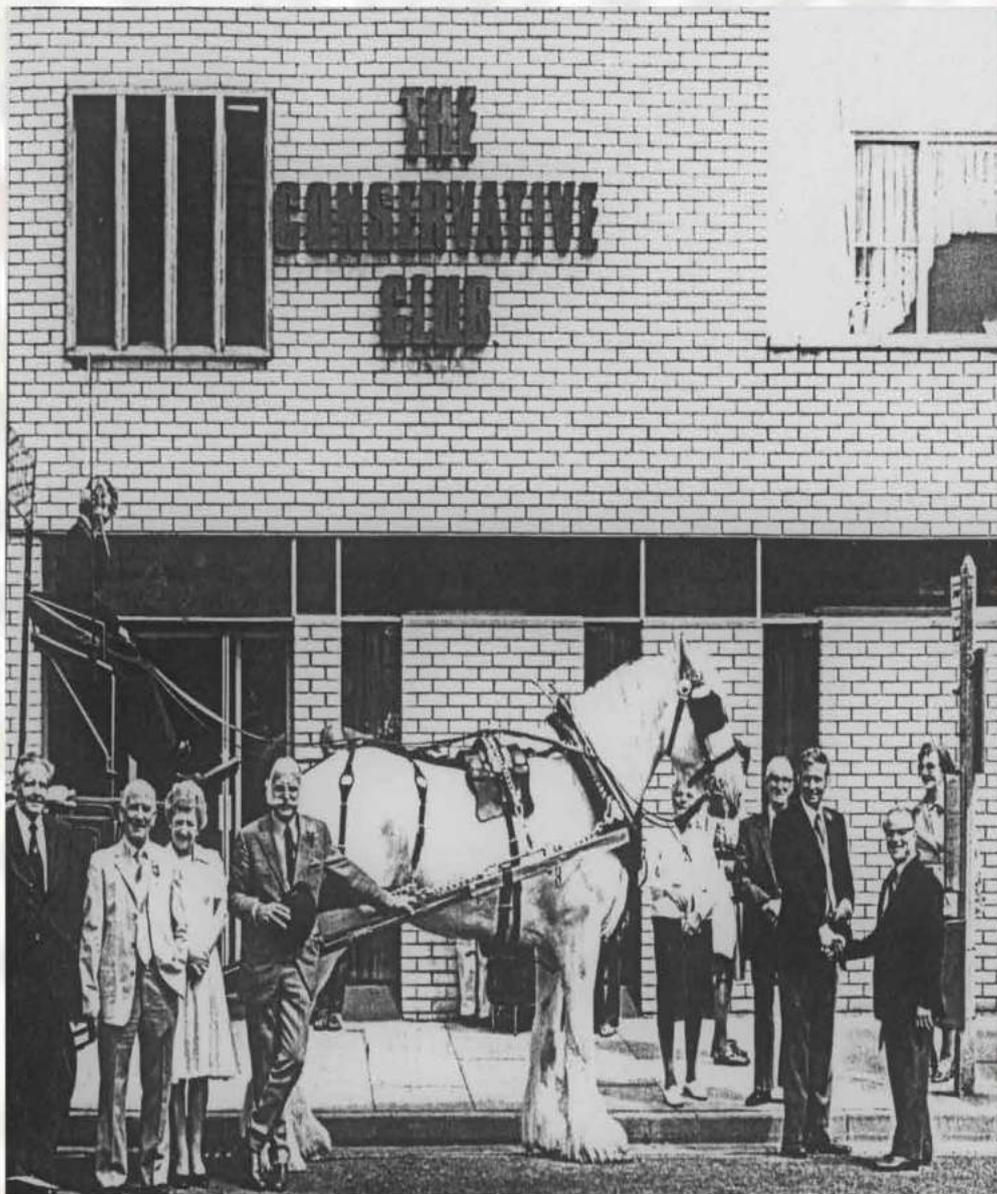


# *Buckets & Spades*



November 2021

Issue 105

[wsmfhs.org.uk](http://wsmfhs.org.uk)





The Society, 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 300 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 Parishes in North Somerset and in the Axbridge Registration District, as shown on the back cover.

**During Covid-19, Members' Meetings have taken place via Zoom and our AGM will be held on Thursday, 18 November (7.00pm). Then, from Wednesday, 8 December (2.30pm – 5.00pm), we will meet physically in a new venue - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 28 Baytree Road, BS22 8HQ. Meetings will also be live-streamed. Please note, a list of future dates is provided here in 'Buckets & Spades', also on our website.**

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, normally, volunteers from the membership are in the Library (2.00pm until 3.30pm) to assist anyone who wants to start searching for their ancestors or who has a problem with their research. **We are still awaiting further instructions from the Library but hope to resume this service soon.**

Enquiries may be made through our website [www.wsmfhs.org.uk](http://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: Brian Airey, 125, Totterdown Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4LW**, accompanied with a SAE, please.

#### **Honorary Life Members**

Brian Austin, 2001; Mrs Pat Hase, 2005; Paul Tracey,  
2014; Brian Airey 2018; Graham Payne 2018

#### **Annual Subscription 1 January to 31 December**

Worldwide member taking the Journal in electronic format	£9.00
UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£12.00
Non-UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£20.00

**Cover picture: WSM Conservative Club – see page 22**

**Buckets & Spades**  
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District Family History  
Society**  
**President: Mrs Pat Hase**

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**Issue 105 – November 2021**

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**Please note:** The next issue of ‘Buckets & Spades’ will be published in March 2022. Deadline for articles and photos is 15 February 2022. Thank you!

**Editorial  
by Sue Maguire**



Best wishes, everyone! Hope you'll enjoy 'Buckets & Spades Issue 105' and many thanks for your wonderful response to my appeal in our last issue. As always, articles are greatly appreciated, so please continue sending them to me at [smaguire15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smaguire15@yahoo.co.uk)

By the way, you will see the new 'Letters Page' has been introduced – thanks, Sylvia, you are our first contributor!

**Reminder:** Next 'B&S' will be published in March 2022, so the deadline for items is 15 February.

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**Urgent! - WSMFHS Library  
from Brian Airey, Secretary**

Please will someone take on our Society's Library? (I have looked after it for at least 15 years.) As you can see, it's stored in 12 labelled containers and our Library provides a very useful resource for you and other members.

To express your interest, please contact our Chair, Jenny Towey, on 01934 248399 or [\*jenny@towey.me.uk\*](mailto:jenny@towey.me.uk) - thank you.



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**Do You Need Assistance with Your Research?**

Brian Austin, WSMFHS Honorary Life Member and our local historian, is happy to assist members with their research. To contact Brian, please send a SAE and your query to 11 Alma Street, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 1RB.



**Our Facebook Group  
by Pat Hase**



**[www.facebook.com/groups/225868047988340](https://www.facebook.com/groups/225868047988340)**

Unlike a lot of Social Media Groups, on our Facebook Group, we do not share photographs of what we had for lunch or encourage selfies, but we might discuss food available in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century or during WW2 and post photographs of our ancestors. We have attracted 267 members so far and include people from overseas with ancestors in North Somerset. Local members may be researching their families from all parts of the country; we welcome queries about how to proceed with family history research. It is a private group and there is a link to it on the home page of the Society's website.

Members who contribute are friendly and helpful, but we encourage them to become full members of the Society so that they can benefit from all which the Society offers. We caution people not to post anything about people who may still be alive without their permission. Overall, this is a good way to keep in touch with others who share our interest and passion for family history; you never know what connections you may make!

Please join us and share your questions, photographs and memories but remember to use CAPITAL letters for surnames - it makes them easier to spot!

**Adminstrators: Pat Hase and Lorna Gibson  
Moderator: Jeanette Carter**

**Thoughts from the Chair**  
**by Jenny Towey**



You told us ... and we've listened! I am delighted to be able to inform you that, from December onwards, we are returning to physical meetings. These will now be in the afternoon so that you don't have to travel in the dark in the winter months. We have a change of venue because the Vintage Church owners are possibly selling up so we will be meeting in *Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 28 Baytree Road, Milton, BS22 8HQ*.

The meetings will be on the *second Wednesday of each month (2.30pm – 5.00pm with a speaker at 3.00pm)*. This means that we will be able to have a meeting this December as it doesn't clash with Christmas and refreshments will be available.

For those out-of-area members, we will continue to film the meetings so that you can either watch the meeting live or access the recording from our website at a time that suits you. Therefore, remember our first post-Covid meeting is on *Wednesday, 8 December* – Christmas cake and a raffle will be provided by our stalwart member, Maureen Harvey – (thank you!) and contributions towards the raffle are always welcome. I do hope that the change of venue, day and time aren't inconvenient, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Something remaining online is **RootsTech**. I do recommend that you register, for free, on the *rootstech.org* site for next year's Conference (3 - 5 March 2022). They have an amazing number of talks on various family history and genetic genealogy subjects and, once you have registered, you also can access for several months afterwards.

