

The BGAS Newsletter

Archaeology and history in Bristol and Gloucestershire

Established 21 April 1876

www.bgas.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 202014

Back to a full programme of branch lectures for 2022-23

Lectures in Bristol and Gloucester

President's Meeting rescheduled for 1st October
2023 AGM date and venue already set

Face-to-face meetings tentatively resumed last year, but for 2022-23 both the Bristol and Gloucestershire sections of the Society are offering a full programme of lectures, starting in September, covering a wide range of topics in both history and archaeology. Full details are included towards the end of this newsletter and we are enclosing a handy 'fixture card' with all the dates as well as information about the officers and other events.

One event trailed in the last newsletter is Michael Hare's President's Meeting at Deerhurst, which unfortunately had to be postponed from its original date. It is now scheduled to take place on Saturday 1st October, and the details, including how to book, are on the back cover of this newsletter. (You should



Deerhurst. Photograph: Michael Hare

also have been notified by email if we have your contact details.) New President Bob Jones's President's Meeting is being planned for the spring or early summer of 2023 and details will be announced in good time for members to book a place.



Clifton Cathedral. Photograph: Alan Clarke

The date and venue of the 2023 Annual General Meeting have already been decided. It will take place in the Apostle Room of Clifton Cathedral in Bristol on Saturday 29th April, starting at 2.15pm, with refreshments to follow the formal business.

Stop Press: Please see page 3 for an important appeal relating to the position of Treasurer.

Introduction by the editor

As readers may remember from the last newsletter, the editor for the last five years, Jim Pimperl, has decided to step down from the role and I have agreed to try my hand at it, so these few lines are written with the aim of introducing myself.

I have no qualifications in archaeology, and only some very modest ones in history. I only came to the discipline rather late in life: my first degree was in English Literature, where I focused on medieval and renaissance texts, and my working life was spent mainly in the finance sector. But I have always been an enthusiast for study, and in the present century did first a Bachelor's and then a Master's degree in history with the Open University. I am currently the Secretary of the Open University History Society.

My Master's dissertation was written on temperance societies in Bristol, and a version of the research was published in 2019 by Avon Local History and Archaeology as *Taking the Pledge: the temperance movement in Bristol, 1830-1914*. It is a slight work, but was very generously reviewed by Dr Crossley Evans in one of the last reviews he wrote for the *Transactions* of this Society. Apart from my interests in history and literature, I enjoy classical music and love to travel around Europe, with Portugal, Greece and Iceland among my favourite destinations.



The editor in Nafplio, Greece, 2019.

I hope I can contribute something to the Society as editor of the newsletter, and look forward to hearing from some of you in the coming months and years. Articles for publication are welcomed on local matters connected with archaeology or history and should be addressed to me at the email address given below.

Please also let me know if you would prefer a digital copy of the newsletter rather than the printed version. Several members have already requested it, and of course it saves the society money if fewer copies need to be printed and posted. Don't worry, though - we will continue to send you the magazine in the normal way unless you request otherwise.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

(Established 21 April 1876, Registered Charity No. 202014. Website: www.bgas.org.uk)

President: Robert H. Jones

Hon. General Secretary: Dr Graham Barton, email: secretary@bgas.org.uk

Contact for Bristol: John Stevens, e-mail: johnregstevens@outlook.com

Contact for Gloucestershire: Michael Hare, e-mail: michaelharedeerhurst@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter editor: Alan Clarke, email: newsletter@bgas.org.uk

2022 Annual General Meeting

The 2022 AGM was once again held online on Saturday 23 April. In addition to the usual adoption of reports and accounts, the meeting approved amendments concerned with rules relating to membership, voting procedures and quoracy. BGAS Council had now been replaced by a slimmer Board of Trustees, numbering no more than twelve. Elections were held to confirm eight Trustees who had previously been appointed on an interim basis.

Mr Bob Jones was elected President 'by acclamation' and Ms Jan Willis as President-Elect, while Miss Angie Newcombe was re-elected Vice-President. After the formal business of the meeting, the retiring President, Michael Hare, gave his Presidential Address on *The survival of the 17th-century chancel fittings of St Mary's church, Deerhurst during the 19th and 20th centuries*.

A fuller report of the AGM can be found in the News section of the BGAS website.

Introducing Bob Jones: For those who don't already know him, Bob is a former City Archaeologist for Bristol and an urban archaeologist for over 40 years. He is the co-author of a major book on the archaeology of Bristol. His hopes for the coming year? 'Perhaps to broaden the membership of the Society by encouraging more young people to join and to promote a greater diversity of membership.'



New President Bob Jones and (below) with Michael Hare before the handover on 1st June in Bristol Cathedral garden.



