



Friends of Somerset Archives

Snippets - No. 23 March 2012

Welcome to the first edition of Snippets for 2012. I'm hoping that 2012 will see me devoting more time to typing out 30 years of notes and updating the family tree as, for the first time in over 30 years, none of my sons are living at home - but with 2 more grandchildren on the way this year perhaps I am being optimistic!

A couple of weeks ago I was able to take the minutes of Odcombe Parish Council from 1895 - 2007 to the Heritage Centre. You may recall that when I took over as Parish Clerk the previous Clerk only handed over minutes from about 1995. However, recently there was a knock at the door and I was handed over another 4 boxes of old papers - to my great delight I found all the missing minutes. Many surnames from these old books are still to be found in the village. It was also very pleasant surprise to find that Jane de Gruchy used a tithe map of Brympton, dating back to 1838, as I'm also the Clerk of Brympton Parish Council.

As always, if you have any comments or criticisms please let me know - also any articles you may have written would be much appreciated.

Liz
Editor

Chairman's Notes

A New Events Secretary

I am delighted to be able to announce that we have a new Events Secretary, Karen Rockell. Karen has come to Somerset from London where she was very involved with the Friends of Richmond Park, working with their Archives and arranging events. Since losing Sue Berry at the last AGM, we had a large hole to fill on the committee and I am sure that Karen will carry out those tasks admirably. We have had a meeting with the Wells Archivist, Julia Wood, with a view to holding a Friends meeting at Wells Museum and Karen will be making all the arrangements for the April 24th. We are also planning events on the following subjects, among others, for later in the year:

Researching your House History

A Treasure Hunt at the Museum of Somerset

War Memorials and how to research them.

If there are other events that you would like to see take place, please contact Karen directly at karenrockell@sky.com

Tithe Awards Program

There continues to be a steady flow of Tithe Awards being transcribed. The current total of parishes completed is 146 and recent ones include Brushford, Corfe, Elworthy, Chewton Mendip, Exton, Winsford, Hawkridge, Isle Abbots, Withypool, Earnshill, all having been transcribed since the turn of the year. Well done to all our volunteers for their hard work.

We need more volunteers and we appeal to members to join our transcription team. You can put in many hours or just a couple - we don't mind - but we still have in excess of three hundred more to do. It can all be done at home using computer images or alternatively you can work on original documents at the Heritage Centre if you would prefer.

Dickinson Project

There is a band of volunteers sorting through the papers of the Dickinson Collection and progress is continuing at a pace. We have dealt with more than 60 boxes of the total of some 160 plus so far. Again well done to all of our volunteers engaged on this project.

Generally

Our next talk is about Tithe maps on Wednesday March 13th - for details see elsewhere in this edition. I am sure that this will be a very interesting meeting and I appeal to you all to support it.

