

NOTES & QUERIES

FOR

SOMERSET AND DORSET

EDITED BY

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*"Attempt the end, and never stand to doubt;
Nothing's so hard, but search will find it out".*

HERRICK

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ISSN 0049 1306

Annual Subscription £5 (U.S.A. 15 dollars),
payable in advance. Two parts annually, post free.

BRIDPORT

Creeds the Printers, Broadoak, Bridport.

Entered at the New York Post Office as Second Class Matter

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Subscribers are reminded that from 1st January, 1991, the annual subscription is £5 (\$15 for subscribers in the U.S.A.)

Subscriptions should be paid in advance in January.

Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset has been published in unbroken sequence since 1888. Two parts are issued annually.

Contributions are invited on the history, archaeology, architecture, genealogy, folklore, and literature of Somerset and Dorset. The Editors welcome queries, copies of manuscripts, and other records.

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Advertisements will be inserted at the following rates: whole page £12, half page £8, quarter page £6, inch space £4, half-inch space £3, whole width of page per issue, payable in advance.

Back numbers are available at £2.50 each plus postage, on application to the Hon. Secretary.

LEONARD CHARLES HAYWARD, B.A., B.Sc., F.S.A.,
1906 — 1992

The number for March 1989 recorded Leonard's retirement through ill health from the post of our Hon. Secretary and Treasurer which he had held with distinction for twenty-three years. With our gratitude we hoped for his improvement in health and continuance of his invaluable services on our committee. Sadly, this was not to be; and with deep regret we now have to record Leonard's death, aged eighty-six, on 25 March 1992.

Leonard was a Wiltshire man, educated at Devizes Grammar School and University College London. After teaching in Malmesbury and elsewhere he was Senior History Master and Librarian at Yeovil School, 1945-65. But, besides being a devoted and successful teacher, Leonard had a lifelong interest in archaeology; and, as with all he undertook, his interest was intensely active, informed and practical. The list of his many appointments, too long to be given in full, includes membership of Council of Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society (President 1980); of Yeovil Borough Library and Museum Committee; founder and Chairman 1954-75 of Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society; Director of excavations at Lufton and Ilchester Mead Roman villas and author of Reports 1952, 1972, 1982. His publications also include *Yeovil Almshouses*; *Bygone Yeovil*; *The Romans at Lufton, Ilchester and Yeovil*; *From Portreeve to Mayor, a History of Yeovil 1750-1854*. He contributed many articles and notes to our magazine, and was part author of "The Borough of Yeovil, its History and Government" 1954, and other works. He spent much time giving practical and regular help at the Yeovil Museum, where the "Hayward Gallery" named after him will not locally be confused with any other of that name.

But just now all who knew him will not be thinking so much of Leonard's many services, his ability, constant industry and notable achievements, as of the kind, warm-hearted, unassuming, sincere and constant good friend that we have lost, and for whose life and friendship we are grateful. Leonard was blessed in having a profoundly happy home life, and we all send our deepest sympathy to Norah and their family.

31. WILLIAM OF FALAISE. It has generally been taken for granted by West Country historians that the William of Moulins who accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066¹ was the William of Falaise who was married to Geva, the daughter of Serlo de Burci, at the time of the Domesday inquest. Henry C. Maxwell-Lyte has actually stated it,² and the Rev. R. W. Eyton infers it,³ however there are two pieces of evidence that would suggest that Geva's husband was actually the eldest son of William of Moulins, the companion of the Conqueror.

William of Moulins was lord of Moulins-la-Marche which is situated on the southern borders of Normandy. He was given this lordship in c. 1054 after the previous tenant, Guitmund de Moulins, had betrayed Duke William while they were fighting the French.⁴ William was also given Guitmund's daughter Albereda for a wife and it was she who was the mother of William of Falaise.

The first piece of evidence is an original charter dating from between the years 1063 and 1066.⁵ In it Duke William confirmed the gifts of the 'ancestor' of William of Moulins (his father-in-law) to the monks of Saint Pere de Chartres. Among the witnesses are William of Moulins, his wife Albereda, and their two sons William and Robert. So, clearly, William of Moulins had a son called William and presumably he was the eldest son as his name came before that of Robert in the charter. It is also worth noting that the charter begins with the following statement by William of Moulins: '*Ego Willelmus miles, filius Walterii, qui castrum teneo do Molendinis . . .*' thus confirming his status as a knight and that his father was called Walter.

The second piece of evidence is given by Orderic Vitalis in his *Ecclesiastical History*. Book 13 of the *History* states that William of Moulins-la-Marche died on 19 Oct. 1100 in his castle and was buried in the chapter house of Saint-Evroul monastery.⁶ Coupled with this date of the death of William of Moulins is the grant by William of Falaise and Geva his wife of the church of St. Andrew of Stogursey in Somerset to the church of St. Mary of Lonlay in Normandy.⁷ This was during the reign of Henry I which only began on 5 August 1100.

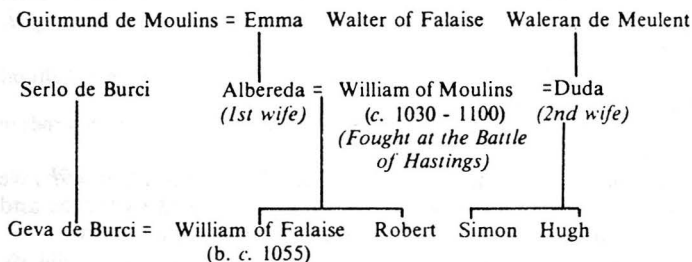
If William of Moulins and William of Falaise were one and the same person then there is only a gap of a few weeks in the early autumn of 1100 when this charter could have been written, which seems unlikely. William of Moulins would have been about seventy years old by this time probably being born

c. 1030, as he was fighting for Duke William in the early 1050s.

Orderic Vitalis belonged to the monastery of St. Evroul which was close to Moulins-la-Marche and William of Moulins had made grants to this monastery, hence it is reasonable to assume that Orderic knew of some of the exploits of William and did indeed record several of these in his *History*. It is Orderic who confirms that William of Moulins' father was Walter of Falaise and this must have led some historians to associate all the references to William of Falaise to one person only.

Maxwell-Lyte continues the descent of William and Geva in his article² and Orderic tells us that Robert inherited Moulins-la-Marche in 1100, so it looks clear that William of Falaise, the eldest son, was given William of Moulins' English estates. William of Falaise is a witness to at least two charters of William the Conqueror, one in 1080,⁸ and another in 1086,⁹ which would indicate that he had periods of service as a knight in the king's household as his father had had in the 1050s.

William of Falaise's family tree would look like this:—



1. A. J. Holden (ed.), *Le roman de rou de Wace* (Societe des Anciens Textes Francais, 3 vols. in 2) (1970-73), p. 199.
2. Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte, 'Burci, Falaise and Martin', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 65 (1919).
3. R. W. Eyton, *Domesday studies: an analysis and digest of the Somerset survey* (1880), p. 63.
4. Marjorie Chibnall, *The World of Orderic Vitalis* (1984), p. 25.
5. Marie Fauroux, *Recueil des Actes des Ducs de Normandie 911-1066* (Memoires de la des Antiquaires de Normandie, 36) (1961), pp. 432-434.
6. M. Chibnall (ed. & transl.), *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis*, vol. 3 (1972).
7. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, 'Stogursey Charters', vol. 61 (1949).
8. J. H. Round, *Calendar of documents preserved in France 918-1206* (1899), p. 397.
9. H. W. C. Davis (ed.), *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum 1066-1100* (1913).

PETER BURSEY

32. BENCH ENDS IN STOGURSEY CHURCH. It has long been suspected that the bench ends in the church are of 16th cent. date and, in the absence of any other carver being named in the church records of 1502-1547, Glosse has usually been credited with all of the carving. Thus, the churchwardens' accounts for 1524-5 include 'Item payde to glosse the carver — iiijd.' and 'Item payde to the carver for the making of the rele — ijs. ijd.' In 1528-9, 'the carver' is again mentioned, but not named. There is no further mention of a carver for eighteen years: then there are records of payments to a carver for unspecified work. There is no mention of any of the carved figures now in the roof of the nave. Although there is a series of entries concerning the seats, not one suggests that Glosse worked on them.

An on-site inspection of the bench ends revealed one which bears the prominently carved characters 'I S E S' and 'S & E'. These characters have so far defied explanation. The following solution is offered, based upon a reading of the original accounts of the Young Men's Guild, in addition to the accounts of the churchwardens, 1502 to 1547.¹

The Young Men's accounts show that their Guild's not inconsiderable income was derived from the sale of church ales. Their account dated 1534 contains the following entries (*fol. 49*):

Item . . . for a wod (*wood*) wyche they have bowthe (*bought*) in be halff off the parisch — vli. xvjs.

Item payde for Robart Appowell and Myhel Rocke costes when they rode to by (*buy*) the wode — ijs. iiijd.

In the next account of the Young Men's Guild (*fol. 49b*) we have an entry which records both receipts and expenses and shows the balance in a single statement and paragraph:

Recevyd of the accompte of Thomas Symons & Nicholas Gode — iiijli. xjs. vjd.

And so in charges for scegyn (*shearing of grass in the churchyard*) and other necessarys — lvjs. iiijd. and so remanyth — xls. ijd. whereof he payd to elizabeth Symons for his charges — xxxs. and so ys clear in his hands — xs. ijd.

