

AROUND KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD PAST AND PRESENT



The Journal of the
Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society
Series 2. No. 9. 2009

AROUND
KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
PAST & PRESENT

Contents

A Rose by any other name.....	Page 1
The Bells, the Bells!.....	Page 3
Burnett.....	Page 5
Down the drain.....	Page 12
Inns & Alehouses.....	Page 21
A Tribute to Gordon Tarrant.....	Page 36

Editor; Barbara Lowe.
Journal Production by Brian Vowles.

Published by the
Keynsham & Salford Local History
Society

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME.....

K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M

Yes, I know; Horace Batchelor, Radio Luxemburg and football pools! But what was the origin of the name of our town and how should we pronounce it?

Recently, my train timetable expired, so I had to telephone National Rail Enquiries to check my train times. To my surprise I was offered the choice of joining a seemingly static queue to speak to a possibly incoherent person or the new “voice responsive” system. Curious, I opted for the “voice responsive” choice. The automated voice was beautifully clear with perfect diction. Voice [V]; “*Which station are you travelling from?*” [Me]; “*Kayn-sham.*” [V]; “*Yes, Keens-ham, Avon.*” Torn between indignation at the “Avon” and laughter at the memory of the “tow-may-tow / toe-mar-toe” song, I persevered and obtained the information I wanted (more or less).

The pronunciation and origin of our town`s name has been a favourite subject for discussion and conjecture by many generations. A Bristol newspaper of 1907 ran a correspondence for several weeks about how Keynsham should be pronounced.

Here are some of the suggestions and comments;-

Cain Shum; Cains Ham; Keen`s Ham; Keyns-Ham; [definitely not Keyn Sham, that is an ignorant mispronunciation]; St. Keyne or St Kayna never lived here; King`s Ham not Keyne`s Ham; Kingesham; locals say Kayne Shum, only strangers say Kayne Sham.

Origin.

The earliest written form of the name was Caegwine`s hamme in 871 A.D.

In 10th century, it was written Caegaineshamme, so could have become Cahinesham, or Colgrinnes ham (dwelling of Colgrinn) or Cayin sham. Maybe Kayn'ham; Cain's ham; Canes Ham.

In 1086 it was written Cainness Am.

In 1150, as Kineverdesham (shortened from the Scandinavian Kinewardes Ham).

In 1250 as Canesham.

Could it be from a Latin surname?
DeKaineto alias Carneto (the house of the Keynes); or perhaps from Caen whence the Conqueror came.

Or from St. Keyna. Devon and Cornwall were at one time called West Wales and the inhabitants called Di Cain-eta.

Or could it be Kingesham or King's ham [King's Village]
Consider Bladud who tended swine on the Hams near the Church before he went to Bath via Swinford. He was some sort of King or Royal person, so why not King's Ham after Bladud and his pigs!

If you look closely at the earliest form, Caegwine's hamme, it could become Caeg's swine's ham!

The various spellings of the town's name over the later centuries are of no real help. Shall we ever know? All suggestions gratefully received!

Barbara Lowe.

THE BELLS, THE BELLS!

I was delighted to read, in the March issue of “Contact” that the Ellacombe Chimes are again in full working order and ready for use. George Colbourne describes them as “a system of ropes, pulleys and hammers that operate on the eight bells independently of the clock-chiming hammers” [See “Contact” p.14].

When I came to Keynsham in 1955, I enjoyed hearing familiar tunes emanating from the Church tower whilst I was waiting for buses. I thought the chimes came at 9am, noon and 4pm, but my memory may have played me false. I do not remember when the chimes ceased, but I missed them. Enquiries to some local residents produced blank faces and I began to wonder if I had dreamt the whole thing.

As I understand, in 1937, the clock quarters and hours were struck on bells and there was a hand chiming apparatus. In addition, there was a set of hand bells and a drum-chiming apparatus which was probably coeval with the clock (1729). In 1937, this had been recently reconditioned, so that at 9am, 1pm and 5pm was played the old 113th 888.888. D Kirचनाumpt Strasburg 1535 (A&M 171, orig.ed. 193).

It is sad that our church bells are heard so little these days. Their melodic sound is far preferable to the constant roar of lorries, motor bikes and cars which drowns out all else.

In medieval days and later, bells were essential to daily life, marking important times of the day. The Abbey Church had 7 bells, the Parish Church 6. The former were used mainly to call the Canons to prayer although hand bells were usually used during the hours of darkness. The Parish Church bells rang, not only for services for the local population, the breakfast bell on Sunday, and the curfew, but to mark special Saints` Days, events and important visitors. For

example, in 1687, when the King came to Keynsham and again when he was crowned. On 13th August 1751, bells rang out to greet Lady Caroline Bridges. In 1791, bells rang for the Fair and on 24th August for the Visitation and Fair.

The passing bell was tolled for funerals, a single bell for a male, a pause and then one toll for each year of his life; two tolls for a female, a pause, then her age in tolls. Tolls were in sets of 20. The last person known to have had the Passing Bell was Dick Harris of the Forester's Arms in 1930, but he may not have had his full age in tolls because the Vicar in 1918 decided not to allow the bells to be rung for as long as in the past.

In the late 19th century there were complaints about too much bell-ringing and the unruly behaviour of the ringers, so the Vicar imposed restrictions.

Some bells, like the Pancake and 'Tatie' Bells, may have originated in medieval days; the former to mark the onset of Lent [Shrove Tuesday] and the latter to record the end of Mass on Sundays and Feast Days and to remind servants to start cooking the lunch.

When did these quaint customs die out? Dr Harrison obviously enjoyed the bells because he paid a guinea to have the Pancake bell rung.

I look forward to hearing the Ellacombe Chimes again soon.

Barbara Lowe.

