

AROUND KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD PAST AND PRESENT



THE JOURNAL OF THE KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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Journal Edited & Produced by Brian Vowles.

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Cover illustration;

Employees outside Fast Colour Eyelet Hole Co, c-1900

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KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD

PAST & PRESENT

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is pleasing to be able to look back on a year that has seen the Society run a full programme of activities, after the restrictions and disruption of the pandemic. Our meetings have been consistently well-attended, although we have not advertised them publicly.

Besides running activities for our members, the Society has an important role in promoting awareness of our local history. In the last year we have worked to support the publicly funded Keynsham High Street cultural programme, which has delivered some valuable results. Most obvious is the publication last autumn of the Discovery Trail guide around the central area; we played a major part in devising this and contributed to the descriptive text.

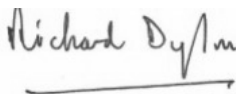
Some of the Heritage Week events had to be cancelled due to the death of the late Queen but the Open Doors scheme, run in Keynsham for the first time, succeeded in raising the profile of several of our historic sites: residents of Albert Mill put on a marvellous display, with an enthusiastic response from the many visitors, while the Keynsham Abbey Working Group also opened their site. Local history references have been incorporated into the new “parklets” on Temple Street and we are involved in this autumn’s temporary museum showing artefacts from the brass industry and Keynsham Abbey. So, there is quite a lot happening regarding our local history; the challenge will be to continue this after the cultural programme comes to an end. Meanwhile, this issue of our journal contains articles on a variety of topics, ranging in time from the Roman remains at Keynsham Cemetery through our connections with

the Armada of Elizabethan times, to accounts of some Victorian and twentieth century businesses on Keynsham High Street - the later ones of which a few members might remember.

We also include obituaries for Hilary Smedley and Joan Ellison, who died in the last year. Hilary was a long-standing member of our committee and her enthusiasm and commitment to the history of Saltford in particular were remarkable. Joan was always an active member and played a big part in contributing articles and photographs for our book Keynsham & Saltford 1945-2020.

There is one more important matter to mention. This issue of our journal will be the last one produced and edited by Brian Vowles. Brian has been doing this role since 2010, with some involvement before then. In fact, he has been much more than editor, researching and writing a substantial proportion of the content, especially in recent years. I have never needed to give any thought to this aspect of our activities, knowing that it has been in reliable and capable hands. We are very grateful to Brian for his commitment and all the work that he has put in to producing the high quality, varied and readable publication that we have become used to.

We have a full programme of talks lined up for the new year; I hope you enjoy this issue of our journal and our forthcoming talks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Dyson". Below the signature is a horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Richard Dyson, Chairman

The Three Horse Shoes Beer House and the History of the Temple Street Canteen. By Sue Tatford Archivist Keynsham & Salford Local History Society



The area that was to become the Three Horse Shoes shown on the 1841 Tithe Map

The Three Horse Shoes Beer House was situated at No.20 Temple Street, although the number was not to be assigned for many years; however there has been a property there since at least 1809

In 1841 when the Tithe Map survey was done there were buildings on the site but they were not described as a beer house. Josiah Hawkins owned and occupied the house and garden numbered 425 and 429. He also owned the houses numbered 424, 426, 427 and 432 and gardens numbered 428, 430 and 431. Chas Ford owned and occupied the house and garden numbered 433 and 434. This is important as they are mentioned in a later Indenture that refers back to an *“Indenture of the 10th day of January 1842 made between Josias Hawkins of the first part Charles Ford of the second part and George Pamplin of the third part and that such indenture shall be acceptable as sufficient evidence of the Title of the Vendor to the Premises”*. The Electoral Register for Keynsham in 1852 lists Josiah Hawkins owning freehold houses.

The Slater’s Directory of 1852-3 lists the property as a beer house with Robert Brownett as a beer retailer. The 1854 Bath Directory also lists him as a publican. The 1861 census has Robert age 46, born in Cirencester, as a beer retailer with his wife Mary, née Turner, age 52, but he is listed as being in High Street (further investigation shows that Temple Street is not named at all in the 1861 census as it was regarded as an extension of the High Street).

On August 22nd 1862 the Three Horse Shoes was put up for sale. *“Old established and well accustomed Licensed Beerhouse at Keynsham Somerset. Mr John Naish will Sell by Auction, (by order of the Mortgagee), at the Lamb and Lark Inn*

at Keynsham, on Friday 22nd August instant, at 6 o'clock pm. All that Messuage at Keynsham, now and for many years past in the occupation of Mr Brownett, as an annual Tenant and Licensed Retailer of Beer. The property will be sold for the remainder of a term of 1000 years, created by Indenture of demise and mortgage of the 5th August 1809." Robert Brownett purchased the property for himself for £240, paying £24 as a deposit and he signed with his mark.

The 1863 Electoral Register records "*Robert Brownett, The Three Horse Shoes, freehold house.*" Mary Brownett's death is recorded in the September quarter and by the December quarter of 1864 Robert had remarried to Elizabeth Meling in Bristol. On 25th January 1869 an indenture of mortgage was made between Robert Brownett of the first part, Godfrey Burrell and Alexander Hinton of the second part and Edward Grubb of the third part, when Edward Grubb lent Robert £200 with interest.

The 1871 census lists two families at the Three Horse Shoes. Firstly, there is Robert Brownett now aged 56, beer house keeper with his wife Elizabeth, aged 55, born in Bristol and secondly there is James W Wise aged 35, boot and shoe maker from Saltford with his wife, Ellen née Dunning, who is a shopkeeper and a nine-year-old son, Edwin.

In October 1874 Robert sold the property to Francis Berryman, Frederick Berryman and Charles Richard Burnell, all of Charlton in the parish of Shepton Mallet, trading as F Berryman & Co for the sum of £342 15s 11d., were described as "Common Brewers". This brewery had been established in 1844 by Francis Berryman, who, with his partner, managed Bide & Berryman. In 1866 Charles Richard Burnell replaced William

Bide. From 1884 the company was known as Berryman, Burnell & Co. It was incorporated in 1886 but the name was changed to Charlton Brewery Co. Ltd in May 1904. In this deal the £200 plus interest of £8 3s 9d was paid to Edward Grubb to clear the mortgage and the remaining £134 12s 2d was paid to Robert Brownett. The agreement was signed by Francis and Frederick Berryman and Charles Burnell, but Robert again signed with his mark. The property is described as “*All that messuage or tenement now used as a Beer House called the Three Horse Shoes Inn with the stables, outbuildings, cellars, yards and garden.*”

Robert continued to run the inn until 1877 when in February the licence was transferred to Washington Harry. There followed a turbulent few years with a quick succession of licensees. The Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser of Wednesday 11th June 1879 related that at the Petty Sessions held on the previous Friday “*George Naish, of the Three Horse Shoes, Keynsham, was summoned at the instance of Sergt. Drewett for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 12th May*”. That case was dismissed but his troubles were not over. The Bristol Mercury of Saturday 28th June 1879 reported that three men from Bristol “*had been charged with assaulting David George Na(i)sh, of the Three Horse Shoes, Keynsham*”.