This whole paragraph was lightly deleted by the superimposition of a large cross of St. Andrew, but not, apparently, because any particular item was incorrect (for if any one of them were incorrect, that one would surely have been individually struck through). The reason appears to be either on account of the arithmetic error or, perhaps more likely, because the statement failed to comply with the accepted style and format of accounting procedures adopted in the accounts of previous years. Later pages of the accounts, in which a correction might have been found, are torn away. The

significant entry is the one relating to the payment to Elizabeth Symons of 30s.

There follows a third account in which the following entries are found:

Item payde for the makyn off the settes (*seats*) — iijs. iiijd.

Item payde for the makyn off the same settes — xvijs. xd.

Isbell Symon item to the makyn off the same settes — iijs. iiijd.

It is evident that Isabel Symons [I S] was associated in some way with the construction of the seats, and that the Guild paid not only the above amounts to her but also 30s. to Elizabeth Symons [E S]. Their initials are the same as the characters on the above-mentioned bench end. The question arises whether, between them, they carved the bench ends or merely prepared the designs: the fairly large sum of 54s. 6d. paid to them suggests strongly that they did both. A search of the register from 1502 to 1547 reveals no other names with those initial letters.

Furthermore, included with the account of Robert Evered, churchwarden in 1539 (*fol. 39b*), we find a statement to the effect that he had made a bargain that the parish would pay 5s. for each bench that he completed with seat and backrest:

Robert Evered his tenants and hys felows cherchys wardyns of Stoxgurse is so that John Thomas their servant have mad a bargin with the paryche of Stoxgurse for the makyn of the shetts (*seats*) of the chirche he for hewyng and sawyng of the same Hys barkyn is to have vs. for a sced (*seat*) and he to have all the cheppys (*chips*) and all the pessys (*pieces*) under iij footte.

On the basis of all the above, it is suggested that the Symons and Evered were jointly responsible for getting the seating into the church, and this fact was acknowledged by displaying their linked initials on the above-mentioned bench end.

1. SRO, D/P stogs. 4/1/1.

PETER B. ELLSON

33. THE RELUCTANT VOLUNTEERS. Most accounts of the rumour which swept through Dorset on 1st May, 1804, that Napoleon's troops were about to land near Weymouth, suggest that every Volunteer Infantry Company within the county was prepared to march to help to resist the invaders. The *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* for instance reported that,

The alarm became general along the coast of Dorset. Before noon the different corps of Volunteers through the greater part of the County were assembled, and several had commenced their march.¹

Apparently, however, not every company was willing to march. The companies of Evershot and Sydling, for instance, refused to do so. Consequently, at a General Meeting of the Lieutenancy, which was held at the County Hall in Dorchester on 19th May, 1804, it was confirmed that these two companies should be disbanded. The Clerk to the General Meetings, Edward Boswell, informed Captain Jennings of Evershot, and Captain Hilbourne of Sydling of this decision in identical letters dated 14th May, 1804, which began;

Sir,

It having been represented to Government that the Company of Volunteers under your command, when they were voluntarily engaged to do Permanent Duty in the County, had wilfully disobeyed the Orders of the General of the District in refusing to march, contrary to the Laws for the better Government of the Volunteers raised within this Kingdom; therefore, in consequence of the Instructions which have been received, I am commanded by Lord Dorchester to acquaint you that for such Misconduct, Disobedience of Orders and Breach of Military Discipline while under Arms, the Company of Volunteers under your Command are from henceforth to be disbanded and their Services discontinued.²

There is an intriguing postscript to this story. On 3rd, June, 1804, the Government accepted the offer of the inhabitants of Melbury, a neighbouring village of Evershot, to form a Company of eighty Volunteers, and agreed that the arms and clothing of the late Evershot Company could be appropriated for the use of the Melbury Company.³ Furthermore, on 14th June, the King approved the appointment of the officers of the Melbury Company.⁴ They were to be Captain John Jennings, Lieutenant Robert Dean and Ensign James Eaton — the three officers of the recently disbanded Evershot Company.

1. 7 May, 1804.

2. D.C.R.O., D52/4/112.

3. D.C.R.O., D52/4/124.

4. D.C.R.O., D52/6/199.

GEORGE LANNING

34. THE DIARY OF A YOUNG LADY IN BATH, 1842. The small, pocket-sized, book, a copy of 'Marshall's Ladies Elegant Pocket Souvenir', was lying among a pile of assorted junk at a church bazaar. The gold-leaf book contained a large amount of information usual in present day diaries — various tables, commercial information, ready reckoner, etc. In addition there was a selection of stories, poems, songs and information on the latest dances. Above all, the diary contained full, closely written, entries throughout the year, but one thing was missing: there was no obvious name or address of the authoress, except to show that the writer was female.

She was clearly well-to-do and well connected, living at home in Bath with a family consisting of mother, two sisters, Meliora and Jane, and two brothers, the elder usually referred to as "Bas" and the younger one, Robert. Letters sent and received showed a host of relatives. The name Farmar kept appearing with no particular significance. The real clue came on 20 June with the entry, "We were 13 years in Camden Place". A glance at the 1841 census returns showed that here was a family of Farmar, though the sons were not mentioned. The girls were given, however, Meliora and Jane, Mary Roberts and Henrietta Hill, both mentioned in the diary, and three house servants. But above all was the entry for Anne Farmar, aged 20, of independent means, the owner of the diary. The address presents a problem since Camden Place seems no longer to exist. There are Upper and Lower Camden Place but nothing else. But, at least, there was now a real person, and the diary was to reveal a mass of family information.

Mrs. Farmar was a widow, with a brother-in-law who seems to have been a vicar in Bristol (or Clifton); others of her age are also mentioned. She herself was well connected — her brother was a Baskerville of Clyro in Radnorshire. Her eldest son was named Baskerville, 'Bas' for short. The Farmars were in some financial difficulty, and apart from their private means, were kept going by private gifts from Uncle Baskerville and others. Bath, however, was too expensive for them, resulting in the move to Leamington Spa in August: not without much grief from Anne who loved Bath. "A sad day for us leaving for ever a place in which we have enjoyed much happiness though many sorrows. We were 7 years in Camden Place and in leaving left our dear friends the Scotts. William is now at home. But we must pray for resignation to all the divine decrees and believe it is for our benefit either in this world or the next." A sad entry, but Anne was not one to lie down under difficulties.

Anne left Bath on 24 May to stay with her Uncle and Aunt Baskerville at Clyro. While there, she shared their holiday at Aberystwyth and then joined the rest of the family when they moved to Leamington in June, and the rest of the year was spent in settling into the new house in Leam Terrace.

So, what sort of person was Anne Farmer and what sort of life did a girl of her class lead? Anne was 21 when most of the diary was written. She had her 22nd birthday on 22 Dec. and was thrilled with her presents of scissors from Mamma, a bag and basket from Jane, a book from Meliora, a pin cushion and, "a very nice ring" from Bas. Her personality comes through clearly. She and her family were devout worshippers — Anne missed only one Sunday in the whole year, and that because of illness, and the texts are meticulously recorded. She also attended services in mid week. But although she preferred the orthodox Church of England she worshipped at various places in Bath and Leamington, including the Octagon in Bath and even a chapel in Leamington. The family was certainly not narrow minded.

As a young lady of 21, Anne was active and enjoyed life to the full. Daily walks of four miles and more were usual. When at Leamington she walked regularly to Warwick and back, often making detours on the way. She enjoyed singing and dancing, went riding, was an accomplished artist (producing many paintings and sketches for relations and friends) and even studied Hebrew. At Clyro she helped with the teaching at the Sunday school.

The holiday at Aberystwyth was a great joy. She loved swimming in the sea — "Uncle gave me ten shillings for ten dips", and Mrs. Baskerville three shillings for a tepid bath. She and her cousin, Charlotte Baskerville, took the long walk to Castle Hill, "To enjoy the splendid sea dashing against the rocks", and strolled along the beach collecting pebbles. On Friday 8 July they all "Rose early to see the eclipse of the sun", and then began the journey back to Clyro. A great Ball at Eastnor Castle provided a fitting climax to her stay at Clyro, "We were not home till 4 in the morning."

On 29 August she left Clyro by mail coach for Worcester, joined her brother and then took a coach to Warwick where Mamma met them. Then off to Leamington — Anne's new home. Why Mamma decided to settle here is not clear. If she wished to be nearer her brother at Clyro, Hereford would have been a better choice.

The rest of the year is involved settling into Leam Terrace at

a rent of £53 per year. Furnishings and stocking the garden involved everyone and much expense. But at least Anne's finances became more regularised. On 1 Sept. Mamma agreed to allow her £1-5-0 per month and £1 at the end of the year. She seems to have managed on this fairly well and before long the local dressmaker was preparing a new dress and a new Cardinal cape.

She regularly drank the waters and enjoyed concerts at the Pump Rooms. Only one thing marred her life: when still at Bath she had visited the dentist with a swollen face. On 17 and 18 May she, "Went down to Wilson to have an operation on my teeth," and the next day, "My face was dreadfully swelled. I stayed in bed and had it stouped with camomile and poppy heads, and starved myself." This was kept up for several days until things improved. Unfortunately, the trouble reappeared just before Christmas. A Leamington dentist was visited on 12 December, but she had been unwell for a week before that. Up to the end of the year there were no entries on five days and others were cursory. She must have suffered greatly.