Have you ever searched the official public record known as 'The Gazette' at *[www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)* ? It is a free resource and contains a host of information regarding military promotions and gallantry awards, state honours and awards, deceased estates notices, insolvency notices, wills and probate, company profiles and there is a dedicated section on WWI. Give it a try – you'll be amazed at what you can find!

**‘Letters Page’  
by Sylvia Lockett (Our First Contributor!)**

**‘Buckets and Spades March 2021 - Issue 104’**

I am now 82, have given up active genealogy and unable to attend meetings.

District magazines are great, but I have not tried Zoom, so certainly am not ‘Zoom-savvy’. I appreciate the effort involved - it must be interesting. Caring takes up so much time and I am slow on the computer.

**Churches in Weston-super-Mare**

My distant relative, Sidney Pountney Herbert, was born in 1901 and married Bertha Mary Scutt in 1924.

Sidney died on 27 January 1970 and was buried in Milton Road Cemetery (no headstone) on Saturday, 31 January 1970 after a service at the Gospel Hall, Worle (‘Weston Mercury and Somerset Herald, 30 January 1970’).

No known attendance at the Gospel Hall, (they lived in Oldmixon), but I am telling you this in case you would like to add it to your list of churches. I cannot find it in modern Worle so suspect it has been re-developed. With thanks!

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**Welcome, New Members!  
by Graham Payne**

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined us since our last publication:

Helen	WESTON	(Macclesfield)
Don	TOWIE	(Weston-super-Mare)
Carol	BISSETT	(Bristol)
Ross	BERRY	(Wolli Creek, NSW, Australia)
Peter	TOWEY	(Weston-super-Mare)
Sandra	DAVIS	(New South Wales, Australia)
Sue	TARPEY	(Weston-super-Mare)
Tessa	KIRK	(Bishop Sutton)
Christopher	EAMES	(Grays, Essex)
Pamela	REVELEY	(Guisborough)
Kathryn	HOWAT	(Dicot)
Liz	SAUNDERS	(Llanishen, Cardiff)
Kieran	SAUNDERS	(Torquay)
Peter	WHITTINGHAM	(Atwell, Western Australia)
Andrew James	WILSON	(Weston-super-Mare)
Graeme George	LEE	(Perth, Western Australia)
Deborah	ALLEN	(Weston-super-Mare)

## **Results of Post COVID Questionnaire by Peter de Dulin**

A big thank you to all 82 of you who responded to my questionnaire. That is an impressive 30% of our members and the responses came from all around the world. As a result, our Committee Meeting was twice its normal length!

This survey was anonymous, but I please ask those people who said they were willing to do things to get in touch with us. I will mention those as I precis the results.

We had four replies from Australasia and one from North America - 50% of replies came from within our area but that means that 50% replied from other parts.

It is obvious that we are an ageing group. The vast majority are aged between 60 and 79 (72%), 17% are over 80 and 11% are aged 40-59. There were no responses from people under 40. Of these people, 94% are retired.

Seven people stated they would be able to give talks. Please get in touch with our **Chair, Jenny Towey**.

Two people would like to join the **Committee**. Let us know who you are.

Two people said they could help with organising the Society Library. Please get in touch with our **Secretary, Brian Airey**.

One person said they can host Zoom meetings - **YES, PLEASE!** Your help would be much appreciated.

With regards to Zoom workshops, we'll let you know when these will begin. Zoom workshops are so much easier to arrange than physical ones, but please bear with us while we organise them.

A staggering 26 of you said they would be willing to write articles for 'Buckets and Spades', so please send your articles and photos to our **Journal Editor, Sue Maguire**.

With regards to the website, the overall impression was that you are mostly pleased with it, but we are continually looking at ways to improve it.

Going forward, we asked whether you would prefer face-to-face meetings, Zoom meetings or the option of both. This question was aimed at those who came to our meetings.

- 28% prefer face-to-face
- 15% prefer Zoom
- 57% prefer the option of both

It has therefore been decided that when we meet again face-to-face, we will also livestream our meetings, which will also be available on our website.

With regards to future meetings, there are doubts over Vintage Church, so we have been negotiating a new venue - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 28 Baytree Road, Milton. Afternoon meetings are also being considered rather than evenings.

Thank you, everyone, for the extra comments at the end of the survey - 34 of you responded. Please be assured each one has been or will be discussed.

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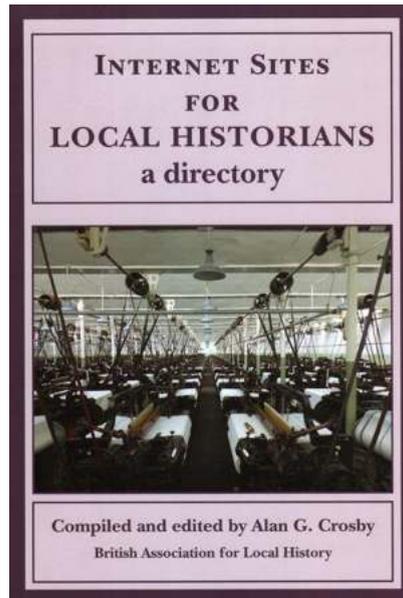
**‘Bucket & Spades’ July 2021 Ballot  
by Jenny Towey**

I would like to thank the 32 members who replied to the Ballot in the recent edition of ‘Bucket & Spades’. Here are the figures, but not everyone answered all the questions. Your Committee will be addressing some of the arising issues and comments that were made.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b>Q1:</b>	22	8	(willing to attend physical meetings)
<b>Q2:</b>	13	13	(prefer alternate physical/Zoom meetings)
<b>Q3:</b>	17	12	(favour Zoom winter meetings)
<b>Q4:</b>	1	30	(Zoom savvy and potential volunteers)
<b>Q5:</b>	0	31	(film kit availability and ability to record)

**Book Review**  
**by Jenny Towey**

***Internet Sites for Local Historians: a directory***, compiled and edited by Alan G Crosby for the British Association for Local History; 2020; fifth edition; ISBN 978-0-948140-05-1; 196 pages; £10+p&p (£8+p&p for BALH members); paperback; available from [www.balh.org.uk](http://www.balh.org.uk)



This jam-packed book is a treasure trove of fascinating sites, where you can find out about a vast range of local history-related facts and figures. It has places and subject indexes, but it is *so* worthwhile just reading the whole book.

As you all appreciate, you cannot research family history without involving yourself in local history and this book is a wonderful reminder of that. For example, it informs you where you can find British Coastguards, British Executions, British telephone books 1880-1984 (they're on Ancestry) and pre-1858 Welsh Wills. You can discover where to look up the meanings of old disease names and occupations; whether your ancestor took out Fire Insurance; which routes your canal boatman ancestor might have taken, as well as the current value of old money.

These are just tasters of what this brilliant book can point you to – I thoroughly recommend it.

**Coincidences**  
**by Sheila Mills, Blue Anchor, Minehead**  
**(and formerly Weston-super-Mare)**

The poet, Thomas Hood (1799 – 1845), wrote ‘I remember, I remember the house where I was born’. (Perhaps you will find time to look it up!)

I also remember the house where I was born (1940) and here’s a photograph! It was in HAWTHORNE ROAD, Exeter, Devon.



Our next house was in WOODAH ROAD, Exeter, Devon, and from there, we moved to:

LIME GROVE ROAD, Exeter,  
SILVERWOOD DRIVE, Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
GROVE PARK, London SE12 (I worked in Lewisham),  
LYMEBOURNE AVENUE, Sidmouth, Devon, and finally -  
GROVE LANE, Blue Anchor (Somerset), where I now live!

Have you noticed the coincidences? All the roads are named after trees which I love!

## **Kewstoke Local History Group by Tony Horry**



The Kewstoke Local History Group was started in 1982 by Edwin Wraight and some interested villagers. When Mr Wraight moved away some years later, the group disbanded leaving a large amount of information. This was taken over by Sue Ryall in 1989. At this time there were few photographs, so Sue started collecting them and the first of many exhibitions was laid on. The response to that first exhibition, which lasted a week, was fantastic and masses of information and photographs poured in.

The Kewstoke Local History Group now has over 100 ledgers filled with irreplaceable material. The records reflect on the history and development of the village and of many of the old families who have lived in Kewstoke for generations, including family trees and photos. For the millennium year, every house in Kewstoke was photographed and matched with an old photo, if there was one. All information concerning the properties was collected and, where possible, who built it, old deeds, who has lived in it and changes in ownership down the years.

