

# The Clevedonian

Spring 2013

Issue No. 07

Clevedon Civic Society



Preserve the best & Improve the rest

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*The views expressed are those of the authors, and may or may not represent those of the Society.*



As I write spring has finally sprung and we can all forget the wet 2012 and extended and cold winter start to this year. Which is not to say that our Society has had a quiet start to 2013. Far from it. Our groups have all been highly active and there has been a mixed bag of walks, speakers, conservation and planning meetings to offer something for all our members.

All except me that is, for unfortunately I've had to undergo a series of eye operations that have required that 2013 is only now beginning for your Chairman! In that context I must record my deep appreciation to the Society's Executive, and Rob Campbell in particular, for knuckling down and carrying forward our activities and work during my enforced absence. We should all be so grateful that we have such a strong and committed team at the helm.

SomemayknowthatI hailfromWoodford Green, Essex; now very much part of Metropolitan London but in Victorian days, like my birthplace, Walthamstow, a village in the countryside! I recently came across a booklet published last year by Woodford Historical Society to



Woodford Railway Station - 20th April 1938

celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is a number of articles with stories and personal recollections of long standing residents of the area telling "how it was in earlier years" both pre and post the Second World War. All of this was of huge interest and brought back to me many fond memories of childhood and adult days alike.

But it was one section that drew my special attention. This was the record of the foundation in 1932 of the Woodford Antiquarian Society (now the Historical Society). The aims of that Society were:

- To publish from the outset
- For those members who preferred to hear rather than to read the local story, a sessional programme of well-chosen lectures should be arranged
- The organisation of visits to places of antiquarian interest.

These and the inauguration of the Society followed publication in the local newspaper of photos showing old and contemporary images of places of interest throughout the district. The first ever meeting was convened by a Mr. T Edwards. I had no prior knowledge of that event, but Tom Edwards is my grandfather – though one I never met as he died shortly before the outbreak of war. It's good to know that his legacy continues in Woodford, and it would be nice to think that some of Tom Edwards' gene-pool has emerged in your Chairman!

What is without doubt, however, is that our Society in Clevedon continues to thrive and play its full part in recording the history of our town and preserving it as a "place that can be proud of its people and its local peculiarities", including "local customs [which] are worth perpetuating at least in memory". Those aims, quoted from 1932, are as relevant to us today as they were then.

Hugh Stebbing

### Civic Society Executive Members

Chairman - **Hugh Stebbing**  
 Secretary - **Wendy Moore**  
 Treasurer - **Carl Peries**  
 Membership - **John & Helen Bussell**  
 Local Government Representative - **Carole Wring**  
 History Group - **Rob Campbell**

Environment Group - **Bob Hardcastle**  
 Conservation & Planning Group - **John Tranter**  
 Footpaths Group - **Liz Byrd**  
 Publicity/Newsletter - **Geoff Hale**  
 Newsletter Distribution - **Dave Long**  
 Web Master - **Mike Wheatley**  
 Co-opted Member - **Bryan Osborne**

Next Executive meetings:

**Tuesday 18 June and 17 September 2013**

*Should any member have a point to put forward it is always possible to contact an Executive Group member to have it brought up at a meeting.*

## Environment Group

Report by Bob Hardcastle (Tel. 871633)



The Environment Group has been busy "behind the scenes" in the last few months dealing with the Marine Lake and Bandstand projects.

We are represented on both the Management and Technical Committee of North Somerset Council's Marine Lake Lottery bid.

You may have noticed that the Marine Lake was drained a few weeks ago so that the existing retaining wall could be inspected and alternative schemes prepared for its repair as the basis for the Lottery Bid. These schemes were discussed at a recent meeting of the Technical Committee and the preferred scheme will now be detailed and costed by the Consultants for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Phase 2 funding approval in September.

The saga of the Bandstand continues – as does its deterioration. It is a Listed Building and North Somerset Council have a legal obligation to maintain it. However work has not yet started as costs and insurance claims have to be resolved – and further funds found in these difficult financial times. We are working closely with North Somerset Council and the Town Council to get the Bandstand repaired and back in use as soon as possible.

On the more visible front our monthly working parties have cleared parts of Overstables Lane, weeded the steps down to the Little Harp Bay and the area



Monthly Working Party

Next meetings: 10 July and 11 September 2013



Bandstand - March 2013



Test drillings in the Marine Lake wall - March 2013

around the semi-circular wall by the Bandstand. We have also cleared parts of the Donkey Path and also worked on the seating area at Pier Copse. North Somerset Council have also repaired seats and fencing there after we contacted them.

Our Big Litter Pick at the beginning of April resulted in about 30 bags of litter



Big Litter Pick

being collected from the grassed area behind Churchill Avenue and the edge of the sports fields next to Strode Road and the Sports Centre. We were appalled at the amount of litter by the sports fields and have contacted North Somerset Council about this. They have said that they will inspect the area and see if they can arrange for work to be done there to improve the situation. The brambles need to be cut back so that litter under the bushes can be picked up.

Please let us know of any projects that you think would be suitable for our working parties – or better still come and help us. It is only once a month – and there is usually a nice cup of coffee at the end of the morning!

Bob Hardcastle



Most of the planning applications in Clevedon since February have been domestic extensions, and only three applications warrant consideration by the Civic Society:

Waggon and Horses, Old Street.

Application to demolish the high stone wall facing Lime Kiln Lane and replace it with a timber fence. There were many local objections and the Civic Society objected on the grounds that the demolition would have a detrimental effect on the Conservation Area.

The application was amended as a result of the objections and approval given for its reinstatement in natural stone.



Salthouse Fields.

Application by North Somerset Council for a single storey, pitched roof café incorporating public toilets at the south west end of the field (adjacent to the children's playground). The café, which would be built and operated by a concessionaire, will affect the setting of the Salthouse Public House, a grade 2 listed building. The group will discuss this application at its next meeting.



Hangstone Quarry, Old Church Road.

Application for part of the existing car sales area to be used as a hand car wash with glazed screens and a canopy. The group will discuss this application at its next meeting.



Undetermined Major Applications:

The Regent, Hill Road. The section 106 agreement is currently being drawn up by the Council's solicitors.

Staddons Timber Yard, Parnell Road.

Highcliffe Hotel, Wellington Terrace.

Clevedon Hall Estate, Elton Road. Revised drawings have been submitted for the access off Elton Road to improve the junction sightlines, and to allow traffic to queue within the site, on the public side of the security gates.

Royal Pier Hotel.

The developer informs us that the demolition phase is almost complete, and the main contractor will take over imminently. The development is anticipated for completion later in 2014.

The Civic Society was invited to comment on the draft North Somerset Council Sites and Policies Plan for Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead. This sets out how new development within the district will be managed up to 2026.

The plans for Clevedon were on public exhibition at the Town Council offices on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, and members of the group attended. The green belt and settlement boundaries remain unchanged, and no major strategic changes are proposed, so a response from the Civic Society is unnecessary.

