



Trowbridge Civic Society NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015



In this issue:

The Long Way Home - 2 Spender Fish Shops
Benjamin Cray & Death of a Waterloo Veteran

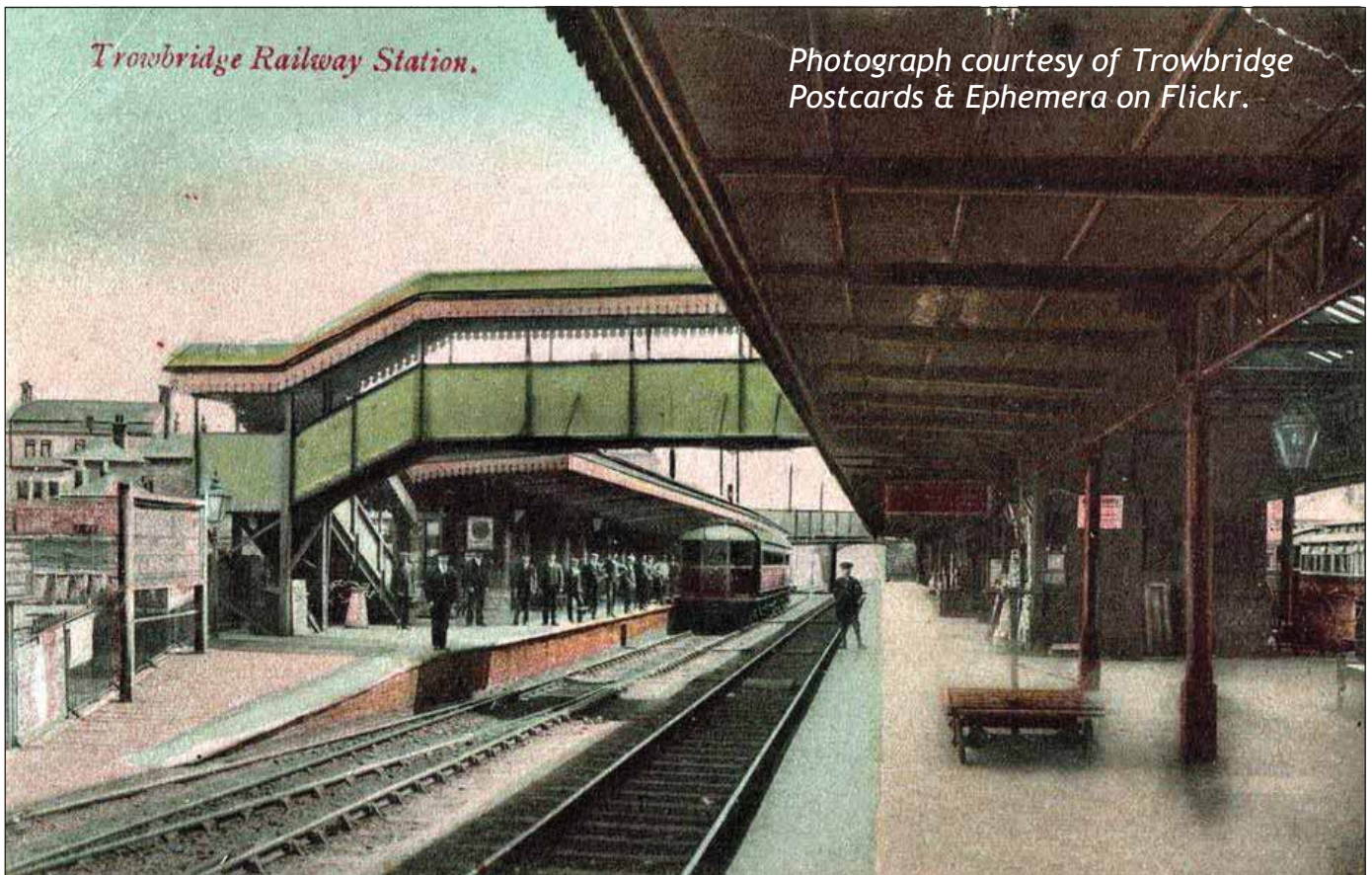
Member of Wiltshire Building Record, ASHTAV and BALH
Registered Charity Number 276765 Website: www.trowbridgescivicsociety.org.uk



Trowbridge old railway station footbridge now erected at Williton Station on the West Somerset Railway.

Photo taken on 29 July 2015 by M. Glover.

