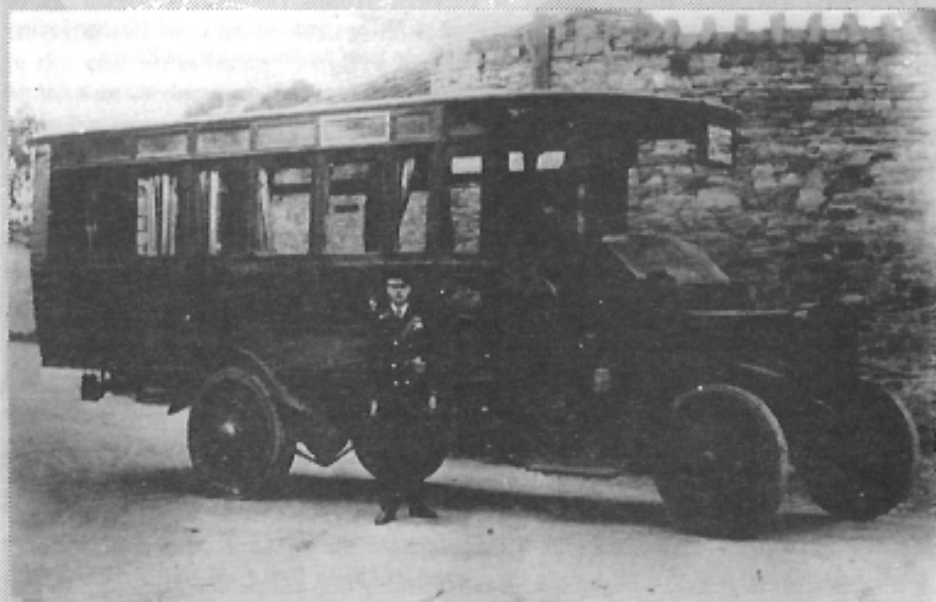


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PENNANT



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

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A COMPARISON -

BACKWELL PARISH MAGAZINE 1903; PENNANT 1993

(John Brain, the editor of *Backwell Parish Magazine* (BPM) gave me a copy of an article from BPM in 1903 (at the end of the first year of issue). I thought that our readers would welcome the chance to read the article and note the similarities it has with the position PENNANT, The Local History Journal of Backwell Nailsea Tickenham and Wraxall, is in 90 years later. I hope PENNANT lasts as long and as well as has the Parish Magazine. The extracts from BPM which were written by its Editor the Rev. S Caudwell are in bold type and references to PENNANT are in italics as are the comments of the editor of Pennant.

"It was stated in our last issue that there was cause for fear that this one-year-old-child the Parish Magazine was in a very delicate state of health. Much worse might have been said as is apparent now : it might have been said to be dying. On consulting our Statement of Accounts given below, our readers will be shocked and horrified to find that there is a deficit of nearly £12".

[Each copy was 1d (i.e. 1s. [or 5p] per year but contributions of 2s 6d or 5s [25p] were invited. It should be noted that the population of the parish in 1901 was only 936 and even if every individual had paid 1d per month the total income for one year could not have exceeded £48. A loss of £12 was therefore tantamount to a disaster. Apart from the price of a bottle of Scotch Whiskey (18p) I cannot find other prices for 1903. I have had more luck with 1914 the year in which World War 1 "The Great War" began. On November 16th 1984 the Daily Express referred to a "recent" Commons reply where it was said that 1 in 1914 was then worth 10p. Prices of other items in 1914 were:- A standard loaf 3p, a pint of beer 1p and postage on a 2oz letter

1p. I have used p notation for the benefit of our younger readers]

"It is difficult to make any calculations in issuing the first year's number of a paper. In this case an estimate was given by the printer for so many copies: it was soon found that 40 more were required; then in the next month's issue 10 more, then again ten more and so on."

"Another thing to be taken into consideration is that there is no calculating the amount of subscriptions. They came in in dribbles and as people had no idea how much was required sums were given which would have been largely increased had they known more."

With Pennant the N&DLHS underwrote the first issue and I approached about a hundred people, that I knew, offering them four copies at £5 on the understanding that they would pay after receiving the first edition for examination. It was also agreed that N&DLHS members would receive a copy as part of their subscription to the Society.