John Tranter

Next meetings: 4 June, 16 July and 27 August 2013



2013 is moving on apace, spring is finally well and truly here and we have had four marvellous meetings to start the year.

In January, Jane and Derek Lilly showed some fascinating pictures and adverts taken from the Clevedon Mercury. The hard copies are still stored at Clevedon Court which has made access that much easier.

David Pedder gave a very moving account of the terrible American aircraft crash that took place in Freckleton, Lancashire in August 1944. I visited the area recently and it was good to see that the memorials are very well kept. Talking to a few of the locals it was sad to note that the incident was still very raw in their minds, despite the fact that it was hushed up at the time.

After hearing about the deaths of children in Lancashire it was good to listen to Shirley Hodgson telling us about the good work done by the worthies of Bristol to alleviate the problems of street children during the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the introduction of a Bristol Training Ship called the Formidable that was anchored in Portishead. Many, many boys learnt seafaring skills there and went on to a career in the Royal or Merchant Navy.

When the ship was finally too old for purpose the Nautical School was opened, offering the same training.

Derek Lilly was on form again in April, with an interesting talk about the work done on the Congresbury Kilns in 1963. Derek was the 'Recorder' during the digs and those records were firmly engraved on his grey cells and readily recalled 50

years later ... What are we going to do next year Derek?

Finally a number of people have asked about the possibility of a trip to the First World War Battlefields in Belgium and France next year to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of that terrible conflict. Please let me know if you are interested so that a feasibility study can be made.

Rob Campbell



Thiepval Memorial

## Footpaths Group

Report by Liz Byrd (Tel: 872633)



Town and country were covered since last autumn when (before the weather really broke) a group of 14 walked Abbots Leigh Woods and fields. We drew a record crowd of 22 for a walk around the areas of Clevedon made known by the many radical and unconventional people drawn to live in our jewel of a town. Many thanks to Paul Cronin for researching the history so thoroughly – we were all enlightened by his tales of poets, artists and politicians, including a communist town councillor.

Despite the cold, wet weather (or because of?), group spirits have remained high this winter and spring as we met the challenges that mud

and cold winds threw at us. Usually accompanied by 1 small and 3 large dogs, 10 to 12 walkers have remained constant and determined not to be deterred from admiring our countryside and helping to keep the cosy pubs of our region in business. Walks ranged from two and a half muddy miles around Barrow Gurney to five miles on the uplands of Blagdon and Burrington. The wild places we found provided a great sense of freedom for many people who have spent longer indoors than usual. Luckily, we walked four miles within the protection of the Ashton Court estate on the coldest, windiest March day we could remember. As the weather eased, we enjoyed the wide views as well as the magnificent woods between Long Ashton and Failand.

we look forward to walking again with those members temporarily laid low by stays in hospital.

So with warmer weather in mind, Crook Peak is next, followed by Sand Point (twice postponed), a day long stroll above Nether Stowey in the Quantocks, a repeat of the well-loved Dolebury Warren walk and the annual favourite trek along the coast path to Portishead and back again (for the energetic).

The group has also responded to North Somerset Council's request for comments on changes to the Definitive Map involving the paths linking The Beach and Copse Road, and happily, two rights of way are now shown, adding interest for visitors and giving good access to shops. We also look forward to the new map of Clevedon to be published by North Somerset Council which will show all walking paths and cycle ways in the town.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House on 3rd June at 10.30am. All are welcome as we plan our next series of walks and take the group forward.

Liz Byrd

Next meetings: 3 June and 2 September 2013



Blagdon & Burrington

In preparation for future inclement times, we are building up a group of emergency walks which can be tackled in bad weather, although Poets' Walk has received our attention more than once as a substitute walk. We have welcomed several new members who have recently moved to Clevedon, and

*Local History Group Meetings*


**16 May 2013**  
*To the Manor Born, the Smyths & Pigotts*  
John Crockford-Hawley



**20 June 2013**  
*A Different World*  
Arthur Spencer DFC




**18 July 2013**  
*Sea their History & Summer Supper*  
Rob Campbell



*Civic Society Meetings*

**12 September 2013**  
*A Brief History of Western Architecture*  
Martha Perriam



**10 October 2013**  
*The Treasures of the Museums of Somerset*  
Steve Minnitt



**14 November 2013**  
*Campbell's Paddle Steamers in the Bristol Channel*  
Pete Gosson



*Local History Group Meetings*

**19 September 2013**  
*The Severn River Car Ferry*  
Tim Ryan



**17 October 2013**  
*Bristol's Floating harbour*  
Peter Malpass

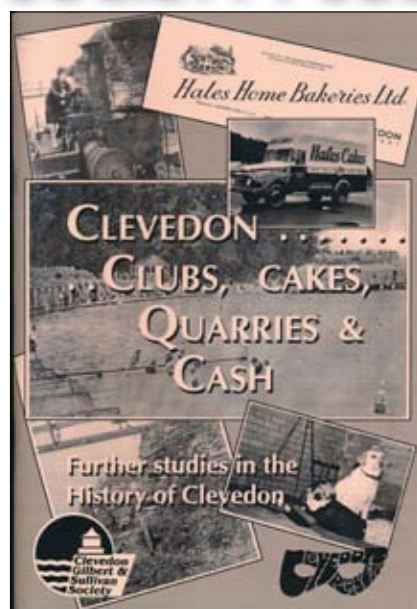


**21 November 2013**  
*Members' Own & Winter Supper*



**SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

Reviewed by Geoff Hale



the Society's members although other people involved in some of the sports and drama groups in the town also contributed. Rob Campbell is again the editor.

The football, swimming and rifle shooting clubs are extensively featured in the book along with the history of the four performing arts clubs: opera, drama, comedy and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

A very detailed and interesting article about Guiding in Clevedon, written by Mary House, is featured and Austin Davies continues the fascinating history of Clevedon Pier that he started in an earlier Civic Society book, this time concentrating on the years between 1990 and 2001.

Roy Girling contributed two articles to this publication. One, of particular interest to your Editor (although I was not related in any way to the firm), is a comprehensive look at the life of the Hales Cake factory in East Clevedon. In

his second contribution to the book, Roy Girling joined forces with Jane and Derek Lilly to tell the fascinating story of the quarries of the town.

This well-filled seventy-six page paperback ends with a detailed account of the many banks that have opened and moved about in our town, including a branch of the NatWest Bank that started life as Stuckey's Banking Company in 1874 at No. 49 Hill Road – a building recently featured as The Traders Hotel in the ITV murder mystery – Broadchurch.

As Julia Elton wrote in the foreword of the book, 'What makes it so absorbing, however, is that it conjures up life in 20th century Clevedon and activities that many of us know about or will even have participated in. Local history, after all, begins yesterday.'

