

Let's take another look at East Clevedon

In this picture we can see little of the development but it is plain why the Victorian forefathers liked to apply the name "Swiss Valley" to it.



The carefully contrived figure leaning on the wall with the church and vicarage as a background make one wonder if this was taken by the same photographer as the one on the front page of our last edition.

We must take into consideration though that a 'bowler' was more or less demanded by the style of the day. A flat cap was for workmen, and the homburg and trilby had not come into fashion for casual wear.

Interesting to note is that the house showing between the trees on the right of the picture was in fact in Walton-in-Gordano as was Bennetts that stands just outside of the picture on the left. Until the 1930's Clevedon Parish was on the right side of the road from the forge onwards and Walton was on the left side until the burgeoning 'Walton Park' or 'Walton St Mary' was taken into the Clevedon Urban District.



Chairman's Report

The start of 2009 has brought both joy and sadness! The number of projects that are in motion is an inspiration. Many of our guest speakers are very vociferous, in their praise for, and surprise at, the amount of research work and the general work that the society is involved with. Next year being our 40th anniversary, we will see much of that work reaching fruition.

Sadly I had to announce at our January meetings the deaths of two members, Margaret Cleveland-Smith & Eric Tripp. Mary Brueton has gone into a nursing home near Newbury to be close to her family, our meetings will not feel the same without her.

The Christmas Party was a great success; thanks go to all who worked so hard to make it happen. I'm sure that we are all looking forward to the events that 2009 will bring.

The Environment group will be organising another 'Spring Clean of the Town' this year and it is hoped that many other organisations will get involved, so while we are talking about involvement it would be nice to see some new society faces joining the fray. If you don't fancy taking part then please spread the word, I would very much like to see all ages getting down to it!!

Rob Campbell Chairman

39th Annual General Meeting of Clevedon Civic Society Thursday 14th May 2009, 7.30pm St Andrews Church Centre, Clevedon

1. To record officers of the Society present
2. To record apologies.
3. To approve the minutes of the 38th AGM
Proposed
Seconded
4. Matters Arising
5. To adopt the Annual Account for the year 2008
6. Chairman's Annual Report
7. To record the Society's Life Appointments

Clevedon Civic Society Spring 2009



President	Julia Elton	
Vice Presidents	Bob Hardcastle	Pat Appleby
	Jo Hedger	Marion Johnson.

8. To elect the Officers of the Society to stand for one year.

Nominations are required 14 days prior to the AGM and should be made to the Hon: Secretary by 30th April 2009.

Chairman	Proposed	Seconded
Hon: Secretary	Proposed	Seconded
Hon: Treasurer	Proposed	Seconded

9. To record the other Members of the Executive.

Group Chairmen	
Conservation and Planning	Bryan Osborne
Our Environment	Mike Graham
Local History	Rob Campbell
Newsletter Editor	Derek Lilly
Newsletter Manager	Dave Long
Webmaster	Mike Wheatley
Membership Secretaries	John & Helen Bussell
Public Relations Officer	Geoff Hale
Town Council Representative	Carol Wring

- 10 To present the Environment Award for 2008

- 11 Any Other Business

- 12 Chairman to Close the Meeting.

The meeting will be followed by the speaker for the evening.

Derek Lilly "A Small Game Safari"

CLEVEDON CIVIC SOCIETY **Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held at St** **Andrew's Centre on Thursday 8th May 2008**

- 1 Officers Present
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Rob Campbell | Chairman |
| Iris Wheatley | Treasurer |
| Wendy Moore | Secretary |
| Bob Hardcastle | Vice Chairman |

Clevedon Civic Society Spring 2009



2. Apologies

Alice Watkins	Norma Campbell
Reg & Diane Twilley	Pat Hammacott
Marion Johnson	Jane Lilly
George Littlejones	

3. The minutes of the 37th AGM were approved proposed Mike Graham seconded Carol Wring.

4. There were no matters arising.

5. Treasurers report

The Annual accounts for 2007 were adopted. Proposed by Dennis Bagshaw, seconded by Jean Hannaford. Iris said that thanks to members filling in gift aid forms £143 extra was received this year. There will be no change to the annual subscriptions. Iris thanked Chris Norrish for auditing the accounts and her husband Mike for his help.