BURNETT

Burnett, midway between Keynsham and Marksbury, consists of a small group of houses with a farm or two beside a diminutive church. It lies in a slight hollow just to the west of the B3116. Today, it is regarded as too small to be administered alone but years ago it was independent, a tiny community in a tiny parish, with its lower fields bordering the River Chew.

Historians say the name comes from the folk who burned a clearing in the shrub and wood and built their settlement there many hundreds of years ago. If you look at Burnett from the Compton Dando side of the river you can picture how this came about, for it nestles high among the hills lining the Chew Valley with grey stone buildings peeping out from among the green trees.

A 5th century stone coffin was found when the whole of the B3116 between Keynsham and Marksbury was widened and straightened in 1924. The coffin contained the skeleton of a Roman female together with iron nails from footwear she was wearing when interred. It was taken to Bristol City Museum. In a field to the south of the road and between the hamlet of Burnett and the village of Marksbury, lie the remains of a Roman Villa. Overlooking the river down in the Chew Valley, the builder chose a delightful spot. Several small chambers were excavated in the early years of the 19th century and parts of a tessellated pavement removed. Unfortunately all this happened before a really scientific method of archaeological excavation had evolved and so very little was recorded.

Other archaeological fragments were found near the crossroads, including a Saxon gold pendant and some beads which are in Bristol City Museum. Since then other relics have been recovered. All these finds significantly point to the highway being a very long established route, one which has been trodden by folk for countless ages. The earliest written record comes from Saxon times

when the road was called Smale Weg or narrow way. In 1084, when Burnett and its lands belonged to William the Conqueror, they were assessed at a valuation of £4.

Two years later, in the Domesday Book, the population was shown as 36 and even in 1987, there were still fewer than 40 villagers.

The church has been important in the history of the village. About 1050, the village and church were given to Edith, sister of King Harold, on her marriage to Edward the Confessor. After her death, the land reverted to the King. In 1087, the Hundred of Keynsham, including Burnett, was given to the Earl Robert of Gloucester, a good and great son of the King, albeit illegitimate. Robert, in 1102, gave Burnett and its 661 acres to Tewkesbury Abbey who retained it until the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII.

The first recorded rector of St. Michael's Church was Hugh FitzEde in 1191. Another, rector, John Hoper, in 1377, received a stipend of one shilling (5p) per annum. At this time the church was even smaller than it is today, just what is now the altar and choir area. In 1427, an extension was built to form the present day nave. An oak plaque, recording the names of all past Rectors, was presented to the church in 1997 by descendants of John and Elsie Owen, who lived in the village for many years.

In 1990, the church was surveyed and was found to need walls repaired and slates replaced as well as treatment for woodworm. A substantial legacy by Victoria Gorman in 1992 enabled the worn, worm-ridden Victorian pews to be renovated and redecorated. A commemoration ceremony took place in November 1992 when a 1662 large-print Book of Common Prayer for the Altar was presented by Clarice and Jack Sandow in memory of their daughter.

The organ had been restored in 1959 and an electric blower installed but by 1997 total restoration was needed. As part of this, it was retuned to a lower key. Jack Sandow retired as organist in May 1999 after 30 years dedicated service to the village church. In January 2002, after a tour of America with a male voice choir, he made a welcome return to play for a service.

A fig tree over 100 years old was causing potential danger to the church porch and had to be felled in May 2001. Another fig tree was planted in a more suitable area.

There is always sadness when a well-loved priest leaves and a large congregation attended the last service by Rev Nick Gane in this lovely little church in April 2002.

A Churchwarden for four and a half years, dedicated church worker and artist, Michael Hutchings, retired in September 2004 and was presented with artist's materials and vouchers. When he died, his Memorial service was held in the little church.

In June 2005, after 22 years of dedicated service to St. Michael's Church, Churchwarden Patrick Stevens retired. He masterminded many fund-raising projects including opening his lovely garden to the public annually.

Of the five listed buildings in the parish, three are situated in the churchyard – the church itself and two tombs which stand by its door. As well as regular services, some special ones are held, such as that on Sunday 10th February 2002 when the 50-year reign of our Queen was commemorated. Harvest Festival is especially important as is the Christmas Carol Service. One special event is the annual Rogation walk around the parish. In olden times the Rogation Services were used to pray for the preservation of crops, animals and people against pestilence and plague. In May 1989, the Rogation included a visit to the old village pump to bless the water, the

beautiful Brooklands garden at the home of Mr and Mrs Stevens to pray for the produce and flowers. Then to Mr Stratton's farmyard to bless animals and at the gate of a cornfield to pray for a rich harvest of wheat.

By March 2001, the village pump had become overgrown with weeds some six feet high. Burnett residents gathered to clean it up as part of a belated community millennium project in the village and not only revealed the pump on a high flagstone platform with well-worn stone steps leading up to it, but also a beautiful stream winding in and round past the pump platform to disappear under the village road and on down the fields beyond. Local farmer, the late Alfie Paget, who was born and bred in the village could remember when the pump and stream, fed from a spring in the high ground about 1 mile away across the fields, were the only sources of water supply for the whole village. Villagers used to come down to the pump or a tank near a stable, into which water had been hydraulically pumped from the stream down the fields. The old steam engines, which drove the threshing machines and horse-drawn carts, used to back up to the stone platform to take on water from the village pump.

Following the religious upheavals of the 16th century, Burnett came into the hands of a wealthy Bristol trader and financier, John Cutte. He renovated the church and presented it with a silver chalice that is still used on special occasions but, of course, is no longer kept in the church. John Cutte died in 1575 and a plaque erected in St. Michael's Church. Known as the Cutte Brass, it depicts John, his wife and 12 children, 8 sons and 4 daughters, all named. John Cutte, sometime a Mayor of Bristol, was also an Alderman. He chose Burnett as his second home in the country. Sadly, he died of the plague in 1575, and although his Will directed he be buried elsewhere, it was in Burnett church that his remains were interred. This pre-supposes he died in Burnett as it would have been too risky to move him where he wished.

