

Trowbridge Civic Society NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

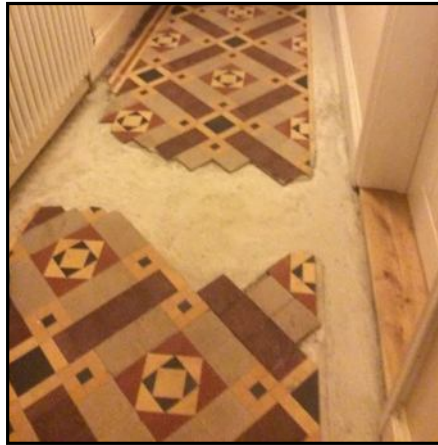


Recent Meetings

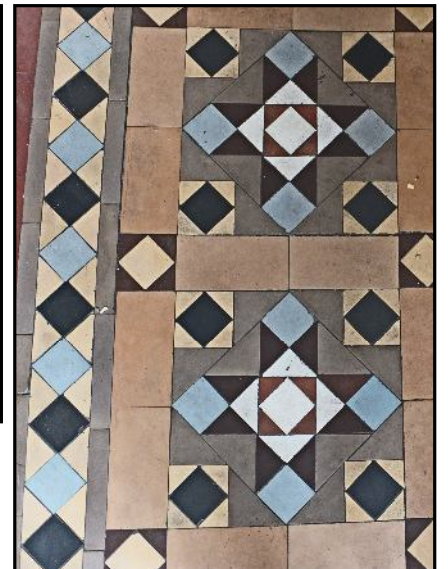


In this issue:
Planning Challenges Restoring a Victorian Hallway
Trowbridge and Wiltshire Dialect

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



Photographs showing some of the stages in restoring a Victorian tiled floor.
Petra Birkett's article is on page 6.



Some of the tile designs in Avenue Road.
If you wish, send us photos of your tile designs with the date of construction if known.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

In this issue we return to the subject of Tiles with a fascinating article on page 6.

Norman Rogers has wanted to record his knowledge of the Trowbridge dialect for years. David Feather decided to try and help him and set up a small U3A group. They made a recording of Norman speaking in dialect and currently are trying to get the British Library and other organisations to take the recording into their archives. They intend to copy the CD they have produced and sell it to whoever might be interested. To accompany this article we have published some examples of Wiltshire dialect taken from a book published over 100 years ago.

There are two articles by David Feather, one about town planning in Trowbridge and the other about the problem of traffic in Stallard Street and beyond.

Trowbridge Connections is about an illustrator and artist who now lives in Trowbridge. I was amazed to discover that a neighbour of mine worked with Ridley Scott on one of my favourite films, *Blade Runner*.

We hope you enjoy the quiz on page 12. Perhaps you can provide us with some badges from the past to show in our next issue.

Also in our next issue we hope to have an article about George Crabbe, poet and vicar of St James' church.

As usual we ask for contributions from our readers. You can send them to the email address in the next column, or, if you prefer, ring 761270 for more information.

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 and Membership Secretary:
Janet Carpenter, 2 Chepston Place, Trowbridge. Tel 752770
janet_carpenter@btinternet.com
- Committee members: Sue Glover; Kevin Hartley;
Jonathan Hawkes; Diana Ingram
- Newsletter: Jennifer & Peter Collier
Tel 761270
Sue and Kevin Eames;
Glyn Bridges
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 - 28th September

Forthcoming Events

- 17th August** Trip to Sherborne and Montacute House
- 10th and 11th September** Heritage Open Days
- 25th October** "1016 and 1066 - why the Vikings caused the Norman Conquest". Talk by Martin Whittock. Courtroom, Trowbridge Town Hall, 7.30 pm
- 15th November Public Lecture "The Gothic Revival, a local, national and historical exploration". Talk by Dr Kevin Eames
- 2017**
- 10th January** New Year Social Courtroom, Trowbridge Town Hall, 7.30 pm
- 14th March** AGM and talk by Rosemary Hawkes - "The history of Trowbridge Town Hall, part 2". Courtroom, Trowbridge Town Hall, 7.15pm

From the Chairman

Glyn Bridges

The Civic Society was contacted in May by Cadence pr, the firm planning the development of the Bowyer site, to discuss the future of its development. Kevin Eames and I met the Director Tom Selway and his colleagues and we made our views clear on the listed buildings and possible changes to the road access. It was a very positive meeting and we now await the planning application.

