



## Clevedon's Development 5

### Trellis House and Ilex House, East Clevedon Triangle

In East Clevedon Triangle, with a sign saying 'Trellis House' is a gate in a tall hedge at the side of the road: I wonder how many people realise that behind the hedge lies one of Clevedon's 'sleeping beauties'.



The foliage conceals Trellis House, which, with the adjoining shop to one side and Ilex House to the other, makes up the first Regency development in the town. The row was built c.1820 by William Hollyman, the agent and manager for the Elton family's Clevedon Court Estate. He took the astute step of buying the best building plots as they were marked out and

measured up in the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Following the Enclosure of common land in Clevedon which took place in 1799, building plots became available on the Hill and the Beach. A few years prior to this, local speculators had already put up simple cottages on building plots sold from Manorial waste ground along the Walton Road and All Saints' Lane. They utilised stone quarried when levelling their building sites. These cottages satisfied the immediate housing demand from the local farm workers and tradesmen who had until then formed the largest part of the town's population.

It was William Hollyman however, who realised that to meet with the Eltons' desire to transform Clevedon into a select resort, houses would need to be built to a far more sophisticated standard than had previously been aspired to. He began by purchasing a plot at East Clevedon in 1820 for £10. It extended from William Long's cottage [now 5 East Clevedon Triangle] around the corner into Highdale Road. On this site, he built Trellis House, Ilex House and some stabling, with a gig-house. The stable and gig-house have since been converted, the one into Jasmine Cottage, and the other into a cottage at 49 Highdale Road.

*Jane Lilly*



## Chairman's Report

The Summer Picnic this year turned into a real community event when we welcomed a party of French guests from our twinning town of Epernay. The red, white and blue of the bunting and flags ensured that everyone felt at home! Once again the Bath Spa String Quartet filled the air with sweet music, although the air was inside this time as unfortunately the weather let us down. With our numbers bolstered by our friends from across the channel we filled the hall and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Our friends from Epernay charmingly insisted on finishing the evening with impromptu singing. Merci to them.

As always the executive committee and the various group chairman work hard to ensure the smooth running of the society and of course to offer interesting talks and events. We are however always open to new suggestions and ideas and of course any offer of help is greatly appreciated. The strength of any society is down to the efforts of its members.

The excellent work by David Fodgen and his team on translating and transcribing the medieval Clevedon Court Rolls is reaching fruition and will form the major component of our next book to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. As you will remember we made a donation to get the project started, so it is very fitting and also rewarding that David has placed the work with us for publication. Other contributions for the book have come from the ever reliable Jane and Derek Lilly with a very interesting piece by Ron King, completing the publication. A different publisher will be used this time and we hope to have the finished hard backed edition available by next autumn. A number of other society members, including myself, have been working on other themes which we have decided will fit better into a separate book, hopefully it will be ready shortly afterwards.

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are now looking forward to the coming season of Civic Society talks and group meetings. A number of you have not had the best of years so I hope that the following months will see improvements, my thoughts are with you and your families. Finally thank you all, for making the Clevedon Civic Society the vibrant and influential group that it is.

*Rob Campbell Chairman.*



## History Group Report

The summer break gives me the opportunity to concentrate on next years programme of speakers, the situation is progressing nicely and hopefully the interesting and varied themes will be of interest to you. I always get great pleasure from 'home-made' evenings and that certainly was the case with our meeting in July. Jane's items from her father's trunk were very poignant as were his views on the great escape from Stalag 111. Derek's photography, this time on steam trains, had everyone praising his skill and efforts, sometimes executed in quite dangerous situations. I also hope everyone enjoyed the photographs of Oaklands Red Cross Hospital that I displayed, if anyone has even the slightest snippet of information on that wonderful institution between 1914 and 1919 please let me know. After the talks the spread of our now traditional end of season supper was magnificent. Thank you all.

Our trip to Banwell Caves went very well; I was pleased that we had to walk a short distance to the tower, but my feelings of self-righteousness were sadly shattered when we all eagerly tucked into one of the best cream teas that I have ever tasted! Future ideas for visits have been expressed; these include Acton Court and Oakham Treasurers at Portbury. Also it has been proposed for the group to attend one of the events that Hazel mentions during her report from the Avon Local History Association.