Could you help to fill an important role?

The BGAS Hon. Treasurer, who has been in post since 2009, will not be seeking re-election at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. The Trustees invite expressions of interest from any member willing to consider taking over any part of the role. At present, that involves keeping the Society's accounts, managing its investments (which are all in pooled funds, not shares in individual companies), and acting as the point of contact between the Trustees and the Charity Commission. Those roles could be split. Financial expertise is not required - the present Treasurer is not an accountant - but some basic bookkeeping would help. If you would like more information or a discussion, please contact the Treasurer at wm.evans@btopenworld.com or phone 0117 968 4979.

A dedicated band of volunteers – and an appeal to join us!



For a number of years, it's been the Society's practice to make the most recent volume of its *Transactions* available for members to collect at our Annual General Meeting, along with any other copies that they feel they could deliver to fellow members - thereby saving the Society a considerable amount of money on postage and packing.

Sadly, with the advent of the pandemic, the Society's AGM for 2020 was cancelled and those for 2021 and 2022 have been held online, so members had no opportunity to collect their *Transactions*.

In 2020, all copies of volume 137 were posted on the Society's behalf by the printer, 4Word, but during the past two years, hand-delivery has resumed through the sterling efforts of a dedicated band of Bristol and Gloucestershire volunteers. This year, a total of 250 copies of volume 139 of the *Transactions* have been hand-delivered, saving the Society in the region of £1,420 in postage and packing.

Here's how it works: once the volume is ready for distribution, 4Word's Director, John Roost, delivers to Bill Evans (our Society's Treasurer) in Bristol and to me in Cheltenham as many copies as we feel our two 'teams' can deliver. Both Bill and I deliver a certain number of copies ourselves and pass the remainder to our fellow volunteers, who 'set to' and deliver them across the city and county. In Bristol, the volunteers for volume 139 were Bob Jones, Peter Newley

and John Stevens, and, in Gloucestershire, Jill Barlow, Terry Haines, Janet Hudson, John Izzard, John Loosley, Sally Self, David Viner, Peter Warren and Chris Webb – to all of whom the Society is most grateful.

We have now extended this to the Record Series and as I write this, the hand-delivery of around 100 copies of the recently published GRS volume 36 is well underway, including a number by two new volunteers, Alan Clarke in Bristol and Alastair Robinson in Gloucestershire.

In parallel with the hand-delivery, 4word post out for us all those volumes that cannot be hand-delivered, mainly outside Gloucestershire and overseas.

For 2023, we would certainly welcome some more volunteers to help deliver volume 140 of the *Transactions* and volume 37 of the Record Series, even if the Society is able to return to an 'in person' AGM. Additional volunteers would certainly help to reduce still further the ever-increasing cost of postage, and perhaps to share the work of existing 'deliverers', a couple of whom distribute more than 20 copies each. The Bristol 'team' would particularly welcome someone to help with Clifton, east Bristol and Westbury-on-Trym, while in Gloucestershire, we need volunteers who could deliver in and around Berkeley, Dursley and Cam, Nailsworth, Tewkesbury and in that part of west Gloucestershire around Dymock and Newent.

So please do consider becoming a 'hand-deliverer': as well as helping with the Society's finances, it's often a good opportunity for 'doorstep conversations' with fellow Society members – and you never know, you might even be invited in for a cuppa!

If you'd like to help and you are based in Bristol, please contact Bill Evans (wm.evans@btopenworld.com) and, if in Gloucestershire, please contact me (steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com). Your help would certainly be appreciated!

Steve Blake, BGAS Publications Manager

Home wanted!

One of our members has a run of copies of *The Antiquaries' Journal* from 1986 to 1995 for which he no longer has room, and he would like to pass them on. They contain scholarly articles dealing mainly with ancient and medieval English history and archaeology. Is there any BGAS member who could give them a good home? If you are interested in acquiring these volumes, please contact the editor. First come, first served!

In the news

Wessex Archaeology spent several months earlier this year excavating, on behalf of developers Watkin Jones plc, a site in Bedminster, Bristol, which was the location of a smelting works owned by Capper Pass II until his death in 1870 and later by his son. Initially experimenting with a variety of metals, the firm eventually came to specialise in the production of solder and the work by Wessex Archaeology - more details of which can be found on their website, www.wessexarch.co.uk - has revealed a dynamic firm which was constantly refashioning its plant.

The Pass smelting works are coincidentally the subject of a recent volume by Brian Vincent, published by Avon Local History and Archaeology, which also publishes regular newsletters keeping local historians and societies in the old Avon area abreast of new developments in both fields. An archive of these newsletters, as well as details of ALHA publications, can be found on their website, www.alha.org.uk.