He does not appear to have lasted long as on Thursday 22 April 1880 the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette reported “*Extraordinary Charge Against a Keynsham Innkeeper. – On Saturday a special session was held at Keynsham, before Mr Harford Lyne, to hear a charge which had been preferred against Francis Edmund Perrin, landlord of the Three Horse*

Shoes, Keynsham, for having violently assaulted and stolen, from the person of James Daniels, 12s 6d in money, a handkerchief, and pipe, on Wednesday". Francis was committed for trial. *"Bail was accepted – the prisoner in £50, and 2 sureties in £20 each"* but The Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser of August 4 1880 reported that Francis was acquitted.

In 1881 three workers at the brass mills gave the Three Horse Shoes as their addresses.

By the 1881 census Oswald Clarke, age 40, born in Dursley, with his wife Sarah, age 37, was the beer house keeper. James W Wise and his family are also there. Oswald Clarke appears in both the 1882 and 1884 Electoral Registers as being at the Three Horse Shoes. However, on 13 August 1883 the Western Daily Press reported the following ...

"Oswald Clarke of the Three Horse Shoes, Keynsham, was summoned by Mary Ann Price, a married woman, for unlawfully assaulting and beating her on the 18th July last. From the evidence for the prosecution, it appeared that on the day in question the defendant was haymaking for Farmer Gifford in a field close to Thompson's Cottages (now Park Cottages), in one of which the prosecutrix lives, and who was at the time of the assault with another woman picking currants in the garden. The defendant got over the wall with a jug of beer or cider and asked the prosecutrix to drink, and on her refusing, he caught hold of her and tried to force it in her mouth, and this treatment he repeated 3 times, remarking that she should have it outside or in. Prosecutrix, however, got away from the defendant and went into her house and the defendant eventually left the garden. Two witnesses were called for the defence, who denied

that any assault was committed. The bench, however, fined the defendant £1.”

Oswald was in trouble again the following year when, on July 21st 1884, the Western Daily Press, reporting on Keynsham Petty Sessions, recorded the following... *“Oswald Clarke, landlord of the Three Horse Shoes, Keynsham, was summoned for keeping open his house for the consumption of liquors during prohibited hours. PC Denning said that on entering the house at 5 o’clock on the evening of Sunday 6th July he found two women, residing at Chewton Keynsham, on the premises drinking beer. He was fined 10s and 11s costs and to have his license endorsed.”* As a result of this the Western Daily Press of 11th August 1884 reported from the Keynsham Petty Sessions that the License of the Three Horse Shoes was transferred from Oswald Clarke to James W Wise. On 30th August 1884 the Bristol Mercury printed the following. *“License transfer. In the case of Oswald Clarke, of the Three Horse Shoes, Keynsham, the licensee did not appear to apply for the renewal of the license. Mr James William Wise asked that it might be renewed to him. Granted temporary authority until 28th September, then to make a fresh application”.* Before this could happen, Oswald was in trouble once more. He, along with Henry Ashcroft, George Ford and Edward Neal, all of Keynsham, *“were brought upon remand charged under the Game Laws with having on Sunday morning, the 14th inst at 2am, unlawfully taken rabbits on a close of land at Stantonbury.”* All of them were sentenced to 2 months hard labour. On 27th September 1884 the license of the Three Horse Shoes was transferred from Oswald Clarke to James W Wise.

The 1885 Kelly’s Directory lists John Summers as the beer retailer but by 1889 the local directories list Charles Shipp

as the beer retailer. The 1891 census again records two families at the Three Horse Shoes. Charles Shipp is described as aged 36, born Oldland Common, and a boiler riveter. With him is his wife Keziah née Ruddle, age 36, born Keynsham and their five children. James W Wise and his family are also still there. The Western Daily Press of 16th May 1891, reporting the Petty Session from Friday, recorded that Charles Shipp was summoned for being drunk on licensed premises for which he was fined 10s plus £1. 3s. costs.



Temple Street in 1908. The Three Horseshoes is on the left.

In 1889 a devastating fire broke out in a shop next to the inn which threatened to destroy the whole rank of houses. Mr

Charles Ship, who after having completely cleared out his inn of all movable goods and chattels, very kindly supplied beer to the men fighting the fire at the Three Horse Shoes

By 1894 Kelly's Directory records Robert Trubody, Charles's brother-in-law, as a beer retailer. He had been a publican in Temple Street, at the Three Horse Shoes since at least 7th July 1891 when his daughter Lily was admitted to Keynsham Parochial Primary School for Girls. Robert had married Ann Shipp, Charles's sister, in Bristol, in 1874. In May of 1897 Berryman, Burnell and Company Limited bought a piece of land at the rear of the Three Horse Shoes Inn from Abraham Fry which gave them access to Rock Road from the rear of the Inn.

The 1901 J Wright Directory lists Robert Trubody as a beer retailer at the Three Horse Shoes. The 1901 census records Robert and his family in Temple Street. His occupation is given as steam boiler maker. Again, James W Wise and his family are there as well, or next door. His occupation is given as boot maker. By then Charles Shipp and his family have moved to Barry in South Wales and he has returned to his occupation of boiler maker.

James W Wise died in Keynsham on May 6th 1904. Three years later his wife Ellen died in Keynsham in 1907 age 79 and in the same year Charles Shipp died on 24th September 1907 in Glamorgan, Wales.

For a few years after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the section of Temple Street between Rock Road and Carpenter's Lane was called Victoria Street. The 1902 Kelly's Directory lists Robert Trubody as a beer retailer at the Three

Horse Shoes, Victoria Street and in 1903 Minnie Rose Trubody, Robert's daughter, married George Anthony Pearsall.

In 1904 Berryman, Burnell & Co Ltd, who still owned the property, changed their name to Charlton Brewery Co. Ltd.

In November 1901 Keynsham Parish Council decided that Rock Road should be "made up". The Rural District Council decided that all properties with a frontage on Rock Road had to share the cost. A letter from Keynsham Rural District Council was sent to the Charlton Brewery Co. The Rural Sanitary Authority required the owners to pay a share of the £663 0s 4d that it had cost *"to sewer, level, pave, metal flag, channel and make good, and to provide proper means of lighting the said street."*



The Three Horse Shoes is still there in the 1940's and 1950's.

The apportioned amount required from the Charlton Brewery was £4. 13s. 5d. The money was not immediately forthcoming and the following letter was sent. *“Keynsham Rural District Council. Rock Road. Apportionment Expenses. Keynsham. 28th June 1905. Dear Sir, In the event of the sum apportioned upon you not being paid within the next week or two, proceedings will be taken for its recovery. By signing and returning to me the enclosed form of agreement by July 8th your attendance at Court will be dispensed with. Payment of the sum apportioned with interest at 5% from the 14th April last, before the 8th July will save you the costs of the proceeding. Yours faithfully. Chas Martin. Collector of Expenses.”*



A few years later the Three Horse Shoes had become an Off License called Arthur Cooper, Wine Merchants.

By the 1910 Kelly's Directory Robert Trubody was the beer retailer of the Three Horse Shoes, now once again in Temple Street. The 1911 census has Robert, age 65, beer retailer, and his wife Annie, age 60, and two of his unmarried children, living in the Three Horse Shoes.



Temple Street looking south with the Three Horse Shoes on the right-hand side in the distance. Date unknown.