6. Chairman's Remarks

In his report Rob said that the year had gone quickly. He outlined some of the tasks he had been asked to do. Among them were a welcome to the new vicar of St Johns and taking a group of Dutch people on a History walk around the town in the pouring rain! Rob and a sub committee are working on a book for the Society's 40th Anniversary in 2010. He thanked the executive committee for their work and especially Derek Lilly for his work with the newsletter. There has been a change of webmaster, Mike Wheatley assisted by Jeff Eastman is working on a new map for the website. Thanks to Jean Hannaford and her team for serving coffee and teas at the public meetings and also Liz Neath and Sandra Davis for the History group refreshments.

Special thanks to Bob Hardcastle for his help at meetings.

- 7 Life Appointments

It was noted that the following members hold life appointments

Julia Elton President
Bob Hardcastle, Pat Appleby, Jo Hedger & Marion Johnson are all Vice presidents.

- 8 Election of Officers

Chairman

Rob Campbell proposed by Bob Hardcastle seconded Carol Wring

Hon Secretary

Wendy Moore proposed by Bryan Osborne seconded Dave Long.



Clevedon Civic Society Spring 2009

Hon Treasurer

Iris Wheatley proposed by Bob Hardcastle seconded Rob Campbell

As Bob Hardcastle is retiring as Vice Chairman, Mike Graham will take over that position.

9 Other Members of the Executive were recorded as follows:-

Group Chairmen

Conservation & Planning	Bryan Osborne
Our Environment	Mike Graham
Local History	Rob Campbell
Footpaths	Jean Hannaford
Newsletter Editor	Derek Lilly
Newsletter Manager	Dave Long
Webmaster	Mike Wheatley
Membership Secretaries	John & Helen Bussell
Public Relations Officer	Alan Cotton
Town Council Representative	Carol Wring
Member	Peter Ganniclift.

10 The Environment Award for 2007

This was presented by Bob Hardcastle who said it was an award not given lightly and was awarded this year to Sue & Simon Kelly for the high quality of workmanship on the restoration of 53 Hill Road now Panache . An award was also given to Ollie Cope the builder.

11 The constitution was amended as follows:-

Delete the last sentence of the third paragraph of item 8 and substitute
“ The Executive shall meet not less than five times a year”

12 AOB

Presentations were made to Bob & Frances Hardcastle on their retirement from the Executive Committee.

Alan Blackmore asked if anyone had any information on Phyllis Poole the sister of Stanley Newton. Jean Hannaford thanked Frances for advertising the Footpath walks and reminded walkers that there is a walk along the coast path to Portishead on Saturday 10th May

The AGM was closed.

The meeting was followed by the speaker for the evening, Alan Cotton who gave an interesting talk on “ The Work of the Friends of the Land Yeo”. He was ably assisted by his grandson Matthew.

The next AGM will be on Thursday 14th May 2009 7.30 at St Andrews Church Centre



Conservation & Planning Group Report

The recession is resulting in the number of major planning applications being much reduced, but obviously private residents are considering extending their homes in Clevedon rather than attempting to sell and move.

The Royal Pier Hotel is once again in the news. Since the Company went into liquidation the Receivers have put the hotel site on the market and at the time of writing should have received offers for the property. Hopefully, there will be a successful bidder who will have the resources to develop the building sympathetically.

We see that the Pier Trustees are interested and if they can raise the necessary capital and generate enough income to maintain the property, it would be a very acceptable solution to remove this long term eyesore. When you read this newsletter, a solution may have been found – let's hope so.

As you will have seen in the local press, a further planning application was submitted for the Clevedon Hall Estate, largely the same as the previous one and this has been refused.

Tesco have submitted a revised application in line with their brochure I mentioned in the last newsletter, but for some reason it has not been registered yet by North Somerset. In the current climate such an extension of the trading area and the range of goods they propose to sell would be another nail in the coffin of our local traders.

Since the last newsletter an application was made to develop the difficult site at 22 Marine Parade with a block of twelve apartments and a further residence overlooking the pier. With serious access problems, in our opinion, the North Area Planning Committee refused this.

Several nominations have been received for the Environment Award for 2008 and the Judges will make their decision and any Award will be presented at the AGM to be held on 14th May.

Bryan Osborne Group Chairman

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP REPORT

The New Year got off to a very interesting start, with Phil Curme taking us on a trip through the little known area of Italy, which formed the Italian front during the First World War. His intriguing title 'Caporetto to the Piave, the Clevedon Connection' had a number of people ringing and asking what it was all about. Norma & I visited the area a few years ago and it is truly beautiful and definitely off the normal English tourist route, so much so that the local population just could not do enough for us. It's a pity we only had the day, as a guided tour of the Alpine Trenches was offered as well as 'you must have dinner with the family etc.'

