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PENNANT



War Memorial - Old Church Nailsea c1919

From the M. J. Tozer collection

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**BACKWELL, NAILSEA, TICKENHAM
AND WRAXALL**

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Social and Working interchanges between Nailsea and Backwell

A Letter to the Editor from John Brain

When our villages were much smaller, there was quite an active social and working interchange between Nailsea and Backwell. I was reminded of this by the article "A Small Testimonial to Bro.W. C. Lippiatt" in Pennant No 9 and the comments on the various contributors to his testimonial for services to the Nailsea Branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

My information has been gleaned from Jim Lott, now 92, and like his father and grandfather before him builders and undertakers in Backwell back into the last century.

The first comment is about Walter Lippiatt himself, who was organist at Backwell parish church at the turn of the century, walking over to play for services. He gave up the job in 1898 to be replaced by Ernest Hayward, a self taught musician from a well-known Backwell family, who held the post for no less than 44years until 1942, under whom the writer started as a boy in 1935,and is still there.

Jim Lott has mentioned to me in past conversations that his father William Lott used to be contracted to the Bath and West showground every year to organise the stands, and he would go off each January to wherever the show was being held, come home at weekends, and return home permanently only after the Show was over and the (wooden) stands dismantled. He particularly mentions that Willie Aish, who worked for Jim's father, used to accompany him to the Bath and West.

Oliver Jarrett, painter and decorator, he tells me worked for Jim's uncle Henry Lott, whose firm still operates in Backwell today.

It was the quarry of the Pippett family, also mentioned, that supplied the stone for Backwell Parish Hall, completed in 1910 (Ed. the same year as Church House in Nailsea), and built by Jim's father, William Lott. The haulage was undertaken by Frank Atherton, Backwell's local coalman, by horse and cart. Like Jim Caple, Frank too sold coal from the coal wharf at Nailsea Station.

Nailsea and Tickenham District Nursing Association

(from a card filed with the Local history Archives in Nailsea Library)

NURSING RULES

1. The Nurse is forbidden to interfere in any way with the religious or political opinions of her patients or their friends.
2. The Nurse shall consider as strictly confidential all matters which may come to her knowledge concerning her patients.
3. The Nurse shall not leave the district without the knowledge of the Secretary.
4. The Nurse is only allowed to attend cases under the supervision of a Medical Man except where no Doctor is available, or where the Doctor considers that her services will suffice. (This does not refer to Midwifery.)
5. The Nurse shall not attend infectious cases unless special arrangements are made for her other work.
6. The Nurse shall attend only urgent cases on Sundays, except in Midwifery cases. She shall not sit up at night unless the circumstances are exceptional, and for this an extra charge of 1/- per night will be made at the discretion of the Secretary.
7. The Nurse may perform the last offices for the dead, provided she is not at the time acting as Midwife.
8. The Nurse shall always leave at her lodgings a note of where she may be found in case of a sudden call for her services.

SCALE OF CHARGES

Members 4/- per annum, collected quarterly

Subscribers 7/6 and upwards

The payment includes the household with the exception of sons and daughters over 21 who may be earning their own living.

Any person who is not a subscriber or member and who wishes for the services of a Nurse must pay the arrears for that year.

MIDWIFERY CHARGES (FOR INSURED PERSONS)

For Nurse as Midwife - without a Doctor 10/6

For Nurse as Maternity Nurse - with a Doctor 5/-

(FOR UNINSURED PERSONS)

For Nurse as a Midwife 5/-

Half the fee to be paid when the Nurse is engaged and half at the time the Nurse's services are required.

Village Institute, Nailsea

by Peter Wright

In the Greenhill Collection there is a small leaflet that allows us a partial insight to social life in the village more than 60years ago. The Village Institute occupied the building "Church House" which stands at the junction of Silver Street, Stockway North and Stockway South and is now used by the Town Council.

It is a report for the AGM of the Village Institute, Nailsea. It is signed by J H Powell and refers to the Honorary Treasurer Mr J H Wyatt and the Honorary Secretary Mr F E Nash. (*in view of a later reference to Wyatt as the Hon Secretary some confusion exists as to the actual positions held*). The leaflet is dated February 1933 and includes not only the Income and Expenditure Accounts but also sets out the advantages of membership.

These were:

1. Billiards (Full size table)
2. Reading Room (Newspapers, Periodicals and Magazines)
3. Badminton
4. Skittles (Club affiliated Clevedon and District Skittles League)
5. Library nearly 1000 volumes (Including several new)

This last item has been deleted in ink but whether the library had been closed at that date or sometime later is not clear. Even in those times I cannot believe that the reference in the Income accounts to "Sale of Papers, Magazines, and Books £3-12-6" would be sufficient income to be that from the sale of 1000 volumes.

The accounts were certified as correct by J S Gowar and Chas C Bowden. The Honorary Secretary (sic) J H Wyatt added a warning note that "the Institute is liable for loans from Mr C K Cowlin and Dr A Gornall amounting to £22 if these were paid there would be a deficit of £ 17-6-7."