His is the only family recorded as living there. The Directories up to and including 1923 all cite Robert Trubody in the Three Horse Shoes Inn, Temple Street. Robert died on 17th February 1927 aged 81, at the Three Horse Shoes in Keynsham. Probate was granted to William Ernest Trubody, grocer, and Robert Trubody, wine and spirit merchant. His effects were valued at £233. 3s. 6d. His wife Ann had died in 1918, in Keynsham, age 67.

On June 2nd 1921 the Western Daily Press reported *“Lurched in front of car. Keynsham man run over. Mr A E Barker yesterday held an inquiry touching the death of Walter Godfrey (33), of High Street, Keynsham, a shop assistant employed at Messrs Ferris, who at the time of his death was staying at the Three Horse Shoes, High Street, Keynsham, the residence of his father-in-law. Evidence of identification was given by Robert Trubody, Temple Street, Keynsham. The deceased told the witness that he remembered nothing of the accident. He died in the Royal Infirmary from a rupture of the internal organs and haemorrhage. A verdict of accidental death was returned.”* Walter had married Lillie Rose Trubody in 1919, in Bristol.

The 1927 Kelly’s Directory lists George Anthony Pearsall as the beer retailer at 20 Temple Street. He was also a son-in-law of Robert Trubody as he had married Minnie Rose Trubody in 1903. He continued to be listed in Directories up to and including 1939 when the 1939 Register records him at the Three Horse Shoes, 20 Temple Street, as a master joiner and licensed victualler. George died in 1949.

In 1937 the Charlton Brewery Ltd was acquired by Bristol United Brewers and in 1956 Bristol United Brewers was itself acquired by Bristol Brewery Georges & Co Ltd.

They in turn were acquired by Courage, Barclay & Simonds in 1961. In October 1974 the District Council of Wansdyke bought the land *“at the rear of the Three Horse Shoes Off Licence, Temple Street having a frontage to Rock Road and having an area of approximately 33.88 square metres. The Council require the said property for the purposes of providing a rear access road under the Housing Act 1957 and*

have agreed with the Vendor (Courage Ltd) for the sale of the said property thereof to them at the price of £1.”



The Temple Canteen,

In 1989 the Off License was then Peter Dominic, Wine Merchant. The premises is currently owned by a private landlord and various businesses have traded from there over the years. For a period of time Dianna Fox Interiors traded from there but more recently Gamescene was there.

In 2017 it became a café called the Temple Street Canteen.

Keynsham Cemetery and the Roman Remains

by Brian Vowles.

By the second half of the 19th century the population of Keynsham had grown substantially and with it the number of departed souls that were needed to be buried in the church yard of St John the Baptist, the parish church.

Faced with running out of space and being unable to extend the burial ground further, the Vicar at the time, the Rev. Joseph Gray, was forced to look for a solution to the problem.

But this gave rise to much controversy in the town.

On Monday 6 November 1876 the Keynsham Burial Board published a report to the parishioners on the subject of the proposed site for a fresh burial ground- That report, after describing the various steps taken since the previous March when the question was first raised, called attention to the report of Messrs Sturge that the land in Charlton Lane, which was accepted, was capable of being easily and effectively drained without any detriment to the parish.

However, it had been urged by those who were opposed to the site selected, that the land could not be effectively drained, and even if it could, it would materially affect the water supply of the town. The report concluded with the approval of the whole of the board, (with the exception of a Mr B. B. Cox), of the site selected. Others sites were offered to the board but they decided that not a single one of them would be more suitable for the parish than the one selected.

A week later on the morning of 13 November, a meeting of the ratepayers and inhabitants of Keynsham was held in the church vestry and called *"for the purpose of sanctioning the site selected and approved by the burial board for the establishment of a cemetery, and to authorise the expenditure of such sums or as was declared by the board to be necessary for providing and laying out the burial ground, and building, if necessary, mortuary chapel or chapels therein"*

But it was not the rubber stamping that was planned. After much animated discussion, it was decided to adjourn the proceedings until the evening. At the evening meeting with Sir G. S. Tricks in the chair, Mr Oxford defended at some length the site selected, and moved a resolution approving of it, which Sir Thomas Bead, another member the board, seconded. But Sir J. E. Clifton, Sir T. B. Cox, and Sir G.S. Tricks spoke against the motion, which was then rejected by a large majority. A poll of the parish was demanded, and fixed to take place on the following Wednesday from ten till three and from five till seven, the result to be declared on Thursday morning, at ten o'clock in the Drill Hall. On 16 November 1876 the result of the Poll was declared. The amendment that *"the Vestry declines to sanction the purchase of the site selected by the Burial Board for the establishment"* was carried by a majority of 241 votes.

So, a new site had to be found and after some further investigation an area a quarter of a mile away from the town centre beside the raised embankment of the road that crossed the Hams to Bristol was found to be suitable. On 23 February 1877 at a Vestry meeting chaired by Gray it was resolved ... *"that two and a half acres of Mr Comer's land at Durley Hill be purchased at £350 an acre"* which amounted to £875 in total,

and on 24 March 1877 the board advertised for architects and surveyors to submit plans for the building of a mortuary chapel and the laying out of the burial ground.

The building at the centre of the cemetery was designed by Edward Boston and construction was soon started by a local man Henry Sheppard. But the Somerset County Gazette reported on Saturday 16 June 1877 that the progress of Keynsham cemetery was again at a standstill, the contract being broken by the refusal of the tenant of the adjoining land to allow Mr. Sheppard's men to proceed with their work, alleging that they were encroaching on his premises.

It appears that the sum set aside for the project was not nearly enough as the Vestry decided on 3rd August... *“unanimously to sanction the borrowing by the Keynsham Burial Board of £2000 for providing forming and laying out the Keynsham Cemetery and for building a chapel or chapels thereon, such sum with interest to be charged upon and to be repayable out of the future poor rate. It was resolved to sanction the sale by the Board of any land purchased for the cemetery which may not be required.”*

Eventually work was finished in time for it to be consecrated in April 1878 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells and following the ceremony the burial board retired to the Lamb and Lark for a celebratory meal

A full description of the Mortuary Chapel was given in the Western Daily Press on Friday 22 March 1878... *“The mortuary chapels are approached by winding roadway, and are designed so that carriages may stop under a large covered asphalted archway, the Episcopal and Dissenting chapels being*

on either side. Above the archway, in the roof, is a bell-tower, 20 feet in height, The character of the building is Early English transitional. It is built of Hanham stone, with Bath stone dressings; the roofs are covered with red- and dun-coloured plain tiles, the bell-tower having ornamented cut ones; lobbies and hearths are paved w.th encaustic tiles; the internal walls are plastered and distempered three tints, the dados and skirtings being formed by cement sunk mouldings. Stained glass ornaments the windows, the four principal ones having angels the centre portion of tracery. The chimney-pieces are of Caen stone, with octagonal shafts terminating with carved pinnacles, the heads being filled in with carved spandrels and pateras”.

However, in 1885 it was found necessary to commission repairs to the building from another local builder Edward Harvey.