As ever we welcome all society members to our meetings. Guests from outside the society who wish to attend are also welcomed; a small fee of £2 is levied on them to help towards speakers' fees.

*Rob Campbell*

## Footpath Group Report July 2008

The group continues to trek onwards and upwards completing two walks each month. Numbers remain steady and we continue to welcome new members. Since March, areas visited have included a Daffodil Walk in Court Wood, a Bluebell Walk in the Burrington area, the Coast Path from Clevedon to Portishead where we were checking the accessibility of the actual footpath, particularly in respect of the area where the new Park Home Site has been built. Almondsbury and Keynsham, were two other areas we travelled to and our annual Midsummer Evening walk proved to be a great success and ended with a delightful gathering at Wendy Moore's house.

Recently, we followed the 'Coleridge Trail' taken from 10 Clevedon Walks, this proved to be the wettest morning we had endured for a very long time – were we deterred? definitely not.



All our walks continue to take in historical aspects of the different areas and also footpath condition is always very much in our minds.

Thank you once again to all leaders – I am always open to suggestions for future walks.

*Jean Hannaford                      Group Chairman.*

## **Our Environment Group Report**

Eyesores.

The Flower Boat adjacent to the Sailing Club has been satisfactorily planted and will look even more attractive once the plants have become established

Future Tidy ups.

Richard Johnson, the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Clevedon Yeo, has volunteered his club to assist in future projects. This offer is most welcome.

40<sup>th</sup> CCS Anniversary.

A future project to improve the appearance of Queen's Square and help to deter vandalism is under consideration. We hope this will provide a fitting commemoration for the Society's first forty years.

Suggestions from members will be considered by the group.

Please contact

*Mike Graham Chairman Tel. 01275 871854*

## ***Conservation & Planning Group Report***

In this Summer Newsletter we have to look forward to the second half of the Society's programme of speakers. In view of the recent energy price increases and the prospect of a Severn Barrage, it is appropriate that on 11 September, Dr Pat Hill-Collingham's subject will be 'Global Warming & Renewable Energy'.

The 'credit crunch' is having its effect in Clevedon as elsewhere and Humbert Estate Agents have been the latest victim of the downturn in the property market. This has also had an impact on the Royal Pier Hotel site, where they were the agents and we feel sorry for the prospective purchasers of the 27 flats, who must feel conned having lost their deposits. There appears no hope of any progress on this development, despite the undertaking given by the owners of the site to start by this September.



Similar situations exist on the Clevedon Hall Estate and The Regent in Hill Road, we do not anticipate any imminent progress.




The McCarthy & Stone sheltered flats in Old Church Road are progressing well and we should see completion by the end of the year or early 2009. We are pleased that labour has not been withdrawn from the site, as has been the case in Portishead.

There has been a great deal of discussion and correspondence in the press on the coffee shop Café #1 opening in Station Road without applying for change of use. Whether or not it is well patronised or good for the Triangle is beside the point, as once the planning process is ignored it cannot be in the public interest for the right to comment on an application to be overridden. It may be of interest to know that there are now seven coffee shops/cafes, eight hot food takeaways in addition to the pubs, restaurants and a wine bar in the area. It is sad to observe that the Triangle as a retail shopping area is dying.

It is of concern that Orange Mobile Phones wish to erect a phone mast on the pavement in Six Ways and whilst it may try to look like a telephone pole, it is in an area devoid of poles! The proposed control cabinet, measuring 4'6" / 2' 4' high with an electrical feeder pillar 2'6" high will also add to the clutter on the pavement. This is not a desirable location.

Bryan Osborne, Group Chairman

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## The April Meeting

In April we had an interesting talk and slide-show by Gordon Tarrant entitled Above Eye Level in which he took us visiting – in pictures – around Bristol showing us many features that we would normally miss.

Facades of buildings, interesting coats of arms on the faces of buildings, and many of the royal names associated with places in the city.