Now that the new road from Paxcroft Mead to West Ashton Road is finally open it will be interesting to see if it makes any marked difference to the volume of traffic in the town centre.

Planning Matters

Sue and Kevin Eames

Approval has been granted for the erection of 20 dwellings with associated access and landscaping works on land adjacent to Elmhurst, Hilperton Road. The application site comprises 0.98 hectares of the garden of Elmhurst, a large dwelling fronting onto Hilperton Road, Trowbridge. The house and associated outbuildings sit in extensive grounds. The site contains a number of mature trees and is currently overgrown. It lies within the limits of development for Trowbridge and the northern half of the site lies within the Hilperton Road Conservation Area.

The Trowbridge Civic Society provided the following observations: We welcome this use of a brownfield site, especially as the proposal seeks to secure the existence of Elmhurst, and the frontage to the conservation area of Hilperton Road. The design of the houses seems from the plans to be appropriate and varied, although there may be a question about density and the amount of added traffic on Hilperton Road. We particularly welcome the inclusion of chimneys as a feature in many of the houses, but the appearances of the houses on plots 12 and 13 would be improved if chimneys were added to these designs. The care taken to preserve the gateposts when widening the entrance is characteristic of this application's approach, but we would ask that planners should be completely satisfied with the visibility lines, as traffic from the development will be entering a very busy main road.

A second development has also been given the go-ahead. The proposed development involves the demolition of Adcroft Villa in Adcroft Drive and the erection of nine dwellings plus the conversion of a coach house to a dwelling. The Highway Officer notes that the proposal for a total of 10 residential units with 14 parking spaces is not in line with the Car Parking Strategy, where two parking spaces are required for 2/3 bedroom dwellings. This was considered acceptable, however, given the location of the flats in close proximity to Trowbridge town centre facilities and public transport opportunities.

The next two applications of interest concern Trowbridge schools. Approval has been granted to The John of Gaunt School for external alterations to provide new access and a steel canopy to North elevation of Wingfield Building. The Planning Officer's report states: The proposed steel canopy would be erected within an inverted corner section of the building where its impact on both the street scene and character of the building would be minimal. Materials used and the design of the new entrance and canopy are considered acceptable. The development would therefore have no adverse impact on the character of the existing building or character of the area and complies with CP57 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The other favourable decision concerns Castle Mead Primary School, which has been given permission for the extension and alteration of a single form entry school to create a two form entry school, incorporating a nursery and SEN facilities and associated development. The Planning Officer's report states: The design and appearance of the building would be perfectly in keeping with the host building and wider context. The proposals would critically provide essential educational infrastructure to the residential expansion of Trowbridge and meet the needs of the local population. The proposal would not cause any significant demonstrable impact on the residential amenities of existing neighbours.

A proposed development on land East of The Poplars Residential Park, Poplar Tree Lane, Southwick for four Gypsy Traveller pitches and associated works including four mobile homes, four touring caravans, four dayrooms, hard standing, package treatment plant and four storage sheds has been refused.

Planning Challenges - a personal view

David Feather

Some of you will know that I have started helping Kevin and Sue Eames and Glyn Bridges with appraisals of planning applications. At the Civic Society AGM I explained that it was a considerable responsibility for such a small group to represent the views of the Society and the views of other members would be welcomed. What concerns me is the approach of developers, more or less just replicating the developments that have gone before. The developers produce a "Design and Access Statement" and the following is an example from a recent one.

Built Context

"The immediate built context to which the site most closely relates is the recent Southview Farm development to the north, which the proposed site is seen as a natural extension and will take the majority of contextual influence. Developments in the wider vicinity are not considered in keeping with the local character of Trowbridge and are reflective of a style and era which had a strict road dominated hierarchy."



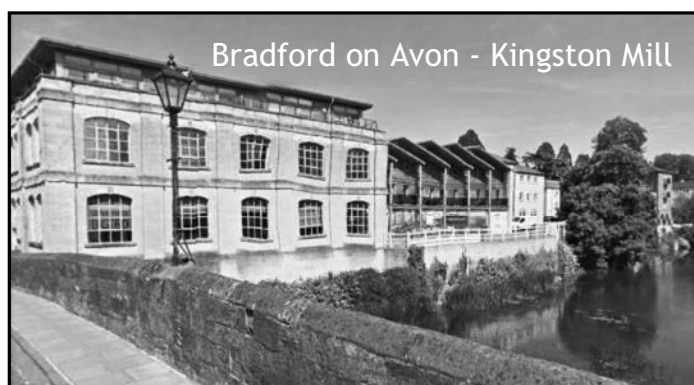
If this approach is developed by all applicants we shall end up with a very mediocre standard of development. Houses will just follow the sort of design shown in the picture.