**Geoff Hale**

The book is available to Society members at a special price of £6.00

At a recent History Group meeting a letter from Bunty Dunford, who lives in Saltford, was read out. 'My husband, John Dunford, who is now 85 and not in very good health, spent a lot of time in Clevedon during the war, with his grandparents who had retired there. He was always a keen aircraft spotter and eventually finished his working life as the Chief Air Traffic Controller at Filton. He had a couple of interesting experiences observing enemy aircraft over Clevedon.'

The names of my grandparents were Gertrude and John Brelly, they lived at No.5 Westcroft. In about 1942 all the roads in that area, including Westcroft, had army lorries parked in them. The one outside No.5 was a Bedford truck No. L194738, the driver's name was Brierly (very close to Brelly!) and he came from Clay Cross, Derbyshire which was where one of Grandma's sons, my uncle Jack was sent when he was called up into the army.



US Army Jeep

The British troops had shoulder badges reading TTH which meant Tyne, Tees and Humber as they were the East Yorkshire regiment. Later on they were replaced by the US Army. I remember a long line of their jeeps parked in the road which went off Old Church Road near Westcroft and led to the sea front. The jeeps were being issued with rolls of camouflage netting which were stored in a cafe just beyond the West End Post Office, which was run by Mr and Mrs Hobday. It later became the West End Gift Shop run by the Haskells from Cardiff. Aircraft such as Spitfires and Hurricanes used to test their guns by firing them into the sea. They would sometimes open fire over the land which is how Grandpa had several twenty mm cannon brass cartridge cases as ornaments on his mantelpiece, which

were found on Church Hill. All I have is a cartridge case and bullet from a US Army M-1 carbine which came from the shooting range near Clevedon Pill. I can recall a sailing barge, probably a Severn Trow called the Edith of Bridgwater which came to Clevedon Pill to either bring or load coke, connected with Clevedon Gas Works. Sometime in 1942, in a gale, a barrage balloon torn from its moorings in South Wales was thrown from the sea onto the beach near the slipway near Clevedon Pier. Still mostly inflated it rolled up the beach and an elderly lady said to me, 'I hope there are no Germans in it!'. She thought it was a Uboat! I think a policeman deflated and rolled it up, making quite a large bundle.

Also, in the summer, of 1942, amazingly pleasure trips were still being run from that slipway by two boats, one called Audrey

by Mr Gibson who wore a white nautical cap, the other painted brown called Y Not by Mr Joe Rich. Later on fuel not being available for pleasure use Mr Rich got a job with the Admiralty, his boat painted grey with a winch on the bow and, based at the Pill, he was responsible

for something to do with targets at the experimental military bombing range near Woodspring Priory. Later on two small coasting ships were beached there and I am told men in white coats would lay explosive charges in them and blow pieces off them.

The bombing range seemed to be for mine laying. I recall a Manchester,

a Lancaster and a Navy Fairey Albacore dropping "things", they were based at Weston Airport in a hanger now a sports centre. This unit was there until the 1950s I think.

At one stage of the war there was an ammunition dump of the British Army in Salthouse Fields. The boxes stacked right by Old Church Road contained trench mortar shells, not explosive but containing red flares. A naughty boy broke open a box, emptied some of the powder on rocks near the sea and lit it, producing a nice red flash! The incident was hushed up because he was the son of the local Home Guard Commander. I recall trench mortars being fired from Wain's Hill at the Blackstone Rock and they were surrounded by interested children.

My grandparents are buried in the churchyard a few yards from the Poets Walk near the sea which meant so much to them. Although I have seen a high tide cover the path round the Marine Lake I never saw what my grandparents saw, the sea actually coming down into Salthouse Fields. But I have seen, in later years, waves hitting the wall near Clevedon Pier and the spray in sheets blowing across the road onto the houses.

**John Dunford**



Y-Not



Woodspring bombing targets

Next year MARLENS - The Marine Lake Enthusiasts Society - will be celebrating their 10th anniversary. We asked their chairman, Joe Norman, where they had come from and where they were going.

# MARLENS

# IS ON THE MARCH!

by Joe Norman

## Beginnings

Around 1920, Clevedon Town Council decided to provide employment for men returning from the Great War. By 1923, work was in progress laying out sports facilities on Salthouse Field and walks on Old Church Hill. In 1928 Councillor Frederick Nutting, a far-sighted Clevedon grocer, bought the Salthouse estate from Major Bailey and the foreshore rights from the Crown and passed them on to the Town Council. This made it possible to proceed with building the marine lake and to link the promenade with new walks round Church and Wain's Hill. By Easter 1929 there were a pavillion, a bandstand and



## Ruin

Sadly, by 2004 the lake was in a state of ruin and disrepair, not able to hold water and no use to anybody. MARLENS was set up under the leadership of Arthur Knott to protest, to demand repairs and to bring back life to Clevedon's marine lake. It struck a huge chord with local people and, after initial resistance, the town and district councils gave their backing. After energetic campaigning Clevedon soon had a lake (more or less holding water), a community fleet of canoes and sailing dinghies and a boathouse to house the fleet. More important we had a thriving canoe club and model boat club and regular training sessions for canoeists and sailors. Life had returned.



a fine children's playground and on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1929 Clevedon Marine Lake was opened by the Lord Mayor of Bristol. For 50 years the marine lake was to be a favourite summer spot for the people of Clevedon, Bristol and further afield. There were diving boards, a bathing raft, a club room, boats, deckchairs and changing huts. Photos show huge crowds at holiday times and native Clevedonians have many fond memories.



## MARLENS Festival

Every September from 2005 on, MARLENS has hosted a free 3-day community festival to celebrate the marine lake and its activities. Local schoolchildren have a day to sample activities on the Friday, then over the weekend there is the familiar community festival with stalls, music, have-a-go sessions on the lake and plenty to see in the arena. Each year it grows a bit bigger and last year we added a pop-up cinema (courtesy of the Curzon youth team), a second music stage and a vintage & veteran car display.

The festival is a big event but not a big money-spinner for MARLENS or the town. This did not matter initially, but now it does. It matters for MARLENS because the lake needs a very big investment to secure the outer wall

for the next 30 years. It matters for the town because times are hard and some extra income can make the difference between survival and failure for local businesses. To get extra income we need to attract people from Bristol, Weston and beyond and to spread the festival beyond Salthouse Field.

## Clevedon Festival?

Working together with Songs from the Shed, the Bookshop, the Curzon, Clevedon Pride and others in the town, MARLENS is developing plans for managed growth of the festival over the next 10 years, from a local to a regional festival and then to a national festival (think Hay on Wye) attracting paying visitors from a wide area while retaining the spirit and "feel" of a free

community festival for all the family.

At the same time, MARLENS is working with North Somerset Council, Clevedon Town Council, the Civic Society, Clevedon Pier Trust, the Canoe Club and the Sailing Club to get a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to secure the marine lake for the next 30 years. We expect to get the money - but only if we can raise match funding of tens of thousands of pounds over the next year. It's a big ask, and we'll need the backing of the people of Clevedon.

