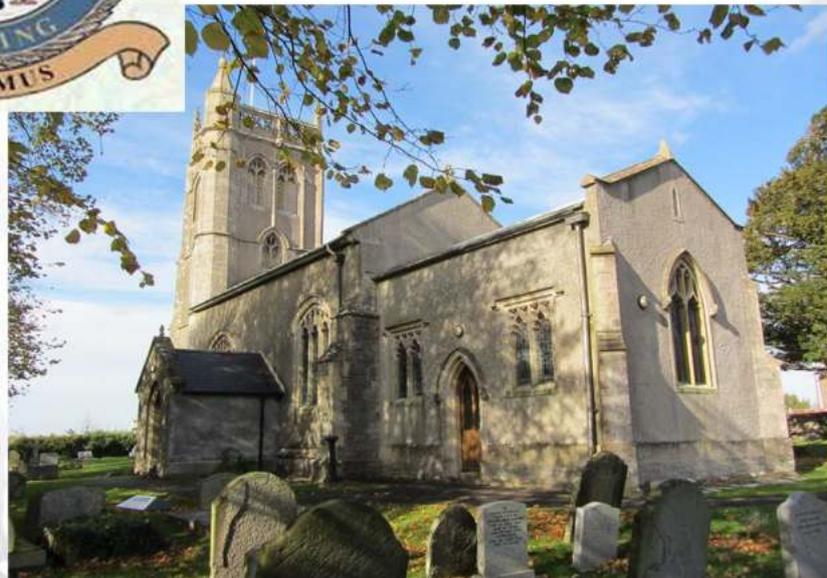
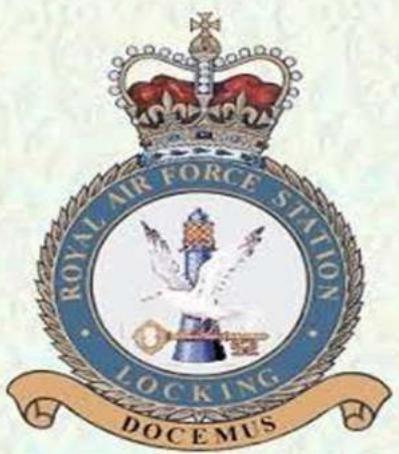


Buckets & Spades



Issue 95
June 2018
wsmfhs.org.uk



The Society, which was founded in 1983, grew out of an Adult Education Class which had been inspired by Brian Austin (now a Life Member) to continue their research. It has grown into an active membership of over 200 who come from all parts of the world as well as those who live locally.

The area covered by the Society includes Weston-super-Mare and the Parishes in North Somerset and in the Axbridge Registration District as shown on the back cover.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except August and December, at the Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR. The doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments and informal research. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. *New members and visitors are always welcome.*

The Society tries to encourage and stimulate interest in family history generally and has a very positive link with Weston-super-Mare Library, which has excellent local history resources and facilities. Each Saturday, volunteers from the membership are in the Library from 2.00pm until 3.30pm to assist anyone who wants to start searching for their ancestors or who has a problem with their research. Similar meetings are held monthly in the Libraries at Portishead, Worle and at the Healthy Living Centre in Weston.

Enquiries may be made through our website www.wsmfhs.org.uk – Use the ‘Contact Us’ button towards the top right-hand corner of the home page.

Enquiries can also be addressed to the Secretary of the Society
125, Totterdown Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4L, accompanied with a SAE please.

Honorary Life Members

Brian Austin, 2001; Mrs Pat Hase, 2005; Paul Tracey, 2014

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RAF Locking Badge; Restored WWII Control Tower & Pilots' Block; St Augustine's Church, Locking

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Please note that the next issue is due for publication at our November meeting. The deadline for articles is 31 October 2018. Thank you.



**Editorial
by Sue Maguire**

Hello Everyone!

June is now here and I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of 'Buckets and Spades'. Once again, thank you to all contributors and, if anyone has not submitted anything for our Journal yet, or for a while, please do so. Articles (short or long!) and photos are always appreciated. Please remember your submissions need to reach me before 31 October so I can finalise our November issue and get it to the printers. You can also speak with me at any of our monthly Society Meetings. Thank you and I wish you all a very happy summer.

My email address is smaguire15@yahoo.co.uk

SITUATION VACANT

- Do you want to meet people with a similar interest?
- Chat to them in an informal atmosphere?
- Sign up to our rota of tea and coffee makers for our monthly meetings.

Remember - limited spaces are available. We only have 10 meetings each year, so you don't get this opportunity very often!

Please apply to Pat Hase and choose your dates. Thank you!



Thoughts from the Chair by Pat Hase



I'm writing this at the end of May, in beautiful weather, rejoicing in the ever-changing seasons and enjoying the new growth everywhere – even if it does mean that the garden will need attention soon and time for family history will inevitably become less.

Researching my family history has given me a focal point for understanding the changes which I see around me. The closure of familiar High Street shops caused by changes in shopping opportunities highlights how marketing has changed over the years. In the early 1800s, Hannah Gould, who lived in the High Street, Weston-super-Mare, roughly where Marks and Spencer is now, reportedly bought loaves of bread from a bread cart which visited, possibly from Worle, and kept them on her table, covered with a cloth until they were sold.

Family History isn't just collecting names and dates – it's also discovering how our ancestors lived and not forgetting our own contribution to our families. How times have changed during our own lifetimes, and especially during the lifetime of our parents.

We are facing changes brought about by developments in technology but so did our ancestors – the industrial revolution resulted in many of our ancestors moving from the countryside into towns and many had to learn new skills. However, they did not have to cope with Data Protection Legislation which has exercised the committee over the past few months. An Updated Privacy Document is included in our terms and Conditions found at the foot of our web page.

<http://www.wsmfhs.org.uk/terms-conditions> If anyone reading this without online facilities requires to read it, a copy can be obtained by contacting the Secretary, whose postal address is elsewhere in this Journal.

