - 1921
- 4. Altered appointment of Tithe Rent Charge etc. 1925 unbound
- 5. Inventory and Terrier, unbound

Miscellaneous MS History of Nailsea from Early Days by F Brown, Rector -
History and Antiquities of Nailsea Court - Nailsea Scrap Book 1865 - 1893

CIVIL

- 1. Ninety two settlement and removal papers 1780 onwards - Vagrant's Pass
1785 - One hundred and eighty Parochial Examinations 1758 - 1841 - Nine
Bastardy Papers from 1863 onwards - Ten Apprenticeship Indentures from
1783 onwards - Two warrants issued by Justices of the Peace 1834.
- 2. Six Highways Account Books 1844 - 1855
- 4. Twenty seven Militia orders 1799 - 1808
- 11. Minute Books, Allotment Books, Receipt and Payment Books, Declarations
of Office and correspondence, 1894 to date - Rate Books 1894-1926 &
Valuation Lists 1897- 1910.

Records in an old elm chest in Parish Room.

(NB list prepared in 1938 the numbers quoted refer to different Heads of the Inventory)

Bucklands Batch 1843 - 1999

by Peter Wright

As the year closes and 2000 approaches the compulsory purchase of parts of gardens and orchards and private roads is announced in the local paper. Thus we expect that the long promised improvements to the route from Nailsea to Backwell will soon take place.

It is a matter of conjecture as to what the route was like in the early 1800s but it became more important almost as soon as the railway was built and the station opened in Backwell in the 1840s. Action was quickly taken to improve the access and, probably, apart from the road surface the appearance has remained almost unaltered until today.

The following is an extract from "Roads and Tracks of Old Nailsea" published by the Society in 1984 and written by the author of this article. (A revised edition is planned c 2001)

Care of the Roads -

from a table showing the number of man days worked at over 58 sites.

NB The range of registers was incomplete

Road	1843/4	1844/5	1846/7	1847/8	1850/1	1852/3	1854/5	Total
Bucklands / Batch / Road	245	117	200	59	57	80	3	761

extract from text :

"From the table you will see that a considerable amount of work was done in the Bucklands Batch area between 1843 and 1847. This no doubt followed the realisation that the railway now provided the easiest route for coal, one of Nailsea's main products. It seem that glass did not use this route for another ten years.

The Surveyor of Highways account book for May 1843 shows under the heading "Contract Work"

"Henry Doggett £57.7.9d -

for lowering and widening Bucklands Batch and building 332½ perch of wall"

(The OED defines Perch in different ways which include “*a solid measure use for stone containing a lineal perch 5½ yards x 1½ feet in breadth x 1 ft in thickness, but varying locally 1823*”). This must surely be the wall we see as we make our way to and from Backwell or the station?

With rather more conviction than I might express today I went on to say “The local community had looked to the Surveyor of Highways to make the route more easily negotiated by the carts used to take and bring coal and other goods. Henry Doggett lowered the road in the middle of the escarpment thereby giving a more uniform slope. To do this support had to be given to the sides of the cutting and a wall was built”.

I continued by pointing out that the wall to the east was pierced during the building of what is now called Bucklands Drive and mentioning the sharp drop in the bridle way on the west just before it meets the main road.

Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880

This act made available to all a modified burial service at the Parish Churchyard.

The Family Tree Magazine for November 1999 mentions a case that occurred in Clevedon where all did not go well.

When Willie Shopland died in 1881 aged 7 his father decided to have his son buried at All Saints Clevedon and for the committal to be conducted by the Rev John Victor the local non-conformist pastor of Copse Road Chapel.

The Vicar of All Saints was not at all in sympathy with the new burial Act and on the day locked the church affixing a notice in the Church porch. The notice stated

“This church is closed by my orders during the perpetration of an act of sacrilege under the new Burial Act. Signed Stephen Saxby.

Although a large crowd gathered, and two policemen attended, the burial passed off without further incidents.

I thank David Chappell for bringing this to my attention. I note that in "Nailsea - A Handbook of Dates and Events" reference is made to "Manifold Memories" by E H Shopland. The volume is not to hand but will at some time be examined to see if further light can be shed on the event. Is anyone aware of problems when the Act was first used to facilitate a burial in Nailsea?