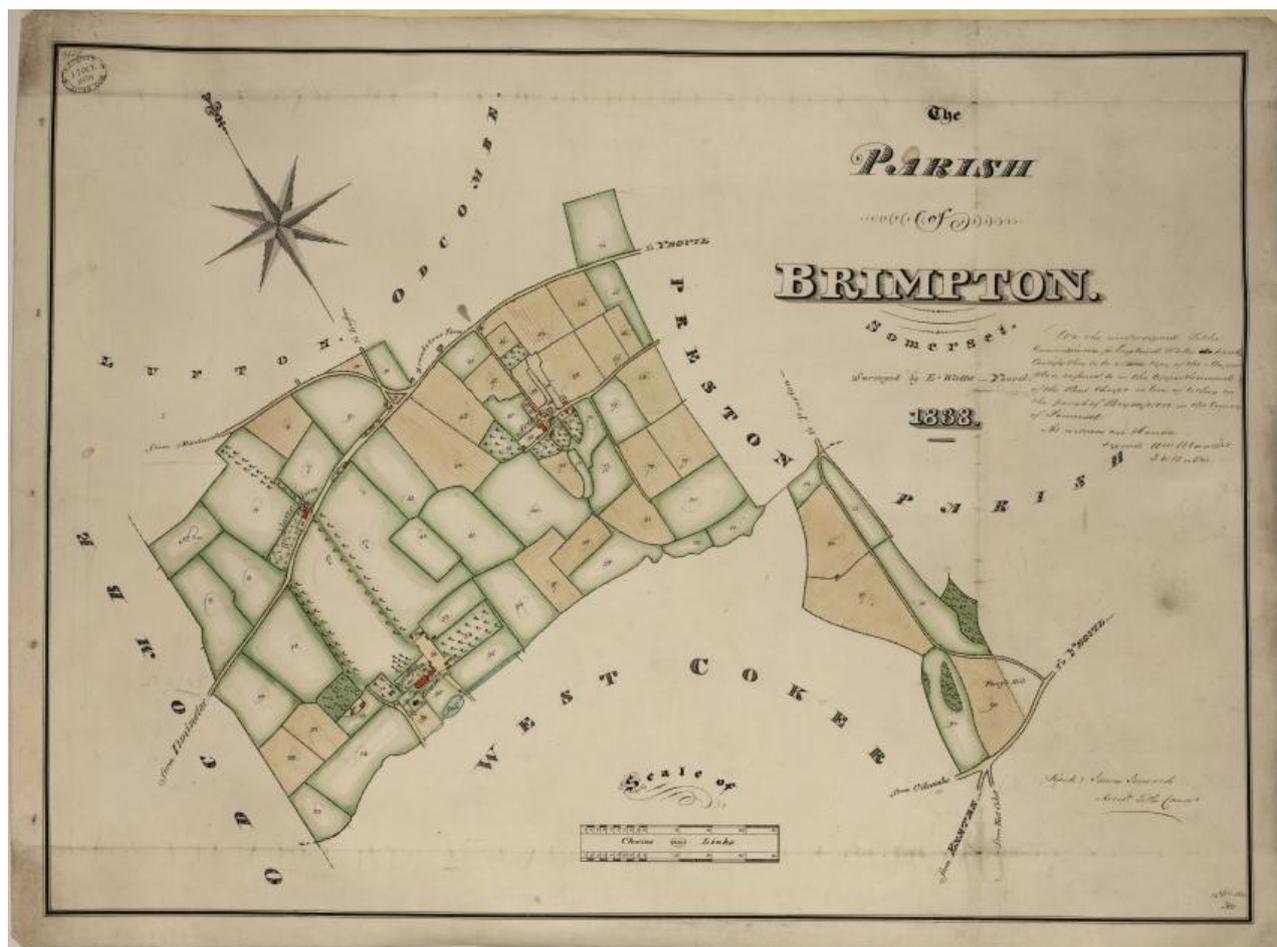
Your next Committee Meeting will be held at the Heritage Centre on 21st March, so if there is anything that you would like raised, please let me know so that I can put it on the agenda.

Thank you all again for your continuing support.

Malcolm Daniels.

Short notice - but on Tuesday 13 March, 2.00pm, Somerset Heritage Centre there will be an Introduction to Tithe Maps

Tithe maps were made for every parish in Somerset in the 1830s and 1840s, to work out how much money people had to pay to support their parish church. They show every building and piece of land, and their accompanying 'awards' list owners, occupiers, land use and amount of tithe payable. For many Somerset parishes they are the earliest map showing the whole parish. They are an invaluable historical source and are heavily used by many people including archaeologists, local historians, house historians and rights of way researchers.



(The image is of Brompton d'Evercy tithe map, 1838. (Brompton is next to West Coker, very near to Yeovil.)

Tithe maps come in all shapes and sizes - some are beautifully coloured, some are quite plain line drawings, some are tiny, our largest (Dulverton) is three metres wide!

On Tuesday 13 March we will have an introductory look at some tithe maps and awards, finding out why and how they were made, and have the chance to examine some in detail. We will also have the chance to go into the archive strongrooms to see where they are stored. Mervyn Richens, the archives conservator, will demonstrate how the maps are repaired and preserved.

Last, but by no means least, there will be a chance to see our Tithe Map Digitisation Project in action. We are in the middle of getting all 502 of our tithe maps digitised. This will create high quality colour digital versions of the maps where you can zoom in to see fine details. From late summer onwards, the finished images will be available at the Somerset Heritage Centre, and elsewhere around the county.

Alongside the digitisation of the maps, as you all know, the Friends have been transcribing the tithe awards, and you will hear about this side of the project. Find out if your parish has been "done" - and if not, you can see what's involved and decide if you might like to transcribe one yourself.

To book a space, please email the Archives on archives@somerset.gov.uk or phone us on 01823 278805.

Another Queen's Diamond jubilee - how some Somerset places celebrated in 1897 - from Anne Murch

When Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated there were, as there will be this year, local celebrations and some records survive, some of which are in the Heritage centre archives, some in local newspapers of the day. Beacons were lit, church services, processions and sports events held, teas and dinners provided for rich and poor, young and old, commemorative mugs and medals given and patriotic songs, poems and hymns written and sung.