N&DLHS received sufficient support to send the first edition to print and subsequently the N&DLHS agreed to underwrite the next 3 editions. These were spread over a period of 14 months rather than one year.

The editor BPM then ponders on the suggestion that those who came late should have to wait a year and not get back numbers but goes on to say:

"Well what is to be done? Is the magazine to be allowed to die? I think not, I think that a Parish like Backwell ought to have magazine, that is for the general good that it should have one and that people for the most part wish it

to continue. Still I should not be justified in incurring such a debt as £12 every year, but I think this with care may be avoided".

PENNANT incurred a small loss in its first year but that was in many ways almost worthwhile in view of the generous comments N&DLHS received from professional historians who were kind enough to comment on the first four editions. The reason for the loss was a simple one in that as stated above it was decided to supply a copy to each of our members as part of their subscription to the Society. We still have a few back numbers and when these are sold a small profit overall will be revealed. This year we have made a slight adjustment to our subscription fees and will deliver a copy of each edition to our members who indicate that they wish to receive one. At the time of writing (mid November) we are on target to reach the amount of income anticipated in our Budget.

The Editor of BPM goes on:

"I propose therefore, to take a bold step and go on, being influenced by the following considerations and expectations:-

(1) The printing is not likely to be such a serious item in the expenditure again. There will be no necessity for re-printing, and the picture of the church and the cover having been once produced will not now cost much in the re-producing."

N&DLHS made a conscious decision to produce a quality journal and this does of course have an impact on costs. We have had wonderful support from our printers who have given me many tips that have improved the journal. Costs are being kept under review. The content of the journal is intended to be a mixture of anecdotes, personal memories and the results of detailed

research. While the latter is difficult to come by we will make every effort not to become trivial.

(2) I have taken the Advertisements into my own hands. Before they were let to an Agent and produced practically 1-11-0d, for 9 copies were given free to the advertisers each month. I hope to make more than this if I am supported. It means a little extra trouble at the end of the year, but I am glad to undertake it. Will anyone wishing to advertise in next year's issue communicate with me at once.

We tried to obtain advertising from local businesses but in the recession few were prepared to consider advertising in what was a limited circulation journal. We have accordingly not attempted to seek new advertisers for Nos 5 to 8.

(3) Several of the Ladies of the Parish have very kindly undertaken to be responsible for Social evenings in the Schoolroom, on the Wednesday evenings in January. If people will patronise these they will both help the magazine and secure much enjoyment.

(4) I hope the numbers of subscribers will increase and that some will be willing to increase their subscriptions. No one before had any idea how much was wanted or I would make bold to say that subscriptions would have been larger and more numerous.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mrs Sully, Miss Chick, and Miss Vowles most heartily for their work in being responsible for the delivery of the Magazines each month. Their work, though not much noticed is exacting and they deserve the warmest thanks.

My last word is "Play up Backwell for the magazine" The Editor (BPM)

The last comments are appropriate today. We have 150 copies of Pennant to deliver and need to establish an organisation to ensure their delivery each quarter.

Say Goodbye to Old Nailsea

by Basil Greenhill

This article was written about 20 years ago and was previously published by Nailsea and District Local History Society c1978 as the first in a series "The Greenhill Papers". Footnotes have been added and some minor amendments made by the editor.

The Time 1923 or 1924

The single decker open front bus which had brought me via Backwell turned left a long distance beyond the Great Western Railway onto, what I found was called, Ashayes or Ashhaze road.⁽¹⁾ We passed Little Nailsea and as we entered Old Church road there was Nailsea Field with its one time beer house standing well back from the road⁽²⁾. Branches of the hedges scraped both sides of the bus, but of road traffic that morning there was none except maybe a few semi-scared walkers who diligently draped themselves in the hawthorn bushes as they strove, unapprovingly, to accustom themselves to a monster from a nearby city, an alien in a peaceful land.

The destination of the bus was Nailsea Old Church and I had come to see Mr Gallop, the landlord of the Ring O' Bells, where for centuries⁽³⁾ good Vestrymen had gathered, each with his own unlabelled chair or particular place on the settle, each with his

own churchwarden pipe and any man of substance with his own mug for cider or strong ale. There the business of the church and parish was discussed at length and most likely a policy approved for the next Parish Council meeting, for the old stalwarts had been elected at the formation in 1894 and some of them had been on it ever since.