For many years the former Trowbridge footbridge rested in the Williton station car park and was subject to a fundraising appeal to enable it to be refurbished. On 14 July 2010 the footbridge was taken to TEMA Engineering in Cardiff and has been subject to extensive restoration and repainting. The footings for the footbridge were completed on 19 January 2011 and the footbridge was returned to Williton on 16 March 2011 and rebuilt on the site of the original wooden bridge.



Contents

- 4 From the Chairman
- 4 Planning Matters
- 5 The Long Way Home, part 2
- 6 The Spender Fish Shops
- 7 Benjamin Cray
- 7 Death of a Waterloo Veteran
- 8 Sir Isaac Pitman's granddaughter
- 9 Letter to the Editor
- 9 Trowbridge Connections 5
- 10 Recent Meetings
- 12 Town boundary

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our cover photo this issue is of the new road between Hilperton Road and Canal Road. Perhaps it will be open by the time you receive this issue.

We publish part 2 of John Alford's description of a walk home from school. This article has provoked quite a bit of interest and Roger Newman has produced an article about one of the shops that John passed. In the next issue he will be writing about W H Smith's and another contributor will tell us about life in the old Bear Hotel, also in Stallard Street. The word "stallard" was a medieval nickname for a valiant, resolute, "Stalwart" person, derived from the Olde English pre 7th Century word "Staelwierthe". Perhaps one of our members can explain how the road got this name.

John Austin, our former editor, has written about one of his ancestors and we have included an abridged obituary of him written in the 19th century. It is interesting to note how the style of obituaries has changed!

We also have an amusing, true story concerning Sir Isaac Pitman and Trowbridge Connections is about a Byzantine scholar born in Avenue Road.

TROWBRIDGE CIVIC SOCIETY INFORMATION

- President: Kenneth Rogers
- Vice Presidents: Michael Marshman;
Wende Maunder;
Mary Pearce;
Norman Rogers
- Chairman: Glyn Bridges, 4 Alma Street, Trowbridge. Tel 755784
- Vice Chairman: Margaret Howard, 52 Avenue Road, Trowbridge. Tel 764691
- Hon Secretary: Celia Russell, 18 Churchlands, North Bradley. Tel 754668
- Hon Treasurer: Janet Carpenter, 2 Chepston Place Trowbridge. Tel 752770
- Membership Secretary: Diana Ingram, 27a Church Lane, North Bradley. Tel 776100 dianakbradley3@talktalk.net
- Committee members: Sue Glover; Kevin Hartley; Jonathan Hawkes
- Newsletter: Jennifer & Peter Collier Tel 761270
Sue and Kevin Eames;
Glyn Bridges;
Paul Lamb.
pcollier@blueyonder.co.uk
- Photographic Recorder: Kevin Hartley
- Web Site: Jonathan Hawkes
- Subscription Rates: Single £6, Joint £10, Corporate £30
New members welcome - please contact Membership Secretary
Deadline for next issue - January 28th

Forthcoming Events

20th October - **Fires in Trowbridge** - Andrew Jones - Haden Room, United Church 7.30 pm

17th November - Public Lecture "**Magna Carta - Respite Proscipe**" - Angela Milroy

2016

12th January - **New Year Social with quiz** - Town Hall - 7.30 pm

15th March - **AGM and Talk** - Haden Room, United Church 7.15 pm

On 13th September I was pleased to represent the Civic Society at the rededication of the Holy Trinity War Memorial. Its restoration is due to a great deal of hard work by Councillor Graham Payne and we are thankful to him in ensuring that the memorial has now been restored to its former glory and is once again a fitting memorial to the fallen.

It is good to see the former Peter Black factory gone at last. We can now watch as the new development begins to take shape. It marks the final phase in the development of this part of the town and will bring life again to a long derelict site.

Our members will be aware by now of the consultation being undertaken by the County Council on boundary changes. This will affect Trowbridge considerably if they are not changed to include the new developments that have been, and are taking place around the town. The Civic Society fully supports the Town Council in their endeavours to effect the right changes. Please see the letter on the back page of this issue.

Planning Matters

Sue and Kevin Eames

Planning decisions

Probably the decision of most interest to readers this time relates to 26 Fore Street, formerly known as Knee's Department Store. Permission has been granted for the subdivision of one shop into 3 smaller shops. A comment on the plans was submitted on behalf of the Society.

