



# Cheltenham Local History Society

JOURNAL 19

2003



An early Society meeting in the Council Chamber  
*drawn by Aylwin Sampson*

**20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION**  
**1982 - 2002**



# Cheltenham Local History Society

JOURNAL 19

2003

*Articles and other contributions appropriate to the Society's interests are welcome for possible publication in the Journal and should be submitted to the Hon Editor:  
Sue Rowbotham  
222 Gloucester Road  
Cheltenham GL51 8NR  
tel 01242-580035*

*Statements are solely those of the contributors.  
Copyright of verbal and graphic work rests with the originators.*

*Membership of the Society includes receipt of this Journal and Newsletters with details of meetings and other activities. For further information regarding Membership please contact:  
Mr. B.H. White  
32 Turkdean Road  
Cheltenham GL51 6AL.*

ISSN 0265 3001

<b>Cheltenham Local History Society 1982-2002</b>	ELAINE HEASMAN	2
<b>Montpellier Walk: Its Initial Development Chronology &amp; Early Occupants</b>	MIKE GRINDLEY	4
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations</b>		15
<b>The Blue Man &amp; other Marvels: Buffalo Bill's visit to Cheltenham, 1903</b>	JAMES HODSDON	16
<b>The Cheltenham Improvement Act 1852</b>	ELAINE HEASMAN	19
<b>Cheltenham's Chinese Pagodas</b>	MICK KIPPEN	28
<b>Repertory in North Street</b>	ROGER BEACHAM	31
<b>This Convenient Edifice': the Temporary Church, Cheltenham</b>	ALAN MUNDEN	40
<b>Snippets from Local Newspapers</b>		44
<b>Barnby, Bendall &amp; Co. Ltd. Furniture Removals &amp; Storage 1839-1976</b>	ERIC MILLER	45
<b>Dame Sidney Browne (1850-1941): 'The Modern Florence Nightingale'</b>	DEREK ROWLES	54
<b>Mr. Entwisle and the Elusive Post Office</b>	CAROLYN GREET	62
<b>Review: <i>Memoirs of a Social Atom</i> by W.E. Adams</b>	SUE ROWBOTHAM	65
<b>Recent books, articles, and GRO accessions</b>		66
<b>Members' Interests and Research Topics</b>		71

# Montpellier Walk: Its Initial Development, Chronology and Early Occupants

MIKE GRINDLEY

---

## *Introduction*

ACCORDING TO THE TOWN PLANNING REVIEW IN 1916<sup>1</sup>, 'Montpellier Walk is perhaps the chief attribute among the many claims Cheltenham offers ... The shops and the treatment of the buildings are among the best of their kind in England; the design would grace Bond Street'. In view of this it is surprising that so little has been known about the early chronology of the Walk's shops<sup>2</sup>. This article aims to help fill in some gaps and is based partly on detailed analysis of all relevant commercial and professional adverts in the *Cheltenham Looker-On* weekly issues for 1834-1860 (except 1848, when the *Cheltenham Examiner* had to be used), and partly on all relevant tradespeople listings and advertisements in every available Cheltenham directory from 1837 to 1862 and in some cases beyond<sup>3</sup>. Also consulted were census returns and certain other local press items.

Analysis complications include omission of shop numbers in many 1840s references, mobility of some shopkeepers within the Walk, periodic changes to shop numbering systems, certain numbering errors in annual directory listings, and non-availability of deeds.

The heading to each shop entry is its current number. All shops (except the transversely situated Hanover House) now have the same number for Montpellier Walk (front entrance) and Montpellier Street (rear entrance). Current occupants given are as of November 2002.

## *Summary Of Early Chronology*

The shops in Montpellier Walk and Street (abbreviated hereafter to 'M. Walk' and 'M. Street') were completed in four apparent phases. Firstly No. 25 in 1829 (the Montpellier Library) and No. 24 in 1836 (the *Cheltenham Looker-On* Office). Then, next to them at the top of the Walk, No. 23 (originally two shops back-to-back) in November 1841, and No. 22 in 1843. The bottom end of the Walk was next, with the Hanover House block and Nos. 1 and 2 M. Walk completed in August 1843, July 1843, and September 1845 (rebuild of probably 1843 original) respectively.

The above were followed by the main north-south development from 1846 onwards:- Nos. 3 to 10 in the lower half of the Walk were first opened in 1846 (No. 3 in March; No. 5 in October; No. 9 in September; No. 10 in November; Nos. 4, 6 and probably 8 before the year-end; and No. 7 in 1847/1846(?). At the same period Nos. 21 to 17 were first opened, stretching from the upper part of the Walk (No. 18 stated to be both completed and opened in September 1846; No. 19 first opened in October 1846, and No. 17 in March 1847; Nos. 20 and 21, each originally a pair of shops back-to-back, first noted in 1846 and 1847 respectively). The remaining shops in the centre of the Walk, Nos. 11 to 16 appear to have been built later (No. 14 opened January 1849 and No. 15 in or by September 1849; Nos. 11 and 12 in 1848 and 1849 respectively; and Nos. 13 and 16 not noted before the March 1851 Census but presumed built earlier).

Pearson Thompson, Proprietor and developer of the Montpellier Estate, having lost heavily over London property transactions, emigrated to Australia in 1849<sup>4</sup>. His mortgagee for Montpellier, the Globe Insurance Company, foreclosed the mortgages and took legal possession in 1856<sup>5</sup>. During 1875 they sold off all the Montpellier Walk premises, mainly to the existing tenants<sup>6</sup>. A new era had begun.

### ***The Early Premises (Top End Of The Walk): Completed 1829-1843***

In the 1840s these four premises were known from the top as Nos. 1 to 4 M. Walk at the front and Nos. 11 to 14 M. Street at the rear (the M. Street numbers were a continuation of those on the upper side of the Rotunda). Around 1849/50 they were incorporated into the numbering system from the bottom end of M. Promenade and renumbered respectively Nos. 25 to 22 M. Promenade/Walk at the front and Nos. 25/-/24/23 M. Street at the rear.

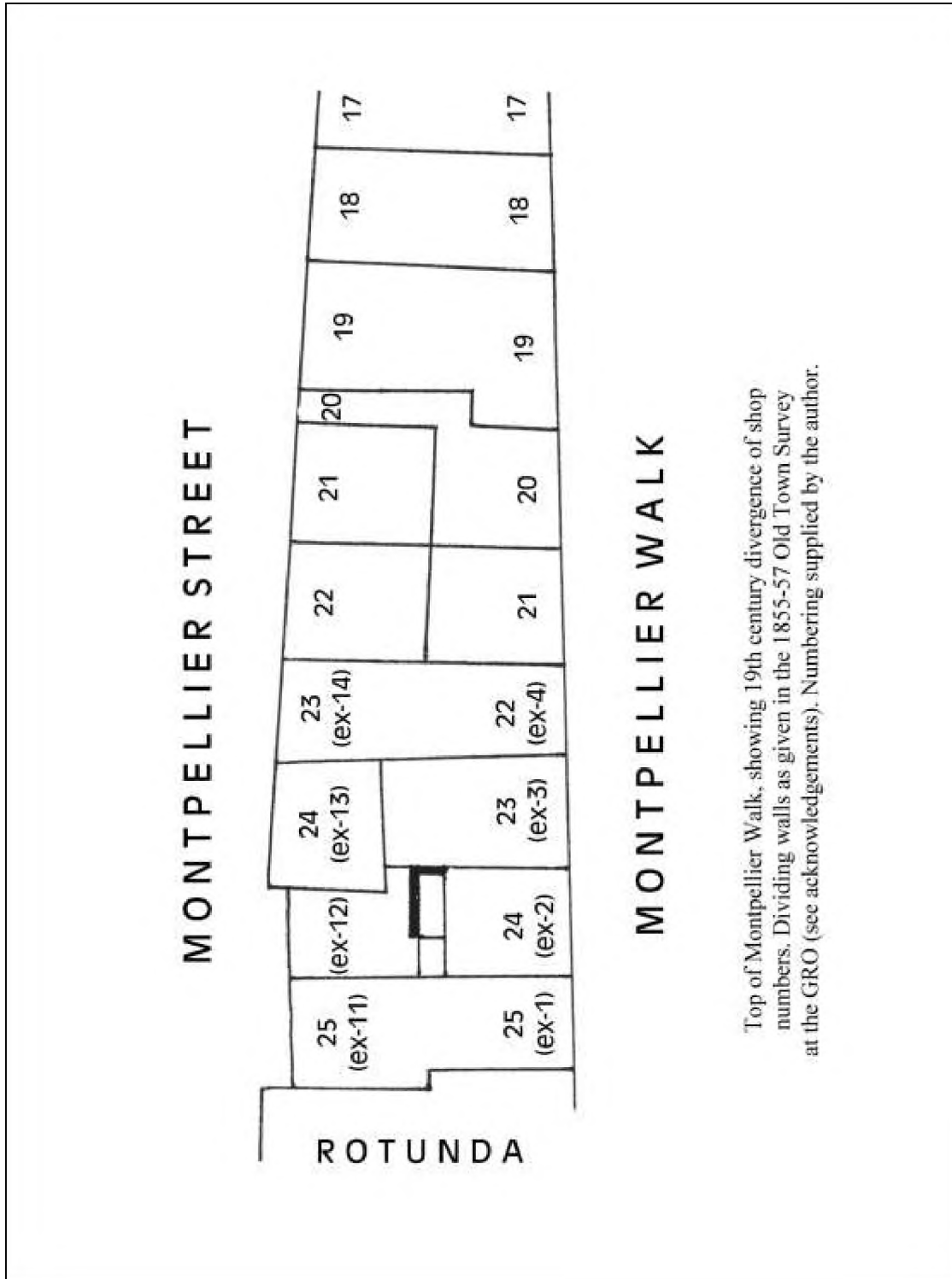
#### 25 Montpellier Walk and Street (see plan on p.6)

Originally the Montpellier Library (adjoining the Rotunda), established in 1829<sup>7</sup> by Henry Davies (born Wales 2 March 1804, died Tivoli 4 March 1890), who had earlier been invited from London to Cheltenham by Pearson Thompson Esq., 'to undertake certain duties at Montpellier Spa'<sup>8</sup>. He ran the Library here until late Autumn 1848, when he transferred it across the road to 'much more commodious premises' at 1 Montpellier Street West, whence it moved again in 1855 to 2 M. Walk and Street (*q.v.*).

The first Montpellier Library premises were opened again at the start of January 1850 as a monumental masons, by James Turner (sculptor and marble mason), who described it as 'the shop late in the occupation of Mr. Davies, 1 M. Walk, adjoining the Rotunda'. Turner departed in 1851. By end-1861 the now 25 M. Walk was occupied by F. Laurence (dealer in antiquities). In the 1870s/1880s the premises were the Montpellier Dairy. Now part of O'Neill's Irish Bar (Nos. 25-23).

#### 24 Montpellier Walk and Street (see plan on p.6)

Originally the *Cheltenham Looker-On* Office of Henry Davies, adjoining his Montpellier Library. The tall M. Walk stone facade bears the date '1836, the year when Davies started to do his own printing here (including the *Cheltenham Annuaire* directories first published in January 1837). His *Looker-On* weekly journal had been printed May-October in 1833/34/35 'by Cunningham and Co., *Cheltenham Chronicle* Office, 21 Pittville Street', but expanded to full-year coverage from 1836 onwards, started behind schedule on 13 February 1836 'printed and published at the Montpellier Library by H. Davies'<sup>9</sup>. 1841-45 advertisements show that Caffieri's Montpellier Wine Vaults on M. Street (see next entry) were 'next door to the *Looker-On* Office'. When Salomon's shop took over the M. Walk half of the premises in 1843, the *Looker-On* Office remained on the M. Street side. From 1845 until Davies's late-1848 move to 1 M. Street West, the *Looker-On* seems to have been printed at his large residence, 1 Tivoli Villas. This change was soon reflected by Caffieri advertisements re-describing their Wine Vaults on M. Street as 'next door to Mr. Davies, Librarian'. Presumably the '1836' rear premises were now a non-printing annexe to the Library next door.



Top of Montpellier Walk, showing 19th century divergence of shop numbers. Dividing walls as given in the 1855-57 Old Town Survey at the GRO (see acknowledgements). Numbering supplied by the author.

From 1843 to at least 1845, Salomon's French shoe warehouse occupied the front shop. From 1847 to 1848 it was the Berlin wool repository of K. Pietrowski ('late of William Jancowski & Co.') and called 'German House, M. Walk, next to Mr. Davies's Library'. W.J. Pope (house agent) worked there 1855/56, and E. Humphris (milliner) 1861/62.

The rear shop was occupied in the post-Davies era by Mrs. Emma Smith (greengrocer) 1849-52, E. Chascey (boot maker) 1852-54, and W. Turtle (boot and shoe maker) 1855-57. The whole premises are now part of O'Neill's Irish Bar.

### 23 Montpellier Walk and Street (see plan on p.6)

These premises were completed about November 1841, and are probably the 'two additional shops now in course of erection on the M. Walk ...' in March 1841<sup>10</sup>. The front shop (then No. 3 M. Walk) was first occupied about December 1841 by Charles Hale as the Montpellier Pianoforte and Music Rooms, in addition to his main establishment at Promenade House<sup>11</sup>. His advertisements variously give the branch address as M. Grand Parade, M. Parade, M. Promenade, M. Well Walk and M. Walk! The branch closed in February 1845, and a new Montpellier branch opened in September 1846 (see 18 M. Walk). In late May 1845 Mrs. Brown (French florist and plumassier, of Brown and De Normanville) moved her shop from 4 Colonnade to '3 M. Walk, late Mr. Hale's Music Repository, with Back Entrance at Mr. Caffieri's [M. Street]'. Debt forced the Browns out in October, and in July 1846 Madame Clemence F. Cox (milliner and Paris fashions, formerly with Madame Regnault) moved here ('to M. Walk, two doors below Mr. Davies's Library'). She transferred in October 1846 to 'more commodious premises, 5 M. Promenade' (*q.v.*). In October 1849 Miss Hunter (perfumer, ex 1848/49 tenant of Montpellier Spa) took the then No. 3 M. Walk. By 1856 Hector Caffieri (see below) took over the now No. 23 M. Walk, adding it to his shop at the rear.

The rear shop (formerly No. 13 M. Street, and from late 1849 No. 24 M. Street) was the Montpellier Wine Vaults of the Caffieri family<sup>12</sup>. At the start of December 1841 they opened these Vaults as a second depot to 3 Portland Place<sup>13</sup>. The entrance to their new Vaults from July to October 1844, 'pending the alterations now in progress at the back of Montpellier Pump Room', was 'by permission of Charles Hale through his Music Shop in Montpellier Promenade'.

Theodore R. Scruby (wine and spirit merchant) took over the entire premises in May 1868 after the Caffieri departure, and Gillott & Furze (same trade) ran the place from 1875 to at least 1922. These premises are now part of O'Neill's Irish Bar.

### 22 Montpellier Walk and Street (see plan on p.6)

Opened in 1843 ('Montpellier Walk, three doors from Davies's Library') by Hirtz Karo (jeweller and fancy goods, ex-Montpellier Avenue from *c.* October 1842) as the Montpellier Bazaar<sup>14</sup>. In early January 1849 he moved 'a few doors further down' to No. 14 (*q.v.*). From April to September 1849 Mrs. Elizabeth Laurence (braider and children's dressmaker, ex- No. 7 Pittville Street) was at 22 M. Walk. From at least 1861 to 1885 or later, Samuel Adams ran a fancy drapery 'at 22 M.Walk and 23 M. Street (Regent House)'. Now empty (November 2002).

### ***Premises At Bottom End Of The Walk: Completed 1843***

This group includes the former 1-3 Rotunda Circus, and what became 2 M. Walk and Street.

#### Hanover House East

Originally 1 Rotunda Circus. Both 1 and 2 [see illustration below] were under erection by Pearson Thompson in June/July 1843 and completed by August<sup>15</sup>. The first occupant of No. 1 was Mrs. Ann Green (house agent to the Lansdown Estate, cook and confectioner, ex-Rotunda Lodge 1839-1843). Her cook/ confectioner successors at No. 1 were Mr. Merrett in 1844/45, and William H. Evans ('from Bridgman's, Wigmore Street, London') from July 1845 to 1850.

The premises forming the rear (southern) part of 1 Rotunda Circus and fronting towards Montpellier Gardens [see illustration on p.10], were noted opened by Madame Drieu ('de Paris', stay and corset maker, ex-130 High Street) in August 1844<sup>16</sup>. She remained until 1848.

See next entry for conversion into a bank, and the current occupancy.



Nos. 1 and 2 Rotunda Circus, from the North (1844). Entrance to Montpellier Promenade on right

#### Hanover House West

Originally No. 2 Rotunda Circus. For August 1843 completion, see No. 1 (previous entry). No. 2 was opened 26 September 1843<sup>17</sup> by Mrs. Elizabeth Hacker (née Bailey), ex-6 Queen's Circus) as her 'Magasin de Modes' (millinery, dresses and fancy goods) [see illustration above]. Husband George Hacker (silk mercer) joined her from Queen's Circus the next year. From c. May to September 1845 'extensive alterations' and 'extensive enlargement of the premises' were carried out<sup>18</sup> (c.f. 3 Rotunda Circus similar work at the same period). At end-September Hacker 'opened his New Premises in connection with those he formerly occupied', the whole being now described as '2 Rotunda Circus and 2 M. Street, with Entrance to M. Walk'<sup>19</sup>. These two premises,

inter-connected via the rooms over the archway entrance to the Walk, were collectively described for the first time as 'Hanover House' in February 1846.

After the Hackers closed the business in June 1852 (owing to 'the enormous rental of our premises'), the name 'Hanover House' was applied only to premises East of 2 M. Walk and Street.

After further tenants, the whole of Hanover House (West and East) became the Worcester City & County Bank on 17 November 1875. These premises are now the ASK Restaurant.

### 1 Montpellier Walk and Street

Originally 3 Rotunda Circus. Opened late July 1843<sup>20</sup> by William Draper (tailor and habit maker, 'from Stultz & Co., London, and Blain, rue d'Amboise, Paris') [see Fig. 4]. 'Rebuilding and enlarging of the premises' was carried out from February to August 1845 (while Draper temporarily removed to the Rotunda), after which they were referred to as '3 Rotunda Circus and 1 M. Street'<sup>21</sup>. By 1854 they had become '1 M. Walk and 1 M. Street', Draper continuing there until c. 1873. In 1876 H.G. Davies (son of Henry Davies) took over No. 1 as the new premises of the Montpellier Library. No. 1 and the adjoining No. 2 M. Walk are now 'Flax' (female fashions).

### 2 Montpellier Walk and Street

There is one indication that these premises may have originally opened for business in 1843<sup>22</sup>. However the 'extensive enlargement' of 2 Rotunda Circus (*q.v.*) meant that 2 M. Street was opened at end-September 1845 as part of the Hacker business, which closed in June 1852. H. Davies's Montpellier Library and Reading Room moved on 11 June 1855 to '2 M. Walk adjoining Hanover House', with the adjoining No. 3 becoming his *Looker-On* Printing Office (later transferred to No. 2, where through the latter years of the 19th century he printed the journal 'in a dark cellar deep down under the pavement under the archway'<sup>23</sup>). Now part of 'Flax' (see 1 M. Walk).

### ***Premises Completed In Or After 1846***

This period covers what are now Nos. 3 to 21 M. Walk and Street. The front entrances of at least Nos. 3 to 12 and 17 to 21 were known as M. Promenade up to around 1850 and in some cases a little later. Some at least of Nos. 3 to 10 were initially numbered in the 1 to 8 series, the then Rotunda Circus being numbered separately on the M. Promenade side; in this case the 'Carriage Entrances' on M. Street differed by two (see 10 M. Walk entry). The 5 M. Walk entry shows the other system, with Carriage Entrance number the same as the M. Promenade number. A further numerical complication is that up to at least the 1880s, the M. Street numbers differed by one from the M. Walk numbers for the shops above No. 19. Plan on p.6 shows the reason. Entry headings are the current numbers:



### 3 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened early April 1846<sup>24</sup> by Benjamin Turnbull (hosier, glover and umbrella maker, ex-378 High Street), who remained at '3 M. Promenade' until 1854. From June 1855 Henry Davies was at 3 M. Walk and the adjoining No. 2 (*q.v.*). Now The Faerie Shop.

### 4 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted end-1846<sup>25</sup>. Occupied by Charles Lane (Lansdown Estate agent) until 1849. F.M. Brown ('from London', working jeweller, goldsmith and watchmaker, ex-19 Winchcomb Street) was at 4 M. Walk from April 1851 to April 1859. Now Tiffin's Cafe & Sandwich Bar.



No. 1 Rotunda Circus rear premises, from the East (1844)

### 5 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened end-October 1846<sup>26</sup> by Madame Clemence F. Cox (milliner and Paris fashions), when she moved from 'two doors below Mr. Davies's Library' (see 23 M. Walk) to 'more commodious premises, 5 M. Promenade (with Carriage Entrance 5 M. Street)'. Now Bicks of Montpellier (est. 1895), Jewellers and Antiques.

### 6 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted end-1846<sup>27</sup>, occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Laurence (children's dressmaker, '6 M. Rotunda Promenade') until 1848. Miss A. Selby (bonnet maker) 1849-52. Mrs. Wills (furs, feathers and dresses cleaned) November 1857. Nos. 6 and 7 are now Sketchleys (cleaners).

### 7 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted end-1847<sup>28</sup>. Occupied by Miss Louisa Moulton (milliner) until at least 1862. Now part of Sketchley's (cleaners).

8 Montpellier Walk and Street

Possibly Salomon de Paris (ladies' French shoemakers) by end-1846 to *c.* 1848, but Salomon known to be next door to the Montpellier Library (1843 - at least 1845), and at 9 M. Promenade (see next entry) by September 1849. Now Cousins of Cheltenham (ladies' fashion).

9 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened September 1846<sup>29</sup> by James Charles Oldmeadow ('from London', Montpellier Drawing Academy and Montpellier Repository of the Arts) until 1847 (at '9 M. Promenade and 9 M. Street'). By September 1849 Salomon de Paris & Co. (ladies' French shoemakers) were here until moving to 15 M. Walk in April 1856, after which the Misses Howell (embroidery and lace dealers) were at 9 M. Walk until at least 1885. Now The Barber Shop (Traditional Gents Hairdressers).

10 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened on 11 November 1846<sup>30</sup> by Mrs. Sarah Lander (stay and corset maker, ex-15 Pittville Street); given as '8 M. Rotunda Promenade (with Carriage Entrance 10 M. Street)'. She was there until June 1854. Madame Pauline ('from Hanover Square, London', lace and embroidery) there from October 1854 (now '10 M. Walk') until 1857. Miss Maria Fish (milliners and fancy warehouse) there 1858 to *c.* 1878. Nos. 10/11/12 M. Walk now Janet Herring (ladies' fashion).

11 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted end-1848<sup>31</sup>, occupied by William Hall (lace-man, millinery and muslin, ex-5 Queen's Circus), who gave up business in April 1852. In November 1857 W. Whitfield (jet and jewellery repository) took the shop, and in 1858 George Laurence (goldsmith and jeweller, ex-4 Queen's Circus) took it until late 1862. No. 11 now part of Janet Herring (see No. 10).