The Ashton Park major development along West Ashton Road will be effectively a new small village and may justify a characteristic style of its own. We need to formulate a view about dealing with the detailed treatment when the planning applications come in.

Recent developments in Bradford on

Avon and Chippenham illustrate what some developers can produce. These are very different from what we have in Trowbridge, thus far.

The Civic Society says "Our aim is to improve the appearance of the area by preserving what is good from the past and encouraging high standards of design in new buildings, enhancing the image of the area and increasing the number of amenities within Trowbridge and its adjacent villages. This does not include the desire to see replication of past styles, just 'high standards of



design'". As far as I am aware, the style of the development around the cinema in Trowbridge has not attracted adverse comments, although, personally, I am not impressed by the overall design. I do wonder what view the Civic Society should take if those modern styles, as used around the cinema and in the housing in Bradford on Avon and Chippenham, are proposed for Ashton Park.

Restoring a Victorian Hallway

Petra Birkett

I grew up on Avenue Road and had a tiled floor that I always loved, for sliding, playing etc as well as the beauty. Having owned properties in several areas in Trowbridge over the years, some also with beautiful tiled hallways, when looking for a house to buy one of the things on my wish list was to have a tiled floor in a Victorian house.

My partner Joe and I found a Victorian house on The Down that was in our price range and we proceeded with the purchase. We moved in, February 2014. The house was lovely and gave us the much needed space with a growing family; my only disappointment was that the soul of the Victorian house was here but unfortunately the refurbishment had stripped it of its features that add to the 'feel' that you have living in a Victorian property.

After living in the property for a few months I was longing to learn of the history of our new home as it is one of three large bay fronted Victorian houses and having received no deeds or old paperwork with the purchase of the property this became an interest (and I admit a slight obsession) for me and helped me to get in touch with the roots of our new home.

We had a problem with damp in the dining room of the house and this became evident after living here for a few months - so we had to replace joists under the floor. This meant ripping up the carpet in our hallway - newly fitted in the refurbishment that I had tried secretly to peel back without damaging in the hope of finding my wish list item of tiled hallway...to no avail. We ripped up the carpet and found at the bottom of the stairs a small section of Victorian tiles! Well, you can imagine my excitement, not dampened by the fact the rest of the hallway was 10-20mm of concrete. "I must see if they are under the concrete" I said. My partner said, "It is impossible - they will be ruined if they are there".

I was not to be put off and, while my youngest children were at nursery, and the builder was ripping up the floor in the dining room to replace the joists, I set about chipping the concrete screed off what I hoped was a tiled hallway - using a flat head screwdriver and a hammer.

It was a long process and after 6 hours I had managed to chip away another small section in front of the cupboard under the stairs. This was the incentive needed to get 'the OK' from my partner that we could progress with this. I spent many more hours clearing off the concrete screed and feeling a rush of excitement every time I uncovered another section of the tiles and the history of our home. We managed to uncover the whole hallway with the help of a Tile Doctor who came and cleared the stubbornest sections - there were several sections that had been smashed up to lay the pipes for the central heating in the refurbishment. We sourced matching Victorian tiles from Stroud and my daughter's father and partner laid these to complete the hallway to its former glory.

I noticed when chipping away at the tiles that in some sections different sized tiles had been used to achieve the same pattern. I can only imagine this was due to running out of tiles in the right size and making do with what was left (ours was the last of the three properties to be built).

I have researched the history of our house and the other two that were built by the same 'John Thomas' previous landlord of The New Inn - the land was sold at auction after the death of Henry Allen (landlord of Brassknocker Inn, The Down). I am currently writing up the history of our house 'Woolston Villa' (as named when built) and Crandon and Stockland (this being the largest and built for the Thomas family to live in) along with their residents and their history. I have even received photos from a descendant of the Thomas family who lives in Australia and many other interesting bits of information. When looking at the land tax records it seems John Thomas was 'the overseer of the poor' in the entry of 1876.

Obit

Harry Futchter. Members will no doubt have many happy memories of Harry who was a long standing committee member of the Society and served for many years as membership secretary. On several occasions we were able to enjoy Harry's garden which he opened for numerous Civic Society events. We are very grateful to the contribution Harry made and our sympathy goes to Maureen and her family.