Directories extracts from "Nailsea - A Handbook of Dates and Events"

All information obtained from Local History Packs in Nailsea Library. Copies are available in other North Somerset Libraries. References used LHP/ N or LHP/ W or LHP/ B or LHP/ T

Note - N W B or T may sometimes used as an abbreviation for Nailsea Wraxall Backwell or Tickenham

1861

Timothy Park postmaster Nailsea

Richard Pyke sub postmaster Wraxall

letters through Nailsea

Henry Garland sub postmaster Backwell

letters from Bristol

No post office at Tickenham

letters through Clevedon also MO office

Nailsea 2688 acres-

Smyth Robard Bean & Gee main landholders

Nat Sch Old Ch? Nailsea

Master James Crocket Mistress Mrs Crocket

Nat Sch Old Ch? Nailsea

Master & Mistress Jonathan & Miss Badcock

Other schoolteachers in Nailsea

J D Waymouth & Mrs Letitia Windmill

John Waymouth photographic artist teacher b'kseller & land surveyor

13 N entries relating to Inns beer retailers & brewer

Holy Trinity Rev F Brown patron Rev George Elton Curate

Christ Church Rev William Henry Ricketts is the incumbent

Carriers to Bristol -

Richard Bollwell - Angel RedcliffeSt M Tu Th Fri Sat

William Durbin Angel RedcliffeSt M Tu Th Fri Sat

Rich'd Elverd RedLion Yd RedcliffeSt M Tu W Th Sat
John Shepstone Angel Redcliffe St M Tu W Th Sat

1866

Henry Garland sub postmaster Backwell

letters from Bristol

Tickenham No post office

letters through Clevedon also MO office

Nailsea 2688 acres

Smyth Rodbard Bean Todd Walton & Gee main landholders

Holy Trinity thoroughly repaired in 1861

Christ Church Rev William Henry Ricketts is the incumbent

Carriers to Bristol -

Richard Bollwell - Angel RedcliffeSt M Tu Wed Th Sat

John Shepstone Three Queens Thomas St Daily

National School Old Church

Master/ Mistress James & MrsCrocket

Christ Church School *Mistress Miss Badcock*

Ladies School *Misses Hewlett & Batt*

14 entries relating to Inns Beer retailers and brewery

Miss Sarah Hort (Seminary)

Jas Lloyd Davies Academy House (?Tickenham)

John D Waymouth photographic artist and bookseller

1872

James Rendall postmaster

Richard Pyke sub postmaster Wraxall

letters through Nailsea

Henry Garland sub postmaster Backwell

letters from Bristol

Tickenham No post office

letters through Clevedon also MO office

Nailsea 2716 acres

H G Smith Id of man & Walton-Bean-Rodbard & Gee Chief landowners

Old Church incumbent *Rev George Perrin*

Christ Church incumbent

Rev William Henry Ricketts-Bayley

Parish principally in hands of small freeholders

National School

Master & Mistress John & Mrs Groom

Christ Church School

no Master or Mistress shown

John Hewlett day school-

Miss Sarah Hort Seminary -

11 names listed relating to Inns beer retailer and Brewery

Carriers

John Shenstone to Three Queens Thomas Street daily

Mrs Wedmore to Don Cossack Redcliffe St daily

John Davis Weymouth photographer and bookseller

1875

James Rendell postmaster

Richard Pyke sub postmaster Wraxall

letters through Nailsea

Henry Garland sub postmaster

letters from Bristol

Tickenham No post office

letters through Clevedon also MO office

Nailsea 2771 acres

The register dates from 1545

Old Church in the gift of & held by Rev John Johnson

Christ Church Rev Ebenezer Braund

Rev Samuel Thomas (Independent) Kings Hill

National School

Master & Mistress John & Mrs Fanny Groom

Christ Church School

Master Walter Jones

Mrs Sarah Hort (Seminary)

Carriers

John Shepstone to Three Queens Thomas St daily

7 named as Beer Retailer Innkeeper or Brewery

There are several coalpits not worked for years- 2 coys formed to work

John Kingdon Station Master

John Davis Weymouth photographic artist & Bookseller

1883

not named postmaster

Mrs R Pyke sub postmistress Wraxall

letters through Nailsea

James Rossiter sub postmaster Backwell

letters from Bristol

Tickenham No post office

letters through Clevedon also MO office

Nat Old Ch Sch

Master & M'ss William Buchanan & Mrs Emily Greer

Christ Church School

Master Walter Jones

Nailsea 2771 acres

Smyth (L of Man)- Rodbard- Bean- Mirehouse- Gee chief landowners

Nailsea Holy Trinity Rev John Johnson

Nailsea Christ Church Rev Ebenezer Braund

Rev Henry Vaughan curate of Wraxall & Failand - The Lawn

Rev Henry Ashbery (Congregational) Rose Cottage

National Old Church School

Master William Buchanan Greer

National Old Church School

Mrs Emily Greer Sewing Mistress

Miss Sarah Hort (Seminary)