- *We welcome the intention of the proposal to refresh retail activity in the town centre.*
- *We noticed from the diagrams supplied, however, that the division between the units in Fore Street occurs just to the side of the break in the frontage, with the result that the positioning of the doorway to Unit B appears clumsy. Perhaps the entrance might look better to the right of the windows?*

The officer's report and decision notice were not available at the time of writing. Another decision affecting property in the centre of town has been made since our last report. Permission with conditions has been granted for the erection of a block of 9 apartments on land to the rear of 28 Roundstone Street. The Society was pleased to read in the decision notification that the applicant is advised to contact the Local Planning Authority prior to any future repair of the related pathway because of the presence of a historic iron work gully. It is also suggested that a photographic record of the condition of the path is submitted to the LPA for future reference purposes.

We now move a short distance from the previous location, to 25 Church Street (Fernleigh House). Permission with conditions has been granted for internal alterations here to facilitate change of use on the first and second floors to residential, despite the fact that Historic England were concerned about the demolition of the central staircase and felt that an alternative way to make the change to residential would be possible without this.

We were pleased to learn that Moo Moos, 6 Castle Street, has been granted permission with conditions to correct previous paintwork to restore the original black and white colour scheme. Another little contribution to improving the character of Trowbridge town centre.

Outside the town centre at 39 Hilperton Road, permission with conditions has been granted for rear extensions and internal alterations. This is the end house of a terrace of 4. The officer's report states that the loss of historic fabric (an original wall in the basement) is not considered to be harmful to the significance of this listed building.

At Trowle Common permission with conditions has been granted for a solar park with ground mounted solar, arrays, transformer stations, access and landscaping. Planning officers also have to consider applications not directly related to buildings. Permission has been refused for the modification of a legal agreement in order to remove the obligation to pay the offsite highway contribution for land to the north east of Green Lane Farm. The refusal notice states that the money remains required as a contribution towards the ongoing cost of the Hilperton Relief Road. The "on-going cost" must be quite considerable after the delay in opening and any contributions will surely be gratefully received!

The Long Way Home - Stallard Street and Fore Street in the 1950s

Part 2

John Allford

Carter and Harding have now enlarged their premises and taken in the area previously occupied by Tranter's. Further on, Harry Day ran a dry cleaning business. C.W. Rose next door was more than a bookshop; newspapers were on sale and as one went further into the shop, there was a vast stock of commercial stationery, foreign stamps and all the accessories necessary to the collector. The books near the front door were mainly classics. Jane Austen and Trollope were very much in evidence. It almost goes without saying that there was a sizeable selection of fountain pens and ink.

Close by was the National Provincial Bank, then, a relatively small player, but soon to become much more important after its amalgamation with the Westminster Bank on the other side of the road. Colbourne, specialising in watches and jewellery, seems to have had the biggest frontage of that area of Fore Street. Two grocers' shops, Lipton and Home and Colonial took up the remainder of that section, they were, however, separated by Boots, the chemists. Amid the exotica in the window was olive oil, which seems to have been regarded by many at the time as a protection against sunburn. Just inside the shop was a lending library; the scale of charges escapes me. I remember the books as being uniformly bound in red and the authors on offer were probably A J Cronin, Nevil Shute and almost certainly Agatha Christie. Opposite was a baker's shop, Stanley Marks and Werry and Hepworth's, retailing men's suits, overcoats and raincoats. On the corner of Castle Street and Fore Street, London Kiosks sold loose tobacco and an international range of cigarettes and H J Knee occupied most of the space, with a couple of small exceptions between the junction and the Gaumont Cinema. Opposite, Currys sold the usual range of 'white goods' but what was of more interest was the stock of the latest gadgetry and the range of model railway bits and pieces. W H Smith, next door, had its stock of newspapers and magazines on the right and paperbacks on the left, all open to the elements except of



course the rain. Relatively exposed as they were, the sales assistants must have dreaded the onset of autumn and Winter, a situation which in these days the Health and Safety Executive would not have tolerated for a day. It was interesting to look over what was on offer; in a moment of highmindedness I bought the first of the Penguin Classics (in translation) but my more usual purchases at that time were the war memoirs like Cockleshell Heroes and the Colditz Story. The other paperbacks on offer were novels, detective stories and westerns, a genre which has completely

disappeared. The inside of the shop was devoted to more serious stuff, dictionaries, atlases and (cloth) bound copies of the classics. Between Smith's and Church Walk, Montague Burton sold almost the same range as Hepworth's. Possibly the reason for both to exist was a proper appreciation of the English climate. The prevalence of overcoats and raincoats pre-dated the current fallacy that our climate is similar to that of southern California

Evans, the grocer, I think the only one with an off-licence, occupied the space between Taylor's haberdashery and the George Hotel. The public bar was noisy and good humoured, the hotel bar with its roaring coal fire was to become a refuge and a favourite meeting place and the lounge bar was quietly impressive; it was never meant to be a shop. Opposite the George was the small SEB showroom and next door Lewis Darling's outfitters, the closest Trowbridge got to Savile Row. Both (I think) had leaded windows which gave them a certain venerability. The Gaumont Cinema was a different thing altogether and it was almost a duty to check the stills and the forthcoming attractions.

