

Trowbridge Civic Society

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018



In this issue

Trowbridge Benchmarks George Moore
A Trowbridge Murder Cockhill Brickworks

Member of Wiltshire Building Record, ASHTAV and BALH
Registered Charity Number 276765 Website: www.trowbridgecivicsociety.org.uk

Recent Meetings



Members enjoying a cream tea, courtesy of Sue and Kevin Eames in July

Know Your Place Website

This website "is a digital heritage mapping resource to help you to explore your neighbourhood online through historic maps, collections and linked information". Here are some examples of what you can find on the site which has good coverage of Wiltshire.



Corporate Member: The Trowbridge Museum

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our cover in this issue is a photo of Abney House in Avenue Road. The builder George Moore lived here and we have a list of some other prominent buildings he was responsible for in Trowbridge. Thanks to Trowbridge Ephemera and Postcards on Flickr for the information.

In the last issue we had a piece about Rosefield House. One of our members was disappointed that there was not more information about the history of the house and of Homefield House next door. Can any member help us by writing about these two prominent houses one of which was occupied by Joseph Stancomb?

Our treasurer has discovered interesting information about a part of Broadmead estate. A brickworks was once situated there. We have printed a map of how the area looked at the end of the 19th century, thanks to the website Know Your Place. There are some examples of what this website offers on page 2.

In the summer the Society visited Llandaff Cathedral and St Fagan's. If you have any photos of this trip, or any other Society event please send them in so that we can include them in the next issue.

It is sometimes difficult finding articles and news to print in our newsletter so would any member be willing to join the editorial team to find or write articles for us?

Programme of future event

2018

27 November Public Lecture The buildings of Trowbridge - Revisiting Pevsner's "Buildings of Wiltshire" Julian Orbach
The Supper room, Town Hall, 7.30pm

2019

8 January New Year Social with Quiz
The Supper room, Town Hall, 7.30pm
12 March AGM and Talk
Votes for Women - Suffragette Activity in and Around Trowbridge by Rosemary Hawkes
The Supper room, Town Hall, 7.315pm

TROWBRIDGE CIVIC SOCIETY INFORMATION

President:	Kenneth Rogers
Vice Presidents:	Michael Marshman; Wende Maunder; Norman Rogers
Chairman:	Glyn Bridges, 4 Alma Street, Trowbridge. Tel 755784
Vice Chairman:	Margaret Howard, 52 Avenue Road, Trowbridge. Tel 764691
Hon Secretary:	Celia Russell, 18 Churchlands, North Bradley. Tel 754668
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Janet Carpenter, 2 Chepston Place, Trowbridge. Tel 752770 janet_carpenter@btinternet.com
Committee members:	Sue Glover; Kevin Hartley; Jonathan Hawkes; Diana Ingram
Newsletter:	Jennifer & Peter Collier Tel 761270 Sue and Kevin Eames; Glyn Bridges pcollier@blueyonder.co.uk
Photographic Recorder:	Kevin Hartley
Web Site:	Jonathan Hawkes
Subscription Rates:	Single £6, Joint £10, Corporate £30 New members welcome - please contact Membership Secretary
Deadline for next issue - End of February	

Welcome to new members:

**Dawn Newlove, Dawn Follett,
Mike & Jackie Snelling,
Stephanie Morris, Ros Histed**

We are still collecting membership subscriptions for 2018. If you haven't yet paid, please send your subs to Janet or pay directly to our bank account Lloyds 30-98-97 AC no: 46956860.

Please remember to put your name in the Reference box so that we know who is paying their subscription. Thank you.

From the Chairman

Glyn Bridges

It was with great sadness that members heard of the death of Norman Rogers in September. Norman was a committee member and Chairman of the Society from 1990 to 1997. He took a great interest in the work of the Society and continued to attend meetings whenever he was able.

The Society must give a vote of thanks to the Town Council for this summer's excellent floral displays which have done much to enhance the appearance of the town and its park. Without the flowers the town would certainly not look as attractive as it does for residents and visitors. On two separate occasions visitors have told me how much they liked colourful flowers in the town. One particular floral display I must mention, which was not the work of the Town Council, was the superbly colourful and attractive display of hanging baskets and herbaceous beds at the Union Street Almshouses.

The Society's day trips are usually over subscribed and this year was no exception. We had been to South Wales previously, to Castle Coch, Caerphilly Castle and Cardiff Castle. This year it was to Llandaff Cathedral and St Fagans National Museum of History. At St Fagans there are over forty recreated buildings taken from different locations in Wales. If you have never been it is well worth a visit and admission is free!