My business quickly finished, for I was a teetotaler, I turned into Back Lane, with three cottages on the right hand side, followed by a secluded house behind a high wall. The tower of a winding shaft of Forty Fathom pit ⁽⁴⁾, covered with ivy by now, but used as a pumping shaft for Grace's pit or Sixty Fathom a mile or less away at the bottom of Engine Lane, which is the beginning, you may have noticed, of the area known as West End. Incidentally, a family lived in the engine house of Grace's pit until the 1950s. What a life!

On the other side of the road to Forty fathom was, and is, Goss Lane, originally called Gorse or Gorsy Lane.

The road from Bristol to the Old Church ran past the Friendship Inn along Chapel Alley [past the United Reform Church] down Silver Street, up Union Street and Church Lane to Church Barton and Holy Trinity.

According to some old deeds Goss Lane began by Union Street and finished at Silver Street; there was no road from the pit to the church, but when that portion of the road was made it became the back lane to the Church and logically the whole of the road was designated Back Lane in the course of time. Years ago, I have been told, Bristol Water Works took over Forty fathom pit for the water supply, but this statement I have never checked.

The allotment field comes next and this, Dr White the younger told me, was let on perpetual lease to the Parish Council so long

as its use as such is continued. It was let to the Council by Dr White's aunt, or one of them, I understood. Have you ever noticed the old rifle or carbine butts on the far side, a relic of the days when Nailsea had its own Volunteer Company? At a dip in the road at the end of the field the local vet lived for many years. The boundary of the parish of Christ Church comes down the middle of the road from Silver Street and here turns on its way towards Station Road and Lodge Lane.

Not very far from the road, developers found an old coal pit shaft when building houses on the Mizzymead Estate; it was supposed to be connected with Forty fathom.

Apart from the exceptions mentioned there were fields on each side of the lane until one neared Silver Street, where on the corner lived a retired Army Colonel and his daughter a talented miniaturist. On the left hand corner was a windmill and a deep well for supplying water to two large greenhouses belonging to Mr Bougourd, a florist and greengrocer who occupied premises in Silver Street near to which was once the village club. The windmill was dismantled in 1921 and about three years later the six semi detached houses were built where the green-houses had been. The top one became the manual telephone exchange.

Continuing back in the direction of the Church, the first Council houses were built in 1928, with more later in Orchard Road and Ridgway; the last mentioned being named after Mrs Ridge who lived at one end of the road. Later came private development in Chancel Close, Trinity Road, Ploughed Paddock and Goss Lane, whilst on the other side, running parallel with the new ring road - Queens Road- modern council houses were built. This does not complete the changes, for Meadway Avenue was built down the line of a brook whose waters run from a spring in the grounds of Nailsea School, and opposite Meadway is Greenhill Close, built in 1964, or thereabouts.

After the war a young man finished with the Army and set up in business on what is now the corner of Meadway Avenue as a car repairer and the owner of a hire car. After years of steady expansion he took a better site in Clevedon road. The name Back Lane was changed to Whitesfield Road as strangers who came to live there did not like the seeming denigration. The Parish Council was reluctant, but the far seeing ones won the day and when Mr Cliff Bougourd suggested Whites Field to commemorate the giver of the allotments, it was approved and adopted.

Walking up towards Silver Street, we see, on the opposite side of the road a monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria*) which was much smaller in 1924, and beyond it a stone Maltese cross on an outbuilding of Orchard House. This was for many years the residence of Dr White who was a member of, or chairman of, the Parish Council for many years, and presumably the building noted was his surgery. His gardens and fields were extensive. The kitchen garden, for instance ran westwards from the house to the back of the bungalows in Camp View, where the high wall of local stone still remains.

There was a small quarry on the land, which made wall building much easier. Thin seams of coal run up this side of Silver Street. There were several shallow shafts, now filled in, and years ago I was told of a local resident who knew of these seams and would descend into the quarry, remove a large stone and, no doubt, with a certain amount of risk, help himself to the coal that was there for the getting. When Dr White retired from practice he was given an illuminated address by the Parish Council which reads as follows:-

To Dr John William White

This testimonial is a recognition of your long service of 50 years in the village of Nailsea, the greater part of which you were the

only Doctor in the Parish, also of the unbroken period of 35 years as Chairman of the Parish Council and parish meeting with the record of not having missed a single meeting. We therefore say that the best tribute that we can pay you is to put it on record that you have stuck to your guns like a man and deserve all the credit this meeting and the parish can give you now that you have retired. We earnestly hope that the retirement you have so richly earned will be spent in peace and happiness. Signed by ten Parish Counsellors, Chairman and Clerk, January 1932.