Carriers

Mrs John Shepstone Three Queens Thomas St daily

William Male Drill Instructor

Henry Hibbert manager of Nailsea Brick Works

12 names involved with Beer retailing Inns and Brewing

Mrs Elizabeth Waymouth Stationer

1889

George Russell postmaster

Mrs Martha Pyke sub postmistress Wraxall

letters through Nailsea

James Manning sub Postmaster Backwell

letters from Bristol

Tickenham No post office

letters through Clevedon MO at Nailsea

National Old Church School

Master William George Weatherhead

National Old Church School-

Mistress - Miss Florence Bolwell

Christ Church School
Master & Mistress Mr & Mrs Walter Jones
Christ Church School Assistant
Miss Sarah Jane West
Thomas Hamilton collegiate school for boys Clifford Villa
Nailsea 2739 acres
Smyth (LofM)- Rodbard - Bean - Mirehouse - Gee chief landowners
Holy Trinity Rev John Johnson
Christ Church Rev Ebenezer Braund
Rev Henry Vaughan curate of Wraxall & Failand - The Lawn
Rev Jn White (Congregational) Rose Cottage
Mrs Jane Porter (Seminary)
12 persons involved with Inns Beer retailing or brewing
Sgt - Major William T Male Drill Instructor The Poplars
Station master John Kingdon
Mrs Elizabeth Waymouth Stationer

1894

George Russell postmaster
Mrs Martha Pyke sub postmistress Wraxall
letters through Nailsea
James Manning sub postmaster
letters from Bristol
Tickenham No post office
letters through Clevedon MO at Nailsea
Nailsea acreage of the entire civil parish is 2750 acres
Chief Landowners - Smyth- Tees Rodbard - Bean - Mirehouse - Gee
National Old Ch Sch
Master William George Weatherall
Nat Old Ch
Mistresses Miss Kate Bradley & Miss Rose Baker
Christ Ch Sch
Master & Mistress Mr & Mrs Walter Jones
Christ Ch School Assistant Mistress
Miss Sarah Jane West
Holy Trinity Rev John Johnson
Christ Church Rev Frederick Augustus Veysey
Rev Henry Allen (Congregational) Fairfield House
Chaplain to B'minster Un W'khouse -

Rev John Leach Bucklands Batch
Failand Ch built 1883-1887 opened Apr 17 1887
Edward Caple News Agent
11 employed in Beer Retailing Inns Brewery
Sgt Major Henry Silk Drill Instructor The Poplars
Mrs Elizabeth Waymouth Stationer
Station master John Kingdon
Carrier
Oliver Shepstone from 'Bear' yard Thomas Street

1897

George Russell sub-postmaster
Joseph Hedges sub postmaster
letters from Bristol
James Manning sub postmaster
letters from Bristol
Tickenham No post office
Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea
Nailsea acreage of the entire civil parish is 2858 acres (inc tfr in 1884)
Chief Landowners - Smyth- Tees Rodbard - Bean - Mirehouse - Gee
Nailsea Station Master John Kingdon
Rev John Johnson at Holy Trinity
Christ Church Rev Frederick Augustus Veysey
National Old Church Sch Master William George Weatherall
Natl Old ChSch-Mistresses Misses Rose Baker & Henrietta Hathaway
Christ Church Sch Master & Mistress Walter & Mrs Jones
Carrier Oliver Shepstone from ' Bear' Yard Thomas St Daily Wed xcep
Rev John Leach chaplain to B'minster Un W'khouse - Bucklands Batch
11 persons listed involved in Beer retailing Inns or Brewing
Sergt Walt Hy Organ - drill instructor
Mrs Elizabeth Waymouth - Stationer
A cemetery of 1 Rood opened at Christ Church 1894
1902
Geo Russell sub-postnmaster
Mrs Annie Watkins subpostmistress Wraxall letters from Bristol
Mrs Eliza Saltford Subpostmistress Failand letters from Bristol
James Manning sub postmaster letters from Bristol
No post office Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea
Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres

Holy Trinity Nailsea Rev John Johnson
Christ Church Rev Frederick Augustus Veysey
Chief Landowners - Tees Smyth & Rodbard - Bean - Mirehouse - Gee
Station Master Nailsea John Kingdon
Christ Ch Sch Master & Mistress Mr & Mrs Walter Jones
Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres
National Old Church Sch Master William George Weatherall
Natl Old ChSch-Mistresses Misses Edith Weaver & Fanny Patch
Rev John Leach chaplain to B'minster Un W'khouse - Bucklands Batch
Sergt Walt Hy Organ - drill instructor
Mrs Elizabeth Waymouth - Stationer
12 persons listed involved in Beer retailing Inns or Brewing