Planning Matters

Sue and Kevin Eames

We thought it would be interesting for members to read some comments made on behalf of the Civic Society on applications which had been sent to planning officers. Sometimes these are simply comments favourable or critical but on other occasions they are objections to the application. We have selected four.

18/06262/FUL Union House, Union Street, Trowbridge

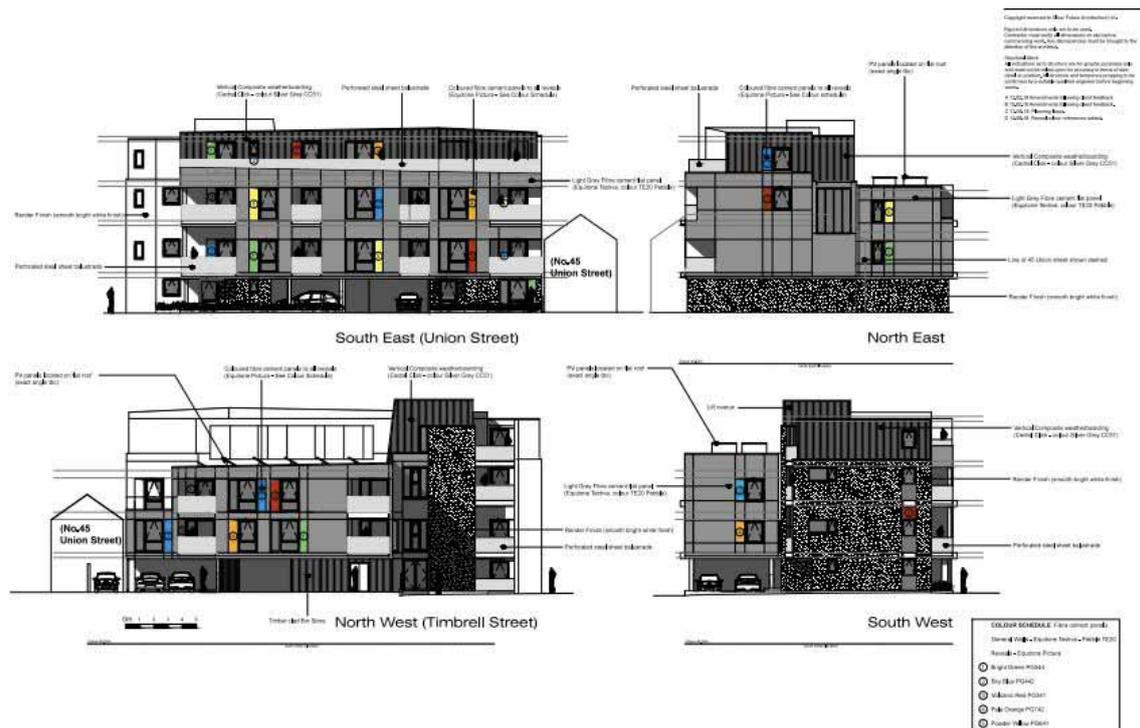
Ground, second and third floor extensions at Union House comprising 7 self-contained flats.

"This building is in a prominent position, at the junction of two roads, and on the edge of the central conservation area. It is close to the 'nice ashlar-faced terrace' mentioned by Pevsner, and framed, when viewed from Church Street, by the newer developments on left and right, in contrast to which Union House looks tired and dated, as well as incongruous in this setting.

The proposed development maintains the incongruity, which might be effective as a contrast, were it not for the restlessness of the design, the range of materials, and the startling (and seemingly random) application of coloured panels. This is a difficult site and a challenging building to adapt, but we feel that the present application fails to respond 'positively to the existing townscape' and the building is not successfully 'integrate(d) ... into its setting' (Core Strategy 57). We therefore object to the proposal."