Another of our members, Anne Whitehead, has died. She had been a member since 2008.

Specimens of the Dialect Spoken in Trowbridge

Norman Rogers

Two hundred years ago people in Trowbridge spoke very differently to what they do today. In fact their speech would be largely incomprehensible to today's Trowbridgians. Languages constantly change so that the Old English spoken here a thousand years ago is now to all intents and purposes a foreign language. And they change according to certain well-defined processes e.g. "decay of consonants". Certain consonants, p and t, for example, change and finally disappear altogether. The p of the Latin word *pauper* (poor) changes to v in "poverty" and is completely missing in "poor". Similarly, *hlaford* (keeper of the loaves) became "lavord" and now we say "lord". (And, lest I be accused of sex-discrimination, *levdi*, loaf kneader, is now "lady".) In Standard English this change has not affected the word "give" but it has in dialect where dialect speakers say *gie* as also in their past tense "gived" *gid*.

Another difference we would notice two hundred years ago is the difficulty of travel. Today we can be the other side of the world in a matter of hours but, then, to most, travel was on foot, which meant for the majority of the population rarely going far from where they lived. They lived in their small communities and a local form of speech was no handicap. That changed with the coming of the railways. On a train it was possible to spend the day in London. There, the local dialect of Trowbridge would have been difficult to understand or, at least, would have been ridiculed. So a less regionalised form of English became necessary, Standard English. The model for Standard English was the English spoken in London and the south-east. It rapidly acquired a prestige that regional dialects lacked in varying degrees. Our dialect, it must be said, is too much associated with "country bumpkins and yokels" and is not much heard on television because of its low prestige. Northern accents are much more common.

To describe a dialect or language, we have to cover a) pronunciation b) grammar and c) vocabulary. In PRONUNCIATION we have to note the r sound is different from the sound in Standard English, stronger and more throaty and is maintained where it is dropped in standard pronunciation. This is what produces the West-Country "burr". We must also note individual words that are pronounced differently e.g. hern for run. In GRAMMAR we have to account for the syntax, the way sentences are put together e.g. instead of "I have bought" dialect has "I bin a-bought". Also accidence, the changed endings of the words themselves e.g. mine, thine, his hers etc. in dialect becomes mine, thine, hisn, hern, ourn, yourn and theirn. Finally VOCABULARY. Dialect words seem to conform to no pattern as to why they are current in a certain area. Examples are croupy (to crouch) or to trig open (to prop open). Rudder, (a sieve) seems a dialect word but is a variant of the word riddle.

When we speak in our native language, the sentences come to us automatically and we concentrate entirely on the subject we are talking about. Dialect investigators often ask dialect speakers to conduct a conversation in dialect. The result is extremely artificial. Therefore I have recorded (being a native dialect speaker myself) some conversations and sayings I can remember being said in the normal context of ordinary speech. This will, I hope, give a better experience of everyday speech as, for the speakers, dialect is automatic and completely unself-conscious.

[Norman has written a book on this subject, Wessex Dialect published in 1979 by Moonraker Press. It is available in Trowbridge Library for reference only.]

Glossary of Wiltshire Words

One of the books Norman Rogers lists in his bibliography was published over 100 years ago. In 1893 George Edward Dartnell and the Reverend Edward Hungerford Goddard published the *Glossary of Wiltshire Words*. In the introduction they explain their work:

"In spite of many difficulties and hindrances, the results of our five years or more of labour have proved very satisfactory, and we feel fully justified in claiming for this Glossary that it contains the most complete list of Wiltshire words and phrases which has as yet been compiled. More than one-half of the words here noted have never before appeared in any Wiltshire Vocabulary, many of them being now recorded for the first time for any county, while in the case of the remainder much additional information will be found given, as well."

Most if not all of their words and phrases were taken from other published works and it is a remarkable piece of research. If you wish to see the whole book it is available online.

The web address is very long so you may find it easier to search on Google for “glossary Wiltshire words dartnell goddard”.

Here are some of the words and phrases that they found and gave meanings for. Do you recognise any of these? Can you add to the list?

Apple-owling. Knocking down the small worthless fruit, or ‘griggles’, left on the trees after the apple crop has been gathered in.

Back-friends. Bits of skin fretted up at the base of the finger-nails.