The Gloucestershire Gazette has been reporting that volunteers at an important local museum, Thornbury Museum, are concerned that it may have to close when the current tenancy agreement with the Armstrong Hall Trust expires in just over a year's time. According to a statement on the museum's own website, the Trust 'has shown its preference for sale of the entire Armstrong Hall Complex to finance a new facility, currently anticipated to be at Turnberries', so it is far from clear that the existing site will be available for re-lease. If this is not possible, and an alternative site not found, then the collection will probably be dispersed and lost to the local community.

Also part of the Armstrong Hall complex is **Cossham Hall**, next door to the museum, a former Wesleyan chapel dating from 1780, acquired in 1888 and donated to the town by the politician and colliery owner Handel Cossham, who was born in Thornbury, just round the corner in a house at the top end of the High Street.

Bristol's Brilliant Archaeology



“Absolutely loved it! More days like this please!”

Bristol's Brilliant Archaeology (BBA), held this year on Saturday 30th July, has been an annual one-day public event since 2015. It aims to celebrate everything archaeological in and around the city and takes place during the nationwide Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology. The event is organised by Bristol Museums and hosted at Blaise Museum and Estate. 2022 was a remarkable year for BBA in more ways than one, not least because it was the first time it could be held in-person since the summer of 2019.

The event was supported in part with funding provided by the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. It relies heavily on



volunteers and organisations who are prepared to give up their time to engage people with the archaeological past, as well as the local landscape, which boasts not just one, but two Iron Age hillforts. It sees museum archaeologists join forces with a whole host of local societies, re-enactors, field archaeologists and heritage organisations to provide tours, demonstrations and displays both in the museum itself and especially outside on the lawns. Three enactment groups, 'Drengskapr', 'Company of Chivalry' and 'Historia Normannis Wessex' added colour and excitement to the day, and our younger visitors were kept happy with mini excavations, Iron Age coin hammering, weaving, pot-making, face painting and more, provided by Cotswold Archaeology and the Young Archaeologists' Club amongst others. The Friends of Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives put on a fine '17th century' feast and Curator Amber Turner had everyone painting paper plates inspired by the museum's delftware collections.

Our public feedback was overwhelmingly positive with almost everyone commenting on the friendly welcome they received and the wide range of activities on offer. It was also a record breaking day for Blaise in 2022 in terms of visitor figures since the event drew over 2,700 guests to the site by the end of the day. Everyone who participated in the delivery of BBA went home tired but very happy and looking forward to meeting up to do it all over again next year - roll on BBA 2023!

Gail Boyle

(Images: Courtesy of Bristol Culture & Creative Industries © Eve Andreski)

New Record Series volume for 2021

The Forced Loan and Men Fit to Serve as Soldiers, 1523

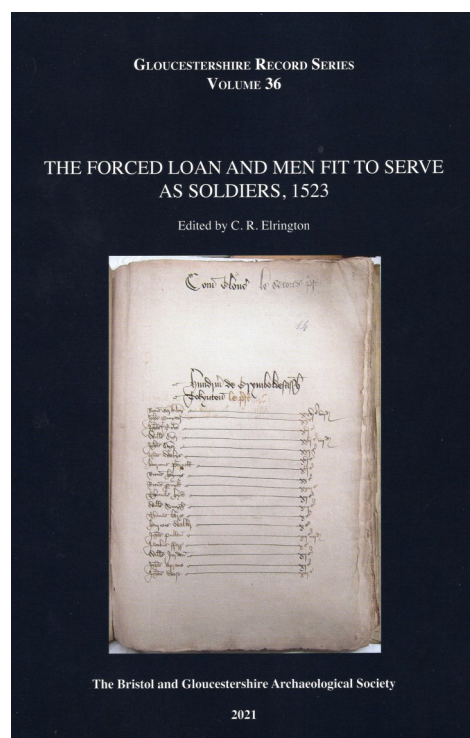
(Berkeley Castle Muniments: Select Book 28)

**Editor: C. R. Elrington
Gloucester Record Series, Vol. 36
ISBN 978-191-373-504-3.**

On 27 July 2007 Professor Christopher Elrington started translating the document in Berkeley Castle Muniments known as Select Book 28. He worked from photographs of a microfilm copy, and when he died on 3 August 2009 he had practically completed his preparation of the manuscript of the volume now published as Gloucestershire Record Series 36 for 2021.