Developments in DNA analysis has given family historians another resource to use for their research but like all the other resources you do have to familiarise yourself with how to interpret your findings. One of the natural results of adapting to changing circumstances is an initial feeling of complete inadequacy until we have mastered the new skill to cope with it. I remember some advice given to me when I was just starting my research which was – ‘take it slowly, don’t rush at it but consider each piece of information and understand its context before you assimilate it into your family tree’.

As a Society we try to offer as many opportunities as possible for assisting our members and others to understand the background to their research. We have well supported Monthly Meetings and are continuing with our Annual Lunch which this year will take place on 1 October. We need to have someone who will oversee the rota for making the refreshments at our Monthly Meetings, also members who will volunteer to take their turn. Could you help us? Please contact me if you can.

We are grateful to those members who volunteer at the Saturday Help Sessions in Weston Library which reaches out to those who we hope will become members. Thank you also to those members who have offered their time and expertise at the free Help Sessions at Worle, The Healthy Living Centre and Portishead Libraries. It has been disappointing to find the numbers of the public attending these sessions has not warranted our volunteers’ time and we have reluctantly decided to stop them at the end of June. Should there be a demand in the future we will reconsider this provision or could offer it in different localities in our area.

If you have any ideas of what the Society could be providing for its membership, please let us know.

NEW!

WESTON-SUPER-MARE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY MUGS

Society mugs will soon be available for purchase - £4 for members and £5 for non-members. We hope you like the chosen design and that you will purchase one and bring it to our Monthly Society Meetings. The aim is to help reduce waste which we create by using paper cups. The mug could also be a nice souvenir or a gift for someone.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT KEW

Our last visit to the National Archives at Kew saw 30 members trying to extend their knowledge of their family histories. Thanks go to our friends from Clevedon for supporting us so well. As usual, there was a mixture of euphoria at discovering more than they set to find and resignation at not breaking down brick walls! I am sure more members would benefit from coming with us on our next visit.

by Brian and Pam Airey

**WSMFHS Autumn Lunch
at Worlebury Golf Club
Monday, 1 October 2018
12 for 12.30pm**



Wild mushroom soup
Smoked salmon, crème fraiche
Venison terrine

Chicken breast, red wine and onion sauce
Lamb shank
Fresh fillet of sea bass

Apple and autumnal berry crumble
Chocolate profiteroles
Crème brulee

Coffee and mints

£20.00 per person

Please contact Peter de Dulin about your choice and payment

**HISTORY EXHIBITION
in St Augustine's Church, Locking**

There is a small Local History Exhibition in St Augustine's Church and the displays include interesting photos and facts about Locking Village, its Church and the former RAF Camp. The Church is normally open from 10am to dusk on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. If you visit on a Thursday afternoon, as well as a warm welcome, you will be able to enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee with biscuits, kindly provided by Mary and Ed!

**WESTON AVIATION EXHIBITION
at the Helicopter Museum**

This is another interesting Exhibition and it is housed in the recently restored Pilots' Block at The Helicopter Museum. It covers the history of Weston Airfield, RAF Locking and the Oldmixon and Banwell factories.

**'THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!'
PUNCH AND JUDY THROUGH THE AGES
at Weston Museum**

This **FREE** Exhibition runs from **26 May to 16 September 2018**. The Museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm and, in August, there will be live Punch & Judy Performances every Friday. For further information, phone 01934 621028.



**HUTTON, OLDMIXON AND LOCKING BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
CELEBRATES ITS 90th ANNIVERSARY**

In January 2018 the Hutton, Oldmixon and Locking Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) celebrated its 90th Anniversary. This milestone event was marked by a Thanksgiving Church Service on Saturday, 13 January at St Marys Church Hutton and followed by light refreshments in Hutton Village Hall. The service was led by the Rector Rev Anne Wilkins and attended by local dignitaries, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Weston-super-Mare Councillor Mrs Jos Holder and Councillor Mrs Roz Willis as well as residents of all three communities. The church choir was supported by Hutton School singers and readings were given by members of the Locking Scout Group.

The Branch was founded in 1928 by local people, both ex-armed Forces and civilians, who had suffered as a result of their service or had lost relatives during the First World War. That suffering took many forms, from the effects of a war wound on a man's ability to support his family to a war widow's struggle to give her children an education. This led to the formation of the Hutton and Oldmixon Branch of the Legion and after a brief time Locking Village was also included, forming the Branch we have today.

The first meetings were held in the early 1920s in a wooden hut build on land owned by the Bisdee Family, on the site now occupied by Hutton Village Hall. In May 1939, the Legion Hut and land were conveyed to the Branch by the Bisdee Family and it became the permanent home of the Hutton, Oldmixon and Locking Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The Branch held regular meetings in the hut until 1976 when the current Hutton Village Hall was built on the land and the Legion Hut was demolished. The new Village Hall incorporated a dedicated British Legion Room which is now the home of the Branch and it is where meetings are held.

In 1928, the first Branch Poppy Appeal raised £4.16s.0d. The total raised for the 2017 Poppy Appeal was £18,462.77; an all-time record for the Branch. Remembrance Sunday is commemorated at the Hutton War Memorial close to the Village Hall. The Memorial was erected circa 1920 and was initially dedicated in 1927 and re-dedicated in 2001.

The RBL Branch is the oldest organisation in Hutton and new members are always welcome. The Branch meets at Hutton Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Please come along and be assured of a very warm welcome.

**by Jim Maunder
Hutton, Oldmixon and Locking Branch RBL Press Officer**



Cutting the 90th Anniversary Celebration Cake

SAPPER JOHN GLIMSTEAD

There is only one War Memorial in Locking. It is in St Augustine's Church and dedicated to John Glimstead killed in 1917 near Ypres during the Battle of Passchendaele.



He was born in Locking in 1880, son of George and Ann Glimstead. He had 5 sisters and 2 brothers, and he attended Locking School and Church. In the 1891 census, John is listed as an 11-year old scholar and his father as a farm labourer, probably at Rectory Farm in Locking.