I suppose that with the state of the footpaths, traffic volume, and with looking in shop windows, we do not take notice of our surroundings as much these

days. It certainly made this person vow to take a little more interest in the surroundings when out and about.

A fascinating talk and slide show that has stimulated your editor into providing a small picture quiz on Clevedon.

## May and the AGM

### With a talk by Alan Cotton.

All too soon the AGM comes around. Nothing controversial was brought forward but with Bob Hardcastle's retirement he and Francis will be spending more time at their cottage in Devonshire. This means that Francis has given up her job as society PRO. However Alan Cotton has stepped in to keep up a continuity.

After the end of the business meeting Alan gave a talk on the work of the Friends of the Land Yeo. To folk who knew the state of some sections before the group started their work it was easy to see how much they have achieved by their clean-up operations.

Since the end of the 'free' trolley use when Morrissons took over from the Safeway firm to run the supermarket at Queen's Square, there have been very few trolleys dumped into the river.

## Who Really Rules?

With the power of the giant supermarket groups getting even stronger, one starts to wonder how long it will be before they start to run the country. They are already using their strength to delay payments to suppliers, causing some of them dire distress. They have practically bankrupted our farming system with their miserly payments for goods supplied and their incessant importing of foreign foodstuffs; often produced in conditions that would not be tolerated – and indeed are illegal – in this country.

Their statements are very often wide of the truth; I recently purchased – because I saw the notice on one of the advertising boards “**We sell only British meats**” – some cooked silverside beef. I enjoy a nice cold beef sandwich at times. When I got home I opened the packet and noticed on the label giving details of price and weight ‘Produce of Brazil’

Another of the giants were not long ago taken to court for selling foreign beef as though it was reared in this country, because it had been sprinkled with a barbecue spice. The biggest problem with any prosecution is the big guns brought in to fight the case for them, if they win, their costs are astronomical.

## Quiz Time



Now then you old Clevedon veterans, new Clevedonians, pseudo Clevedonians, society member, visitors and strangers - after hearing Gordon Tarrant's talk I decided to see how many people in Clevedon really look about them as they walk around our town.

Accordingly I went out one morning fairly early and took these six photographs. All of them were taken either on a major road or – for one – with 50 feet of it on a minor road.



All of them are plainly visible from the footpath and there are no tricks involved. The main question is: –

How much do you look around as you go about in

Clevedon? The answers can be found on the page.9







## Is there time for a summer yet?

The year is rapidly rolling by, we are getting some days of sunshine and real summer heat, then suddenly back goes the weather to rainstorms and winds. With the escalating costs of air travel and fuel costs many families that would have gone off abroad to ensure a successful holiday time are instead, visiting places on our south coast.

For myself I shall be off in September for probably my last trip on the Arnhem Pilgrimage. Insurance cover is more and more difficult to get and I was informed this year that the 'cut-off' age is 85. To travel without any insurance is to say the least foolish in these days and a risk not worth taking.

Yet I expect that should the accident rates be investigated there is more accident claims made by those on – as example – skiing holidays than those made by sedate and slow pensioners. Having said that however I must admit that some of the group with whom I travel – even though in their 80s – still do a parachute jump in tandem with a full time Para. I must say they are braver than I am. I believe in keeping my feet firmly on the ground. I don't even want to have a trip in a plane let alone trust myself to a parachute.

  
  
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## The Answers!!

**Picture 1.** The date on the end of the former Lloyd's Bank in Hill Road. This marks the date of the extension of the building from the end of 'Sadler's Boarding House' that was one of the premier stopping places in Clevedon in the 1860s

**Picture 2.** The tower above Challicombs shop. Not the tower of the Towers on the beach. Why is it called 'The Towers' when they have only one tower? That is just a Clevedon idiosyncrasy.

**Picture 3.** Rockleaze on the corner of Herbert Road. Once the main Post Office for Clevedon then later the 'Labour Exchange'. An early postmaster Mr Nicholls also acted as an agent for one of the breweries.

**Picture 4.** Did you get this one? The ball and cup on the pyramid roof above the present Mercury Office. Formerly the Public Hall.