Even as the work commenced it was noted that tesserae were turning up in the excavations and a continuous complaint from the grave diggers was of meeting obstacles under the soil which made their work so much harder. On 15 April 1922 it was reported...*"In digging a grave in the new part of the cemetery a digger came across a tessellated pavement, in good condition, and it is estimated that it must have been laid some 2,000 years ago. The squares, which could be easily distinguished, were bordered by a blue stone, and the stones, having been preserved, will doubt be of interest to many antiquarians. Some old bones were also found in the vicinity of the pavement. This is not the first discovery made in the cemetery, in an adjoining grave the remains of an old Roman wall were discovered.*

During the early 1920's, as more remains and mosaic floors were being cut through by graves, Keynsham Parish

Council decided to permit two antiquaries, Dr. Arthur Bulleid and Dom. Ethelbert Horne, members of the Society of Antiquaries of London, to investigate between 1922 and 1924 and record what they found

The Western Daily Press reported on Monday 28 July 1924...

“ROMANS At KEYNSHAM. FRESH DISCOVERIES OF VILLA FLOORS. Beautiful Tessellations Unearthed. Several weeks ago, we announced that the work of excavation in search of additional Roman remains in Keynsham was to •he continued. It will be remembered by those who took interest in local archaeology that important portions of a Roman villa were found in the cemetery belonging to the township, and that the discoveries, as so far as they were uncovered, bore evidence that they were part of a rather extensive establishment, the continuations which were to found certain directions. Unfortunately, some of the indicated portions extend into ground of the Cemetery that cannot touched now account of the interments that have taken place.

One extension, however, was under the main road (from Bristol to Keynsham and into a field on the other side of it. Those immediately interested took the necessary steps to resume the investigations, which included /permission from the occupier of the field, was readily given - of course, upon /very natural conditions, one which was that the grass should cut and the hay carried before excavations were commenced. About fortnight ago, Dr. Bulleid (of Glastonbury) and the Rev. Father Horne (Downside) were able to get •to work, and their labours have been rewarded by the discoveries anticipated. The roadway has

been raised in the course of the many centuries that have elapsed since the Roman occupation, partly by natural and partly by artificial agencies, so that close up to the bank, on the field side of the hedge, it was necessary to cut through quite ten or a dozen feet of earth, the face of which shows considerable mixture. Even where the work was conducted on the ordinary level of the field, much as three or four feet of earth had to dug through before anything was found. In their task, Dr Bulleid and Father Home have had the willing and even enthusiastic assistance of Mr A. Harvey, retired postman well known and respected in Keynsham who has all throughout taken keen interest in the progress the excavations. With him were Mr G. Mannings and Mr T. Harvey, both of whom share their leaders' interest in the work. So far, only a comparatively small portion has been unearthed. It takes the form of the floor of one of the main halls or rooms of villa, laid with very beautiful tessellated work.

The lay-out indicates a large pattern. with stellated



panels. Each panel has a -rather oblong with tympanum on the central end, and borders or framework to both. So far, three of these panels have been uncovered. Of one. the pattern nebulous, owing to the disappearance

of such large quantity of the tesserae. The other two, however, bear very well-defined; pictures. On one, the picture is of man (wearing what looks like Roman soldier's helmet) playing pair pipes. Before him ere two women, one dancing, and the other (who may be a dancer also), with a tambourine. The tympanum of this panel is indistinct. The third panel is in very much better state of preservation, and showed some extremely beautiful work. bears the picture of horse lying down. One woman is sitting on it, and another woman is holding a basket out for the horse to feed from it. The features of the second woman are not visible, as the mosaic has been damaged, but those of the woman sitting on the horse are quite plain and regular. The tympanum the top this panel bears the picture of a large bird.

The discovery has attracted considerable interest in the neighbourhood. Apart from the pleasure felt by the members of the Somersetshire Arch geological Society. remains show that there is still much more of importance to be found. This, however, will entail a great deal of work, and also more money. The finds referred to above should serve as an incentive, those who are able respond-to the appeal for subscriptions that Dr Bulleid and Father Home have issued.”

But now they were revealed what was to be done with the discoveries? Disagreements broke out between the Keynsham Ratepayers' Progress Association and the Parish Council who had had discussions with the owners of the newly arrived Fry's chocolate factory, who were eager to curry favour with the town, as to the destination of the artefacts found.

The Western Daily Press on Friday 1 August 1924 reported that a public meeting of the Keynsham Ratepayers'

Progress Association was held in the Drill Hall at Keynsham, attended by about 20 ratepayers,

PARISH OF KEYNSHAM

NOTICE OF PARISH MEETING.

The following request has been addressed to the Parish Council:

COPY.

" TO THE KEYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL."
" WE THE UNDERSIGNED PAROCHIAL ELECTORS HEREBY REQUEST YOU FORTH-"
" WITH TO CONVENE A PARISH MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSACTING THE "
" FOLLOWING BUSINESS:-
" (A) The custody of the Roman Remains found in the Parish and the manner in which Members of "
" the Public shall have access thereto.
" Dated 18th December, 1924."

NAME.	ADDRESS."
(Signed) " GEORGE W. DAMPNEY,	14, Chewton Road, Keynsham."
(do.) " T. S. BRAITHWAITE,	Durley Hill House."
(do.) " W. R. HILL,	Chariton Park."
(do.) " ALBERT G. MURPHY,	25, Charlton Road."
(do.) " G. F. CARTER,	19, Pitts Villa."
(do.) " A. CREASE,	17, Bath Hill West."

In Response to the above Requisition—

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT A

PARISH MEETING

for the above-named Parish, will be held at the

Parochial Schools

on

TUESDAY, 20th January, 1925

at 8 o'clock in the evening, for the following purpose:

The custody of the Roman Remains found in the Parish and the manner in which members of the Public shall have access thereto.

Dated this 5th day of January, 1925. **GEORGE E. CHAPPELL,**
CHAIRMAN OF THE KEYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

Mr W Hill called attention to the decision of the Parish Council to hand over the remains fund at the cemetery to a private firm and stated that he was astonished by such decision. He considered that the valuable relics found at Keynsham had a historic interest, and should be carefully preserved by the parish as parish property, and not entrusted "*to any private individual*" and it was decided to obtain the opinion of some competent authority as to the right the Parish Council had to hand over property in the way suggested by them.

Following this dispute, at a Parish meeting which took place on 20 January 1925 some resentment was shown by the committee at the Ratepayers' attitude and it was stated that the likely recipients were to be the newly arrived firm of Fry's - but concern was raised as to the ability of the firm to display the remains so as the public would have easy access within all reasonable time, say from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. However, it appears that when their entrance lodge was constructed Fry's only displayed those artifacts unearthed when excavating the foundations of their new factory in their museum.

When Bulleid and Horne published their report in 1926, what they revealed proved to be one of the most spectacular Roman buildings to have been discovered in Britain. The building was ranged around the largest court of any rural Roman building in the country and was embellished with exotically designed rooms at either end of its main west wing, still to this day unmatched by any other known Romano-British site.

After much discussion, at a council meeting on 9 March 1928, it was agreed "*that the site of the Roman Villa should be filled in, but the stone of the walls should be taken out to facilitate the digging of graves, particularly as the stone would*

be valuable for boundary walls.” It appears that there was a rather different attitude to archaeology in times gone by!