His nephews, Jack and Cecil Glimstead (sons of his elder brother Robert), can be seen in the Locking school photo taken outside the Church in 1910, and his sister Minnie in a photo taken outside Myrtle Cottage (now The Old Rectory). John married Florence Norris at Locking Church on 12 April 1914. They had a son, also called John, born on 20 April 1917 and he died in 2004.

It is not known when he joined up but by 1917 he was 495145 Sapper Glimstead, 476th Field Coy, Royal Engineers, 61st Division in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele.

In August 1917, the 61st were involved in battle near Langemarck. Rain and shells turned the battlefield to mud. So many of them slipped and fell in that wilderness of shell holes so that their rifles became clogged with mud and could not be fired; but the attackers went forward with the bayonet as their only weapon. They could not keep up with the barrage and the fire from the German machine guns struck them in front and from flank. The attack came to a standstill. In early September, the fighting raged near Wieltje.

Sapper Glimstead was killed on Sunday, 2 September 1917. The War Diary for that day reports that '*L/c Boyd & Sapper Glimstead were killed taking shelter in a dugout whilst returning from work at 11am*'. As a Sapper he would probably have worked digging trenches.

He is buried in grave B.26 at the Wieltje Farm Cemetery, near Ypres, shown in the photo opposite. He never saw his son.



by Simon Begent
Weston Helicopter Museum Volunteer and Locking Resident

NEW BOOK

‘Weston-super-Mare History Tour’ by Stephen Butt

‘This book provides a unique insight into the illustrious history of this famous old seaside resort and shows how much it has changed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It contains images of well-known and less well-known landmarks.’ (Amberley Publishing: ISBN 978-1-4456-7815-3)

STEPHEN BUTT

WESTON-SUPER-MARE HISTORY TOUR



GERMAN BANDS IN GREAT BRITAIN

This request was made to one of our members a while ago and, as you will see, some information has been received. Can anyone else now help? If so, please contact the Editor. Thank you!

Dear Mrs Towey

I'm a German musicologist living in Kaiserslautern; the nearby Region is known as 'Musikantenland' because in the second half of the 19th century many itinerant musicians from here went to England to earn their living. Some years ago, I wrote an article about these German Bands which then were very popular as street musicians. They also worked as spa orchestras in several British seaside resorts. I am sending you my article in question as an attachment. I would like to get in contact with a member, or members, of your Society who know about this topic.

I'm especially interested to hear about marriages of British women and German musicians. I'm also looking for contemporary photos of German Bands. Maybe some local museums in British seaside towns own such photos?

*Kind regards
Tobias Widmaier*

Response from Pat Hase:

I have a copy of an autobiography of Frederick Karl PFAFF who was born in Weston, the son of the Friedrich Wilhelm Ewald PFAFF, Bandmaster of the Weston Town Band for 40 years. His father was born in Arborn in Nassau in 1841 and his mother, Friedrich's second wife, was born in Newark New Jersey, USA of German parents and was brought up in Germany. Friedrich emigrated from Germany – first to the Channel Islands and then to Weston where he died in 1917. His first wife was born in Guernsey where they married in 1867 before moving to Weston first in about 1869, (their second child was born here in 1869). They returned to Germany for a while (a son was born there in about 1871) but came back to Weston by 1875.

I'm not sure whether he is from the same area of Germany, but it might be of help.

There are other German musicians in Weston and accounts of various bands with German members playing here. The Library might have some photographs – there are some of an Italian Band and I think Hungarian Bands of various colours (The Hungarian Blue Band, Pink Band and Green Band!).

From the top of my head, someone called Wagner played here and then moved to Bournemouth – I think he also played at the Bath Pump Rooms. I'll look out my notes on a talk I did years ago about early music in Weston.

Then & Now **by Bill Caple**



Corner of High Street and Regent Street (circa 1905 – 2018)

MY FAMILY HISTORY

by Sheila Mills

**Blue Anchor, Minehead, Somerset
(formerly of Weston-super-Mare)**

I can recollect conversations which took place during my childhood, which no doubt resulted in my being keen to research my family tree in later years.

For example, in the 1940s I loved to play the piano which stood in our living room - a beautiful walnut wooden piece of furniture blessed with candlesticks on either side. I suspect I could barely reach the pedals at that time.

The tune which I did play over and over was 'Galway Bay', a popular tune at that time, and no doubt would have driven my mother mad with the repetition. I recall I also used to sing, 'If you ever go across the sea to Ireland'. Fortunately, I have been twice, only to discover a lot of records were destroyed in a big fire years ago. Time is a great factor too whilst doing this!



My mother, Beatrice Irene Sillick (née Pentecost): 1905 – 1974, was born in Exeter, Devon, and was one of ten children! However, it did prompt my mother to say one day, 'Well, you know we have Irish ancestry, Sheila, on your Grandfather Pentecost's side (her father, of course)!' Apparently, Grandfather had traced the family tree back to the Irish Kings!



**My Grandparents, Halse Ley and Isabella Pentecost, with their 10 children.
My mother, Beatrice Irene, is marked with X.**

How true that is, I really do not know to this day! Halse Ley Pentecost: 1862-1929, my Grandfather, was born in Heavitree, Exeter, and Grandmother, Isabella Pentecost: 1869-1946 (née Davis), was born in Alma Street, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

It was when I joined the Weston-super-Mare Family History Society many years ago that I was to discover that my Great Grandmother's (Esther Elizabeth Pentecost) maiden name was McGrath. Esther Elizabeth McGrath: 1835-1899 was born in Stroud, Gloucestershire, and she was the mother of Halse Ley Pentecost. I also discovered that her father, my Great Great Grandfather was Alexander McGrath, who came from Dublin, and had married Louisa Darke in 1835. Unfortunately, Marriage Certificates gave little information in those days. It would appear that Alexander McGrath must have died when Esther Elizabeth was quite young because later she is shown as living with her mother Louisa, a sister Maria and Grandparents on a Census Record.