The most recent exhibitions were held in 2014 and 2019 to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First World War and we were very grateful for the support of WSMFHS members who manned a Family History Advice desk. Although many more records are now easily accessed on-line, the exhibitions attract local interest and additional information is added.

The Kewstoke records collections are always available to be viewed by appointment. Please contact Sue Ryall (01934 633407) or Tony Horry (01934 628383 and [tony.horry@gmail.com](mailto:tony.horry@gmail.com))

## **Exchange Journals by Brian Yandell**

When we're able to attend Members' Evenings again, are you aware that you can borrow Journals from a selection of over 25?

These include Journals from various UK counties, for example, Bristol and Avon, Somerset and Dorset, Devon, Hampshire, Glamorgan, NW Kent etc

International Journals include W Australia, S Australia, Canberra etc.

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## **Did You Know? by Peter de Dulin**

- Of all the churches in our area, according to 'The Collins Guide to English Parish Churches', twelve are described as 'exceptionally attractive'.
- Eric J Roberts of Backwell in Somerset designed three-seat mini-cars that had front wheels which could point completely sideways, allowing the cars to turn about the centre of their rear axles ('Eagle' comic: 28 August 1965).
- The Parish of Nempnett Thrubwell is the site of the Fairy Toot oval barrow. Wade and Wade in their 1929 book 'Somerset' described it as '*a remarkably fine tumulus of masonry, said to have been one of the finest in Britain, in the chambers of which skeletons have been discovered. A few vestiges of it now only remain, the rest has been used as a lime-kiln.*' The site was visited in the past as it was known as a place for curing warts.
- In the summer of 1830, a procession of 200 people left the County Gaol at Ilchester in Somerset and set off towards Kenn, 42 miles away. Their destination was the Seven Acre Field where, the previous October, three wheat ricks had stood and one night they were burnt down. Now the arsonists, William Wall, John Rowley and Richard Clarke, were on their way to hang. It was to be the last execution to take place on the scene of the crime in Britain.

## Which is the Best Family History Site? by Jenny Towey

At family history fairs and family history meetings I often get asked ‘*Which is the best family history site to subscribe to?*’ and, always, my answer is ‘*it’s up to you!*’ We’re all different: I love dark chocolate, but my best friend prefers white – I love brown, seeded bread, she doesn’t – you get my drift.

How can personal preference affect your choice of a family history site, though? I have a German GGF – so I need a site that offers good European coverage ... but I also want excellent British coverage, too, as I have English, Scottish and (if my 3GGF wasn’t fibbing) Irish ancestry. Quite a few of my ancestors were either sent, or went voluntarily, overseas – so I want good international records, as well. I don’t have anyone (that I know of) who joined the Post Office so the PO appointment books on *Ancestry* are not of interest to me. Similarly, I don’t have any ancestors (yet?) who came from West Devon ... so the exclusive relationship that *FindmyPast* has with that archive is not of interest, either. Do you see where I’m going with this?

The top four family history websites all offer a free 14-day trial membership (you do have to register and provide them with your credit card details, in case you want to join when the trial expires, but you just remove your details if you decide ‘this site isn’t for me’). I’ll give you a quick, brief run-through ...

### Ancestry

This site is the market leader and has been going the longest.

**PROs:** free at many libraries and archives; some datasets and features are free to view; good family tree builder and offers ‘hints’ to add further records; wide range of records including Freemason records, PO appointment books, some Irish records, exclusive deals with the archives for Bristol, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Liverpool, London, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and West Riding of Yorkshire; has DNA testing.

**CONs:** you have to pay extra for overseas records, some military records eg Fold3 and WWI pension cards; the amount of records can seem overwhelming; will not accept uploads from other DNA sites.

### Findmypast

**PROs:** best for British research; linked with the British Newspaper Archive so, with a PRO subscription, you can access British (and some overseas) newspapers; exclusive relationship with archives in West Devon, Kent, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, East & North Ridings of Yorkshire; loads of Catholic records; will be the first to have the 1921 Census for England & Wales; has some good Scottish records (find the record reference to the person you’re researching and then go to ScotlandsPeople to purchase the full record); linked with LivingDNA for DNA testing – will accept DNA uploads.

**CONs:** fewer people have their tree here.

### **TheGenealogist**

**PROs:** cheaper than the first two sites; exclusive rights to their growing collections of tithe maps and the 1910 Lloyd George Domesday Survey; good for house histories and street address searches; has Distinguished Conduct medal records and a growing RAF Operations Record Books.

**CONs:** not as many records as the first two sites; very little on Scotland; you only get transcriptions of the 1939 Register (not images).

### **MyHeritage**

Previously was focused on the US market but is adding many British datasets.

**PROs:** has system of ‘Smart Matches’ to compare trees; has DNA testing – good for European ancestry, will accept DNA uploads.

**CONs:** expensive if you’ve only got UK ancestry; confusing pricing structure; only has 1939 Register transcriptions (no images).

### **ScotlandsPeople**

The only site for in-depth information on Scottish records; pay-as-you-go credit system.

### **Free sites**

There are many free sites, which I use in conjunction with my subscription sites. They are superb for when you start out researching your family history, but you’ll soon discover that it is ideal to be subscribed to at least one subscription site. They are usually run by volunteers and are not complete.

### **FreeBMD**

Has free post-1837 births, marriages and deaths for England & Wales.

### **FreeREG**

Has free parish registers for Church of England plus non-conformist records for England & Wales.

### **FreeCEN**

Has free c.19th UK census returns.

### **FamilySearch**

Has free international records: you need to register (free).

Now you can see why **I** can’t advise **you** on which site is best for **your** needs. If you live near a library which has free Ancestry, then I would recommend subscribing to Findmypast - but, if you only have Scottish ancestry, you need to be using ScotlandsPeople.

My advice is to utilise the free 14-day trials at the first four sites and then plump for the one that you find the easiest and has more records for your ancestry.

‘Finished! Everything in my family tree has been found and is completely organised’, said no genealogist. Ever!

**Dates for Your Diary**

**WSMFHS Members' Meetings  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, 28 Baytree Road, Milton, BS22 8HQ  
Wednesdays (2.30pm – 5.00pm)**

- 8 December 2021 - 'Farler's Coal Pit, Nailsea' (Speaker: Ian Sage)
- 12 January 2022 - 'Traditions of Death and Burial' (Speaker: Helen Frisby)
- 9 February 2022 - TBC
- 9 March 2022 – 'Three Villages' (Speaker: Alan Bateman)
- 13 April 2022 - '100 Years of the Skidmore Family' (Speaker: David Skidmore)
- 11 May 2022 - 'The Poor Man's Friend – Bath & the Workhouse' (Speaker: Stuart Burroughs)
- 8 June 2022 – 'The West Somerset Railway' (Speaker: Don Bishop)
- 13 July 2022 – 'Publicans & Boatmen' (Speaker: Sue Burne)
- *No Meeting in August*
- 14 September 2022 - TBC
- 12 October 2022 – 'The 1921 Census' (Speaker: Peter Towey)
- 09 November 2022 – AGM and 'Then & Now' (Speaker: Bill Caple)
- 14 December 2022 – TBC

## **Population Statistics by Jenny Towey**

During the Covid pandemic, several large FH Societies have created a programme of online talks and workshops. I am a member of Berkshire FHS and I recently paid to listen to Debbie Kennett, the British DNA guru, who does a 3-monthly DNA workshop for BFHS members.

She does an update on new features that the major DNA companies have brought out and answers queries from the group members.

In her last session, she produced this chart on population statistics which, for those of us who have tested our DNA and have found many cousins scattered around the world, I thought would be interesting.

### **Population Statistics**

<b>Date</b>	<b>GB &amp; Ireland</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>1630</b>	<b>5,600,517 (England only)</b>	<b>550,000 – 600,000</b>	<b>4,646</b>	
<b>1700</b>	<b>6,045,008 (England only)</b>	<b>630,000 (1715)</b>	<b>250,888</b>	
<b>1800/1801</b>	<b>16,345,646</b>	<b>959,300</b>	<b>5,308,483</b>	<b>391,899 (1806)</b>
<b>1850/1851</b>	<b>27,533,755</b>	<b>2,363,000</b>	<b>23,191,876</b>	<b>2,414,519</b>
<b>1900/1901</b>	<b>41,609,091</b>	<b>6,506,954</b>	<b>76,212,168</b>	<b>5,371,000</b>

### **Sources**

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographic\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographic_history_of_the_United_States)  
[www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Population-history-of-london.jsp](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Population-history-of-london.jsp)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_London#Population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_London#Population)  
[www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/98-187-x/4151287-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/98-187-x/4151287-eng.htm)

**The McNeill Family**  
**by Sylvia Lockett**

My friend started it! We pass Walton St Mary Churchyard in Clevedon frequently and, on the corner of Castle Road and Channel Road, one can see a memorial stone. It is a stepped square plinth, topped by an ornamental cross, all in a reddish stone and it reads –

‘In memory of Elizabeth, 5th daughter of Hugh McNeill Esq, of Carnsamps, Ballycastle, Co Antrim, NI, died Hayling 26 December 1895’ (death reg M28, p 246, Havant District)

So just out of curiosity I thought I would try to see what I could find - at no expense!