Eventually the manor of Burnett was reserved to John Whitson, one of the outstanding figures in Bristol history in early 17th century. He was a native of Clearwell in the parish of Newland in the Forest of Dean. He attended Bell's Grammar School at Newland and was better educated and more widely read than many of his contemporaries. Born in 1557, he came to Bristol and in September 1570, was apprenticed to Nicholas Cutt and his wife, Bridget. In 1581, Nicholas Cutt died, leaving his estate to his widow, who subsequently married John Whitson in April 1585. John had become a Freeman of the city a month before. Upon his death in 1628 he left many charitable bequests, one of which was an annuity to the City of Bristol upon the manor of Burnett to provide a dwelling house for forty poor, female orphans to be clothed in red cloth and taught to read and sew and do other laudable work towards their keep. In accordance with his wishes there was then founded in 1634 the well known Red Maids School which continues to play an important educational role in Bristol.

For centuries, pupils paid regular visits to Burnett for a service and tea on the manor lawns. This ceased in 1959 but the century old musical tradition was revived with annual concerts in 1995. In 1998, twenty-five singers with their conductor and organist Stephen Browne and accompanist Catherine Woodman sang a medley of songs in a variety of styles. They also kept up the other part of the tradition, being treated to supper at the Manor house by its then owner Mrs Christine Gorman.

Collinson, writing in 1791, speaks of the manor house as "a neat and very pleasant dwelling house, adjoining the church, built in late years near the site of the old court house of the Cuttes." The earlier house was an L-shaped gabled structure, with north and west wings, stone mullioned and transomed windows. The greater part of the north wing is incorporated into the present building and the line of its earlier gables may be traced on the north wall, looking from the churchyard. This wing dates from late 16th or early 17th century and

may be on earlier foundations. The demolished west wing stood entirely away from the present building but parts of its cellars remain under the drive. A new west front was built with Georgian sash windows and a two-storeyed porch was added a century later. It is a Grade II listed building.

An excellent description of the house was published in the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society in July 1938.

Burnett has always been small. Population-wise, the hamlet was at its highest in 1840`s and 50`s, echoing the pattern of most other villages in the vicinity before the drift away from the land became particularly marked.

A small Wesleyan chapel was erected in 1869 to the south of Burnett alongside the main road. By the 1970`s the building was very decayed but since then it has been converted to a very attractive small dwelling house.

The Paget family have lived in Burnett for many generations. Over 200 years ago, Miss Elizabeth Paget of Brislington was granted a lease for a dwelling house and land on her own life and those of two others, one being her brother, Benjamin, a felt hat maker in Shropshire. The Pagets were tenant farmers but Mr John Paget bought Elm Farm in 1983. The name of the farm derived from an ancient elm of immense girth, said to have measured 25 feet in circumference. In 1991 John took part in a three year scheme to protect the countryside. He planted five groups of trees, including a new cider orchard. In addition he created a grazing area, free of chemicals, at Lye Hill, to encourage wild flowers but not provide such good grazing.

John and his wife, Philippa, try to make their land more accessible to nature and encourage school visits and projects on the

farm. In 2002, pupils from Saltford Primary School went on a fact-finding walk and pond-dipping expedition to the farm. Their trip was made possible by Farmlink, a project organised by Bath & N.E. Somerset Environmental Services, green organisation Envolve, the Mendip Hills warden service and local farms. At Elm Farm there are colonies of bats such as long-eared Pipistrelle and Natterers. Again, in 2005, 35 new nesting boxes for native birds were set up. Blue tits, tree sparrows and barn owls are encouraged to nest and breed there.

In 2006, Elm Farm joined a pioneering scheme to bring the classroom into the countryside and is a certified CEVAS centre [Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme]. Mrs Paget is an accredited teacher under the scheme. Pupils are taken on tours around the farm, covering topics from biodiversity to bats and cider making. The courses are for groups of up to 35 pupils from primary school to A-level. Subjects such as land use, woodland, grass, orchard, arable, farm environment and conservation are taught.

The village retains its charm and character in spite of being so close to the B3119 which has become a motorists' "rat run" since a section of the Bristol Ring Road opened at Hick's Gate.

Barbara Lowe.

References.

Archives of K&S LHS and information gathered by successive Archivists.

Articles in the late Keynsham Weekly Chronicle.

DOWN THE DRAIN.

Although the excavation of the site of Keynsham Abbey has revealed evidence of substantial medieval and 16th century drains, the first written references occur at the end of 1765 when the Keynsham 'gouts' were repaired and covers fitted. (Strictly, a gout is an arched covering of a water course but, locally, a gout seems to refer to an open drainage channel.)

In 1766 a new road (where?) with covered gouts was under construction. Stoney Lane (a continuation of Workhouse Lane to Chewton Keynsham) had been badly damaged in a land flood of 1768 and James Brown opened a new watercourse. The town gout was covered with flagstones. (It would be good to know the exact location of these.)

No relevant records appear to have survived for the next 100 or so years, but, by 1863, the open drains were regularly cleaned out and the one on the East side of Danes Lane (Charlton Road) from the main street was covered over. There were occasional complaints about blocked sewers.

An Act of 1866 compelled local authorities to provide Sanitary Inspectors, and further legislation in 1871 concerned water, drainage, pollution, nuisances, food inspection, burials and suppression of causes of disease.

In July 1871, at the General Vestry Meeting, suggestions were made that measures be taken to improve drainage in Keynsham Parish and to levy a 2d in the £ rate for this. Eighty cast-iron ejects in the public opening were covered with lifting wrought-iron grating (where?).

In 1877, a report on the town drainage, with reference to the Pollution Act, was read to the General Vestry but, being Keynsham, no action was deemed necessary.