Altogether, the diary is a fascinating miniature of life among the well-to-do in early Victorian times. Anne was very close to her family and they to her. Mother and brother are always referred to as "Dearest Mamma" and "Dearest Bas.". Sisters Meliora and Jane are her constant companions. Perhaps, brother Robert is a little more distant. He was living with the family until the summer and then disappears until 6 December when an intriguing entry said, "Mamma wrote to Bob to say he might come home." He was staying in Guernsey at the time. Was he in disgrace?

So, for Anne Farmar life, on the whole, was comfortable and pleasant. She was lively and intelligent and certainly not the frivolous creature often portrayed at this time. And submissive she was not — dutiful, perhaps, but very much an individual.

What happened to Anne? Did she marry? How long did she live after 1842? And how did her diary, completed in Leamington Spa find its way to a junk stall in Bristol? Why and how did it survive at all for 150 years?

HAROLD CHASEY

35. A RE-EXAMINATION OF R. G. BARTELOT'S VERSION OF THOMAS HARDY'S ANCESTRY. Thomas Hardy was unable to enter many Hardy ancestors on the Pedigree Chart which he drew up in about 1917.¹ According to the Revd. R. G. Bartelot Thomas did not know where his great grandfather came from when he settled at Bockhampton. Bartelot was the Vicar of St. George's Church, Fordington, the parish in which Thomas Hardy's house, Max Gate, is situated. In March 1928, shortly after Thomas's death, Bartelot published his version of the Pedigree in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.² An attempt to verify the information given in the article has revealed a number of errors.

Bartelot said that John Hardy, the first at Stinsford, died on June 11 1822 aged 67 and that Jane Knight his wife, died on July 16 1825 aged 68.

There is no reason to believe that John Hardy ever lived at Bockhampton in the parish of Stinsford. He was buried at Puddletown and his youngest son, John, remained there all his life. Entries in the Puddletown Burial Register state that John Hardy, mason, aged 66, was buried on June 15 1821 and that Jane, the wife of the late John Hardy, mason, was buried on July 19 1825.³

He found the couple's marriage at Woodsford on December 1 1777 with the aid of the Fordington Banns Register. John Hardy was said to be 'resident in this Parish' and Jane Knight was 'of the Parish of Woodsford'.⁴ John signed his name 'John Hardey' in the Marriage Register. The only Register within a twenty mile radius of Stinsford which contained a baptism of a John Hardey or Hardy in or about the year 1755 was that of Owermoigne.⁵

In fact a John Hardy, son of John and Martha Hardy, was baptised at Tolpuddle on May 9 1756.⁶

Bartelot's candidate was the son of John and Elizabeth Hardy baptised at Owermoigne on April 25 1756. Elizabeth's maiden name was Swyre.

Elizabeth's maiden name was spelt "Swire" in the Marriage Register.

Elizabeth Hardey was buried on August 22 1762.

The entry for that date read "Elizabeth wife of John Hardy".

John, aged six years, was sent to his mother's relations in Fordington and his father married again.

There is no documentary evidence to prove that this happened. The only re-marriage of a John Hardy, widower,

was that of John of Warmwell in 1765. He had married Elizabeth Hardy of Galton in 1739 and was not the husband of Elizabeth Swire. Thomas Hardy is known to have been aware that an ancestor of William Masters Hardy of Swanage was sent away to be brought up by an aunt when his father remarried.⁷ He may have related the story to Bartelot.

The boy's father, John Hardy, was the son of Joseph and Jane Hardy baptised on August 31 1722. Joseph and Jane James were married on September 28 1712. Joseph came from some other Parish and settled at Owermoigne on his marriage.

Bartelot must have believed that Joseph was not of the Parish of Owermoigne because the words 'of the Parish of Ower' were placed after the name of Jane James. It cannot be proved that the words did not also apply to Joseph.

Jane was buried as 'Jane the wife of John Hardey' (sic) on June 14 1749.

This entry read 'Jane the wife of Joseph Hardy'.

Bartelot thought that Joseph Hardey was the son of John Hardey of Portisham who was left a legacy by him in his will of 1704.⁸ He said that the name Joseph only occurred in the families of the Hardys of Portisham and their kinsmen of Bridport and West Compton.

The name Joseph occurred in the adjoining parish of Osmington in 1685 when Mary daughter of Joseph Hardy was buried there.⁹ Joseph's will dated January 5 1750, suggests that he was, like other Owermoigne Hardys, a blacksmith.¹⁰ Although no baptism can be found for him in the Registers there is no reason why he should not have been a descendant of one of the sons of John Hardy and Joane Munday married there in 1624.

The accompanying Pedigree Chart stated that John Hardy had six daughters one of whom, Fanny, by his second wife, was married at Owermoigne in 1791 to Mr. John Butler Dugdale of Winfrith.

There is no baptism for a Fanny, daughter of John Hardy at Owermoigne. The marriage entry is perfectly clear and the bride's maiden name was HARVEY.

Elizabeth Swire's husband was buried in 1807.

John Hardy would have been eighty-five years old by that date and would surely have merited a special entry in the Register.

It appears that R. G. Bartelot wrote the article in 1928

without checking his facts. He was perhaps, in a hurry to have the article printed as quickly as possible after Thomas Hardy's death. His interest in Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy was well known and it would have been an achievement to establish a credible link with Thomas the writer. If his vaunted acquaintance with the Parish Registers is to be believed, he must have known about John Hardy of Tolpuddle and decided to suppress the information. He may have believed, perhaps with Thomas Hardy's approval, that the provision of a respectable set of ancestors would deter anyone else from investigating the parentage of the writer's great grandfather. John Hardy was also one of my ancestors and I hope to offer an alternative version of his parentage in a future article.

1. *The Hardy Pedigree*. (The Dorset County Museum).
2. *SDNQ*, Vol. XIX, Part CLVI, March 1928, pp. 106-9.
3. Puddletown Burial Register. (Dorset County Record Office).
4. Fordington St. George Banns Register. (DCRO).
5. Owermoigne Christening Marriage and Burial Registers. (DCRO).
6. Tolpuddle Registers. (DCRO).
7. M.S. in possession of the Hardy Family of Swanage.
8. Will of John Hardey, senior, of Portisham. (DCRO).
9. Osmington Burial Register. (DCRO).
10. Will of Joseph Hardy of Owermoigne dated January 5, 1750. (DCRO).

The assistance of Mr. A. K. Hardy and Dr. A. Nineham is gratefully acknowledged.

B. M. TUNKS

36. AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE HARDY AND JAMES' PEDIGREES. I discussed 'the Bartelot version' at length in *SDNQ*, XXXII, pp. 765-75, and therefore welcome the corrections of my correspondent (and, I like to think, distant cousin), Mrs. Tunks. The poet's great-grandfather, John Hardy, seems to have died in 1821, not 1822; and he had no sister called Fanny. More importantly, the theory that John originated from Owermoigne is clearly challenged: it would be just as reasonable to identify him with the other John, who was baptised a fortnight later at Tolpuddle. No doubt Bartelot overlooked this record. My James pedigree (*SDNQ*, XXXIII, pp. 76-7), intended to illustrate my earlier article, was based partly on Bartelot. Were I now to re-write it, I would put a disconnected line above John, to indicate that his place on the pedigree is questionable. But Bartelot's explanation remains as good as the other, in my view, until additional evidence is forthcoming.

Like Mrs. Tunks, I doubted Bartelot's other proposition, that Joseph Hardy of Owermoigne might have been a son of the Portesham family. His will, I now gather, suggests that he was no gentleman but a blacksmith. As Mrs. Tunks discovered, it was in this occupation that his son William was apprenticed. I cannot believe, however, that Bartelot and the poet, who were probably no more than distant acquaintances, together concocted a bowdlerised account of the Hardy ancestry.

From the rich Wood Homer archive in the D.C.R.O., it seems I was right to conjecture that Alice, widow of John Wood, Gent., of Muston Farm in Piddleshinton, lived in 'Oxwell Hall'. The Poxwell estate was leased from the Trenchards by their son James. The Woods believed themselves connected to a family at Grimstone but I have not yet established a link.

The precise antecedents of John Angell James, the celebrated minister of Carrs Lane Congregation, also eluded me. I am now confident that his father was Joseph (bapt. 31 Oct 1752 at St. Nicholas Street Independent Chapel, Weymouth), whose father was Angel, brother of Alice Wood. For the record, the preacher's brother, James James of Birmingham, was ancestor of the present John Angell-James, C.B.E., M.D., of Bristol, and of the late Brigadier Manley Angell James, V.C., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. (1896-1975) — who received his Victoria Cross for a gallant action between Arras and La Fere in 1918, when he was a captain in the Gloucesters.

RUPERT WILLOUGHBY

37. PUBLIC HEALTH IN BRUTON, 1872-1898. With the industrialization of the late 18th and early 19th cents. the population of many towns and cities increased rapidly, e.g. Manchester's population in 1801 was 100,000 and in 1851 was 367,000. Public health developments failed to advance correspondingly. The result was filth, squalor, disease and death on an unprecedented scale: a fact which did not escape the notice of contemporaries.¹ Far less attention, however, was devoted to rural areas because the less concentrated population did not apparently create such serious health problems, at least not on the same scale. The purpose of this study is to indicate that in one small market town public health hazards did exist and caused concern, but that vested interests delayed improvements for decades.