Joe Norman



## Members' Competition

## WHERE'S THIS?

Bob Hardcastle is offering this, his own drawing, as a prize in a new Civic Society competition.

All you have to do is identify this old barn - it is somewhere in Clevedon.

Send your answer to The Clevedonian email address below or bring it to the next meeting.

The final date for entries will be the History Group meeting on Thursday 13 June.

A draw from all the correct answers will be made at that meeting.

Civic Society members only are eligible to enter this competition.

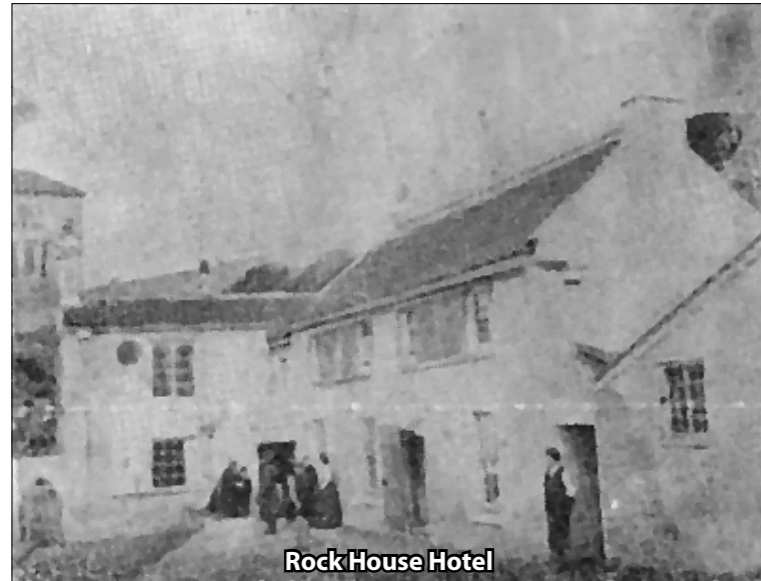


[clevedon\\_society@btinternet.com](mailto:clevedon_society@btinternet.com)

# THE ROYAL PIER HOTEL - A HISTORY

by Julia Elton

With the final stage of its conversion to luxury apartments imminent, our President looks back on the Royal Pier Hotel's history and forward to its future.

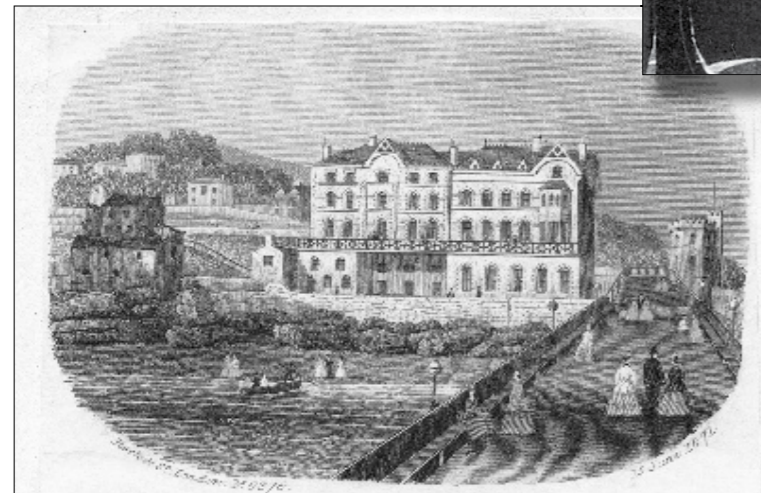


Rock House Hotel

The Royal Pier Hotel was designed by the architect, Hans Price, who also designed the adjacent toll house for the Pier. The two buildings are thus stylistically of a piece, forming a unique and harmonious entrance group to the Pier. The Hotel, completed in 1869, shortly after the Pier was opened, replaced the earlier and smaller Rock House Hotel on the same site. Its proprietress, Mrs. Ellen Perry, seized the opportunity



Opening the Pier in 1869



buildings, which creates an exceptionally picturesque group'. In 2003 a new design to convert the Hotel into flats, this time retaining some of the original fabric, received listed building consent. Nothing happened and when planning permission lapsed another design, this time for 27 flats, was given consent. But again nothing happened and the building continued to deteriorate.

to benefit from the expected increase in visitor numbers attracted by the Pier, of which she was a shareholder, by providing smart new facilities for them. Her astute choice of architect ensured that her new hotel would form an integral part of the whole complex.

The Hotel flourished well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its decline mirrored that of seaside resorts all over the country as cheap foreign holidays became available. It had a final existence as a nightclub before being acquired by a



CON 192 THE PIER, CLEVEDON

firm of developers. In 2001 it was announced that the building would be demolished and replaced by a large block of flats. Many people in the town were horrified to think that such an important part of Clevedon's heritage was going to disappear and supported a campaign to save it. A leaflet was circulated asking for people to write to the local government in protest and the response was so overwhelming that the scheme to demolish was called in for public enquiry. In the meantime the Hotel had been spot-listed to Grade 2 status and the Pier itself was upgraded to Grade 1 in part because of 'the relationship of pier to landward



May 2013

In December 2009, following the owner's bankruptcy, the building was sold at auction to Nick Warfield of Freemantle Developments. The firm of O'Leary Goss Architects, which has considerable experience in the sensitive re-use of historic buildings, was appointed and discussions were opened with those public bodies most concerned, such as the Clevedon Civic Society. A design emerged out of all this for an enlarged building which will contain 17 significantly larger luxury apartments whilst retaining much more of the original building, including the retention of the all-important section framing the Pier's entrance, and work is now underway on its construction. No doubt there will be criticisms but after years of uncertainty Clevedon will at last gain a good building by a reputable architect and one which satisfies most of the heritage requirements. It is a miracle that there is to be such a happy ending to this long-drawn-out saga.



May 2013



Julia Elton

# POACHING IN THE 17TH CENTURY

by Jane Lilly

The domestication of rabbits is believed to have begun when medieval monks began to keep rabbits in cages for food. A warren was an artificial, enclosed establishment of animal husbandry dedicated to raising rabbits for meat and fur.

After writing about Whiteladies Cottage in the last issue, I became curious about the Burriat family and their activities, and searched Somerset Heritage Centre's online catalogue. There were rich pickings in the records of the Quarter Sessions Courts, where the words of the witnesses and offenders themselves are transcribed, with curious turns of phrase as well as a wide range of ingenious defences. As well as stealing their neighbours' crops, the Burriats seem to have been keen on rabbit and venison. I found a nice little collection of poaching cases, with quite a cast of local characters.

leaving two freshly killed rabbits hanging in a tree. Also in that year, the warrener was walking his rounds at midnight with his son and encountered three men from Walton taking up a net. When challenged, they brandished a pistol and threatened to fire on him. He'd already the previous week had a brush with five Walton men laying long nets



Burriats Farm, now Whiteladies Cottage

in the warren. In Court, the men claimed to have intended to trap rabbits in the neighbouring ground, which one of them rented.