In Wedmore celebrations began very early at 12.01 a.m. with a salute from the local "target" and bells rung with the hoisting of the flag on the church tower at sunrise 3.45 a.m. One wonders whether all the inhabitants would have welcomed such an early wake up call. The Friendly Societies and the Brass and Reed band marched to the church before the morning service. A procession after the service, round the village and to the field "known for the last ten years as the Jubilee Ground", included "Banner, Band, Police, Army Pensioners and Reserve Men, Court Leet Officers, Churchwardens and Ministers, Choir, Hearts of Oak Society, Oddfellows, Parish Council, School Board, Overseers, Jubilee Committee and as the order sheet humourously put it "every other man and boy who expects to dine"". The pensioners wore their medals including from the Crimea and Egypt. One had a medal for distinguished bravery for capturing an English gun the Russians were stealing. A lunch was held for nearly 700 people - beef, mutton and lamb, salad, cucumbers and cheese, beer and cider- with a toast to the Queen and the National Anthem. Sports followed including a tug of war between married and single (married won) and north and south (a draw). Twice as many people sat down to tea of bread and butter and cake. Housebound invalids and old were provided for at home.

In the evening there was dancing and at 10.00 pm a signal rocket led to lighting the bonfire and nearly forty other fires could be " counted on the distant hills, Brent Knoll showing up prominently".

There were fires all over the county at ten o'clock and, as it was a fine night, people had a good view. Over a hundred were counted from Cothelstone and ninety seven from near Cock Hill on the Poldens. There was also a powerful search light somewhere near Wookey and in several places rockets and coloured fires.

At Nailsea they started the festivities later than Wedmore with a late morning procession of Rector and Vicar, mounted Yeomanry, 1st D and S Royal Engineer Volunteers, Horsemen, Members of Friendly Societies, Band, Schoolchildren, Pedestrians, Carriages etc. A feu de joie was fired by the Royal Engineers. They had a dinner, sports and old English games, an organ recital, a tea (before which Day and Sunday scholars were presented with a Jubilee mug), another organ recital and dancing. "The Aged and sick will have their portion sent them from the table and all Meat, Bread and Potatoes remaining as well as all Soup made from the bones will be given to the poor".

In Nether Stowey they planned to have "a luncheon for those over fourteen, a tea for those under that age and sports if funds allow". Other suggestions which may not have happened were repairing the parish clock or erecting a lamp post at the cross.

In Burtle a service was held with the band in the organ loft, then the band led the people to a field for games including Aunt Sally and roundabouts, a tea in a large tent for the children and in the schoolroom for older parishioners. At dusk dancing was carried out in the tent till 12 o'clock. At the end of the day "the outburst of applause proved their pleasure and closed one of the pleasantest and brightest days (all being in unity) that Burtle has seen for many years. The village itself was decorated very tastefully with arches &c, flags being exhibited at nearly every house".

Catcott was gaily decorated with bunting and flags and an arch of evergreens and flowers erected near the school. All over fifteen had a meat tea and that was followed by sports and later a bonfire on Polden Hill where patriotic songs were sung. On a separate day the children had tea in the school and there was a village dance.

In Edington between 50 and 60 residents had a supper provided by Miss Westmacott in the National schoolroom, the entrance made gay with Chinese lanterns. She also gave an account of visiting London during the festivities.

Ashcott had a procession of "villagers of all ages and conditions", a service, a tea in a spacious barn and in the evening dancing, rustic amusements and sports. The village was "gay with arches and flags", the collection of flowers for one of the arches being done by the schoolchildren. They also planned to have a church bell recast.

In Wembdon it was planned to have a dinner for parishioners over 50 and tea for all the parishioners and the services of an efficient brass band.

In Taunton there was a dinner in Vivary Park for all poor persons of both sexes aged over 50 which had to be applied for through clergy or non conformist ministers. They also had a trades procession, members of which would also dine in Vivary park.

A certain Samuel Lane of 6 Mary St. Taunton published an Ode in Honour of the Diamond Jubilee which he sent to Buckingham Palace and got an acknowledgment. He also wrote a song beginning "On Queen Victoria's Diamond Day,

I into Taunton went
To see the pretty Jubilee maids
It was my sole intent;
I with a few companions
Were bent upon a lark,
We saw a lot of Jubilee maids
Dancing in Vivary park".

It sounds from these reports that a lot of effort was put into these celebrations.

References: Somerset Heritage Centre Archives and Bridgwater Mercury

THE FIRE GUARD - kindly provided by Jack Sweet, Local Historian

In 1937, Great Britain began to establish its civil defence services as war clouds gathered over Europe, and they developed quickly in response to the widespread air attacks on the country following the fall of France in the summer of 1940.