Bruton was a small market town in East Somerset, close to the Wiltshire and Dorset county boundaries. On the south side of the River Brue had been a small Augustinian Abbey which, at the Reformation, had been converted into a country mansion. The result was that only a handful of houses had been built on that side of the river and most of the houses and cottages were concentrated on the steeply rising north side of the valley. For centuries the cloth industry had flourished, but by the late 18th cent. a sharp decline had occurred as production was transferred to the North of England.² Bruton had once been the centre of the silk industry in the area, but by the 1830s that too was declining in face of foreign competition. J. S. Ward, the largest single employer, reported that in 1831 he employed some 230 hands on 7,000 spindles working a four-day week, compared with 700 to 900 hands on some 15,700 spindles in 1823.³ The town failed to attract any significant new industry as the century advanced, except horsehair seating, and so remained as the market town for the surrounding rural area. Its population increased from some 1,631 in 1801 to a peak of 2,232 in 1861. Some of this increase may be explained by the fact that it was an 'open' parish, surrounded by a number of 'closed' parishes. The result was the rapid building of inferior quality houses for the poor, an increase from 353 inhabited houses in 1811 to 448 in 1861.

Bruton had one principal street with other smaller ones joining it. There was a network of narrow alleys, called locally 'bartons', linking the various roads and onto which many small cottages opened. While the Georgian facades of the main street were elegant in appearance, the concentrated cottage accommodation was overcrowded and squalid. Cottage owners had little incentive to improve their property as they would then incur an increased rateable value.

Three major problems may be analysed in Bruton:

1. Insufficient or defective toilet arrangements.

In Jan. 1872 a subcommittee appointed by the Sewers Authority reported that

'In some instances as many as five, six and even seven tenements were found provided with only one stinking, tumbledown, insecure privy (which) is enough to account for the deposits of human excrement that disgrace nearly every alley and byeway of the Town . . . With regard to the privies they were without exception foul and unwholesome the vaults in many instances full, whilst in others no vault existed and a perforated board suspended over a shallow ditch open to public view was made to do a duty for a building the very name of which implies retirement and modesty. In one especially nasty instance a pig-stye containing two fat pigs abutted on a structure of this kind and in wet weather the animals must have had an opportunity of wallowing in human

ordure. Water closets were so few that no note was taken of them . . . Of the insufficiency of the privy accommodation it is enough to say that some cottages have none, the inmates being thrown on the hospitality of their neighbours or of the public streets.⁴

In Feb. 1872 Dr. Holmes reported to the Local Government Board

'Unwholesome conditions due to the retention of excremental and other kinds of refuse matter amongst dwellings . . . The general condition of the town in regard to pollution by excremental and other offensive matters, fully accounts here for the presence of enteric fever.'

A similar picture was presented to the Poor Law Board by Dr. Parsons:

'the privies of Bruton, except such as discharge directly into the river and the water closets of the larger houses, have vaults. These are rarely emptied and contain large accumulations of filth, which gives off much stench . . . At a cottage in the High Street a privy had recently been erected against the house wall, close to and underneath a window.'⁵

2. *Sewage disposal.*

As a considerable proportion of the town was built on the side of a valley which not only had a river, but also a mill stream flowing through it, much of the sewage ran into either by way of drains which had originally been designed for storm water.

'The chief portion of the Sewage empties itself into a mill-stream, the water of which is kept back, in ordinary weather, for the convenience of one or more, flour-mills. The result of this is that . . . the Sewage is not carried away at all, but accumulated in heaps just below the principal street; and when the water is low (which it usually is) that these banks of filth are exposed to the action of the sun & threw off the most poisonous Gases.'

Dr. Parsons also reported

'There are no sewers in Bruton except the drains constructed for highway purposes, which are used to convey house slops and in some cases water closet sewage. They are square drains, 'box-drains', as they are locally called . . . The mill-lead receives directly or indirectly, the house drainage of the greater part of Bruton . . . The water is in consequence often very offensive.'⁶

3. *Inadequate water supply.*

The 1872 Subcommittee noted

'It was the exception to find the well water used for drinking by the inhabitants — they go either to Patwell or Shute Lane springs . . . Many of the Wells — possibly all of them — are more or less contaminated by sewage matter, to an extent sufficient to cause discolouration.'

Dr. Holmes was more forthright,

'There are many house-wells in Bruton, but the water in a number of them is so unmistakeably polluted that the people do not use it for drinking or cooking, but resort to the public wells, which are supplied by deep springs. Of these the one most in repute is Patwell, which is within 15 feet of the Bru stream, and is from time to time flooded by it. As house drains conveying excremental matter open into the Bru, a few yards above the well thus exposed to be flooded, the alternative choice of people in Bruton for water would seem to be a poor one.

The inhabitants of many cottages — of all I believe in Tolbury — can only procure water by going to a distance of 100 or 200 yards, or a quarter of a mile, according to circumstances.⁷

The result of these three problems was that disease was ever present for the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health regularly chronicled deaths from enteric fever, dysentery, diarrhoea and typhoid. Responsibility for health rested with the Vestry through its small committees such as the Highways Board, Sewer Committee, etc. But such was their proliferation, ill-funding and lack of specifically defined responsibilities that little was achieved.

The campaign for improvements

Complacency was the paramount consideration until the early 1870s when two events occurred, one local and one national, which provoked the beginning of a change in attitude. In the autumn of 1871 enteric fever broke out on a scale larger than usual, so that between 10th Sept. 1871 and 12th Feb. 1872 there were 92 cases of which 7 were fatal. The fever started on the same day in two different localities and within a week had spread to 13 distinct parts of the town, with some 27 % of cases being 'in the better class of houses', a fact which was not lost on the local landowners and ratepayers.⁸ Nationally, public health matters were receiving more attention and awareness of these developments may have caused some attitudes to modify. Certainly when the Poor Law Guardians were required to act as a Rural Sanitary Authority under the terms of the Public Health Act of 1872, they entered into the spirit of the Act with enthusiasm as their minute book reveals.⁹

Fever in the town prompted concern and led to Gill's letter in Oct. 1871, followed by the Subcommittee of the Sewer Authority's Report in Jan. 1872, and Dr. Holmes' Report in Feb. 1872. The latter recommended 1. A supply of wholesome water and flushing sewers, 2. A proper system of public sewerage, 3. A system of water closets, 4. That the Sewer Authority should remove all refuse matter. By 5 May 1872 the Sewer Authority had a scheme prepared 'for the efficient drainage and sewerage of the Town of Bruton'. A detailed version of this scheme was presented to the Local Government Board on 31 May. It was indeed very comprehensive, covering every street in the town, and was estimated to cost £1,900, a figure which was increased to £2,500 in Nov. 'to meet the rise in the price of labour and materials and the purchase of land for deodorizing Tanks'. On 18 Dec. 1872 a loan for that figure was sanctioned by the Local Government Board to be repaid over 30 years.¹⁰

Nothing happened. In July 1876 the Governors of the King's School complained to the Board. On investigation the latter were informed that the plans were being revised, but by Sept. 1878 this revised plan was abandoned as it was 'too expensive and complicated'. Year after year the Local Medical Officer of Health commented that 'No steps have as yet been taken to remedy the sanitary defects.'¹¹ An outbreak of typhoid in the winter of 1878-1879 prompted renewed interest and by Feb. 1880 the Medical Officer was able to report 'the question of drainage and water supply is at present engaging the attention of the Parishioners.' Yet by the end of the next year there was still no progress as the three sets of plans which had been drawn up all exceeded the estimate.¹²

In Feb. and Dec. 1885 the Medical Officer complained that the mill-head 'which receives the greater portion of the sewage of the town is in a very unsatisfactory state', although he did note that the upper portion had been cleared out by 'private enterprise'. More action followed, for by March 1887 the whole length had been cleaned. This attempt was shortlived as a deficiency of water during the following year meant that 'the stench was very great'. Eventually remedial work was undertaken, but it was not the sweeping plans of 1872. Instead it was a plan to 'destroy the existing head and in its place lay a sewer to connect with existing drains'. This was duly accomplished as Dr. Stockwell noted in his Report in 1891 when he commented on the two immediate results: that stagnant sewage was removed and the road widened. The unforeseen consequence was that the flushing power of the water was much reduced which created nuisances at the upper part of the mill-head. In addition there was a tendency for sludge to accumulate at the outfall. Nevertheless, prompted by the improvements, the rest of the mill-head was covered in 1896.¹³

With the drainage work completed to their satisfaction, the parish turned its attention to the water supply. An initial scheme involving two streams was abandoned when drought revealed their unreliability but by 1898 another scheme was approved, tenders received and the Local Government Board had sanctioned an estimate of £5,620. Once again delay occurred as disagreements developed and so Bruton did not construct a water supply system in the 19th cent.¹⁴

Why was action so long delayed?

Three main reasons may be advanced to suggest why there was so much delay. The first reason was complacency on the

part of the wealthier property owners who paid the rates and were, to a large extent, removed from the diseases which squalor and filth created. The letter of Henry Dyne, a local landowner, illustrates this attitude:

'That the drainage has hitherto been carried off by covered walled drains under the streets & houses of the Town . . . and that nearly every house in the place has its drains to these sewers & that although these drains may be somewhat worn in different spots, and that in consequence the sewage may be obstructed and percolate into the surrounding soil and so possibly allow the poisonous sewage to filter into the Wells near such spots — they have no Evidence to warrant such a conclusion & they believe that on the whole this Town is better drained than other Towns in this, or indeed any other neighbourhood . . . Bruton until the recent outbreak of typhoid fever has been for years remarkable free from any epidemic that could be attributed to local causes & it is a singular circumstance that the first and indeed some of the most serious cases of the present sickness have occurred in detached houses at some considerable distance from the streets or lanes of the Towns and in a high situation, where such epidemic might be least expected.'