Louisa then married a William Elston, a coach smith, and the family moved to Exeter. Just to complicate things, Esther Elizabeth McGrath married a John McGrath, at a guess, about 1857. John McGrath was a merchant seaman. There was a child, James McGrath, who sadly died in infancy at 7 weeks old in 1858. I have the Death Certificate. Esther and John are named as the parents. I could never find a Marriage Certificate and a

relative intimated that the marriage took place in Ireland but unfortunately destroyed the Certificate, not realising that I was researching! Aaaagggh!

John McGrath was tragically drowned in a river at Lymington, Hampshire, in January 1859 as a result of a boat overturning. Again, the Death Certificate does not give much detail only the name and where deceased.

Esther Elizabeth McGrath, now a widow, married John Pentecost (Great Grandfather) in December 1859. John Pentecost was a widower, having been previously married to Mary Pentecost (née Kerswill). There were several children from this marriage. Esther Elizabeth then became stepmother to his many children. My Great Grandparents, John Pentecost and Esther Elizabeth (Darke) Pentecost went on to have many more children between them!

Unfortunately, relatives do tend to destroy a lot of documents as they get older, thinking no one would want them. Also, when relatives die, families often get rid of a lot of memorabilia which can be invaluable in giving us information. To this day, there are still gaps for me, but I never give up!

When my late paternal Grandmother, Annie Selina Sillick (née Snow) died in 1955, I am sure a lot of valuable information was destroyed. However, a large trunk was saved, and I remember it contained photos which I played with as a child. Can you imagine though an old record player with a big horn, like 'His Master's Voice', was thrown out! That would be worth a fortune now!

My mother, having come from a large family, said my Grandmother Isabella did have help with laundry, particularly with my Grandfather's collars. Men wore shirts with detached collars that required starching and ironing after washing. I recall these too in my lifetime and that it was hard work. Good old Reckitts Blue!

I am fortunate to possess a lot of old photographs. I can identify most of them and, when I was growing up, they were kept in a Bluebird's Toffee Tin! They always fascinated me. I do recall, however, once asking my mother, 'Who is that couple in the photograph?' and she replied, 'Oh, someone on your Dad's side - the old miseries!'

I know at one stage my mother's family lived at Brampford Speke in Devon. My Grandfather was a Master Builder and he bought two cottages and converted them into

one, named Brooke Cottage, which still exists. My mother used to speak of good times there as a child. However, there was no running water and she remembers wearing a yoke on her shoulders, with a bucket on either side, and carrying water from the supply (probably a well) to the cottage – this was hard work for a young girl. In a large family, no doubt the children all had their tasks.

Gravestones can also give us a lot of information. Unfortunately, a lot of them have been destroyed to make maintenance easier in the cemeteries. I recall years ago helping to read and write down the epitaphs for listing at St Anne's at Hewish, Weston super-Mare.

I wish that I could obtain a photo of my Great Grandparents, John and Esther Elizabeth Pentecost. In the 1880s, they were living in Sidwell Street, Exeter, Devon, and they were tailors. Any ideas?

One must pay these days to get any information! So, the moral to all research is to get as much information from the living. Bearing in mind that sometimes there were disputes in families such as 'Marrying out of one's class', as in the series, 'A Woman of Substance', one of Barbara Taylor Bradford's novels.



The McGrath Coat of Arms



Memorial for Charles James McGrath

NOW - HOW ABOUT A QUIZ?

These are archaic meanings of words connected to our Society Committee.

Can you put the correct meaning to the following words? Good luck!

1. AIRE(y)N
2. DRURY
3. DU(L)LIN(G)
4. GIBson
5. HASE
6. HORRY
7. MAG(uire)GY-MANY-FEET
8. PAYNE
9. SMIT(C)H
10. TOWE(y)L
11. TRACEy

The possible answers:

- a) A foolish person
- b) Coat of mail
- c) Dirt, smoke or dust
- d) Eggs
- e) Gallantry
- f) Hoar frost
- g) Hooked stick
- h) Oaken stick
- i) Sledge or small cart
- j) To breathe short
- k) Woodlouse

These words are taken from the ‘Dictionary of Archaic Words’ by James Orchard Halliwell (1850) but **please no looking up!** Just have a go and enjoy!

This quiz, and the answers which appear towards the end of this edition of ‘Buckets & Spades’, have been kindly contributed by Peter de Dulin.

**Annual General Meeting of the WSMFHS Society
27 November 2018 at 7.30pm**

The Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR

Members are notified that the next AGM as above will consist of the undernoted agenda.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM (these are provided on the next page)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Committee (Note 1)
7. Any other business

Note 1: Any nominations for Election of Committee must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary at least 7 days before the date of the AGM. Each nomination must be signed by a PROPOSER and a SECONDER, also by the NOMINEE.

WSMFH Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
28 November 2017

Apologies: Pat Hase

1. **Minutes of previous AGM.** These were distributed to those present and were passed as correct.
2. **Chair's Report.** This was read to those present and will be attached to these Minutes.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Roy presented the accounts and asked for questions from the floor. There were none. Peter Towey proposed they be accepted, seconded by Tony Horry and passed.
4. **Nominations for Committee.** Nominations have only been received from those already serving on the committee, namely:

Chair: Pat Hase; Secretary: Brian Airey; Treasurer: Roy Smith; Committee Members: Graham Payne, Paul Tracey and Susan Maguire. It was agreed that they be accepted en bloc.
5. **Nomination for Accounts Examiner.** Brian Wilson, who undertook the task this year, is willing to continue. He is not a member of the Society.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.38 pm. The next AGM will be on 27 November 2018.

Society Speakers 2018

Weston-super-Mare and FD History Society

Meetings at The Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR. The venue is open from 7.00pm with coffee/tea and biscuits. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

PROGRAMME

- **26 June 2018 - On the Street Where You Live**

For several years, one of my sons lived on the south side of South Terrace in Weston (that side was called Park Villas) or, if you approached the house from the back, it was in Victoria Place! It took a while to sort that, but it was interesting to trace the people who lived on both sides over the years.