Passing the Midland Bank, and next to the White Hart, was the entrance to the Central Garage owned (I think) by Knees. Hilser's the jewellers, were slightly set back from the road and ad-



joined the Market Tavern. Beyond this, A Davis displayed fresh fish on a slab of marble, and next door D W Shipp sold flowers, fruit and vegetables. On the other side of the road, Bowyer's shop followed the same faux facade as the Gaumont and displayed, if proof were needed, that there was hardly any part of a pig which could not be rendered edible. Stan Vesey's barber shop, visited reluctantly, usually on parental advice, separated Woolworths from Tucker's shoe shop, Next to Woolworths was the

showroom of the Central garage where I once saw a magnificent Borgward*; I have never seen one since. On the corner of Fore Street in the premises now occupied by the Santander Bank was another grocery shop, the International Stores. For me this marked the end of the journey. I crossed the road in front of the Market Hall to wait for the Wilts& Dorset bus which would take me home.

*A German car

Photographs courtesy of Trowbridge Postcards & Ephemera on Flickr.

The Spender Fish Shops

Roger Newman

In the Summer 2015 Newsletter, *[and in this issue]* John Allford took us on a walk down Stallard Street in the 1950's. His memories can be amplified. Opposite Bridge House at 39 Stallard Street was indeed a 'wet fish' counter. From 1908 to about 1921 it was the fish shop of James Spender Snr which from 1921 was named J.Spender & Sons being then owned by James Spender Jnr. The 30's saw a further change when a C.Spender took over the fish shop and continued it until July 1963 when the shop closed with the building being demolished a few weeks later. The Gateway Trowbridge retail complex, built in 2009, is now on the same site in Stallard Street.

The Spender fish shop story actually starts earlier when in week commencing 8th October 1883, James Spender Snr opened a fish shop at 51 Church Street which in that year had been rebuilt. The shop opened in 1908 at 39 Stallard Street was an extension of this business and it appears that Miss Louisa Spender (probably his daughter) looked after the Church Street shop day to day allowing James to develop his new shop. From the early 1920's James Jnr took over the day to day running of both shops and had the assistance of R B Spender at Church Street. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the 51 Church Street shop was closed on 6th October 1939 allowing the resources of the family to be concentrated at the 39 Stallard Street shop until that closed in 1963.



Does a reader have a photograph of either of the Spender shops, also a more accurate date for the 1963 closure?

Corporate Member: The Trowbridge Museum

Benjamin Cray of Trowbridge, Waterloo veteran

John Austin

On the 200th anniversary of that famous battle I attended the memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral in the presence of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, other Royals, several hundred descendants of Waterloo participants (from both sides) and a plethora of dignitaries, armed forces of all ranks, the Dean and the Bishop of London and many other Clergymen and a host of members of the public who had been lucky in the ballot. The place was packed and it was my first visit for over 40 years.

My great great grandfather's medal was in my pocket in its original box. I was entitled to wear it but it lacks its ribbon and clip. My neighbour on my right was wearing his own medals (Malayan campaign from his National Service days) and his great great grandfather's medal. It was nothing like my silver medal but was ivory coloured and in the form of a cross or star. Its recipient was a Prussian in the all-important forces of Prince Blucher whose timely if belated arrival almost certainly saved the day. My acquaintance's grandfather had emigrated from Germany to Britain. My other neighbor was a lady from North America with a penchant for battlefields; she told me she had visited most of the famous ones throughout the world.

We were given an order of service and a marvellous souvenir booklet, courtesy of the Rothschilds, which includes a conciliatory piece by the French Ambassador, Sylvie Bermann. The service of hymns and prayers was interspersed with first hand accounts read, in the main, by direct descendants of the authors. These extracts were in the order of service and much fuller versions were included in the glossy publication referred to above. Several things struck me, as they often do when sitting through such occasions. The service was in no way triumphalist, both sides were represented and remembered, the present Duke of Wellington was the only speaker to read a version different from that on our printed order of service and I wouldn't have been there if my great great grandfather hadn't survived.