Even outside the warrens there were sources of venison. In 1658 John Burriat had to explain what he was doing with a dead deer in a small park belonging to William Coles of Clevedon. The deer had been taken from the river, but was still warm and had been chased and bitten by dogs. Burriat and a man called William Wilkins had brought in the local butcher, Thomas Doubting, to dress the deer and take it to Burriat's house, being given some of the meat in return.

Poaching is often a sign of civil unrest and rifts between the classes; it is telling that there is a concentration of these cases during Cromwell's Protectorate.

Jane Lilly

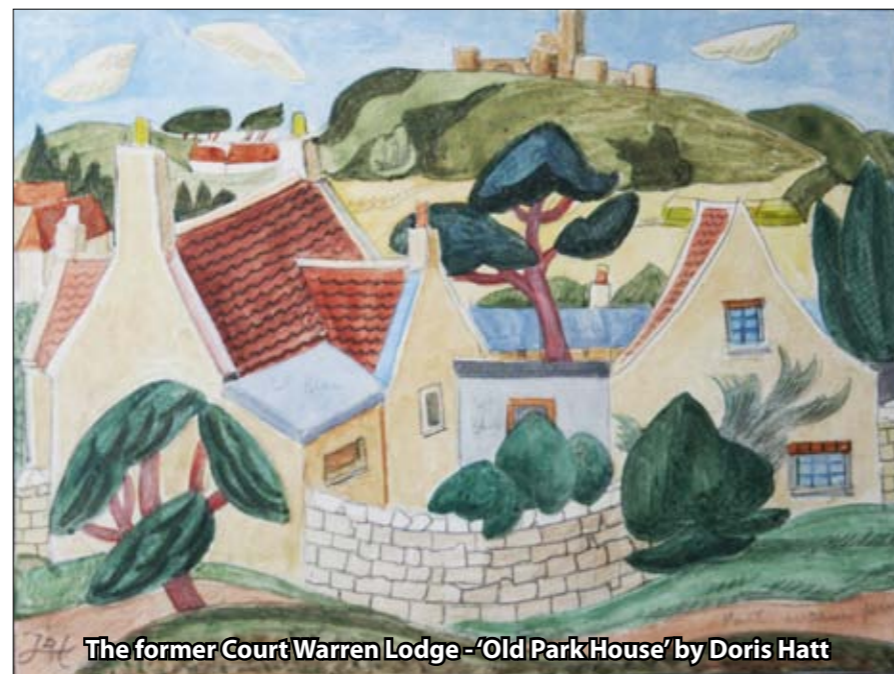


A Pillow mound on a warren in Huntingdon

Clevedon had two rabbit warrens, the Little Warren on Court Hill (later the Conygar Quarry) and the Great Warren or Great Park on what we now call Dial Hill. In Walton Park there were rabbits, and deer as well.

In 1655, the keeper of Walton Park and his companion were making the rounds in Walton Park when they found evidence of a deer being shot there. They followed a trail of blood to the house of John Burriat – Whiteladies Cottage – and found the head of a deer as well as a gun that belonged to Burriat's neighbour. John Burriat's defence was that he had no idea how the deer got there, while his neighbour's excuse was that he didn't know his gun was missing!

In 1654 in Clevedon's Great Warren Abraham Cuttler and Richard Young were patrolling at four in the morning and encountered three men, one with a net, the others fleeing with a greyhound,



The former Court Warren Lodge - 'Old Park House' by Doris Hatt

# WAIN'S HILL 'PILLOW MOUND'?

by Dave Long

Wain's Hill, one of the hills that make up the Poets' Walk area of Clevedon, was named after Gabriel Wayne who took a lease on the hill in 1756.

Pillow mounds are probably a late medieval development. They are usually a low stone mound covered with earth and used as an artificial rabbit warren. Rabbits were introduced into Britain by the Normans. They are originally from Southern Europe and it took them a long time to adjust to our cold and wet climate.

In 2006 CLEAT (Clevedon Archaeological Team), the active part of Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, applied for a permit from English Heritage to carry out a resistivity survey of Wain's Hill. Permission was given and under the leadership of Bob Smisson several of the team started the survey. This consisted of marking out 20 metre square grids and walking up and down the grid covering every square metre within the



Carrying out resistivity survey



Site of possible pillow mound

grid measuring the resistance in the ground using a resistivity meter. It took us over a year to cover the whole of the top of the hill, the work being carried out in our spare time.

The results showed some features hinting at possible house circles, Iron Age pits and possibly the site of a Roman Temple. As Wain's Hill is a scheduled site we will not be able to excavate any of these areas to test our interpretation of the readings. We paid particular attention to the area of the so-called pillow mound and decided that it was more likely to be part of the entrance fortifications, although we cannot be certain. So is it a pillow mound or not? We don't know.

Dave Long

Where do the street names in Clevedon come from?

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?



### Conygar Quarry

Formerly the Little Warren on Clevedon Court Hill. From the medieval word Cony meaning rabbit (Latin, cuniculus) and Garth meaning garden.

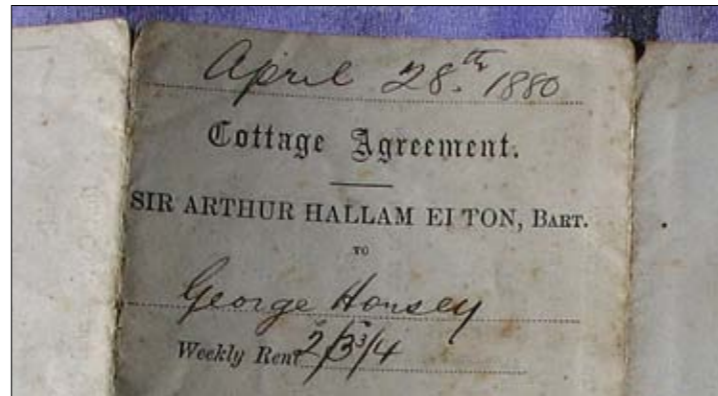


### Matthew's Croft

The former field on this site dates back to medieval times and was called Matthew's Croft

# TENANT OF THE ELTONS

Following Jane Lilly's article about Whiteladies Cottage in our Autumn edition, Cyril Horsey wrote to us from Elizabeth, South Australia, enclosing documents showing that his relatives had lived in the cottage over 100 years ago.