As to the mosaics, sadly little was to be done with them after they had been lifted as, unlike many other small towns, Keynsham had no museum of its own and is unlikely to get one. For many years, the mosaics and other artifacts remained in storage in the basement of the old council offices.

Subsequently several of the panels that were recovered from the elaborate south-west corner of the cemetery were embedded under glass in the new Keynsham Library.



The mosaics displayed under glass in the Keynsham Library

The Hicklings, Ironmongers of Keynsham by Sue Tatford,
Archivist of the Keynsham & Salford Local History Society

Hickling's was a veritable Aladdin's cave. This wonderful old hardware store, pictured here after 1906, stocked everything from nuts and bolts to paraffin and the owner used as much of the outside space as possible to display his wares



Hickling's shop formed an important part of the High Street scene

Robert Drew Hickling took over the shop after his friend John Henry Down died suddenly in 1906 but before starting on his own account he had been employed by Messrs Gardiner, Sons & Co, Nelson St, Bristol. In Kelly's Directory of 1906 Robert D Hickling is described as an ironmonger in the High St of Keynsham. There are similar entries in directories up to and including 1931. By 1935 the entry states Hickling & Sons,

ironmonger, 40 High St. telephone number 13. However, Robert retired in 1936 and the business was then carried on by his two sons, Robert Smart Hickling and John Stanley Hickling.



Hickling's shop in the 1930s

Unfortunately, Robert and John had a brush with the law in 1937 relating to the sale of ammunition which was reported in the June 26th edition of the Western Daily Press.

An advertisement in The Bath Chronicle in 1946 reveal that the business had expanded. “Hickling & Sons, 40 High St, Keynsham. Telephone 3213. General & Furnishing Ironmongers etc. Plumbers, Electrical & Hot Water Engineers. Glass, Oils, Paints, Colours, Brushes, Flower Pots, Wire Netting & Garden Tools.”



Hickling's wares on display.

In 1947 in the Bath Chronical the following advertisement appeared.” Hickling & Sons, 40 High St, Keynsham, wish to extend the Season's Greetings to their

Customers & trust that they may continue to enjoy their patronage throughout the coming year.

The death of Robert Drew Hickling was announced in a newspaper article in the Bristol Evening Post dated 23 December 1939. *“Keynsham Trader’s death. Death of Mr Robert Drew Hickling. The death has occurred of Mr Robert Drew Hickling, who 33 years ago established in Keynsham the ironmongery business from which he retired 3 years ago, and which is now carried on by his 2 sons. He was within a few days of his 78th birthday. Before he started his own account Mr Hickling was employed by Messrs Gardiner, Sons & Co, Nelson St. He was a churchman & a member of Keynsham Urban District Council.”*

GLASS	HICKLING and SONS	
OILS, PAINTS		
COLOURS	40, HIGH STREET, KEYNSHAM	
BRUSHES		
FLOWER POTS	Telephone	No. 3213
WIRE NETTING	Telegrams	
AND	General and Furnishing Ironmongers, etc.	
GARDEN TOOLS	Plumbers, Electrical and Hot Water Engineers.	

Hickling’s advertisement

Some of you may remember this shop and may even have been a customer. There was much redevelopment of Keynsham High St in the 1960’s. and it was at this time that the shop was closed and subsequently demolished and replaced by “modern developments”. It was sadly missed.

Keynsham & the Spanish Armada By Sue Tatford Archivist
Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society

Keynsham may not have had a direct involvement in the Spanish Armada, but, along with the rest of the country, was involved in the preparations for a possible war and invasion. The information gathered during the preparations gives a glimpse of life and inhabitants during the middle of the 16th century. The threat of an invasion of England by Spain became a very real threat after the death of Henry VIII in 1547 and continued for 40 years until the defeat of the Armada in 1588.

On reports that the King of Spain was making preparations for an invasion, action was taken to put the country on guard. Musters were taken in all 40 historical Hundreds or administration units in Somerset as well as the rest of the country. Each Hundred had a “fyrd”, which acted as a local defence force. Every gentleman had to declare how many household servants and tenants he had ready to serve and how many of these were horsemen or footman. This created the first record of the regiment of the Somerset Militia.

A return for September 1559 showed Commissioners, able men and Captains in their respective hundreds. (The qualification for a Captain was the same as for a JP). The Commissioner for the Keynsham Hundred was the Muster Master for the County and no details of able men and Captains are shown. This perhaps indicates no local gentry in the Hundred of the necessary standing to undertake the organisation of a small force of men. The Hundred of Keynsham consisted of the ancient parishes of Brislington, Burnett, Chelwood, Compton Dando, Farmborough, Keynsham, Marksbury,

Nempnett Thrubwell, Pensford, Priston, Publow, Queen Charlton, Saltford, Stanton Drew, Stanton Prior and Whitchurch.

In 1560 special orders were issued for training of local musters, particularly arquebusiers & bowmen & for the breeding of horses – so many mares to every park & common, & each village with a common to have 1 stallion.

Any master who allowed his servant, or father who allowed his son under 17 to take a bow & 2 arrows for the space of a month, to forfeit from 1s 8d to 3s 4d. Any man over 17 & under 59, able to shoot, who lacked a bow & 4 arrows for a month, to forfeit from 6d to 5s 4d. The arquebusiers were to meet for exercises twice a month. It was reckoned that storing & providing equipment and ammunition would cost about 3s 8d per man. Contributions were asked from the inhabitants, especially those who had parks, warrens, dove houses or used hawking, “all of which will be better preserved if the use of the arquebus be adopted”.

“Games likely to distract from training were prohibited especially cards, dice, ninepins & tennes, & anyone playing bowls outside his own garden mulcted [fined] 3s 4d. Even with contributions & fines, the muster & training were costing Somerset nearly £400. 80 of our men were chosen – the arms being made up presumably under Arthur Hopton. Horsemen were the shortage.”

In March 1569 the justices for Somerset returned the number of parks in the county, the respective size of each and the number of mares kept therein. There is nothing mentioned

for Keynsham, which shows that the old park of the Abbots of the Abbey had not been kept up by the Bridges family. Indications show them as being absentee landlords at this date. In 1580 a return shows Keynsham as follows...

“Hundred of Caynesham

Ablemen 240

Corslets – furnished with pikes, swords and daggers 16

Harquebuses - with murrions, sword and dagger 36

Bows - with sheafs of arrows, swords and daggers 15

Bills – with almayne rivets, swords and daggers 5

Demi lance – 0

Light horse – 5”

By September 1583 the deputy lieutenants of the county viewed the demi-lances and light horsemen and certified: -

“The Hundred of Keinsham

Anthonie Skute esquire one light horseman named Walter Dikes sufficiently furnished according to the directions.

John Howarde and Widowe Howarde given to November 1st next sufficiently to furnish one light horseman as aforesaid.

Pollydore Vaughan esquire one light horseman named John Parsons sufficiently furnished as aforesaid.

Willon Richmond and his fellowes one light horseman named John Evans sufficiently furnished as aforesaid.

Elizabeth Flower widowe and William Butt one light horseman named Willon Kynnisone sufficiently furnished as aforesaid.”

In March 1584 came a certificate of hundreds “wherein men resided” for the defence of the sea coast.