Batt. A thin kind of oven-cake, about as thick as a tea-cake, but mostly crust.

Bivery. Shivery, tremulous. When a baby is just on the verge of crying, its lip quivers and is ‘bivery.’

Champ. To scold in a savage snarling fashion. ‘Now dwoan’t ‘ee gwo an’ champ zo at I !

Chatter-mag, Chatter-pie. A chattering woman.

Dew-beater. A man who has large feet, or who turns out his toes, brushing the dew off the grass in walking.

Shrill. To shudder. ‘I never couldn’t eat fat bacon. I do alms shrill at it.’

Smarm. To bedaub. ‘Don’t smarm me aal auver wi’ they dirty paws o’ yourn.’

Veer weather. Chopping, changeable weather

Weeth. Tough and pliable . Of bread, moist and yet not too soft. ‘I puts my lease bread on the pantony shelf, and it soon gets nice and weeth.’ Often pronounced as wee.

Whissgig. To lark about. Wissgigin, larking.

Womble. To wobble about from weakness, &c. for example, where it is used of children who come to school without having had any breakfast.

Pisty-poll. A child riding with his legs on your shoulders is said to be carried ‘a pisty-poll.’

Quobble. After being a long while at the wash-tub a woman’s hands are apt to get ‘all in a quobble,’ or ‘ter’ble quobbed,’ that is, shrivelled and drawn and wrinkled up.

Gipsy-nuts. Hips and haws. (near Trowbridge.)

Coniger, Conigre. This old word, originally meaning a rabbit-warren, occurs frequently in Wilts (as at Trowbridge) as the name of a meadow, piece of ground, street, &c.

Bawsy, Borsy, or Bozzy. Coarse, as applied to the fibre of cloth or wool. ‘Bozzy-faced cloth bain’t good enough vor I.’

Ahmoo. A cow; used by mothers to children, as ‘Look at they pretty ahmoos a-comin’!’

Afterclaps. Consequences, results.

Cag-mag. Bad or very inferior meat.

Crumplings, Crumplens. Small, imperfectly grown apples.

Daglet. An icicle.

Dapster. A nimble boy.

Garley-gut. A gluttonous person. Perhaps connected with ‘gorle’, to devour eagerly.

Grammered in. Of dirt, so grained in, that it is almost impossible to wash it off. Grammered: Begrimed.

Minty. Of cheese, full of mites.

Nurly. Of soil: lying in lumps.

Quanked. Overpowered by fatigue.

Rumple, To seduce. ‘He bin rumplin’ that wench o’ Bill’s again laas’ night.’

Spurl. To spread dung about the fields.

Taffety. Dainty in eating .

Toad-stabber. A bad blunt knife. Commonly used by boys around Clyffe Pypard.

Buddle. To suffocate in mud. ‘There! if he haven’t a bin an’ amwoast buddled hisel’ in thuck there ditch!’

Flowse. You ‘flowse,’ or splash, the water over you in a bath. Water is said to be ‘flowsing down’ when rushing very strongly through a mill hatch. A horse likes to ‘flowse about’ in a pond.

NORMAN CONQUEST ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE : 1066 AND ALL THAT!

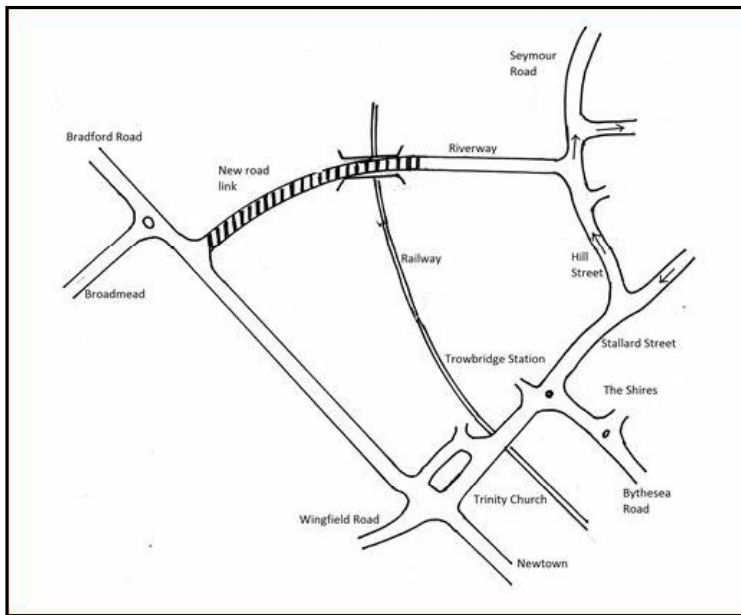
Friday 16th September The Civic Centre, Trowbridge • 9.30am - 4.30pm