At that stage a couple of years ago, I was able to contact ‘the burial record lady’ (churchwarden) at the church to see what she could tell me. Also, the ‘Clevedon Mercury’ covering 1895 was consulted.

Presumably, Elizabeth worked in Hayling or nearby. Nothing! Could she have been independent? Why the Clevedon Memorial?

The 1881 Census RG11 piece 2461 F 58, p93, showed Annie McNeill, widow, 77, no occupation, born in Ireland, now at ‘Ravensworth’, Queens Road, Clevedon, together with:

Elizabeth, unmarried daughter, 37, born 1844

Louise E McNeill, also an unmarried daughter, aged 30, Bedminster District, c.1850

A servant, Alice Baker

Then comes ‘Allandale’, Albert Road

Next, on to 1891 Census – 9 Oxford Street, Stretford, St Bride, Lancs, where Elizabeth turns up living with her married sister and family:

Thomas Gogarty, 50, bookbinder, employed, born in Ireland

Rachel Gogarty, wife, 50, born in Ireland (died 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 1897, Barton upon Irwell, Lancs)

Elizabeth McNeill, 60, sister, born in Ireland. Could she have been ill?

Jane Gogarty, 18, daughter, bookbinder, born in Liverpool. Thomas and Rachel can be found in earlier Censuses with 4 or more children.

Meanwhile, mother, Ann McNeill, died. ‘Widow of the late Hugh of Carnsampson, Ballycastle, Co Antrim, daughter of the late James Kirkpatrick of Ballycastle. Born 22 September 1803, died 22 February 1888’ (Bedminster District, this may have been in Clevedon also). I have not asked where she was buried.

Elizabeth then died in Hayling in 1895, (possibly there for her health?) The organiser of her memorial in Clevedon is not known at the present time. Possibly she is not actually buried there, just named on the memorial? Could not find a mention in newspapers.

Presumably, Louisa died in Clevedon. I did not ask when or where she was buried. No wills were found.

Of various sites consulted, it was difficult to find out much more with accuracy. Findmypast, and several newspapers, revealed that here may have been more than one Hugh McNeill. FmP ‘Free Ireland’ says one Hugh was born in 1795 and in died 1865 (Cat BMD sub-cat D + Bur, Vol 11 p4, and another Hugh McNeill was born in 1877 and died in 1864, Ballycastle, age 87, vol 6, p78, Antrim.

Griffith’s Valuation also has several entries which had me totally confused. I then stopped searching (perhaps someone else is interested)? I do not know my way around Irish records!

I do not think Hugh became the Dean of Ripon or the one who emigrated to USA.

As usual, more questions arise: why did Ann or Louise or Elizabeth come to live at Clevedon? Salubrious air? Elizabeth had at least 7 sisters - who were they? Any brothers? Why would members of a family have a memorial in the Churchyard at Walton St Mary, when there were nearer churches – perhaps, this was the only cemetery available?

Much more waits to be done! Are you that person?



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE & DISTRICT  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Thursday, 18 November 2021 (7pm)**

**A G E N D A**

**Apologies**

- 1. Minutes of AGM 2019**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Chairman's Report**
- 4. Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts**
- 5. Nominations for Committee**

**Chair:**

**Treasurer:**

**Secretary:**

**Committee:**

- 6. Changes to Constitution**
- 7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner**

**Your Committee is proposing to amend the Constitution to reflect the current electronic age. Changes are in bold, italics and red.**

**8. GENERAL MEETINGS:** The AGM shall be not later than 31 December each year. The Committee may at any time call a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING and the Secretary must call one when requested to do so by an Officer or on receipt of a request signed by not less than SIX members, stating the object of the meeting. At least 14 days' notice, accompanied by an AGENDA, shall be given of any General Meeting. The Rules may be added to, altered or amended at any General Meeting provided that the proposed change of any rule is included in the published AGENDA. Amendments to such a published resolution may be put to the Meeting.

***8(a) 'Meeting' means any General, Committee or Members' Meeting. Any such Meeting may be held physically or online as a virtual meeting. Those present online shall have the same rights as those physically present.***

**9. VOTING: *Elections and resolutions proposed at a General Meeting shall be decided on a show of hands or electronically in any suitable format.*** Any alterations to the Meeting being in favour. The SOCIETY may be dissolved at a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING called for that purpose when the resolutions must be passed by at least three-quarters of those present. Any remaining financial assets shall then pass to the FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION and written records to the SOCIETY of GENEALOGISTS.

## **Weston-super-Mare & District Family History Society**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 26 November 2019**

**Apologies:** Brian and Pam Airey, Bill Caple, Peter Follett, Graham Payne, Arleen Pilgrim, Grace Rubery, Patrice Sessions.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018:** Tony Horry pointed out that his name had been omitted from the list of the elected Committee Members. It was agreed to add his name and amend the Minutes. Proposer: Peter Towey; Seconder: Peter de Dulin.

**Matters Arising:** The Society has now published, as we promised the late Kerry James, the results of the research into her ancestors. It has taken a longer than expected but it has now been finalised with the help of Sue Maguire. Copies of the book will be presented to Kerry's family.

**Acting Chairman's Report:** Jenny Towey presented her report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roy Smith presented the accounts and his report. The main additional expenditure this year has been on re-developing and upgrading our website. Our finances are still in a healthy condition. The accounts were accepted. Proposer: Tony Horry; Seconder: Sue Maguire.

**Nominations for Officers and Committee:** Lorna Gibson has decided to stand down after several years. We thank her for all she has done while on the Committee, especially in organising our new Facebook page.

The following put themselves forward as candidates for Officers/Committee: Chair: Jenny Towey; Vice-Chair: Peter de Dulin; Secretary: Brian Airey; Membership: Graham Payne; Treasurer: Roy Smith; Journal Editor: Sue Maguire; Webmaster: Paul Tracey; also, Pat Hase; Sue Dury; Bill Caple; Brian Yandell; and Tony Horry.

They were elected en bloc. Proposer: Arthur Redman; Seconder: Libby Twite.

**Nomination for Accounts Examiner:** Brian Wilson, who undertakes this essential task, was willing to continue. He is not a Society member.

**Any Other Business:** None.

The Chair then closed the Annual General Meeting.

## **History of the Weston-super-Mare Conservative Club by Brian Yandell**

Numbers 24, 25 and 26 Alexandra Parade were originally part of a terraced row of double bay houses, dated approximately 1830.

Number 24 was purchased by a breakaway group from the Constitutional Club, as at that time working men were not encouraged to mix socially with their employers, so this group decided to form their own club. Money was raised by interest-free loans and donations, which were repaid quickly. The response was encouraging, and many working men wished to join. The Club was named WESTON-SUPER-MARE WORKING MEN'S UNIONIST CLUB.

In 1934, Number 25 Alexandra Parade was purchased, and the 2 properties were enlarged to cater for the increasing number of men wishing to join.

In 1938, Number 26 Alexandra Parade was purchased but, at that time, they were unable to carry out any further expansion and the property remained empty for a number of years.

In the late 1940s, this property was sold to Bristol United Hospitals Convalescent Fund but was repurchased by the Club about 1963.

It was 1972 before the alterations to extend the Club to include Number 26 was completed and the skittle alley was re-sited to its present position and the frontage altered. A plaque is sited above the Club's inner doors to mark this occasion.

In 1937, the title of the Club was changed to the UNIONIST CLUB and, in 1969, it was again changed to the CONSERVATIVE CLUB (see photo on front cover of 'B&S'). The word 'Unionist' was dropped on advice due to the Irish problem at that time. In fact, there were 2 false bomb alerts during these periods.

It was only in the late 1970s that ladies were first admitted, only as guests of members, and then after much discussion they were accepted as associate members. The rules were changed in 1993/94 and ladies became full members, being able to vote and serve on the Committee.

Dr G Duncan Grey was the first Chairman of the Club in 1910, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1921 and was Knighted in the 1923 Honours list. His son, Lt Col George Goldney Grey, was awarded an OBE in 1955 and was Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset during and after the re-organisation of local government. He served as Mayor of Weston-super-Mare and was made a Life Member of the Club in 1970.