He was born in Freshford in about 1798 and almost certainly joined the army underage as a Royal Artillery driver. When he was discharged at Chatham in 1818 as a result of the drastic army reduction he was given one guinea marching allowance to get him back to Bath. He signed his discharge paper with a cross. He joined, or quite likely rejoined the workforce at G N Haden, arguably the flagship company in Trowbridge at that time. In 1836 he wrote a very lucid letter to his brother George who was working on a Haden's contract in France. Somewhere in the previous 18 years he had learned to read and write, or was he in a tearing hurry to leave Chatham? He lived in Mortimer Street and died in 1872. One of his grandsons, also Benjamin, also an employee at Hadens (he is on the big staff photo in the museum, a chubby faced man on the extreme left about half way up), was a Mortimer Street neighbour of Society member Verena Dix who has fond memories of him and his eccentric ways.

(Below is an account of Cray's life which John has found in an old copy of the Trowbridge Advertiser.)

DEATH OF A WATERLOO VETERAN *Extracted from the Trowbridge Advertiser of 1872.*

Like the army of the old Napoleon, our Waterloo heroes are fast disappearing. Benjamin Cray for 40 years employed in the firm of Messrs. Haden, engineers, Trowbridge, died on Sunday last, aged 76. He was born at Freshford, in the year 1796.

In 1813 our hero, young Benjamin Cray, fired with military ardour and patriotism, trudged from Freshford to Bath, a fresh-coloured youth of 17, and enlisted in "His Majesty's Corps of Royal Artillery Drivers," on the 1st of April of that year. There were no penny papers in those days, no telegrams so that but scanty intelligence came to this country of what was going on abroad. Sufficient news reached this district to tell the eager inhabitants that the British Army had left Spain and entered France; that the dreaded Bonaparte, who was at war with everybody, notwithstanding that Russia had now declared war against France, contemplated landing his army at Dover, and English mothers hushed their children to rest with the lullaby, "Bony is coming!" But Bony did not come. Young Cray was soon drafted off for active service, and was transferred to French soil, where, on the memorable morning of June 18th, 1815 this two-year old young soldier, with thousands like him, found themselves face to face with the veteran army of the first Empire. Young Cray was an Artillery driver, as we have said, and it was the duty of the drivers to bring their guns into position, often in the face of a withering storm of grape shot from the

French. But the steadiness with which the English guns were worked was astonishing. In a reminiscence of that battle, recently written by a French soldier, this was especially remarked. The veteran Frenchman ascribes the vigour of the English gunners to the fact that they were well supplied with "beef and brandy" that morning, while the French had a mess of pottage, which, with the soaking rain that fell the night before the battle, took all the stamina out of



them. Young Cray survived that deadly conflict, and came scathless out of the battle. After serving, nearly five years in the Royal Artillery he was discharged, in consequence of a reduction in that branch of service, and came to Trowbridge, with an excellent character. Being a millwright by trade, he was employed by the father of the present Mr. Haden, on which firm Benjamin Cray worked till within a short time of his death, and his sons have-grown up in the same-establishment. Deceased prized his Waterloo medal, which he left a heirloom to his eldest son.

"Artillery in Battle of Waterloo by Jones" by artist JONES, George (1786-1869) - McGill University Libraries. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.

A True Story by Sir Isaac Pitman's Granddaughter

Kate Drinkwater

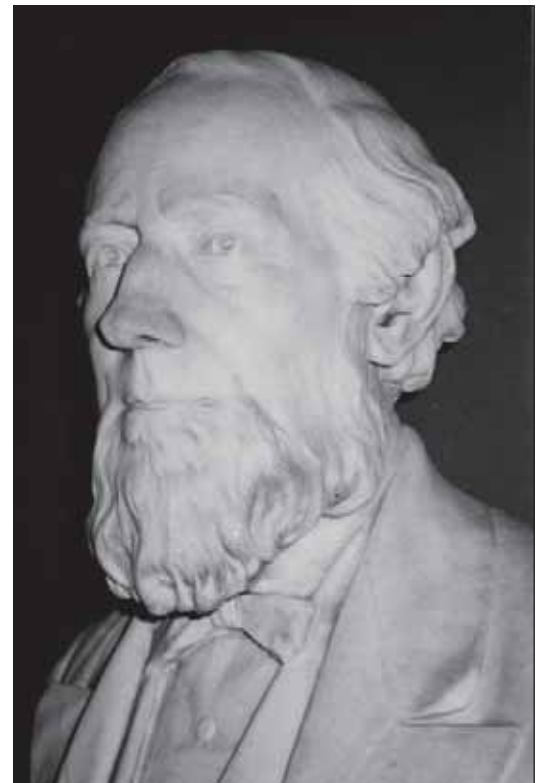
Margaret Pitman Miller, great granddaughter of Trowbridge's most famous citizen sat munching venison and prepared to hold court. I had difficulty averting my eyes from the huge rocks sparkling on her left hand. "Good diamonds and gardener's hands," a snippet from Joanna Trollope came to mind.