NOTES

- (1) Ash Hayes Road as it is now called is rather different to what Greenhill would have seen in the 1920's. Owen Taylor, who has lived there for many years tells me that it was widened when it was tarmacadamed and he lost 19 feet from his front garden. He remembers buses running about every two hours along Ash Hayes Road to the Church and then out to West End.
- (2) This beer house was the "Wheatsheaf". The property is now known as "Field House". We hope to feature this building in a future edition of Pennant.
- (3) Ring O' Bells - The Nailsea and District Local History Society has not been able to find evidence supporting the fact that it was a place "where for centuries good Vestrymen had gathered" although this is not to say that there was not a beerhouse near the church. The cottages on the site of the Ring O' Bells seem to date from about 1820.
- (4) This was sited on the NW corner of the Junction of Whitesfield Road and Queens Road and was demolished c1956.(Ref "Nailsea Then and Now" David Cains/ Margaret Thomas 1982)

Bus Accident near Tyntesfield

Mike Tozer has drawn my attention to an accident that took place just before the declaration of war in 1939. Illustrations are from the "M J Tozer Collection" and are reproduced with permission.

The Bristol Evening Post dated July 17th (1939) carried the headline "Mother's Presence of Mind" "Pushed her children under the seat" "Six Injured When Bristol-Clevedon Double Decker Toppled Into Field"

A double decker bus overturned on Saturday evening on its way from Bristol to Clevedon. No one was seriously hurt. There were 10 passengers in the bus most of them in the lower compartment. Two ladies were slightly injured and suffering from shock were attended by a doctor and then sent to their homes by car.

Four men were taken to the Bristol General Hospital by Bristol St John Ambulance for attention to cuts and bruises but none were detained.

They were Mr H Curtin (39) 4 St Gregory Road Horfield Mr E Talbot (23) 14 Mainsfield Street Bedminster Mr W Davies (21) 12 Mina Road St Werburgh's Mr A Smith (30) 30 Frobisher Road Knowle West THROUGH HEDGE

The bus was travelling from Bristol to Clevedon in the evening at about 7 o'clock and it was just after leaving Weston-super-Mare road and was proceeding towards Wraxall when the accident happened. A passenger said "There was no other traffic in sight and the bus was going no more than ten miles an hour when it lurched over and swerved to the left"

It is thought that something went wrong with its steering. The bus cut through a four foot hedge and some iron railings and fell on its side into a meadow about six feet below the level of the road.

Passing cars came quickly to a halt and soon there was a long line standing in the roadway. Police and St John Ambulance men were quickly on the spot to attend to the injured and remove them to hospital and then Bristol Tramways Company engineers set about the task of getting the bus on to its wheels again to tow it out of the field.

A Nailsea lady showed remarkable presence of mind. She was Mrs T White of 4 Woodside Terrace who was going home with three of her children. As the bus was lurching she grasped her children - three girls Marjorie (10 years old) Maisie (9) and Joan (6) - and pulled them as well as possible under the seat.

With the exception of Joan who was bruised down her back they escaped injury; but Mrs White was thrown and received a cut knee and forehead and also cut the back of her head and neck. With her children she returned to Nailsea on the next bus and was attended at home by her doctor.

The driver F Voiccy Hepburn Road Stokes Croft Bristol suffered from shock and was taken home. The conductor F Park Brighton Road Redland Bristol escaped injury and assisted the passengers in getting out of the bus. Two other passengers Mrs Richie and Mrs Shaw visitors to Clevedon were taken back to their residence suffering from shock. An A.A. patrol J Warry rendered first aid until the arrival of Dr R Jackson, West Town Backwell and the St John Ambulance Brigade.

So ends the article but it is interesting to note that the adjacent column covers the demise of the tram routes on the Centre - Durdham Down and Centre - Filton routes.

The Baves of Barrow Court, Tickenham

by David Chappell

Samuel Bauf was born in Cologne in 1588. He went to Paris where he qualified as a Bachelor of Medicine. While there he had become known to the English ambassador, Sir Thomas Edmunds, and he came to England with Thomas's young son, Henry Edmunds. Both Bave, as he had now become, and young Edmunds (who was only 15 - *modern whiz kids please note*) matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford on 16th December 1620.