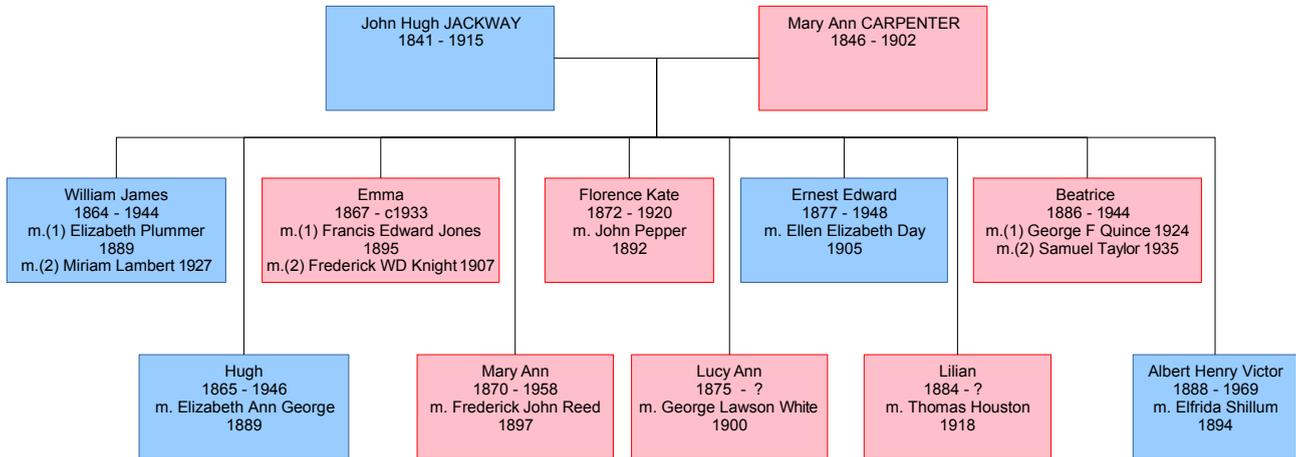
The hard worker for the town and Club, Mr Henry Butt, was Vice-chairman of the Club in 1911 and in 1910 he presented a cup for the members to play for in an annual skittle contest. It can be seen in the Trophy case. It is reputed to be the largest cup in the southwest and it will hold 20 pts (of beer)!

Have a close look at the photos on the next page – were you there or do you recognise someone?

Buckets & Spades – November 2021



## Hugh John Jackway and Mary Ann Carpenter by Julie Jakeway



In our last issue of ‘Buckets & Spades, I promised to reveal the fortunes of Hugh John, the eldest son of John and Charlotte Jackway - here it is!

John Hugh Jackway and Mary Ann Carpenter married in Bath on Christmas Day 1863 and their first child, William James, was born sixteen days later on 10 January 1864. Their marriage certificate states they were both living at 8 Weymouth Square, Bath, and both were of 'full age', but in fact Mary Ann was just seventeen and a half years old, having been born in Bath on 22 June 1846.

John Hugh was born in the Parish of Winscombe, some thirty miles away, and had arrived in Bath between March 1861 and March 1863. By the time John Hugh and Mary Ann registered their son's birth they had moved to 12 Half Moon Street and, when their second son, Hugh, was born in September 1865, they were living at 7 Margaret's Place, also in Bath.



*Illustration 1: Map of West Somerset*

Two years later (1867) when daughter Emma arrived, she was registered with the surname Jakeway, as were all subsequent children of John Hugh and Mary. By now they had left Bath for Weston-super-Mare and here they were to remain for the rest of their lives. Weston-super-Mare is situated only eight miles from Winscombe, the Parish where John Hugh had been born and brought up. In 1867, it was swiftly developing its reputation as a holiday resort:

*‘Weston-super-Mare acquired, onward to 1869, such increasingly great improvements as to become a very handsome town and a first-rate sea-bathing resort; comprising many fine streets, terraces, and crescents, together with numerous detached elegant residences; including a fine open space, called Ellenborough Park lined along the sides with ornamental villas; enjoying a salubrious climate, a good bathing beach and charming environs ...’*

John Hugh, like his father John, was a gardener throughout his life: from the age of twenty and still living in Winscombe with his parents, this was his declared occupation and continued to be so until he was seventy, when in 1911 he still described himself as a 'jobbing gardener'. Whether he was employed in the market gardens on the outskirts of Weston or in the private gardens of the large villas such as those in Ellenborough Park is impossible to know. In any event, gardening was unlikely to be secure in terms of a regular income. John Hugh and Mary Ann were recorded as Jackway in 1871, the first census of five conducted during their lives in Weston, although their children had been registered with the name of Jakeway from 1867 onwards.

Whilst Mary Ann's occupation was never recognised in the census reports, she shared the misfortune of her mother-in-law, Charlotte, by contributing to the family income as a laundress. The hardship and privations of a laundress's work were widely recorded in Victorian social commentary: In 1894 The 'Pall Mall Gazette' proclaimed that 'widows, washing, misery and mangles seem somehow indissolubly connected', indicating that laundry was not an enviable occupation.

Soon after their arrival in Weston, John Hugh and Mary Ann moved into 15 Burlington Street where they were the sole occupants and lived for many years with their expanding family. This picture of Burlington Street shows number 13; number 15 no longer exists, and the photograph on the right shows the archway of the Weston-super-Mare Gaslight Company Workshops built in 1908 which now abuts number 13.

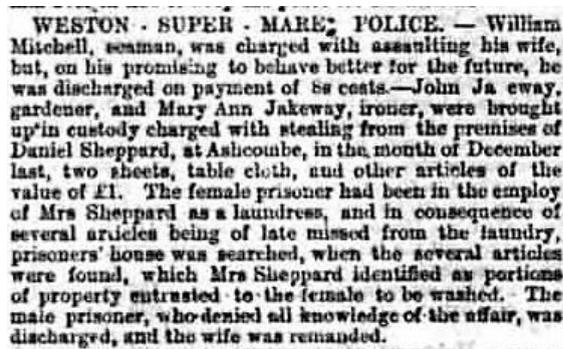


***Illustration 2: Burlington Street, Weston***

John Hugh and Mary Ann went on to have seven more children, ten in all, with a gap of seven years between Ernest's birth in 1877 and Lilian's in 1884.

This gives rise to the question - why such a gap of years?

The family were not without their troubles: Mary Ann was an ironer in 1875 employed by Mrs Sheppard, wife of Daniel Sheppard, a milkman, living at Ashcombe Road, Weston, and in this role, Mary Ann took the opportunity to pilfer articles from her employer with the resulting charge reported in the 'Western Daily Press' - 5 March 1875:



WESTON - SUPER - MARE; POLICE. — William Mitchell, seaman, was charged with assaulting his wife, but, on his promising to behave better for the future, he was discharged on payment of 8s costs.—John Ja away, gardener, and Mary Ann Jakeway, ironer, were brought up in custody charged with stealing from the premises of Daniel Sheppard, at Ashcombe, in the month of December last, two sheets, table cloth, and other articles of the value of £1. The female prisoner had been in the employ of Mrs Sheppard as a laundress, and in consequence of several articles being of late missed from the laundry, prisoners' house was searched, when the several articles were found, which Mrs Sheppard identified as portions of property entrusted to the female to be washed. The male prisoner, who denied all knowledge of the affair, was discharged, and the wife was remanded.

*Illustration 3: 'Western Daily Press' – 5 Mar 1875*

When laundry items went missing, Mary Ann's home was searched and the lost sheets, tablecloth and so on were found there. Her sentencing was postponed 'due to the illness of the prisoner', Mary Ann having been heavily pregnant with daughter, Lucy Ann, who was baptised in April 1875. In August, Mary Ann was convicted and sent to prison for six weeks with hard labour.



Five years later in April 1880, Mary Ann was before the magistrates again accused of stealing, this time with her daughter, also named Mary Ann (born 1870). Mary Ann (mother) was charged with obtaining by false pretenses 6¼ lb of mutton valued at 5s. 1½d. (£25.47 as at 2019)<sup>ii</sup>, sugar, tea, raisins and other groceries valued at 9s. 8½d. (£48.43) and 5 lb of bacon, tea, sugar and other articles valued at 11s.0d. (£55.15), in January and February 1880.

*Illustration 4: Industrial School, Bath Higginbotham Peter, <http://www.childrenshoes.org/> accessed May 2017*

Daughter Mary Ann was also charged with taking a piece of pork and sundry groceries with intent to defraud. She was sent to the Axbridge Workhouse for three weeks and from there to an industrial school in Bath where she was to remain until she was sixteen years old<sup>iii</sup>.