The large scale bombing of cities and towns, although carried out to a limited extent in the First World War, soon became a grim and frightening form of total war designed to disrupt and destroy civilian as well as military targets. A frightening new element, introduced into what was already an appalling situation, was the fire raid. High explosive bombs, whilst very destructive, were final and destroyed buildings which once reduced to rubble were less prone to catch fire. However, when a large number of incendiary bombs were mixed with high explosives, fires would be started in the smashed buildings and ruptured gas pipes and mains, and the resulting

fires could seriously disrupt, if not overwhelm, the fire and civil defence services. Fires would soon get out of control and destroy more and more buildings as they leapt from area to area. The fire attacks on London in the autumn and winter blitz of 1940/41 were to underline this in a new and terrible manner.

Initially much of the fire fighting was carried out by individuals defending their homes and places of work, either collectively in volunteer groups, or alone in many untold actions with water and sand. This situation was soon to change when the Government introduced compulsory fire guard duties early in 1941. All men between the ages of 18 and 63, and women between 20 and 45, were required to register with their local Council for Fire Guard duty, either at their place of work or in their streets.

The duty of the Fire Guard was to watch for the fall of bombs, to guard the neighbourhood and turn out to tackle fires. The Fire Guard was controlled by a Senior Officer and grouped into units of about 75 to 80 people, usually centred on a block of streets and buildings. In Yeovil, the Fire Guard was commanded by Mr. George Atkinson with its HQ at Church House in Church Street.

The Fire Guards' main weapon was water, generally delivered by the famous stirrup pump at an average rate of one and a half gallons per minute to a distance of some 30 feet. There was usually one stirrup pump for every 30 houses manned by a team of three. Number 1 was in charge and carried an axe and if available, a torch or lamp, together with a bucket of water. Number 2 carried the pump and number 3 had two buckets of water. Going into action the pump was placed in the bucket of water, number 1 took charge of the hose and attacked the fire whilst number 2 pumped and number 3 kept up the water supply. These civilian warriors were protected by a steel helmet and were thrown into the front line to tackle incendiary bombs, some of which were designed to explode spraying fire in all directions, and high explosive bombs dropped to scatter the incendiaries over a wide area and cause casualties amongst the fire fighters.

The Fire Guard was trained to tackle fire bombs in buildings and ignore those dropped on open ground for the obvious reason that incendiaries burning in the open were of little or no danger. Being a Fire Guard was no mean task - even if there was no air raid, there was the boredom of night duty.

Following the invasion of North West Europe on 6 June 1944, and with the Allies mastery of the air over much of the Continent, the risk of fire bombing was substantially reduced and the duty of fire watching night after night became more boring and disliked. The adrenaline no longer pumped as it had when the sirens wailed and the uneven throb of the Luftwaffe's engines filled the night sky. Although the serious V weapon attacks on London and Southern England commenced in the summer of 1944 and continued until March 1945, the threat of fire raids was receding rapidly in most other parts of the country. Fire watching soon became one of the most disliked of all the demands placed on the civilian population and added to the general war weariness.

In September 1944, with the end of the war seemingly in sight, compulsory fire drills and training sessions were discontinued and by the early months of 1945, the Fire Guard stood down; fire watching officially ended on 21 March 1945.

Mr. George Atkinson was awarded the British Empire Medal at the end of the war for his services to the Yeovil Fire Guard.

Remedies

Any member of the Friends still suffering from a possible over indulgence in alcohol at Christmas may find the following remedies helpful
from Sue Berry

An approved medicine for the Goute

Take cleane flax, blacke soape, and the yolke, and white of an egge, and temper¹ them together, and lay to the soare, and it shall ease the peine.

Alternatively, you may prefer the following although catching the flies might be a problem

Take Bricke, and beate it small, and serce² it, and put a quantity of wine viniger to it, then take 3, or 4 flies called Canturydis³, and bruse them amonste it, and soe make a salve, and lay it to the grieved parte fower, or five times over, and it will draw a Blister which pricke, and let out the walter.

1 Temper - to heat

2 Possibly meaning souse or soak

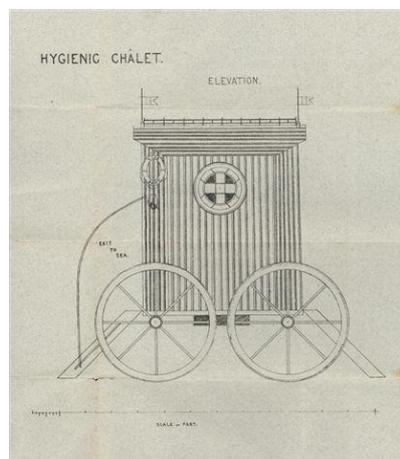
3 The cantharides or "Spanish" fly

A Very Brief History Of The Bathing Machine by Sue Berry



The following piece is based on research undertaken for a longer article to be published in SANHS's second volume on Somerset's maritime history later this year.