12 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted end-1849<sup>32</sup>, occupied by Mrs. Hammond & Co. (milliners), then by Jacob Parker (trunk maker) in 1851, and later 1851 to 1856 James C. Oldmeadow (drawing teacher), then 1856 to *c.* 1872 John Gore ('from London', hairdresser and perfumer). 12 M. Walk now part of Janet Herring (see No. 10).

13 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted for certain in March 1851 census (Frances Smith, housekeeper). May-July 1854, Mrs. Austin (wax flower modelling teacher). The Misses Collett (milliners and dressmakers) moved from 13 M. Walk to 2 Ormond Villas in October 1856. From 1857 to *c.* 1871 Charles Press (boot and shoemaker) occupied No. 13. Now 'Going Places' (Leisure Travel Ltd.).



No. 3 Rotunda Circus from the East  
(1844)

#### 14 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened in early January 1849<sup>33</sup> by Hirtz Karo (Montpellier Bazaar, jeweller and fancy goods), having moved down from '3 doors from Davies's Library' (see 22 M. Walk). In late 1863 he moved again, to 17 Promenade Villas. By 1866 A. Bailey (ex-Queen's Circus, fancy goods and stationery) moved to 14 M. Walk. Now empty (November 2002).

#### 15 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened in early October 1849<sup>34</sup> by Mrs. Elizabeth Laurence (ex-6 M. Promenade, braider and children's dressmaker). Her husband William also ran No. 16 as a Bazaar. In March 1853 their Baby Linen Establishment moved to 4 Queen's Circus. In November 1856 Samuel Solomon moved his French Boot & Shoe Warehouse from 9 to 15 M. Walk. Now Greens of Cheltenham Ltd. (Est. 1947) Objects d'Art, Jewellery and Antiques.

#### 16 Montpellier Walk and Street

First noted for certain in March 1851 Census, when William Laurence (see previous entry) was given at Nos. 16 and 15. In May 1857 Madame Thompson was a milliner at '16 M. Promenade'. Nos. 16 and 17 M. Walk are now 'Blushes (Hair & Beauty)'.

#### 17 Montpellier Walk and Street

Opened in early April 1847<sup>35</sup> as Mlle. Eugenie's (Paris fashions), run by Mlles. Courtois and Powell until mid-1849. A Branch Establishment of Martin, Baskett & Martin's (goldsmiths, silversmiths, and watchmakers, of 4 Imperial Circus) was set up at 17 M. Promenade ('next to Mr. Hale's Music Shop') in 1849, and closed again in October 1851. From 1852 until at least 1885 Charles Lane and later Messrs. Lane (house and estate agents) and Joshua Lane (builder) were here. Now part of 'Blushes' (see No. 16).

### 18 Montpellier Walk and Street

First opened late-September 1846, 'immediately after completion of the premises, in M. Grand Walk'<sup>36</sup>, by Charles Hale (of Promenade House) as his new Montpellier Music Room. During the building work his new branch was from April to September 1846 at the Rotunda, 'by permission of Pearson Thompson, Esq.' In October 1851 the Montpellier Music Room was closed. See 23 M. Walk entry for Hale's earlier branch at Montpellier. From November 1852 to c. 1879 William King (cook and confectioner) ran No. 18. Nos. 18/19/20 are now the Casa Bar and Cafe.

### 19 Montpellier Walk and Street

First opened on 15 October 1846<sup>37</sup> by D. George & Son (confectioners, etc., 367 High Street) as their Branch Establishment. They closed it in 1848. In August 1849 the British Mourning Warehouse (Tidmarsh, James & Co., from Regent Street, London) was opened briefly at '19 M. Promenade'. The portrait painter Frederick Havill had an address here 1848-51. Now part of the Casa Bar and Cafe.

### 20 Montpellier Walk and Street

Originally two separate premises, divided by a wall (see plan on p.6, which also shows why the M. Walk and Street numbers differed in the 19th Century from No. 20 onwards).

The rear shop (21 M. Street) was first noted occupied by end-1846<sup>38</sup> by James Thackwell (dairyman) until 1853, followed by other dairymen. For the front shop (20 M. Promenade) the first occupants noted were Mlles. Courtois & Powell (French fashions, Maison Eugenie) who ran it from 3 November 1849 to 1 June 1852<sup>39</sup>; they were previously at 17 M. Promenade (*q.v.*). From 1855 to at least 1862 the now 20 M. Walk was Mrs. E. Wellington (d'oyley marker).

These premises are now part of the Casa Bar and Cafe.

### 21 Montpellier Walk and Street

Originally two separate premises, divided by a wall (see plan on p.6, and note at start of 20 M. Walk entry).

The rear shop (22 M. Street) was first noted occupied by end-1847<sup>40</sup> by T. Haswell (china and glass dealer), then by John Burrows (butcher) from 1849 to at least 1885. For the front shop (21 M. Promenade), no occupant is known before 1856 when George Bick (trunkmaker) was noted there. The Bick family ran the premises until well into the 20th century. Now Herrings Shoes (the dividing wall now has an archway connection).

N.B. One of the foregoing M. Promenade premises (one where the initial history is not yet known) was first opened in mid-October 1846<sup>41</sup> by Robert Mallory (ironmongers, etc.) as a Branch Establishment (up to 1848 only) of his 77 High Street shop.

### *Acknowledgements*

Grateful thanks to Cheltenham Reference Library (press and directories); Gloucestershire Record Office (for permission to include plan on p.6, based on the Old Town Survey, GRO PC767; Brian Torode (for an item on H. Karo); and my wife Isabel (for typing).

### *Footnotes*

*CA* = *Cheltenham Annuaire*; *CE* = *Cheltenham Examiner*; *CLO* = *Cheltenham Looker-On*. Only main references are given.

<sup>1</sup> Article by A.E. Richardson (quoted in *CLO* 1919 volume).

<sup>2</sup> For early development of the entire Montpellier commercial district, see *The Building of the Montpellier Shcops: an Outline Chronology* by Steven Blake, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* 2 (1984) pp.15-20.

<sup>3</sup> All *CAs* 1837-1862; *Harper's* 1844 and 1857; *Pigot's* 1844; *Hunt's* 1847; *Edwards's* 1848, 1850-1852, and 1862; *Royal Cheltenham* 1870-1878; *Post Office* 1880/1 and 1883/4; *Lloyd-Roberts* 1885.

<sup>4</sup> *CE* 25 Oct 1848 and *CLO* 10 Mar 1849 show Thompson still in Cheltenham. The *Sydney Herald* of 28 Feb 1850 shows him already in Australia. See also Gwen Hart's *A History of Cheltenham*, 2nd ed. (1981), p.187.

<sup>5</sup> *CLO* 26 Apr 1856

<sup>6</sup> *CLO* 3 Jul 1875, *CLO* 24 Jul 1875, *CE* 4 Aug 1875 and *CLO* 18 Sep 1875

<sup>7</sup> *CLO* 17 Nov 1849 *et seqq.*

<sup>8</sup> *CLO* 8 Mar 1890 and *CE* 12 Mar 1890

<sup>9</sup> *CLO* 1836 'Advt.'(at front) and *CLO* 13 Feb 1836 *et seqq.*

<sup>10</sup> *CLO* 27 Mar 1841

<sup>11</sup> *CLO* 11 Sep 1841 to 8 Jan 1842

<sup>12</sup> For more details about the Caffieri family see 'The Caffieri Family from France: Their Life in Cheltenham' by Mike Grindley, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* 18 (2002) pp.65-69.

<sup>13</sup> *CLO* 4 Dec 1841

<sup>14</sup> *CE* 28 Jun 1843

<sup>15</sup> *CE* 18 Jun 1843

<sup>16</sup> *CLO* 31 Aug 1844

<sup>17</sup> *CLO* 26 Sep 1843

<sup>18</sup> *CLO* 5 Jul 1845 and *CLO* 6 Sep 1845

<sup>19</sup> *CLO* 27 Sep 1845 and *CLO* 11 Oct 1845

<sup>20</sup> *CLO* 29 Jul 1843

<sup>21</sup> *CLO* 15 Feb 1845 to *CLO* 9 Aug 1845

<sup>22</sup> *CLO* 22 Mar 1913 p.21

<sup>23</sup> *CLO* 1919 p.463

<sup>24</sup> *CLO* 11 Apr 1846

<sup>25</sup> *Hunt's Cheltenham Directory* 1847

<sup>26</sup> *CLO* 31 Oct 1846

<sup>27</sup> *CA* 1847

<sup>28</sup> *CA* 1848

<sup>29</sup> *CLO* 12 Sep 1846 *et seqq.*

<sup>30</sup> *CLO* 7 Nov 1846

<sup>31</sup> *CA* 1849 and *CLO* 3 Nov 1849

<sup>32</sup> *Edwards's New Cheltenham Directory* 1850 and 1851

<sup>33</sup> *CLO* 31 Jan 1849

<sup>34</sup> *CLO* 6 Oct 1849

<sup>35</sup> *CLO* 10 Apr 1847 and *CA* 1848

<sup>36</sup> *CLO* 25 Apr 1846 to 26 Sep 1846

<sup>37</sup> *CLO* 10 Oct 1846

<sup>38</sup> *CA* 1847 and *CA* 1848

<sup>39</sup> *CLO* 3 Nov 1849

<sup>40</sup> *Edwards's New Cheltenham Directory* 1848

<sup>41</sup> *CLO* 17 Nov 1846

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

## SUE ROWBOTHAM

---

*Thirty-three members of the Cheltenham Local History Society met at the 'Renaissance' restaurant in the new GLOSCAT building, Princess Elizabeth Way on 16 November 2002 to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society. I am sure that you will recognise some, if not all, of the faces! It was an ideal time to relax and discuss past Society events, and present and future research over a very pleasant meal and a glass or two of wine.*



*Photograph courtesy of Geoff North*

Present to celebrate the occasion were:

**Committee members** - Anne Dunn (Chair), Tom Maslin (Secretary), Geoff North (Treasurer), Elaine Heasman (Newsletter Editor), Brian White (Membership Secretary), Vic Cole, Chubb Jewell, Sue Rowbotham, Jill Waller and Phyllis White.

**Society Members** - Jill and Peter Barlow, John Elliot, Joan and Ken Eyton, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Grace, Michael and Carolyn Greet, Mike and Isabel Grindley, L. Jamson and guest, Muriel Mills-Thomas, Mr. M.D. Murrell and Ms. D.C. Sanderson, Joan and Reg Nidd, Derek Shorthouse, Peter and Judy Smith, and Eric Woodhead.

# The Blue Man and other marvels: Buffalo Bill's visit to Cheltenham, 1903

JAMES HODSDON

---

THE CULTURAL SHOCK felt in English towns when US forces were stationed here during World War II is widely recorded. Yet this was far from being the first time a highly-organised American force had transfixed much of the country. Some of those who watched the US Army Office of Supply establish its base at Benhall in 1942 might well have witnessed, four decades previously, the arrival in Cheltenham of Colonel W F Cody – or Buffalo Bill as he is usually known. One hundred years on, some footnotes are in order.

Cody was a showman of legendary stature, recreating the atmosphere of the Wild West for millions of people over 30 years. What is not always realised is that he travelled widely outside America, finding appreciative audiences in Europe and making no fewer than four tours in Britain between 1887 (for Victoria's Jubilee celebrations) and 1904. These tours are quite well documented in some respects<sup>1</sup>, yet the very speed of their passage through the country (often moving on to a different town every day) means that local traces are sometimes few.

Everything about the Wild West show was designed to astound and impress, and by all accounts it rarely disappointed. Imagine the impact on Edwardian Cheltenham (or any other small town) of the arrival at 4.30 in the morning of four trains totalling 60 cars, debouching 500 showmen and women, many of them real live 'Cowboys and Indians' on horseback, who within hours had set up a tented city, ready for an afternoon show at 2 p.m., and another at 8 – and who then disappeared again overnight.

For efficiency, the tours were planned around rail routes. The 1902-3 'Final Farewell' tour of England and Wales<sup>2</sup> was typical. After wintering at Olympia, there was a short London season in April 03, and about a fortnight each in Manchester and Liverpool. Then came one-day stands in, successively, Warrington, Birkenhead, Rhyl, Bangor, Ruabon, and Shrewsbury. The first half of June was in Birmingham, then on the train again to Worcester, Kidderminster, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Coventry, Rugby, Leamington, Banbury, Oxford, and Reading – which merited a two-day stop, 26-27 June. From Reading to Swindon, and then, on Tuesday 30 June, to Cheltenham. After Cheltenham, Gloucester; then Hereford, Abergavenny, Aberdare, and on through South Wales, followed directly by an equally gruelling circuit of the south-west and the south coast, hitting Brighton in mid-August.<sup>3</sup>

For good audiences, good publicity was needed, and Cody's PR man was Major John M Burke, in many ways the founder of the profession. Advance advertisements were placed<sup>4</sup>, and local papers primed with facts and tit-bits. The *Echo* managed to run two lengthy articles totalling some 4,000 words on 30 June itself, one covering the arrival and set-up of the show, the second a review of the matinee performance. At least some of this copy (e.g. how much food the show's travelling kitchen prepared for the hungry crews) was probably furnished by Burke, as the same themes appear in local press reports elsewhere.

ONE DAY ONLY.  
 CHELTENHAM, TUESDAY, JUNE 30.  
 GROUNDS, CEMETERY ROAD.

**BUFFALO BILL'S  
 WILD WEST**



AND

**Congress of Rough Riders of the World.**

Headed and Personally Introduced by

**Col. W. F. CODY, "BUFFALO BILL."**

New Touring the Provinces on its own Special Trains, Visiting the Principal Cities and Greater Railway Centres Only.

**FOUR SPECIAL TRAINS. 800 PEOPLE. 500 HORSES.**

A Proudly Pre-eminent Exhibition of Universal Interest.

**The One Grand Ruler of the Amusement Realm**

Standing like an obelisk above and beyond all others.

**LIVING OBJECT LESSONS**

Taken from the pages of realism, and illustrated by the very men who have assisted in making the fame of the

**Mounted Warriors of the World,**

A Gathering of extraordinary consequence to fittingly depict all that



Virile, Muscular, Heroic  
 Manhood  
 Has and can endure.  
 The Veteran Cavalry of  
 many Flags  
 In Military Evolutions and Exercises.  
 Royal English Lancers,  
 Bedouin Arabs,  
 South American  
 Gauchos;  
 United States  
 Cavalry,  
 Cuban  
 Patriots,  
 Russian  
 Cossacks,  
 Roosevelt  
 Rough  
 Riders,  
 American,  
 Artillery,  
 Mexican  
 Rurales,  
 Realistic Military  
 Spectacle:  
 The Battle of  
 San Juan Hill

New and interesting arrangements of the well-known Wild West incidents. Introducing the Pioneers of the Plains, who tell the story of progress in the great Drama of Civilization by Pictures of Border Life. The Stage Coach "Hold-Up," Cow-Boys "Band - Up," Riding Wild Bucking Bronchos, Indian War Dances, Attack on the Kni-grant Train, Equestrian Feats and Skill, Warlike Pageants and Military Exercises. 100 North American Indians from the Sioux, Brule, Ogallala, Arapahoe, Yankton, Cheyenne, and Dinapage Tribes. Genuine "Blanket Red Men" Chiefs, Warriors, Bucks, Medicine Men, Squaws and Papooses.

**TWICE  
 DAILY,  
 RAIN OR  
 SHINE.**

Typical Cow-Boys of the Western Plains, Wild West Girls, Scouts, and Crackshots.

The Vast Arena Illuminated at Night by Two Special Electric Light Plants.

**TWO PERFORMANCES EVERY WEEK DAY,**

Afternoons at 2; Evenings at 8. Doors Open at 1 and 7 p.m.  
**ONE TICKET ADMITS TO ALL ADVERTISED ATTRACTIONS.**  
 PRICES OF ADMISSION:—1s., 2s., 3s., 4s. Box Seats, 5s. and 7s. 6d. c

Children under 10 years, half-price to all except the 1s. seats.  
 All seats are numbered except those at 1s. and 2s.  
 No Tickets under 4s. sold in advance. Tickets at all prices on sale on the Grounds at hours of opening, and Tickets at 4s., 5s., and 7s. 6d. on sale at 9 a.m. on the day of Exhibition at

WOODWARD'S PIANO WAREHOUSE, 94 HIGH STREET.



Some 8,000 people saw the afternoon show, and a larger number was expected for the evening performance.

When touring, the show usually sought vacant meadows and empty spaces free from trees. The *Echo* places the Cheltenham show 'on the Cemetery road' (i.e. Priors Road), and 'situate at the foot of the lovely Battledown Hill'. Assuming mostly flat ground was needed, this suggests either the lower end of the GCHQ Oakley site, or land on the opposite (west) side of Priors Road. I have seen one suggestion that Cody came to Cheltenham at the invitation of Webb the brickmaker, one of whose brickfields was in the angle of Harp Hill and Priors Road, and if true this might have influenced the general choice of venue.

In most respects, Cheltenham would have enjoyed the same spectacle as any other town. But among all the exotic entertainers and sideshows, there was one unique element of local interest. In 'A Glance Round The Show' the *Echo* noted:

*'... The Indians were engaged at their toilet, and the papooses were running in and out of the wigwams; Johnny Baker, the crack shot, was just having his tent put in order, and a dainty little boudoir it is. Then the sideshow was visited, and here a curious incident must be mentioned. Fred Walters, the blue man, was engaged in some pursuit or other, and having been introduced, he chatted quite pleasantly with the writer. "It seems like old times to be back in Cheltenham, he said, "it must be thirty years ago since I was here last. I was educated at the Grammar School here, and my mother lies buried in the St. Mary's Churchyard." Then he told the writer how like the chameleon he changed his colour, and we may say en passant that his skin is of a very deep blue. He was serving with a regiment of Lancers in India, and his horse putting its foot in a hole threw him and then fell on his chest. For three days he lay unconscious, and when he did recover he found his chest beginning to turn a dark blue colour. This rapidly spread until now he is blue even to the finger-tips.'*

Unfortunately the school records that might give attendance details for the youthful Walters do not survive<sup>5</sup>. Nor has the otherwise well-informed McCracken Research Library in Cody, Wyoming, been able to shed further light on his career with the show. Fred may not have merited star billing in the Wild West troupe, but there must be more of a story to tell. Who will bring the blue man out of the shadows?

---

<sup>1</sup> Alan Gallop's *Buffalo Bill's British Wild West* (Sutton, 2001) is likely to remain the definitive account but has relatively little to say about the individual provincial venues.

<sup>2</sup> Followed in 1904 by 'Positively the Last Final and Farewell' tour of England, Wales and Scotland.

<sup>3</sup> Itinerary details courtesy of Frances B Clymer, Librarian, McCracken Research Library, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming.

<sup>4</sup> Eg, *Cheltenham Chronicle* 27 June 1903; *Echo*, 29 June 1903

<sup>5</sup> Information from Neil Anderson, Pate's archivist.

# The Cheltenham Improvement Act 1852

ELAINE HEASMAN

---

*'An Act for better paving, draining, lighting, cleansing, supplying with water, regulating in regard to markets, interments, hackney carriages, and other purposes, and otherwise improving the Borough of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester.'*

Cheltenham Improvement Act - 28 May 1852

**In September 1853, Septimus Pruen, Solicitor, of 30, Cambray, Cheltenham, wrote:**

'Commissioners, owners, ratepayers, and occupiers in Cheltenham have unanimously agreed that *'The Cheltenham Improvement Act, 1852'*, ought to be printed, with all the sections and parts of other acts incorporated or made applicable, in extenso. The commissioners have postponed the printing on the score of expense and want of funds, reasons which may probably hold good for a long period; and the labour and expense have hitherto deterred private individuals. It may seem bold to attempt that, which the commissioners have postponed even the consideration of, and private individuals have feared to approach; but no-one will consider an apology necessary for any such attempt.'

## BACKGROUND

SINCE WRITING THE ARTICLE entitled *'The Cheltenham Town Survey of 1855-1857'* for last year's Journal<sup>1</sup>, I have been fortunate to acquire a copy of the book produced by Septimus Pruen: *'The Cheltenham Improvement Act, 1852'*, printed in 1853 by W. Paine, Printer and Publisher, Cheltenham. The book includes notes and an appendix containing the Acts relating to the public baths and wash houses and other Acts, the provisions of which the Cheltenham Commissioners were empowered to carry out or enforce, etc., plus an analytical index, and plan of Cheltenham [regrettably, my copy has no plan]. Excluding the index the book has a total of 361 pages. Amusingly, imprinted on the front cover are the words, 'NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ROOM'. At the time of writing, I do not know how many copies of the book were produced.

Septimus Pruen justified the need for the book by stating that the Queen's printer's copy of the Act was 'insufficient for any purpose' as it merely set out in full 136 out of the 653 sections of the Act, thus leaving the reader to wade through other Acts of Parliament. He described the 'monster' Act, which required numerous and lengthy meetings of some forty gentlemen of the town, and two succeeding sessions of parliament to elaborate and pass into law. He compared the excitement in the town during the two years prior to the passing of the Act as comparable to 'that arising from political contention'. There had been much pressure and support for a local Act, rather than for provisional orders under existing Acts, as it was considered that Cheltenham had 'many local peculiarities'. Also, there had been much strong feeling against the self-elected and self-electing body of commissioners holding jurisdiction

over various and often detached parts of the town and the surveyors and private parties who exercised control in the hamlets and over other parts of the town.

The *Cheltenham Examiner* of 21 September 1853 contained a favourable review of the book. In the Editor's view, Mr. Pruen was to be congratulated and admired for his 'liberal and public spirited conduct' in producing this new and complete edition of the Act, 'at immense labour to himself and no inconsiderable outlay'. John Goding, in his '*History of Cheltenham*' published in 1863, referred to Septimus Pruen's work, stating that the immense mass of legal matter, published in one volume in 1853, 'will ever form a most valuable work of reference'.

## EXTRACTS

I have selected extracts from the detailed sections of the '*Cheltenham Improvement Act, 1852*' which I hope you will find both informative and amusing. I have retained Pruen's style as far as possible to give a flavour of the original. For example, sections in smaller font and italics are direct quotes from a previous Act. If you are particularly interested in any of the topics covered by the book I will be happy to give more detail.

### **ENACTMENTS:**

**Section 2** '... when any Distance from or around the Borough of Cheltenham is referred to in this Act, the same shall be measured in a direct Line from Cheltenham Parish Church ...'

**Section 6** '... the Number of Persons for executing this Act shall be Thirty, and they shall be called "The Cheltenham Improvement Commissioners" ...'

**Section 7** '... the Borough shall be divided into Five Wards; namely, East Ward, North Ward, West Ward, Middle Ward, and South Ward ... each of the said Wards shall be considered as a separate Election District ...'<sup>2</sup>

### **Section 17 of "The Commissioners Clauses Act, 1847", [incorporated]**

*'... no Commissioner shall remain in Office longer than Three Years without being re-elected ...'*

**Section 9** '... at every Election of Commissioners the Persons rated under this Act to the Borough Rate as the Occupiers of Premises in the Borough, and the Persons named in such Rate as the Owners of such Premises, shall be entitled to vote... provided always...he has been rated to the Borough Rate for the Period of One whole Year... and have paid all Borough Rates made upon him for the respective Periods aforesaid...also, That no Person shall be entitled to vote who within Twelve Calendar Months...shall have received Relief from any Parish or Union.'