1906

Four Pinnacles added to Nailsea Holy Trinity Church Tower
George Russell sub postmaster
Victoria Hist of Somerset published this year with translation of Domesday Book
Mrs Annie Watkins subpostmistress Wraxall letters from Bristol
Charles Manning subpostmaster Failand Letters from Bristol
Victoria Hist of Somerset published this year with translation of Domesday Book
James Manning sub postmaster letters from Bristol
Victoria Hist of Somerset published this year with translation of Domesday Book
No post office Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea
Holy Trinity Nailsea Rev John Johnson
Christ Church Rev Ernest William Smith since 1904
Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres
Chief L'd'ners - Lady Smyth - Tees Rodbard - Bean - Mirehouse - Gee
Christ Ch Sch Master & Mistress Mr & Mrs Walter Jones
Old Church Sch Master William George Weatherall
Old Church School Mistress Miss Edith M Ayles
Nailsea Court prop of H J Mirehouse at present (1905) unoccupied
Rev John Leach chaplain to Long Ashton Union W'khouse -The Batch
Imperial Veterinary Medecine Co (Cattle medecine manufacturers)
9 persons listed involved with Inns Brewing and Beer retailing
Sergt Walt Organ Hy Drill Instructor
2 news agents Edward Caple Edgar Smallman

Nailsea Station Master John Kindon

1910

George Russell sub postmaster

Mrs Annie Watkins subpostmistress Wraxall letters from Bristol

Charles Manning subpostmaster Failand Letters from Bristol

James Manning sub postmaster letters from Bristol

No post office Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea

National Old Church Sch Master William George Weatherall

Old Ch Sch Infant's Mistress Miss Cath J Kyrwood

Christ Ch Sch Master & Mistress Mr & Mrs Walter Jones

Holy Trinity Nailsea Rev John Johnson

Christ Church Rev Ernest William Smith since 1904

Imperial Veterinary Medecine Co (Cattle medecine manufacturers)

Carriers George Harrill to Three Queens Thomas Street Daily

Hartley Webber Old Fox Redcliff St Daily

Nailsea Station Master not shown

Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres

Chief Landowners Lady Smyth- Tees of Rodbard-Evans - Gee

7 persons named as involved with Inns Beer Retailing and Brewing

1914

George Russell sub postmaster

Mrs Annie Watkins subpostmistress Wraxall letters from Bristol

Mrs Elizabeth Manning sub postmistress Letters from Bristol

James Manning sub postmaster letters from Bristol

No post office Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea

Holy Trinity Nailsea Rev John Johnson

Christ Church Vicar not shown

Christ Ch Sch Master Mr Walter Jones Mistress Miss M Holly

Old Church Sch Master John G Gowar Inf Mistress Miss G Newberry

Nailsea Station Master S Chalk

Carriers - George Harrill From Three Queens Thomas St Daily

Carriers - Hartley Webber from Old Fox Redcliff Street Daily

Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres

Chief Landowners Lady Smyth- Tees of Rodbard -Evans - Gee

8 persons named as involved with Inns Beer Retailing and Brewing

Imperial Veterinary Medecine Co (Cattle medecine manufacturers)

1919

Geo Russell sub postmaster

1st mention A motor omnibus daily between Bristol & Nailsea

Miss Mary A Russell Wraxall subpostmistress letters fm Bristol

Mrs Elizabeth Manning subpostmistress Failand Letters fm Bristol

James Manning sub postmaster letters through Bristol

No post office Letters through Bristol MO at Nailsea

Nailsea Station Master S Chalk

Carriers - George Harrill From Three Queens Thomas St Daily

Carriers - Hartley Webber from Old Fox Redcliff Street Daily

Imperial Vet Medecine Co (Cattle medecine mfctrs) & oil merchants

Chief Landowners Hon Mrs Smyth- Tees of Rodbard -Evans - Gee

Holy Trinity Nailsea Rev John Johnson

9 persons named as involved with Inns Beer Retailing and Brewing

Christ Church Rev Joseph Henry Powell since 1916

Nailsea acreage of entire Civil Parish 2858 acres

Christ Church School Master Ernest Bellamy

Local News from the papers

items of interest provided by Martin Bodman

Backwell Church

(Bristol Times and Mirror c22 June 1872 or next edn)

The parish Church of Backwell, Somerset is in a highly dangerous and dilapidated condition. It is now closed and divine service is held in the school room. It is proposed to restore it under the direction of Mr Street. The cost is estimated at £4,000; of this sum about £2,400 is promised.

The parish is a very poor one, and the landowners see no alternative but to ask for help from the public.

The church and its magnificent tower are amongst the most beautiful ornaments of the county.

Subscriptions may be paid to Stuckey's Bank Bristol to the credit of Backwell Church restoration Fund: John Lysaght, Treasurer, The Rev. J Langworthy, Vicar Backwell, near Bristol, or to W Paul Hudden, Hon. Sec.

Amount acknowledged	£2,569-7-0
Miss Cannington, Cotham	£20-0-0
The Misses Cox, Brockley	£10-0-0
Mrs Beddoes	£5-0-0
Anthony Gibbs Esq.	£25-0-0
Alfred Gurney	£25-0-0 etc

Nailsea Court Estate

(Bristol Mercury 2 January 1797)

For sale (in fee) by Private Contract, all that MANOR or reputed Manor, situate in the parish of Nailsea, in the County of Somerset .. 129 acres, 1 rood, 19 perches .. (apply to) Samuel Baker, Attorney at Law, Blagdon near Bristol.