Keynsham 16 Shott: 14 Bowes: 10 Bills: 20 Corsletts. The officers were Captain Giles Goodridge and Lieut Alexander Choke, gent.

In Bath Forum *Capt. Henry Bridges Esq and Lieut. Andrew Colthurst, gent. (*Henry Bridges had by then purchased the Keynsham Abbey site shortly before his death in 1587).

March 28 1584 – 3000 men for Somerset, sorted & furnished for the defence of the sea coast. The shott needed more training – “a halberd to be set up, every shot was then to pass it in what the French called “a la file” but in England was termed “in rank as wild geese” ... first learning to handle their weapons so “to avoid endangering themselves & their fellows”.

By March 1586 a return of lances and light horse shows:

Hundred of Keynsham

Anthonye Skutte esq – 1 light horseman

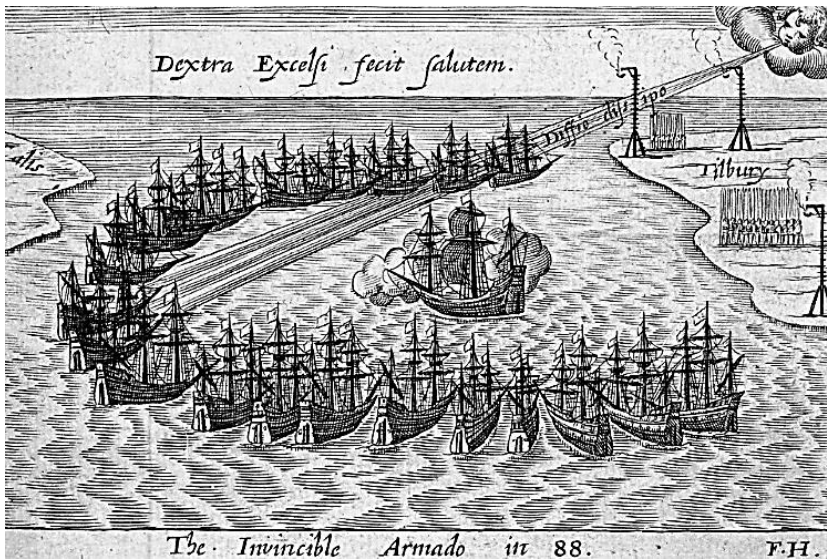
Henry Bridges esq – 1 light horseman *

Pollidor Vaughan gent – 1 light horseman

John Holbache gent – 1 light horseman

In the summer of 1588, the Spanish Armada set sail for England and was famously defeated without landing any troops and fortunately these men were not required.

Some of the above information was sourced from “Preparations in Somerset Against the Spanish Armada” – E. Green 1888 (Wells Library).



A Tragedy at Ellsbridge House by Brian Vowles

Half hidden amongst the trees on the Bath Road stands Ellsbridge House. Its origins are early 18th century, extended about 1830 with some minor 20th century additions and made of finely-dressed ashlar with slate roofs. In recent times it was used as a school, a further education college extension and is now a nursery; but in 1881 it was owned by a 69-year-old William James Whittuck, a former captain of the 82nd Regiment of Foot, whose fifth son Lieutenant Frank Whittuck had served in the Indian Army.

At the time, a second war had raged in Afghanistan and his son Frank had been one of the casualties



The Graphic newspaper announced on Saturday 11 December 1880 ...

“The late Lieut. Frank Whittuck, of the 1st Bombay Grenadiers, was the youngest son of W. F. Whittuck, Esq. late Captain 82nd Regiment, of Ellsbridge House, Keynsham, Somerset. He passed out of Sandhurst at the close of 1876, and was appointed early in the following year to the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment as a probationer for the Staff Corps.

After serving in India with the 12th and 20th Native Regiments, he was finally attached to the Bombay Grenadiers when roadmaking in the Bolan Pass, and was with the regiment at Maiwand, and during the disastrous retreat under Brigadier-

General Burrowes, being one among the twelve officers who reached Candahar in safety on the memorable 28th of July. The fatigue and privations then endured, together with the additional duties imposed upon the garrison during the siege of Candahar, proved too severe a trial of his strength, and brought on an attack of dysentery, of which he died on September 6th at the early age of twenty-four. Frank Whittuck, whilst in the service, was devoted to his military duties, and a great favourite with his brother officers and friends, besides being fondly loved by his family”.

But following his death, the Aberdeen Evening Express reported an appalling sequel six months later on Thursday 30 June 1881...

“EXTRAORDINARY CREMATION. Dr Biggs, Deputy-Coroner for Somersetshire, held inquest yesterday afternoon at Ellsbridge, Long Reach, Keynsham. on the body of Captain William James Whittick, formerly of the 82d Foot Regiment' the owner of the mansion, the charred remains of the unfortunate gentleman having been discovered on the previous evening the top of a burning pile of faggots at the back of the mansion. Evidence was given by Joseph Wiltshire, a man-servant; Mr Frederick Whittick, and Captain Whittick, late of the 16th Regiment; and Sergeant Drewett, of the Somerset constabulary. The deceased, who was 70 years of age, had been in a depressed state ever since hearing of the death of his son with the army in Candahar.

During the last fortnight, owing to this depression of mind increasing, Captain Whittick, jun., had resided at Ellsbridge, but he was temporarily absent on Tuesday evening,

when the man-servant Wiltshire, who was working in the grounds, found a stack of faggots, 20 feet long and several feet high, suddenly blazing fiercely. He saw the body of his master amidst the flames. The whole stack was ablaze, and the deceased was lying on his back on the top of a lower portion of the stack, about 3 feet from the ground, and the head was towards the centre of the stack. He could not reach the body owing to the fierceness the flames and the blinding smoke. Lying on the grass a little way off were the deceased's coat and shoes.

He summoned Mr Fred. Whittick and the neighbours, and after pouring water on the burning pile, the body was recovered, but it was quite incinerated. A shed adjoining was burned down, and the flames scorched the topmost branches of a tree fifty feet high. No one had seen the deceased go to the stack. It was suggested that he had fallen on to the stack, but the coroner thought this hardly possible. The coroner said the evidence pointed strongly to suicide; and, referring to a rumour, he asked if any vessel which had probably contained paraffin oil had been found near the stack, and the witnesses replied that there were several old cans there, but the servants had missed no paraffin or benzoline from the house, and the vessels in which these were usually kept were still in the house. Ultimately the jury returned an open verdict, that the deceased was found dead on a burning pile of faggots”.

The story was repeated in the Times of India three weeks later on Friday 22 July 1881 and the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette announced on Thursday 15 September 1881...

“To be Let, Furnished, ELLSBRIDGE HOUSE, Keynsham, Somersetshire, midway between Bath and Bristol, about one mile from the Parish Church, and within easy distance of the

Great Western and Midland Stations at Keynsham and Saltford. The House, which stands in its own grounds of three acres, comprises on the Ground floor—Entrance-hall, drawing, dining, breakfast, and small room adjoining, leading into the larder, china pantry, larder, coal cellar, kitchen, scullery, front and back staircases. Also, good dry wine and beer cellars, with small dairy adjoining.