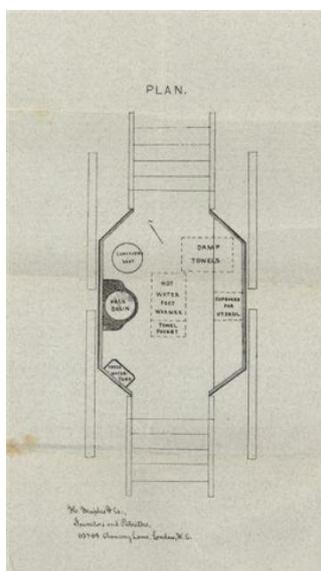
In Somerset, Minehead was among the first seaside resorts to develop. In 1794 it was said of the town that "on account of the pleasantness of the situation and salubrity of the air, a number of persons of fashion have been induced to visit it as a bathing place in the summer season". By 1797 there is pictorial evidence of there being at least some provision for the intrepid bather on Minehead's beach. In that year, John Frederick Doveton of Blagdon, who was on a walking tour of Exmoor, arrived at a point where he could see the prospect of Minehead's North Hill with, in the foreground, the harbour and the beach. He sketched the scene, showing on the beach, at the edge of the water, a small wooden hut on wheels with steps leading up to a door at one end allowing access to the water, a bathing machine.



Bathing machines were an essential part of sea bathing as both sexes bathed naked to begin with and men were not legally obliged to wear a costume until 1880. Women were enveloped in bathing costumes which covered them practically from head to foot earlier than this. Although bathers were segregated by sex and bathed from different areas of the beach, it was considered essential that they should not catch sight of each other out of the water and the bathing machines enabled them to enter the water without being seen from the beach. The

author Tobias Smollet described the use of a bathing machine in one of his novels. "Imagine to yourself a small, snug, wooden chamber, fixed upon a wheel-carriage, having a door at each end, and on each side a little window above, a bench below -

The bather, ascending into this apartment by wooden steps, shuts himself in, and begins to undress, while the attendant yokes a horse to the end next the sea, and draws the carriage forwards, til the surface of the water is on a level with the floor of the dressingroom, then he moves and fixes the horse to the other end - The person within being stripped, opens the door to the sea-ward, where he finds the guide ready, and plunges headlong into the water - After having bathed, he re-ascends into the apartment, by the steps which had been shifted for that purpose, and puts on his clothes at his leisure, while the carriage is drawn back again upon the dry land; so that he has nothing further to do, but to open the door, and come down as he went up - Should he be so weak or ill as to require a servant to put off and on his clothes, there is room enough in the apartment for half a dozen people".



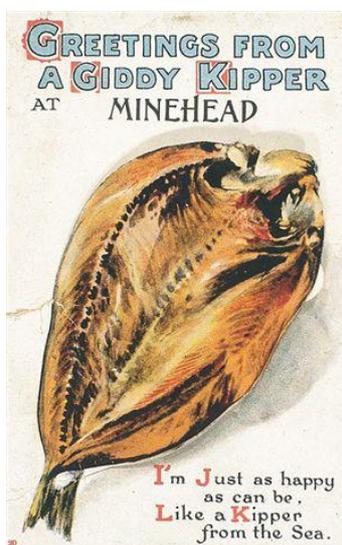
As noted above, Minehead had at least one bathing machine as early as 1797. In the mid 1820s a local poet wrote of the three horse drawn bathing machines there and noted the price charged, one shilling a dip. In 1829 the bathing machines at Weston super Mare were described as "well built and are kept clean and neat...females being accompanied, if required, by careful and experienced bathing women". The numbers of those wishing to take advantage of this facility was, in fact, so great that despite the fact that more machines were being provided they "were not, even yet, sufficiently numerous" to prevent bathers having to wait their turn at the busiest times. By 1836 at Burnham on Sea "for the accommodation of those individuals who may prefer bathing in the sea at high water, suitable machines are kept, with proper attendants". In 1864 *The New Handbook of Clevedon and the Neighbourhood* described the bathing machines there as "recently constructed" and "perfectly safe and clean. Those for Gentlemen are kept at the South end, and those for Ladies at the North end of the Beach".