The County Council Act of 1888 ended the old system of government by J.P.'s It created administrative counties from the ancient counties and set up properly elected councils in those areas. In Keynsham's case, Somerset County Council became responsible for the main roads and was able to use discretion whether or not to subsidise the repairs of secondary ones. The General Vestry retained some jurisdiction over local expenditure (until 1894).

The Sanitary Authority, on 20th December 1889, was considering the provision of a system of drainage for the town of Keynsham but they wished a public opinion poll for it. It was agreed that the sewers laid down some 15years previously, were satisfactory



Fig. 1. - The old Post Office later Mills & Mills Chemists

`as far as they went` and if the Sanitary Authority was to compel households to make proper drains with ejects into the several houses, under supervision of a competent Sanitary Officer, and would attend to the outfall from the main sewer, the Parish would require no further drainage at that time. The matter did not rest there, however, and rumbled on for another two years.

There had been several cases of illness at the Union Workhouse (later Keynsham Hospital) in 1890, caused by defective drainage, but the Vestry, meeting in February 1892, maintained that these cases were independent of the main drainage system, which was sound and should not be interfered with. The Vestry protested strongly against any system of drainage being desired or carried out without the public poll. So the matter rumbled on for yet another year.

In 1894, Keynsham Urban District Council was established to govern Saltford, Newton St Loe, Kelston, Stanton Prior, Marksbury, Burnett, Whitchurch and part of Brislington. Keynsham and Saltford each had their own Parish Council which assumed responsibility for many local services including water supply, drainage and sewerage.

Mr Ollis was the Sanitary Inspector and in 1895, he had the town well (in the forecourt just north of old Mills and Mills, Fig 1) opened and the water sampled. He reported that the cost of repairing the pump and cleaning the well would cost about £10. So the matter was passed back for the U.D.C. to cope with.

On this Council's recommendation, on 19th May 1895, it was agreed to buy a water cart for street watering after 9am daily. (When I came here in 1955, the pavements were washed every morning at about 7am. Why not now?)



Fig.2. - The former Liberal Club on Bath Hill

The following year, drainage was on the agenda again, the parish protests being over-ridden by the local Government Board and the U.D.C. who insisted that a drainage scheme was imperative and that land should be compulsorily acquired for sewerage disposal. A parochial committee was set up and, eventually, on 26th October 1897, Horseham site (in Keynsham Hams between the railway line and River Avon) was chosen for the proper treatment of sewerage. Six months later, the public drain from the Liberal Club (on Bath Hill above the school. Fig 2) to the River was in a bad state. In 1900, objections were raised about sewerage going into the River Chew, so the new sewer from Charlton lane was to be kept out of the River Chew. The next section of the drainage scheme was to be taken from the back of the Church, through Back Lane to the side of the Parochial School. (This drain remained 'active' until 1988 as workmen obliterating the ancient Back Lane found to their cost - two of them having to be treated in hospital for fume inhalation.)

In 1901, the idea of a public urinal was mooted and various sites considered. A suggestion that Mr Glure, then owner of the

“Lamb and Lark Hotel” (Ronto’s & Somerfield site. Fig 3), be approached was turned down. After lengthy considerations, in June 1902, it was decided that none was required.



Above, Fig. 3 – On the left the Lamb & Lark Hotel, now Somerfields.
Below, Fig. 4 – In the centre, Woodbine Cottages now demolished



In May 1904, investigations were made to a sewer outflow 17 yards from the stile leading from Crock's Bottom (Dapps Hill) to the Brick Houses (Woodbine Steps, in the park below the New Inn. Fig 4), because of complaints about a stench at low water. Recommendations were made to the District Council to put all sewers into the River Chew so that they were always under water. In March 1905, a new sewerage outfall was put near Chew Bridge (bottom Bath Hill).

All sewer sites were inspected early in 1905. It was decided that the sewer across the recreation ground (Hawthorns) was to connect with the Temple Street sewer, in return for an easement of sewerage from Charlton Park to be run through the new sewer in Messrs Thomas Willoughby's land.



Fig. 5 – The Pines, Dapp's Hill.

New buildings were erected on the Pines Estate (Dapp's Hill. Fig 5) and drains passed under the Chew Bridge so that the sewer

from Crock's Bottom could join in the land on the upper side of the bridge.

At the end of 1910, the houses on the East side of Charlton Park were asked to bear their own costs. In Albert Road, the old sewer was renewed and the whole sewerage for this road was completed by 1913. A new sewer connected with the main sewer near the Primitive Methodist Chapel.

In consideration of the quantity of the sewerage flowing into the River Chew at Mr Bath's field from the present outfall just above the wooden bridge (footbridge over Chew on path from Avon Mill Lane to the railway station. Fig 6), it was desirable that the sewer be carried into the bed of the river to below the railway bridge.

By 1914, complaints were being received about stoppages in the old stone drain in Bristol Hill and the District Council advised replacing the stone drain with a new one from the top of the hill to Laura Villa.



Fig. 6 – The footbridge over the Chew

Nothing much seems to have been done during WW1 but, in 1922, the saga of the need for a public urinal was renewed. So, some 21 years since first mooted, the problem of a suitable site arose again, with little success. (NIMBY) The East side of the weighbridge house (centre of road at summit of Bath Hill. Fig. 3) was far too conspicuous and the executors of Mr Bain's estate did not feel justified in selling land on the East side of Chew Bridge for public conveniences. Meanwhile, the Council bid at auction for the coach house of Mr Derrick's estate, intending it for a Fire Station, but Mr Shepherd outbid them because he thought it was for a public convenience and he did not want it near his home! Later, he re-sold it to the Council and it became the Fire Station (now Springer's. Fig 7).



Fig. 7 – Keynsham High Street, the building in the centre became the fire station for many years.