Clevedon Civic Society Spring 2009

Phil donated his fee for the evening to the War Memorials Trust, who sent us a very nice letter of thanks plus a copy of their bulletin. Reading it made me wonder if we could approach them for funding to renovate or, probably better still, install some tablets listing the names, which have almost disappeared from the Calvary (First World War Memorial) near All Saints Church. I shall make some enquiries!

Ross Robson's presentation covering his uncle's life aboard one of the last big sailing ships was a high tech affair, which I'm sure had a number of us thinking of up-grading our PowerPoint skills. It was an excellent talk and a super way to spend a February evening.

Finally I would like to say on behalf of the group, a big 'Thank you' to Jane Lilly who is standing down as secretary, a job she has done for over twenty years. Also thanks go to Hazel Pedder, who has, for as long as I can remember, reported on the Avon Local History Association for us. Jane will be taking over that roll and Wendy Moore will be taking over as secretary.

Rob Campbell Group Chairman

Our Environment Group

1/ Eyesores

Another successful litter pick was carried out on 27th November along the verges on Southern Way resulting in 10 bags of rubbish which were taken away by NSC. A large scale litter pick involving other groups will be carried out on Saturday 4th April at 10 am. Details from Bob Hardcastle.

2/ The Lookout

Further graffiti has been found. NSC has been informed and will arrange for it to be treated.

3/ Clevedon's Parks and open spaces

A survey has commenced to look at the potential to improve the parks and open spaces in or near the Beach and Hill Road. We have received a favourable response from NSC .

4/ Sylvia Cotton Memorial Project

The second tranche of the Sylvia Cotton Memorial Project was now been completed with the planting of twelve various trees on the bank of the Yeo. Alan Cotton intends to once more, open his gardens to the public during the summer.

Mike Graham Group Chairman

Just a thought

I was told the other day that there are three things that happen when you grow old. The first thing is that you begin to lose your memory, and I can't remember what the other two are.

Clevedon Civic Society Spring 2009



The Royal British Legion Clevedon Branch
Chairman: John Hulse Tel. 878448

A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to attend our meetings, to help in anyway, or just to meet up with old friends & comrades. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Community Centre. The RBL is now open to all, you do not need to have served.

Warm Interest

Our chairman was rather surprised the other day to receive a letter from our counterpart town in New Zealand

Hi Rob

Greetings from Clevedon, New Zealand. I came across your website and thought I should say hello. I am President of the Clevedon & Districts Historical Society.

The first Europeans (the McNicol and Hoye families) settled in Clevedon in 1853. They and subsequent settlers used the local Maori name for the area at the time which was Te Wairoa but was partly anglicised to Wairoa or sometimes Wairoa South. In 1886 some government official rode into our little village and came across two local men (whose names we know) and said they had quite enough of New Zealand having too many areas called Wairoa and that someone would have to come up with a new name.


These two gentlemen promptly said they were from Somerset, England and they thought Clevedon was a fine name. Job done! Apparently when their compatriots discovered what had happened they were not pleased! Our two gentlemen kept a low profile for quite some time. Pleased to say the name Clevedon is popular now!

So there you have it – just another little story that makes life's tapestry more interesting.


Best wishes to you and your organisation for 2009.

Kind regards Warren Shaw

It would be nice to know the names of the men concerned and see if they relate to any of the families that lived in the town at that time. There was a government scheme in the later 1800s for assisted passages to the Southern Hemisphere for those that had no jobs and existed on "The Parish" and many that took the option came from the general area of North Somerset



Artist's Materials, Toys, Games, and Cards
H Seeley & Co. 61 Hill Road Clevedon Tel. 872488
Booksellers, Newsagents, Stationers.
Monday-Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Saturday 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 8.30 a.m. to 12 Noon.
Book Ordering.



Talk to Civic Society, Thursday 12 February

Mr Robin Prytherch

'The Common Buzzard in North Somerset'

There's nothing common about these birds as far as Robin Prytherch is concerned. He proudly told us of his 25 years devoted to the observation and recording of the Buzzard population in 75 sq km of countryside to the east of Clevedon.

We learnt that Buzzards weigh in at 1kg and have a wingspan of 4ft. With the help of his own excellent sketches Robin illustrated the behaviour and flight patterns of these birds as they defended their territory. He used the expression 'a full angel and a fallen angel' to describe a drawing showing a victorious male bird with wings outstretched dominating another that was cowering on the ground.

Robin told us how he had observed a Buzzard, sitting on a fence, waiting for earthworms (one of its favourite foods) to appear in the heaving soil of an active molehill as they tried to escape the mole beneath. He showed us his drawing of a male/female bonding display where the male flies above the female and she turns upwards to touch talons with him – sweet!