When I told her I lived in Trowbridge, her eyes lit up. "Oh, one of my relatives came from there," she exclaimed. "I believe they named a pub after him, The Isaac Pitman. Do you know it?" I confessed I didn't but told her about the marble bust in the museum." This news excited her greatly. "They're terribly rare. I believe there's one in the States, and my son had one but it got stolen."

Bit by bit a curious tale of busts unfolded. "Did you know he is revered as a god in parts of India?" she explained.

"He is regarded as an emancipator of women, since his shorthand enabled women to find respectable work. There was another bust of him in Chennai (formerly Madras), but we learnt it was very damaged. At huge expense my son had a bronze replica made for himself and also one for India and I was invited to Chennai to present this and to give a speech. When we arrived we found my ancestor festooned with garlands of marigolds, and minus his nose. Someone had coloured his eyeballs with blue biro and he appeared to be wearing lipstick. Clearly the intention was that he should be restored to the family and brought back home to England. This was a horrifying proposition; indeed I was so perplexed that I offered up a little prayer that I might be relieved of this heavy burden. All of a sudden a strong wind blew up from nowhere, and whisked the heavy curtains across Great Grandfather. He crashed to the floor shattering into pieces. It was quite extraordinary!"

Well, after all, he was considered a god so maybe he had become the divine intervention Margaret had prayed for. One can't help wondering what our illustrious citizen would have made of all this and I shall look at him with renewed interest when next manning the museum shop.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I have received the following from the Town Council.

“On the 1st September 2015 Balfour Beatty Living Places novated (transferred) their sub-contract with the Total Landscape Group to Wiltshire Council. This means that for the grounds, cleaning and local highway services the council now communicates directly with TLG.

“This also means that the council has a new working arrangement and provision. The streets will still be cleaned, the grass cut and pot holes filled, *but the way the service is provided has changed.*

“Maintenance work will be given to TLG based upon the priority of the work identified by the council, using the MyWiltshire App system (with the exception of scheduled grass cutting). What this will do is focus the resources on known issues on the network, rather than a historic scheduled service. The reason for the change is to move away from cleaning clean streets, clearing free running drainage or cutting highway grass that has not grown. The concept is about maximising the use of the limited resources maximising the benefits to the maintenance of the network.

“To allow this to happen programmed work will cease and be replaced by a rolling review system, where each day the assessment of outstanding works are gauged, with the highest need work being given the priority.”

“The council is asking town and parish councils not to report local maintenance issues to the Coordinator but report it direct on the MyWiltshire system. This will allow those issues that should be dealt with quickly to be resolved to the correct priority bringing improvements where most needed.”

So, it seems up to the public to do the reporting. The members of the Civic Society should be advised that they now should be even more vigilant in reporting problems than previously. What a pantomime! But we will have to take a role if the town and area are to be kept in an acceptable condition.

Regards

David Feather

Trowbridge Connections 5 Joan Mervyn Hussey



Joan Hussey was born on 5 June 1907 at 35 Avenue Road, Trowbridge, the daughter of William Hussey, master plumber and house decorator, and his wife, Grace Mildred, *née* Sawyer. She was taught privately at home and at Trowbridge High School for Girls. She also studied at the Lycée Victor Duruy, Paris, and she read history at St Hugh's College, Oxford, graduating with a second-class degree in 1929. She developed her PhD into her first book, “Church and Learning in the Byzantine Empire, 867-1185” (1937). Religion and scholarship in the Byzantine empire remained her central research concerns.

After an international travelling fellowship of the Federation of University Women in 1934, she worked on manuscripts in Vienna, Greece and Munich studying Byzantine mystics. In Britain she was appointed assistant lecturer at the University of Manchester in 1937 and from 1943 lecturer and then from 1947 reader at Bedford College, London. From 1950 she was professor of history at Royal Holloway College, London, where she remained head of department until her nominal retirement in 1974. She published several important works on the Byzantine world. She was also an honorary fellow of St Hugh's College, Oxford, and of the Sicilian Institute for Byzantine Studies. She was welcome in Belgrade, East Berlin, Beirut, and particularly Prague.