### **Section 10 Section 24 of "The Commissioners Clauses Act, 1847", [incorporated]**

*'... every such Owner and Ratepayer ... if the Property in respect of which he is entitled to vote be rated upon a rateable Value of less than Fifty Pounds, he shall have One Vote ... if it amount to or exceed Two hundred and fifty Pounds, he shall have Six Votes ...'*

**MAPS:**

**Section 31** 'That the Section numbered 41 of "*The Public Health Act, 1848*," shall be incorporated with this Act; and on the Map made under the said section shall be marked as well the Course of the Commissioners Sewers and other Sewers, as of Water and Gas Pipes and other underground Works ... And the Commissioners may, if they think fit, cause such Map or Plan to be copied, engraved, and published: And in the Survey may also be included any Places adjoining the Borough which the Commissioners may think necessary to include for the Purpose of exhibiting the Boundaries and Precincts thereof ...'

**Section 42 of "The Public Health Act, 1848", [incorporated]**

*'And be it enacted, That the Expense of Surveys, Maps, or Plans made, prepared, or procured by the Local Board of Health for the Purposes of this Act shall be defrayed out of the General District Rates to be levied under this Act.'*

**SEWERS AND DRAINS:**

**Section 34** 'That for the Purpose of the Sewerage and Drainage of the Town the Commissioners shall make and construct the following Works; ...

A Main Sewer commencing at or near a Point situate near the *River Chelt* adjoining the *Old Bath Road*...and terminating in the Reservoir or Tank first herein-after mentioned;

And also a Main Sewer commencing at or near a Point situate in the *Evesham Road* near the *Pittville Bridge* ... and terminating in a Junction with the Main Sewer before described at or near a Point situate in a Field...on the North Side of the *River Chelt* near the *Lower Alstone Mill*, and in the occupation of *Mr. John Davies*;

And also a Reservoir or Tank, Overflow Drain, and Works connected therewith, at or near the *River Chelt* on the North side thereof in a Field near the *Moor's Farm* ... in the Occupation of *Mr. John Yearsley*, for the Purpose of receiving the Sewage of the said Two Main Sewers;

And also a Main Sewer commencing at or near a Point situate in a Field on the South Side of *Hatherley Court*...and in the occupation of *James Webster* Esquire, and terminating in the Reservoir or Tank next herein-after mentioned;

And also a Reservoir or Tank, Overflow Drain, and Works connected therewith, at or near the *Hatherley Brook* on the South Side thereof in a Field adjoining the *Bristol and Birmingham Railway*, and in the Occupation of *Mr. Hawkins*, for the Purpose of receiving the Sewage and Drainage now running in the said *Hatherley Brook*; ...'

**Section 39** 'That if any person shall lay or throw into any Sewer of the Commissioners any Cinders, Ashes, Bricks, Stone, Earth, or hard Rubbish, or shall lay or throw into any of the said Brooks any Ashes, Rubbish, Dust, Filth, or Annoyance whatsoever, he shall forfeit to the Commissioners a Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings for every such Offence.'

**HOUSE DRAINS:****Section 41 Section 49 of "The Public Health Act, 1848," [incorporated]**

'... it shall not be lawful newly to erect any House, or to rebuild any House ... unless a covered Drain or Drains be constructed...for every such C<sub>j</sub>fence ..a Penalty not exceeding Fifty Pounds ...'

**Section 51**

'... it shall not be lawful newly to erect any House, or to rebuild any House...without a sufficient Water-closet or Privy and an Ashpit, furnished with proper Doors and Coverings;...a penalty not exceeding Twenty Pounds ... and any House, whether built before or after the Time when this Act is applied...is without a sufficient Watercloset or Privy and an Ashpit ... the said Local Board shall give Notice in Writing to the Owner or Occupier ... requiring him forthwith ... to provide a sufficient Watercloset, or Privy and an Ashpit ... Provided always, that where a Watercloset or Privy has been and is used in common by the Inmates of Two or more Houses ... they need not require the same to be provided for each House.'

**STREET PAVING:**

**Section 43** 'The Section numbered 68 of the said Act; [**"Public Health Act, 1848"**] and the said Provision shall extend ... to prohibit any Person from maliciously cutting down, pulling up, destroying, or damaging any such Tree or Shrub ... planted or growing in any Carriageway, Bridleway, or Footpath under the Management of the Commissioners ... under the Penalty for every Offence of a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds ...'

**Section 45** '... the Commissioners, or any Surveyor or Officer...shall not at any Time, have Power to lop, fell, cut, take down, alter, or remove, or otherwise interfere with any Tree or Shrub, or any Hedge, Fence, or Gate, adjoining to or by the Side of any Carriage Road, Footpath, Plantation, or Garden in any of the following Places, namely, the *Promenade, Imperial Square, Vittoria Walk, and the Montpellier, Lansdown, Christchurch, Pittville, Bays Hill, and Lypiatt's Estates, or in Charlton Park...*'

**Section 48** 'And whereas it would be of great public Advantage that the private Streets specified in the Schedule F<sup>3</sup> ...should be immediately dedicated to public Use, and the said Streets are well and sufficiently drained, levelled, paved, and channelled; ... after the passing of this Act all the said Streets shall become and be Highways, and be repaired as such by the Commissioners...'

**HIGHWAYS:**

**Section 57** '...the Trustees...relating to the *Cheltenham* District of Turnpike Roads, shall continue to repair all such Roads in the said Borough as are now repaired by them, and may collect Tolls at the several Toll Gates and Toll Bars and Weighing Machines at which Tolls are now received by such Trustees...or on the Side of any Part of the Road made a Turnpike Road...and leading from or near to the Top or Eastern End of the *High Street* in the Town and Parish of *Cheltenham*...to the Turnpike Road leading from *Cheltenham* towards *Birdlip*, not nearer to the Parish Church of *Cheltenham* than the present Turnpike Gate called the *Charlton Park Gate*...

The Trustees ... of the *Cheltenham and Gloucester Turnpike Road Act, 1851*, may continue to collect Tolls ... not nearer to the Parish Church of *Cheltenham* than the present

Turnpike gate called the *Montpellier* or *Lansdowne Gate*, or the present Turnpike Gate, called the *Junction Gate* ...’

**STREET OBSTRUCTIONS:**

**Section 59** *Section 22 of “The Towns Police Clauses Act, 1847” [incorporated]... ‘On Application to the Commissioners by the Minister or Churchwardens or Chapelwardens of any Church, Chapel, or other Place of public Worship...the Commissioners may make Orders for regulating the Route by which Persons shall drive any Cart or Carriage, or Cattle<sup>4</sup>, or the Manner in which they shall drive them, in the Neighbourhood of such Places of Worship, during the House of Divine Service on Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or any Day appointed for a public Fast or Thanksgiving...Penalty not exceeding Forty Shillings.’*

**STREET ANNOYANCES:**

**Section 60** ‘That the following Sections of **“The Town Police Clauses Act, 1847,”** shall be incorporated with this Act, and shall extend not only to the Borough but to any Place within One Mile in a direct Line from the Church of *Saint Mary, Cheltenham:*

*Section 28* ‘Every Person who... commits any of the following Offences, shall be liable to a Penalty not exceeding Forty Shillings for each Offence, or...may be committed to Prison for a Period not exceeding Fourteen Days...

*Every Person having the Care of any Waggon, Cart, or Carriage who rides on the Shafts thereof, or who without having Reins, and holding the same, rides upon such Waggon, Cart, or Carriage, or on any Animal drawing the same, or who is at such a Distance from such Waggon, Cart, or Carriage, as not to have due Control over every Animal drawing the same...*

*Every Person who at one Time drives more than Two Carts or Waggons, and every Person driving Two Carts or Waggons who has not the Halter of the Horse in the last Cart or Waggon securely fastened to the back of the first Cart or Waggon, or has such Halter of a greater Length from such Fastening to the Horse’s Head than Four Feet ...*

*Every Person who causes any Tree or Timber or Iron Beam to be drawn in or upon any Carriage, without having sufficient Means of safely guiding the same ...*

*Every Person who rolls or carries any Cask, Tub, Hoop, or Wheel, or any Ladder, Plank, Pole, Timber, or Log of Wood, upon any Footway, except for the Purpose of loading or unloading any Cart or Carriage, or of crossing the Footway...*

*Every common Prostitute or Nightwalker loitering and importuning Passengers for the Purpose of Prostitution...*

*Every Person who willfully and wantonly disturbs any Inhabitant, by pulling or ringing any Door Bell, or knocking at any Door, or who willfully and unlawfully extinguishes the Light of any Lamp:*

*Every Person who flies any Kite, or who makes or uses any Slide upon Ice or Snow...*

*Every Person who beats or shakes any Carpet, Rug, or Mat (except Door Mats, beaten or shaken before the Hour of Eight in the Morning)...*

*Every Occupier of any House or other Building or other Person who orders or permits any Person in his Service to stand on the Sill of any Window, in order to clean, paint, or perform any other*

*Operation upon the Outside of such Window ... unless such Window be in the sunk or Basement Story ...*

*Every Person who leaves open any Vault or Cellar, or the Entrance from any Street to any Cellar or Room underground, without a sufficient Fence or Handrail ... or who does not sufficiently fence any Area, Pit, or Sewer left open, or who leaves such an open Area, Pit, or Sewer without a sufficient Light after Sunset to warn and prevent Persons from falling thereinto ...'*

**Section 61** 'That no Dog shall be used as a Beast of Draught or Burden within the Borough or within One Mile in a direct Line from the Church of *Saint Mary, Cheltenham*; and every Person so using any Dog shall forfeit any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and any Constable may seize and detain any Dog so used for any such Purpose ...'

### **IMPROVING STREETS:**

**Section 64 Section 71 of "The Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847" [incorporated]**

*'All Doors, Gates, and Bars put up after the passing of the special Act...and which open upon any Street, shall be hung or placed so as not to open outwards...'*

**Section 74**

*'The Occupier of every House or Building in, adjoining, or near to any Street shall, ... put up and keep in good Condition a Shoot or Trough of the whole Length of such House or Building, and shall connect the same either with a similar Shoot on the adjoining House or with a Pipe or Trunk to be fixed to the Front or Side of such Building from the Roof to the Ground, to carry the Water from the Roof thereof, in such Manner that the Water from such House ... shall not fall upon the Persons passing along the Street, or flow over the Footpath ...'*

### **POLICE:**

**Section 67 Section 34 of "The Town Police Clauses Act, 1847" [incorporated]**

*'Every Victualler or Keeper of any Public House, or any Person licensed to sell Wine, Spirits, Beer, Cider, or other fermented or distilled Liquors by retail, ... who knowingly harbours or entertains or suffers to remain in his Public House ... any Constable during any Part of the Time appointed for his being on Duty, unless for the Purpose of quelling any Disturbance or restoring Order, shall, for every such Offence, be liable to a Penalty not exceeding Twenty Shillings ...'*

**Section 36**

*'Every person who ... keeps or uses or acts in the Management of any House, Room, Pit, or other Place for the Purpose of fighting, baiting, or worrying any Animals shall be liable to a Penalty of not more than Five Pounds, or, ... to Imprisonment, with or without hard Labour, for a Time not exceeding One Month ...'*

### **WATER SUPPLY:**

**Section 68 Section 75 of "The Public Health Act, 1848" [incorporated]**

*'...any Waterworks Company... may sell and dispose of or lease their Waterworks to any Local Board of Health...the said Board may provide and keep ... a Supply of pure and wholesome Water, and the Water so supplied may be constantly laid on at such Pressure as will carry the same to the top Story of the highest Dwelling House within the District supplied ...'*

**Section 80** *'...Whosoever shall bathe in any Stream, Reservoir, Conduit, Acqueduct, or other Waterworks...or shall wash, cleanse, throw, or cause to enter therein any Animal, Rubbish, Filth, Stuff, or Thing ... or suffer to be brought therein the Water of any Sink, Sewer, Drain, Engine,*

*or Boiler, ... shall for every such Offence forfeit a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and a further Sum of Twenty Shillings for each Day whilst the offence is continued ... and whosoever, being Proprietor of any Gasworks, ... causes or suffers to be brought or to flow into any Stream, ... any Washing or other Substance produced in the Manufacture or Supply of Gas, ... shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of Two hundred Pounds ...'*

### **PUBLIC SLAUGHTER HOUSES:**

#### **Section 71 Section 64 of "The Public Health Act, 1848" [incorporated]**

*'... The Business of a Blood-boiler, Bone-boiler, Fell-monger, Slaughterer of Cattle, Horses, or Animals of any Description, Soap-boiler, Tallow-melter, Tripe-boiler, or other noxious or offensive Business, Trade, or Manufacture, shall not be newly established in any Building or Place ...'*

### **NUISANCES:**

#### **Section 73 Section 104 of "The Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847" [incorporated]**

*'of any Candle-house, Melting-house, Melting-place, or Soap-house, or any Slaughter-house, or any Building or Place for boiling Offal or Blood, or for boiling or crushing Bones, or any Pigstye, Necessary House, Dunghill, Manure Heap, or any Manufactory, Building, or Place of Business ... be at any Time certified to the Commissioners by the Inspector of Nuisances or Officer of Health ... the Commissioners shall direct Complaint to be made before Two Justices ... they may ... order such Person to discontinue or remedy the Nuisance ...'*

### **BUILDINGS REGULATION:**

**Section 74** *'And with respect to the Construction of Houses for Prevention of Fire ... that the Party Walls of all Buildings erected ... shall be carried through and above the Roof to form a Parapet (properly coped with Stone or with such incombustible Materials as the Surveyor may approve) ... and no Timber or Woodwork shall be placed in any Building within Four and a Half inches of any Flue or Fireplace therein ... and it shall not be lawful for the Owner of any Building ... having a Roof covered with Thatch ... to allow such Covering to such Roof to remain for a longer Period than Seven Years after the passing of this Act, unless with the Consent in Writing of the Commissioners Surveyor ...'*

### **CELLAR DWELLINGS:**

#### **Section 75 Section 67 of "The Public Health Act, 1848" [incorporated]**

*'... It shall not be lawful to let or occupy or suffer to be occupied separately as a Dwelling any Vault, Cellar, or underground Room built or rebuilt after the passing of this Act ... unless the same be in every Part thereof at least Seven Feet in Height ... nor ... at least Three Feet of its Height above the Surface of the Street ...'*

### **HACKNEY CARRIAGES:**

**Section 79** *'The Sections numbered 37 and 38 of the said Act ["The Town Police Clauses Act, 1847"] and the term "Hackney Carriages" ... shall be extended to include hired Sedan Chairs, Wheel Chairs, Fly Chairs drawn by Men ... and the Distances within which Hackney Carriages and Hired Chairs shall be bound to go shall be fixed from Time to Time by a Byelaw or Order of the Commissioners, not exceeding, for a Hackney Carriage, Ten Miles from the Borough, and for a Hired Chair Two Miles therefrom ...'*



‘Also **Section 41** of the said Act; and the Licence shall express the Name and Place of Abode of the Driver as well as the Proprietor of a Hackney Carriage ...’

**Section 53**

‘Any driver of a Hackney Carriage standing at any of the Stands for Hackney Carriages, or in any Street, who refuses or neglects ... to drive ... to any Place within the prescribed Distance ... to which he is directed to drive by the Person hiring ... such Carriage, shall for every such Offence be liable to a Penalty not exceeding Forty Shillings.’

**Section 61**

‘If the Driver or any other Person having ... the Care of any such Hackney Carriage be intoxicated while driving, or ... by wanton and furious driving, or by any other wilful Misconduct, injure or endanger any Person in his Life, Limbs, or Property, he shall be liable to a Penalty not exceeding Five Pounds...’

**Section 80** ‘... for each Licence for a Hackney Coach, Cabriolet, One or Two Horse Fly Carriage, or other like Carriage, the Sum of Five Shillings: For each Licence for a Pony or Donkey Cart, or Gig, Fly Chair, Wheel Chair, Sedan Chair ... the Sum of Three Shillings and Sixpence.’

**MARKET FAIRS:**

**Section 83** ‘Whereas certain Fairs, Markets, Mops, and Hirings have heretofore been held in the *High Street* and other Streets and Places within the Town of *Cheltenham*, and such Fairs, Markets, Mops, and Hirings are a great Nuisance, Obstruction, and Inconvenience to such Streets and Places, and to the Inhabitants thereof and the Public in general...be it enacted, That ... no person shall hold any Fair, Market, Mop, or Hiring in or upon, or about the *High Street* or any other Street within the Borough, nor erect ... any Stall, Standing, Booth, Carriage, or Thing ... for ... selling ... any Goods, Wares, or Merchandise ... and that all such Fairs, Markets, Mops, and Hirings shall ... be held in the present public Market Place in the Borough of *Cheltenham* ...’

**BURIALS:**

**Section 97** ‘... it shall not be lawful to bury ... any Corpse or Coffin, within or under any Church or Churchyard now or to be hereafter consecrated in the Parish of *Cheltenham*, other than the Churches and Churchyards of *Saint Mary*, the *Holy Trinity*, and *Saint Peter* ... and in the said Churches and Churchyards only in Catacombs ... Interment in the Church and Churchyard of *Saint Mary Cheltenham* shall also be subject to the Restrictions...No new Vault or Grave shall be made therein; in the now existing Vaults or Graves none but Members of the Families ... shall be interred ...’

**Section 104** ‘That when it appears to the Commissioners, and the General Board of Health certifies, that the cemetery or new Burial Ground at the Western Extremity of the Borough of *Cheltenham* is in or approaching to a State unfit or insufficient for the further Reception of Corpses or Coffins, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners...to purchase Land for the making of a Cemetery or Cemeteries for the Parish, and such Purchase shall be One of the Purposes of this Act...such Land so to be purchased shall not be within Three Hundred Yards of any Dwelling House, except with the Consent in Writing of the Owner, Lessee, and Occupier of such Dwelling House.’

**Section 105** *Section 25 of “The Cemeteries Clauses Act, 1847” [incorporated]*

*‘The Company shall build, within the consecrated Part of the Cemetery, and according to a Plan approved by the Bishop of the Diocese, a Chapel for the Performance of the Burial Service according to the Rites of the Established Church.’*

‘The consecrated Part of the Cemetery, in whatever Parish the same shall be locally situate, shall for all Purposes of a Parochial Burial Ground be deemed to be situate in the Parish of *Cheltenham*, and to be the Burying Ground of the said Parish ...’

**Section 59** *of the said Act*

*‘Every Person who shall play at any Game or Sport, or discharge Fire-arms, save at a Military Funeral, in the Cemetery...shall forfeit for every such offence a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.’*

**RATES:**

**Section 115** ‘... the Occupiers of Houses, Buildings, or Ground ... in any Part of the Borough, which Part is not lighted, paved, cleansed, flagged, repaired, watered, and scavenged by the Commissioners, shall be allowed an Abatement<sup>5</sup> from the Borough Rate’

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Section 133** ‘... nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prejudice, lessen, or defeat any Right, Interest, Property, Power, Privilege, Franchise, or Authority of the Lord of the Manor of *Cheltenham* aforesaid, or Owner of the Fairs and Markets within the said Town, except as expressly appears by this Act, but all and every such Rights, Interest, Property, Powers, Privileges, Franchises, and Authorities may be exercised and enjoyed, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as the same were exercised and enjoyed before the passing of this Act.’

<sup>1</sup> Heasman, Elaine, ‘The Cheltenham Town Survey of 1855-57’, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* **18** (2002).

<sup>2</sup> The names of the First Commissioners appointed were given as:

**East Ward**

**First Commissioners:** Charles Lloyd Harford, Stephen Edward Comyn, Thomas Sheldon, James Humphris (Builder), William Hollis (Gunsmith), and William Buckle.

**North Ward**

**First Commissioners:** John Brend Winterbotham, John Yearsley, Samuel Sheddon, George James Engall, James Leighton, and Richard Hulbert.

**West Ward**

**First Commissioners:** William Nash Skillicorne, James Agg Gardner, James Fallon, Robert Burland Hudleston, John Bubb (Solicitor), and George Rowe.

**Middle Ward**

**First Commissioners:** William Henry Henney, Edward Warner Shewell, William Ridler, William Hasell, Henry Davies, and James Webster of Hatherly Court.

**South Ward**

**First Commissioners:** Robert Sole Lingwood, Baynham Jones (junior), John Beckinsale, George Schonswar (junior), Frederick Monro, and Charles Paul.

<sup>3</sup> List of Streets dedicated to the Public on, or over, near, or leading to the *Montpellier* and *Lansdowne* Estates.

<sup>4</sup> In the *Town Police Clauses Act* it is enacted that “The word Cattle shall include horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, and swine”.

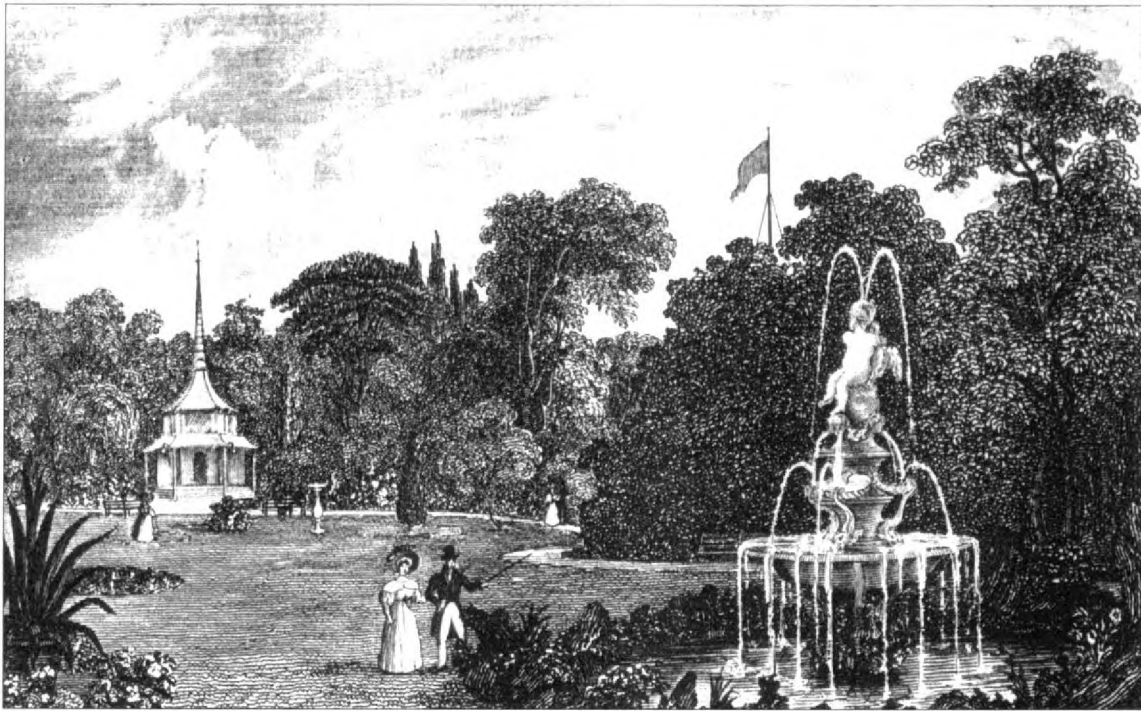
<sup>5</sup> ‘The Commissioners on their first Rate of 2s in the Pound ... have made the abatements ... 3 1/2d. in the Pound for parts not lighted, 3 farthings ... for parts not flagged, and 3 farthings ... for parts not scavenged ...’