In 1886 Dr. Parsons produced statistics to demolish this contention that the health of Bruton was better than some towns which had been sewered.¹⁵ Rural landowners were slow to abandon their traditional laissez-faire ideas and the concept of spending money for the public good was yet to permeate East Somerset on a large scale.

The second reason was that many people disliked the interference of central government in local affairs. They preferred their own self-help schemes rather than those imposed by some anonymous Board in far-off London.

'Some of the most experienced and practical persons, who have resided in the District for many years, considered that the proposed works would not effect any improvement in the drainage',

and they went on to point out that during the previous ten years 'the owners of property have much improved their drainage.'¹⁶

The cleansing of the mill-head was undertaken by the ratepayers as were other gestures such as covering in the well at the bottom of Patwell Street and providing it with a pump. The disagreement was not necessarily over change, but rather the speed of change and who was to initiate it.

The third reason, and the most important, was that there was a reluctance by the ratepayers to commit themselves to the required expenditure. Their initial euphoria that the 1872 scheme would only cost the parish 'about 6d in the £, a very small price to pay for so great a public improvement', was short-lived. In 1883 it was reported that 'the plans prepared are most unsatisfactory to the landowners and ratepayers of the parish.' Dr. Parsons was blunt in his appraisal of the reasons

for inaction, 'the chief reason for the inaction has doubtless been the objection to incur expense'. The central Board's exasperation was recorded in a note on the back of a letter which the Local Government Board received in 1887,

'This authority will I believe do nothing unless compelled, & I fear that there is little likelihood of anything being gained by a prolonged correspondence unless some more alarming outbreaks of disease should render the S.A. [the Sanitary Authority] more willing to listen to advice.'¹⁷

The abandonment of the traditional idea of low rates was slow in this area and many ratepayers were reluctant to increase their burden for the general benefit of all. Indeed, this was a small town with few large ratepayers and most had limited resources.

Bruton was not unique in its problems or its inactions. There are many examples for the district preserved in the Poor Law Union papers. The lack of action may well have showed an attitude of disregard towards the poor, yet there is a contradiction here for these reluctant public health improvers were the same men who involved themselves in practically every charitable activity in the town and district. Demand for change and improvement came from a relatively small number, with a strong sense of humanity. In this case they were led by the local medical practitioners, notably Drs. Heginbotham and Stockwell, who condemned the existing situation in no uncertain terms. They received considerable support from some, but not all, of the Poor Law Guardians of the Wincanton Union, whose contact with the poor, in some cases over many years, had fostered the realisation that poverty was caused by disease and death, especially of the principal breadwinner in a large family. In their attempts to improve they were hindered by ignorance as rural areas were slow to abandon the 'miasma' theory of disease in favour of the 'germ' theory of the 1870s. In the last resort this affair reveals the impotence of central authority when faced with a recalcitrant local authority. The central power could advise, pressurize or threaten, but it could not compel. This was its fundamental weakness and as a result, in this case, the poor suffered.

1. See, for example, E. Chadwick, *The Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain, 1842*, M. W. Flinn (ed.) (1965).
2. J. Leland, *The Itinerary of John Leland*, L. T. Smith (ed.), vol. 1, p. 149 (1964).
3. *Report of the Select Committee on the Silk Trade, 1831*, 'Minutes of Evidence': J. S. Ward, qqs. 3934-3945, Parl. Papers, 1831-2, XIX, p. 203.
4. PRO, Min. of Health Papers, M.H. 12/10573, Union Corresp. File, 44404/72 'Copy Report of the Subcommittee appointed by the Sewers Authority for Bruton, 6 Jan. 1872'.
5. PRO, M.H. 12/10573, Dr. Holmes, 'Report on Fever in the Union of Wincanton, 12-16 Feb. 1872'; *ibid.*, 12/10578 'Report of Dr. Parsons, July 1886'.

6. PRO, M.H. 12/10573, 'Letter to Sanitary Commission from A. D. Gill, Headmaster, King's School, Bruton 15 Oct. 1871'; 'Report of Dr. Parsons', as in 5n.
7. M.H. 12/10573 Reports of the Subcommittee and of Dr. Holmes, as in 4n, 5n.
8. *Ibid.*
9. SRO, D/R/ win. 2/1/1, R.S.A. minute book, 1872-1892.
10. M.H. 12/10573, Letter from Henry Dyne, Clerk to the Sewer Authority, to L.G.B., 7 May 1872; Do. from Do. to L.G.B., 31 May 1872; and from R. Lancaster, Clerk to the Wincanton Union, to L.G.B., 7 Nov. 1872 (The Guardians had assumed the functions of the Sewer Authority under the terms of the Public Health Act, 1872).
11. M.H. 12/10575, Letter from T. O. Bennett, Hon. Sec. of the Governors of the King's School, to L.G.B., 10 July 1876; Letter from R. Lancaster to L.G.B., 12 Oct., 1876; *Western Gazette*, 6 Sept. 1878. For the Medical Officers' Reports, see, for example, M.H. 12/10576 for the Reports of Dr. Heginbotham 1878 and 1879.
12. M.H. 12/10576, Report of Dr. Heginbotham, 10 Feb. 1880.
13. Reports of Medical Officer, Dr. Stockwell, M.H. 12/10577, 10578, 10579, 10580, 10583, Feb. 1885 - March 1897.
14. *Ibid.*: *Western Chronicle*, 24 June 1898.
15. M.H. 12/10573, Letter from Dyne to L.G.B., 28 Oct. 1871; M.H. 12/10578, Report of Dr. Parsons, July 1886.
16. M.H. 12/10577, Letter from Guardians, Churchwardens and Overseers of Bruton to L.G.B., 29 Jan. 1883.
17. M.H. 12/10572, Report of Mr. Thomas on an inquiry held in Bruton, 25 July 1872; M.H. 12/10578, Report of Dr. Parsons, July 1886; *ibid.*, endorsement to letter from R. Lancaster to L.G.B., 3 Feb. 1887.

P. W. RANDELL

38. COLLIERS' SONG. This so-called song (hardly a natural ballad) is among the Paget papers in Bristol University Library (D.M. 106/353) and is here published for the light it sheds on the coalminers' life rather than for its poetic value. It seems to date from about 1800; there is a patriotic feel to it, apparently inspired by the French Revolutionary wars, and a mention of Hardy, presumably Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy (1769-1839), who, as a West Country man, may have been preferred to Nelson.

According to a note appended to the song, it was written by James Selway of Stoke St. Michael, near Shepton Mallet, later 'a singing man' in Salisbury Cathedral. His knowledge of the life and its inherent dangers suggest that he came from a mining family. Most of the names of the veins and all that part of the song between square brackets has been interpolated by an unknown hand. The additions do not help the metre but give useful information about what the coal seams were called in the neighbourhood of Stoke at the time.

Some of these names are known from other sources. Dungy Drift is a seam near Old Newbury colliery in Kilmersdon; Perrink, Stone Rag, and Firestone relate to Vobster colliery as

does Callows (or Main), the Callis of the song.¹ The verses reveal a close-knit community, occasionally quarrelsome, but bearing no grudges, hard working and hard drinking, patriotic and proud of its occupation.

The phrases and terms used by the colliers and recorded by Selway are most interesting. These require some explanation. A *cut* was a perpendicular shaft sunk not far from the surface, but from an underground shaft or *lane*. A *dipple* is a lane having the same dip or incline as the veins of coal. *Plow* was a waggon and *plow money* a gratuity for drink left by the waggoners in their vehicles. *Girdle and jug* was an older term for the well-known guss and crook, described by Selway as 'a boy with a girdle round his waist & a strap hitched to a staple in the cart, i.e. basket in which the coal is loaded, drags it behind him from the lane in which it dug to bottom of the pit'. *Landsmen* were colliery workers employed above ground. Chief of these were the *veerer* who stood at the top of the pit and received the coal on the surface, and the *haunt-loader* whose duty it was to measure the coal received, keep an account of what was sold, and to assist the *haunt* (the customers) to load their beasts and waggons.

A *slang* was a load: 'Whatever is hitched to the spring-crook suspended by the rope is said to be slanged.' *Balls*, otherwise called *clumpers*, were large pieces of hard coal. *Bolts*, *guineas*, *posts*, *wrods*, *rice* and *cleets* were all names of balks of timber used to prop up the shafts. *Vang* means receive, a *cowl* was a bucket in which water was drawn up, *pioneer*, *mattock* and *showl* were all tools used to extract coal. To *meet the wind* refers to bringing the coal to the bottom of the pit as fast as the landsmen could draw it up with the windlass.

1. G. G. Down and A. J. Warrington, *History of the Somerset Coalfield*, (n.d.), pp. 233, 238.

MICHAEL McGARVIE

THE COLLIERS' SONG

Among all employments, there's none can compare
With colliers, who work underground,
For hardships they bear, & dangers they dare,
In pits, cuts, & dipples profound — my brave boys
Where many have been burnt or drown'd.

At second cock-crowing from hard bed we rise,
And grope to the pit ere 'tis Light.
There in a hard hole, by small candle dig coal,
In a lane where we can't stand upright — my brave boys
And come up no more till 'tis Night.