(Felix Farleys Bristol Journal 1st September 1832)

Nailsea Court Estate to be sold (in fee) by public auction.. large and ancient Manor House, now a farm house .. 162 acres of land .. chiefly meadow, pasture and orchard .. fishpond .. supposed (veins of) coal under estate.

Glass Works Nailsea

Steam Engine for sale

(Bristol Mercury 9 April 1853)

.. a six horse power oscillating engine and boiler complete with governor &c in excellent working order, also to go with the Engine, a new cast iron circular saw bench with borer attached. The engine is fixed to a strong wooden framing, which may be moved to anyplace without detaching it; the boiler is very strong, half-inch plates 8 feet by 4 - the whole may be seen at any time at the glassworks Nailsea

Samuel Bowen bankrupt

(Bristol Times and Mirror 31 July 1869)

The whole of the very extensive stock of glass of every description .. at the Nailsea Glass Works .. a large quantity of Timber, Nails, Tools &c .. The whole will be offered in lots suitable to the Trade .. Fussell and Prichard, Solicitors Bristol.

Tower House, West End

(Bristol Times and Mirror 10 May 1884)

In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division. With the approbation of Vice Chancellor Hall Coombe v Coombe West End Nailsea Somerset .. Desirable small freehold pasture farm and accommodation Arable and Pasture Lands containing together 43a 1r 13p in the occupation of Mrs Brake. To be sold by auction by Mr George Nicholls .. at the Royal Oak Inn Nailsea on Wednesday May 21st 1884..

Lot 1 All that compact Freehold Pasture Farm comprising a pleasantly situated Farmhouse called TOWER HOUSE with excellent outbuildings, Pasture and Orchard Land situate at West End Nailsea, containing 30a 2r 36p ..

Lot 2 Arable and Pasture Land near the Grove Nailsea 9a 0r 19p

Lot 3 Whitecross near the Grove .. Pasture .. 3a 1r 28p

The whole of the lots are in the occupation of Mrs Abraham Brake as yearly tenant at an entire rent of £94-10-0 per annum.

More news from Overseas

by Peter Wright

COOMB(e)S, MANSFIELD, STOKES

I have been overwhelmed with correspondence from people living overseas whose ancestors lived in Nailsea. The amount is such that I am thinking of advertising for a secretary!

I have had several letters from descendants of the Coomb(e)s family of Nailsea and have also received cards from the Mansfield families descendants in both New Zealand and Australia. I have even had a letter from a cousin who finds a "Mansfield" in her researches.

Just after the Rugby World Cup there was a knock at my door and I found a happy Australian on his way home from Cardiff. He was a descendant of the Stokes family. He had been pointed in my direction by Peter Dufour at Holy

Trinity. He wrote to me by airmail on 29th November and the letter arrived on 29th December; such is progress.

It seems that his ancestor Mr Alfred Stokes had prospered in Australia. Born in Somersetshire England on 12 October 1835 he had gone to Australia while a young man and after marrying Mary Ann Clancy in 1857 arrived in Forbes in 1861 with their two sons Alfred and George.

Alfred senior died in 1914 and a memorial drinking fountain stands outside the main entrance of Forbes Victoria Park.

I have been given a copy of a family register that provides the following written details of Alfred's family:

John Stokes (my father) died Feby 9th 1877 aged 67 years at Portbury Somersetshire England bur Portbury Churchyard.

Sarah Stokes (my mother) died at Nailsea Som. England Jul 28th 1842 aged 36 years Bur Nailsea Churchyard

Ann Stokes (Stepmother) died Feby 5th 1857 aged 47 years at Portbury buried same grave as father.

Joseph Stokes (Grandfather) died Feby 9th 1862 aged 75 years

Ann Stokes Grandmother died July 4th 1842 aged 56 years

Elizabeth Stokes (grandfathers 2nd wife died Novr 30th 1882 aged 82 years

(Ed. In 1881 it seems that Elizabeth was lodging with Ann Newton a Farmer's widow and Melinda Davey in Portbury)

On the second page of the register are listed the following:-

Alfred Stokes born Somersetshire England (Nailsea) Oct 12th 1835

Mary Ann Stokes born England 1839

Alfred Stokes Jnr born Yachandandal Victoria August 9th 1858

George Stokes born Yachandandal December 12th 1859

John Stokes born Forbes 1st January 1867

William Henry Stokes born Forbes January 14th 1869

Louisa Stokes born Woolloomooloo 18th January 1871

Arthur Stokes born Forbes January 9th 1873
Frederick Stokes born July 6th (Forbes) 1876
Henry Stokes born Forbes

Your editor hopes to obtain more information in the near future and would be glad to hear from anyone actively researching the local Stokes family.