**Picture 5.** The sign above the door into the former YMCA building – now a shoe shop – in Marson Road.

**Picture 6.** Above the corner shops opposite on the Station Road corner giving the date the terrace of shops were built by W.A. Green.

How did you do? Get them All? You win a putty medal!. Get half? Another 50 years and you MIGHT become a real Clevedonian. (Only Joking)

## Leave it to the kids?

They were having a great deal of trouble with their computer. Recalling the saying that the way to get anything electronic fixed, like installing a video or DVD drive to the television you had to approach a schoolboy.

They asked the 11 year old from next door if he would look at it for them.

After half an hour he came to them and said "I've fixed it OK"

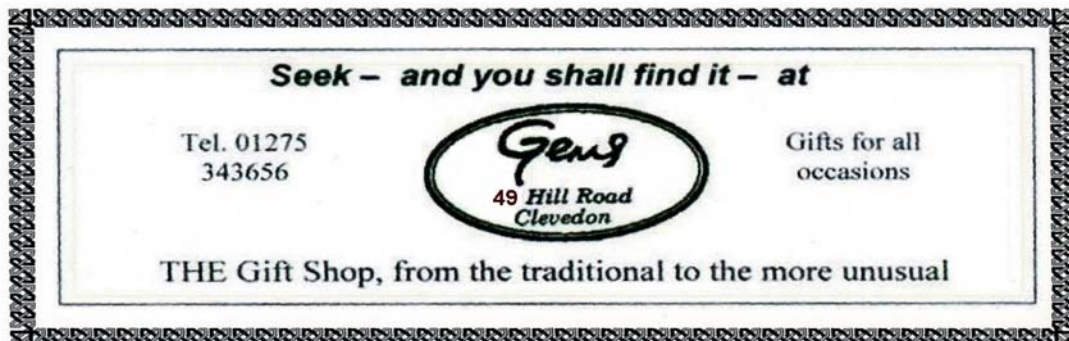
"What was wrong?" they asked "It was ID ten T trouble" they were told.

"Oh dear" they said "That sounds like one of those horrible viruses. I must get a better anti-virus programme installed."

"No." was the reply "Write it down and you will get the cause"

They wrote it down. ID 10 T.

I must say that it could happen to me any time.



## Weston's Tragedy

The thought of Weston-super-Mare without a Grand Pier is just not believable. In spite of additions over the past years, like the Tropicana, the pier dominated the sea front. The loss to our neighbouring town will be devastating.

The last time that I went along it to the buildings at the end was some years back now, but it was the focus for family entertainment to many that visited.

Back in the heady days of pre-war 1930s, one of the treats of the year for many of us in Clevedon was the 'Sunday School Outing'. Travelling down to Weston in the coaches of the Weston Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway, leaning out of the coach windows as far as we could when we passed over the dreaded bridge across the Congresbury Yeo, the Sunday School teachers despairing in their efforts to restrain us, no doubt envisioning a headline in the Clevedon Mercury the following week 'Child falls into the Congresbury Yeo and drowns' or something similar. Then on finally getting to the station at Ashcombe Road and taking the long walk to the sea front.

On the way there was always the temptation to spend some of our precious pocket money on ice creams before we got to the beach, but knowing full well that every penny spent here would mean a penny less for the great moment when we got to the Grand Pier and its cornucopia of entertainment, most of us refrained from doing so.

Then when we arrived, decisions, decisions; did we put a hard won penny in a simple slot machine and get no product? Or should we try the crane and see if we could lift a prize even though it was only to win a cheap toy.

Those of us who were spendthrifts had to suffer later by seeing the donkey rides that the thrifter could take along the sands below the pier up almost to Knightsone and back.

Those of us that were of an acquisitive nature would hunt along the sands beneath the legs of the pier if the tide was out, looking for the odd coin that had dropped through the cracks in the boards above; odd pennies, or maybe even for some lucky mite a whole sixpence or maybe even a shilling. Wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

Then at the end of a busy day, with tired legs and bodies we would be rounded up. There always seemed to be someone that could not be found at the last moment, causing consternation amongst those in charge. If we did not get back to the station in good time we would miss the train connection back to Clevedon. This hasty running around by our shepherds eventually would turn up the straggler and off we would go, down through the gardens across the High Street and into the Boulevard and the long trudge back to the station.