# Cheltenham's Chinese Pagodas

MICK KIPPEN

---

*Mick Kippen looks at the short history of two of Cheltenham's more exotic buildings, and regrets that modern architects do not seem to have so much panache!*



The Chinese Pagoda in G.P. Johnson's print of Montpellier Gardens, c.1836

(Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum)

EARLY BANDSTANDS in Britain can be traced back to the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and were greatly influenced by oriental architecture. This is especially true of the Chinese Pagoda that used to stand in Montpellier Gardens, roughly where the public conveniences are today.

In March 1831 Robert William Jerrard and his brother Charles, proprietors of the Montpellier Spa, acquired the Imperial Spa<sup>1</sup> and announced plans to combine the grounds of the two establishments. At least a part of the Jerrard brothers' development plans had been completed by the end of May; on 19 May the *Cheltenham Chronicle* made reference to:

*'... the elegant and fanciful Chinese orchestra which has been so much admired.'*

Henry Davies' 1832 *Strangers Guide to Cheltenham* says of the Pagoda:

*'Immediately facing the conservatories at the NW end of the gardens is a light and elegant Chinese Pagoda erected by the proprietors Messrs RW and C Jerrard and fitted up by them as an orchestra for the band.'*

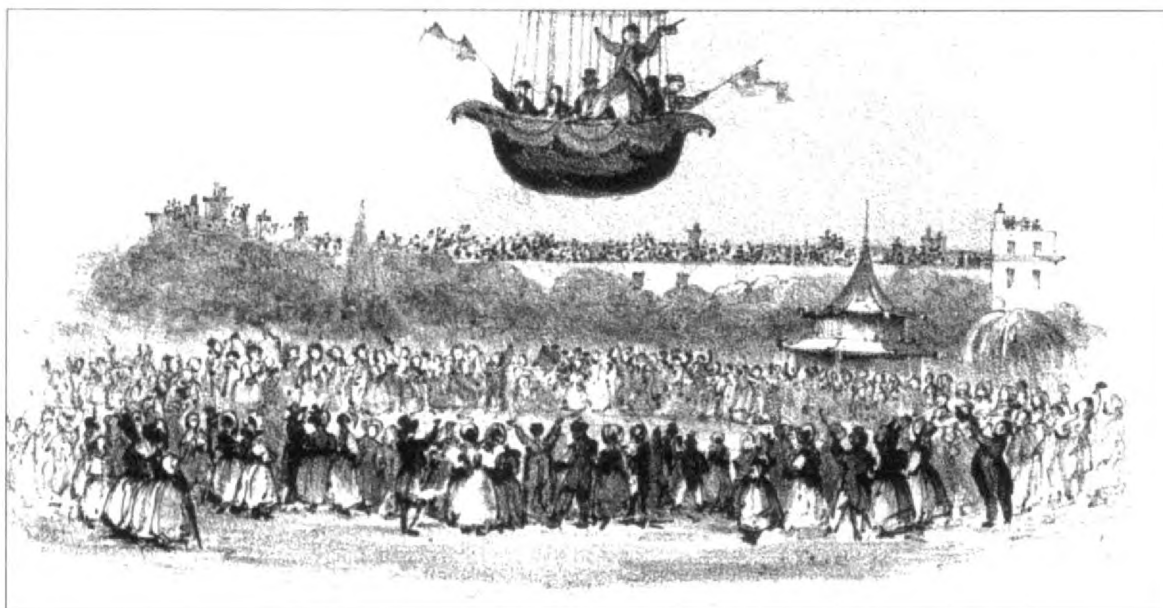


The Pagoda on the plate  
(Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum)

The earliest published image of the Chinese Pagoda appears to be that used by Henry Davies on the cover of his 1832 *Guide*; although I have seen a plate manufactured by the Minton factory, supposedly in the 1820s, that used the same print! Clearly this date is wrong – the Pagoda was not built for another eleven years! There is a similar plate by an unidentified, probably Staffordshire, porcelain factory in the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum's collection that has been catalogued as 'manufactured 1820-1840'. This is probably more realistic and may well apply to the Minton plate as well.

The lower storey of the Montpellier Pagoda had a sloping roof made up of six segments well bell-shaped ornaments at the ends of the ridges. In the base was an enclosed area, which could have been used to store chairs, music stands, etc. for the band, much like the base of the present Montpellier bandstand. There was a gothic-style window with a wooden shutter, but no door is visible on this side of the structure. The first storey section has a similar style of roof and a series of small windows, but it is not clear if this upper area could be accessed, or if the windows simply allowed more light into the lower area.

Precisely when the Montpellier Pagoda was demolished is unclear. However the bandstand that is still standing in Montpellier Gardens was erected in September 1864. It is therefore probable that use of the Pagoda by the Montpellier Spa band declined from this time, it gradually fell into disuse and was eventually demolished.



The ascent of the Nassau balloon from Montpellier Gardens 1837. The Chinese Pagoda is visible in the background. (Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum)



Jessop's Chinese Pagoda

Montpellier Gardens was not the only place in Cheltenham to have a Chinese Pagoda. Jessop's Gardens were located just off St. James' Square and although primarily a commercial nursery catering for the wealthy householders of Cheltenham, the Gardens developed into more of a public attraction with aviaries, ponds and even an apiary. Rowe tells us that the Pagoda was two storeys in height and had formerly stood in the Cheltenham Zoological Gardens; Jessop had purchased it in 1845. It would appear to have been part of the aviary section of the Gardens:

*'The various compartments of the pagoda were stocked with fancy fowls, pheasants etc. and in the upper room [were] several very rare varieties of foreign birds.'*<sup>2</sup>

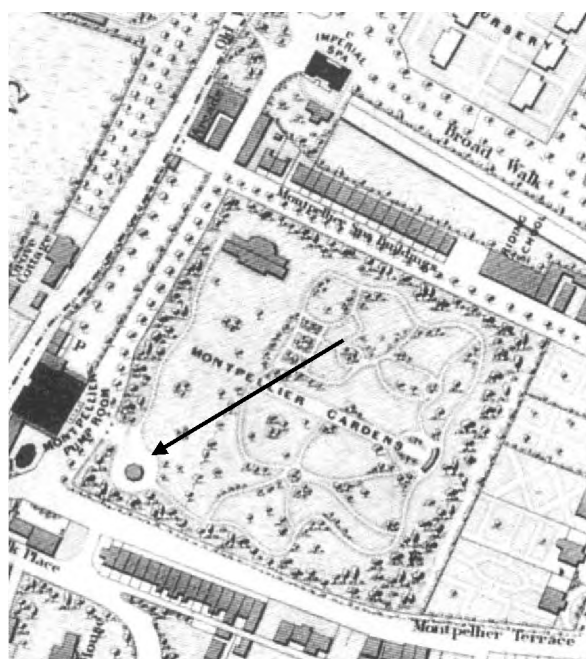
Jessop's Gardens were closed in 1872 and the Pagoda was presumably demolished along with the rest of the Garden's structures.

### Sources

A selection of Cheltenham Guides 1831-1834  
*Cheltenham Chronicle*, 17 Mar 1831  
 Ibid, 19 May 1831  
 Bradbury, Oliver, 'The Follies of Cheltenham (Part 2)', *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* 15 (1999) pp.16-24  
 Greet, Carolyn, 'An Ornament to the Town: Jessop's Gardens', *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* 11 (1994-5), pp.6-11  
 Rowe, George, *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide*, (George Rowe, 1845)

<sup>1</sup> On the site of today's Queen's Hotel.

<sup>2</sup> Rowe p.100

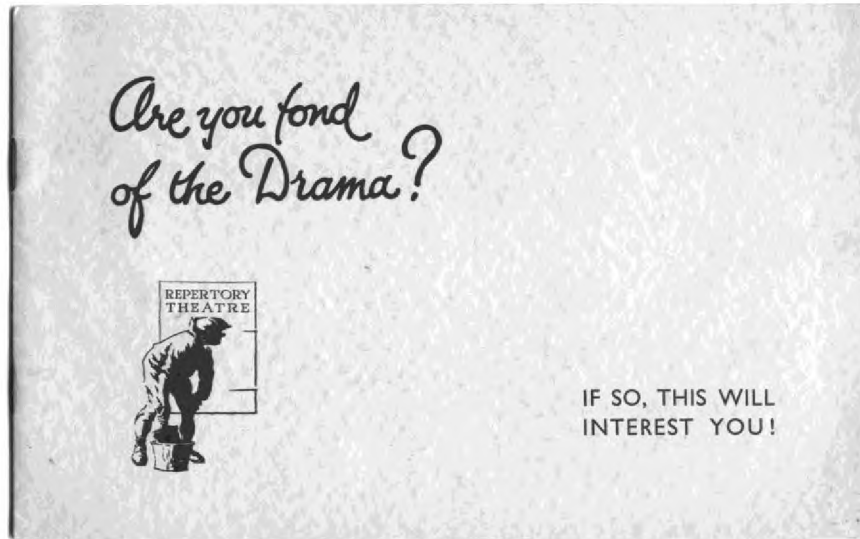


Detail from Merrett's 1834 map of Cheltenham showing the Pagoda in Montpellier Gardens.

# Repertory in North Street

ROGER BEACHAM

---



Front cover of Playgoers' Circle Booklet (Cheltenham Reference Library)

AT A GARDEN MEETING in July 1931 of the Actors' Church Union (A.C.U.) held at Hatherley Lawn, the Reverend John Baghot de la Bere, Vicar of Prestbury and local A.C.U. Chaplain, complained that 'Cheltenham had taken away [his] job by allowing the Theatre to become mainly a picture house'.

The Opera House in Regent Street had been used mainly for films since September 1929 while the Coliseum in Albion Street had become a cinema from 13 April 1931. Also at the A.C.U. meeting was the Mayor, Alderman P.T. Smith, who spoke of the loss of the theatre 'as a great calamity from the ... point of view of trying to attract people to the town'. He suggested that the Borough Council would be prepared to offer the Winter Garden as a home for drama if Cheltenham would support such a scheme. The Mayor drew attention to the Folly concert party playing at the Montpellier Gardens, the company of which was present at the meeting<sup>1</sup>.

Earlier in 1931 the *Gloucestershire Echo* had published a letter from Miss Jessie suggesting that Cheltenham follow the lead of other towns, and establish a repertory theatre<sup>2</sup>. On 8 July a meeting was held at her home - 119 Promenade Terrace - with representatives of the Operatic and Dramatic Society, the Dickens Fellowship, Rotary and other organisations, under the chairmanship of A.W. Martyn, the former chairman of the old Cheltenham Theatre Company. Herbert Rainger presented a tentative scheme for the running of a repertory theatre and became Vice-chairman of the committee formed under Martyn, with Miss Scrivener as Secretary<sup>3</sup>. However on 30 September the *Echo* published a letter from Martyn stating that because of the poor economic climate his committee had decided 'to postpone its

activities until more favourable times'. Two schemes then emerged for converting the Winter Garden into a theatre, that of Messrs. Sabine and Davy and that of Rex Burchell of the Folly Company. Neither offer was acceptable to the Council<sup>4</sup>.

In North Street stood a small cinema owned by H.G. Beard who also owned the Coliseum. The North Street cinema had closed in July after its projector had been condemned. Burchell obtained a lease of the cinema from Beard, although Beard must have had doubts about its viability for he claimed that he had lost £1500 on a repertory season at the Coliseum<sup>5</sup>. T.H. Poynton had built the North Street cinema in 1909/10 as the Albert Hall to the design of John Coates Carter of Prestbury. Principally an ecclesiastical architect Coates Carter had earlier designed the Paget Rooms in Penarth still, in 2000, in use as a theatre. The Albert Hall was described as being 100 feet long, nearly 40 feet wide, seating 850 on the ground floor and 250 in the circle. Behind the circle was a promenade, a lounge and a separate ladies' lounge; two rooms were allocated as tea rooms. The stage had a depth of about 20 feet, the proscenium opening being about 30 feet. The Hall was equipped with a bioscope similar to one installed at the London Hippodrome<sup>6</sup>.

The Albert Hall, North Street opened on 6 April 1910 when the lessee, Lawrence Glen Barber, presented a 'matinee musicale and tete-a-tete tea', the programme consisting of selections played by Horace Teague's orchestra and 'humorous musical recitations' by C. Robins Piercy. That same evening a second concert was given in aid of the General Hospital funds. Again Horace Teague's orchestra played and other entertainment included a mandolin solo by Alice Gardner, further recitations by Robins Piercy and a recitation by local architect and amateur actor Herbert Rainger, accompanied by composer Heller Nichols.

From the beginning it was intended that the Albert Hall should be available for concerts, amateur dramatics and 'at homes', as well as its use as a cinema. The first play staged was *The Importance of Being Earnest* on 13 April 1910, in aid of the funds of the Charlton Kings crèche, with Herbert Rainger taking the part of John Worthing. The Albert Hall seems never to have been really successful and changed name and lessee several times.

Between November 1910 and April 1911 the Albert Hall was occupied by Gillsmiths Electric Theatre from the Winter Garden, while that building was used for roller skating. On 12 April 1911 the Albert Hall re-opened as the Royal Cinema de Luxe with 'the world's finest pictures and London and Paris vaudeville star artistes'. 30 September 1912 saw another re-opening, this time as the Theatre of Varieties and Cinema de Luxe, with variety matinees on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. In 1914 S.C. Field became lessee, and the Hall re-opened as the North Street Picture House on 23 November. 'The idea', it was stated was, 'not to touch variety, and to stick to cinematography', though this policy did not remain unchanged for, in February 1917, Dan Leno, junior appeared there for two weeks with *The Glad Idlers*.

After alterations, including a new stage, the former cinema opened as the Repertory Theatre on 23 November 1931, with Edward Percy's Dorset drama *If Four*

*Walls Told.* Rex Burchell played Toby Crouch, his wife Gladys Voile Liz Rysing while Herbert Hare infused 'a masterfulness into the strong part of Ian Rysing'. Also in the cast were Constance Kaye, Daphne Rigg, Iris Jay, Jacqueline Arnold, Lawrence Shiel and David Shenstone who, under the name of Shenstone Gilbert, had been a member of The Folly concert party. The play was produced by H.E. Hutteroth, who also appeared as old Mr. Rysing. The plays were to be presented weekly, with six evening performances and a matinee on Thursdays. A Saturday matinee was soon added. A trio played under the direction of Miss May Johnson and in May 1932 mention was made of a scenic artist, W. Esdon.

**THE REPERTORY THEATRE,**  
**NORTH STREET. CHELTENHAM.**  
**OPENING WEEK.**  
 Commencing Monday, November 23.  
 The Rex Burchell Repertory Company  
 Present

**"IF FOUR WALLS TOLD."**  
 From the Savoy Theatre.  
 Nightly at 8.0. Doors open at 7.30.  
 Matinee — Thursday 2.30, Doors open 2.0.  
 Seats can be booked at the Theatre between  
 10.0 a.m. and 7.0 p.m (Telephone: Chelten-  
 ham 3250), or at Messrs. Dale, Forty, &  
 Co., Ltd., The Promenade (Telephone Chel-  
 tenham 3092).  
**JOIN THE PLAYGOERS' CIRCLE**  
 (Particulars on Application).

Advertisement from *Gloucestershire Echo*

On 15 December 1931 H.E. Hutteroth, the Company's producer, addressed the Rotary Club at their luncheon, tracing the history of the stage, the coming of the 'talkies', the demise of touring and the emergence of the repertory movement. A Playgoers' Circle was formed, and soon had over 800 members. An informal meeting of the Circle was held at Boots café on 13 January 1932 to enable playgoers to meet the company. Percy Bolton, Headmaster of Dean Close School, took the chair. On behalf of the company the A.C.U. chaplain, the Reverend W.E.M. Williams, Vicar of St. Peter's, was able to promise that if more support was forthcoming not only would a greater range of plays be possible but that 'outstanding stars of the London stage would be invited' to make guest appearances<sup>7</sup>.

A second meeting of the Playgoers' Circle was held under the chairmanship of Captain Robinson at the Theatre on 16 January 1932, when it was stated that the players had received little support, even from the members of the Circle, leading to financial losses. Daniel Lipson, ever a supporter of the drama, suggested that a season ticket should be introduced. In its editorial column the *Echo* commented that:

*'... a varied programme has been presented by clever artists, but only a loyal band of playgoers, numbering but a small percentage even of those who announced themselves willing to support the venture, have more than nibbled at the fare, which has ranged, in the works of modern writers, from light comedy to drama at its best.'*<sup>8</sup>





*T. Hayter, Photo*

**The Rex Burchell Repertory Company—Season 1931-1932**

On 18 January 1932 the company staged *Diplomacy*, an adaptation of Sardou's *Dora*, with Daphne Riggs and Herbert Hare taking the leading roles. From the following week the Monday performance, always the worst attended, was dropped. Around this time two new members joined the Company: Betty Larke Smith and Dennis Renton. In T.W. Robertson's classic drama *David Garrick* H.E. Hutteroth played the title role, Betty Larke Smith the heroine Ada Ingot and Dennis Renton her father Alderman Ingot, a part to which he brought 'a handsome presence and mellowness of manner'<sup>9</sup>.

The following week the Company performed Vachell's comedy *Quinneys*, the *Echo* reviewer praising Hutteroth in the role of the antique dealer as a 'play that might have been written for him', and also noting that his 'capacity for learning principal part after principal part, week after week, is one of the most astounding factors in the make-up of the company'. The reviewer also praised Constance Kaye playing Quinney's wife, noting her 'quiet unobtrusive way with her characterisations of elderly ladies and other types'<sup>10</sup>.

In *A Butterfly on the Wheel*, though the *Echo* reviewer found fault with the play, he was greatly impressed by Betty Larke Smith's social butterfly, foreseeing a great future for her. Having previously found fault several times with the acting of David Shenstone, in this production he praised his Lord Ellerdine as 'easily the best show [he] has given during the season'. Also in the cast was a very young amateur, Beryl Johnstone, later to begin her professional career at Cheltenham's Winter Garden.

Following the custom of the time the Theatre closed for Holy Week. In April 1932 Sutton Vane's *Outward Bound* was scheduled when on the Sunday the actor cast for the role of Mr Lingley was taken ill. No other member of the company was available for the part, so early on the Monday morning Hutteroth and David Shenstone left for London to find a substitute, eventually engaging Jack Armitage. Armitage sat up all night learning the part and Tuesday rehearsing. In the evening he was able to give 'a word perfect and exceptional performance'.

The season ended on 21 May 1932 with P.G. Wodehouse's *Good Morning Bill*. Herbert Rainger thanked the Company from the stage, and announced that Burchell and his Company would return in the autumn provided they were assured of support. Every member of the Company '... was showered with gifts and bouquets'. Burchell left Cheltenham for Southwold, Suffolk, where he was to present another concert party.

A brochure for the Playgoers' Circle for the 1932-33 season was printed gratuitously by Edward J. Burrow and Co. The brochure invited subscriptions of 10/6d. to be sent to the Honorary Secretary, W.H. Jessop, and listed eighteen other members of the committee, including A.W. Martyn, Theodore Hannam-Clark<sup>11</sup>, A. Seaton White of the School of Art, and the Reverend W.E.M. Williams<sup>12</sup>. During that summer the opportunity was taken to rake the auditorium floor.

The Rep re-opened on 17 October 1932 with Burchell's most elaborate and splendid production to date, an adaptation of W.M. Forster's *Old Heidelberg*. The company included Rafe Thomson, Zillah Grey, Ralph Tovey, Joan Ingram, Charles Cornock (born at Churchdown) and, from the previous season, Gladys Voile, H. E. Hutteroth and Constance Kaye. The Company had always been supplemented by amateur players, and the opening production included about forty members of the Operatic and Dramatic Society and of the Y.M.C.A. Even so doubling up was necessary as the *Echo* in its review lists 'Walter Plinge'<sup>13</sup> among the Company. The prices were, as at the end of the previous season, 3/6d, 2/4d, 1/10d, 1/3d and 9d.

On Boxing Day 1932 the company presented Harriet Jay's (writing as Charles Marlowe) farce *When Knights Were Bold* — on the same day the pantomime *Old Mother Hubbard* began its run at the Opera House. On 27 December at a meeting of the Playgoers' Circle Burchell announced that the fund subscribed to by members was exhausted. If the Rep were to continue new funds would need to be raised urgently, otherwise the Theatre would close on 14 January 1933. Burchell proposed selling coupons, value 6d each, in books of 40, 20 and 10 at a slight discount, the coupons to be redeemed against tickets. Coupons to the value of £400 would need to be sold by 11 January for the company to continue.<sup>14</sup>

By 10 January 1933 only £200 had been subscribed and on the first night of *Tilly of Bloomsbury* Burchell earnestly appealed for the balance. It was not forthcoming, and on Saturday 21 January, after a performance of *The Trial of Mary Dugan*, the Rep closed. H.T. Rainger thanked Burchell and the Company on behalf of the Playgoers' Circle, and both Burchell and Hutteroth addressed the audience.

Why did the Rep fail? The Theatre, which at its opening in 1910 had been praised for its acoustics and clear sight lines, was now said to be 'not only bad to hear in, but to see in.'<sup>15</sup> Hampered by a small stage and inadequate dressing room accommodation, the company struggled against the competition of the 'all singing, all dancing talkies' at the town's four cinemas in a period of great economic depression<sup>16</sup>. In addition the Opera House, though mainly used for showing films, increased the number of weeks of live entertainment, (excluding the pantomime season but including amateur productions), from four in 1931, to nine in 1932, and sixteen in 1933. The Rep suffered too from the lack of commitment promised by lovers of the drama when the suggestion of a repertory theatre was first mooted, although in fairness it should be stated that the fare offered by Burchell was perhaps not what was originally envisaged<sup>17</sup>.

The Rep in North Street was not dark for long. On 30 January 1933 Noel Shenton, a member of a family long associated with entertainment in the town, re-opened the Theatre with *Beggars on Horseback* together with variety turns and a sketch. The Company led by Arthur Buckley (who acted as producer) included his wife Alice Jennings, their son Arthur Buckley junior, and as leading lady their sixteen-year-old daughter Dorothy Primrose<sup>18</sup>, together with Hetty Senior, Dorothy Dickson, Victor Rosini and Ken Thompson. Plays were presented nightly, changing on Thursdays with children's show on Saturday afternoons. Prices were 1/-, 7d, 6d and 2d.