Nailsea Village Gossip

more extracts from the book of the same name by Phyllis Horman

Dec 1860

Fatal Colliery Accident

For about twelve years past a colliery had been worked at Nailsea by Mr Farler, called to distinguish it from another older pit the 'New Colliery'. Up to Tues. last no accident had happened in it of a serious nature. On Tues. morning at five o'clock about thirty men and boys were let down and started normal work. John Wright, his father and his son Joseph aged fourteen years were at some distance from the other workmen, and were at the farthest end of the passage away from the shaft. All went well for a while, but about seven o'clock John Wright suddenly dropped his tools, trying to spring past his father and son and was uttering words of alarm. The old man and the boy turned around and to their dismay saw a flood of water had burst through the walls and was sweeping everything before it. 'Run for your life' shouted John Wright, trying to be first out of the passage, but in his haste he struck himself either against one of the uprights supporting the roof or against a binnacle, and so fell to the ground.

The others couldn't stop to help him as the water was engulfing them, in fact they had a job to get themselves out of the pit. Nothing has since been seen of John Wright, who, as soon as he fell, was covered by the oncoming flood.

As soon as the news of the accident was given to the bailiff Mr George York, he immediately went down the shaft to see if there was any possibility of rescuing John Wright, but he had to abandon the attempt.

They tried pumping out the water with a very powerful engine, which pumped out 750 gallons per minute.

During the first hour the water gained on the amount extracted about two feet and this ratio increased. The engine was kept working until Wed. afternoon but failed to reduce the water level. John Wright left a wife and six children. In Jan. of the following year a funeral service was held at the pithead.

Jan, Feb, March 1860

Long Ashton Petty Sessions

George Card (of the 1858 murder charge?) and Hannah Youde of Nailsea were committed to take their trial at the next Somerset Sessions for stealing hay at Tickenham, property of Samuel Young.

Thomas Rowley the elder of Nailsea was fined 10s. including costs, for improperly driving on a turnpike road in the parish of Backwell.

William Cannard of Nailsea charged with assaulting Elizabeth Vowles at that place, was fined 50s. including costs, in default of immediate payment, six weeks imprisonment.

Samuel Godwin of the same place charged with stealing hay of the value of 1s. the property of Mr John Withey, farmer, having consented to be summarily dealt with, was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.

William Cannard of Nailsea charged with releasing a horse whilst on the way to the pound in that parish, the same having been seized in consequence of having been found in certain enclosed land of Mr A Beakes, was fined 20s. including costs or in default of payment in fourteen days, one month's imprisonment.

May 1861

Accident

A melancholy accident occurred at Nailsea. A boy by the name of Burchell about fourteen years of age, son of Mrs Burchell of the Sawyers Arms, near the Glassworks, was out shooting and while drawing the gun through a hedge with the muzzle towards him, it exploded and the charge went through his heart. What makes the case more melancholy is, that the boy's mother is lying dead.

Oct 1861

A Disappointment

One day last week a banksman at a colliery in Nailsea, who was desirous of having something to drink, saw the neck and shoulders of a small jar in a cart

which was standing by waiting for coals. Having hastily drawn the cork and raised the bottle to his mouth, he was seen to draw back with strong symptoms of having taken an emetic. The jar contained lamp oil.

In 1862 a great deal of the news concerns the distress of the glassworkers. This was one of the times when the glassworks closed. A letter written to the 'Daily Post' on behalf of the glassworkers thanks the Rev Ricketts Bayley for the relief given to the families and by giving the men temporary employment in making new roadside paths and improving the old ones.

There is, also a great deal written about the restoration and re-opening of Holy Trinity.

July 1863

Fatal Accident to a Farmer

Verdict on the body of William Parker, farmer, 69 years of age. The deceased was driving without reins near Youngwood farm, accompanied by his son (*in the first report he was accompanied by a servant*) when the horse took fright at another horse's head with a white face which came suddenly round the corner. (I like the way this is written and wonder if the body of the horse came round the corner, with the head?)

The deceased couldn't control his horse, the cart overturned and fell on him causing an interior rupture. He was promptly attended to by Mr Adams who said he did not think Mr Parker would live more than three hours and within that time, he died. His son said he wanted to fetch the reins and put them on the bridle, but his father said it was unnecessary for so short a journey.

July 1863

Robbery at Nailsea

On Fri. 31st of July a Frenchman who gives his name as Jules Tavill entered the dwelling house of one Lewis Anvede and stole therefrom a pair of boots, an Inverness cape and other articles. Information of the robbery was given to P.C. Smart at the Police Station at Nailsea on Sun. and he, with his usual activity traced the thief to Weston-super-Mare and thence to Bridgwater, where he apprehended him on Tues. morning last, wearing part of the stolen property.