18/06893/FUL The Halve Clinic

Proposed new second floor with eight apartments with communal amenity roof terrace, enlargement of ground floor D1 Dental Practice in Unit 1 and relocation of Unit 2 within reduced area of Unit 3. New 2



Union House, Trowbridge
 Planning Application
 18/06262/FUL
 Date: June 2019
 Revision: 0

PROPOSED

Clear Future - Architecture
 14 Trowbridge Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
 Wiltshire, BA14 0JH
 Telephone: +44 (0)1753 660143
 Mobile: +44 (0)7712044342
 Email: info@clearfuture.co.uk

bedroom apartment within existing first floor above relocated Unit 2 and external-works to rear. courtyard area with increase car parking space

"Our initial response to these proposals is, overall, favourable, in that the adaptation of the building is an attempt to 'respond positively to the existing townscape' (in a sensitive conservation area) in terms 'of ... height ... (and) ... elevational design' (Core Strategy 57). There is a gesture towards 'being sympathetic to ... (the) historic buildings' (CS57) which create the context here, insofar as the proposed windows seem intended to be sashes, rather than windows opening outwards. However, the materials suggested seem to be at odds with the predominantly red-brick buildings in The Halve, and the colour of the 'sandstone' should be carefully monitored to ensure it is not stridently assertive in such a sensitive setting. (It might be worth pointing out to the developers/architects that 'sandstone' is not an accurate description of the building stone in this area.) We note also that there is a disparity in the diagrams



between the columns in the 'proposed representations' and the 'proposed elevations', as in the former the columns are patterned, and in the latter they appear to be plain 'sandstone'. We feel that any patterning would be inappropriate in this setting, and the plain 'sandstone' option would be preferable - although a more accurate match with local stone would be even better."

18/07281/LBC Hilbury Court

Minor internal works and external extensions to convert to four dwellings

"The Civic Society is appreciative of the attempt to match the new additions to the

original building and we feel that the proposed addition on the East side of the South elevation is acceptable. However, we object to the addition on the West side, as the proposal is out of scale with the rest of the building, particularly with the unfortunate breaking of the cornice and plat band that result in a mis-match between the original and the proposed addition. Perhaps more careful research, resulting in a more detailed Design and Access Statement, would have helped the proposal to fit in with Wiltshire Core Policies 57 and 58, in that a 'high standard is required' in developments which include 'extensions ... of existing buildings'. A high standard of design would 'maintain and enhance the quality of the area or building, and be sensitive to its character and appearance.' In particular, the council has a responsibility to 'ensure that the form, scale, design and materials of new buildings are complementary to the historic context.' The scale of this application fails to provide an appropriate match for the existing building although, were it to be resubmitted with a more appropriately-scaled design, we would be happy to support it, as long as the reconstituted stone harmonised effectively with the existing ashlar. As the NPPF (132) indicates, the significance of a Grade 11 listed building 'can be harmed...through alteration' and such a heritage asset is 'irreplaceable'. Great care should therefore be taken over the design of such an alteration."

17/00518/LBC Clarks Mill and Mill House Stallard Street Trowbridge

Retention of ground floor offices in Clarks Mill along with the conversion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors with the alteration of roof space to create a new 4th floor, totalling 14 apartments and conversion and first floor extension of Mill House to create 4 dwellings

Trowbridge Civic Society submitted the following comments to the first set of plans which were then revised. "While generally in agreement with the proposals in this application, the Trowbridge Civic Society objects to the treatment of Clark's Mill. The removal of the roof and its replacement by a flat-roofed top story is, to say the least, unsympathetic, in contrast to the rest of the application. The roof is an essential part of the design, and its removal would inflict serious harm on the 'local character and distinctiveness' mentioned in the NPPF (para 131), as it would contrast starkly with the rooflines of the other buildings in the ensemble - and even with the mills on the other side of the road, also by the Gane Brothers. If the roof were to be retained, we would be happy to support the proposal"

The revised application was accepted with conditions which retained the roof with roof-lights. If anyone is interested in contributing to the comments submitted by the Society, please make contact via the website.

(All images were downloaded from the Wiltshire County Council website.)

Is Trowbridge up to the mark? The decline of historic OS benchmarks and trig points

Alan Cooper

Ordnance Survey (OS) Bench marks (BMs) are physical survey marks made by Ordnance Survey to record height above Ordnance Datum. Trig (Trigonometrical) Points (TP) are typically white concrete pillars used to position a theodolite for horizontally mapping the landscape. Tens of thousands of these are scattered throughout the UK but are gradually disappearing. Trowbridge had over 70 BMs and 3 TPs.

Benchmarks

Bench marks are the visible manifestation of Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN), which is the national height system for mainland Great Britain and forms the reference frame for heights above mean sea level. ODN is realised on the ground by a network of approximately 190 fundamental bench marks (FBMs) at sites carefully selected to provide an anchor to bedrock. They were installed in one of three English national surveys: 1840-60, 1912-21 and 1950-68. FBMs are marked with a square on OS maps. If the exact height of one BM is known, the exact height of the next can be found by measuring the difference in heights, through a process of spirit levelling. Most commonly, the BMs are found on buildings or other semi-permanent features.