In total the income was £145-14-7 which with the balance carried forward from 1931 (£46-4-7) gave a total of £191-19-2.

Cash from hire of the Hall amounted to £56-8-8, while Billiards brought in £33-7-9. The Rifle Club paid £5-5-0. The Badminton Club paid £6-0-0 and Table Tennis £3-2-8. This amounts to £104-4-1. Of the remaining income £41-10-6, £22 came from the loans £14-16-0 from Donations and subscriptions and £4-14-6 from the sale of Papers, Magazines Books, cupboards, and a billiard cue.

It seems to me that the reason for the shortfall was that there had been an attempt to "modernise" the building in the year that had passed. Among the items referred to are:-

	£	s	d
Repairs to Building	3	6	9
Painting outside and decorating interior of Institute	24	17	0
Curtains and Fittings for Hall	11	3	9
New Lino for Billiard Room and Mirror for Reading Room	15	11	3
Lengthening Old Lights and fixing New Lights for Badminton	7	9	9
Piano	14	0	0

These items amount to £76-8-6. It is by no means clear as to whether a new piano was purchased; would £14 have purchased one? Amidst the expenditure there is another for 16/6d Piano Tuning.

Electric Lighting repairs and renewal cost £1-9-7 while Electric Light cost £28-19-6 and coal and firewood £13-7-0. The water supply was £2-1-4.

Cleaning materials cost £1-12-9 and the Caretaker's wages and extras cost £20-10-0.

Papers and Magazines are shown as costing £11-1-4 while Insurance Rates and Taxes were one of the larger items at £12-15-4. Billiard table repairs, New Cues and League fees cost £5-11-3 and Table tennis materials cost £2-5-6.

Printing, Stationery; Sundry Accounts and commission on lettings cost £5-17-0 and two wreaths costing £1-6-6; Theatrical Licence & The Performing Right Society Ltd £2-7-6; postages 9/- and skittle affiliation fee 7/- make up the rest of the expenditure which totals £187-5-9. (Those of you who care to check the figures will find a discrepancy of 2d made up of four halfpennies which have been omitted as they are very difficult to show).

The Village Institute was what is now known as Church House and even this scrap of evidence shows that villagers were active in several sports. Those of our readers who want to become involved in the activities of the Society could well take on research into a particular building. The Village Institute was taken over by the military at the start of the war but it was given back when the villagers needs were proved to be greater than those of the military who were able to use other buildings.

Family History - Brake / Vowles families

by Peter Wright

with assistance from Phyllis Horman and Bettie Miller

The Society has recently been corresponding with Miss Bettie Miller from Oxhey. She is descended from George and Mary Brake who had 6 children:- Nancy bp 11 Apr 1790, GEORGE bp 9 Oct 1791, Sarah bp 6 Jul 1794, Abraham bp 25 Dec 1797; Mary bp 25 Dec 1801; Harriet bp 4 Nov 1804 (all were baptised at Holy Trinity.)

Her line continues through GEORGE and his marriage to Jane whose surname is not known. They had 12 children the eldest was Jane Coombs Brake which leads us to believe that Coombs may have been the maiden name of her mother. *[Do any of our readers know?]*

Their second child Emma was Bettie's great grandparent. She married Henry Daniel Thatcher who died very shortly after the wedding. Her second marriage was to John Vowles who had been born in Wraxall. The marriage took place in Bristol on 24 Mar 1846.

John Vowles and Emma were living in Silver Street in 1851 when his occupation was given as Shopkeeper and Emma's was manager of Shop. With them were living Ann who is shown as daughter aged 18. Presumably this was John's daughter from his earlier marriage. Children of John and Emma were Mary (aged 3), Emma (aged 1) and Sarah Jane (7 months) living in the same household.

By 1861 the location is called "The Street" and Emma and Mary have disappeared, they would only have been 13 and 11. Mary reappears later but Emma does not. Did she die while young? In

addition to Sarah we now have Martha (aged 6), Thomas (aged 4) and Hester (aged 2) and a lodger James Gallop aged 55 whose occupation was a gardener.

In 1871 the family still seem to be living in Silver Street, although it is not named as such, but by this time John Vowles is a labourer and Sarah Jane was not present. There is a boarder with the family. He is also a labourer aged 28, Thomas Pinshin whose place of birth is shown as Stratford-on-Avon.

In 1881 the family now much reduced is still in Silver Street. John is not mentioned and Emma now 60 gives her occupation as Market Woman as does Mary Ashford whose relationship is "Dau". Presumably this is the Mary we last saw in 1851. Charles Ashford, grandson scholar aged 10 lives here as does Sarah J Vowles whose occupation is Housemaid.

The copies of the census that have been referred to for this article are handwritten copies. There are numbers quoted against the name Silver Street but upon examination these appear to be the number allocated by the enumerator. Phyllis Horman who has supplied much of the information used to produce this article believes that the site of the dwelling and/or shop would have been somewhere near to the fish shop in Silver Street. Reference to microfilm copies of the originals may or may not resolve the numbering problems. Further research is necessary but if, having read this article, you have more information please contact the editor.