During race week a 'racing musical comedy' *Won by a Neck* was staged for three nights and much was made of the fact that a racehorse would be led on to the stage. In the event it proved impossible to get the animal into the building. Some plays were advertised as 'For Adults Only' and others staged included, perhaps predictably, *East Lynne* and *Maria Marten*. Shenton's season ended on 25 March. The following week the theatre was occupied by a touring company headed by comedian Jack Fields with *Follow the Cash*, described as a "musical burlesque", and a special show for children on Saturday afternoon. Another company followed them with a revue *Footlight Follies*, including two members of the Splinters revue previously seen at the Coliseum, and on Saturday afternoon a show for children, *Little Red Riding Hood*.

The Rep appears to have been dark again until 2 October 1933 when P.J. Howard Keesey opened with the Pioneer Repertory Company in Lonsdale's *Spring Cleaning*<sup>19</sup>. Plays were to be presented twice nightly changing weekly, with matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays. Prices were 1/10d and 1/3d reserved, and 7d. The Company included A.F. Johnson, the producer, May Strachan, Charles Price, Betty Stevens, Barry Phelps, Alfred Gilchrist, Terence A. Cooke, Hilda Barry and Alice Barrett. The following week Charles Klein's *Third Degree* was presented and on 18 October *Tilly of Bloomsbury*, the producer surely unaware that it had been produced at the same Theatre in January. That week A.F. Johnson appealed for suggestions for further productions, but the Company appears to have left Cheltenham after the comedy *Brown Sugar* closed on 28 October.

Noel Shenton returned to the Repertory Theatre on 26 February 1934, opening with the Walkley Royal Players in *The Singing Fool*. The Company included Victor Rosini from Frank Buckley's company and possibly Dorothy Dickson now known as Dorothy Dixon, together with George Walkley, Joy Colley and Jeannie Hagar, among others. As before Shenton presented melodrama with two plays per week, changing on Thursdays, at first nightly and from 19 March twice nightly. The season appears to have ended at the beginning of April.

On 24 May 1934 the Town Planning Committee granted John Chesters permission to convert the building into a garage, and on 6 June the *Echo* published an architect's drawing of the proposed 'North Street Motors', by L.W. Barnard and Partners. Extended in 1937, this building was demolished in the autumn of 1988 to make way for the present Job Centre.

Much good work had been carried out at the Repertory Theatre by Rex Burchell and his Company, but the odds were stacked against them. With the Opera House still used mainly as a cinema, a second attempt at establishing a repertory theatre, more in line with Miss Scrivener's original suggestion and with her support, was made at the Winter Garden in December 1935<sup>20</sup>.

I acknowledge gratefully the help I have received from Kathleen Woodward, Susan Barker, Laura Poole of Clevedon Library and my colleagues Christopher Rainey and Janet Holman.

YEAR	WEEK BEGINNING	PERFORMANCE	WRITTEN BY
1931	23-Nov	<i>If Four Walls Told</i>	Edward Percy
	30-Nov	<i>Murder on the Second Floor</i>	Frank Vosper
	07-Dec	<i>Lord Richard in the Pantry</i>	Sydney Blow and Douglas Hoare
	14-Dec	<i>Arn't We All</i>	Frederick Lonsdale
	21-Dec	<i>The Rising Generation</i>	Wyn Weaver and Laura Leycester
	28-Dec	<i>The Middle Watch</i>	Ian Hay and Stephen King-Hall
1932	04-Jan	<i>Number 17</i>	J. Jefferson Farjeon
	11-Jan	<i>Belinda</i>	A.A. Milne
	18-Jan	<i>Diplomacy</i>	B.C. Stephenson and Clement Scott
	26-Jan	<i>It Pays to Advertise</i>	Roi Cooper Megrue and Walter Hackett
	02-Feb	<i>The High Road</i>	Frederick Lonsdale
	09-Feb	<i>A Bill of Divorcement</i>	Clemence Dane
	16-Feb	<i>David Garrick</i>	T.W. Robertson
	23-Feb	<i>Quinneys</i>	Horace Annesley Vachell
	02-Mar	<i>A Butterfly on the Wheel</i>	E.G. Hemmerde and Francis Neilson
	08-Mar	<i>Tom, Dick and Harry</i>	Mrs. R.Pacheco
	15-Mar	<i>The Passing of the Third Floor Back</i>	Jerome K. Jerome
	22-Mar	CLOSED FOR HOLY WEEK	
	28-Mar	<i>On the Spot</i>	Edgar Wallace
	05-Apr	<i>Grumpy</i>	Horace Hodges and T. Wigney Percyval
	12-Apr	<i>Outward Bound</i>	Sutton Vane
	18-Apr	<i>White Cargo</i>	Leon Gordon
	26-Apr	<i>Lord Babs</i>	Keble Howard
	02-May	<i>Moths</i>	Ouida, adapted by Harold Rayner
	10-May	<i>A Pair of Spectacles</i>	Sydney Grundy
	16-May	<i>Good Morning, Bill</i>	P.G. Wodehouse
	17-Oct	<i>Old Heidelberg</i>	Wilhelm Meyer Forster, adapted by Rudolf Bleichmann
	24-Oct	<i>London Wall</i>	John van Druten
01-Nov	<i>The Great Adventure</i>	Arnold Bennett	
08-Nov	<i>At the Villa Rose</i>	A.E.W. Mason	
15-Nov	<i>The Best People</i>	Arthur Grey and Avery Hopwood	
22-Nov	<i>His House in Order</i>	A.W. Pinero	
29-Nov	<i>Yellow Sands</i>	Eden and Adelaide Philippotts	
05-Nov	<i>Just Married</i>	Adelaide Matthews and Anne Nicholls	
13-Nov	<i>Peg O' My Heart</i>	J. Hartley Manners	
20-Nov	<i>Come Out of the Kitchen</i>	A.E. Thomas	
26-Nov	<i>When Knights Were Bold</i>	Charles Marlowe	
1933	03-Jan	<i>Thark</i>	Ben Travers
	09-Jan	<i>Tilly of Bloomsbury</i>	Ian Hay
	17-Jan	<i>The Trial of Mary Dugan</i>	Bayard Veiller

Performances at the Repertory Theatre, North Street

- 
- <sup>1</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 24 Jul 1931 p.5
- <sup>2</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 11 May 1931 p.4
- <sup>3</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 9 Jul 1931 p.5
- <sup>4</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 29 Oct 1931 p.3
- <sup>5</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 29 May 1931 p.3
- <sup>6</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner* 10 Feb 1910 p.5; *Cheltenham Looker On* 12 Feb 1910 pp.13-14
- <sup>7</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 14 Jan 1932 p.3
- <sup>8</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 18 Jan 1932 p.4
- <sup>9</sup> A photograph of a scene from the production appears in the *Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic* 20 Feb 1932.
- <sup>10</sup> Constance Kaye was the daughter of Dr. Sarah Wilson of Roseneath, Fairmount Road, St Marks
- <sup>11</sup> Author of *Drama in Gloucestershire* (Simpkin Marshall, 1928), one of the prime sources of information on the theatre in the county.
- <sup>12</sup> Copy in Local Studies' Collection , Cheltenham Library
- <sup>13</sup> Walter Plinge is an alias used in the theatre to conceal the doubling of parts.
- <sup>14</sup> *Gloucestershire Echo* 2 Jan 1933 p.5; 6 Jan 1933 p.4
- <sup>15</sup> Letter, *Gloucestershire Echo* 21 Jan 1932 p.4
- <sup>16</sup> They were the Opera House, Palace, Daffodil and Coliseum.
- <sup>17</sup> See, for example, letter from 'Critical' *Gloucestershire Echo* 19 Jan 1932 p.4.
- <sup>18</sup> For her career see *Who's Who in the Theatre* (16<sup>th</sup> edition, 1977). In January 1982 'Prim', as she was known, appeared as Miss Marple at the Everyman Theatre and happily recalled for me her early days at the Rep.
- <sup>19</sup> Keesey was the proprietor of the Salt House Private Hotel and adjoining Pavilion at Clevedon. The Pioneer Repertory Company was said to have played 'at several of the principal coast resorts and in the Midlands'.
- <sup>20</sup> Beacham, Roger, 'The Winter Garden Theatre', *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* **12** (1995-1996) pp.22-26.

# ‘This Convenient Edifice’<sup>1</sup>: the Temporary Church, Cheltenham

ALAN MUNDEN

---

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY it was a comparatively easy matter to erect a temporary church building. They could be quickly erected and at a reasonable cost. For potential developers illustrated catalogues showed what was available. One of the main suppliers was S.C. Hemming and Co. of Moorgate Street, London. The firm was established in 1831 and they were described as ‘iron church manufacturers’. The prefabricated timber buildings encased with corrugated iron had two uses. They could provide inexpensive temporary accommodation until funds permitted a permanent building to be erected, or they could remain indefinitely in use.

## Four temporary churches

The Rev. Francis Close provided the earliest known example of a temporary church in Cheltenham. Between 1839 to 1840 there was a temporary wooden church for the workers employed in the construction of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway. From March to November 1868 a portable wooden building was in use until All Saints’ church was opened. It seated 700 people and cost £500 (£25,000 in today’s currency). After it was no longer required it was purchased by the Rev. William Handcock, the vicar of St Luke’s church who, on leaving Cheltenham in 1871, transported it to his new parish in South Kensington. The Bishop of London licensed the building in August 1871 and it was in use until St. Luke’s church, Redcliffe Square was opened in August 1873.

In Cheltenham there were two long-lasting iron churches. In the southern part of St. Luke’s parish a Mission Church was opened off Exmouth Street in 1872 and in the following May it was dedicated and licensed by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The building was 100’ 0” long and 45’ 0” wide, had seating for 800 to 900 people and cost £1,000 (about £50,000 in today’s currency). But less than two years later it collapsed after a heavy snowfall and had to be re-erected at a further cost of £800. From 1881 the building became known as Emmanuel Church and it remained in use until it was destroyed by fire in April 1916. The former Naunton Infant School housed the congregation until the present Emmanuel Church was opened in October 1937.

In 1877 the Rev James Walker, the son of the first rector of Cheltenham, the Rev. Edward Walker, erected at his own expense an iron church at the junction of Prestbury Road and Whaddon Road. It was known variously as the ‘Scotch Church’, the ‘Church of Scotland’, and the ‘Walker Memorial Church’. It remained in use for over 100 years, until in 1988 a new building was opened and became known as the ‘Cheltenham Evangelical Free Church’.

## The Temporary Church

However *the* Temporary Church in Cheltenham was situated in Clarence Street. It was opened in November 1859, re-erected in St George’s Road in April 1877 and remained

in use until St Matthew’s church was opened in April 1879. A year later it was sold by public auction for £150 and transferred to Lydney. There it was re-erected near the GWR station (now a car park) and became a carriage shed and workshop for the Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway. It was extensively repaired in 1904 at a cost of £145 and demolished in 1924.<sup>2</sup>

The Temporary Church was erected because the parish church had to close and the pew owners were opposed to either a thoroughgoing restoration or enlargement of the building. In the summer of 1859 the pew-owners in the south aisle agreed to remove their box-pews and to replace them with open pews. But it was only when they were removed that the extent of the poor condition of the fabric became clear. A report was prepared and the architect referred to the ‘offensive and dangerous effects produced by the internal burials’. The ground below the pews was honeycombed with graves. The ground was unstable and the air polluted by the odour from the interments. He made three recommendations. First, that all of the ground floor box-pews should be removed and the whole area compacted before the floor was replaced. Second, that the foundations of the walls should be strengthened. Third, that the level of the churchyard should be lowered. The architect believed that a choice had to be made either to restore the parish church and to remove the galleries and to erect ‘*elsewhere a new church to supply the loss of room*’ [my italics]; or else to restore the building and enlarge it by extending the nave westwards<sup>3</sup>. In order to comply with the requirements of the Home Office:

*‘The vaults and graves in the parish church of Cheltenham be forthwith filled up with dry earth mixed with charcoal, and the whole floor with a layer of concrete not less than nine inches thick, as completely as it is practicable without interfering with the future repairs of the church.’<sup>4</sup>*

Over the course of the next two years the pews were removed, the void filled, a new floor laid, the gallery supports strengthened and the tower repaired. After the work had been completed the parish church re-opened in March 1861. Internally it looked much the same as before.

Immediately after the parish church closed, the congregation worshipped in the Town Hall, but on 3 November 1859 the Temporary Church was opened in Clarence Street and remained in use for the next twenty years. Clearly the incumbent Edward Walker, had become frustrated with the intransigence of those members of the church who asserted their property rights and made clear their unwillingness to change. In an open letter to the congregation Walker stated that ‘I can never consent to officiate or to allow any other persons to officiate therein, while the present galleries are standing’.<sup>5</sup> In this he directly challenged the vested interests of the pew-owners who refused to give their consent. But his words fell on deaf ears.

The Temporary Church had been erected in five weeks on the site of the Clarence Boarding House. It was built by subscription and cost nearly £3,000 (about £150,000 in today’s currency). It was 133’ 0” long and 70’ 0” wide and on the roof had a small bell turret and four large ventilators. It seated about 1,100 worshippers who paid an annual rental for their seats and another 400 free places for the poor. Internally the building was painted stone colour and was lit by gas and heated by hot air pipes. It included a small west gallery for about 100 people and also a small organ. There was a nave, two side aisles and a chancel. Immediately in front of the communion table was the pulpit. This position was favoured by



the Evangelicals (and was not uncommon at the time) but not approved by the supporters of the opposing ritualistic movement. *The Ecclesiologist* publication described the Temporary Church as ‘an iron and timber building, of large capacity, and on the whole inoffensive except the pulpit’s place in front of the altar’[sic]<sup>6</sup>.

The Temporary Church was opened by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol (C.T. Baring). In his sermon he expressed his delight that there was increased seating capacity for the poor, but at the same time a genuine sadness that the parish church ‘now lies desolate and waste’<sup>7</sup>. However he had no sympathy ‘with those, who many of them not even habitual attendants at the parish church, have offered the most pertinacious and unfair opposition to the erection of this building for God’s honour and the people’s good, simply because thereby their own gain in the iniquitous traffic of pews has been lost’<sup>8</sup>. While condemning those who ‘offered such determined opposition’ he supported Walker’s attempts ‘driven by the urgency of the case to the extreme measure of erecting, at great personal risk, this convenient edifice’.<sup>9</sup> In the closure of the parish church, those who opposed the restoration now lost ‘their annual pew rents ... through their own short-sighted and selfish policy’.<sup>10</sup>

Certainly by his presence and the force of his address the Bishop showed his support for Walker:

*‘The chief reason which has influenced me in consenting to be present on this occasion, has been that I should thus have an opportunity of publicly declaring my heart-felt sympathy with the zealous and excellent incumbent of this parish in the painful annoyances to which he has been exposed; and my cordial approbation, or I would rather say, admiration of the gentle and kind, yet firm, fearless and judicious way in which he has laboured for the spiritual edification of his flock, at the risk of incurring much personal odium and loss.’*<sup>11</sup>

He remarked that in licensing the building for public worship:

*‘I cannot but grieve that any one should be found who can wilfully add one unkind word or act to the heavy burden of anxious thought and labour which weighs down the spirits of the earnest and diligent pastor of an over-large parish ... will rally round him, and will not suffer any natural but vain regrets about the closing of the parish church to hinder them in uniting heart and hand with him in his endeavour to provide more effectually for the spiritual instruction of his flock; whilst for myself I hesitate not to say that in licensing this building as I have done this day, as bishop of the diocese, I count it both a pleasure and an honour to be associated in this work, which I believe to be one of the most important and useful with regard to its future influence on the religious interests of this town which has ever been undertaken. My license for public worship in this building will continue so long as it is needed.’*<sup>12</sup>

In the opening of the Temporary Church:

*‘I shall still consider that in reality this building is more truly the parish church than the other; and as one whose office it is to watch over the spiritual interests of all classes in each parish, my earnest recommendation to your incumbent will be that he confine his own ministrations to this building until the parish church be, in all respects, as convenient, as parochial, as accessible to the poor and as free from the evils connected with faculty pews. I cannot but hope that the day is not far distant*

*when all this may be accomplished ... But if this hope be not realised - if year after year the same difficulty about faculty pews hinders all real improvement in the parish church - there remains but one course open to those who are unselfishly seeking the advancement of the interests of the Church of England and of true religion in this parish, viz, that for this temporary building, there should be substituted, either on this spot or some other, a more substantial edifice, to be constructed as a chapel of ease, but which will become, in everything but in name, the parish church.*<sup>13</sup>

Certainly encouraged by these words Walker rarely officiated again at the parish church. In the eleven years between the re-opening of the parish church to his death in the summer of 1872, he only preached thirty-nine times on Sundays and twenty-one times on other occasions. Generally his curates led the worship and preached in the parish church. When it did re-open many people feared that the Temporary Church would be closed and nearly 1,500 petitioned the bishop to ensure that it would stay open. In his response the bishop assured the petitioners that the church would remain. The opinions he had expressed at the opening ceremony had not changed<sup>14</sup>. Walker’s ministry at the Temporary Church continued to flourish. In the building ‘all could see and hear’ the preacher, and it ‘was always crowded with a regular and attentive congregation’<sup>15</sup>. But at the same time a much smaller congregation remained at the parish church.

The outcome of erecting the Temporary Church was that £20,000 was raised to erect a permanent building. The foundation stone of St Matthew’s church was laid in January 1877 and the building was consecrated in April 1879. The tower and spire were completed in June 1883 and the following February, J.C. Ryle, the Bishop of Liverpool preached at the celebrations marking the completion of the building. The Temporary Church was no more, but the existence of two Anglican churches in close proximity to each other remained something of an anomaly and created a situation which is still unresolved.

---

<sup>1</sup> Baring, C.T., *A Sermon preached by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, at the opening of the Cheltenham Temporary Church, on Thursday, 3 Nov[ember] 1859* (Cheltenham, 1859).

<sup>2</sup> For this information I am indebted to Ian Pope of Witney, Oxfordshire.

<sup>3</sup> *Cheltenham Journal*, 5 Nov 1859

<sup>4</sup> *London Gazette*, 24 Jan 1860

<sup>5</sup> *Cheltenham Journal*, 13 Aug 1859

<sup>6</sup> *The Ecclesiologist*, Vol. XXIV, 1863, p.152.

<sup>7</sup> Baring, *A Sermon preached at the opening of the Temporary Church*, op. cit., p.9

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p.11.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p.11.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.11, 12.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.12.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p.13.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p.13.

<sup>14</sup> *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 20 Oct 1860, p.682

<sup>15</sup> *Cheltenham Express*, 13 Jul 1872

# Snippets from Local Newspapers

---

*Thanks to Vic Cole for giving us these glimpses of life in Cheltenham Police Court in 1852.*

## ***A HOPEFUL LAD***

‘CHARLES KITCHEN, a young candidate for travel, just budding into 15, and whose brothers, after an admonitory lecture from ‘my Lord Judge’, had already left ‘their country for their countries good,’ was, in the language of the charge sheet, accused of stealing ‘a pair of shoes,’ although the young hopeful only took one shoe and left the other behind him. William Raynor, the prosecutor, stated that he kept a second hand shoe shop, 281 High Street. About half past nine last night the prisoner stole one of the shoes now produced. The prosecutor ran after him, but he dropped one shoe in Devonshire Street, and succeeded in getting away. Mrs. Sarah Raynor said that there was a pair of shoes placed on some drawers which stood near the door. She observed the prisoner in the company of another boy lurking close to the shop, and he then tried to reach over to get both shoes, but it appeared that he could not succeed in purloining the pair, so the principle that ‘half a loaf is better than none’ he took one shoe and left the other one companionless. The curiosities of police literature, however, charged the prisoner with stealing a pair of Oxford tie shoes, but as they may be gifted with ‘second sight’, it is just possible that they may see double, and convert one into a pair. The prisoner, who consented that the case should be deposed or under the Juvenile Offenders Act, called his mother to prove an alibi, and, if the old lady’s tale were true, her hopeful son is a prodigy, for he is the ‘honestest lad in the world’, he goes to school, and does nothing but study the book. The Bench, by way of further improvement, sent him to ‘Northleach Academy’ for a month, so that he may be taught the distinction between meum and tuam.’

*Cheltenham Free Press 12 February 1852*

## ***A HUNGRY THIEF***

‘HENRY MARTIN, aged 14, a youth on his travels in search of adventure, but who, we shrewdly suspect, is destined one fine morning to ‘travel further and fare worse,’ was charged with stealing a leg of mutton from the shop of Thomas Hastings, butcher, of St. Paul’s Street North. The case was fully brought home to the youthful adventurer, evinced his contrition by an abundance of crocodile tears, and said he was ‘werry sorry but he was werry hungry.’ The Bench deposed of the case under the Juveniles Offenders Act, and sentenced the prisoner to one month’s wholesome discipline at Northleach, including a whipping.’

*Cheltenham Examiner 2 March 1852*

‘CATHERINE MAHONE, a teetotaller, this old lady was brought up on a charge for the 40<sup>th</sup> time on a charge of drunkenness. P.C. Dash, No. 40, proved the offence, and deposed, that he found the prisoner about five o’clock yesterday afternoon quite drunk in the Promenade.’

*Cheltenham Examiner 20 October 1852*

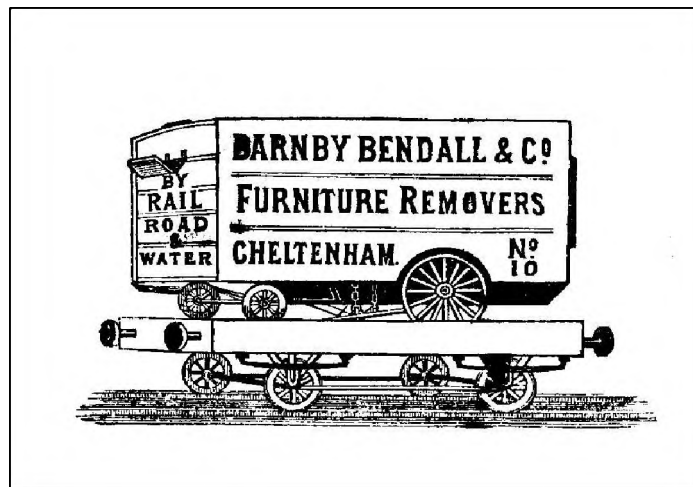
# Barnby, Bendall & Co. Ltd., Furniture Removals and Storage, 1839 - 1976

ERIC MILLER

---

*Recently I was loaned some photographs, prospectuses and other memorabilia relating to the firm by Mrs Eileen Bendall, whose late husband had been its last head. This brief survey uses that material together with information from local directories and a small number of other sources. Some dates are approximate.*

FOR MANY YEARS until it closed in 1976, 'Barnby Bendall' had been a household name in Cheltenham and beyond for anyone who wanted to move house or put furniture into storage. In its heyday the firm maintained three large furniture repositories and would pack and despatch goods to all parts of the world, and also arranged passages for the military and civil servants bound for foreign postings. Horse-drawn trailers were supplemented by a fleet of removal trains, pulled by steam traction engines, which were in due course replaced by steam wagons and eventually by motorised pantechnicons of the latest design. There were salerooms for new and restored furniture, carpets and linoleum, with facilities for cleaning and repairing carpets and renovating furniture.