This school was located at 16-18 Walcot Parade, Bath. The superintendent was Miss Skinner and the schoolmistress was Miss Margaret McCaskell, with a laundress also employed. The older girls were occupied in the laundry, and the juniors in needlework, cooking, and household management, in preparation for future work in domestic service, which Mary Ann duly embarked on. By 1891, she was living at home with her parents in Weston-super-Mare and Mary Ann's occupation was described as 'general servant domestic'.

Impossible at this distance of time to know the circumstances that impelled Mary Ann to resort to theft and to involve her ten-year-old daughter in her crime. Given that the items stolen were meat and groceries it is possible, even likely, that the family were poverty-stricken and on the point of starvation. Mary Ann (mother) was sentenced to nine months' hard labour at Shepton Mallet Prison followed by five years' police supervision.

Conditions for women in local prisons varied across the country and Shepton Mallet Prison looks bleak from this picture. It was originally built in 1610 as a House of Correction. The term 'hard labour' to which Mary Ann was sentenced, for women, usually meant oakum-picking, described below. At Shepton Mallet female prisoners with the classification 'hard labour' were to pick 'not less than three pounds of oakum per day' and 'to sleep on a plank bed without a mattress'. Oakum-picking involved:



***Illustration 5: View of Shepton Mallet Prison***

*'The task of untwisting old and broken lengths of rope; the fibres 'picked' out, sorted, cleaned and 'teased'. It was very painful work because the prisoner's fingers, and in particular those of the women, would become red-raw and often bleed through the continual drawing out of the rope fibres. The fibres were then sent to boat-building yards to be mixed with tar and used to make ships' hulls and decks watertight, or for use in the making of mats and mattresses.'*<sup>iv</sup>

Mary Ann was released from prison on 31 March 1881 so was not among the number of 82 men and 13 women recorded in Shepton Mallet Gaol when the Census was taken three days later on 3 April 1881.

The following is a transcript of the details relating to Mary Ann and listed in the discharges from Shepton Mallet Prison in 1881:

Name	Jakeway, Mary Ann
Date of Birth	1843
Place of Birth	Bath
Married or Single	M
Trade or Occupation	-
Complexion	sl
Hair	Dk br
Eyes	hz
Height (without shoes)	5. 2.
Build	Prop
Shape of Face	Long
Distinctive Marks and Peculiarities	Slightly pockpitted, abscess scar on right arm, scar on right thumb
Prison from which liberated and date of liberation	Shepton Mallet 31.3.81
Destination on Discharge	15, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare
Period of Police Supervision	5 years

*Crime Prisons and Punishment Transcription 1881*  
 from <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Living with the family at the time of the 1881 Census was Mary Ann's niece, Emily Cope, aged 18, who may have been designated to act as housekeeper for John Hugh during the months his wife was in prison. Mary Ann's period of imprisonment may offer some explanation of the seven-year gap between Ernest's birth in 1877 and Lilian's in 1884; if the family was living in dire poverty for some time before her imprisonment, conditions in Shepton Mallet Prison probably added to her physical debility and reduced the possibility of pregnancies.



John Hugh and Mary Ann moved from 15 Burlington Street to 15 Glebe Road between Census night on 5 April 1891, when they were recorded at Burlington Street, and 24 November 1892, when daughter Florence Kate was married from Glebe Road. On occasions, the address at Glebe Road was referred to as Banwell House and the family remained there until sometime after Mary Ann's death in 1902. At the Census taken on 2 April 1911, John Hugh was living with his married daughter, Lucy Ann.

**Illustration 6:**  
**15 Glebe Road, Weston-super-Mare**  
**2016**

All ten children of the family survived into adulthood, five of the six girls were employed in domestic service before marriage; the fifth, Lilian, was living with her married sister, Florence, in Weston in 1901, her occupation described as 'mother's help'. By 1911, Lilian M Jakeway in her mid-twenties was listed as an officer at the Infirmary Workhouse, Withington, described as a 'sick nurse', born in Weston, although by 1918 she had moved to London to marry Thomas Houston. The sixth and youngest daughter, Beatrice twenty-five years of age in 1911, was employed as a shop assistant in a confectioners' business and living in Paddington, London, though she too, was eventually married in 1925 to George Quince in Derby. After marriage, the four older girls' surnames changed to Jones, Reed, Pepper and White - difficult to identify those surnames with any certainty in documentation after the 1911 Census. The boys, of course, retained the Jakeway name and so remained more visible. They all married - William James and Hugh both moved to Wales, Ernest Edward joined the railway in Bristol and Albert Henry Victor moved first to Wales and then emigrated to New Zealand.

#### END NOTES

- i <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/703> - accessed 15 May 2017
- ii Bracketed amounts show current day value as suggested by <https://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ukcompare/relativevalue.php>
- iii <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/BathGirlsIS/> - accessed March 2021
- iv Francis Disney, 'Shepton Mallet Prison: 380 Years of Prison Regime', (Hyperion Books, 1992), p53

**The Church Choir  
by Philip Clark  
(Charlottesville, Virginia)**

I joined St John's Parish Church Choir in April 1950, just before my seventh birthday. My mother said that I 'was the youngest and smallest - and did look cute.' Terry, my brother, was by then a senior member of the choir. 1950 could be said to be the beginning of my musical career. I sang in the Festival of Choirs at Wells Cathedral in June and began piano lessons with Mr Rowles, the choirmaster five days later. I told Mr Rowles that he had a piano just like Sparky's! (Do you remember Sparky and his Magic Piano?)



**St John's Parish Church Choir, 1950 ('Bristol Evening Post')**  
**Terry - first boy at the front on the right and Philip - third boy from the left at the back,  
in front of the men**

The visit to Wells, the first of many, was one of my magic musical moments. On a rare perfect June day, we had gathered outside the Cathedral, along with a thousand other choristers from around Somerset. As we began to process in through the cloisters, I became aware of the beautiful, angelic sound of a single voice coming from the great building we were about to enter. It got louder and even more heavenly – then, as we passed through the door, I suddenly saw the source of the voice. It was, in fact, not one voice but the whole Cathedral choir, singing in such perfect unison that it sounded like one! Each time since I've been to Wells and entered through that door that voice comes back to me like a ghost.



**Wells Cathedral – West Front**

The Parish Church Choir was a demanding commitment. We were required to be at the church on Tuesday and Friday evenings for rehearsals, and on Sundays for the morning service at 11.00 am and the evening service at 6.30 pm. Apart from summer breaks and sickness, I rarely missed until my voice broke six and a half years later. For this, we were paid two or three times a year, and although it seemed like a lot of money when it arrived in the pay packet, the per-hour rate must have been a pittance ... but it was only supposed to be pocket money and was certainly useful!

We lived on Upper Bristol Road in Milton then, so the church was about a mile and a half away. I don't remember going by car, though perhaps we did if the weather was bad. It was always bus and walk, or bike – at first with my dad or Terry and, then later, on my own. Dad was a bell ringer, so I'm guessing that I only went with him on Sunday mornings. For obvious reasons, they practised on a different night from the choir. There was little traffic on the road then and we were never concerned for our safety. The only major hill was at the end, going down past Grove Park to the church. After rehearsal, I walked up the hill and started biking at the top. A bus left from close to my house, but I had to get out at the top of Arundel Road and walk the last half-mile. Many times, I would walk back from the church to the bus stop on my own.

When it was dark in winter, the street lighting was poor. I was not too frightened by the dark, but there were places that scared me. At the top of the hill, there was a small convent or Catholic school with a dimly lit statue of the Virgin Mary in one of the windows. It always seemed like it was moving if I kept my eyes fixed on it. The trick was not to look at it, but that was more difficult than it sounds! I had to play all sorts of mind games with myself not to be drawn to looking at it. Then, only fifty yards later, there was a gateway that was so black that I had to run past it. I didn't mind going to sleep in the dark, but those places scared me.

Parts of my choir days were fun. I tried to get there early because something would always be happening. A game of ball-touch perhaps – where the boy with the tennis ball had to 'tag' the next boy by throwing the ball at him, often very hard and fast. I'm sure I still have the indentations in my shins where I violently and painfully collided with gravestones. There was a wonderful climbing tree at the back of the graveyard, a yew which I imagined to be the kind of tree Robin Hood cut his bows from, and where one could take a time-out or simply climb over into the road. It was still there when last I looked.

During the summer when I was a bit older, we often strayed a little further into the northern reaches of Grove Park where we could creep up on and annoy young lovers who thought they had this isolated part of the park to themselves!