To find out the Veins, in the hills, dales & plains,
 We Jewzy with maple in hand,
 Perriwink, Dungy drift, Callis, Balls, Hard-coal drift,
 Strap, Stone-rag, & Fern-rag we land — my brave boys
 [And Akerman's dream we command

Red Axen, white Axen, wing, Blue Pot, & Globe,
 Wild drift, & of Bottreaux the cat,
 The coal which doth stand, also the Ribband,
 And the course which is named the Flat — my brave boys
 The mouse, the Pig's tail & the Rat

Then Wilmot, & Blessing & Rosemary branch,
 The Crock course, the Gout course, & Hens nest,
 Of the wild drift, the Flap, & likewise the Strap,
 And a great many more of the rest — my brave boys,
 Tho' perhaps you may think me in jest.

Granfer Hamlyn, the Stone Coal, Dick Daniel & Shuts,
 The Beggar, the Foot Coal, & Perkins,
 And little Dick Snell, which burns very well,
 And often (my friends) warms your Jenkins — brave boys,
 Roasts your dinner which cures all your quirks.

The Little, the Fire stone, & Newberry vein,
 (Which elsewhere is called The Garden)
 But when I rehearse the Snotty nose course
 I certainly should beg your pardon — brave boys
 And Tobacco course not worth a farthing.

The Smith's coal, & Shelly, the Bull, Chessel's course,
 The Church close, the Sliving, Great Vein,
 The Peaw, Withy mill, the Whurr, & Longhill
 Which are often productive of gain — my brave boys
 And now 'tis 'most time to refrain.

But I don't think it fit that we should omit
 The Middle, the Catty, the Stinking,
 Also the Three Coal, tho' 'tis not worth a bowl
 Of good Liquor in my humble thinking — brave boys]
 Especially just when 'tis drinking.

All these we dig out from the depths of the Earth
 And labour to bring them to land,
 Spite all their hard names, they are sent to the flames,
 And the Plow-money left in our hand — my brave boys
 Hard names which but a few understand.

The boy who hales cart with his girdle & jug
 Thus sometimes the Landsmen he greets,
 'Let this cart be filled with the timber to build
 Bolts, guineas, posts, wrods, rice & cleets, my brave boys,
 The length of Jack Smart's & Tom Sweet's.'

But when a plow comes with a bottle & bag,
 The Landsmen then gives us a sign
 For loudly he calls for a slang of good balls,
 And straitway we all meet the Wind, my brave boys
 In hopes of strong beer when we dine.

On Saturday night, when our wages we vang
We spend it ourselves to regale,
Forget cart & cowl, pioneer, mattock, & shawl,
When over a pot of good Ale — my brave boys
Strong cyder or humming old stale

Sometimes we agree on a song, catch or glee,
And make the house ring with our noise
Regardless of chink, we dance, sing & drink
A health to our Country & King — my brave boys
Such pleasure the collier enjoys.

To our friends & acquaintance gone out to the wars,
Who lodge without blankets or sheets,
A bumper my boys, & three loud huzzas,
Success to our armies & fleets — my brave boys
May Hardy take all that he meets.

What tho' we want Learning, fine clothes, & address
Yet we in good harmony live,
And if over night we should quarrel or fight,
And bruises or black eyes receive, my brave boys,
Next day we forget and forgive.

Sometimes the staunch air makes us tremble for fear,
When candles blaze high & burn blue,
The flame from the snuff-flash like lightning goes off,
Whence fatal effect do ensue, my brave boys,
And lives have been lost not a few.

Our life is a medley of various extremes,
And checquer'd with pleasure & pain,
Yet happier far than his Grace or Lord May'r
With Garter & star, or gold chain — my brave boys,
For wealth, fame & titles are vain.

39. BY-LAWS GOVERNING BOAT TRIPS AT SWANAGE 1874. The beginnings of Swanage's involvement with the Victorian holiday trade can be dated to 1871, when the 'Heather Bell' became the first paddle steamer to bring day trippers to the quarrying community from the rapidly growing health resort of Bournemouth on the other side of Poole Bay.¹ Swanage's days as a watering place in its own right had barely begun but by 1874 it appears there was sufficient activity to prompt a proposal to introduce by-laws governing the hiring of boats for leisure trips in Swanage Bay. The fishermen of Swanage were greatly concerned about these by-laws and there exist among the papers of James Mitchell, former Coastguard, several letters relating to the matter. Mitchell appears to have become a fisherman at some time after his retirement from the Coastguard and to have been nominated by his colleagues in 1874 as their spokesman in dealings with the Local Government Board at Whitehall.

The earliest letter, dated 24th March 1874, was sent by the Board to Mitchell. It acknowledges 'the receipt of a Petition signed by you and other Fishermen of Swanage respecting certain byelaws which you state are about to be presented to the Board' and promises consideration of the petition 'with any application which may be made to them to confirm the byelaws referred to'.

The next letter, dated 21st April 1874, is a copy of one sent by Mr. George Burt, Chairman of the Swanage Local Board, from Grosvenor House, Millbank, Westminster, to the Secretary of the Local Government Board, Whitehall. George Burt was indisputably the most influential man in Swanage at that time. Rodney Legg describes him as 'the central figure in Swanage history and the man who created the town as it is today.'¹ Burt writes:

Sir,

Swanage Local Board

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th. instant forwarding copy of a petition addressed to the Local Government Board by certain fishermen of Swanage for any observations which the Local Board may wish to make thereon; also a copy of the Local Government Board's instructions relating to Bye Laws.

In reply I beg leave to state that when the proposed new Bye Laws were prepared and under discussion great care was taken to ascertain the views of the resident fishermen but they persistently opposed any consultation with the Local Board stating that Swanage never had any Bye Laws and did not require them.

The Local Board therefore obtained copies of Bye Laws in force in various watering places and the whole of those now proposed for adoption are copied from one of these places. The charge of five shillings per hour for the hire of a Boat was carefully considered as a maximum charge, leaving the boatmen at liberty to charge any sum under that they pleased. Most of the men signing the Memorial are good Sailors and quite competent to take charge of a Boat. But at present there are now [*sic*] laws or regulations to guide them or to prevent unskilled men with any description of boat plying for hire or letting out Boats unfit for the purpose and as the tide runs very strong over the ledges of rocks on the outside of the Bay and frequently the summer breezes are very strong, the Local Board were of opinion that they would be neglecting their duty if they did not frame such Bye Laws as they believed to be essential to the safety of the public; & especially as the town of Swanage has an increasing number of visitors each year.

In conclusion I may add that there cannot be the slightest objection to the charge per hour being reduced to any figure that the fishermen may consider will be best for their own interests.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

George Burt,

Chairman of the Swanage Local Board.

To The Secretary,
Local Government Board,
Whitehall.

P.S. Should the Local Government Board think it necessary again to communicate with me, time would be saved by kindly sending to my London address as above.

The LGB sent the copy of George Burt's letter to Mr. Mitchell, together with a covering letter of their own, dated 5th May 1874, inviting any additional observations. Mitchell then sent a further letter to the LGB in which the fishermen's views are fully recorded. His copy reads:

Swanage 8th May 1874

Swanage Fishermen relating to bye laws.

Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 27365C of the 5th instant enclosing copy of a letter addressed to the Local Government Board by the Chairman of the Swanage Local Board relating to by laws for the management of boats used for hire in Swanage bay, also alluding to a letter of the 10th ultimo on this subject, which have not come to hand.

In reply I beg leave to make the following observations thereon. Firstly, that we the Fishermen of Swanage are perfectly aware that every clause of any by laws which may be sanctioned by your Honourable Board becomes binding on and must be strictly obeyed by the parties whome it may concern; also that these by laws if sanctioned will incur the expense of hiring a Nautical Inspector of boats which expense must fall on the ratepayers who are principally quarry men who are scarcely in a position to pay.

Secondly, The by laws were prepared in London and were sent down by the Chairman to his Agent who handed them to one of the fishermen namely John Dowland on the evening of a certain day again calling for them the following morning so that the fishermen generally had no opportunity of seeing them, neither were they questioned by any member of the Local Board on the subject; except the man named above who was desired by the Chairman to repair with him to the house of a nautical friend to discuss the matter with a view to their being approved by him on behalf of the fishermen, but he declined to assent to this mode of procedure; subsequently the by laws were laid before the Local Board by their Chairman for approval, and they were strenuously opposed by two of its members, eventually they were carried by a majority of four to two, the Chairman and his brother and two Farmers, who are members, forming the majority.

Thirdly, no unskilled men with boats of any description is unlikely to ply for hire in Swanage while the use of boats are so unremunerative as at present through the introduction of steamers into this place, which vessels are owned by the Chairman of the Local Board.

Fourthly, The rocks and strong currents outside the bay which is so ably described is one of our best fishing grounds, and is a favourite resort of Gentlemen visitors during the summer who are fond of fishing

with hook and line; and they are daily resorted to nine months in the year by the fishermen when following their occupation except in gales of wind.

Fifthly, with regard to the safety of the public, our small boats range from 11 ft. to 13 ft. in length and are well adapted to this coast; they are plied by one man with a pair of oars; charges from 1s/ to 1s/6 per single hour; there are also three sailing boats of 16 ft. and two of about six Tons Burden which are navigated by the one man and a boy, occasionally by two men charges 2/6 per single hour one of the large boats is at present laid up for sale, the owner having engaged with the Chairman of the Local Board as Agent for his "Steamers", gass works, water works, Bathing Machines &c rather than risk a casual employment with his boat.