The information in Select Book 28 was collected in 1523 in the context of expected war with France. It is organized place by place, and consists of two elements. First, it records the loan required to be paid to Henry VIII by the lay inhabitants of Gloucestershire of middling wealth and, second, the military preparedness of the county. Despite the promise of its title, the loan was never repaid; it was retrospectively deemed to have been a grant – perhaps showing the perils of hypothecated taxation in general. The loan is referred to as the ‘second prest’ (the Law French term for ‘loan’), the ‘first prest’ having been exacted from a no doubt unenthusiastic county in the previous year. The new volume therefore offers a valuable comparison with the taxable population and state of military capability captured in the first prest, which is recorded in Berkeley Castle Muniments Select Book 27 of about three times the size, and which was edited by R. W. Hoyle with the title *The Military Survey of Gloucestershire, 1522* and published in 1993 in the Gloucestershire Record Series as volume 6.

The new prest was payable to the Crown at a rate of 10% by anyone whose wealth consisted of goods which had been



assessed in 1522 at £5 or more but less than £20, or, in a relatively few cases, of land worth 20s. a year or more. Those with goods assessed at £20 or more had already been hit by the first prest. The list of those who had paid the loan is generally followed by lists of men fit for military service, described as ‘able’, distinguishing those with armour, or ‘harness’, and those without harness. The listing includes a record of those who actually held responsibility for the equipment.

Professor Elrington’s volume contains, in addition to the raw text of the manuscript, a full introduction and index, as well as two tables of data offering an explicit comparison, place by place, with the first prest.

Richard Coates

General Editor, Gloucestershire Record Series

(If you are not a subscriber to the Record Series, the price is £30 plus p&p.)

Stratford Mill 1915 valuation

Describing an old corn and feed-cake mill is difficult enough if there are ruins to inspect. Stratford Mill on the outskirts of Stroud has left no ruins, which is somewhat ironic since over the course of its working life it was reduced to them by at least three large fires – an ever-present risk for all such businesses. Its pond, mentioned briefly as 'Mill pond' at the very end of the Lloyd George survey and not measured, is all that remains now, the mill site being occupied by a large supermarket and its car-park. When, as one of the many Society members volunteering for work on the huge Lloyd George project, I came across the 1915 valuation and survey, my first thought, on seeing that it was four and a half pages long, was 'Something to find out at last' – surveys of some other mills were brief, most of them having ceased to be corn mills long before. Stratford was still apparently a working mill at the time of the valuation. However, as all researchers into any topic will know only too well, things are seldom as they seem.

The valuation was initialled 'WW', which is actually a good start. Whoever he was, he surveyed a number of properties across several parishes and appears to have been an accurate and informative observer, even on occasion reassessing the somewhat skimpy valuations of others. It would be nice to know more about him, so if anyone has any information, please contact our editor. After that, it might sound rather churlish to admit that as a transcriber I found the description given, in its several sections, difficult to understand. Seeking advice from our project coordinator, Anthea Jones, she suggested that the mill was on its last legs, so that not all of what was seen by WW was necessarily working. Some of the equipment was obviously for the production of cattle cake from seeds – hence the 'kettle', a circular metal container used to heat the seeds before crushing, referred to at one

point – but, according to H W Brace's *History of Seed Crushing in Great Britain* (1960) the process used in Stratford Mill seems to have fallen out of general use after the 1870s among seed-oil producers.

The description follows a walk round the site, firstly to the left of the main entrance, then to the right, rather than trying to follow the production route into and then out of the main mill building. There is a straggle of stables, offices and workshops. In the survey, the only thing in its right place on that basis is the rail siding and the loading machinery for bagged items leaving the site. Of course, WW was simply listing items to be valued, not giving a guided tour of the installations. Thanks to his thoroughness, however, we can see that the mill purchased its equipment locally – the Dudbridge 70 horse power gas engine was from the Dudbridge Iron Works (trading as such c.1899-c.1923) and the Daniels suction gas plant was from TH & J Daniels at Lightpill, for example – though not necessarily new. The Galloway boiler came from Manchester, but the company sold its boilers all over the world.

The main four-storey mill building is dated 1825, although only the lower parts of its walls still stood as part of a rebuilding after a fire in 1905. All the processing equipment is inside, and seems mostly to do with the production of cattle feed, although three pairs of mill stones are mentioned, possibly for flour making. It would be nice to think that the 14 horse power water wheel was kept working for them, while the other one was no longer used. As with many industrial buildings listed by the valuers all over the county, the stores areas are at the top of the building, unlike present day practice which has them on the ground floor. Before the proliferation of fork lift machines to put items up onto the bed of a vehicle, it was easiest to lower them, letting gravity take the strain.

for Lloyd George's survey of land



Stratford Mill, 1950s. Courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives, ref D14791/2/26.