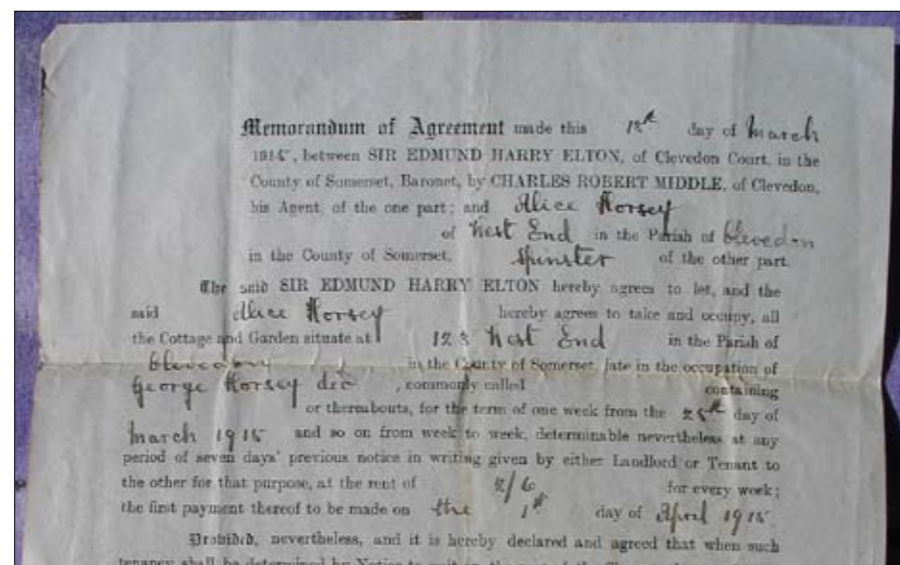
The oldest agreement is dated April 28th 1880 and is between Sir Arthur Hallam Elton and George Horsey. The rent was two shillings and three pence, three farthings, about 12 pence in today's money.

Cyril Horsey wrote: 'I have attached copies of the rental agreements between my early family members and Sir Arthur and Sir Edmund Elton. I was told that they referred to it as Horsey cottage at one time due to the long term tenancy of the Horseys.'



The second agreement, dated 1915, is between Sir Edmund Elton and George Horsey's daughter, Alice Horsey.

Cyril continues: 'Alice Horsey was my great great aunt, I vaguely remember visiting her at the cottage when I was a young lad. When she passed away my late uncle, George Horsey of Marson Road, inherited her possessions and the agreements were among them. They passed on to his son, Nigel, and from him to his son, my nephew John Horsey who now lives in Hampshire.'



I was brought up in Treefield Road opposite Jane Lilly's grandfather's shop, T. H. Lilley and Sons, from 1933 until 1958.

I will be 80 this year and my memories of Clevedon are still vivid even though we emigrated to Australia in 1967. We have been back a few times since then.'

by Greville Beale

# MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD

Many changes have taken place in the topography and character of Clevedon Pill since Grev arrived in the town as a 14 year old boy in the 1940s.

I was living in Churchill Avenue and my regular evening dog walk started by crossing over the bow (bridge) at the end of Strode Road onto the foot path along the Yeo riverside passing the brickworks clay pits, across Marshall's fields onto the sea wall and then along the top of the sea wall out onto Black Rock. To the west of this footpath were open fields belonging to farmer Marshall who had a farm house in Old Church Road now No. 224. There was plenty of wildlife to be seen then. Moorhens, coots, partridges, hares and water voles were a common sight. Far more drift wood came into the Pill then than now. This was collected and piled up by its finder to be later carried home to supplement the then limited supply of house coal. The end of the West End has also changed. There was just the one bungalow and "Joe Rich's" cottages along the Cemetery stretch. The bungalow (Dyan Ghar now No.260) belonged to the Grayson-Evans. Its lovely garden has now been built on. And the old cottagers would not recognise their old homes.

The outfall of the River Yeo was then a very simple flap sluice lifted by a hand winch. Outside the sluice in the river bed lay the remains of a coal barge. All ribs and keel. Several other similar hulks were also scattered high and dry around the Pill. Testament to the coal importing that once took place.

In the 1940s the home guard used to meet near the old sluice where they practised using live explosives. One of their training routines was to stand in



Marshall's field adjacent to the sea wall and lob Mills bombs over the sea wall into the Pill mud. They also had a device called a Spigot Mortar that fired heavier bombs higher and further out into the



Pill. Not all of these bombs exploded and I know of several that were recovered and kept as trophies. There was a rifle firing range along the far west side of the Pill. This started just off Strode Road by

the old Isolation (or fever) Hospital. The target butts were at the seaward end of the range near a building we called the Gull House. From there a shingle bar thrust out part way across the estuary. This was a good spot to scrape out a shallow hide and enjoy bird watching but it was all a NO GO area when red flags were flown.

The old Pill was flushed and kept open by the flow from the outfall of the Yeo. The meander out into the channel provided moorings under the cliff of Wain's Hill for several motor launches used for fishing and passenger trips from off the beach slipway. A smaller land drain, now long gone, kept a small muddy creek open, in which a few of us had moorings for our dinghies. The sea wall around the Pill at the time was a relatively simple stone faced compacted earth structure. During the war period much of its maintenance was done using prisoner of war working parties.

Then came the New Outfall, the improvements in sea defences and much needed housing. They each have had their impact on the Pill but we still have it, and its mud.



Greville Beale



# POSTCARD FROM CLEVEDON

Posted by Barbara Connell

These cards show two views of the Tennyson Guest House, previously West End Farm. The card of the Tea Garden at the rear of the property was postally used on 7th August 1930 when the proprietor was Mrs Howell. The message from Eve says, 'we are very comfy. This is a quaint little place, it's lovely inside and has every modern convenience.'

The other card, not dated but I presume to be contemporary has, on the reverse, a list of expenses incurred.



The first amount listed is £2-16s-2d. I wonder if this was the cost of the room? Other items include – chocs 6d, china 1/-, breakfast and coffees 8d, toys 1/- slippers and stockings 6/-, watch 10/-, wool 6/1d and fare 1/-. I think that a weekly wage for a carpenter or similar at that time would be somewhere in the region of 25/- to 30/-. I totted up the items listed and found it an interesting exercise to work with £ - s - d again! Fancy having to go back to those days of halfpennies and farthings! How much easier it is for my grandchildren today.

Barbara Connell



# I AM, NO YOU'RE NOT!

by Derek Lilly

Clevedon's first chemist was John Sprague. He later became a doctor but in 1832 was practising his business in SeaVale House, opposite the Vicarage in Old Church Road.