After last year’s sell out Magna Carta Conference we are pleased to present this year’s Norman Conquest Anniversary Conference 1066 & All That! This year marks 950 years since the Battle of Hastings, so we will be hosting an entertaining event at the Civic Centre on Friday 16th September. There will be a full day of informative seminars by some of the country’s leading historians. (Doors open at 9am)

SPEAKERS

• Dr Ryan Lavelle • Dr Matt Bennett • Dr Sean McGlynn • Dr Michael Costen • Dr Katherine Weikert • Andy Milroy

Uncorking a bottleneck



David Feather

Which is the worst traffic bottleneck in Trowbridge? I would say that it is the junction of Stallard Street with Bythesea Road. When the Gateway shopping precinct was built, the junction was changed and pedestrians cross in one now instead of the refuge crossing before. This made the congestion problem worse. The regular queues in Stallard Street, Wingfield Road and Bradford Road must be bad for our air quality.

So, is there a way of reducing the traffic problem without knocking down historic buildings? Well there is, and it is to provide an alternative route for traffic from Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge Broadmead estate into Seymour Road. If a new bridge could be provided over the

railway at the end of Riverway then a short road link could be made to Bradford Road.

A walk down Riverway suggests that we could expect a redevelopment proposal for the areas off Riverway in the next few years. The Planning Authority must be prepared for such an application with ideas for improvement and I suggest that it should include such a link as shown on the attached sketch. What do other members think?

RECENT MEETINGS

Westbury Walk

On a glorious spring evening, members of the society were shown round some of the interesting sights and buildings of Westbury by Glyn Bridges and Ken Rogers. As usual we learnt a tremendous amount while enjoying the sights (and sometimes the loud sounds of electric guitar).



Westbury is the biggest parish in Wiltshire and its church is a grand one. It is surrounded by 18th century cottages so that, although it is close to the market place, it is a very peaceful spot, and the church is a little like a cathedral in its close. The probable date for the present church is fourteenth century, with the nave, aisles and transepts among the original parts. There is a 16th century porch with a small room over it. In 1968 it was found that an old culvert had broken and water had saturated

the clay surrounding the church foundations. Cracks in the masonry were appearing and the tower was leaning. 150 concrete piles were driven into the ground to a depth of 35 to 40 feet and connected with cross beams to stabilise the structure. The church clock dates to the beginning of the 17th century and is unusual in having no face although it strikes the hours and quarters.

Our next stop was Angel Mill, probably the earliest Wiltshire factory built to be driven by a steam engine in 1806, which Ken suggested might have been the very first cloth mill *in the world* to be powered by steam.

The Laverton institute in Bratton Road dates from 1873, designed by W.J. Stent. It was praised by Pevsner as a fine example of Venetian





Gothic!

Next was Prospect Place (Grade II) which stands above the Bratton Road. It was designed 1869-1870 by W J Stent of Warminster for William Henry Laverton. Each of the three sides adopts a different vernacular style, executed in a mixture of brick and snecked rubble.



(Snecked refers to a small squared stone used in a rubble wall to fill spaces between stones of different height). At the top of the square is a linking block of seven almshouses.

From here we walked back towards the centre of town to view 35 Church Street. This is the principal house of the manor of Westbury Chantry. It is an early 19th century building, part medieval with a late 14th century window. Henry Pinniger established his solicitor's practice here in 1819. The Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, who was in charge of the cathedral choir, was lord of the manor, and in a lease in 1824 Henry Pinniger was required to provide accommodation for him and his retinue when holding court in Westbury. Part was a residence called The Chantry.

Our last stop was in the Market Place, which is formed by several 18th century buildings. The old Town Hall looked quite impressive in the evening light. It was built by Sir Manasseh Massey Lopes in 1815. Richard Ingleman was the architect. It was used as a courtroom and had a prison on the ground floor behind an open arcade. The public library was located here from 1947 until 1970, after which it was converted for commercial use.