After her ‘retirement’ she carried on working, editing the papers of the historian George Finlay (1799-1874), companion of Byron, held at the British School at Athens. She did much of this work on the island of Naxos, in a house below the historic Roman Catholic cathedral on the acropolis. She died at Merlewood nursing home, Virginia Water, Surrey, on 20 February 2006, of bronchopneumonia. She never married and had no children.

RECENT MEETINGS

A walk round Corsham

On a lovely summer's evening in June Civic Society members were guided round Corsham by, Dr Nedgley Harte, a member of the local Civic Society. We started at St Bartholomew's Church. This place has been a centre of Christian worship for over one thousand years. There was certainly a Saxon church on this site long before the Normans invaded England in 1066 A.D. It is recorded that William the Conqueror granted the church at Corsham to the Abbey of St. Stephen at Caen in Normandy. The present building dates from the middle of the twelfth century, but there have been many changes and additions since then, ending with a major restoration in Victorian times. This obviously included heating provided by Haden's of Trowbridge as we spotted the name on part of a radiator!

We then looked through the gates of the imposing Corsham Court before proceeding down the streets of the old town, familiar to some of the group as the setting of some parts of the recent "Poldark" series.

It was an entertaining and informative evening.

A visit to Romsey and Mottisfont

In August a coach load of Civic Society members was taken first to Romsey where we were greeted by several members of the Romsey District Society, who entertained us with coffee and biscuits before dividing us into "ability" groups for a tour of the town. The town is much smaller than Trowbridge, about 18000 people, with some interesting streets and buildings. Of particular interest is the abbey. We were entertained with stories about its foundation. What was to become Romsey Abbey was founded in 907. Nuns led by Elflaeda, daughter of Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, founded a community in what was then a small village. Later, King Edgar refounded the nunnery, about 960, as a Benedictine house under the rule of St. Ethelflaeda whose devotional acts included chanting psalms while standing naked in the cold water of the River Test! The Normans built the large current abbey that dominates the town on the site of the original Saxon church. By 1240, 100 nuns lived in the convent. Romsey continued to grow and prosper until plague struck the town in 1348-9. The Black Death is thought to have killed up to half of the Romsey's population of 1000. The number of nuns fell as low as 19. The abbey was finally suppressed by Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. But the abbey was saved from demolition because part of it was a parish church for the people of Romsey. Thanks to the Society for making us so welcome.

After lunch the party progressed to Mottisfont Abbey. An Augustinian priory was founded here in 1201 and the canons welcomed pilgrims en route to Winchester, who came to worship Mottisfont's relic, said to be the finger of St John the Baptist. During the Dissolution of the Monasteries the priory was dissolved and the king gave Mottisfont to a favoured statesman, Sir William Sandys. He turned the church nave into the main body of the new mansion, building additional wings on either side.

In 1934 Maud and Gilbert Russell made Mottisfont the centre of a fashionable artistic and political circle. Maud was a wealthy patron of the arts, and she created a substantial country house where she entertained artists and writers including Ben Nicholson and Ian Fleming. She commissioned some of her artist and designer friends to embellish Mottisfont. Rex Whistler created the illusion of Gothic architecture in her salon (now known as the Whistler Room), a piece of trompe-l'œil painting that recalls the medieval architecture of the priory. Maud Russell gifted the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1957, although continuing to live there until 1972. One of the artists who had visited regularly was Derek Hill, a society portrait painter. He donated a substantial collection of early 20th-century art to the National Trust to be shown at Mottisfont, in memory of his long friendship with Maud Russell.

Apart from the art the large garden is famous for its roses which we were able to appreciate during the afternoon.

Thanks to Celia Russell, our secretary, for arranging this visit, the Corsham walk and the glorious summer weather.