Plans for an underground urinal near the weighbridge and on the level at Chew Bridge were drawn up but, in March 1923, the District Council had made plans to have the weighbridge removed. In July 1923, the Gas Board, who owned the weighbridge, offered to

sell its site for £100 if the Council would remove the weighbridge to the Gas works site (Dapp's Hill. Fig 8). The wheels moved very slowly!

On 10th December, the Gas Company was asked to sell the space below the weighbridge for urinals. Five years later, the Electric Works Company (Bristol) was asked if the land belonging to them near the Church could be purchased for public conveniences, but, after 7 months it was found that the land was unavailable!

On 10th September 1928, Bristol Gas Company took over the Keynsham one and offered the weighbridge site free of charge. The old weighbridge was sold, intact, to Keeling's, for £50, in June 1930. However, it was October 1932 before tenders were made for constructing the conveniences and 1933 before they were completed. Old photographs show the weighbridge prominently at the top of Bath Hill but I have not seen one which shows the entrance to the loos! They were closed and the site incorporated into the road. [Does anyone know when?]

Footnote.

Should you live in an old house in Keynsham, you would be wise to check exactly where your drains lead. I know of one house that, even today, is not on mains drainage and the owner had a fight to avoid sewerage rates. She won her case because the Council tried to trace dye from her house to the main sewer but it never reached there!

Barbara Lowe.

References.

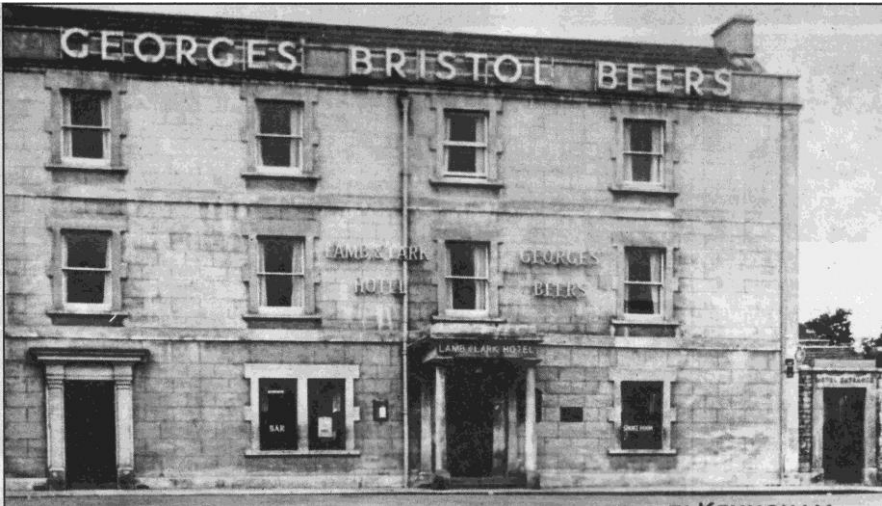
K & S. Local History Society Archives.

Churchwarden and Vestry Minutes, St John's Church, Keynsham

INNS & ALESHOUSES

Introduction:

Soon after the Society was formed in 1965 several groups were set up to study and research specific subjects that referred to important aspects of the history of Keynsham and Salford. One such group began to look into the long history of the large number of inns/alehouses/beer houses which existed locally, acquiring in the process an impressive list of names. In some instances, an inn was found to have been documented for between three and four hundred years. Some appear to have lasted only a short time or had the name changed, sometimes to celebrate a member of the royal family involved with an event in the news at the time.



The Lamb & Lark Hotel, one of Keynsham's old coaching inns

Last century saw the various descriptions applied to the trade gradually assuming the title of Public Houses - now mostly described as pubs. Many of the inns were coaching houses, such as the Lamb & Lark and Crown Inn in Keynsham, the Crown Inn and Ship Inn in Salford. Many of the larger inns offered accommodation. The biggest change was in the second half of the 19thC when brewers

who were doing well formed their own small breweries and began to acquire outlets, usually in their particular local area. This development is clear from the information available on our pubs. Then, as some companies did well they merged or took over smaller firms and a 'brand name' became recognised. In our area Georges seems to be the first company to take over some of the bigger premises, i.e., the Lamb & Lark in Keynsham High Street. This has inevitably led to the situation today where a few big names dominate the market. However, the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) is championing the setting up of small local breweries producing a distinctive ale or beer and there are several such breweries in the Somerset area particularly.

The members of our enthusiastic group met once a month in one of the pubs in Keynsham or Saltford to have a convivial evening, and begin the task of finding out about the history. Minutes were kept, and it is from these and the information that has been gradually built up from a variety of sources, that has enabled a picture of most of the well-known pubs in our area to emerge. One important source was the firm of Courage's, who invited the group to their Bristol brewery where documents and deeds of the Keynsham pubs that they had taken over, were available for study. Naturally, the hospitality extended to the members being offered liquid refreshment as part of the visit! These papers are an important source of information on the history of the pubs and licensees and were subsequently deposited by Courage's for safe keeping in Bristol Record Office. Locally, sources of the names of landlords and inns include the 1841 Tithe Survey and the Kelly's Directories which for Keynsham date from the second half of the 19thC. Early Census Returns did not usually record the name of the premises although later ones did. County Record Offices hold much of the valuable information from official sources including the lists of premises applying for a licence to sell alcohol.

THE TROUT: Temple Street, Keynsham

It has taken some time to disentangle the history of the building and sort out the purchasers of the property from lessees/licensees. The earliest date on the Abstract of Title is very familiar, i.e. **1767**. This was the year that Sir Thomas Whitmore, who owned Keynsham Manor estate, of which the Trout was part, had to sell up due to financial difficulties. Anne Whitmore, a rich merchant's widow in London, had bought the Manor & Hundred of Keynsham with roughly half the Keynsham property from the Crown in 1613. Sir Thomas had sold off some of the property individually before 1767, but advertised, what was the greater part, to an agent in London by the name of Mr Arthur Greenwollers. Greenwollers immediately began selling the property on, mainly in single lots, and has become a 'household' name to those of us engaged in researching the history of local houses and other buildings owned by the Whitmores.