Specially constructed lock-up vans were transported bodily on railway wagons. For continental removals, vans were built to fit into each other when returning empty, saving shipment fees

The firm claimed to have been founded in 1839. However, census returns and local directories show that the earliest members of the family to set up in business locally were in fact upholsterers and cabinet makers by trade: furniture removal and storage was a later development. No Bendalls were listed as being established in relevant occupations until the Census of 1851, when Samuel Bendal (*sic* - with one 'l'), born in Stroudwater, an upholsterer, was living in a cottage in the Tivoli – Hatherley area. Seven children were mentioned, including William, aged 13, George, aged 5, and Peter, aged 2.

Samuel's business address was 8 Tivoli Place<sup>1</sup>, a terrace in Andover Road. The building, which is now occupied by Tivoli Trading, at that time had the use of an adjacent yard entered from the road. In the same period, a John Bendall, born in Stroud, aged 25 (presumably a relation), was a master upholsterer living at Fisher's Court, North Street, Cheltenham<sup>2</sup>. By 1870 Samuel's sons were in partnership with him. William, living at 21 Grosvenor Place South, had entered the upholstery trade and George had set up as a cabinet maker at 4 Suffolk Parade (later moving to No 6), while Peter worked with his father at Tivoli Place as 'Bendall and Son'<sup>3</sup>. Peter, who was later to oversee the firm's expansion as a leading local concern, was by 1881 in a position to be able to move with his ten dependants into Alma Villa, Tivoli Road (No 41).

But who was Barnby? His likeness appears in a set of photographs of the firm's founders, but with no date or initial. Barnby was clearly a surname, as the official title of the firm keeps a comma after it; 'Barnby' was also chosen as the firm's telegraphic address in later years. Whether as a given or family name, Barnby or variants thereof are conspicuously absent from nineteenth-century Gloucestershire Census returns and Cheltenham directories. It would appear that 'Barnby' was added to the firm's title only in the 1880s. The name only features once in company literature: a prospectus produced in 1902 referred to 'Mr F Barnby, residing in London', who would attend to any customers wishing to buy or inspect furniture. Given the London connection, it may possibly be relevant that the 1881 Census happens to list Fredrick (*sic*) G Barnby, aged 16, an auctioneer's clerk living in the Windsor area – a not unlikely background for someone who twenty years later might have acted as an agent. Unfortunately, his name, in whatever form, does not appear in the 1901 census.

It was only by about 1880 that the business embraced furniture removal and storage as well as upholstery and cabinet making<sup>4</sup>. Soon after that the company acquired premises in St James's Square – 'Depository No 1', with substantial storage space (today occupied by a nightclub, formerly 'Gas'). The prospectus stated that 'the separate lock-up rooms and floor spaces, without the wine vaults, contain about 171,600 cubic feet of warehousing space; all is most carefully arranged as to heating and ventilation.' No charge was made for the storage of wine by customers whose household goods were also in their keeping. Before long 'Stoneycroft', further along the west side of the square, was occupied as 'Depository No 2'<sup>5</sup>. Originally Nos 1 and 2 St James's Square, the building was adapted to the requirements of a furniture warehouse, with very thick walls, and 40 rooms 'equal to those in high-class residences'. (It was evidently demolished after the Second World War.) Almost next door was Ivanhoe (still standing), which became Peter Bendall's home<sup>6</sup>.

When in 1890 the former Tivoli Wagon Works was up for sale, Peter Bendall and his partner Charles Weeks of Whiteladies Road, Clifton (of whom little more is at present known) were quick to buy it, at a cost of £760. The property comprised two cottages, warehouses, sheds and outbuildings at the junction of Lypiatt Street (Saddler's Lane) and Tivoli Walk (today the Princox Works)<sup>7</sup>; they probably served a variety of purposes as stores and workshops. At the same time another property in the district, 18 Tivoli Street, which had been lived in since at least 1876 by a Mrs Elizabeth Bendall and her family, was vacated and the Tivoli Tavern moved there. (Today it is occupied by the Tivoli Institute.)<sup>8</sup>

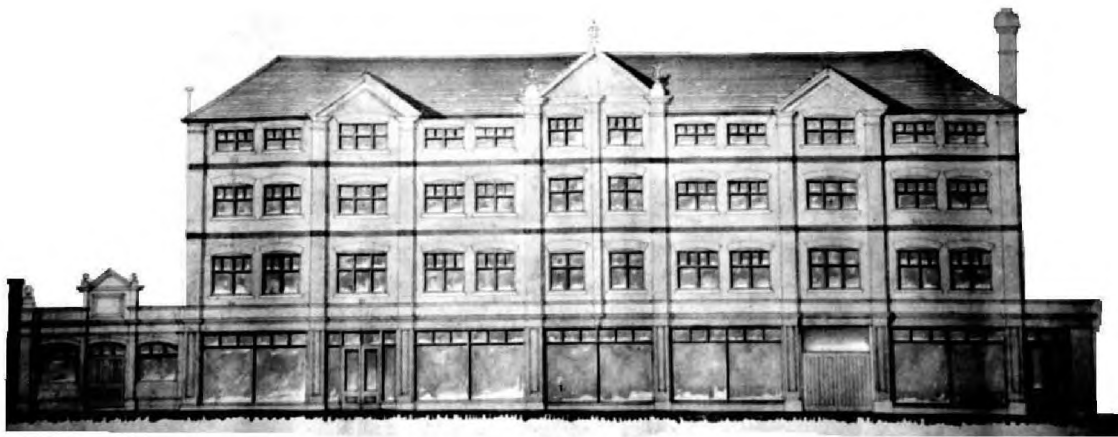


The former Depository No.1 in St. James's Square, now a night club. Compare with a photograph taken in about 1900, reproduced in *Journal 14*, p.29



The second Depository in St. James's Square, with van sheds beside it, c.1900

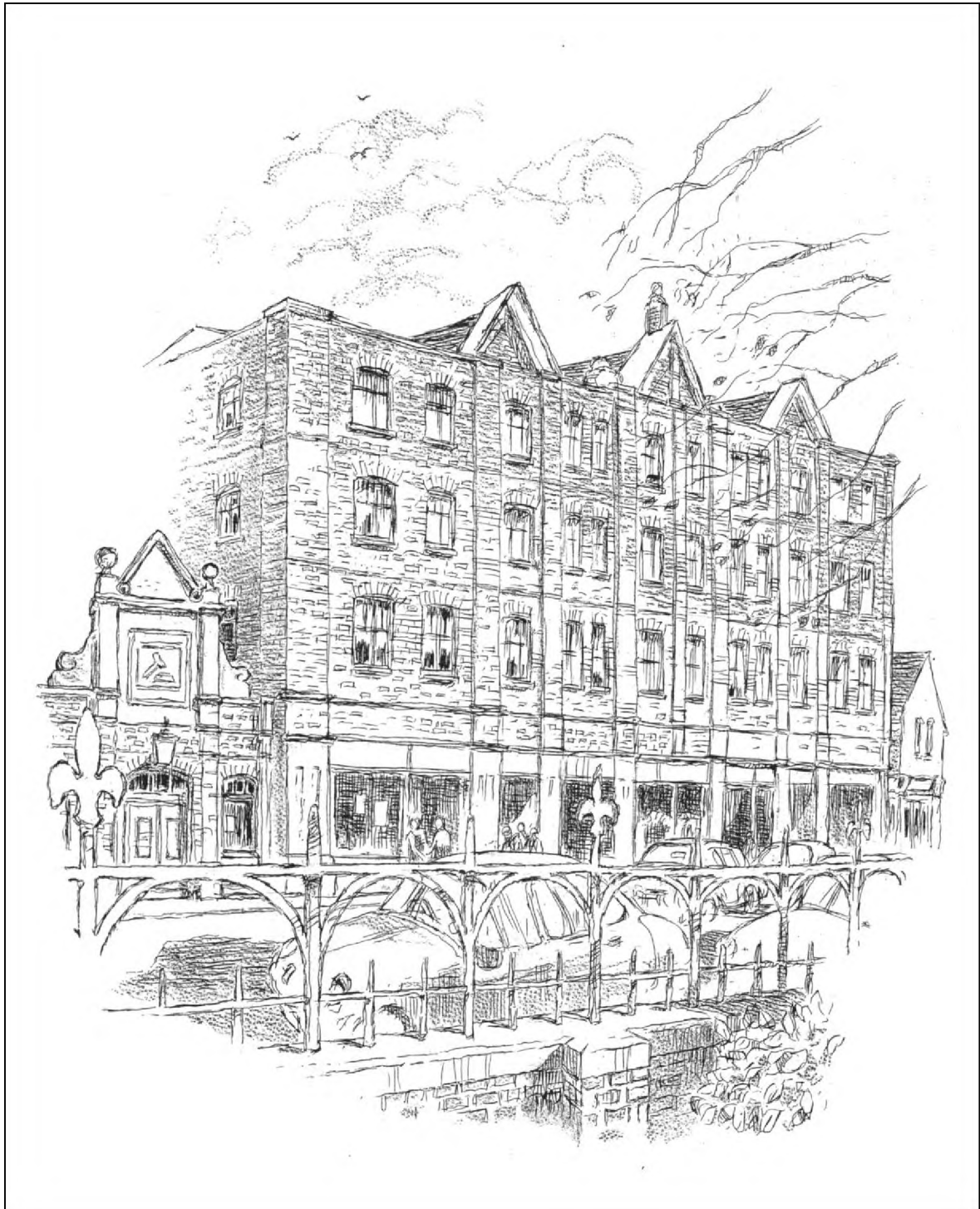
In 1898-99 the massive red-brick 'Depository No 3' in St George's Place was built to the firm's specifications. (The firm's name, written in mosaic, may still be seen on the entrance step of the Sue Ryder Charity Shop, which occupies part of the building.). It comprised showrooms and an auction saleroom (claimed to be the largest of its kind in the county), and three upper floors offering a total of over 130,000 cubic feet of storage space, with adjustable partitions, insulated and supplied with warm or cool air as necessary. The prospectus stated that 'powerful machinery is used to lift vans with their contents bodily to the floors intended for their reception, thus avoiding staircases or transfer to lifts, and reducing the risk of damage and deterioration by constant handling to the lowest possible point'. A rarely observed embellishment was placed high on one of the walls of the inner courtyard. A draped female figure reclines beside an urn overflowing with fruit, in a pseudo-classical panel measuring about 1 x 2 metres, possibly executed in plaster parquetry. A newly patented machine for cleaning carpets was installed, which 'absolutely improved' the floor coverings. The prospectus stated that 'it is not unusual for ladies to be sufficiently interested to call and see this machinery at work, [and] in all instances approval has been expressed'.



Messrs. Knight and Chatters' drawing of proposed new premises in St. George's Place, 1897

Special attention was paid to 'Regimental Officers' Baggage': 'Officers proceeding or arriving in Her Majesty's Indian or other Transports are met on the Dockyard Jetties for the receipt of instructions as to disposal of baggage, &c' The company also booked passengers for and secured berths on all the principal steamship companies. All kinds of goods were collected and forwarded by the cheapest and quickest routes, with no charge for collection and no commission for booking.

Not surprisingly, therefore, many of the testimonials quoted in the prospectus were from naval and military people (who would in any case have been the principal users of the depositories), followed by members of the clergy. Many of the clients lived in large houses and their extensive and valuable belongings required special treatment. Peter Bendall's attentiveness to these needs and the courtesy and efficiency of the 'employés' were widely praised. The following paragraph hints at the extent of the services offered.



*The former Depository No.3 in St. George's Place today (drawing by Aylwin Sampson)*



Lieutenant-General Chamier's Bechstein grand piano arrived at Upper Norwood in excellent tune after ten months in store. Lieutenant-Colonel Mollan wrote from Coxhorne House in 1887 to say that the whole of his furniture and effects, including horses and carriages, had been removed from Ireland in a most satisfactory manner. Frederick Elkington's cases of birds had arrived safely. Not a single bottle of Edward Carter's wine had been cracked or broken. George Cadell praised the state of his 'delicate and carved and upholstered' furniture after five years in storage. Isaac Newton's horses and carriages and greenhouses were safely brought from Paignton to Broadlands, Cheltenham. The furniture and effects of R. Waterfield, the Principal of Cheltenham College, were moved to Montpellier Lodge from Rugby in 1899. When Mrs. Denny's belongings were moved from Malvern Lodge to Dublin in 1899, Mr. Bendall's foreman devoted nearly three weeks to putting the new house in order. Six vans carried the effects of the Rev. H.A. Hore from Monkland to Lansdown Terrace in 1902. Emilien Frossard, writing from France in 1894, described how the firm's representative had gone about his work, despite his having arrived with a very heavy cold and not knowing a word of the language.



Charles Bendall, 1878 - 1942

A business on this scale required a sizeable workforce, who were treated benevolently. In 1897 the *Examiner* recorded that Peter Bendall's son Charles presided at the annual dinner attended by some thirty employees in the large showroom of Newington House (not identified). After the meal the evening was spent in 'harmony', with 'songs of character'. Charles Bendall projected picturesque views with the aid of a magic lantern, and finally 'the health of Mr P Bendall was heartily drunk'<sup>9</sup>.

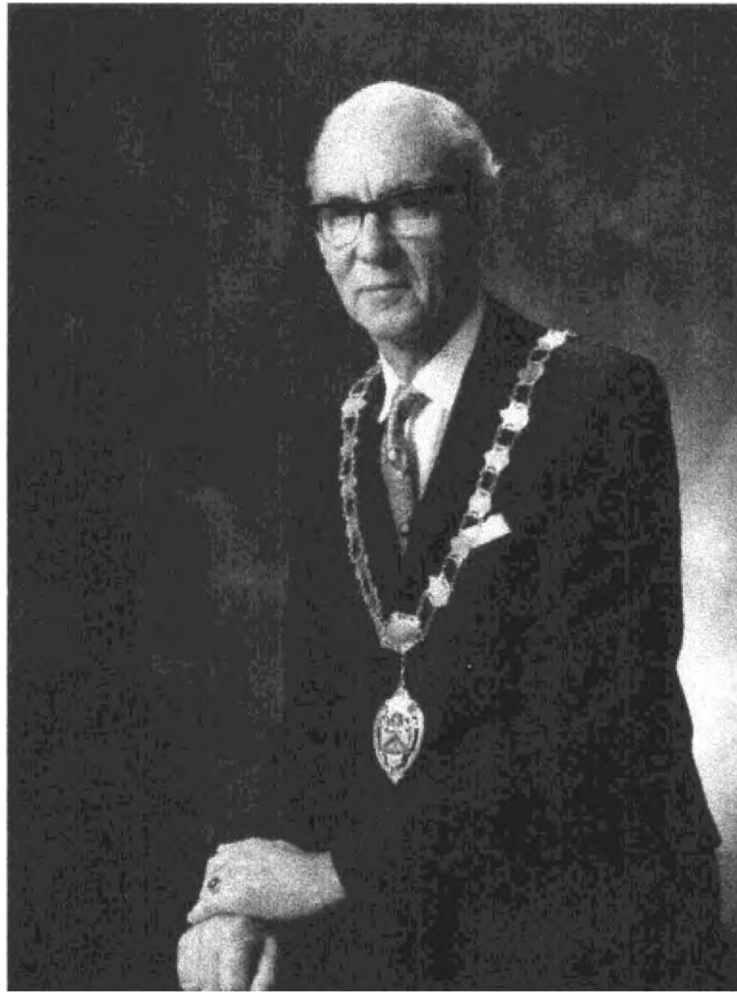
By 1910 the firm had become a limited company. An uncatalogued document held in the County Record Office allegedly relates to the company's affairs in 1908-1909<sup>10</sup>. In due course, when it can be located, this might shed some light on the matter.) Business was concentrated on St. George's Place and St. James's Square, where the Head Office was, and the firm had vacated Tivoli Place. The van sheds were also in St. James's Square, backing on to Knapp Road, between Depository No 2 and Ivanhoe. The Tivoli Works site hung on; in 1899 planning permission had been unsuccessfully sought to build cottages and a shop on the site. Peter Bendall died in 1915 and in 1917 his widow Isabella sold the Works to the Gloucestershire Aircraft Company for £500 (a low price doubtless affected by the war)<sup>11</sup>.



Two removal trains in London, c.1910



The fleet of modern vehicles c.1960



Derrick Bendall, 1911 – 1996, when President of the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, 1973.

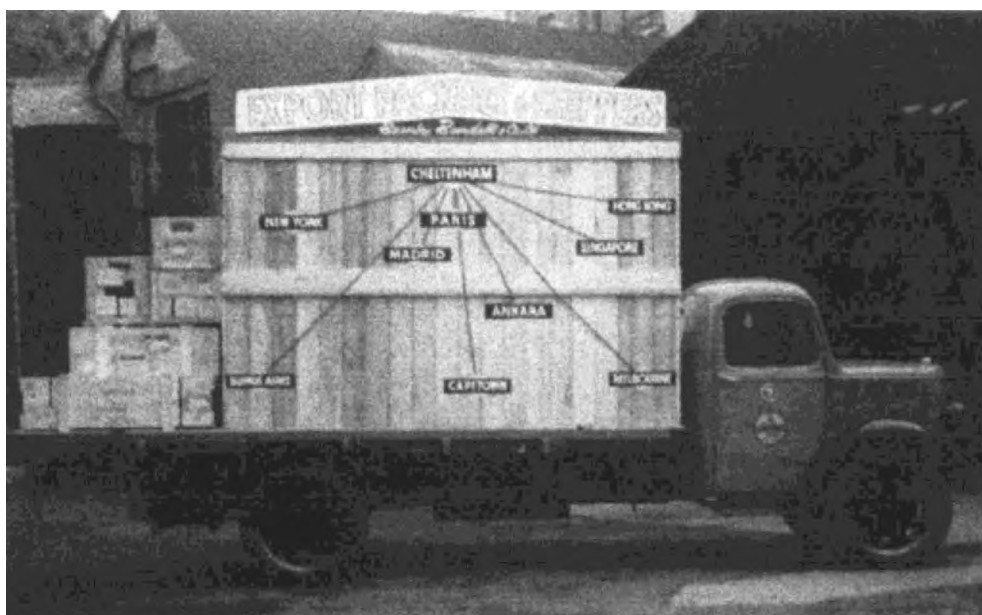
For a few years after the First World War there was an office at No. 13 The Promenade (almost opposite the end of Oriel Road). Later (by 1925) this had moved to Clarence Parade, next to the Salem Chapel, and then to Clarence Street, next to the former Great Western Hotel. This office closed with the outbreak of the Second World War.

Charles Bendall died in 1942. His only son, Derrick, was on active service at the time but took over the firm after the end of the war. He had previously had an architectural training and had been employed by H.H. Martyn & Co. This move will have been an abrupt change from designing the interiors of hotels and ocean liners, but he rose to the occasion and maintained the company's leading position in the town for another thirty years.

After the war the main office was transferred from St. James's Square to St. George's Place and a new venture was started at No. 59 (later renumbered as No. 33) The Strand, next to the Old Swan Inn. The building had previously been occupied by Slader and Co., selling new and second-hand furniture, and Barnby Bendall continued these lines, with an emphasis on antique and period objects. An advertisement in 1971<sup>12</sup> stated that quality renovation and repairs were carried out in their own workshops (at St. George's Place) by experts – antiques a speciality. By that year they had vacated the Strand shop and 'The Heating and Plumbing

Centre' was at that address. (Furnishings are still sold in part of the building today, in 'The Mattress Store', while the extensive storage area behind has been converted into industrial units.)

Derrick's impending retirement, with no heir to succeed him, led to the decision in 1976 to sell the business as a going concern to Cantay Limited, which still owns the St George's Place warehouse – renamed 'Cantay House'. So came to an end an important local family enterprise, whose changing fortunes for over a century and a half had mirrored Cheltenham's own evolution and changing social patterns.



Loaded Bedford truck showing world-wide coverage: New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Madrid, Singapore, Ankara, Buenos Aires, Capetown and Melbourne.

<sup>1</sup> *Slater's Commercial Directory 1858-59*. He is not to be confused with another Samuel Bendall, who was a well-sinker and an ancestor of Bendalls the builders, though (according to Arthur Bendall) they may have been related.

<sup>2</sup> *Edwards's Directory*, 1852

<sup>3</sup> *Royal Directory*, 1870/71, 1876

<sup>4</sup> *Post Office Directory* 1880

<sup>5</sup> Some photographs show this as Depository No. 3.

<sup>6</sup> His house in Tivoli Road had been taken by Mr A. Shirer, presumably head of the rival concern Shirer and Haddon, later Shirer and Lance. *Annuaire*, 1895. For an illustrated article on Ivanhoe see Bradbury, Oliver, 'The Follies of Cheltenham', *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal* **14** (1998), p.13.

<sup>7</sup> Title deeds, etc, relating to Westall Furlong (Sue Brasher).

<sup>8</sup> Torode, Brian, *The Story of Tivoli*, 1998. p.30.

<sup>9</sup> *Cheltenham Examiner*, 27 Jan 1897, p.8 col.6

<sup>10</sup> GRO D2202 Collection of Winterbotham, Gurney and Co.

<sup>11</sup> Sue Brasher

<sup>12</sup> *Kelly's Directory*, 1971

# Dame Sidney Browne, G.B.E., R.R.C. and Bar (1850-1941) 'the Modern Florence Nightingale'

DEREK ROWLES

---

*Having found out about Frederick Monro<sup>1</sup> - the first owner of his house in Tivoli Road Derek Rowles decided to investigate who else had lived in the house prior to his own family's arrival in 1972. Some very old photographs found in the cellar led to further research on another previous owner – Sidney Browne.*

ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 1941 the headline in the *Gloucestershire Echo* proclaimed that the Royal Air Force had successfully bombed factories and power stations in ten German towns. The Germans called them senseless raids, but Winston Churchill was quoted as having told them not to whine, as these raids were on a similar scale to those the German Luftwaffe had carried out around the time of the 'Battle of Britain' fought earlier. A few hours before this edition of the local newspaper had been run off, Dame Sidney Browne's funeral took place at St Stephen's church, Cheltenham - little more than a stone's throw from her house in Tivoli Road.

This was to be one of St Stephen's most spectacular days. The coffin was draped with the Red Cross flag, said to have been made by Army sisters and once flown over their quarters at Springfontein and Rondebosch during the South African (Boer) War. On top lay a cross of Haigh poppies. A guard of honour was formed by N.C.O.s of a battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, stationed in the locality, and a bugler sounded the Last Post. Many distinguished people from army, medical and nursing circles attended the funeral. The local paper, alongside the report of the bombing raids on Germany, featured a picture headed:

'DAME SIDNEY BROWNE – MODERN FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE DIES'

A few days later the local and national press recorded that 'Queen Mary sent a gracious message of sympathy'. So what had this lady, who had lived quietly with her friend in Tivoli Road for the past 14 years, done to earn such acclaim?

Sidney Jane Browne was born in Bexley, Kent on 5 January 1850, the daughter of Dr Henry William Langley Browne – a Yorkshire born surgeon and G.P. Fairly early in her life, her family moved from the London area to West Bromwich, where she spent her childhood. She was educated privately and both her brothers became doctors. Religion was important to the family. Sidney took classes at local Sunday Schools and her sister Alicia joined a convent – 'The Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor'. Her elder brother Henry had a brilliant medical career and it was probably he and her father who suggested that Sidney attend a course of lectures given by a Nightingale School nurse. It is believed that it was these lectures that inspired Sidney to become a nurse.