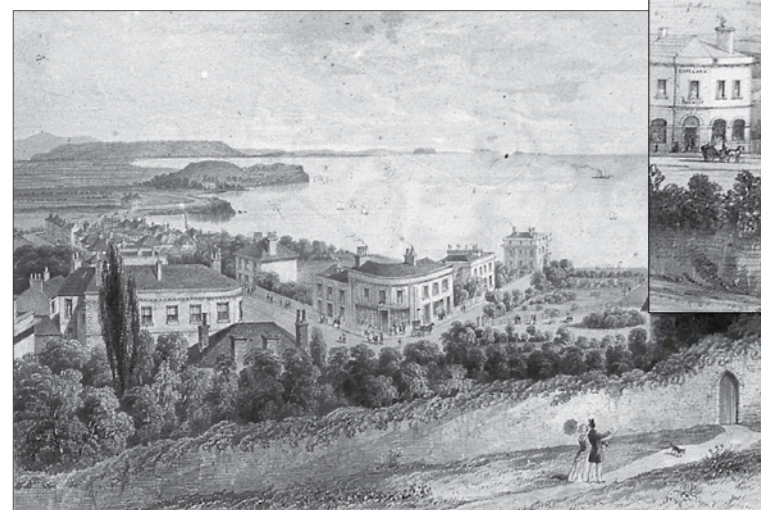
In later years two chemist shops were situated in Hill Road, one on each side at the top of Copse Road junction with Hill Road. One was run by Copeland, the other by Chapman.

Both published lithograph pictures of Clevedon and it is interesting to see how each has HIS shop premises showing as either larger or being placed to show to advantage in the picture.

The view on the right, published by Copeland shows his establishment, Helvitia House, whilst Henry Chapman's shop is blotted out by the roof of Champion House.



In the view on the left a large gap has opened between Champion House and Nightingale Villa that allows Chapman's shop to be shown in all its glory whilst Copeland's Helvitia House is mysteriously blocked from view.



# BRANCH LINE

by Angela Slotte

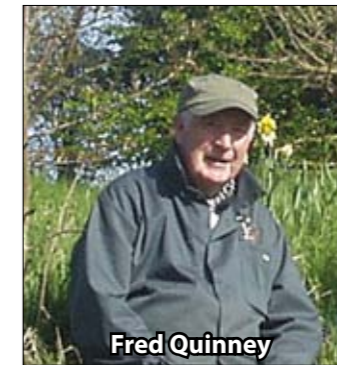
At noon on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, volunteers and friends of the Clevedon Woodcutters for Wildlife, along with members of the Quinney family, gathered in a sunlit patch of woodland beside Davis Lane.

The occasion was to celebrate the naming of the wood in memory of the Woodcutters' founder and long-time chairman, Fred Quinney.

Fred was also a member and former treasurer of Clevedon Civic Society as well as volunteer Tree Warden for the Town Council until 2009.

Since its creation in 2002, the wood, situated on Environment Agency land between Davis Lane and the Blind Yeo River, has been continuously managed by the Woodcutters and was informally known as the Blind Yeo Wood or the New Wood.

The planting of this hectare of woodland was the shared vision of former Town Councillor Michael Adames and Tree



Fred Quinney

from the Environment Agency and Clevedon Town Council. Representing the Quinney family, Fred's son Nigel, visiting from the United States, spoke of his father's commitment to woodland conservation and warmly thanked the Woodcutters for naming the wood in his honour. A signboard specially hand crafted by members of the Woodcutters was then unveiled by Fred's widow, Joan Quinney.

Quinney's Wood is located in Davis Lane a few hundred yards from the turn off from the B3133 to Yatton. The wood is accessible over a stile opposite a small lay-by or through a field gate a few yards further on.

Angela Slotte

spot where the changing seasons offer wild cherry blossom in April, fragrant apple and hawthorn blossom in May, and wild flowers in luxuriant grassland throughout the summer, followed by beautiful autumn colours and the



Quinney's Wood - September 2012



Quinney's Wood - April 2013

Warden Fred Quinney. Following an agreement between Clevedon Town Council, the volunteer group Clevedon Woodcutters for Wildlife, the Environment Agency and the Agency's tenant Michael Stowell, a piece of pastureland was fenced off adjacent to the road. Advice and funding had been obtained from the Environment Agency and other grants were received from various sources allowing for a total of 2,500 trees and hedgerow shrubs to be planted by the Woodcutters, assisted by a substantial contingent of volunteers enrolled for the occasion by the Environment Agency.

striking pink of spindle berries in October.

The naming ceremony on 27<sup>th</sup> April was attended by about 30 people including representatives

The woodland is now well established with over 20 native tree species including the well known oak, hazel and field maple as well as the less common black poplar and wild service tree. Visitors are welcome to enjoy this secluded



The naming of Quinney's Wood - April 2013

**“The One And Only” - The Story of Engineers’ Blue**

Stuart’s “Micrometer” Marking is used in precision engineering and it is a paste with an oil base with Prussian Blue powder mixed in. The oil was obtained from Sidney Keen in Strode Road. In an advertising leaflet it is described as non abrasive and contains no harmful chemicals; it can be applied with a finger and will not affect the skin. It can be wiped off metal parts and is soluble in soap or detergent and water. The paste shows an easily visible, bright mark on all metal parts and for marking mating parts, and transfers extremely easily from one surface to another.



The paste was invented by Henry Stuart. Henry came to Clevedon from Oxford and was a friend of William Morris who later became Lord Nuffield. Henry had the chance to go into partnership with William but declined the offer. He moved to Clevedon in the early 1900s. He had four children - two girls and two boys, Les, Dot, Wyn and Ken.

family. In his early years he studied law before joining a friend in the printing industry until this was dissolved and he purchased a laundry at West Cliff on Sea in 1891. He eventually arrived in Clevedon in 1904 as Manager of the Clevedon & Portishead Laundry and lived at No.132 Strode Road. Henry died in 1933 and had a full military funeral, reported in the Clevedon Mercury on October 21<sup>st</sup> 1933.

Although Henry invented Engineers’ Blue it was his sons Les and Ken that started to market it in the 1920s. Ken was the one who did all the production work, manufacturing and distributing. The family lived at various addresses in the town including Hallam Road, Herbert Road and Madeira Road where Henry died. Production always took place in sheds of back gardens where they were living at the time. Ken moved



Ken Stuart

to Fearnville Estate, buying a new house in 1937 after selling his car to raise the deposit. At the start of WW2 Ken was in a reserved occupation but when he realised he could be called up, he volunteered for the R.A.F. He served three years in Palestine. His wife, Mary, carried on running the company with help from neighbours, especially Bill Bees.

After the war Ken carried on with the business supplying Bristol Aircraft Co., Rolls Royce and many others all over the world. The product was never patented as the turnover did not justify the cost. A tin would last a long time; most apprentices bought a tin when they started work and still had it when they retired. Ken sold the business in 1981 to Bob Taylor of Highdale Avenue, who later moved to Teignmouth and traded under the name I.C.S. (Industrial & Consumer Supplies). The current home of Engineers’ blue is with I.C.S. in Chepstow.