The Trout now called a "tavern"

The Trout sold in 1767 was described as ‘an Inn called or known by the name of The Trout with garden and appurtenances’. In **1797** T Aprichard (or Apritchard) sold the inn to a John Bush of Chew Magna, Schoolmaster. The next document dated **1800** states that John Bush has rebuilt the house called The Trout House, and is letting it to a schoolmaster named Henry Scutts. The same year John Bush purchased a small cottage attached to the outbuilding at the rear of the house and a piece of land called Footlands ‘late in the possession of **John Sheppard***, wiredrawer’, from John Willshere of Keynsham, Labourer for £11. 11s. 0d (£11.55p). Footlands appears on the tithe map as a strip of land behind the gardens of several of properties adjacent to the Trout, which is now the slip road to the Labbot and Carpenters Lane.

In 1833 **John Sheppard*** is recorded buying for the sum £400 ‘All that messuage or tenement called or known by the name of the Trout House together with the garden & appurtenances thereunto belonging containing half an acre more or less now in the occupation of Mr Charles Barter, Exciseman and which said mess. or tenement was sometime since erected and built by the said John Bush on the site of the mess. or ten. formerly an Inn known by the name of The Troutand also all that parcel of land called Footlands etc. **Tithe No. 399.**

* Is the John Sheppard of 1833 the son of the John Sheppard, wiredrawer, cited above?

The 1841 Tithe Apportionment Number:
399.....Garden, Limekiln and Quarry
 Occupier and Owner **John Sheppard**
 411.....A Beer house called ‘The Trout’
 412.....A Garden,
 Occupier: Wm. Frederick Fry - Owner: John Sheppard

The Trout has always been referred to as a beer house, and the licensees as beer retailers. It is worth noting that not all the

licensed premises listed in **1841** have their names recorded. Although there is no mention of the new house in 1800 being used as a beer house, it seems more than likely to have continued as such.

By **1852** John Sheppard was selling the property to John Moore who paid £320, taking out a mortgage for £200 from Wm. Tyler of the 'hamlet of Hanham'. The following year the piece of land called 'Footlands' was conveyed to John Moore by Mr Richard Barrell who, presumably had bought it from John Sheppard. Barrell was a blacksmith owning a building in the High Street with access through the arch next to the Old Bank wine bar. (If you stand on the opposite side of the road and look at the stonework above the arch, you can still just make out the name) The 1851 census records a John Moore, a baker and his family in Temple Street, I think an assumption can be made that it is the same man.



Temple Street about 1907. The Trout is in the centre of the picture with another ancient inn, the Ship, in the foreground.

In **1865** a Conveyance was drawn up between John Moore & Others to R.W.R. Hassall for £652. There are no details in this transcript.

By **1870** it was up for sale again, this time the sale being held at the Lamb & Lark which was the scene of many property and land sales in Keynsham and wider area.

Notice of Sale & Conditions of Sale

Valuable Beer house and Orchard, Keynsham, Somerset.

Mr George Nicholls will offer for sale by auction at the Lamb & Lark Inn on Tuesday 8th March **1870** at six o'clock in the Evening.

ALL that commodious substantial FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE used for Sale of Beer by Retail, and heretofore called THE TROUT HOUSE, and now THE DUKE OF CLARENCE, together with the Garden Ground, Orchard, Stables, and Cart sheds, thereto adjoining, and lying behind the Dwelling House, all now in the occupation of Mr Robert Stuart, as tenant thereof.

The Orchard contains 1A.1R.6P (Acre, Roods & Perches) and is well stocked with thriving young Apple Trees. For further particulars apply to Messrs Bush & Ray, Solicitors, 9 Bridge Street, Bristol.

8th March - Sold for £490 to William Smallwood Capper of Bristol. He took out a mortgage on 5th April on the property

Conveyance: 25th March 1870:

Message or Tenement, Garden, Orchard and hereditaments known as 'The Duke of Clarence' situate in the Parish of Keynsham in the Co. of Somerset. On the inside pages it is shown as the 'Duke of Cambridge'! There is no clue as to what, presumably must have been a mistake, was made. J.T. Hassall to Mr John Moore, Hassall held the mortgage Moore had taken out when he purchased the

property. On 5th April John Moore is remortgaging with the New Bristol Permanent Building Society.

This is where it is becoming confusing, as Wm. Capper is recorded as the purchaser, but is not mentioned again, and John Moore seems to be still occupying the property.

1872: John Moore finally disappears from the scene, at the same time transferring his mortgage to S.J. Fear and J. Clement (both familiar Keynsham surnames)

1874: Fear and Clement convey the property to S.J. Hayman

1876 21st December a receipt is endorsed on the mortgage taken out by Moore in 1870. (?)

22nd “ A Conveyance between S. J. Hayman to D. Sykes. Bought as the **Trout Inn** (somewhere between 1870 and 1876 the name was restored.)

23rd “ A mortgage arranged between Sykes to C. Bevan

1879 Further charge endorsed on above mortgage between same parties

1885 A fire insurance policy from the Liverpool, London & Globe Insurance Co., taken out by Daniel Sykes of the **Redcliffe Brewery, Redcliffe Street, Bristol, Brewer.** A description of the building is followed by the comment ‘No brewing done or Pipe Store used therein’.

1889 Reconveyance endorsed made between C. Bevan & M.R. Sykes.

1905 Way leave Agreement Bristol United Breweries to Post Office Telephones

1962 1st September Conveyance by Bristol Brewery **Georges & Co. Ltd** to Courage Barclay & Simonds Ltd.

1965 Courage Barclay & Simonds Ltd. to Keynsham Urban District Council re land at rear. This was purchased so that the road could be cut through when The Labbit was being developed and to give access to the rear of the shops. This contains the area described as 'Footlands' above.