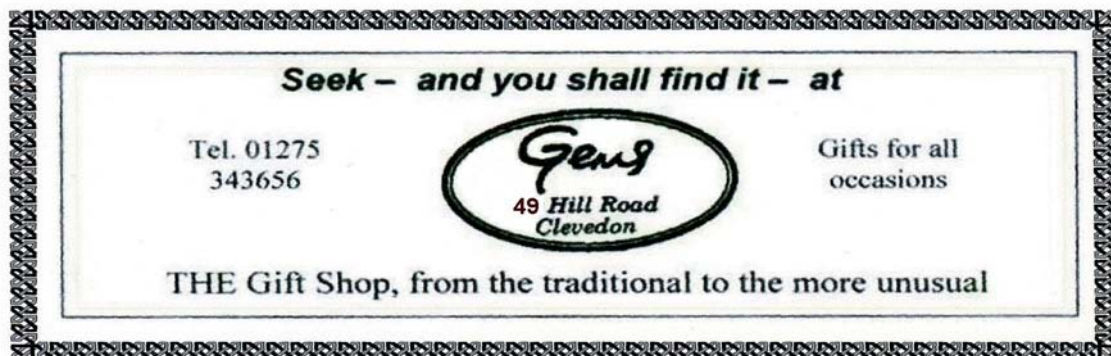
With the help of maps and graphs, Robin showed us how he had started his study of the Buzzards in this territory in 1982 when there were just 13 pairs nesting; he told us that by 2007 that number had increased to a staggering 92 pairs.

After the coffee break Robin gave us some insight into the hazards of his task, not least the fact that the nests of these birds can be as much as 75ft up in the trees. He showed us photographs of the rope ladder he and his colleague use to climb the trees, and pictures of surprised and indignant nestlings as the intrusive ornithologist attempted to measure their nest and catch them for ringing.

Finally Robin detailed the life history of three pairs of Buzzards that live in the Gordano Valley, including one female, which he had named Tess, that lived for 23 years and reared 43 youngsters.

Although he plans to retire very soon, it was my impression that, so dedicated is he to his study of these birds, Robin Prytherch and the Common Buzzards of North Somerset will be observing each other for many years to come.

Geoff Hale



How lucky can we get?

When the rest of the country was having severe snow troubles, all we had was a few falls that disappeared almost as fast as they arrived. There were other places that had 18 inches of snow causing chaos on the roads and isolating some towns. We had maybe an inch over-night that went quickly once the morning traffic got going. Having worked on a milk round for the last 21 years of my working life, I still wake and rise early in the morning. - 5.30 is a lie-in as far as I am concerned – I looked out at about



4.45 a.m. to see what the day's prospect was like and saw fine swirling snow in the street lights. By the time daylight had come most of it was gone from the road but I took this picture for the record because it was the first 'thick' fall we had had for many years.

The torrential rain that caught many places out with floods passed us by, although we did get some 5 or 6 mm. over a 24-hour period. Only just on the other side of Mendip they had

floods at Shepton Mallet and the hard frosts that we got did little damage, mainly I expect because of the ample warnings that were issued.

As far as your editor is concerned the worst thing that happened was a blown head gasket on the "Squashed Limmo" that had me walking for about 3 weeks. The problem was getting the head off, because the alloy had set up a reaction with the iron of the studs and more or less cemented itself in place. Advice from the ever-helpful 'Plastic Pig' club suggested a couple of ideas that worked well. The first was to use Plus Gas to dissolve and loosen the concretion instead of WD40. The second was to make up a metal strip that was set on to the rocker studs. Put on spacer washers and then screw down with the nuts. The pressure on the head studs then forces the cylinder head up; this did finally work.

I apologise to our non-mechanical readers for including this but I feel the information may be of some use to those who like to do their own car maintenance, or work on classic vehicles, in these days of heavily increasing garage charges.

If you are considering - letting your house or flat.
We specialise in the management and letting of property of all types
throughout North Somerset.

West Country Property Services.
Tel. Clevedon 01275-343641



Footpaths Group report.

There is a proposal to develop a walk that will take in all the green areas of Clevedon some better known than others. For example, the small park area at the top of Jesmond Road, Seavale Copse and a small area at the beginning of Marine Parade, eventually perhaps publishing a leaflet that could be placed in the Library and other places such as the pier tollhouse.