In 1854 Weston's beach was "well supplied with commodious and strongly-build bathing machines, which are kept extremely clean and neat. Experienced female attendants for the ladies are always at hand. The cost of a machine on a single occasion is sixpence". The ladies' bathing machines were at Glentworth Bay and the men's were opposite the Grand Atlantic Hotel. When Henry Hodges was fined one shilling for bathing in front of another hotel, the magistrate, whose daughter had apparently reported the incident, is said to have commented that "if she wasn't so damned short sighted, it would have been two shillings and sixpence".

In March 1887 *The Sanitary Record* reported on the The Hygienic Châlet Sea Bathing Company's plans for a new and improved bathing machine. "The advantages, briefly summarised, are that it provides bathers with a warm room on returning from the sea, hot and cold water, hot towels and a dry floor - hygienic comforts that should render its general adoption a question of only a short time". The patentee circulated his prospectus to seaside resorts including Weston in the hope of persuading the towns to buy his new improved machine. The use of

bathing machines continued into the 20th century but when over 100 of Weston's were destroyed by a fierce storm in 1903 they were not replaced, the authorities presumably considering them unnecessary by this time.

However, as late as 1935 the use of bathing machines and the wearing of appropriate costumes on the beach became a *cause celebre* at Minehead. The Daily Express reported in July that year that the Somerset County Council had ordered notices to be put up in the resort to the effect that "Persons bathing near the esplanade must use a machine, tent or other effectual screen. Further, they must wear some garment in such a manner as to prevent improper exposure". The Town Council met on the 12th August and a motion was put forward "that as practically all other British Seaside Resorts permit undressing on their beaches, the Council requests the persons responsible for the recently imposed restrictions to remove them, as in the opinion of the Council they are quite unnecessary and do not further the interests of a progressive Seaside Resort". The motion was not carried, suggesting that a majority of the members of the Council did not regard themselves as that progressive. Some local people saw a more humorous side to the argument. Two days before the Council meeting a local newspaper carried an advertisement on behalf of a local firm of outfitters headed "Bathing without costumes on Minehead Beach. In view of the fact that the above sport, pastime or recreation is strongly forbidden, we ask all bathers not to express their pleasure, or displeasure, by appearing on the beach in weird, grotesque or fantastic costumes. You owe it to yourself to see that your Bathing Suit garbs you as in a mantle of the valiant. Unless you have visited, and seen, and been fitted with your costume at F. H. Cornish & Son you have not done the duty you owe to yourself as A MAN".



The bathing machine as such seems to have disappeared from Somerset's beaches after this time but in a final touch of nostalgia it can still be seen, albeit without its wheels, reincarnated as the beach hut where tea can be made and the newspaper can be read, safe in the knowledge that if the British summer weather lives up to its reputation, shelter is at hand.

Somerset Heritage Centre

For details of what events are being held at the Heritage Centre, please visit <http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/>

New Accessions December 2011-February 2012

Not all of these collections have been listed, but they are all available for research at the Heritage Centre. If you cannot find the details on our online catalogue (www.somerset.gov.uk/dserve), please get in touch and we can give you more information.

Parish records

Castle Cary: information on the West and East windows, 2011 (D\P\cas)

Dinder: parish magazines, 1947-1952 (A\DJF)

Dunster: additional parish records, service registers, burial register, baptism register and vestry minutes with accounts, 1919-2007 (D\P\du)
East Brent: parish copy of tithe map, 1840 (D\P\brnt.e)
Hinton St George: service registers, 1913-1960 (D\P\hin.g)
Oldmixon parish records, including service registers, banns register, parish boundary plans, deeds for the site of the church and burial fees chart, 1954-2003 (D\P\old)
Podymore Milton: copy of tithe map and apportionment, c.1840 (A\DJJS)
Rockwell Green: records of All Saints Church, 19th-20th century (D\P\rw.g)
Taunton St. Mary Magdalene: architects' plans, working files and photographs relating to the building of the Magdalene Centre and the servery at the back of the church, 1988-1993 (D\P\tau.m) (4 boxes)
Thorne St. Margaret: church records and registers, 20th century (D\P\th.m)

Transcripts, copies and monumental inscriptions

'Bathwick Memorial Inscriptions: St. Mary's and St. John's Churches and (Old) Churchyards', 2011; CD-Rom memorial inscriptions for Bathwick St. Mary and Smallcombe Vale Cemetery, 2011 (A\CQY/46)
Burnham area monumental inscriptions, [1500-2010] (DD\X\MDT)
Nailsea: transcriptions of Nailsea Christ Church parish registers on CD-Rom, 1847-1910 (A\CQY)
Master negative microfilms of Somerset newspapers for 2010 (T\PH\tbl)
Digital copy of a volume of surveys and maps of the Fairfield estate by Charles Chilcott, DD\AH/65/12, [1795] (T\PH\sro)