At the age of 28, Sidney Browne went to work as a nurse at the Guest Hospital in Dudley and, one year later, decided to embark on a 3 year training course at the small District Hospital at West Bromwich. Her career had started and no doubt her family was pleased with her decision.

Sidney qualified in 1882 and became a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. At last she was away from the close influence of her family, away from West Bromwich, and living in the exciting city of London, but she was keen to move on. It was the beginning of a time of change. Victorian standards relating to the education and position of women in society were beginning to change, although the Queen still had almost a third of her reign before her. The battles for women to have votes, obtain entrance to the older Universities and compete for positions in traditionally male professions had not yet started, but the newly qualified nurse was looking for adventure. Within a year she had joined the army nursing service as a sister – one of only 20 at that time, and was posted to the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, near Southampton. Less than one year later she was sent on active service to Egypt.

1884 would have been a memorable year for Sidney Browne. Newspaper cuttings told of an 'Expedition to Soudan' (Sudan) and the conversion of the 'Ganges', one of the finest vessels in the Peninsular and Orient fleet, into a hospital ship and its royal inspection by the then Prince and Princess of Wales, the Countess Roseberry and other distinguished persons. S.J. Browne is mentioned as one of four nursing sisters from Netley, 'clad in their grey uniform, cloak and dress'. The newspaper article continues:

*'The gangway was draped with flags and carpeted ...The ship's crew were mustered, and the lascars [East Indian sailors] were ordered to attire themselves in their picturesque native costumes. In their white trousers and robes, reaching to their knees, tied at the waist with crimson sashes, crimson puggarees [head-dress], sandalled feet, and sashes of blue and green, they took up places lining the approach to the gangway on either side ...[and] Her Royal Highness conversed with the sisters, expressing the hope that they would find comfort in the arrangements that had been made to lighten their arduous duties.'*

The Prince hoped the nurses liked their quarters, wished them a safe return and hoped that they might all be able to carry out the loving duties of their order. This was Sister Browne's first meeting with the future King Edward VII and the future Queen Alexandra consort of Great Britain with whom she would one day work.

The Soudain Campaign, was part of what is sometimes referred to as the Sudan Campaign or the Egyptian War, which featured General Charles Gordon and the Siege of Khartoum. The hospitals Sidney would have worked were often in danger from attacks from fanatical Dervishes. General Gordon was rewarded with death for his efforts, and Sidney Jane Brown the Khedive's Star and Egyptian Medal with bar. The 'Khedive' was a hereditary title originally given by the Sultan of Turkey in 1867 to the Viceroy of Egypt. The Khedive Star would have been a decoration of considerable merit. The 35-year-old had made her mark, and was already a hero.

Although this campaign took place over one hundred years ago in a distant land, there is a permanent monument to this day in Montpellier, Cheltenham, known locally as 'Gordon's Lamp. Situated little more than a stone's throw from Tivoli Road one wonders whether Dame Sidney Browne would have ever spared a thought for the brave man or reflected upon her own experiences in the Sudan whilst passing the lamp on her way to town.

In August 1885 Sidney returned to a military hospital in England for two years and was then recommended for promotion to acting Superintendent Sister at a hospital in Malta. After spending five years in Malta, she was posted to the Curragh camp in Ireland where she held a similar position for two years. Promotion to Superintendent Sister followed in 1894 at the Royal Herbert Hospital at Aldershot, for a few months, until war broke out in South Africa in 1899 when she was sent on active service for the second time. She sailed from Southampton on 4 November 1899. A young journalist named Winston Churchill had preceded her three weeks earlier and had just sent the first of his despatches on the Boer War to the *Morning Post* in England.

On arrival Sidney took up the position of Superintendent Sister at a base hospital with 520 beds at Wynberg – six miles south of Cape Town, thence to a base hospital at Rondebosch. Conditions in the base hospitals were described as worse than in the field hospitals. Typhoid and dysentery stretched medical resources beyond an acceptable limit with one sister to 40 patients to the day and to 180 at night. Churchill's descriptions of some of the hospitals he visited in South Africa paint an appalling picture of tired and haggard medical staff and patients lacking food, and of an average death rate of 15 a day. This was Sidney Browne's working environment. During 1901 she took charge of hospitals at Kroonstadt in the Orange Free State, and Pretoria in the Transvaal.

Sidney Browne had much in common with Winston Churchill. Both served in the Sudan, and South Africa where they arrived within weeks of each other. Research revealed documents, once belonging to Sidney Browne, relating to Ladysmith, hospital ships, and the death of the Daily Mail special correspondent C.W. Stevens – all subjects written about extensively by Winston Churchill. Both returned to England to take leading roles during the First World War and ended their days much decorated having been respected by their colleagues and the highest in the land.

Sidney Browne returned home in April 1902 after the end of hostilities later to be awarded the Royal Red Cross for her services in South Africa. Conditions in South Africa prompted a Royal Commission in 1900 eventually resulting in a recommendation for the need for a special army nursing service with experienced nurses taking a prominent roll. Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service was subsequently created in 1902 with Queen Alexandra as President and Sidney Browne as Matron in Chief. This royal association, commencing when the two ladies first met just before the Hospital Ship Ganges departed for the Soudan campaign, led to a friendship and connection with royalty which was to last until Dame Sidney's death. As Matron in Chief Sidney's position was officially recognised with an office within the War Office and uniforms for the new service consisting of grey dresses with red capes. Nearly 100 years later I was to discover these uniforms at Cheltenham's Museum and Art Gallery.



Dame Sidney Jane Brown c.1920

Photograph by Derek Rowles  
courtesy of Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum





Dame Sidney Jane Browne – 1920

Photograph by Derek Rowles  
courtesy of Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum



Sidney Browne's uniform about 1910

Photograph by Derek Rowles courtesy of  
Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum



Sidney Browne and Mule Cart – Boer War about 1900

Photograph courtesy of Army Medical Services Museum, Aldershot

This must have been a wonderful time for Sidney Brown. She was a member of the Nursing Board, had a seat on the Army Medical Board as well as having been a long time member of the Royal Nurses Association, the nurse's league and a founder member of the Matron's Council. At the age of 52 she had reached the top of her profession. She now had the opportunity to introduce her own ideas – some of which were thought to be radical at that time. With the support of Queen Alexandra, General Keogh and her elder brother Dr Langley Browne, she began to put the nursing profession on a new professional standing. Nurses now had to be properly trained, registered and ultimately given an officer's standing.

In 1905 a Liberal M.P. named Richard Haldane was appointed Secretary of State for War. He completely reorganised the army and one of his ideas and achievements was the creation of a volunteer force of trained officers, which could supplement the regular army in the event of the country being invaded. The new force being known as the 'Territorial Force'. His sister Elizabeth, was a friend of Sidney's, and aided by her assistance and advice, developed this idea by creating a new nursing service comprising a reserve of trained nurses that could assist in General Hospitals on the home front in the event of war. Civil buildings would be requisitioned if required. The outcome was the creation of the 'Territorial Force Nursing Service' (T.F.N.S.). Although past the official retirement age at that time of 55, Sidney was keen to continue her life's work and initially accepted the position of Secretary of the T.F.N.S., and in 1910 became Matron-in-Chief. Queen Alexandra agreed to be President. The uniforms were similar to those of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service – the main difference being the use of a grey cape with red border instead of the plain red cape.

Elizabeth Haldane and Sidney Browne toured the country speaking at meetings and soliciting the support of the aristocracy and well known society ladies to endorse their efforts to recruit nurses for the new service. They were immensely successful and by 1909 had recruited sufficient volunteer staff for 23 'Territorial Hospitals' based on the major cities and civilian hospitals in the country. Successful recruitment was influenced by appeals to patriotic duty, and stressing the prospect of women being able to have the same opportunity to serve as men – both causes close to the heart of Sidney Browne. 1911 saw the coronation of George V and the new Matron-in-Chief was reported leading her T.F.N.S. force confidently from the Middlesex Hospital to Buckingham Palace where seats had been reserved in a stand opposite the palace. Afterwards she was one of four nurses nominated to witness the ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

The next three years were spent preparing for war. Winston Churchill was now First Lord of the Admiralty preparing the navy and Sidney Browne was preparing an organisation ready to receive the casualties. On 4 August 1914 war arrived and Sidney, at the age of 64 found herself involved in her third war. By November 1914 casualties were being received from the continent and 3000 Territorial nurses were fully stretched and more were required. For the first time nurses were sent to the front and Sidney travelled to France to check on the welfare of her nurses.

Sidney went with the best wishes of the King and Queen - recorded on a small card bearing a photograph of the royal couple with, on the reverse side, the words 'With our best wishes for 1914. May God protect you and bring you home safe. Mary R. George R.I.'

At this time fears were being expressed that nurses were not receiving adequate training to professional nursing standards. As a qualified nurse with experience in two previous wars Sidney was much in demand. She served on committees involved in the direction of the Volunteer Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) and a War Office appointed 'Supply of Nurses Committee'. From this developed a demand for a College of Nursing, which was eventually created in 1916, and Miss Browne became a member of the ruling committee and Honorary Treasurer. In 1922 she became the College's first President.

In recognition of her work during the 1914 –18 war a Bar was added to the Royal Red Cross that Sidney had been awarded for her time in South Africa. After the war she became interested in the League of Nations and in organisations promoting the interests of working women. Her professional colleagues feted her in a veritable orgy of praise and adulation. There were dinners at the Grosvenor Hotel and the Dorchester Hotel, London with speeches, presentations and letters of appreciation all commending her achievements. Most referred to the arduous work she had undertaken with a humane understanding and kindness, not only for the soldiers she cared for, but for the nurses that worked under her. Sir Alfred Keogh a Director General of the Army Medical Service sent her a wonderful letter of appreciation for her work and the T.F.N.S. referring to 'an imperishable record of work well and nobly done.' The significance of these words was recalled during a visit to a barracks some 80 years later housing an army medical museum. The name of the barracks was 'Keogh' and it was here that I discovered, not only Sir Alfred Keogh's letter, but documents, records and photographs relating to Dame Sidney's life's work. Kind messages to and from Buckingham Palace and the Royal Yacht and a royal gift are all recorded.

On 1 August 1919, when she was 70, she was officially awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire by the King at Buckingham Palace and a photograph of a group of nurses appeared in the *Daily Sketch*. In the centre was Sidney Browne and above the headline stated 'Heroes and Heroines at the Palace'. In November 1921 she was given the Freedom of West Bromwich – her childhood home, the first lady to receive this honour.

There was still one more award to come. On 9 July 1925 the annual Meeting and Conference of the College of Nursing was held at Leeds University and it was here that she was presented with an honorary Diploma of Nursing. Her term as the first President of the College of Nursing ended in 1927. In the May of this year that she, together with her friend Hilda Hoole and her younger brother Dr Benjamin Sidney Browne (who once lived at Cleeve Hill), formed a trust and purchased the house in Tivoli Road. The two ladies moved down from Burgess Hill, London and took up residence at Cheltenham.

Though retired Dame Sidney was not forgotten. In 1937, then 87 years of age, she received an invitation to Westminster Abbey to attend the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. This would have been the fifth British monarch during this remarkable lady's life. She died and was buried in Cheltenham in 1941. It is interesting to note that, like her contemporary Winston Churchill, she reached the age of 90, had travelled similar paths and worked closely with royalty. Both were described as 'a great leader' during their lifetimes. One continues to be well known as perhaps the country's greatest leader the other surely still worthy of remembrance in the town she chose to spend her final 14 years.

Dame Sidney' left her share of the house in Tivoli Road to her great friend Hilda Hoole. Following her death in 1972, the house was purchased by Derek Rowles who discovered the photographs that led to his investigation and this article.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to Susan McGann (RCN Archivist, Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh), Captain Peter Starling (Curator, Army Medical Services Museum, Ash Vale, Aldershot), Sofie Wilson (Costume Museum, Cheltenham), John Wright (Q & C Militaria, Cheltenham), and to the staff at Cheltenham Reference Library, Birmingham City Council (Department of Leisure and Community Services) and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Department of Education and Community Services).

## SOURCES

- Browne, Sidney R.R.C, 'Women's Employment', *Army Nursing*, 3 Aug 1917  
Churchill, Winston S., *The Boer War – London to Ladysmith – Ian Hamilton's March* (Leo Cooper, London, 1989)  
Holt P.M. and Daly M.W., *A History of the Sudan* (Longman, London, 1988)  
McGann, Susan, *The Battle of the Nurses – A study of eight women nurses who influenced the development of professional nursing, 1850 – 1930. Sidney Browne – A Great Matron-in-Chief* (Scutari Press, London)
- 'An Appreciation of Dame Sidney', *Nursing Times*, 22 Aug 1941  
'EMAP', *Nursing Times*, 28 Feb 1920  
*Gloucestershire Echo*  
*Midland Chronicle*, 30 Mar 1928 and 4 Nov 1941  
*The Nursing Mirror and Midwives' Journal*, 18 Dec 1919  
*The Times History of the War* (The Times)  
*Who was Who 1941 – 1950 Vol.IV* (A & C Black, 1958)
- Dame Sidney Browne archive of photographs, newspaper cuttings and letters (Army Medical Services Museum)  
Dame Sidney Browne's will (Birmingham City Council)  
Extracts from 1881 census (Birmingham City Council)  
House deeds for Charnes, 11 Tivoli Road, Cheltenham (author's own)

---

<sup>1</sup> See 'Frederick Munro (1791-1879): Soldier and Cheltenham Commissioner' by Derek Rowles, *Cheltenham Local History Society Journal*, **18** (2002), pp.59-64.

# Mr. Entwisle and the elusive Post Office

CAROLYN GREET

---

DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS in early nineteenth century Cheltenham come almost entirely from Goding's *History of Cheltenham*, first published in 1853. According to Goding<sup>1</sup> the first Post Office opened in 1800 at what was then no. 53 (later no. 78, and from 1820 to 1957 no. 127). This property was between the opening then called Coffee House Yard (now Pittville Street) and North Street, with Post Office Yard (later America Passage then Albion Walk) to its immediate west. The occupant, Thomas Smith, is described in Shenton's *Cheltenham Directory* of 1800<sup>2</sup> as 'Grocer, Post-Master, Agent to the Westminster Life Annuities, Insurance and British Fire Offices', though in the 1802 edition he is simply 'Grocer'. Goding states that 'at his decease [the Post Office] was transferred to an ironmonger of the same name residing next door': this was Mary Smith, on the opposite side of Post Office Yard. She was the widow of Edmund Smith and in Shenton 1800-02 is described as 'Grocer, ironmonger and Stamp Distributor. Both these early Post Offices were in conveniently central positions.

In 1805, again according to Goding, a Mr. Hayes was sent down from the General Post Office in London to make local arrangements, first opening an office 'at the entrance to the Rose and Crown Passage', later removing it to the corner of Park Street 'adjoining the residence of the late J.N. Belcher.' Ruff's *History of Cheltenham and Guide* published in 1803 however states that Charles Hayes was already Post Master in that year. There is no other record of the Rose and Crown Passage office, which in any case does not appear to have lasted very long.

The second office, at the corner of Park Street<sup>3</sup>, sounds an unlikely situation as the lower area of the High Street was then largely undeveloped and would in any case have been a remarkably inconvenient place for a Post Office. According to Goding, following complaints from townspeople about Hayes' arrangements he employed a bellman, attired like London postmen in red, whose duties were to collect letters, though not apparently to deliver them. The man's name was Belcher; could the name have misled Goding into assuming that the actual office was right down at the far end of the town near what was by his time known as Belcher's Court? One of the most interesting aspects of the early postal arrangements is that from 1805 to 1816 the official Post Master was Thomas Entwisle, step-father of the actress Harriot Mellon who later married Thomas Coutts, the banker, and eventually became Duchess of St. Albans.

The *Memoirs of the Duchess of St. Albans* published in 1840 by Mrs. Cornwall Baron-Wilson relates that in march 1804 Harriot's mother Sarah and her second husband Thomas Entwisle came to live in Cheltenham in consequence of him losing his job with the orchestra at Drury lane and 'nothing else offering in London, thought he would try his fortune in the sale of music at one of the watering places'. They opened a music shop in the High Street, letting the upper part of the house furnished as was common practice.

In fact it was clear that the Entwisles came to Cheltenham earlier than 1804; Ruff's 1803 *Guide* includes the information that 'Mr. Entwisle, of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, has opened a Musical Warehouse and Library', and Goding quotes verbatim a playbill then

preserved in a Cheltenham shop, referring to a performance to be given on Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> 1802, 'tickets ... to be taken of ... Mr. Entwisle, music shop'. This inaccuracy somewhat vitiates the reliability of the *Memoirs*. The likelihood seems to be that Thomas and Sarah Entwisle came to Cheltenham in 1802. According to the *Memoirs*, in 1805 when the position of Post Master became vacant Harriot Mellon used her influence to obtain it for her step-father, her main objective being to secure provision for her mother whose health was giving concern. Entwisle continued to run the Post Office, and presumably his music shop, until 1816, dying on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1819 aged 54<sup>4</sup>.

But where exactly was Entwisle's music shop / Post Office ? Gwen Hart in her *History of Cheltenham* (1965) states that it was 'at the lower end of the High Street' adding the note that 'the original house is still standing and was known as the Basket Shop'. (Incidentally she mis-spells his name as 'Entwhistle'.) The general assumption seems to be that this was the old shop that from about 1826 to 1967 was known as 'Tinkler's', a basket, brush and rope situated just below Henrietta Street. The only other identification of it appears in *At Cheltenham Spa* by Edith Humphris and E.C. Willoughby (1928) where Entwisle's shop is described as having been 'at what is now the old basket and brush shop in the High Street'.

However Goding claims (p.349) that the shop was 'on the premises now occupied by Mr. Williams, brushmaker'. William's shop is described and illustrated in George Rowe's 1845 *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide*; Rowe notes that as well as selling brushes, mats and baskets, 'orders are also taken here for the extensive Coal Depot of Messrs. Williams and Co.'; the advertisement (p.xivii) at the back of the *Guide* gives some details of the products sold. Williams had been at these premises by 1840 and the coal merchant was still there under the same name as late as 1941. Rowe's accompanying illustration shows beyond any doubt what was then no. 383, the shop with two first-floor bay-windows which is now part of Dixons, just below the Regent Arcade. In the early part of the nineteenth century it was immediately next door to Bettison's (later Lee's) Library.

It seems possible that Hart, writing in the 1960s when the only and obvious surviving brush-and-basket shop was Tinkler's, assumed that the reference in Goding and Humphris and Willoughby referred to that shop. William's shop had by then long been a coal-merchant and the description 'ols basket and brush shop' might well automatically be assumed to relate to Tinkler's. Goding was writing less than thirty-five years after Entwisle's death, and there must still have been people in Cheltenham who remembered him and his music shop.

Is there any support for the theory that the shop was at what became William's premises? If one is looking for hard evidence in the form of advertisements, references, etc. the answer has to be 'no', though equally there is none for it at the other site. As far as convenience goes, the central position would seem far superior to the 'Tinkler's' site, being literally next door to the most important Library, very close to the Plough and the George and handy for all visitors, as well as being equally accessible from either end of town.

In the course of examining advertisements in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* and *Bath & Cheltenham Gazette* for the period 1809-1816 I have come across no mention at all of Entwisle's music shop nor of any number for the Post Office; all references say simply 'Mr. Entwisle at the Post Office'. This is perhaps not so surprising; after all how many people today have any idea what number in the High Street the present Post Office is, even though they know very well where it is?<sup>5</sup> There are just two small items of evidence; in 1809



an advertisement for the then no. 65, later 115, described it as ‘opposite the Post Office, near the Plough’<sup>6</sup>; and in 1816 an address was given as ‘Terrace Place, near the Post Office’<sup>7</sup>. Hodsdon’s *An Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* (1997) gives Terrace Place as ‘near the Plough Hotel’.

At (the later) no. 383 in 1800 and 1802<sup>8</sup> was Styles, described as Fruiterer and Toyman i.e. small luxury items such as fans, tooth-picks, etc. Between 1802 and 1825 I have found no information about any occupants at all, the only premises in this entire stretch of the High Street of which that can be said. If this was the shop taken over by Entwisle in 1802 as a music shop with the later addition of the Post Office, then it is interesting that in 1814 another music-shop was opened two doors away at no. 385 by the already very successful Charles Hale. Entwisle seems not to have been a particularly efficient or indeed pleasant man; in 1812 a petition was signed for his dismissal after an incident in which he had first withheld and then attempted to destroy an important letter; and both he and his wife – who died in 1815 – were accused of drunkenness. Hale’s business thrived; was this at the expense of the already struggling Entwisle, leading to the latter’s abandonment of the business and the transfer of the Post Office elsewhere in 1816 ?

Thomas Entwisle also held property a little further along the High Street, as is shown in the records of copyhold property transfers in Cheltenham Manor Court Books. An entry for January 1808 records the transfer from William Humphris Barrett, baker, and Arthur Williams, silversmith, to Thomas Entwisle, gentleman, and Sarah his wife of the ‘messuage or tenement with the outbuildings, garden and appurtenances thereto belonging’, which had been ‘late in the possession of Thomas Hewer dec’d and now or late of the said A. Williams’. To the east was the messuage and building of Samuel Harward, to the west the messuage and building of John Jones.

According to Shenton’s 1800 *Cheltenham Directory* ‘Mr. Hewer, Pastry Cook and Confectioner’ was then at no. 161 (later no. 372), between the present Promenade and Regent Street; he died in 1802. To the east at no. 162 (later 373) was Mr. Harward, Bookseller, Stationer, Printer and Circulating Library’; to the west ‘Mr. Sommerfield, butcher’, then ‘Mr. John Jones, Dealer in Wines’ at the Arched Buildings. After Hewer’s death Arthur Williams ran the plate and cutlery side of his silversmith’s business from the premises before giving it up in 1807.

Land Tax returns show that during the periods that Entwisle held no. 372 the property was occupied by a series of tenants, mostly milliners and lace-sellers; the Entwisles do not appear to have lived there themselves. It seems therefore that, whether or not they let some of the rooms as seasonal lodgings, they lived at the shop at no. 383.

<sup>1</sup> 1863 edition p.275.

<sup>2</sup> Reproduced in the *Royal Cheltenham Directory 1872-3*; second edition of Shenton’s *Directory* published in 1802.

<sup>3</sup> Park Street is first mentioned by name in 1826 (Hodsdon; *A Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* 1997).

<sup>4</sup> There is a memorial (erected by Harriot) to both the Entwisles in St. Mary’s Parish Church, Cheltenham.

<sup>5</sup> More unexpected perhaps is the fact that when the Post Office was moved to the corner of Gyde’s Terrace / Grosvenor Street in 1816 or –17 there was no mention of this in the local press. However, since they also failed to mention the re-numbering of the entire High Street in 1820, perhaps it was simply taken for granted.

<sup>6</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 1 Jun 1809

<sup>7</sup> *Cheltenham Chronicle* 16 May 1816

<sup>8</sup> Shenton: *Cheltenham Directory*.