Speaker: Pat Hase

- **24 July 2018 - Members' Evening – Open Evening**

This is an evening of sharing our family history research. Please bring along any family trees, printed booklets, folders of information and/or short PowerPoint presentations and be prepared to show what you have achieved.

Speaker: Society Members

No Meeting in August

- **25 September 2018 - Whatever Happened to Henry Charles Jewell and Other Mysteries?**

How to try to get around brick walls with varying amounts of success.

Speaker: Peter de Dulin

- **23 October 2018 - Have We Forgotten Our Basics?**

Shirley Hodgson, the author of the recently published 'Bristol's Pauper Children', looks back on many years of researching family history and considers whether we understand the basic methods and techniques of research.

Speaker: Shirley Hodgson

- **27 November 2018 - AGM Followed by Members' Evening - Memorabilia**

Who were your ancestors? Do you know any Black Sheep? Do you have famous or infamous people on your tree? Be prepared to talk about your naughty but interesting ancestors!

Speaker: Members of the Society

- **No Meeting in December**
-

Diary Dates for 2018

30 June	SWAG Family History Fair STEAM Museum, Firefly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY Open: 10.00am to 3.30pm Adults £3.00; Children FREE <i>http://swag-fair.co.uk/</i>
6 October	Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair Marlborough School, Shipton Avenue, Woodstock, OX20 1LP Open: 10.00am to 4.00pm <i>http://news.ofhs.org.uk/fair/</i>
6 October	Devon FHS Conference & AGM Torquay <i>http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/agm.htm</i>
13 October	Glamorgan Family History Society Annual Fair Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre Open: 10.00am to 3.00pm <i>events@glamfhs.org.uk</i>

U3A DNA Groups for Family History

If you would like to attend one, or both, of these groups you do need to join the U3A. It only costs £12 per year and then you can attend any other U3A group of your choice, as well.

Evening group (every 2nd Thursday, 7pm to 9pm; 4 Channel Heights, Bleadon Hill)

12 July No meeting in August

13 September 11 October

8 November 13 December

Afternoon group (every 1st Tuesday, 2pm to 4pm; 5a Madam Lane, Worle)

3 July No meeting in August

4 September 2 October

6 November 4 December

Both groups are run by Peter and Jenny Towey.

You do not need to have taken a DNA test before attending. We will run through the pros and cons of taking a DNA test to further your family history research, as well as explaining what happens after you have taken a test and the type of work required to get the most out of your results.

For further information, contact jenny@towey.me.uk

WESTON, CLEVEDON & PORTISHEAD RAILWAY (WC&P)

From the Editor: After the publication of February's issue of 'Buckets and Spades' which featured Bill Caple's interesting article about the Weston Clevedon & Portishead Railway, two of our members contacted us. Thank you, Paul and Laura, for your sharing your memories.

Message 1:

I was fascinated to read the article on the WC&P and particularly to see the picture on page 28 of the last train arriving in Weston on 18 May 1940, as the tallest girl in the white dress stood on the left-hand side of the platform was my mother, Eileen Lucy Gordon, aged 12. The other girl shown is her younger sister, Cynthia May Gordon, aged 11, and the two of them are stood in front of their eldest sister, Elsie Marie Gordon, aged 13.

My father has a video of the 'Slow & Dirty Railway' as it was called and recognises all the photos in the article as being taken from the video.

Regards

Paul Tregelles



The last train to arrive at Weston on 18 May 1940

Message 2:

In the last Bucket and Spades, an article on the Weston Clevedon & Portishead Railway sparked a memory of an old aunt of my mother's.

Her name was Florence Radford (1892-1965) and for some years she was the Station Mistress of Worle Station. This fact is verified by her name being included in the book, 'The Weston, Clevedon and Portishead Railway', by Christopher Redwood. According to his book:

'It seems that Worle Town Station acquired its name in the final months of 1917, having been Worle (Moor Lane) for a little over four years, and before that plain Worle. There was a loop siding on the right-hand side with a shunting neck at its north end. From the loop another siding veered slightly eastward and originally continued across Station Road and into the gas works. When these were closed in 1921 the siding was truncated west of the road. The main line crossed Station Road at a slight angle without gates and the station building lay on the right. The waiting shelter had three sets of windows fronting onto the track and contained a booking office inside. Outside was a large sign BOOKING OFFICE and several enamel advertisements. The station sign was displayed on a nameboard beside the building.'

I would love to know what years Florence worked there. At the time of the 1911 Census she was still living with her parents at 27 Ewart Road, Milton, Weston-super-Mare. I know little about 'Aunt Florrie' and, as far as I remember, only met her once when I was quite young when she visited our home in Bognor Regis.

Reading the article in the Journal and digging out the book by Christopher Redwood prompted me to contact the WC&P and I purchased from them a book called 'Discover Somerset's Lost Railway' where there is a photo and a little mention of Worle Town Station.

All the best

Laura Williams

**MEMORIES OF
WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS
(1954-1962)**

by JERRY DORBER

The Spring Term of 1954 at St Andrews Junior School in Clevedon was not one I was looking forward to, for it meant the dreaded Eleven Plus Exam! Happily, though, just after Easter, the results came through and I had passed, subject to a successful interview. I was called for the interview at Weston Grammar School for Boys and can remember telling the panel that I wanted to be an archaeologist. I was already a member of the Clevedon Archaeological Society and I was very interested in the subject. I told them that the Archaeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, was my hero. They asked me a lot of questions about archaeology. I think my answers surprised and pleased them for I heard a day or two later that I had passed. Some of the rest of the term and some of the summer holiday was spent making numerous trips to clothes, shoe and sports shops in Bristol and Weston to buy the correct school uniform as per the ‘list of needs’ sent out by Weston Grammar School.