Nonconformist records

West Somerset Methodist Circuit: miscellaneous records including those for the churches of Alcombe, Brendon Hill, Porlock, Winsford and Minehead, and papers concerning the Leonard Stoate Charity, 19th century-20th century (D\N\wsc) (4 boxes)
West Somerset Methodist Circuit additional records: attendance register, circuit meetings; registration certificates; Washford Methodist Chapel sale; trustees of Watchet Minister's House, 1825-2008 (D\N\wsc)
Christians Together in Minehead: minutes and associated papers, 1970s-2000s (A\DJJJ)

Local government records

Brent Knoll Parish Council records: correspondence, 1998-2011 (D\PC\brnt.e)
Clevedon: poor rate books, 1898-1921 (D\PC\wsm)
Neroche Parish Council: correspondence, 2003-2008 (D\PC\ner)
Odcombe Parish Council: minutes, correspondence, highways, Rights of Way, public health, bus shelter, telephone boxes, water, elections, 1952 Coronation Committee, financial papers, 19th century-2007 (D\PC\odc) (5 boxes)
Sandford Arundel: parish council minutes, April 2007-December 2008 (D\PC\sa.a)
Wembdon Parish Council records: minutes, accounts, correspondence, maps, etc., 1895-2011 (D\PC\wem)

Bridgwater and West Somerset: electoral registers for 2002-2012 (Q\RER)

Sedgemoor District Council: electoral register for 2012 (Q\RER)

Taunton Market: plans of livestock market, 1960s-1980s, photographs of the market in action, 1997 (D\DC\tau.d)

Taunton Deane Borough Council: electoral register for 2012 (Q\RER)

Taunton and Wellington District Councils: files, plans and associated papers concerning slum clearance, etc., in districts administered by Taunton Borough Council, Taunton Rural District Council, Wellington Urban District Council and Wellington Rural District Council, c.1920s-1940s (8 boxes) (D\DC\tau.d)

Somerset County Council: County Architect: papers mainly relating to maintenance work on Somerset churches, 1950s-early 1980s (C/CA) (5 boxes)

Somerset County Council: Education Department, Schools Administration: school governors' working files, 1992-1993 (3 boxes) (C/EDSA)

Clubs, societies' and associations' records

Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds: photograph album of celebrities who supported and hunted with the stag hounds 1855-1865 and associated papers, 1855-1904 (A\BGE)

Minehead: Inner Wheel Club of Minehead: minutes, 1952-2010 (A\DJJE)

Somerset Association of Secondary Heads (SASH): files of minutes and conference programmes, 2002-2007 (A\DJP)

Somerset Federation of Women's Institutes: records mainly for Brean and Odcombe, but also relating to the City of Wells, Brewham and District, Brushford, Cranmore and Doulting, Stoke St Michael, Templecombe, Langport and North Petherton, 1950s-2000s (5 boxes) (DD\WI)

South West Fire Service: AGM, Board of Directors and Remuneration Committee minutes, 2007-2010 2 A\DJU)

School records

Somerset County Council lists of elementary schools, 1906-1945 (A\DIF)

Binegar Church of England School: log book, admission register, sales book, scrapbooks and photographs, 19th century-20th century (A\DKF)

Kingsdon (Primary) School: admission registers, log books, school managers' and PTA minutes, sales book and accounts, 1872-1997 (A\DKA)

Rockwell Green School: correspondence, 20th century (A\BPI)

Staplegrave C of E Primary School records, 20th century (A\BFV)

St. Andrew's C of E School, Taunton: newsletters and Governors' minutes, 2002-2011 (A\ARQ)

Wellington School records, including: magazines, photographs, property records, staff registers, pupil lists, records of clubs and societies, sports records, chapel service registers, correspondence and letter books, 19th century-21st century (47 boxes) (A\DKH)

Yeovil: log book of Huish Boy's School, 1905-1939 (A\DKC)

Business records

Bridgwater Cellophane records, including: photographs, magazines and publications, 20th century (DD\BLM) (3 boxes)

Leigh on Mendip: account book relating to a smallholding, 1939-1959 (A\DKB)

Taunton: deeds relating to the George Inn, 17th-20th century (A\DJT)

Taunton: deeds relating to Full Moon pub and other documents, 1888-1977 (DD\UK)

Military records

Somerset Light Infantry: personal correspondence and associated papers of Frederick Charles Drane of Trealaw, South Wales, a soldier in the Somerset Light Infantry, early 20th century (A\DJD)