Tuesday Apr 7th 'Bluebell Walk', meet Barn Car Park 10am for lift share to Portbury Priory. Leader Denis 847126, distance 2.5 miles approx, woodland walk. Pub lunch if you wish.

Wednesday Apr 22nd 'Easton-in-Gordano/Failand Walk', meet Barn Car Park 9.30am for lift share to Easton-in-Gordano. Leader Julie 875465, distance 4-5 miles, fields and woods with lots of stiles but beautiful views.

Wednesday May 13th '19th century Clevedon', meet Herbert Road entrance to Herbert Gardens 10am. Leader Liz 872633, distance 2-3 miles, mainly pavement walking.

Thursday May 28th 'Discovering Parks and Gardens of Clevedon'. leader Bob Hardcastle. (contact Jean with enquiries, 875878). Meet at the Pier 10am.

Sunday June 7th 'Yatton Circular Walk', meet Barn Car Park 10am for lift share to Yatton Station. Leader Ruth and Jeff 790889. Distance 3.5 miles, easy, level walking.

Friday June 19th 'Mid-Summer Walk', meet 28 Cambridge Road 6pm. Leader Wendy 876747. Short easy walk lasting approx. 1.5 hours in upper Clevedon. Nibbles in the garden afterwards.

Praise for the Society

Stephen Price who is revising the Pevsner North Somerset volume dealing with the buildings and architecture of the towns and villages said that he found the work done by the members of the Civic Society's Local History Group to be a great help.

This remark was echoed by the visiting archivist from the Somerset Record Office at Taunton when thanking Jane Lilly the group secretary for the provision of a series of town directories covering from the mid 1800s to the mid 1930s. She added that the time saving for her when answering queries at the Record Office would work out at hours over the course of a year.

Mark Templer
— & Company —

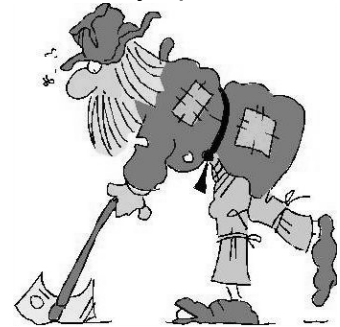
...your local agent

Town and Country Estate Agents
Specialising in the sale of residential
property throughout Clevedon
and all the surrounding areas

**For a free market appraisal
and general advice**
Telephone – 01275 341110

Old Crotchety moans again !

As far as the additions to The Barn are concerned, I have an open mind. I know that it offends some of the people living in the houses that are there and I can sympathise with them. It must shut in the aspect from some of the houses nearest to it. There is also the thought that some visitors will not bother to park in the long carpark by the scouts hall but will insist on parking on the road at Churchill Avenue.



What I am concerned about mainly is the way in which the builders churned up the field with their lorries and vans and also the verge between the car park and the footpath. One can only hope that they will re-settle the grass from the ruts and mud puddles that they imposed there.

Another concern is the way that North Somerset Council regards the odd piece of land adjacent to the river and behind the blocks of flats in Churchill Avenue. In the 1930s the field was purchased at no little effort by parents and families in the Stroud Road area that wished to have a playing field for children that lived in the lower town. It was done by holding jumble sales and all sorts of ways to raise the funds that were needed. There was, as far as I know, no help from the council of the time.

Mrs Burden of Clevedon Hall paid for the equipment that was added to the field. Swings, slide, seesaw, a spinning platform wheel and a sort of rocking merry-go-round. It was then handed over to the care of Clevedon Urban District Council, foolishly trusting that they had provided a playing field in perpetuity.

After the war, space was required, for the erection of prefabricated housing; part of the field was (temporarily it was assumed) used. The playing things were taken down and re-erected elsewhere. When after the years had gone by and the 'pre-fabs' had come to the useful end of their life and were due for demolition, it suddenly seemed that as the land had been built on it could be re-used to build on again.

When protests were made folk were told "There is ample space left for games of football or cricket to be played" and most of the equipment was being used at the Salthouse Field. Objections died down simply because the residents realised that trying to fight "City Hall" was firstly too expensive and secondly they would be on a loser. Now it seems that North Somerset Council is trying to downgrade the meagre little bit of land that is left there for the children of the houses in the locality to have their kick-about on.

One wonders: - Where will it all end?

<p>Are you interested in Clevedon? Why not join the Clevedon Civic Society. £12 per year subscription. 8 Public and 10 History Group meetings per year. Automatic membership of the 4 Society Groups. Membership secretaries John and Helen Bussell, 33 Tennyson Avenue Telephone 01275875528</p>
--