There were four Houses at the Boys’ Grammar: St Dunstan, Admiral Blake, King Arthur and King Alfred. I was to be in King Alfred House, so I needed a blue rugby shirt, with a white collar. I also needed a white rugby shirt, though I’m not sure why. I needed black shorts for rugby and white ones for PE. I needed daps and a dap bag. I needed short grey flannel trousers or long grey flannel trousers, grey shirts, long grey socks with one gold and two maroon rings round the top. I needed a maroon cap with two gold bands round its circumference; a maroon and gold striped scarf; and a dark blue or black long raincoat. I had to have a black blazer with a pocket badge of the Somerset Red Dragon. I was also supplied with a ghastly-looking leather satchel by my Aunts. It was bright orange in colour and led to much ridicule from other boys, so much so, that I quickly defaced it with biro and pen ink, to give it a ‘lived-in’ appearance!

The Girls' and Boys' Grammar Schools were on a large site at the Uphill end of Weston-super-Mare, bounded by Uphill Road North, Windwhistle Road, Broadoak Road and Devonshire Road. The two Schools were joined by a central clock tower and their playing fields were divided by a long straight drive from the clock tower down to Windwhistle Road. The Boys were allowed no contact with the Girls and steps were taken by Staff to see that this rule was adhered to!

Each of the Schools was built around a quadrangle – in the Boys' School, this was a place that only Staff and Prefects could walk. The Boys' School had five classrooms on the north and south side; the Gymnasium and Main Hall were to the west; and to the east were the Staffroom, Head and Secretary's Office, the Woodwork/Metalwork Room and Physics and Chemistry Labs. On the first floor to the north, was the Geography Room and another Science Lab. Above that was a room called 'The Museum' where Weston Museum kept surplus artefacts and display cases. The Girls' School was a mirror-image of the Boys' School, except that the Girls' side had been extensively damaged by incendiary bombs during the War. In addition to the main School buildings, there were also several concrete hutted rooms in each School. We had two such rooms situated between the Main School and the Boiler House/Caretaker's House. The School, originally called the 'County School', had opened in the early 1930s. My cousin had been there in the mid-to-late 1940s and many of the staff who taught him were still there when I arrived on 6 September 1954.

Stepping off the bus at the end of Broadoak Road and into a huge throng of noisy boys and girls of all different shapes, sizes and ages was a most daunting experience on that first day. The noisy mob swept along the pavement. The girls turned off through their entrance gate and the boys milled through their entrance gate a few yards further on. Several hundred boys collected noisily around the cycle sheds and, at last, the main door opened to let us into the building. I found myself shoved into a large coat-hanging area with avenues of hooks and benches with wire open baskets beneath. None of us new boys knew where to hang our coats. You just picked an empty hook and hoped that your coat would still be there at the end of the day when you wanted to go home!

There were Masters and Prefects hustling us new boys through past the entrance to the PE changing room and into the tarmac area between the side of the Gymnasium and the large square grassy quadrangle. After some minutes, we were quieted down and, one by one, our names were called for us to assemble outside our allocated classrooms. Mine was on the south side of the quadrangle near the Physics and Chemistry Labs - my career at Weston was just beginning!



My school photo from September 1954

Old Masters and Some Very Good Influences

The Staff at Weston Grammar School for Boys were a strange collection of men with some real characters amongst them. The nicknames of some of them conjured up incredible pictures in the minds of quite a few of us new boys – ‘Killer’ King, ‘Chunky’ Pope, ‘Ernie’ Roue, ‘Windy’ Walters, ‘Speedy’ Harris, etc.

Some of the Staff were old-fashioned academic types who'd probably started teaching in the early 1930s, others were a newer breed of teachers, who had been in the War, and had taken up teaching soon after. Then, there was another group of much younger men, near the beginning of their careers, who were not much older than some of those students in the School's Upper Sixth. As with most teaching staff in any school, there were those who could teach and those who could not. Some students got on well because of the quality of the teaching at Weston - others got on well despite it!

The Headmaster was Mr D C Whimster, who, with his rather large red-veined nose, had a reputation amongst the boys for liking his drink. It wasn't just that that gave him this reputation but also one of the boy's fathers was publican of The Anchor Inn in Bleadon and Mr Whimster was a known regular.

All the boys were known by their surname and I started in Class 1S - the 'S' was for Mr Simmonds, our Form Teacher. We knew him as 'Soapy' Simmonds. We sat in single desks with tip-up seats, in regimented rows, in lines facing the wall blackboard at the front. In our first year, most of our lessons took place in our classroom with a succession of teachers coming in to teach their subject. It was all very formal and largely uninspiring. We used to do Geography, Art, Woodwork, General Science, Music and PE elsewhere in the School.

'Feud' Hill took me for History. I remember being praised for my drawing of the cross-section of a pit-dwelling, also a class visit to the Iron-Age Camp on Worlebury Hill. 'Dad' Rees took us for Geography. In the first year, this seemed to consist mainly of drawing a cross-section of a coal mine and drawing pictures of the different types of fishing nets use by North Sea trawlers. 'Willie' Davis, the great Welsh International fly-half, both at Rugby Union and Rugby League, was our PE Teacher. 'Willie's' PE lessons were mainly the sort of Physical Training done in the Army or consisted of playing 'Pirates' but his rugby tuition, as one would expect, was superb. In my first year, Mr Whimster took us for Literature, though it seemed often to consist of us writing limericks!

'Bill' Davies took us for Science. In my first term, I can remember drawing a section through a Bunsen burner to show how it worked, also doing a diagram of the cross-section of a Bessemer Converter but not much else in my first year. 'Bill' was also the Deputy Head, a fearsome individual who spread terror into our lives! He carried out the School's official corporal punishment on behalf of Mr Whimster. 'Robbie' Robinson took us for Woodwork. He was reputed to be an ex-wrestler and was built like a gorilla! If you as much as glanced the other way when he was explaining something, you got a 'clip round the head' for not paying attention. 'Tommy' Thomas was the Music Teacher and he had a room just off the Main Hall. He was a

heavy smoker and appeared to have little or nothing to do with the other Staff. He was a friendly chap and well-liked by many of the boys. In my first couple of years at Weston, ‘Windy’ Walters was the Biology Teacher, a man with a rather strangulated voice. He used to prowl round the classroom and the school building, when on duty, with a human femur gripped in his right hand. The femur was a weapon that ‘Windy’ used to clear a pathway through any crowd of boys in his way! It was also used to great effect in poking boys whom he thought were misbehaving in class!