Never mind, tired and weary though we were we had had our day. We had visited the Grand Pier! We had seen the Weston Donkeys, we may not have been one of the lucky ones to have ridden on one, but we had been close to them, and maybe had even managed to pat one of them

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## No, not Birds and Flowers Butterflies and Bees.

Have you noticed the drop in the numbers of butterflies and bees in your garden this year? I have deliberately encouraged honeysuckle and buddleia to grow together with the fairly common red and blue Fuscias and my usual tree mallows, in order to encourage insect life.

Last year I had many visitors flying in, hover-flies, bumble bees, of quite a few varieties, and butterflies in fair numbers. This year I have only seen large whites, and one (maybe) tortoiseshell passing by without stopping. Bees have been very much down in numbers as well.



Hoverflies were still plentiful and I did manage to get a picture of one that was a stranger to me. *Chrysotoxum festivum* I was told, by a member of the Hoverfly Recording Group. She was certainly very strikingly attired, with a shiny black body set off by primrose coloured stripes.

But it is the shortage of bee-life that is worrying many environmentalists; the virus that is attacking hives of honey bees, is decimating the colonies of many apiarists. It has even got to the stage when some are saying that "Without bees there can be no human life"

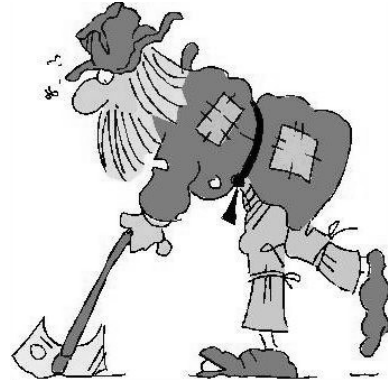
  
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A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to attend our meetings, to help in anyway, or just to meet up with old friends & comrades. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Community Centre. The RBL is now open to all,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



## Old Crotchety.

So what am I moaning about this time? The owners of the partial ruin that was the Royal Pier Hotel have put a hoarding around it to stop trespassers encroaching on this undesirable residence. I will agree that this is a wise move. However in so doing they have blocked off access to the little beach to the north of the pier. Now this has been from time immemorial a public right of way across the grounds of the hotel site. In fact it was used even before there was a building there at all. In pre-war days before the boating slip on the Esplanade Beach was lengthened, passengers for the pleasure boats could be loaded from there. The boats would come in close enough for a plank to be laid from the pebbles to the side of the boat and a boatman wearing waders escorted passengers along it.



In fact I have a very poor copy of a picture taken – I think – around 1914 showing one of the boats standing off the beach waiting to load. The father of the late Ben Marks the chemist, of Hill Road, took the original. He had obviously taken some shots and placed the poorly done prints in an old album. They survived but as far as I know the good ones have been lost to posterity.

I have used the access myself, when with a friend we went tickling for conger eels during the early days of the 39-45 war. I know too that some of the members of the Civic Society have also made use of it at various times, to let their children hunt about in the old sea water pool below where the baths stood. I should imagine that my old friend Ray Lumbard has memories of it as well as myself, having lived on the seafront for many years. It will be a great shame if this access is lost to the public, because the only other way to get to the area is to come along from the steps leading down from Lovers Walk, which are in a rather precarious state, or alternatively to attempt the climb over the rocks beneath the pier itself and risk a broken leg, or worse.

## Membership Matters Summer 2008

We have a healthy membership of 226; this is an increase of 10 on last year. Our membership consists of 169 Paying, 43 Life, 10 Complimentary and 4 Honorary Members.

John & Helen Bussell, Membership Secretaries

<p><b>Are you interested in Clevedon?</b> <b>Why not join the Clevedon Civic Society. £12 per year sub</b> <b>8 Public meetings and 10 History Group meetings per year</b> <b>Automatic membership of the 4 Society groups.</b> <b>Membership Secs John &amp; Helen Bussell 33 Tennyson Avenue.</b> <b>Telephone number 01275 875528</b></p>
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