Holy Trinity War Memorial

information supplied by Delwyn Cox

The War Memorial was provided by deed of gift dated 1924 between Lt. Cmdr Charles Edward Evans RNVR of Nailsea Court and Rev Bartlett (Rector) and William Powell and William Shepstone (Churchwardens).

"Whereas the memorial shrine in memory of those inhabitants of the Parish of Nailsea who serving in the Navy and the Army gave their lives for their country in the Great war has been designed and erected by the Grantee at the request of the Trustees has agreed to place on record this deed the following facts relating to the erection of the said shrine and the names of the persons who assisted in the work of erecting the said shrine and this record by the grantee in his own words is as follows namely:

After the termination of the Great war and after consulting the late Reverend John Johnson, the members of Nailsea Parish Council and many relatives of those Nailsea men who fell in defence of their country, I felt that it would be a labour of love to design and erect a shrine to the memory of those brave young men belonging to Nailsea Parish who gave their lives for their country and I trust may be permitted to explore the sincere belief that the brave persons have gone to greater happiness and will receive a wonderful welcome from their comrades gone before. I see that in the dictionary "a shrine" is described as " a sacred place for anything hallowed by its associations" and so what better word could we have for the memorial of the Hallowed dead.

As the total of names belonging to our Parish who so gloriously lost their lives fighting for their country increased I experienced a great desire to offer to their memory a scheme to preserve that memory for us and for those who come after us in a permanent

form. It was the little piscina in the Chancel of Nailsea Church that first gave me the idea of having to design a Shrine to be built of our beautiful Dundry Stone.

I then approached our late Rector the Reverend John Johnson and asked his permission to have a shrine erected on the edge of the Churchyard at Holy Trinity which permission was gladly given and everything done by him to help and for which help I desire to record my thanks.

This little offering was first built on some vacant ground near Nailsea Court and was erected block by block under my personal supervision by one of our Nailsea Masons Eli Iles who put in good and loving work while all the details with help from other friends including Mr C D Denning of Bristol to whom my thanks are gratefully given were worked out most carefully at Nailsea Court.

One of our blacksmiths Frederick Neale from Nailsea Village adjusted and made some of the railings which fence the churchyard from the main road, while a Nailsea carpenter Thomas Hunt also rendered great assistance. An artist in carving from Bristol carved some of the finer work upon the shrine including the bays and laurels shown beneath the shelf. Two of our Nailsea labourers Isaac Mansfield and George Capel did other work connected with the erection of the shrine while Hector and Samuel Shepherd of Nailsea made the leaden vessel to hold flowers under my direction.

John Newton Cox of Clevedon cut the lettering on the slates now behind and below the bronze plaque while J James of Bristol cast the later erected bronze tablet so that local men did all the work. Many of the relations of those who fell have subscribed towards the leaden vessel for the holding of flowers. The shrine was therefore built as our own forefathers erected their beautiful Gothic buildings in the olden days and whatever its imperfections may be the making of it has been a labour of

love and respect. It stands in the centre of the Parish on a segment of a circle taken from the churchyard which segment contains a platform raised about four inches from the level of the road and is paved with local pennant stone. It faces the road almost due South and hereabouts four roads of the parish meet.

It is crowned with a lily with drooping petals, the idea of which was given to me by observing a beautiful cross in the Western part of Somerset which cross although not a Lily arose like one from a beautiful setting. The Lily and the Fleur de Lys and indeed the Shrine itself stands out against the dark foliage of a Yew tree centuries old standing in the churchyard of the old Nailsea Church.

I trust that this little memorial may stand for centuries and keep its record of those of our Parish who have fought the good fight".

The Grantor is desirous of making provision for

1. the perpetual upkeep and repair of the said shrine
2. the perpetual upkeep maintenance and repair of the said church porch and also
3. the perpetual upkeep and repair of the fabric of the said church

In 1948 following the end of World War II and the return of those who had been called to arms a series of joint meetings were held between representatives of the Parish Council and Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council under the Chairmanship of the Rector the Reverend Russell W Davey.

The provision of a second memorial for the 18 fallen residents of Nailsea was considered but it was felt that there was ample space on the existing memorial.

- A. It was agreed that a body such as 'The Birmingham Guild' be approached in order to advise as to the most suitable place on the shrine for the new tablet.
- B. A "Fund" be opened to meet the total expenses incurred in connection with the tablet, any surplus money after all expenses are paid be forwarded to the British Legion Local Benevolent Fund
- C. The Secretary reported (21 June 1948) that the subscription list was very small only £8-5-6d had been received.
- D. Proposed that a Public appeal be made throughout Old Church Parish to raise money for the fund (30 June 1948)
- E. The completed tablet was presented to the meeting (Aug 16 1948) together with the full account £33-5-0d which the Rector kindly offered to pay and be re-imbrued when sufficient had been received.

It was decided to have the tablet fixed in time for the Harvest Home so that it could be unveiled and dedicated; the ceremony to precede the 3o/clock service.