The Latin Master was ‘Mike’ Lawrence, a man very much immersed in his subject. I never had much idea about Latin and it was with great relief that I was able to drop it after a couple of years of futile progress. I thought I’d left learning it far behind me, when for timetabling reasons (when aged about fifteen), I was ‘forced’ to take it up again. I don’t know who was more dismayed – ‘Mike’ or me! After a couple of years lay-off from Latin, I’d forgotten most of what I’d learnt previously. I’m not sure whether my results, in the end-of-term exam that year, were a reflection of my abilities or ‘Mike’s’ teaching. I came 3rd equal out of a class of thirty students, having scored only 12%! Common sense eventually prevailed and I was able to drop Latin for good.

‘Mike’ had a very ancient bike - a death-trap! He rode it to school every day. He’d always put it in the first rack of the cycle sheds by the Boys’ main entrance. The police used to come around from time to time to do a bicycle inspection and, on those days, ‘Mike’ would not ride his bike to school! There was one occasion, however, when he obviously forgot about the impending police visit. His bike was selected by the police officer as being the most dangerous machine he had ever seen and he demanded it be taken off the road immediately!

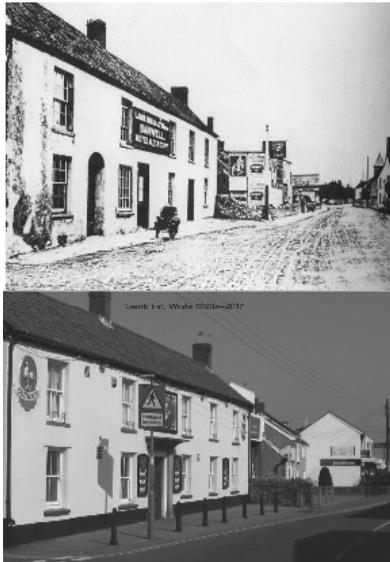
There were, however, some great teachers at Weston, who were well-organised, knew their subject and could put it across in an absorbing way. Notably, there was Mr Forbes, who took me for Geography in my last three years and he organised fascinating field trips to the Mendips. Don Brown joined the Staff about half-way through my time at Weston. He introduced the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award to the School and was also instrumental in introducing the opportunity to participate in the Annual Somerset County Youth Camps, both of which I was involved in for many years after. My favourite teacher however was Ian Sutton, the Art Teacher, who was

a very good painter in his own right too. He and I became good friends over the years that I was at Weston and the only teacher who ever called me by my Christian name.

I know that I was not alone in concluding that the Staff were a rather disparate group for, when I was about fourteen years of age, some of the older boys got together and financed an advertisement in the ‘Weston Mercury’. The advertisement stated that there were some ‘Old Masters for Sale’ and gave the School’s telephone number. I don't know how many would-be purchasers made enquiries, but there must have been some, for there was certainly an inquisition at School to find the culprits - without success!

To be continued ...

Then & Now by Bill Caple



The Lamb Inn, Worle (circa 1920s to 2017)



Editor: Further to Pat Hase's query in our last edition about whether any of our members, or their relations, were educated at Burton House School, the following response was received. Thank you, Val, for sharing these wonderful memories with us.

BURTON HOUSE SCHOOL

I was interested to see your advertisement for Burton House School in the February edition of 'Buckets & Spades'. I attended Burton House from Easter 1957 until the end of Summer Term 1959, my first school at the age of 4. I can remember going to the School with my parents for an interview with the Head Mistress, Miss Charlotte Weir. I remember as we were leaving, standing with her at the bottom of the stairs in a very dark hallway, that Miss Weir, who seemed to be a very old lady, smiled at me and let me stroke her dog who was as big as I was! I was very proud of my school uniform, which was a navy tunic with green blouse; a navy and green tie; and a navy and green wool sash which tied around my waist and which I loved. In the winter we had felt hats, in the summer we had round straw hats - both had a band with school colours.

The younger children were taught at The Annexe, 32 Clevedon Road, the home of Mrs Sumner, who was the sister of Miss Weir and Joint Principal. Mrs Sumner was taller than Miss Weir and wore her grey hair tied in a bun at the back of her head. The room across the front of the house was the School Room, but I can remember initially being in a small classroom upstairs overlooking the back garden with a younger lady teacher. Quite soon I was in the main Schoolroom downstairs which had 3 rows of Victorian type double desks on ironwork frames, with sloping tops and a shelf underneath. It was a small class and our teacher was Miss Waters, a lovely lady whom my parents spoke very highly of. She retired at about the age of 70 at Christmas 1958 and invited all the children in her class to a tea party at her home in Lower Bristol Road. I can remember my Dad driving me there, stopping at the traffic lights by the hospital, and I looked up at the red stone houses which I now know are in Southside – a view that still reminds me of Miss Waters. She gave me a little book about Minnie Mouse to go home with! The school work was quite intense – very much the 3 Rs - we learned to write in joined up handwriting, we had lessons in French and we had homework. I really enjoyed the school work and was keen to learn. On Friday afternoons, the desks were pushed back, and we had a musical afternoon with (I think) an old record player. I clearly remember one Friday afternoon when we were standing in a big circle that Mrs Sumner's ginger cat, who was sitting on Miss Waters' desk, was sick and she quickly grabbed him in her arms and rushed outside with him!

Miss Waters was replaced by Miss Harris, a younger lady who I seem to remember was an artist, and we did quite a lot of drawing during that time. She was only there for a few months, then Miss Waters returned from her retirement and I can remember she was not too happy at some of the changes that had been made.