Whilst Stroud's smaller mills such as Grove Mill (like Stratford Mill and others, run by John Biddle half a century earlier) and the steam mill in Summer Street stuck to flour production, the two biggest mills, R. Townsend & Co at Stratford Mill – renamed 'Royal' – and Fawkes Brothers at Town Mill, began to concentrate on animal feed as the new century began. In Kelly's trades directories from at least 1906-1914, Townsends were 'sole manufacturers of the Gloucestershire sheep & lamb food, rapid fattening cake, corn, seed, cake & manure merchants & vi-grana manufacturers'. It was a move forced upon many old mills after the Great War.

Mike Beacham

STEP INTO THE SHADOWS!

The shadows we have in mind are the support roles to assist the Trustees with managing their workloads. Each 'shadow' would work closely with a specific Trustee and may be able to step in to provide cover in appropriate situations. It is envisaged that one day every Trustee may have a shadow, although none have yet been appointed, as our priority has been to fill vacant Trustee positions. The need to support existing colleagues workloads is also vital however, so if you think you could help, please contact the Hon. General Secretary and let's see how many shadows we can create.

BGAS Library - Open for business!

An encouraging sign that life was returning to normal took place last Spring when the BGAS Library re-opened its doors as the restrictions which had affected so many aspects of our lives were gradually lifted. The last fifteen months has seen a steady flow of visitors, although footfall has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. This may be a sign that some of the BGAS Library's traditional users still remain cautious about venturing out or have not yet realised that the collection has been re-opened.

All personal BGAS members automatically receive library membership as part of their basic subscription and a warm welcome awaits both regular users and those visiting the library for the first time. Our library is located at the University of Gloucestershire's Hardwick Admin Centre in Cheltenham and is housed alongside the University's own archives and special collections. The day-to-day management of the library is supervised by Louise Hughes, who is the University of Gloucestershire's archivist. In order to ensure that a safe environment can be provided for all library users and enable social distancing to be maintained both in the reading room and the bookshelves, members are asked to plan their visits in advance by contacting Louise to book an appointment.

The BGAS Library contains an impressive set of resources. The library's origins can be traced back to the foundation of the Society in 1876, and some of the books in our collection were donated following the Society's inaugural meeting. These donations were supplemented by substantial gifts by the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Royal Historical and Archaeological Institute of Ireland and the Society of Antiquaries of London, and within months of the Society's formation the library had been established. The collection has continued to grow, and now contains over 14,000 items.



The materials we hold focus heavily on Bristol, Gloucestershire and our neighbouring counties, but our acquisitions include material from all parts of the UK, so if your interests are not purely local there is still a wealth of material which you may find appealing.

If you have not previously visited the BGAS library, please let Louise know when you make your appointment and ask if she could arrange to show you round when you arrive. Should you wish to borrow any of the items available from our extensive loan stock, it will be necessary to obtain a BGAS library user's card, and Louise will be able to arrange for this to be issued to you, free of charge.

For further information on planning your visit please visit the Library page on the BGAS website (under 'Resources'), or contact:

Louise Hughes, BGAS Hon. Librarian
 Special Collections and Archives
 University of Gloucestershire
 Hardwick Campus (Admin Centre),
 St Paul's Road,
 Cheltenham, GL50 4BS
 Tel: 01242 714851

Email: archives@glos.ac.uk
 Web: <https://glos.on.worldcat.org/discovery>

Obituary: Miss Pat Bath, 1929-2022



Pat at the 2019 Annual General Meeting

During her sixty-five-year membership of this Society, Pat made an outstanding contribution to our work. Many BGAS members may be unaware of Pat's achievements, as she was not one to draw attention to her own efforts, preferring instead to simply roll up her sleeves and get on with her duties in a quiet, unassuming manner. BGAS relies extensively on volunteers to function. Without the efforts of colleagues like Pat to perform vital tasks like stuffing Newsletters into envelopes, distributing copies of the *Transactions* to fellow members, putting out seating at the local sections' monthly talks, serving tea and cakes at the conclusion of our AGMs, or attending external events to sell our publications, many of the Society's services could simply not be delivered. However mundane the task to be performed, Pat was invariably the first to step forward when assistance was required.

Pat's interest in BGAS went well beyond supporting the Society's day-to-day activities. In her professional life Pat was a member of

Gloucestershire County Council's careers' advisory service and through this role acquired an extensive contact network and intimate knowledge of our local area. These attributes, coupled with her untiring efforts to support the Society, led to Pat being elected a member of Council in 2011, where she took a close interest in the management of the Society's affairs. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Society, Pat was elected as BGAS Vice-President; a position she held from 2013 to 2017.

In addition to her long-standing association with BGAS, Pat was a member of many local historical societies, including several in which she took an active role. As well as serving for many years as a Gloucester Cathedral guide, Pat was a member of the Friends of Berkeley Castle, the Friends of the Gloucestershire Archives, the Friends of Robinswood Hill, the Gloucester Family History Society, and the Society of Genealogists.