Samuel Bave now not only acted as tutor to Edmunds, but also qualified as a doctor of physic in 1628. He became a naturalised citizen the next year and was thus able to practice in England; and indeed did so, firstly in Gloucester and then in Bath until his death in 1688.

While in Gloucester he met and married Hester Robinson daughter of a Gloucester lawyer and alderman. They had eight children of whom Anthony is of most local interest. While by his father's will Anthony inherited the first advowsons of Chalcombe and Swainswicke (together with two feather beds - not uncommon and, as others also got two feather beds, this seemed the norm for the family), more importantly he also inherited the manor of Barrow Court, which his father had bought in 1656 but apparently did not live in.

Anthony (also an Oxford graduate) was Vicar of Tickenham for a period from 1666, after which when he moved on to Twerton. He and his wife had one child Samuel, who was born in 1672 the year before his father's death.

This Samuel - (I for necessary convenience) by his first wife Rebekah had one child, Dr Anthony Bave, who died in 1737 aged 39 and without children. By his second wife, Elizabeth, he

had only a daughter. She was known as Maria and married Reuben Hollyman. By his third wife, Elizabeth Webb, he had a son Samuel (III). But Samuel III at the age of 15 died of smallpox in 1735 and is buried under a prominent slate stone in what is often called the Bave Chapel in Tickenham Church.

Thus after the death two years later of Dr Anthony Bave in 1737 it was obvious that this Bave line was ended. This may have prompted Samuel III's now widowed "inconsolable and affectionate mother" (as is recorded on it) to have erected to his memory -with space for others - the monument in the church known as The Bave Memorial. This is the only monument of its type or age in the church and was made by a Bristol architect Michael Sidnell, and probably dates from around 1740.

Recent years have not been kind to the monument. Eventually, in 1986, the Wells Conservation Centre reported:-

"The state of the monument is perilous - some elements have already been removed or fallen off.

Some of the iron cramps have disintegrated with rust which has also stained the marble. There are signs of movement within the elements (*when eventually dismantled the jig saw consisted of 54 pieces and was not and is not complete*). Further there is evidence of thinner sections of marble being distorted due to the action of water soluble salts" (*there being no equivalent to a modern damp course*).

It was hardly surprising then that the archdeacon readily gave authority for the monument to be taken down.

The estimate for its restoration was well over £2000 and the small parish having already paid to have the monument made safe was distressed to find that in spite of a plea by "Moorman" of the Mercury (it was the last piece he wrote) the public was not

interested. The parish therefore had to lower its sights and the St Andrew's Trust paid for it to be repaired which, while not being the same thing, was a generous and saving gesture.

Meanwhile there was an interesting hiccup in that when the monument was taken down the original Elizabethan plaster, over which it had been mounted and, as part of "Victorian" improvements, had been removed from the rest of the church was now revealed as being in a pretty parlous state. There were however a few isolated letters in black Gothic script probably part of the Magnificat which is commonly found in lady chapels which, of course, this was. It was this connection which moved the ladies of Tickenham to find the VAT to match the Trust grant.

That plasterwork was secured and the monument re-erected in midsummer 1991 but not before it had been subjected to an unnecessary trip to Wells (due to a communication failure) in the back of an open truck in the rain which further damaged the inscription. The detail can fortunately still be read - but awaits restoration. Altogether a rather sad tale and one that is perhaps not yet ended.

Sources

Poynton: The Baves of Bath and Barrow Court 1895

Byrchmore: Parochial History of Tickenham

A Wraxall Curse

by Phyllis Horman

Until a few years ago a piece of hedge a few feet long stood in the "wheat field" opposite the building which was the boys' school. This hedge was supposed to represent the bottom of the garden of a cottage which stood a little further up. The story was told that a Rector wanted an old lady out of the cottage so that it could be pulled down. Before she went she put a curse on the hedge saying that it would stand for ever to remind people that her cottage had once stood there.

The hedge remained despite various attempts to clear it and it is only in the last few years that one assumes that the curse wore off and the hedge succumbed.

We do not know when the cottage was destroyed, maybe it was at the time of enclosure or when the woods were planted both events occurred about the time of Waterloo 1815.