1970 Certificate of incorporation on change of name of the above company which would have been when the Barclay & Simonds names were dropped.

Information gathered from other sources: KWC – Keynsham Weekly Chronicle.

KWC September 1966. Workmen carrying out alterations to the premises moved a flagstone. Beneath it, covered by a piece of timber was a 54ft deep well. The well is in a communicating passage at the rear of the tavern. This discovery apparently solved the mystery of two pumps which has puzzled the licensee, Mr Wilfred Snook. *Note:* This is the well that is cited in the deed of 1800, originally outside the building. Wells are frequently discovered in old properties where extensions and alterations have subsequently covered them up.

KWC January 1974. A plea by the secretary of Keynsham Civic Society, Mrs Jane Woolrich, said they were considering asking the Secretary of State for a spot preservation order on the whole line of shops which included The Trout. By this time the whole of the east side of Temple Street had been demolished to make way for the new development, as well as a section on the west side between Cranmore House and Carpenters Lane.

KWC November 1974. It was expected that the Environment Secretary, Mr Anthony Crossland would make a decision by the New Year. The decision resulted in several conservation areas being created and several properties being awarded Grade II listed status. Unfortunately, in 1995 shortly before the artificial county of Avon ceased to exist, with Keynsham becoming part of the unitary authority of Bath & North East Somerset, the majority of the listings were removed. In many cases, in my view quite wrongly, for invalid reasons. However the Trout was one of the few buildings that retained the status.

KWC February 1989. A man convicted of smashing a valuable window at the Trout was ordered to do 80 hours community service. Apparently he head butted the window described as a ‘rare etched window’ after drinking heavily, which would cost about £1000 to replace. This is a distinctive and attractive feature of the right-hand front window of the pub.

KWC October 1989. An announcement that a party was being held the next evening to say farewell to the retiring licensee, Mr Wilfred Snook with his wife, Ruby. They had been in charge for a long time. This was to be a private affair with admission by ticket only for pub regulars. Many tributes were paid to the couple and fear was expressed that things were going to radically change at the Trout as it was being closed for a few months for renovation. Part of this article includes some of the historical information on the building volunteered by members of our Society at the time.

Names of Licensees researched from a variety of sources including Kelly’s Directories, up to 1939.

1875 - 1902	Albert Whatley
1906 - 1919	E.G. Lane*
1911	Ed Hoddinott* (Wright’s Directory)
1923 - 1935	Albert R Jones
1939	Miss Amelia Jones

* There are anomalies about information on licensees; Lane is listed as a beer retailer, Hoddinott specifically at the Trout. The Directories were not published every year and in some cases the turnover of licensees can result in very short tenancies not being recorded.

Fox & Hounds, Bath Hill

This is one of the pubs that was always listed by name making it easier to keep track of the licensees. The property was demolished in 1964, four years before the great flood of 1968. It was purchased by Keynsham Urban District Council from Courage's, as plans for changes in the layout of the area of Bath Hill Bridge and Fox & Hounds Lane were already in the pipeline.

It is very difficult to pinpoint how far back the building goes as, so far, the earliest documented mention of the premises as the Fox & Hounds Inn is in the tithe survey of **1841**.

Tithe Nos.	122	Brewhouse
	123	Garden & Yard
	124	Fox & Hounds Inn

Robert Jennings Green is listed as tenant, the owner as the Duke of Buckingham & Chandos who had inherited the Bridges family estates.

A conveyance of **1859** between Edwin Newman & Samuel Parker and Robert Jennings Green & George Wood of the Public House (Fox & Hounds) cottage, brew house, stable, garden etc., records that R J Green was the highest bidder at a public auction held at the Lamb & Lark at £300. Green took out a mortgage of £200 which he transferred to Jonathan Barrell in **1866**. Later that year Mrs E Green transferred the mortgage to Fox & Whittuck, the local solicitors. In **1878** she leased the pub to J. R. Rossiter and J. Thatcher for 7 years. In **1884** Fox & Whittuck became owners of the Fox & Hounds on the death of Mrs Green, according to her will. They must

have been still holding the mortgage, and sold it to J. Thatcher the same year. In **1897** it was conveyed to Thatcher's Breweries Ltd. In **1902** there is a conveyance between Thatcher's Breweries & Welton Old Breweries Ltd. It is not stated if this was a sale but an Agreement drawn up in 1917 between John Wilcox, owner of the adjoining property and Welton Breweries Ltd that the walls around the properties shall be party wall.



The Fox & Hounds Inn about 1907. Demolished in 1968 it is now a car park. The modern Fox & Hounds Lane starts on the right. Sadly no information is available about the bull!

In December **1918** it was purchased by Georges along with a brew house and 27 perches of garden. The black & white photograph of the pub which is featured is rather puzzling. We have an enlarged copy of this photograph which was given to the society and published in 'Around Keynsham & Salford in old Photographs' by Barbara Lowe & Tony Brown, which gives the date as 1907. Under the pub name is the name F. Down, Proprietor. This seems rather

odd if he was only the licensee, as there is no record of him anywhere in the deeds, and Welton Breweries are cited as the owners up to 1918.

The small attached building on the left of the pub has a sign in the window reads: John Jackson & Son, Dublin Whiskey. This was originally used for the quarterly meetings of the Jubilee Friendly Society, founded in 1844. The landlord, at his own expense, kept a fire for them. Journal No 3, 1990, has an article about friendly societies.

The Fox & Hounds was adjacent to the row of shops which were demolished after the 1968 flood on the site of the present Fox & Hounds Lane.



Bath Hill in the 1950's. In the centre of the picture are the shops next to Bath Hill Bridge and hidden by the tree is the Fox & Hounds Inn

List of Licensees in Kelly's Directories...