In addition to her interest in local and family history, Pat had two other life-long devotions. The first was her commitment to the Christian faith, Pat being a devout believer and a regular member of the congregation at Gloucester cathedral. Her other overriding passion was the Gloucester Girl Guides, where she became a leading local figure. Pat's father had been a Scout master and, after enrolling in the Brownies while at primary school, Pat went on to become a Girl Guide, a Guide Leader, the District Commissioner for the Robinswood and eventually the city's Division Commissioner. She was a remarkable lady and with her passing each of the organisations with which she was associated has lost a loyal and valued member.

Graham Barton
Honorary General Secretary

Book reviews

Thornbury Castle Revisited.

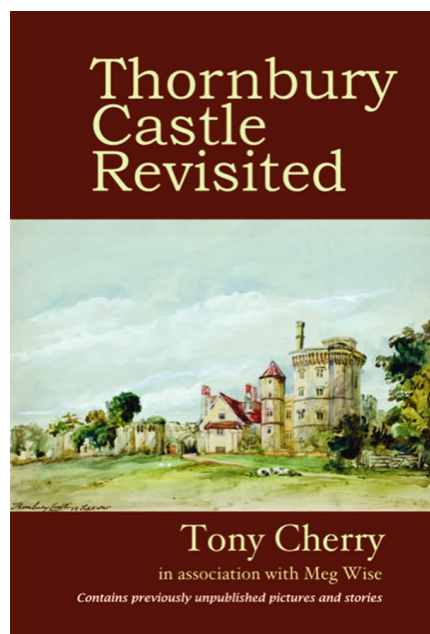
Tony Cherry in association with Meg Wise.

Redcliffe Press, 2019. 138 pp, 14 colour and 25 b/w ill. Hardback £20 [ISBN not known]

The aim of this book is to follow the twists and turns of the 500 year history of Thornbury Castle and its owners. It is an updated version of a book by the same author published in 2013.

The history of the Castle is dominated by its builder, Edward Stafford, third Duke of Buckingham, and half the book is devoted to his life and times. Following his execution in 1521 it was held by the Crown for some years before being returned to the by now relatively impoverished Stafford family. They installed a steward but otherwise neglected the Castle for two centuries. Eventually it was renovated by Salvin in the mid-nineteenth century and had a new life as a country house for over a century. Subsequently it has been operated as a restaurant and hotel under various owners.

The book brings together information from various academic studies and combines it with material provided by the families of the more recent occupants. Presumably intended for the “general reader” who knows the Castle and wants to understand its history, it is successful in this whilst providing sufficient endnotes to allow for deeper study. It is an easy read but the use of certain anachronisms like “oh-so-chav” and “bling” grated with this reviewer. The author says that he



has had to omit some events due to lack of space which makes the inclusion of some material curious. Three pages are devoted to an excerpt from the war diary of Sir Algar Henry Stafford Howard recounting a hunting expedition in Palestine in 1917 – entertaining but not relevant to the Castle.

The book is well illustrated including various views of the Castle, but a plan of the buildings and a map of the surroundings would be useful additions. Readers looking for information on the fabric may be disappointed. They would do better to consult the article by A C D Hawkyard in *BGAS Transactions*, Vol 95, 1978, or Neil Guy in *The Castle Studies Group Journal*, Vol 19, 2006.

Peter Newley

More book reviews, destined for publication in the annual *Transactions*, can be found on the BGAS website. Those currently available include reviews of *Votes for Women: Cheltenham and the Cotswolds* by Sue Jones, *The Forest of Dean Miners' Riot of 1831* by Chris Fisher and *Colesbourne: a Gloucestershire Village History* by Henry Elwes.

See: <https://www.bgas.org.uk/publications/transactions-latest-reviews>

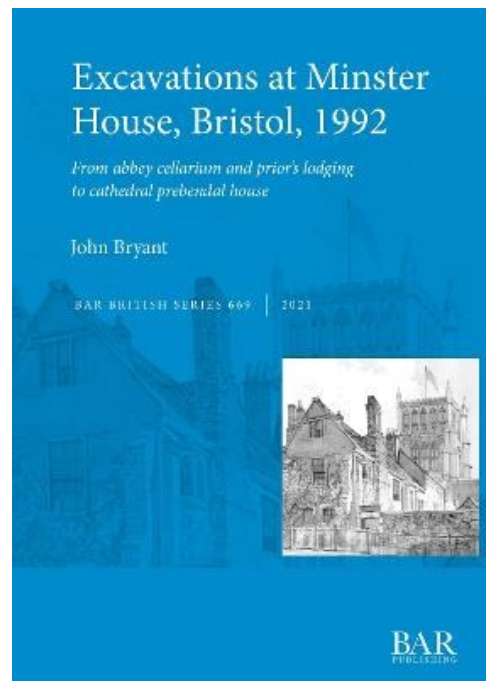
***Excavations at Minster House, Bristol, 1992* (BAR British Series, 669, 2021).**

John Bryant

156 pp., 88figs., 11 tabs, Cardcovers, £39
[ISBN: 9781 4073 1638 3].