On the First-floor, six bedrooms, two dressing-rooms, bathroom, morning-room, and w.c. Upper landing, three large rooms, store room, and lumber-room

There is a commodious lodge at the entrance gate, and in the rear of the house are coach-houses with harness-room stabling for four houses, with stalls convertible into loose' boxes, piggeries, Sic. Attached to the premises is a spacious walled kitchen garden, with two outhouses and a large vinery, all in excellent order. More land can be obtained if required. For further particulars and cards to View, apply to the Agents, Smith Bro3. and Co., 18, Old Bond Street, Bath”.



Ellsbridge House, now a nursery

There is a commodious lodge at the entrance gate, and in the rear of the house are coach-houses with harness-room stabling for four houses, with stalls convertible into loose' boxes, piggeries, Sic. Attached to the premises is a spacious walled kitchen garden, with two outhouses and a large vinery, all in excellent order. More land can be obtained if required. For further particulars and cards to View, apply to the Agents, Smith Bro3. and Co., 18, Old Bond Street, Bath”.

PS. In 1889 the Wells Journal announced a death on Thursday 8th August... *On the 30th ult., at Keynsham, Somerset, Frances Matilda, widow of William James Whittuck, Esq., of Ellsbridge House*

The Old Eyelet Factory by Brian Vowles

The Halifax Building Society's branch in Keynsham High Street has had a chequered history.

Many years ago, it was just a cottage owned by a basket weaver William Malpas and his land was bought by indenture for the Wesleyan Chapel for the price of £45.00 on 1 November 1804

“. . . all that parcel of ground now made use of as a garden containing by estimation 8 perches situate in the parish of Keynsham bound on the East by the lane now called Back Lane, on the West by the Turnpike road, on the North by a messuage or dwelling house & premises belonging to & in the occupation of William Malpas & Mary his wife [vendors] & on the South by a dwelling house & premises in the occupation of Mary Dolman, widow and othersto have & enjoy the said plot piece or parcel of ground & buildings to be erected thereon in order that they may therein preach & expound God's holy word & perform all other acts of religious worship, provided that the person so appointed preach no other doctrines than are contained in Mr Wesley's notes.

The Methodists converted it into a chapel and the building was registered with the Bishop of Bath & Wells as a place of worship for Protestant Dissenters on 3rd Oct 1807. They used it for many years as such until 1887 when they constructed a new larger building on the corner of Danes Lane (Charlton Road) on the site of an old inn called the Angel.

But in 1843 they had decided to create a Sunday schoolroom. Due to the lack of space this necessitated extending over the footpath (known as Back Lane) but unfortunately things did not go to plan. In their words...

“last year (1843) the friends of the poor at that place thought it desirable to erect a school-room for the sabbath-day school children, they having previously, been taught in the chapel, which was found to be inconvenient. Permission was asked of the steward of the Duke of Buckingham to have a bearing on the boundary wall of his grace's estate; he did not object, but suggested that it would not be safe unless legally conveyed, the expense of which would be from £20. to £30.

That estate included the park, part of the old Abbey grounds that his ancestors had been granted. It was proposed to build a wall by the top side of it. When he remarked, that should the footpath be ever stopped, the chapel's half of it would belong to the duke; but as this was impossible, they thought themselves quite secure. A subscription raised the cash, the building completed and opened. But then amidst the celebrations a notice was served on the trustees of the chapel, by the Duke of Buckingham commanding them instantly to pull down the school-room, and although they felt assured the duke had not the least claim to the foot-path in question, they thought it advisable to send a memorial, which they did as follows...

To his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, in the matter of the Wesleyan schoolroom at Keynsham. " We, the undersigned rate-payers of the parish of Keynsham, beg permission most respectfully to represent to your grace that the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Keynsham, being desirous to provide additional accommodation for the Sunday-school in connexion with that chapel, by the erection of a school-room behind the chapel, and not having land sufficient of their own without building over a certain footpath or way which passes between the land belonging to the said trustees, and a certain field or park belonging to your grace, the said trustees,

on the 2nd day of August, 1843, obtained the sanction of a vestry-meeting of the parish, legally summoned for the purpose, after due notice given, to the building the said school-room over the said footpath or way. That, on obtaining such permission of the vestry, the trustees proceeded to raise subscription for the erection of the proposed school-room, and being encouraged thereto by public support, they have completed the building, which has been opened and is now used as a Sunday-school, in which there are as many as 140 children every Sabbath day receiving instruction imparted to them by gratuitous teachers. That the conditions upon which the vestry-meeting gave their sanction to the erection have been faithfully complied with: in particular, we beg to assure your grace that there is no encroachment upon the property of your grace, or of any proprietor of property adjoining-that there is no obstruction to the footpath, and that the boundary-wall of your grace's property remains uninjured, but rather strengthened by the wall which supports the school-room being built by the side of it. That these is not the remotest probability of the said foot-path or way being ever closed, even if the school-room had not been erected, inasmuch as it is the only way to one tenement beyond the school-room, and there is also an entrance to the chapel premises from the said footpath way. Your memorialists having heard that legal proceedings are about to be commenced against the trustees of the said chapel premises on behalf of your grace, are induced to make the above statement of facts, being unwilling to believe that your grace would knowingly or willingly sanction any interference with an object so benevolent as that which the trustees of the chapel have performed, and performed, as your memoirists believe, without interfering with the legal rights of your grace, Or of any other person. Your memorialists humbly request that your grace will see cause,

upon further inquiry, to direct the threatened legal proceedings against the trustees to be stayed. " Signed by the principal Rate-payers and Gentlemen of the parish. - Keynsham, March, 13th 1844.'

A letter was received in answer from the duke stating that he had referred the matter to his attorney (who was also his steward) who would probably communicate with them, which he did by ordering them instantly to remove the building and pay costs, amounting to £15 as the only means of staying the proceedings. Such was the deference shown to the aristocracy at the time, the trustees, fearing to defend the suit against so great a personage as the Duke of Buckingham, had the schoolroom removed, paid the law expenses, and 140 children were thus deprived of a room in which to assemble for the purpose of moral and religious instruction. The money of the poor inhabitants of Keynsham had been uselessly expended and there was little prospect of their obtaining another school-room.

After the chapel transferred to its new premises, on 17th November 1887, a letter dated 12th June 1888 was received from James Morris of the Avonside Shoe Factory, St Philips, offering the sum of £350 for the old chapel and on 2nd October 1888 the premises were conveyed to 'James Morris of Keynsham, Wholesale Boot Manufacturer'. Some of the now forgotten skills he advertised for were for "*good Clickers on Split & Kip work, rough stuff cutters, by power, outdoor & indoor makers on nailed work, and improvers to the clicking, on split work*".

It was probably after it became a factory that the gabled storey was added – research suggests the early 1890s.