The National Archives website has the following information on Sir Mannaseh Massey Lopes, who was created Baronet in 1805. He was the descendant of Jewish settlers in Jamaica, originally from Cuba it is said. His father, Mordecai Rodriguez Lopes, owned

sugar plantations, and settled at one time at Clapham. Mannaseh purchased, and settled at, Maristow, in the parish of Buckland Monachorum, after the death in 1798 of Sir James Modyford Heywood. The estate comprised Maristow, Buckland, Walkhampton Shaugh and Bickleigh. Lopes acquired Meavy from Hugh Malet, and then calculated that he owned 32 thousand acres in south west Devon. He died in 1831. The family also owned estates at Westbury, Wiltshire, Lopes' own borough. Lopes was involved in politics and political corruption in almost equal measure. Contesting respectively Barnstaple and Grampound, he was guilty of buying votes on a large scale in both seats. Lopes is perhaps most famous for his resignation from his pocket borough of Westbury, Wiltshire, to allow Peel to be elected after his own ejection from his seat of Oxford University. What consideration prompted Lopes to do this is unknown, but he received no political preferment.



This helps to explain the name Maristow Street which leads out of the Market Place.

An April Walk in Green Lane Woods

Janet Carpenter

The wood is owned and managed by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. It was originally part of the Long estate but sold off and eventually bought by an older lady who lived in a very simple way on part of the land. She donated the wood to the Trust. The wardens and volunteers need to clear the bracken and Hazel tree growth to open the floor of the wood to see the bluebells and primroses. They work on different areas of the wood over time, as this needs to be done every two years, ideally. There are also orchids which flower in May. We were guided around by Roger and Mark.

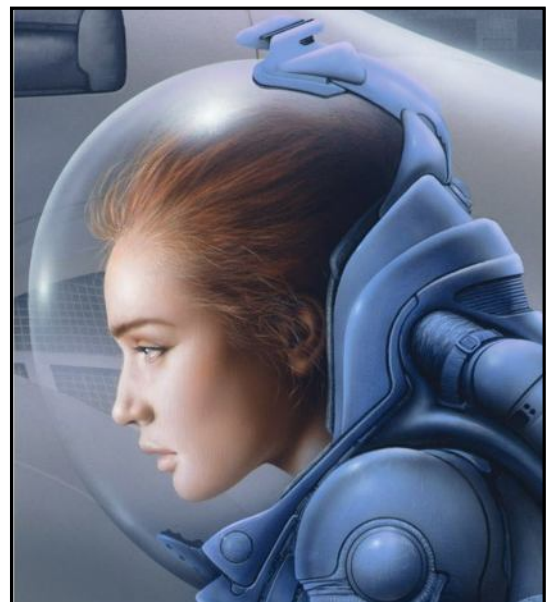
Trowbridge Connections 6 - Jim Burns

Jim Burns is a Welsh artist born in Cardiff, who now lives in Trowbridge. He has been called one of the Grand Masters of the science fiction art world.

He served in the Royal Air Force and then, “In the next four years at Newport College of Art in South Wales and St. Martin’s School of Art in London, something seemed to move me one small step at a time from being a person who loved drawing as a pastime into someone whose career was increasingly going in that direction - and finally into the professional illustrator I remain to this day. I suppose it’s a lucky man whose hobby turns almost imperceptibly into the means by which he makes his living. I don’t really feel that I ever trained for anything! (Art college was a four-year long party!)”

Today he is regarded as one of the best British science fiction illustrators. He has illustrated book and game covers for such authors as Greg Bear, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, Anne McCaffrey, Robert Silverberg, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C Clarke, J G Ballard, Michael Moorcock, Ray Bradbury and many more. He has published his own books of his paintings. He also worked with Ridley Scott on the cult movie, *Blade Runner*.

Jim won the Hugo award for best professional artist three times and has also been awarded 13 British Science Fiction Awards, the latest one this year! Three years ago he received the Chesley Lifetime Achievement Award. These awards were established in 1985 by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists to recognize individual artistic works and achievements.



The Quiz

Below are some badges or logos of schools in and around Trowbridge. Some of the schools no longer exist or have changed names. Do you know them?



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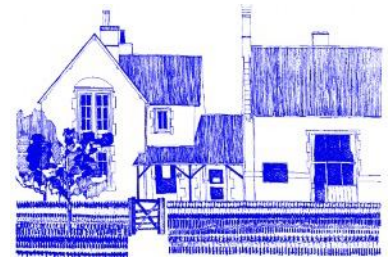
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Welcome to new members:
John & Liz Corfield and Petra Birkett

Corporate Member:
The Trowbridge Museum