This book is based on the excavation which took place at the south-western corner of Bristol cathedral in 1992. John Bryant has been involved in archaeological work in Bristol and the surrounding area for many years and took part in the excavation at the cathedral as site surveyor. The excavation was directed by Eric Boore. Until the creation of Bristol diocese and cathedral in 1542 the site was occupied by the wealthy Augustinian abbey, founded by Robert Fitzharding in 1140. Various monastic buildings occupied the area west of the abbey church, including the fine 12th century gatehouse which survives. The most notable building which was excavated was a lodge built for the prior of the abbey during the time of Abbot John Newland (abbot 1481-1515), who was notable for the amount of building work he instigated. The prior's house was a fine two-storey building of stone with an upper hall, kitchen, buttery, parlour, two chambers, a study and a garden. It was later known as Minster House. It survived until 1883 when, because it obstructed a clear view of the newly-built nave of the cathedral, it was demolished in spite of local objections.

John Bryant has produced a thorough and carefully-researched account of the 1992 excavation. He uses the evidence to show the way in which the site has been used since the 12th century. He has also made good use of the abundant documentary sources relating to the cathedral to show the history of the building and give details of successive occupants of Minster House. An attractive feature of the book is that, in addition to detailed reports on the finds, it includes numerous maps, plans, drawings, paintings and photo-



graphs to show how Minster House and its environs developed. The illustrations reveal how fine the architecture of Minster House was and why there was opposition to its demolition. The finds give information on the pottery, tiles, glass, coins, clay pipes and much else. Several cess-pits and drains yielded numerous objects dropped or discarded over the long centuries during which the site was occupied. The finds are carefully listed and described. They provide evidence of the trade of Bristol with ports all over Europe and beyond. Examination of the pits used for the casting of bells illustrates developments in medieval bell-founding techniques. After the Dissolution Minster House was used to accommodate a succession of secular canons, and houses for other cathedral staff were built in the precinct and on the site of the demolished nave. There is a full bibliography.

This book adds a great deal to our knowledge of the abbey and cathedral and is a welcome addition to archaeological and historical study in Bristol.

Joseph Bettey
Chairman of Bristol Cathedral Fabric
Advisory Committee (1989-2014)

Lectures - Bristol Section

**Monday
26 September
2022, 6pm**

Tour of Clifton Cathedral, led by Peter Harrison

The Roman Catholic diocese of Clifton was created in 1850, but its main church, the Pro-Cathedral on Park Place, was never consecrated, and in the 1960s it was decided that a new cathedral should be built on a new site on Pembroke Road. This tour offers members the opportunity to get a deeper understanding of the current building, its design and its functions.

Meet in the car park from 5.45. After the tour, refreshments will be available in the Apostle Room.

**Monday
24 October**

Roger Leech

A Caribbean plantation with Bristol connections: the archaeological survey and study of the landscape of Mountravers, the plantation of the Pinney family on Nevis

Professor Leech presents a talk based on his extensive research and fieldwork in the Caribbean, especially the islands of St Kitts and Nevis, and their connections with Bristol.

**Monday
28 November**

Trevor Scantlebury

Bristol Aeroplane Company, some early history

**Monday
23 January
2023**

Andrew Mudd

Medieval and later Redcliffe Quarter, Bristol. Excavations by Oxford Cotswold Archaeology JV 2017–2018

In this talk, Andrew Mudd outlines some of the results of the extensive excavations that have been undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in the heart of the medieval suburb of Redcliffe.

**Monday
27 February**

Richard Coates

National and local surnames

The first part of this talk covers the questions of the origin, typology, frequency, dialectology and the social and geographical distribution of surnames, while the second part deals with some characteristic, and occasionally problematic, surnames of Bristol and Gloucestershire.

**Monday
27 March**

Jim Pimpernell

The Berkeley Estate in the 18th Century

This lecture will look at the evolution in tenancy types and rents on the estate, and the outcomes for both the tenants and the Berkeley family.

Except for the cathedral tour on September 26th (see above), which starts at 6pm, all Bristol meetings will be held in the Apostle Room in the basement of Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road, Bristol at 7.45 pm with refreshments available from 7.15,

£1 is charged per visitor per meeting (full-time students free).