A new choirboy's initiation ceremony was usually quite cruel but not untypical for a boyish activity. My own initiation was to be thrown into the holly bush, but two things were in my favour – the new holly in spring was not so prickly and my brother, being in a position of power, influenced how high in the bush I should be thrown. He must have been kindly disposed towards me that evening because I was thrown in only halfway up. As the authorities found out about these ceremonies and banned them, others were invented. One was to make the new boy walk over the long pipe to the boiler house. Most didn't make it and fell in a bed of nettles. The last 'ceremony' was to put the new boy in the vaults and lock the door, but we discovered an entrance under the choir door at the back of the church.



**St John's Parish Church, Weston-super-Mare**

When the church clock struck seven, the graveyard fell mysteriously quiet and not a boy was to be seen. Then Mr Rowles came out calling, 'Come on, boys' and, as he found first one boy and then another, the rest of us reluctantly came out from our hiding places.

There were other parts of the church experience that were not so enjoyable - the interminable and boring sermons of Reverend Battersby, for instance. Mr Battersby had no interest in making his sermons interesting - well, at least to the boys behind him in the choir. He held the higher title of 'Prebendary'. He was tall and evidently an ex-military man, for he wore his war decorations on his cassock. From the choir stalls, I could see his head and shoulders above the pulpit and beneath were the lower part of his cassock, his socks and shiny black shoes. Because of the pulpit's stonework, the middle part of his body was missing making Mr Battersby appear very, very tall indeed! I pondered this for long stretches of time as the voice droned on and on.

Once, on the occasion of a visit to the church of the Archdeacon of Bath and Wells, I was playing with one of my friends in the crowded vestry, something we were not supposed to do. I must have been trying to hide when I popped up between the Archdeacon and Mr Battersby who were conversing. The Very Reverend Archdeacon caught me by the shoulders and shoved me across the room. I landed on my backside; the room momentarily fell silent; and I blushed scarlet.

Frequently during the services, I found myself staring at the blank stone wall above the choir stall in front of me. I had to avoid doing this because I started to think about drawing my nails along the stone, which would have produced a disagreeable shiver. The wall somehow forced me to look at it - like that statue of the Virgin Mary. After all, what else was there to look at? I had read the memorial tablets millions of times and, however hard one tried, there was no new information to be found on them! You were not allowed to read, not even the prayer or hymn books, and one of the men in the choir behind you quickly extinguished any attempt to talk with your friend. Boredom, I discovered, was something that children had to put up with - I could not wait to be grown up.

Then girls started to distract me from the boredom. There was no one day when I first noticed them. Jennifer and Carol, two girls a year or two older than me, often sat in the front row of the balcony during the evening service. They began to interest me. I watched them during the psalms, the hymns and the sermons, studied them when they walked in, what they wore, when they prayed, when they sang and when they got up to leave. I imagined no one knew what I was doing. When they looked my way, were they looking at me or someone else in the choir? From a distance, I fell in love with one of them. Or was it both? I rarely saw them outside the church so had no idea what they were really like, but I must have learned their names from someone. When I did see them in town, I was too shy to speak to them. Anyway, I was sure they didn't know who I was. Jennifer Brian was the daughter of the Postmaster whose post office in the Boulevard which I became acquainted with in my twelfth year.

My brother Terry, I believe, paid some attention at the church to a girl called Jennifer Powell - I think that was her name. He was gently teased by my mother, but my brother's romantic inclinations were treated as serious business in our family. I was beginning to understand that it was to be my turn soon.

Mr Warren was Curate when I first got there. He was a pleasant man, young but balding with a pointed nose, which really is all I remember of him. The first annual picnic I went to was in 1950, by motorboat to Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel. We went there a number of times. The boat ride and exploration of the island were most enjoyable. When Mr Dean became a Curate at St John's, things changed dramatically, and church became more interesting. He was a young man who spoke his mind. I'm quite sure that members of the old school were upset with him but, for us boys, he was someone who could speak our language and keep us engaged. I even found myself listening to and often being interested in his sermons. It was Mr Dean who started the Scout troop and who took us camping at Christon for a week.

All this was a distraction from the reason for our being there, which of course was to sing. This part of the job I took seriously and always tried to do well. Mr Rowles retired after about a year and was replaced by Mr Hannay. Mr Hannay had a far more professional and workmanlike approach to his position as choirmaster. We tested him only once or twice before we realised that he tolerated no misbehaviour. He had us singing exercises and scales, and he pointed a finger into his mouth singing, ‘Ah, ah, ah’ or ‘Oh, oh, oh’ to encourage us to open our throats. He was an energetic man and obviously loved what he was doing, although I think he would have been happier with a cathedral choir.

He demanded perfect intonation, even when singing widely spaced intervals. This became quite important to me as a string player. Many people don’t realise that it is necessary for all instrumentalists, not just singers, to have the pitch in your head before you play a note, not when you play it. It’s too late to change once you get there. Good sight-reading demands that intervals should be recognised before they are played. I memorised a list of tunes for each interval – ‘Away in a Manger’ (English version) for the perfect fourth for instance, and the Evening hymn for the major sixth. Quickly it became second nature to be able to pitch intervals without recourse to the aid.

A psalm was sung every Sunday and some of them could be long and boring. There was no music to follow, but the psalm book was written in a way that you knew when and how to change pitches. Basically, you sing them with the same rhythms that you speak them - where you changed pitch, depended on what version you had rehearsed.

Hymns were easy, and I had my favourites - the Evening hymn, No 33 in ‘Hymns Ancient and Modern’ was one: ‘The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended ...’

The hearty Harvest Hymn was another ‘We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land ...’ and of course Cym Rhondda which I liked when later I could sing the rising dominant seventh in the bass part at the end of the verse.

Some of the anthems we sang were more difficult. A lot of them were nineteenth century by British composers like Parry or Walford Davies, well written but not many of them were musically inspiring. There was one by the English Mendelssohn, Samuel Wesley, that I liked a lot – ‘Love one another with a pure heart fervently. When I became head boy, I got to sing the solo. It had a high G, which bothered me a bit, but I think I made it. My voice was already showing signs of change and I did not last long in the senior position. We sometimes did bigger choral pieces, for example, from Haydn’s ‘The Creation’ or Handel’s ‘Messiah’.

I was often impressed by certain passages from the Bible or other verse used in the services, though I was not aware of it as being poetry or even of its real meaning. I always enjoyed the passage from St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, for instance, starting:

‘If I speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, and have not love,  
I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal ...’

and was most affected, and still am, by Binyon’s words read at the 11 November Memorial Services:

‘They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.’

At eleven o’clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns stopped, but eleven thousand had already died that day. (Was that true, I wondered?)

One year at Christmas, all the boys piled into a bus and drove around town singing carols. I can’t imagine that it worked very well. Some kind of speaker system was rigged up whereby we all sang as loudly as we could into one microphone in the middle of the bus, rather like a recording studio from the early years of the century. The carols were then broadcast from a loudspeaker on top of the bus. Obviously, the inadequacy of the system was too upsetting for our perfectionist choirmaster, Mr Hannay, who became more and more irritable as the boys became more unruly.

Before I leave St John’s Church, I must tell you about a little incident that sticks colourfully in my memory. M D W Poole was one of the senior boys a year or two ahead of me. He went on to great heights at the Grammar School, winning many of the senior year prizes. He was not known for his athletic prowess and today he might have been called a nerd or a geek.

One evening, before choir practice, an argument or fight broke out. Someone had offended Poole. The perpetrator – it might have been a boy whose last name was Erasmus - made a quick retreat on his bike down the hill towards town. Poole was so agitated that he also took off on his bike after him, but the way he did it is what was so memorable! Shoving his bike ahead of him he took his hands off the machine and with great speed and agility, leapt into the saddle and roared off after his foe. By the time we got out to the road, the two adversaries could be seen down at the bottom of the hill, arms flailing and fists flying. Poole was forever known after this incident as Michael David Walter (for those were his real names) ‘Petrol’ Poole, which one learned to say very quickly.

I tried the bike trick a number of times afterwards. I could do it keeping my hands on the handlebars, but I never had the courage to complete the handless manoeuvre. Today, I wonder if I imagined that bit!