I was quite frightened of Mrs Sumner. Her husband was a tall man with grey hair who did the garden and a few jobs around the house. When we arrived at school in the morning, we had to change our shoes in the cloakroom and wore black lace-up plimsolls during the day. Unfortunately, I couldn't do up laces at just 4 years old and I can remember that Mrs Sumner was very sharp with me, so much so that I used to practise at home, sitting on the floor, undoing and doing up my Grandad's laces! I found out years later that my Dad used to get told off by Mrs Sumner as he used to help me with my laces when he dropped me at school on his way to work!

The only exercise we had was walking two-by-two to the east side of Ellenborough Park, where we had some fresh air. I am not sure if we had organised games or just played at the park, but once I jumped over a tree stump and cut the top of my leg quite badly, which I then kept hidden under my dress. At lunch time we went to the ‘big school’ in Walliscote Road. I had cooked lunches for a very short time. I remember the dining room which overlooked Walliscote Road was very dark. A radio played in the background and I particularly remember we used to listen to ‘Desert Island Discs’. On Mondays we had cold meat left over from the roast dinner that the boarders had on Sundays. There were always pickled onions and beetroot on the table and I took a liking to the pickled onions. I was often ill in the night, so very soon I was sent with a packed lunch so that my Mother knew what I was eating. I think I was in my late teens before I told her about the pickled onions! Packed lunches were eaten in the room with the bay window on the first floor overlooking Albert Road.

I hardly ever saw Miss Weir during my time there. I think she was very elderly and not in good health. I left Burton House at the end of Summer Term 1959 to go to Uphill Primary School. I was a very active child and my parents felt I needed to have more sporting activities! I think it was only a couple of years later that Miss Weir died and the school closed.

by Valerie Rowe (née Harvey)

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ (on page 20):

- 1d
- 2e
- 3a
- 4g
- 5j
- 6f
- 7k
- 8b
- 9c
- 10h
- 11i

Some Useful Local Addresses

The Editor is always pleased to receive additions or corrections to this list, based on Members' experiences.

Bath Library	Tel: 01225 787400
Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol	Tel: 0117 9037200 email: bristol-library-service@bristol.gov.uk
Bristol Family History Centre (LDS), 721 Wells Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9HU	Tel: 01275 838326
Bristol Record Office, 'B' Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN	Tel: 0117 9224224 email: bro@bristol-city.gov.uk
Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426020 email: clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Clevedon Story Heritage Centre, Waterloo House, 4 The Beach, Clevedon, BS21 7QU	Tel: 01275 341196
Nailsea Library, Somerset Square, Nailsea, BS48 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426030 email: nailsea.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston-super-Mare Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1PR	Tel: 01934 621028. Fax 01934 612526 email: museum@wsm-tc.gov.uk
Portishead Library, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6EW	Tel: 01934 426040 email: portishead.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages, Town Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	Tel: 01934 427552 email: register.office@n-somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF	Tel: 01823 278805 email: archives@somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Studies Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ	Tel: 01823 340300. Fax: 01823 340301 email: somstud@somerset.gov.uk
Weston Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	For general enquiries: Tel: 01934 426010 email: weston.library@n-somerset.gov.uk For local history enquiries: Tel: 01934 888855 email: answers@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston Civic Society, The Old Town Quarry, South Road, Weston super Mare	Tel: 01934 412144
Worle Library and Children's Centre, Mendip Avenue, Worle, BS22 6HN	Tel: 01934 462090 email: worle.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Yatton Library, 48 High Street, Yatton, BS49 4HJ	Tel: 01934 426100 email: yatton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk

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E=Elected Position according to Constitution; C=Co-opted Position by the Committee.

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All Committee Members may be contacted using the Society's website. From any page on the site, go to the top right corner and click on 'Contact Us'. This will bring up a Contact Form for you to complete. Please choose the correct category so that the form is addressed to the correct recipient.

Neither the Editor nor the Committee necessarily agrees with the views or opinions expressed by contributors to the Journal. Articles remain the property of the individual author and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Map of the Parishes covered by the Weston-super-Mare & District FHS

On the rear cover is a map of the general area that we cover as a Society, showing the Parishes that are known to have existed in 1832. This basically equates to the same area that forms North Somerset District Council's boundaries plus that covered by the Axbridge Registration District which was set up in 1837:

1. Easton-in-Gordano	2 Portbury	3 Abbots Leigh
4. Portishead	5. Clapton in Gordano	6. Wraxall
7. Long Ashton	8. Weston in Gordano	9. Tickenham
10. Nailsea	11. Backwell	12. Flax Bourton
13. Barrow Gurney	14. Dundry	15. Walton in Gordano
16. Clevedon	17. Kenn	18. Yatton
19. Brockley	19a. Chelvey	20. Wrington
21. Butcombe	22. Nempnet Thrubwell	23. Winford
24. Kingston Seymour	25. Wick St Lawrence	26. Puxton & Hewish
27. Congresbury	28. Churchill	29. Burrington
30. Blagdon	31. Kewstoke	32. Worle
33. Banwell	34. Weston-super-Mare	35. Hutton
36. Locking	37. Christon	38. Winscombe
39. Uphill	40. Brean	41. Bleadon
42. Loxton	43. Biddisham	44. Compton Bishop
45. Axbridge	46. Shipham	47. Rowberrow
48. Cheddar	49. Charterhouse	50. Ubley
51. Compton Martin	52. Chew Stoke	53. Chew Magna
54. West Harptree	55. East Harptree	56. Berrow
57. Brent Knoll	58. Lympsham	59. East Brent
60. Badgworth	61. Weare	62. Nyland
63. Rodney Stoke	64. Westbury	65. Priddy
66. Burnham on Sea	67. Huntspill	68. Mark
69 Chapel Allerton	70. Wedmore	

The following Parishes were split as follows:

Clevedon into All Saints; Christ Church & St Andrew.

Nailsea into Christ Church & Holy Trinity.

Weston-super-Mare into All Saints; Christ Church; Emmanuel; Good Shepherd; Holy Trinity; St John; St Paul & St Saviour.

Map of Parishes covered by Weston-super-Mare & District FHS