## Review:

# *Memoirs Of A Social Atom* by W.E. ADAMS

SUE ROWBOTHAM

---

*Do you know of any newly published works on the history of Cheltenham, or existing sources that may not be familiar to Society Members? If so why not write a review for a future edition of the Journal.*

I FOUND A REFERENCE to *Memoirs of a Social Atom* whilst researching for an article for last year's Journal. It was a source that I had not come across before and, intrigued, I went in search of a copy. I managed to track one down in the Gloucestershire Collection in Gloucester Library, and was delighted to discover how many references to Cheltenham lay between its covers.



William Edwin Adams  
(1832-1906)

William Edwin Adams was an important figure in nineteenth century radical politics, and in provincial journalism. He was best known as a Cheltenham Chartist, a mid-century Radical and a Tyneside newspaper editor. *Memoirs* was originally published as a series of articles in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* between 1901 and 1902, and was then published in two volumes by Hutchinson of London in 1903. Adams describes his early years in Cheltenham at home in Lower Dockem<sup>1</sup> and at school at Gardner's Academy, his apprenticeship to John Joseph Hadley, proprietor of the *Cheltenham Journal* for seven years from June 1846, and his rise to a prestigious position in the social and radical political life of North East England.

Adams' written style is fresh, often amusing and surprisingly modern, and he gives many glimpses of life in Cheltenham. I can thoroughly recommend this book, either if you are interested in the history of Cheltenham between 1832 and the early 1850s, or if you would like to know more about the Chartist Movement.

*Memoirs of a Social Atom* was reprinted in hardback in the USA in 1968 by Augustus M. Kelley, New York. A 'Reference Only' copy of this reprint can be seen at the Gloucestershire Collection in Gloucester Library. Alternatively hardback copies can currently be obtained from Postscript Books at <http://www.secure.psbooks.co.uk> price £3.99 plus postage and packing.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dockem – 'Unofficial name, still recognised by some, for the lower end of town between St. George's Square and Townsend Street and (according to some) extending west to include most of the parish of St. Stephen's. The form *Lower Dockem* may apply to the latter part. The name has persistently carried overtones of a poor reputation.' Hodsdon, James, *A Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham*, (BGAS 1997).



# Recent books and articles on the history of Cheltenham

List compiled by STEVEN BLAKE

---

Bradbury, Oliver, 'The summer-houses of Lord Northwick', *Follies* **49** (Summer 2001), p.11. Includes references to Thirlestaine House in Bath Road.

Bradbury, Oliver, 'The forgotten influence of Lord Northwick's Picture Galleries', *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society* **3<sup>rd</sup> series, 18** (2002), 217 – 232. Includes details and illustrations of Lord Northwick's Picture Gallery at Thirlestaine House.

Bradbury, Oliver, and Penny, Nicholas, 'The picture collecting of Lord Northwick : Part 1', *Burlington Magazine*, **August 2002**, 485-496; 'Part 2', **October 2002**, 606-617. A detailed account of Lord Northwick's collections at Northwick Park and Thirlestaine House.

Clifford. P., *et. al*, *The church at the crossroads. The Holy Apostles' Millennium Celebration*, published by Holy Apostles church, Charlton Kings, 2000. 38pp. Unpriced. An illustrated account of the church's history and present-day life.

Fothergill, Guy, *The stained glass windows of the parish church of St. Mary, Cheltenham. A devotional tour*, published by the Friends of St. Mary's church, 2001. 25pp. £3.75. Colour photographs, accompanied by Biblical texts.

Freeman, Peter, *How GCHQ came to Cheltenham*, published by GCHQ, 2002. 34pp. Unpriced. Published to coincide with GCHQ's 'Our Secret Neighbour' exhibition at the Art Gallery & Museum.

Gibson, Ann (ed.), *A brief history of Naunton Park*, Cheltenham Borough Council Parks and Landscape, 2001. 21pp. £2.50. An illustrated account, produced by the Friends of Naunton Park.

Green, Chris (ed.) and members of the Hesters Way History Group, *The history of Hesters Way. Volume 3*, published by Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project (Cheltenham Borough Council), 2001. 48pp. £2.00. A collection of articles, including the local impact of the Second World War, local transport, houses and estates, and personal recollections of local people.

Kippin, Mick, 'A Victorian Rifle Volunteer officer's sword', *The Armourer* **50** (March/April 2002), p.21. A note regarding a sword inscribed 'Shirer & Son, Cheltenham'.

Leah, Mark, and Young, Christopher, 'A Bronze-Age Burnt Mound at Sandy Lane, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire : excavations in 1971', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **119** (2001), pp.59-82. Excavation report, with finds of pottery, bone, flintwork and a spear mould.

Matthews, Peter, and Halliwell, Mark, *Cheltenham Town. The rise of the Robins*, Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2002. 192pp. £14.99. An account of the recent successes of the town's football team.

Miller, Eric, *Leckhampton Court. From Manor House to Hospice*, published by the author for the Leckhampton Local History Society, 2002. 64pp. £6.99. An illustrated account of the house's history from medieval times onwards.

Moore-Scott, Terry, 'The Manorial Estates of Leckhampton', *Gloucestershire History* **16** (2002), 9-22. An account of the history of the manor, including information on several local landowning families.

O'Connor, David, *The hole in the ground. The story of the Battledown Brickworks*, published by the author for the Charlton Kings Local History Society, 2002. 92pp. £8.50. An illustrated account of brickmaking in Cheltenham since the earliest times, focusing particularly on Webb Brothers' brickworks at Battledown.

Paget, Mary (ed.), *Charlton Kings Local History Society Bulletin*, published twice yearly. Up to 40 pages per issue. £2.50 per issue. A wide range of notes and articles on Charlton Kings, by a variety of authors. *Bulletin 45* (Spring 2001) includes articles on the demolition of houses on the Battledown Estate (David O'Connor), the Charlton Kings Fire Brigade (Mary Southerton) and accounts of several local houses, land holdings and residents from the Middle Ages onwards. *Bulletin 46* (Autumn 2001) includes articles on the development of Cudnall Street (Mary Paget), East End (Reg Seabright) and Withyholt Park (David Morgan), Charlton Kings and the Boer War (Mary Southerton), Leckhampton Quarry Railway (Mary Paget), Land Tax and Poor Rate payments in 1715 (Jane Sale), plus biographical accounts of Sydney Buckman, Alice Yonge, the Greville family and an early 18<sup>th</sup>-century maltster named Francis Green. *Bulletin 47* (Spring 2002) includes articles on the Telling and Coates Nursery (Mary Paget), the Manor and Court Procedure (Jane Sale), George Ridge and Battledown (David O'Connor), early landowners in Charlton and Naunton (Mike Greet), plus shorter notes on Charlton Kings houses and people. *Bulletin 48* (Autumn 2002) includes articles on Southfield Farm (Jane Sale) and various local residents, notably members of the Earengy family.

Paget, Mary, *Improving the property. The Prinns and Forden House (later Charlton Park, now St. Edward's School)*, Charlton Kings Local History Society, 2002. 50pp. Unpriced. New evidence for the dating and building materials used in the construction of this important house.

Powell, Hudson John, *Poole's Myriorama! A story of travelling panorama showmen*, ELSP, Bradford on Avon, 2002. 224pp. Unpriced. The story of a family of 19<sup>th</sup>-century travelling panorama showmen, including many Cheltenham references.

Ride, Graham, *Foundation Stone. The influences & shaping of Brian Jones – founder of the Rolling Stones*, Broad Brush Publishing, Sandbach, 2001. 294pp. Unpriced. An account of Brian Jones' Cheltenham years, by his best friend at that time, including a 'walkabout' tour of places in the town connected with Brian Jones.

Verey, David, and Brooks, Alan, *The Buildings of England. Gloucestershire 2. The Vale and the Forest of Dean*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2002. 888pp. £29.95.

Alan Brooks' revised edition of David Verey's second Gloucestershire volume in the 'Pevsner' architectural series (first published 1970) contains detailed entries on Cheltenham, Charlton Kings, Leckhampton, Prestbury, Swindon Village and Up Hatherley, with much new information.

Webster, John (ed.), from research by Sarah Grimes, *The history of Whaddon, Lynworth and Priors. Volume 1*, published by Cheltenham Borough Council Community and Project Services, 2001. 32pp. £1.00. Aspects of the history of one of the town's residential areas, including farms, recreation, work, religion and schools.

Whittington-Egan, Richard, *The great British torso mystery*, The Bluecoat Press, Liverpool, 2002. 224pp. £7.99. The story of the 1938 'Haw Bridge murder', with many Cheltenham references.

Wills, Jan (ed.), 'Archaeological Review No. 25, 2000', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **119** (2001), includes entries for Cheltenham (pp.193-4), with reports of excavations at the St. James' Car Park and monitoring work in the Pittville area, and for Prestbury (p.205), with a report of a 'watching brief' at Cressy House in the Burgage.

---

## Gloucestershire Record Office: Cheltenham Area Accessions, 2002

JULIE COURTENEY, Senior Cataloguer, GRO

---

The GRO continues to receive a wide range of archives relating to the Cheltenham area. The following is a brief list of archives donated or deposited in 2002. More information about the Record Office and its holdings is available on-line at <http://archives.gloscc.gov.uk>

**Dowty Group:** working papers, reports, publications, drawings, photographs, design notebooks, diaries, minutes of meetings and correspondence relating to David Bick's employment at Dowty and particularly his involvement in railway industry applications (the Dowty marshalling yard wagon control system), 1951-1986; also include some Dowty publications from 1950. (D9104)

**Cheltenham Bach Choir:** minutes 1953-1989; other records, including a scrap book (1972), 1946-1977. (D9116)

**Bath Street:** sale particulars concerning nos. 6 and 7, 1864. (D2427)

**H.H. Martyn of Cheltenham, architectural decorators and furnishers and its associated companies:** additional photographs, newscuttings, brochures and some office records 20th cent; also photographs of the Whitaker family of Southam, Bishops Cleeve and Swindon, including their house in Southam before and after conversion 1923, 1939, Swindon Hall, Swindon village, before 1922 and a family group at the Hall c.1921. (D5922)

**Railway Companies records:** Midland Railway Company and property in Gloucestershire, including Cheltenham, 1848-1970; Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway Company, 1873, 1906, 1915. (D8251)

**35mm photographic transparencies of scenes attended by a police sergeant from Charlton Kings:** RAF removing crashed plane at Ullenwood [1979]; River Chelt in flood, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham [1977/78] (D9110)

**St. Barnabas, Cheltenham:** church meetings minutes 1952-1989; District Church Council minutes 1988-1991. (P78/16)

**Belmont School, Cheltenham:** governors' minutes 1996-2000; log book 1986-1997. (S78/25)

**Leckhampton:** deeds concerning Blissworth Cottage, 9 Short Street 1879-1977 (D9176)

**St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Cheltenham:** minutes 1851-1927 (with church roll and baptisms 1851-1874); communicants' roll 1864-1893 (D7755)

**Cheltenham Rural District Council:** deposited building plans and applications for c.1900-1968 (DC117)

**Deeds and related papers** concerning property mainly in the Cheltenham area 20th cent. (D5907)

**Cheltenham Spa, Townswomen's Guild:** minutes 1951-2001; financial records 1975-2002; press cuttings, 1951-1967, photographs with press cuttings, 1966-2001; other records include correspondence and publicity 1951-2002 (D9211)

**Westlands School, Cheltenham:** log books 1975-1993; headteacher's diaries ( includes loose papers), 1993-1996; leavers' register, 1970-1976; accident book, 1986-1988; building plans 1960s-1980s; proposed extension of the diagnostic unit, 1969-1970; school prospectus, undated [1990s]; Thirlstaine Court ESN School, building plans, 1960s; managers' minutes, 1963-1981 (S78/2)

**Brookfield Secondary Special School, Cheltenham:** governors' reports, correspondence and policy papers, 1989-1998; Finance Committee minutes and papers 1993-1998; head's reports to governors, 1995-1998, staff meetings minutes c.1989-c1998; building plans and site and premises papers, 1960s-1990s; pupil medical records 1981-1984; safety incident report book, 1992-1995; sports activities 1977-1989, Friends of Brookfield School correspondence 1980-1995; fundraising papers 1980s-1990s; inventories, prospectuses, 'Leavers' papers, 1970s-1990s and 'Visits', 1992-1996 (S78/19)

**Leckhampton Parish Council:** papers concerning registration of common land 1968-1973 (P198a)

**Lewis family of London and Gloucestershire:** records include a tract concerning the dismissal of the Master of Ceremonies from the Assembly Rooms, Cheltenham, 1827; deeds concerning 3 and 5 St George's Road, Cheltenham, part of the Bays Hill Estate Company, 1838 (D9228)

**Gardner's Lane Primary School, Cheltenham:** governors' minutes 1997-2000 (S78/26)

**C. and M. Lane, house and estate agents of Cheltenham:** ledger 1869-1889; letter books, 1872-1975; inventories and tenancy agreements; other papers include household bills and sale particulars of various Cheltenham properties 19th-20th cents. (D9251)

**Gloucestershire Community Health Council:** Trust Board papers including annual reports, board meetings, business plans, annual accounts, reports and advice leaflets 1994-2001 (D7224)

**Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Cheltenham:** minutes of governors' meetings 1997-2000 (S78/14)

**World Development Movement, Cheltenham branch:** records including accounts; correspondence with related organisations; briefing notes for MPs; subject files for tea trade, tobacco, etc; brochures and pamphlets relating to the Movement c.1975-c.1985 (D9256)

**Park Area Residents' Campaign (PARC), Cheltenham:** minutes 1993-1996 (D9261)

**St John's, Cheltenham:** memorial plaque 1877 (P78/6)

**St. Luke's, Cheltenham:** parish magazine, June 1933; postcard of church interior, undated [mid 29th cent]; photographs of interior of church, undated [mid to late 20th cent]; papers about request to church of The Cover, Olio Road, 1961 (P78/7)

**Bettridge Special School, Cheltenham:** governors' papers (minutes and supporting papers) 1990-1999 (SM78/16)

**Cheltenham All Saints:** additional parish records including parochial returns and statistics, c.1903-c.1940; annual report, 1909 & 1999; correspondence and other papers concerning work on tower, 1993; annual income and expenditure accounts, 1965-1992 (P78/2)

**Leckhampton:** deeds and related papers to 302 Old Bath Road (1866)-1978 (D9270)

**Tivoli Street:** deeds and related papers concerning no. 29 (1841)-2001 (D9280)

**The Religious Society of Friends:** Gloucester and Cheltenham Preparative Meeting minutes, 1919-1929 (D1340)

**High Street and Church Street:** deeds and related papers, 1809-1967 (D6909)

**Cheltenham Arts Council records** 1966-1998 (D9314)

**Windsor Street:** deeds and related papers for no. 8, 1852-1983 (D9324)

**Charlton Kings Infants School:** governors' minutes 1994-1999 (S76/1)

**Dunalley County Primary School:** governors' minutes 1998-2000 (S78/7)

**SS Philip & James, Leckhampton:** PCC minutes, 1977-1998; Church House Committee minutes, 1967-1971; other papers, c.1988-1991 (P198/2)

**Benhall Infant School, Cheltenham:** log books, 1976-1992; admission register, 1972-1984; Governors' annual reports to parents, 1987-1998; OFSTED report, 2001 (S78/24)

**Gloucestershire Community Health Council:** reports, press releases and circulars concerning primary care group meetings, child care, care of

the elderly, ethnic minorities, mental health, maternity, heart, strokes, cancer, pharmaceutical reports, ambulance trust, youth service; also Gloucestershire Health reports 1991-2001 (D7224)

**Rowanfield Road:** deeds and related papers concerning no.77, 1863-1997 (D9370)

**Cheltenham Workers' Educational Association:** minutes 1994-1995 (D4227)

**Cheltenham area:** deeds and related papers 19th-20th cents. (D5902)

**Royal Aeronautical Society, Gloucester and Cheltenham Branch:** minutes, 1979-1995; general file, 1992-1996; lecture attendance book, 1984-1994; other records including copies of conference programmes, 1980s-1990s, lecture programmes, 1970-1995 [some gaps], copies of the Royal Aeronautical Society published papers, 1994 (D8280)

**High Street:** deeds and related papers concerning Cheltenham Stores at 268 High Street, 1763-1871, and no. 458, 1960s (D9388)

**Benhall Infant School, Cheltenham:** plans and correspondence, early 1970s; plans and cuttings concerning building works, 1986-1988; financial papers, 1998-2000, 'Form 7', c.1991-1997 (S78/24)

*Cheltenham Examiner* 13 May 1840

## MATRIMONY

A YOUNG MAN, 25 years of age, wishes to meet with an agreeable and intelligent PARTNER FOR LIFE; beauty is but a secondary consideration, a cheerful disposition being the primary object. The advertiser having a competency, fortune is of no importance. Being a stranger in this part of the country, where, from circumstances, his future life will be passed, he resorts to this method of making his wishes known. It may be necessary to remark that he is well educated, his address and personal appearance he flatters himself, could not be objected to. Any lady about his own age, inclined to avail herself of this opportunity may rest assured of the most honourable secrecy.

Address (p.p.) to H.F.H., Post-Office, Cheltenham.

# Members' Interests and Research Topics

## ELAINE HEASMAN

---

*The Society aims to share knowledge and promote research. With this in mind, members are asked, when joining the Society or renewing membership, to specify any topics being researched or any special interests they may have.*

To be put in touch with a member please contact Elaine Heasman Tel:01452 857803,  
Fax: 01452 540997 or e-mail: [elaineheasman@hotmail.com](mailto:elaineheasman@hotmail.com)

*If you have any interests or research topics that are not listed here, and you are willing to share that knowledge with Society members please be sure to let Elaine know. [Ed]*

<b>Member</b>	<b>Interest(s) / Research Topic(s)</b>
Eileen Allen	Pates family, Carlton Street, Hewlett Road, Priory Terrace
Shirley Anderson	The family name HORSLEY
Lynn Andrews	Utilities architecture; Victorian, Modernist & Post-Modernist Architecture
Heather Atkinson	The history of the former workhouse site in Swindon Road
Eva Bailey	Cheltenham & the Indian Connection; The Park
Jan Baltzersen	The Commemoration of the War Dead
Jill Barlow	Tivoli Road; Cheltenham Manor
Peter Barlow	Tivoli Road
Beryl Bates	Cheltenham 1850 to present
Roger Beacham	Cheltenham Theatres; All Saints' Church; Prestbury
John & Sue Brasher	History of "Primbox Works", Tivoli site; William Henry Brasher
Bob Brown	Coal merchants, Railways; Tramways; Musical History; Field Names and Brickmaking
Paul Burgess	Customs & traditions; The Promenade; The Harward Family; Thomas Willey; Music
David Butler	Lansdown Castle Shop; Post Office in Gloucester Road & Lansdown Castle; Alstone Area 1840-1900; Butler Family Tree
Vic Cole	Pubs; Victorian murders
Joyce Cummings	WW1 & WW11 in Cheltenham; St Paul's & St Peter's areas; Yates' & Sons [Seeds] Ltd, 38 High Street
Paul Davies	Maps; Railway development and history; Development of the Bayshill, Overton Park and Christchurch areas
Mrs. S. Davis	Cheltenham Racecourse; Pate's Grammar School for Girls, Albert Road; Gloucester Road Primary School; Gloucester Road
David Elder	Edward Wilson; WW1
John Elliott	The Cinemas of Cheltenham
Carolyn Greet	Barrett Family; Cheltenham's early markets; Cheltenham High Street before 1850
Mike Greet	Cheltenham before 1617; Isaac Bell. Gardener & Rhymer 1801-c1851
Isabel Grindley	"Regency" music at concerts, balls, spas, soirées etc
Mike Grindley	Portland Square/Albert Place district; Caffieri Family; Cheltenham 19 <sup>th</sup> century fires, building site crime and accidents
Peter Gunnell	Cheltenham & Leckhampton history
Susan Hamilton	Lypiatt Terrace
David Hanks	Old images of Gloucestershire & beyond

<b>Member</b>	<b>Interest(s) / Research Topic(s)</b>
Mike Hawkes	Cheltenham bottles & potlids
Elaine Heasman	Cheltenham in the 1850s; ephemera & memorabilia to current day
James Hodsdon	Placenames of Cheltenham area; Manor Court Records
Jeremy Jefferies	General development of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century town
Gordon Jones	Yeomanry/Cavalry in Gloucestershire – particularly the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
Jill Julier	Old Cheltenham postcards
Nick Kingsley	Windsor Street and surrounding area including Cakebridge Farm, Prestbury; Cheltenham architects and builders
Mick Kippin	The Volunteer Movement in Gloucestershire 1794-1908; Cheltenham's bandstands
Richard Lacock	Quakers in Gloucestershire, Cheltenham & Stoke Orchard
Tom Maslin	Albion House, North Street
Pauline McGregor-Currien	East India Company officials in Cheltenham, India and Burma; the British Colony in Mauritius
Patricia Meyrick	Varied interests including photographs of local events
Eric Miller	Cheltenham worthies buried at Leckhampton; Prints and engravings of Cheltenham; The Wishaw family of St. Petersburg and Cheltenham
Ann Mitchell	Grovefield Pike; Wall paintings in SS Philip & James, Uphatherley; Wheelwright James Joynes, Hatherley Road
Terry Moore-Scott	Cheltenham's manorial history as it affects Leckhampton; Anything archaeological in the Cheltenham area
Alan Munden	Cheltenham Anglican Churches; Parish Church clergy – Charles Jervis, Francis Close, Edward Walker; Jane Cook 1775-1851; Holy Trinity clergy – Thomas Thomason, John Browne
Sue Newton	History of Coronation Road, Prestbury and former residents
David Norman	Thos. Bullock and the Great Backside, Rose & Crown Yard and The Bell Inn in Rutland Street
Geoff North	WW1 Voluntary Aided Hospitals in Cheltenham, in particular The Racecourse Hospital
Shane O'Neill	Evans and Hawker families 1820 - 1890
Stephen Osmond	Continues to seek FULL dates of events related to the town in order to update "A Chronology of Cheltenham: 200BC – 2000AD"
Daphne Pennell	Antique thimbles and sewing accessories
Patrick Phair	Millennium map; Public Houses
Mr & Mrs Richardson	Railways
Mike Rigby	Trowscoed Lodge; Fairfield House; F.G. Jenkins & J.D. Bendall [Leckhampton builders]
Sue Rowbotham	Maskelyne family, W.D. Slade, Alstone, Christchurch Schools
Aylwin Sampson	Thomas Shotter Boys in Cheltenham
Dorothy Seton-Smith	Trades in Cheltenham; Social history of the area
Peter Smith	Plaques and inscriptions
Peter Stephens	Casino Place; Postcards and Black & White Motorways
Brian Torode	Tivoli area; Architects in Cheltenham: William Hill Knight c1836 – 1895; John Middleton 1860 - 1885
Jill Waller	Christ Church schools; Central Iron Works [Lansdown Industrial Estate]; Alstone area
Phyllis White	Arle, Arle Court (old & new), Grovefield House, Grovefield Villa, Henry Lucy (builder/architect)
Julier Woodger	Bennett / Hands families, High Street
Eric Woodhead	Tivoli Road