### 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: <i>bristol-library-service@bristol.gov.uk</i>
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: <i>bro@bristol-city.gov.uk</i>
Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426020 email: <i>clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
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: <i>nailsea.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
Weston-super-Mare Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1PR	Tel: 01934 621028. Fax 01934 612526 email: <i>museum@wsm-tc.gov.uk</i>
Portishead Library, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6EW	Tel: 01934 426040 email: <i>portishead.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages, Town Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	Tel: 01934 427552 email: <i>register.office@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF	Tel: 01823 278805 email: <i>archives@somerset.gov.uk</i>
Somerset Studies Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ	Tel: 01823 340300. Fax: 01823 340301 email: <i>somstud@somerset.gov.uk</i>
Weston Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	For general enquiries: Tel: 01934 426010 email: <i>weston.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i> For local history enquiries: Tel: 01934 888855 email: <i>answers@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
Weston Civic Society, The Old Town Quarry, South Road, Weston super Mare, BS232LS	email: <i>westoncivicsociety.org.uk</i>
Worle Library and Children's Centre, Mendip Avenue, Worle, BS22 6HN	Tel: 01934 462090 email: <i>worle.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>
Yatton Library, 48 High Street, Yatton, BS49 4HJ	Tel: 01934 426100 email: <i>yatton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>

**Officers and Committee**

<b>Position Held</b>		<b>Current Occupier of the Position</b>
Chair and Programme Organiser	E	Jenny Towey
Secretary, Librarian & Publication	E	Brian Airey
Membership, Transcripts & Web Contact	E	Graham Payne
Treasurer	E	Roy Smith
Journal Editor	E	Sue Maguire
Webmaster	E	Paul Tracey
Vice-chair & Data Protection	C	Peter de Dulin
Research Consultant & Facebook Admin	C	Pat Hase
Public Relations Officer	C	Sue Dury
Welcome Desk	C	Bill Caple
Exchange Magazines	C	Brian Yandell
General	C	Tony Horry

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

*Please direct enquiries or information to the appropriate Post Holder and remember to enclose a SAE if you require a reply.*

*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	

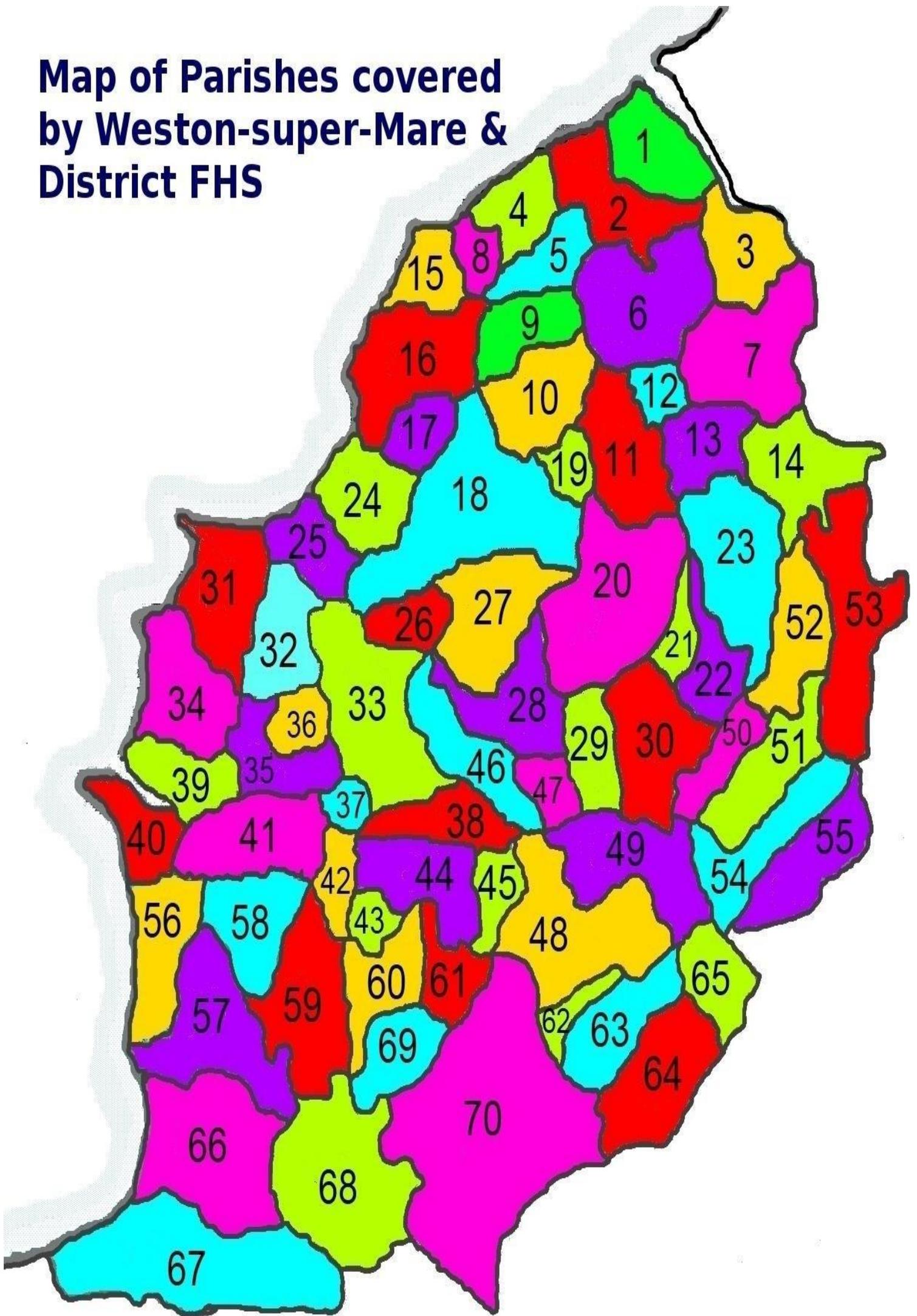
*The following Parishes were split as follows:*

*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



WESTON-SUPER-MARE AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021

INCOME	2021	2020	EXPENDITURE	2021	2020
Subs	2,902.00	2,818.00	Commission	30.54	52.41
Sales: Books & CDs	17.00	20.00	Purchase: Books, CDs & Micofiche	0.00	127.09
Meetings: Entrance Fees	0.00	297.50	Meetings: Hall Hire, Speakers & Refreshmen	45.00	324.39
Raffles	0.00	58.00	Journals: Printing, Postage & Envelopes	986.70	946.47
Donations	107.00	24.00	Leaflets & Printing	0.00	0.00
Postage Refunded	0.00	0.00	Equipment Purchased & Maint'ce	164.99	0.00
Society Activities	0.00	460.00	Other Society Fairs: Fees	0.00	0.00
Deposit Account Interest	0.84	13.60	Website & Computer Costs	972.59	279.95
			Fees, Charges, Affiliations & Insurance	239.19	272.87
			Admin, Stationery & Postage	0.00	10.00
			Publications	0.00	324.19
			Society Activities	0.00	460.00
	<u>3,026.84</u>	<u>3,691.10</u>		<u>2,439.01</u>	<u>2,797.37</u>

Surplus

587.83    893.73

I certify that these accounts have been produced from the records kept and are in accordance therewith

B Wilson (Examiner) .....



Dated .....

22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

CURRENT ASSETS

Current Account	370.77	282.78
Deposit Account	8,510.65	8,059.81
Cash	129.95	80.95
"Fairs" cash float	20.00	20.00
	<u>9,031.37</u>	<u>8,443.54</u>

**WESTON SUPER MARE & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Income**

Although the Society's activities have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus, it is pleasing that the membership levels have been maintained.

**Expenditure**

The hiatus caused by Covid has enabled the Committee to invest time and money developing the website, hence the increase in website costs over 2020 by approximately £700.

In addition to opening a Zoom account we invested in a youtube account and a video page with a link to our website.

This has allowed our 'out of area' members to join in our monthly Zoom meetings and our total membership the opportunity to watch recordings at their leisure.



# Weston-super-Mare & District Family History Society

## MEMBERSHIP FORM (NEW & RENEWAL)

Full Name (including Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a new member to the Society? Yes/No (Delete as appropriate)

Are you a member who is renewing? Yes/No (Delete as appropriate)

If a renewing member, please enter your Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions cover the calendar year from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### Types of Membership:

Digital	£9.00	For those members living anywhere in the world and accepting their Journals in digital format.
Printed - UK	£12.00	For those members residing <b>within the UK</b> who require their Journals in printed format.
Printed - Non-UK	£20.00	For those members residing <b>outside the UK</b> who require their Journals in printed format.

*Details will be held on the Society's computer system. For information on our Privacy & Data Protection Policy, please see our website: <http://wsmfhs.org.uk/terms-conditions>*

### Methods of payment - in **STERLING ONLY**:

1. By Standing Order to the Society.
2. In CASH to the Membership Secretary.
3. By cheque payable to "Weston-super-Mare & District Family History Society"

For any of the above, send to the following address together with your completed form:

**Mr G Payne, 10 Bentley Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 7XB**

4. Online Banking quoting - Sort code: 40-46-18 Account: 51383493

Reference: Please enter your surname and membership number when renewing.

For Banking purposes the Society name is: "Weston-Super-Mare & District Family History Soc."  
(Capital S in Super!).

5. By Credit Card via the GenFair or Parish Chest websites.