Sixthly, The great increase of visitors are mythical, it is true that a great number of visitors occasionally comes in by the Steamers during the summer but their stay is very short, seldom more than two or three hours; no boats are required by these parties.

In consequence we leave the subject in the hands of your Honourable Board for their final decision.

I am &c &c

Jas Mitchell

To the Secretary

&c &c

The LGB's next reply to Mitchell is dated 18th May 1874 and after acknowledging his 8th May submission, it reads:

The Board direct me to state that they have had under their consideration the draft of the proposed bye laws and having suggested various alterations with a view to the amendment of the Series have this day returned the draft to the Chairman of the Local Board.

The Board desire me to add that the inhabitants of the District will have ample opportunity of ascertaining the precise nature of the bye laws before they are submitted to the Board for final confirmation inasmuch as the Statute 11 and 12 Vict C63 S115 provides that for one month at least before application to the Board for confirmation of the bye laws "a copy of the proposed bye laws shall be kept at the office of the Local Board and be open during office hours thereat to the inspection of the ratepayers of the District to which such bye laws relate without fee or reward.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Danby O. Fry [?]

Assistant Secretary.

This is the fifth and final letter on the bye laws found among James Mitchell's papers. The eventual outcome of the debate is unknown to me but I have little doubt but that they were approved in some form or other.

1. Rodney Legg, *Old Swanage*, (1983), pp 44-45.

40. A BUSY DAY IN WEDMORE CHURCH, 1350. On Monday 10 May 1372 a group of men from Wedmore attended a court at Bridgwater, sixteen miles away. They went to give evidence to show that William Modesley was now 21 years of age, and the rightful heir to his lands at Modesley [Mudgley] in the parish of Wedmore.¹

William was the son and heir of the late John of Modesley and Joan his wife. The fatherless infant William had been made a ward of the King, and the Modesley lands were farmed by John Rothwell. Proof of William's age was needed before he could enter into his inheritance; and this proof, in the form of people's recollections of the day of William's baptism in Wedmore parish church, provides a vivid picture of what was going on in and around one Somerset parish church, on Sunday 15 August 1350.

William Porter (aged 53), Richard Wely (48) and James Coker (44 or more) remembered William Colne and Simon Michell, William's godfathers, and Beatrice Bradreney [*sic*], his godmother, lifting him from the font. It was, they said, on the same day that James Coker made a lease granting lands and tenements in Poulett [Pawlett, near Bridgwater] to William Porter for 30 years. No doubt this lease could be produced, probably having been witnessed in the church on that day. The deed itself has not been traced; however, James Coker, son of William Coker of Wembdon, is active in the Bridgwater property market in 1362 and 1363, and sold rubble needed in building the church spire in 1367.²

Ralph Barwe (45), probably one of the Barrows of what is now Barrow House Farm, Panborough³, remembered the day well as it had been his wedding day. Ralph had married a Mudgley girl, Joan de Chipleghe, in Wedmore church, and many friends and neighbours, including William Athelard (46), had attended the wedding, and saw the baby being baptised. On 3 June 1332 the Dean of Wells leased land in Mudgley to John de Chudderlegh for life⁴. One of the witnesses is William de Modeslee, the baby's grandfather. There is, moreover, a large field at Sand, in the manor of Mudgley, called Chitterley since the 16th cent. Chitterley, Chudderlegh and Chipleghe are all probably variant spellings of the same local family name.

On that same day a new chaplain, John Palmere, had celebrated his first mass in Wedmore church; and William Athelard (60, probably the father of the younger William Athelard), John Rakesworth (52), Nicholas Tournour (48), John Payn (60) and others attended the service "for kindness

sake". They all remembered the baby at the church door, waiting to be baptised.

That day also, a court was held in the churchyard by John Hugyn, steward of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, lords of the manor of Wedmore. The manor house adjoins the church and churchyard. Several villagers were summoned to attend, including Henry Pareys (70), William Newcomb (52) and Philip Taillour (63), and they recalled seeing Alice Modesley carrying the baby in her arms after his baptism.

All this evidence proved that William was the rightful heir and had attained the age of 21 years by 15 August 1371. Wedmore church seems to have been particularly busy on that Sunday 21 years earlier, with a baptism, a wedding, a manorial court, a first mass and a property transaction. The use of a dated lease as evidence is interesting, as this baptism took place long before the start of church registers. Lacking an official record of baptism, the local witnesses of all ages (ranging from 23 to 49 when the baptism took place) provided an admirable selection of verbal evidence on the event.

William of Mudgley was a member of an important local family which since the 13th cent. had held land in the manor of Mudgley, on the south side of Wedmore, and elsewhere⁵. His father John in 1343 witnessed a deed along with his father (William the baby's grandfather), William of Mudgley⁶. Young William of Mudgley himself, having entered into his Mudgley inheritance, was later a member of an enquiry into dilapidations on the Dean of Wells' estates in 1378, and quitclaimed any rights to land in Wedmore granted to the Vicars Choral of Wells Cathedral in about 1378-1380⁷.

The font bowl in which William of Mudgley was baptised is probably the one still in use in the parish church of St. Mary's, Wedmore today. It has undergone some changes, for the plain bowl set in an octagonal top is a different stone from, and would seem older than, the shaft supporting it. The shaft is probably 15th cent., while the base is late 19th cent.⁸. The bowl is probably the oldest part, pre-15th cent. and "that of the original [13th] cent. church"⁹. While the octagonal shape is certainly common in 15th cent. fonts, there are many examples of Norman-12th cent. date in the southwest: including Beckington, Loxton, Rodney Stoke, and Wellow in this area. The church itself was almost completely rebuilt in the 15th cent., and the font has been moved more than once before its present resting place near the south door.

Inquiries to prove the date of events form a very small

proportion of Inquisitions, compared to the more usual inquiries into property tenure. Of these few items, no other local examples have been noted for this period. While the use of church events and a dated document occur in other examples, this Wedmore inquiry is unusually precise in the detail it gives of events happening all in one place on one particular day.

1. *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, 1370-1373, pp. 208-9 (1954).
2. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, 'Bridgwater Borough Archives 1200-1377', vol. 48, pp. 138, 143, 163.
3. Members of the Barghe [Barrow] family appear in Abbot Richard Beere's Terrier of Glastonbury estates in the Panborough/Barrow Hill area in 1517 (BL Egerton MS 3034); and Walter, son of Stephen atte Berge, held property there in 1355-56 (BL Egerton MS. 3321).
4. Hist. MSS Com., *Cal. of Wells MSS.*, i, p. 229 (1907).
5. *Op. cit.*, pp. 50, 67.
6. *Op. cit.*, p. 536.
7. *Op. cit.*, pp. 284-5; and SRO, DD/CC 114091/2 bdlc 6.
8. S. H. A. Hervey, *Wedmore Chronicles*, vol 2, 1888-98 (1898), p. 282.
9. Lt-Col. J. R. Bramble, *Clifton Antiquarian Club*, vol. 1 (1884-1888), p. 185, where 13th cent. has been misprinted as 15th cent.

HAZEL HUDSON, FRANCES NEALE

NOTES

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'NEGLECT' OF MENDIP (*SDNQ*, XXXIII, 92). I am prompted by the note under this title by Brian Hack to indicate my own contributions to this area of study:

- 1939 'Some rare types of round barrow on Mendip', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 85, 151-166.
- 1957 'A polished-edge flint knife and a stone axe from Priddy', *Proc. UBSS*, 8, 44-6.
- 'A decorated cist-slab from Mendip', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 23, 231-2.
- 1958 'A round barrow on Mendip', *SDNQ*, XXVII, 202-3.
- 1959 'Work at the Pool Farm cist slab', *SDNQ*, XXVII, 243-4.
- 1966 *Prehistoric Sites in the Mendip, Cotswold and Bristol region*. Bristol Arch. Res. Gp, Field Guide no. 1.
- 1969 *The Cheddar Caves Museum: A Brief Guide, Summary Catalogue & Bibliography*.
- 1970 (With Max Hebditch) *The Mendip Hills in Prehistoric and Roman Times*. Bristol Arch. Res. Gp, Special Publication 1.
- 1972 'Perambulations of the bounds of Mendip parishes', *SDNQ*, XXIX, 212-13.
- 1982 *Prehistoric Sites on Mendip*. Bristol Res. Gp, Folder Guide.
- 1983 'Priddy Nine Barrows: a 'correction' corrected', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 126, 103-4.
- 1987 'John Jarmain and Priddy Barrows', *SDNQ*, XXXII, 594-5.
- 1989 'The U.B.B.S. and the scheduling of Mendip barrows', *Proc. UBBS*, 18 (iii).

L. V. GRINSELL

ST. ANDREW'S CONSERVATION TRUST. This Trust has as its objects the serious conservation of objects and artefacts in or attached to buildings which are themselves part of a charitable cause — in most cases this means churches. Its primary geographic area is Somerset and its adjacent counties. It is precluded from assisting in the structural repair or associated work on buildings and confined to contents of antiquarian or artistic importance which include wall paintings, furnishings, pictures, books, monuments and glass.

Examples of work assisted by grants from the trust are the conservation of the Botreaux monument, c.1460, in North Cadbury church (see *SDNQ*, VI, 292-3 and illus.) and the re-leading of the window by Harry Clark in Sturminster Newton church, which is one of the finest examples of his work and the "Arts & Crafts" style. If a relatively small amount of money is

needed to put an object in long term safe condition the Trust has sometimes met the total cost — for example the conservation of the medieval pyx box in Warkleigh church in Devon, otherwise grants are usually up to 50% of the cost or exceptionally 75%.