Lectures - Gloucestershire Section

Wednesday 21 September 2022	Chiz Harward <i>The Infirmarer's Lodging of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester: investigating a monastic dwelling and prebendal house</i>
Wednesday 19 October	Graham Barton <i>The supply of wine to the fortress and colonia at Glevum in the early Roman period</i>
Wednesday 16 November	Malcolm J. Watkins <i>Roberts Brothers of Gloucester: the Empire's largest games maker</i>
Wednesday 18 January 2023	Sir Henry Elwes <i>Colesbourne: A Village History Through the Ages</i>
Wednesday 15 February	Steven Bassett <i>Fortifying Mercia: the building of public defences in the west midlands in the Anglo-Saxon period</i>
Wednesday 15 March	Chris Webb <i>Construction of the railway line from Honeybourne to Cheltenham</i>


All lectures will be held at the Dunrossil Centre, Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW, beginning at 7.30 pm. Free parking at the Heritage Hub will be available. Entry to the lectures is free to members of the Society and £2 for non-members who are very welcome to attend.

Deerhurst Lecture 2022

The 2022 Annual Deerhurst Lecture will take place at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th September 2022 in St Mary's Church, Deerhurst (Gloucestershire) and will be given by Professor Francesca Tinti (University of the Basque Country) on the subject of 'Worcester, Odda of Deerhurst and lay participation in the written culture of pre-Conquest England'. Tickets at the door, price £5 (students £3). Further details available at:

<https://deerhurstfriends.co.uk>

DEERHURST LECTURE 2022



WORCESTER & ODDA OF DEERHURST
The lay participation in the written culture of pre-conquest England
by Professor Francesca Tinti, Universidad del País Vasco

17th SEPTEMBER 2022 at 7.30pm
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DEERHURST

Tickets* £5.00 / Students £3.00
Available on the door from 7.00pm (*includes a glass of wine & cheese)

www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk

2022 President's Meeting

The Landscape Context of the Anglo-Saxon Churches of Deerhurst

Saturday 1st October commencing at 10.30 am.

Meet at Uckington and Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall, The Green, Uckington, GL51 9SR (off the A4019 between Gloucester and Cheltenham, but note that there is no northbound exit to the M5 at the very nearby Junction 10)

After coffee at Uckington and Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall, we will begin with Elmstone Hardwicke church, which contains part of a 9th-century stone cross, arguably erected to commemorate the death in battle in 802 of Ealdorman Æthelmund, a patron of Deerhurst. The site of the church became significant in a variety of ways in the wider landscape of Deerhurst.

We will then head for Apperley, the village in which the bulk of the inhabitants of the parish of Deerhurst have always lived. At Apperley we will visit the lost site of Plaistow (now Apperley Green), a hundredal meeting place and play place, together with the nearby brick chapel of Apperley built in the 1850s by Henry Eustatius Strickland of Apperley Court with an unusual liturgical arrangement.

After lunch we will visit the recently discovered hermitage called Anchor Church, located beside the causeway leading to the Haw Bridge river crossing. We will then head to Deerhurst itself,



Deerhurst Priory in autumn.
(Image: George O Hillard III)

where we will look at the site of some of the lost buildings of the medieval priory and of the notoriously disreputable fair of Deerhurst, and consider the development of the village and its riverine setting.

The cost of the visit will be £19 pp. This will include:

- Coffee and biscuits at Uckington village hall
- Ploughman's lunch with hot drink or juice at Apperley village hall
- Tea and cake at Priory Farm, Deerhurst

To book, please make payment of £19 pp. to the Treasurer, Bill Evans, either by BACS to:

Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
Acc. no. 00196460
Sort code: 20-13-67
Ref.: Visit.

Or by cheque made out to Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and posted to the Treasurer - W Evans, 5 Parrys Grove, Bristol BS9 1TT.

Please note that to enable us to finalise catering arrangements, your booking will need to have been received by Friday, 23rd September. Also, for organisational reasons, the visit is limited to 40 places. Early booking is advised!

The outing involves a number of journeys and the use of a car or other vehicle is essential. If you would like to come but do not have access to a vehicle, please contact Michael Hare and he will do his best to put you in touch with someone who can provide transport. Contact details: Email: michaelharedeerhurst@tiscali.co.uk; Tel: 01452-417747

We are hoping that the visit will be fully accessible. All our catering stops are accessible and have toilets. There are a small number of steps in the churches but ramps can be put out. Please let Rob Harding (robhardingbristol@gmail.com, 0117 924 0333) know if you would like us to arrange this.

Dietary needs: if you have special dietary needs please let Rob know (email address above) and we will see what we can do.

If the weather is inclement on the day, the visit will go ahead but the talks will be in the churches of the respective locations.