He was taken before E.J. Daubeney Esq. of the Long Ashton Division on the same day and committed for trial.

Aug 1863

The Alleged Manslaughter at Wraxall

The grand jury threw out a bill against Hester Holman a midwife of Wraxall, committed under the coroner's inquisition for the manslaughter of Amos Hillier at Wraxall. The prisoner was arraigned and discharged, no evidence being offered.

Sep 1863

Extensive Fire Nailsea

At an early hour on Tues. morning a fire broke out upon the extensive Glassworks of Mr Bowen of Nailsea, which resulted in damage to the extent of £2,000. That part of the works in which the fire originated was one of the warehouses and pot-rooms, and as in the former, a wagon load of straw had been placed only the preceding day for the purpose of packing glass in crates, the premises being very old, the fire burnt with considerable fury.

The workmen, aided by the inhabitants of the village, set to work right willingly, and seeing that their efforts were in vain to suppress the conflagration in the part of the premises in which it had originated, they directed their energies to the preservation of the adjacent buildings, in which they were successful. A mounted messenger was dispatched to Bristol for the fire engines, and the Royal and Imperial proceeded to Nailsea but the fire had been got under control before their arrival. The premises and contents were insured in the Imperial and we are happy to hear that in all probability no men will be thrown out of work by the disaster.

April 1864

Long Ashton Petty Sessions

George Pullen a mason living at Nailsea, was charged with being found in a straw house at the Nailsea Glassworks for an unlawful purpose. The prisoner, being an old offender was sent to gaol for a month with hard labour.

Edward Stokes and George Mansfield charged by P.C. Chamberlain with being drunk and riotous at Nailsea, were fined 10s. or in default, seven days hard labour.

April 1864/5

Caught at Last

On Fri. last an old man by the name of Abraham Cavill was in a public house in Nailsea, when a well known woman by the name of Eliza Beard, the wife of Henry Beard, a marine store dealer, soon relieved him of the sum of 25s. which he had in his pocket. Information of the robbery was given to P.C. Smart, stationed at Nailsea, and he, with his usual activity (this must be a favourite expression of the reporter!) apprehended the prisoner at her house and found part of the stolen property on her person. It was afterward identified by the prosecutor and another witness, it was in fact, a peculiar shilling given in change, and the prisoner was taken before John Mordaunt Esq. on the following Mon. when she was committed for trial at Quarter Session to be held at Taunton in June.

1864/5

Distressing Suicide

On Tues. morning a respectable man of this parish named George Noble, between forty and fifty years of age, got up about 4 o'clock, for the purpose it was supposed, of going to his work as usual at Messrs. White and Co's coal works, where he had been employed for some years as a collier. Instead, however, of going to his employment he proceeded to a shed near his house and there hung himself. He was found about 7 o'clock by one of his sons quite dead. P.C. Smart was quickly on the spot and had the body conveyed to deceased's house to await the coroner's inquest.

June 1864

Shocking Accident

Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock a man named Robert Burridge in the employ of Mr Thatcher, brewer of Nailsea, met with a very shocking accident. The poor man had been sent in from Nailsea to Mr Clark's timber yard, Coronation Road, Bedminster, for a load of timber. He had loaded his cart and was coming out of the yard when a piece of timber touched the horse's head,

causing it to take fright and to run off at a fearful rate. Burrige ran to the horse's head and tried to arrest its career, but did not succeed in doing so and falling down, the wheels of the cart passed over him, greatly injuring his head. He was picked up and removed to the Bristol General Hospital where he now remains but in a very dangerous state. The horse was stopped at Bedminster Bridge before it did further damage. Robert Burrige died on the Fri. afternoon. Verdict 'Accidental Death'.

March 1865

Taunton Assizes - Manslaughter at Yatton

Anthony Wyatt a farmer of Nailsea, on bail, was charged with killing or slaying Charles Taylor on the 27th May last. Between five and six in the morning of that date Charles Taylor was in a field belonging to Wyatt, having driven a bullock out of it, which had broken in. Wyatt came up to Taylor, ordered him out of the field, pushed him between a gate and the post, which squeezed his bowels. He was in pain immediately and he tried to get home, but it took him two hours to go a mile, and so he was obliged to lie down on the way. When he got home he went to bed and a surgeon saw him. William Perry stated that he saw the deceased lying in the road in great pain, having one hand over his bowels. Charlotte Taylor widow of Charles said he was 66 years when he died. When he left home on the morning of the 27th he was in very good health, but when he came home he was in very great pain. He said he thought he would die and was sorry he had not settled his affairs. She sent for Mr Macey a surgeon, immediately. Samuel Taylor, son of Charles, said his father looked very ill when he got home.