The trust arises from the terms of the will of the late Benjamin Meaker whose family came from Fiddington, near Bridgwater and though it has received many and worthwhile applications for grants the trustees feel it should be wider known: hence this note.

Applications for grants should be made to the Secretary to the Trustees, 4 Mount Hey, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PG.

JOHN COALES, H. G. M. LEIGHTON,
SIMON POMEROY

BOOK REVIEWS

Desmond Hawkins (*ed*), *Wessex, a Literary Celebration* (Century in association with the National Trust, 1991, Pp. 224, illus., £10.99). This is an exceptionally well produced book, and one which should provide the perfect present for a friend, or happily, for oneself. Fifteen chapters of carefully selected material range over Wessex (Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, Bristol and Bath), and provide poetry and prose which range from descriptions of the landscape and people, to witty and entertaining pieces grouped under headings like 'Rural Life', 'The Great, the Good and the Naughty', and 'Smugglers and Poachers'. The material ranges from the Anglo Saxon Chronicle through antiquarians like Leland and Aubrey, diarists and travellers' accounts from writers like Daniel Defoe and Celia Fiennes, to extracts from the works of modern authors like Llewelyn Powys, John Betjeman and John Fowles.

This is a book which is perfect for browsing and re-reading. The selections are chosen very carefully, and while it is comforting to come across the familiar passage (which one can never quite find in the original), it is pleasant to be entertained and instructed with the unusual: the mayor with the wooden leg who could not kneel to the queen in 1798; the snail gatherer: 'they be better than best mutton'; the pathetic poverty of Betsy

Cooper, which cannot leave one unmoved; Parson Chafin, who hunted everything 'from the flea in the blanket to the elephant in the forest'; and the final letter of Arundel Penruddock.

While one recognises that all books produced by Desmond Hawkins are worth recommending, this selection, the culmination of a lifetime of reading, is particularly impressive, and will certainly give much pleasure to its readers.

G.J.D.

Rodney Legg, *Steep Holm, Allsop Island* (Wincanton Press, 1992, Pp. 160, map, illus., £9.95) and *Steep Holm at War* (Wincanton Press, 1991, Pp. 128, map, illus., £9.95). Steep Holm, a rocky outcrop in the Bristol Channel, was fortified in Victorian times, abandoned to the sea birds, then re-fortified during the Second World War, and used to house a small working party of prisoners of war. In 1976, unable to secure part of Eggardon Hill as a nature reserve in memory of Kenneth Allsop, the Allsop Trust purchased Steep Holm, and with its new warden — Rodney Legg himself — they set about restoring the barracks and gun emplacements, and clearing the island for the reception of a limited number of tourists. Out of this work as one of the founder members of the Trust, and from his research into the island's part in the Severn Fixed Defences, Rodney Legg has found material for two extremely interesting books.

Sited where it is, Steep Holm could hardly have played a significant part in any defensive system along the coast, and the author quickly acknowledges that the defences were more 'a matter of some reassurance for sailors, dockers and the people of the South Wales coast that this great offshore rock ... was bristling with friendly guns.' With no shots fired in anger, *Steep Holm at War* is, perhaps, a conventional and fairly low key account. *Allsop Island*, is more interesting because it reveals the soul-searching which went in the early years of the Trust's life, and the struggles which they endured in trying to make the inhospitable island a safe nature reserve, and a tourist attraction. I can understand how some people might now consider that some of the author's remarks are indiscreet, for he tells the story warts and all. However, he reserves his sharpest criticism for himself, and his text is always appreciative of the Trust's work, and mindful of the

contributions which others made. He pens a remarkably frank and honest account, and it might have been the kind of work which Kenneth Allsop himself would have appreciated.

G.J.D.

Hugh Torrens, *Joseph Day 1855-1946* (Bath Industrial Heritage Trust [1991]. Pp. 24, illus., £3.95 plus postage). We tend to assume that in this present century a person of note who died as recently as 1946 would be amply documented. The reverse, however, has been the case, as Dr. Torrens has found in researching both the biographical details and technical achievements of this forgotten engineer and inventor.

Joseph Day began as an apprentice in the Bath firm of Stothert and Pitt in 1874. He set up his own concern in 1878 and patented a variety of inventions and, in particular, in 1890, a crankcase-compression two-stroke internal-combustion engine of supreme simplicity. Like many a pioneer, he was not to be successful in exploiting his invention, where his lightweight engine proved later popular in powering motor-boats. Day had to declare himself bankrupt and later failed in a speculative venture to extract oil from oil-shales in E. Anglia.

Perhaps the publicity provided by Dr. Torrens will succeed where others — notably, the Science Museum as early as 1952 — have drawn a blank.

D.M.M.S.

Michael McGarvie, *Frome Place-Names* (Second Edition, with corrections and additions. Pp. 39, maps and illus., 1992, Frome Soc. for Local Study, £3.00, available from the writer at Marston House). After being out of print for several years, the Society has been able to publish this second edition, but for economic reasons the first edition of 1983 (reviewed in *SDNQ*, 319, March 1984) has remained unchanged: this is, perhaps, a blessing in disguise, for it is a model of its kind.

Inside the back cover, Mr. McGarvie has used, with profit, the fruits of his researches in the intervening years to make corrections, additions and refinements, all of which are handily cross-referenced.

D.M.M.S.

Michael McGarvie (ed.), *Frome Society Year Book*, vol. 3 (1989-90. Pp. 75, illus., £3.00, available from the Editor, 19 Styles Hill, Frome). Societies of this sort tend to be divided into active and passive types and the Frome Society is very much in the former category. You may think that a local group having Michael McGarvie and Dr. John Harvey among its members has a head start, but it is an indication of its general strength that there are at least six other individual contributors included.

There is an equally pleasing wide range of subjects — traditional transcripts of early manorial documents, by way of a rich source for Trudoxhill Chapel and the design of Frome Station, to reminiscences of town and village life in the early part of this century.

How far a transcript of a 16th cent. survey (in English), however, needs to be totally exact in the present context is questionable, but it is unnecessarily confusing to confront the reader with 'iiii or usual terms' for the simple '4 usual terms'. In the same entry 'Rovcles' is, doubtless, 'roughless' or 'roofless' (tenement).

The strengths and weaknesses of written or taped recollections are nicely illustrated: on the one hand, the pompous language of the self-conscious and, on the other, delightful instances of work and play. One of the Society's particular strengths is the use of old photographs and in this instance the view of a muddy Portway in 1910 happily mirrors the memories of an inhabitant of Buckland Dinham, where the writer in the same period recalls earning 7d. in one week at 1d. for each trolley load of manure collected from the streets.

D. M. M. S.

Desmond Hawkins, *Shelley's First Love* (Kyle Cathie Archon Books, 1992, Pp. xviii + 153, incl. 8p. illus., £14.99). Readers will recall that Desmond Hawkins wrote a note on 'Shelley's First Harriet', which appeared in the March 1988 issue of *SDNQ*. The title of the present book is changed slightly, but is a full-length version on the same theme, which follows faithfully the 1988 summary.

His aim has been two-fold: firstly, to describe the youthful, but short-lived, romance of cousins, Shelley and Harriet Grove, which blossomed in 1808-9, when they were

respectively 16 and 17 years, and ended with their separate marriages in 1811; and, secondly, to correct the mistakes and misrepresentations suffered, particularly of Harriet.

The two rarely met and their prolific correspondence, known only second-hand through Harriet's diaries of 1809 and 1810, has not survived, and the diaries themselves are reduced in value in the present context by the heavy deletions of most references involving Shelley. How effective the defacement was can be nicely seen in the illustration of the diary under 28 March 1810, which, incidentally, the writer acknowledges that the wrong side of the page has been used. All in all, this would seem to be an unpromising field, but it is a measure of Mr. Hawkins' success that he has managed to produce a closely researched and immensely readable account, masked as it is by his usual fluent style.

His narrative continues for some 45 years after the parting, exploring the continuing contacts between the remaining Shelley/Grove cousins, and follows this with an assessment of biographical material by friends and relatives to more recent professional biographers. Proof reading is impeccable, but the index is somewhat restricted.

D.M.M.S.

BOURNEMOUTH LOCAL STUDIES PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the booklets recently reviewed, the following titles are available from East Dorset Professional Education Centre, 40 Lowther Rd., Bournemouth, BH8 8NR, and from S. Wright, Booksellers, Boscombe Arcade, Christchurch Rd., Boscombe. (Prices and cost of postage are shown.)

<i>Hengistbury Head : an ecological study</i>	£2.50 + 40p.
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BACK ISSUES WANTED. Mr. C. R. Fry of 7 Thornbury Close, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 6PE, who has kindly donated £25 to the Society, is anxious to find the following parts:

Part 53 (March 1901); Part 102 (June 1913); Part 105 (March 1914); Part 110 (June 1915). He would be glad to hear from any member who could supply them.

*N.B. – All replies to advertisements to be sent to
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NOTES & QUERIES

Somerset & Dorset

Index to vols 23 - 32

1939/42 - 1986/90

Compiled by L. E. J. Brooke

This index consists mainly of titled articles, cross-referenced where necessary, and selectively expanded to include other subjects (e.g. armorial bearings). The style is similar to that of the index to volumes 1 - 22 which was published in 1942.

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