Somerset Light Infantry: papers of Ronald Baker including photograph of Marne Squad and printed letter from Montgomery, 1937-1946 (A\DKJ)

Taunton: street plans with possible Home Guard locations marked on it, 1940s (DD\X\SOM)

Photograph of the 6th Somerset (Admiralty) Battalion, Home Guard, Headquarters Signals, 1942 (A\DKK)

Photographs concerning World War II on the Mendips, the Defence of Britain Project and war memorials and graves, compiled for Donald Brown's book *Somerset versus Hitler*, [1940s]-1990s (A\BOR)

Somerset Light Infantry: *Lion Magazine*, 'Badges of the Brave' series, 1964 (A\DKI)

Research papers

Bishop Sutton: house history of The Redlands, 1821-1953 (A\DKM)

Evercreech: manuscript history of Evercreech, c.1811-1882 (DD\WM)

Nailsea: school project on Nailsea's development and other papers, late 20th century (A\BDY)

Shepton Beauchamp historical research, late 20th century (DD\X\PRC)

Archaeological records

Hawkcombe Head, Exmoor: excavation project work, December 2011 (A\AWI)

Wick St Lawrence: archaeology report concerning the church and churchyard, 2012 (D\P\wick)

Somerset: aerial photographs of Somerset archaeological sites, created by Devon Air Photos, 1990s (C/ENAH) (5 boxes)

Family papers

Clay family: scrapbooks of Betty St Clair Clay, née Baden-Powell, 1929-1994; diaries of Gerard Clay, 1891-1962; photograph album of G C R Clay, 1925-1928, South West of England Girl Guide Records, 1891-1994 (A\DKG) (16 boxes)

Horse family: wills, deeds and other documents relating mainly to the Horse family of Frome, 1819-1897 (A\DKC)

Sydenham family of Dulverton records, including deeds for various Dulverton properties, for the manor and parsonage of East Ansty, papers in the case of Sydenham vs. Tregonwell and 1781 survey of Dulverton, 17th century-18th century (A\DKL) (3 boxes)

Other records

Barrington Court: planting plans of proposed gardens, drawn by Forbes and Tate and based on Gertrude Jekyll planting plans, 1917-1920 (DD\NA)

Butleigh Court Estate: three maps, 1922-1947 (A\DJJ)

Henton: Photograph of the Peace Day celebrations, [1919] (A\DJG)

Ilminster: sale catalogue of Jersey Cattle of R P Wheadon, 1919 (A\DJL)

Langport: plan of suggested development to Langport and Huish Episcopi memorial field and village hall, March 1955 (DD\C)

Nailsea: The David Cains Collection of photographs, 2005 (A\BDO)

Norton sub Hamdon: hedgerow survey and conveyance of orchard, 1856-1998 (A\BPB)

River Parrett flood prevention plans, estuary schemes and other assorted waterways documents, 1898-1967 (D\RA)

Somerton: picture album entitled *Somerton and Neighbourhood*, early 20th century (A\DJH)

Staple Fitzpaine: watercolour painting of village and church; deeds and correspondence relating to Chard, 19th century (DD\X\WBB)

Taunton: deeds and plans relating to Hammet's Wharf, 1927-2004 (A\AUS)

Wellington: account books and assorted documents, 1590-1919 (DD\S\GLY)

West Buckland: book of recipes and remedies, c.1650 (A\DKO)

Winscombe: *An evacuee's stay in Somerset* by Walter Powell, photographs and additional information, 1939-2006 (A\DJN)

Wyke Champflower; copy of indenture for pastureland and transcription of same, c.1578 (A\DKD)

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Items For Sale

We still have a number of books and CDs that Paul Mansfield has kindly donated to the Friends for sale to help raise funds.

We have the following titles.

Norris' Taunton Journal 1725 to 1727. Indexed and filmed by Paul Mansfield. A full facsimile of the original with an index on one cd-rom for £4.00 post free to the U.K. and £4.60 overseas.

Books

A Catalogue of Unfortunate Incidents - Inquests and Death by Misadventure in 18th Century Somerset and Surrounds. - £6.00 including UK postage. Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Somerset Archives and send to 102 Monks Dale, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3JH

And Finally About two years ago I acquired a copy of "The Parish Chest" by W E Tale, B.Litt., FSA, being the third printing in 1960. It looked so boring my eyes glazed over as soon as I saw the cover - but being in bed with a bad cold recently I finally got around to reading it. This book is really fascinating - I'm not sure if it can be obtained from local libraries - but might be worth asking.

The next edition of The Snippets should be coming out at the end of May/early June.