Snapshots of recent meetings



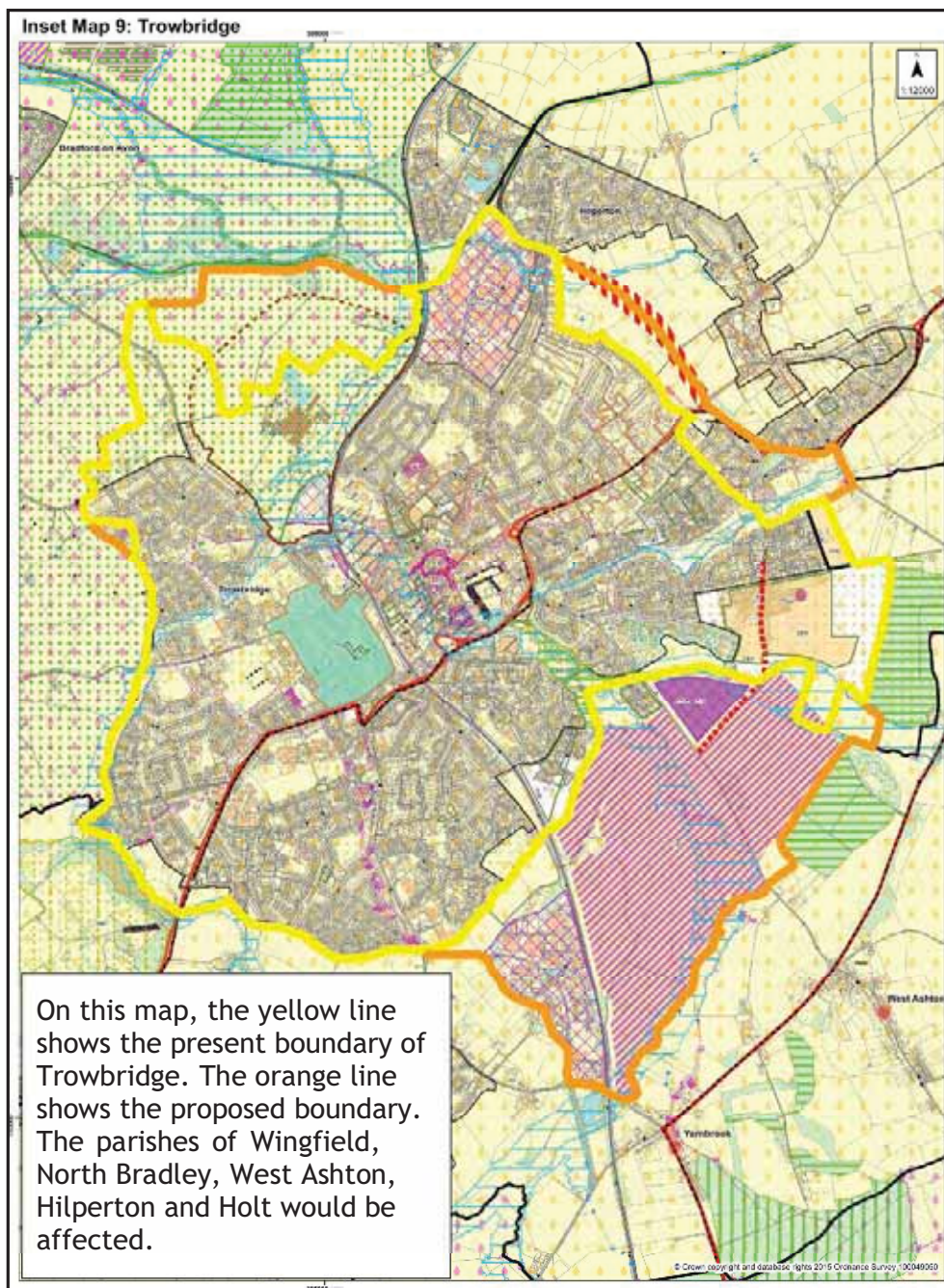
Romsey house with window and chimney sheathed in copper!



Sheela na gig on the abbey wall



Boundary Review - Wiltshire Council Consultation



A message from the Town Clerk, Lance Allen

The Town Council believes that Trowbridge has made a step change in recent years, with its own investment in the Civic Centre and the Town Park and support for the development of new shops, the ODEON cinema and restaurants, the weekly market, new businesses and a growing population.

Trowbridge Town Council wants to ensure that this transformation continues into the future so that together we can all deliver a sustainable town that provides a full range of facilities and services for the whole community.

Trowbridge Town Council is already working with partners on plans to deliver; new sports pitches and outdoor leisure facilities, improved cultural and heritage venues and activities in the Museum and at the Town Hall, a new health and well-being centre and other improvements in the town centre. It also wants to improve our car parks

and make them more affordable for people who work in the town centre and visit Trowbridge, retain our town bus services, provide better children's play areas and new and improved youth facilities including skate-parks.

Trowbridge Town Council can only do these things for the whole town if the areas of new development are included in the town boundary and everyone makes a contribution to our success. Wiltshire Council is currently undertaking a consultation on changes to the town boundary and everyone needs to respond to the consultation. If you think that Trowbridge Town Council should continue to deliver a better place, with better facilities then please tell Wiltshire Council that:

Trowbridge needs one town council for all of the town and we support all of the revisions to the town boundary proposed by Trowbridge Town Council.

Please complete the online survey at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communitygovernancereviewsurvey2015.htm>

Thank you for your support.