He saw Wyatt who said he was sorry for what had happened, but denied that it was his fault and that Taylor must have injured himself. Mr Macey said that Taylor had suffered with a hernia, but it was not sufficient to give such pain.

He died on the Sat. and the result of the post mortem showed that he had died of inflammation, the result of external violence such as being pressed against a gatepost, or, suffering from the hernia, he may have injured himself if he kicked violently. Augustin Pritchard senior surgeon of the Bristol Infirmary saw Taylor at Mr Macey's request and he was then dying. He found Taylor suffering from inflammation of the abdomen. At that time he found no rupture, but he realised the danger from the inflammation. He assisted at the second post mortem and his opinion was the cause of death was

inflammation of the bowels, caused by possible external injury. He also thought the hernia could not be the cause of death. One part of the bowel was almost in a state of mortification from the inflammation.

However, the majority of the jury decided that the prisoner was not guilty of Taylor's death. So, Anthony Wyatt, farmer was acquitted. I wonder how many of the jury were known to him??

May 1865

Robbery from a Publican's Till

On Mon. last Mrs Davies of the Royal Oak Inn, Nailsea left the bar at about + past 6pm. and hearing a noise went back into the bar to see Henry Mansfield with his hand in the till. She caught hold of him and held him as long as she could, but he managed to get away. She gave an alarm and the man was caught in Mr Harding's loft adjoining the Royal Oak and handed him over to P.C. Chamberlain. The next day Mr Davies the landlord searched the loft and found 7s. - 6d. The prisoner was taken to court at Long Ashton and he pleaded guilty.

He was tried at Petty Sessions and was sentenced to six months hard labour.

May 1865

Henry Rogers of Nailsea was fined 6s. - 6d. for allowing his horse to stray on the highway of Nailsea.

May 1865

Petty Sessions Court House

Joseph Grant was charged with stealing 19 diamonds from his employer Mr Samuel Bowen of Nailsea Glassworks.

The prisoner had been employed about two weeks previously as a glass cutter and diamond setter and that forty five diamonds were given to him to use and re-set. He returned twenty one within a few days, then neglected his work for a few days, after which Mr Bowen opened the box in which the diamonds were kept and found that nineteen were missing, each worth about 10s. The prisoner first said that they were at his lodgings but afterwards admitted that he had sold eight of them for 22s. in Bristol.

Mr James Sims of Sims and Rabold glass dealers of Bristol, said that the prisoner whom he knew as a diamond setter, sold them four diamonds on the

8th May for 14s. and gave them a receipt for the money, and that the firm advanced him 10s. upon four more. P.C. Chamberlain found another diamond upon the prisoner. He was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

Sept 1865

Garden Robbery at Nailsea

William Bacon and Frederick Allen were brought before Colonel Burrowes at the Court House, Long Ashton, charged with stealing cucumbers and fruit from a garden belonging to Mr Lippiatt and Mr Park at Nailsea.

The offence was proved by P.C. Chamberlain who saw them in the garden at 2 o'clock on the previous Sun. morning.

The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined 6d. and costs, this being a first offence.

Sep 1865

Serious Railway Accident at the Bristol to Exeter Line,
Nailsea

Two persons were severely cut and bruised about the face and three goods trucks completely smashed.

Apparently the 5-50pm train from Bristol to Exeter was a quarter of an hour late and just before reaching Nailsea the driver saw the danger signal hoisted and almost at the same moment saw a heavy goods train which was being shunted from the down to the up rails, and which should have been forty miles away at the time.

The driver quickly shut off steam, applied all the brakes and reversed the engine. It was too late to avoid a collision and the passenger train crashed into the goods train smashing three trucks and severely shaking all the passengers. There was no telegraphic communication between Nailsea and Bristol and so messengers were sent up and down the line with danger signals to warn other trains. The engine of the goods train was detached and sent to Yatton from where a telegram was sent to Bristol and a pilot engine was sent to the spot. Men from Yatton took several hours to clear the line.

During this time all the traffic was suspended and it was past 12 when the train arrived at Exeter. The spot where the accident occurred was on a high embankment which enabled the driver to see the goods train and so reduce the speed. Had he not seen it the passenger train would have hurled over and probably caused many people to be killed.

The people waiting for the train at Exeter were not told what had happened.

Nov 1865

A Lazy Fellow

George Crane was brought before Sir William Miles, Bart. and other magistrates at Long Ashton Highway Board last Tues. charged with becoming chargeable to the parish of Nailsea, he being at the time able to work and having 14s. a week.

Mr Broad a builder said that Crane had been working for him as a mason at 14s. a week up until the last Sat. and was now willing to give him a job at those wages. Crane declined to go back to work, and was sent to Shepton Mallet for one month hard labour, Sir William Miles adding that he would be compelled to work there.