1875 Robert Ruddle (Members of this family were also licensees of the New Inn)

1883 G. J. Bolwell

1889 F. Kohler (Kohler was running a hairdressing business in the High Street sometime after 1897)
1902 A.L. Beard
1906 W.C. Hicks
1910 S.J. Parsons
1914 B. Osborne
1923 – 1935 John Hood

The Old Ship Inn, Saltford

The majority of information on the Saltford inns is contained in the publication, long out of print, ‘The History of Saltford Village’ by Percy Sims published in 1976. Percy Sims did an enormous amount of research into the village’s history and wrote about every aspect of life there. He was a familiar figure in Keynsham Library and Somerset Record Office.

This house is situated at the bottom of Saltford Hill 1748 seems to be the first documented date from a list of the landlords. It became used as the first Saltford Post Office in 1821. Just inside the front door the room on the left contains a pigeon-hole window, apparently still there, which was used as a pay office during the construction of the Great Western Railway. The post office moved to the High Street in 1894 and this is when it becomes a private dwelling. The three cottages to the right of the house were originally stabling for 17 horses. It was a coaching inn and was in competition with the Crown Inn, up the hill.

An advertisement in 1840 stated.....

“To be let with immediate possession, the Ship Inn, Saltford, beautifully situated on the Turnpike Road, between Bath & Bristol, and immediately contiguous to the Saltford Station, for setting down and taking up passengers on the Great Western Railway 5 miles from Bath and 7 miles from Bristol, comprising the dwelling house, which has a convenient bar-parlour and kitchen or tap room on the ground

floor and a good sitting-room, bedrooms and attic over; a convenient back kitchen, commodious cellarage and other offices behind and under same; a convenient brew house adjoining stabling for 17 horses, piggery, etc., with garden and orchard in front (this was before the line of the road was changed) and large orchard behind.

There is ample supply of very good hard and soft water on the premises and every convenience for making it an attractive spot to induce parties from Bath and Bristol to visit by way of recreation and amusement.

The stock and fixtures to be taken at a valuation- for particulars apply to Mr Townsend, Surveyor, Bristol, 22nd October 1840.

Apparently it had formed part of the Norman House and Park Estate, which was then owned by George Norman and passed into the hands of Richard Brickdale Ward. On his death in 1848 it passed to his sons. (R.B.Ward appears on documents relating to Keynsham). His sons sold it in 1859 to Charles George Henry St. Patrick – all that messuage or tenement previously known as the ‘Ship Inn’ with stables and outbuildings. However, going by the list of landlords, it did continue as an inn until 1894 when the landlord, Samuel Bruce, moved with the post office facility to a house in the High Street.

List of Landlords:

- 1748** William Allen
- 1759** “ “ (is this a son?)
- 1800** Thomas Hancock
- 1813** John Coles
- 1814** Patience Laws
- 1815** George Hasell Moved to the Crown Inn 1816 -1817
- 1816** James Pointing
- 1817** James Butler
- 1819** Richard Holbrook

1821 Joseph Broadhurst (19 years)
1841 Oliver Ollis (26 years)
1867 – 1894 Samuel Bruce (25 years)

The house has been up for sale on and off for some considerable time recently, the brew house was the small building on the right of the property and has undergone rebuilding. Its position so close to the road must have a negative impact on the attractions of the house itself.

Footnote by Sue Trude: On joining the History Society I elected, with Joan Ellison, to join the ‘Inns & Aleshouses’ group. So once a month we met up at a different pub in Keynsham or Saltford. “A funny kind of History Society you belong to” was my husband’s comment. But there was a serious side to meetings delving into brewery records and discovering how involved they were in many aspects of community life. With the loss of so many breweries in recent years I wonder whether all those records are still available.*

Eric Linfield also arranged a visit to Flowers Brewery in Stratford-upon-Avon, where we were taken on a conducted tour of some of the oldest pubs in the town with the offer of a half pint of beer in each. Ending with a tour of the Brewery itself, all very enjoyable and of course informative.

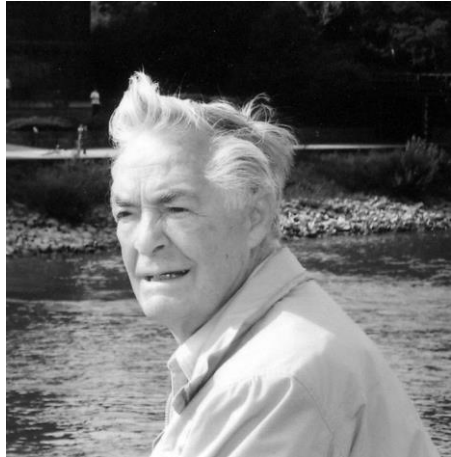
*As noted earlier, Courage’s deposited all their records in Bristol Record Office.

By Margaret Whitehead

A Tribute to the Late GORDON TARRANT

Gordon Tarrant was a qualified Blue Badge Tour Guide and an excellent speaker and as such was well known to members of the Keynsham & Salford Local History Society. Sadly, he died suddenly in January last.

An excellent Speaker who researched his subject in depth whether it related to his travels around the World or Local History. He made a great study of the First and Second World Wars and in describing



The late Gordon Tarrant

such events he had a wonderful means of visually bringing to life the incident to which he was referring.

He was Bristol born and lived in Easton and during the War he recalled watching the Germans bombing the City. This gave him a great interest in Aircraft of any kind and when he left school he decided to be an Engineer and managed to secure an Apprenticeship with Thrissells. He had to do Military service and was very proud to have served in the Fleet Air Arm.

Following his marriage to Audrey he joined Frys and moved his growing family to Keynsham. Gordon enjoyed life to the full and despite a leg disability in later life it seldom prevented him from following his numerous activities. He was a great supporter of the Scouts and Keynsham Rugby Club and enjoyed the Salvation Army and in particular, its brass bands.

I was privileged to share many holidays with him and he will be greatly missed.

Bob Porton.