Here we see the faces of some younger members of the early labour force which includes two ladies. The railings were removed as part of the Second World War effort but the wall survived well into the 1950s

The Morris family continued to manufacture boots and shoes although by 1899 the factory had changed its name to “*the Keynsham Celluloid Eyelet Factory*” when the manager Mr C Morris invited all the employees and their friends to a social gathering at the works. The workforce consisted of some 20 men & boys. Unfortunately, production came to an end when in 1910 tariffs were introduced that affected the chief material used in the manufacture of the eyelets, namely the sheets of celluloid, with the result that an unforeseen increase in price took place, and the export trade, which was then a major part of the factory’s output, was ruined. The tariff also affected the price of

the machinery, the metal dies etc that were used in the manufacturing process

In a letter to Mr King the Liberal MP from George Morris, Park House, Keynsham on 12th December 1910 he asked... *“Sir, I had hoped to attend Mr King’s meeting to be held in Keynsham’s Drill Hall on Monday evening and, re the closing of the eyelet factory, will he kindly explain how the tradespeople and the employees (some of the latter being thrown into the great band of the unemployed) benefit from the fact that about £5,000 a year in wages has been removed from the village through Free Trade? I have heard that the factory has been removed to London. . . The London factory was running at the same time as the Keynsham factory, and for some years, night and day, manufacturing for European countries, as well as for the home market.... the company removed the whole factory, and ran the risk of the building remaining empty, it being their freehold property. . . the factory would still have been running here if it had not been for the so-called Free Trade policy of the Government”*.

The demise of the shoe making firm lead to the building lying vacant until 1914 when the Kelly’s Directory of Somerset recorded that Kena Limited, spring manufacturers, were operating in the High Street. Their products included wire springs and even chest expanders. But it seems that the site remained largely unused during WW1 although it was said that metal uniform buttons and badges had been made there at some time.

On 24th January 1917 the Keynsham Guardians of the workhouse debated the vexed problem of accommodation for

German prisoners of war and a suggestion that they could be housed in the workhouse. Instead...

“The clerk said there was no accommodation for such prisoners in the Keynsham workhouse at present, and no means of providing it without considerable cost, for the house was practically full, and the prisoners would certainly need considerable amount of care and control...Mr Newman did not think, such prisoners should be mixed with the inmates in the workhouses, and he felt the Government should find accommodation for them, as they did at present. But the Clerk remarked that there was an empty building in Keynsham which was formerly used as eyelet factory. Mr Pearce: We don't want German prisoners in the High Street. (Laughter.)”



The High Street in the 1920s. The Throsper Factory is on the right

In 1917 the German submarines were sinking so many ships that food supplies had become desperately low and by 1918 the building had become empty. Mrs Bonville Fox, the widow of the owner of the Brislington Asylum (now Long Fox Manor apartments) and who was very active in Keynsham's affairs, attended a meeting on behalf of the Food Control Committee to urge the need for applying the National Kitchens scheme locally and establishing a kitchen at Keynsham in response to the food shortages. Her suggestion was that the now empty Eyelet Factory on the High Street should be utilised for the purpose, and that in the summer the kitchen could be used for jam making and preserving vegetables for the winter. But that proposal was rejected and on 9th March 1918 the Western Daily Press announced... *“Mr Albert Ford has received instructions to offer for sale by Auction, at the Wingrove Hotel, Keynsham, on Wednesday March 20th 1918 at 7 o'clock in the Evening, Lot 5. The Valuable & Extensive Freehold **Factory** Premises, situate in High St, in the centre of Keynsham & comprising a 4-storey Building having a Total Floor Space of about 1,000 square yards. Fitted with Hoist, Electric Light throughout, & heated with 4-inch pipes. There is also an iron spiral Staircase for Fire Escape, together with the Range of well-built Workshops at the rear. This Lot, which is Freehold & Free from Ground rent, is eminently suitable for Factory or Manufacturing purposes & is within 5 minutes of the railway station.”* (The spiral cast iron staircase was still in existence until quite recently)

On 22nd March 1919 the South Gloucestershire Gazette reported that... *“The large factory in the High St has commenced to start business. It is called “The Throsper Factories”, and we hope will prove “The Prosperous Factories”.”* In 1921 Wrights

Bristol Directory recorded “Throssell Perry & Co. ladies’ clothiers. 53 High St” although in 1923 Kelly’s Directory of Somerset gave Tyler, W & Son, brush manufacturer, High St at the premises.

The Western Daily Press on Thursday 20th November 1924 reported at a meeting of the Keynsham Ratepayers Association a suggestion was made, with reference to the bequest of the late Mr J. N. Fear, that they purchase the premises in the High Street lately occupied by the Throspen Factory to create an institute for the people of Keynsham (although it was not until 1937 that it was eventually built on the opposite side of the High Street, now the Fear Hall).

Obviously, they thought better of it as the 1931 Kelly’s Directory of Somerset maintained that Tyler, W & Son, brush manufacturer was still there. It then appears to have become vacant by 1935 and on 9th July 1940 the Western Daily Press advertised...*“To Let or sale. Three -Storey Factory (nominal rent). Approximately Floor Space: 36ft x 75ft. 53 High St, Keynsham. Apply to 50 High St, Keynsham”*.

The 1939 Kelly’s Directory of Somerset included – *“Strudwick Ivan, wireless engineer. 24 High St. established 1929”* but at some point, he moved his business into the old Eyelet factory where he sold a range of up-to-date radio sets and gramophones. With the arrival of television, he displayed the appliances in his window and it was there, sitting on the wall in front of the shop, that I watched the silent flickering black and white images of the Coronation in 1953. The business closed in 1983 and was refurbished and converted into the offices of the Halifax Building Society

Hilary Carole Smedley 1935 - 2022

Too late to be included in the previous journal, on 3 September 2022 we had to say goodbye to another long serving member of the society, Hilary Smedley. She was born on 11 December 1935 at Ashley Down Road, Bristol but moved to Harcourt Road, Redland when she was an infant and later educated at Clifton High School for Girls.

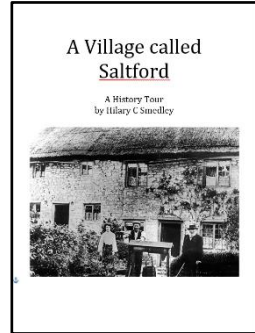


She grew up in wartime and was influenced by the poverty and hardship she saw in the city. She wanted to be a doctor but due to pressure on places (and men getting preference) she was offered dentistry instead, which she enjoyed immensely; but to do that she had to obtain her O levels and A levels in science subjects at night school as they were not taught at her school.

She studied Dentistry at Bristol University, where she met her husband, Fred and together they bought a dental practice in Keynsham in Charlton Park in the 1960s (1968?) and worked there until they retired.

Hilary had three daughters and she led a very full life, being involved and often leading as Parish Councillor, and in Church groups, and the Saltford Walkers.

In 2012 she wrote a booklet on the history of Saltford and was instrumental in leading a number of well-attended walks in the village.



She had many other hobbies and served for many years as a member of the K&S Local History Society Committee in the role of secretary and supporting its various activities. A celebration of her life was held at St John the Baptist Church on 15 April 2023

Joan Ellison 1936 - 2022

Sadly, October 2022 saw the death of another long serving member of our society Joan Ellison aged 86.



Joan was a contributor to our publication "Keynsham & Saltford 1945 – 2020" and along with her husband Fred accompanied us on many of our summer visits to historic sites. She was one of three original teachers at Wellsway School when it opened in 1956 and taught PE and games until she left to have her family. She returned in 1973 when by then it had become a comprehensive school, becoming the Head of Special Needs department. She retired in 2001 but continued for some time as a supply teacher. Her funeral was held at St John the Baptist Church on 15th November 2022.