Dave Long



Henry's grave in St Andrew's Church



Henry with Ken



Henry, Eliza and Family

Henry was an inventor and enjoyed inventing many items including a revolving cartridge case in WW1 and a vent valve for beer barrels. Once he had completed an invention he would lose interest in the item. He was in the Somerset L.I. having volunteered at the outbreak of WW1 and proceeded overseas with the 8<sup>th</sup> Somerset L.I., later transferring to M.T. and A.S.C. He served in France until he was invalided out in 1916. Born in Inverness, at the age of 6 years he moved to London with his

**Lieutenant Frederick King Laverton  
Royal Flying Corps ex Gloucester Regiment**

**Folkestone  
Express**

22 December 1917, Page 3  
FLYING OFFICER KILLED  
Yesterday (Thursday) an inquest was held concerning the death of Lieutenant F. King Laverton of the Gloucestershire Regiment and attached to the Royal Flying Corps. He was about to fly somewhere in Kent but developed engine trouble before he left the ground. A second machine, the pilot of which could not see the deceased, then came along and collided with the other machine. The deceased sustained injuries from which he died in hospital. The usual verdict was returned.

**Gloucester Chronicle**

29 December 1917, Page 7  
FATAL ACCIDENT TO  
GLOUCESTER FLYING OFFICER  
DEATH OF LIEUT. F.K.LAVERTON

Lieut. F.K.Laverton eldest son of Mr. F.W.K.Laverton, the Chestnuts, Lonlevens and late of Oxstalls End, Churchtown, succumbed to injuries received in a flying accident on Tuesday last in Kent. The deceased officer, who was educated at Brymeln School, Weston-super-Mare, and for a short time at Cheltenham College, joined the Army in 1916, at the age of 17 years, and served for a short time on the Somme. Later, he returned to England to join the Royal Flying Corps and was accepted on 1st September. By the middle of September he had obtained his flying certificate and in October he was awarded his wings. Since then he has been at various aerodromes in the country, being qualified in photography, wireless and aerial gunnery.

The funeral of the deceased officer took place at Barnwood on Monday afternoon. The deceased officer was accorded a semi-military funeral, the coffin being draped with a Union Jack, and a firing party, composed of men of the Royal Flying Corps, under Sergt-Major Blake preceded the cortege. The vicar (Rev. F.H.Fowler) conducted the service in the church, which was choral, the hymns sung, ‘For ever with the Lord’ and ‘Rock of Ages’. The organist played ‘O rest in the Lord’ (Mendelssohn). Few but the immediate relatives of the deceased were present, but the service was an impressive

one. After the body had been lowered into an evergreen lined grave, three volleys were fired and ‘Last Post’ was sounded. Acting Officer J.Peart and Sergt.T.Underwood (Sir Thomas Rich’s School Cadet Corps) being the buglers. Four R.F.C. officers accompanied the firing party and walked on either side of the coffin. The mourners were Mr. & Mrs.F.W.K.Laverton (Father and Mother); Miss Angus (Cheltenham), Fiancée; Mrs. Angus; Mrs. Slim and Miss Slim; Lieut. J.R.Orrell (School Aerial Gunnery, R.F.C.); Mr. & Mrs. Godwin Chance, Mr., Mrs., and Miss D.T. and Mr. Norris.

Beautiful floral tributes were sent by Mum, Dad, Ivy and Penelope; Lieut-Col Cooper (Officer Commanding School of Aerial Gunnery); Lieut. Leffler, R.F.C.; the Officers (School of Aerial Gunnery); NCOs and men (School of Aerial Gunnery); Betty, Sheila and Mabel; Mrs. James Angus and Jean, Miss Angus; and a bunch of chrysanthemums tied in R.F.C. colours, a token of respect from a school chum and fellow officer, Eric G. Chance, Lieut.; R.F.C.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Blinkhorn and Son.

**Western Daily Press**

24 December 1917, Page 5  
FATAL ACCIDENT TO GLOUCESTER FLYING OFFICER

Lieutenant Frederick King Laverton, eldest son of Mr. F.W.K. Laverton, The Chestnuts, Longlevens and late of Oxstalls End, Churchdown, succumbed to injuries received in a flying accident in Kent. The deceased officer, who was educated at Brymelyn School, Weston super Mare, and for a short time at Cheltenham College, joined the Army in 1916, at the age of 17.

**Clevedon Mercury & Courier**

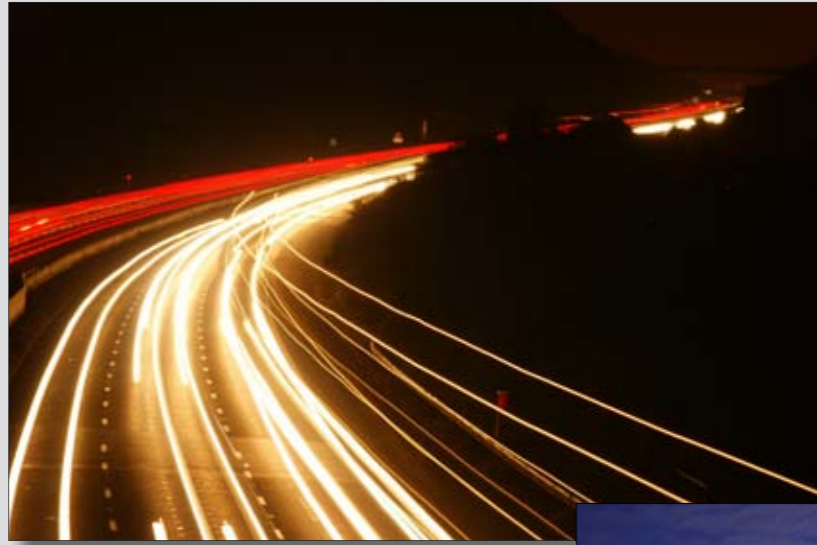
29 December 1917, Page 3  
CLEVEDON FLYING OFFICER’S DEATH  
Lieutenant Frederick King Laverton, eldest son of Mr. FWK Laverton of “Lithgow” Victoria Road, Clevedon died as a result of a flying accident in Kent. Educated at Brynmelyn School Weston super Mare and for a short time at Cheltenham College, the young officer joined the army at the age of 17 and in 1916 he served for a short time in France attached to the Fusiliers

and the Royal Flying Corps on September 1st 1916 and obtained his flying certificate very soon afterwards and in October was awarded his wings. He was qualified in photography, wireless and aerial gunnery, and had been flying at various aerodromes around the country. Beautiful wreaths and letters of sympathy have been sent by his fellow officers, NCO’s and men, by whom he was highly respected and loved. Writing to Mrs. Laverton, Lieutenant Colonel C. Cooper of the RFC says; I feel I must write to you to say how grieved I was to hear about the accident to your son, and to offer you my sincerest sympathy. He was a personal friend of mine. We were pupils together last year, and only recently I specially applied for him to be allowed to join me in Scotland. He was one of my best pilots, and you may be glad to know that he was in no way to blame for the accident. I am glad to say he suffered no pain, he was unconscious at once and never regained it. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at Barnwood Churchyard, Gloucester, with full military honours.



# MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY

by Derek Lilly



*M5*

*The moon, early one cold and frosty morning*



# ARTIST'S ATTIC

by John Tranter



*Tudor  
Fighting  
Ship*

Painted on driftwood