According to the Bench Mark Database one of the nearest FBM to Trowbridge is north of Upton Lovell. Like many FBMs, it is a brass marker on a solid stone plinth protected within a metal fenced pen. Next to the plinth is a chamber where equipment is located. It is 577.53 feet above the ODN.

Lower-order Benchmarks

From these FBMs, there are approximately 500,000 lower-order BMs were established.

Some were marked with brass plaques and others were cut into the vertical stonework of walls, buildings, bridges etc. They include the BM symbol of a horizontal line (the height line) above a vertical arrow head. This is also the symbol used on OS maps. Brass plaques (known as flush brackets) will include a unique reference number as well as the letters OS, plus indentations to precisely locate surveying equipment. Some horizontal BMs have the arrow head and a metal rods, bolt heads and discs instead of the line. These are marked simply BM on some OS maps.

The OS database of BMs lists about 70 within Trowbridge ranging from about 33 to 63 metres above sea level and last verified in 1957. Most are cut into stone. A flush bracket can be found on the side of the Town Hall in Park Street and a cut mark on the town bridge by the Blind House. The OS database makes it difficult to locate the BMs but the Bench Mark Database website lists eight BMs in Trowbridge that have been located and, in many cases, photographed by enthusiasts.

Triangulation Markers

FBMs should not be confused with the triangulation markers (TMs) (also trig points) used to map the surrounding area. There are about 6,500 in all. In open countryside they are usually on hill tops and are white concrete pillars protruding four feet (1.2m) above the ground with brass plate used to mount and centre a theodolite. In towns the brass plate can be affixed to a high building. The concrete pillars often incorporate a BM plaque on one side but when TPs are on buildings any BM is usually near ground level.

Triangulation needs an accurately measured base line. In the first national survey of 1787 to 1841 the base line was near Heathrow but in the second survey of 1935 to 1957 the base line was on the Ridgeway in Wiltshire. It was 11km long and ran from Liddington Castle hill fort SW of Swindon to Uffington White Horse. It was this second survey that constructed the concrete pillars.

According to the Trig Pointing UK website, Trowbridge has three TMs located at St. James' Church Spire, County Hall's Cupola and Trowbridge Technical College. The College trig point was reported destroyed in April 1993, presumably when a new building was erected. Spires and similar were used as a



reference point from traditional trig points rather surveying from the spires etc. as that would be difficult. A nearby traditional pillar TM can be found near to the Westbury White Horse.

There are people who visit and log BMs and TMs as a hobby. In 2016, the eightieth anniversary of the first TM, Rob Woodall completed a 13 year mission to "bag" all of the 6,190 trig pillars. No wonder he is of slim build, climbing all those hills!

Abandonment

In 1972 the Ordnance Survey stopped maintaining the benchmark network and in 2000 formally abandoned it, relying instead on global positioning systems (GPS), although a blog comment by the OS in 2018 said that they were still maintaining the 190 or so key FBMs for measuring any errors in the GPS so that correction data can be broadcast - a case of high tech needing low tech!

Surveyors, when drawing site plans, need now to use GPS based equipment combined with software to transform to ODN. Similarly, the white triangulation posts are no longer used or maintained. Gradually these historic artefacts are being lost through damage, destruction and erosion.

How does Trowbridge fare?

Not too well. A sample of 11 were surveyed and photographed on 10th August 2018. Five BMs no longer exist: one due to road widening, one on a gate pillar has been demolished, with two others the stonework looks repaired, and one is badly spalled.

Of the six remaining, four are in poor or fair condition including the one on the Town Bridge parapet where, worryingly, the stone block below the BM is badly spalling. The best example is the brass Flush Bracket BM on the Town Hall but even this has suffered from having cement on it, presumably when the adjacent stonework was repaired. A very good cut BM was found on the stone pillar to the drive of a house in Quarterway Lane.

A Google StreetView desktop survey indicates that this pattern is repeated throughout Trowbridge, especially since many BMs are on stone gate pillars that are spalling badly. The creation of County Way destroyed quite a few. Looking at OS maps from the 1930s shows that a number did not survive to 1957 when the OS database was last updated for Trowbridge. 60 years later it looks like less than 50% survive. Should we be concerned if TMs and BMs disappear? Should some be listed, just like some telephone and post boxes? And should efforts be made to record all the ones left in Trowbridge?

Sources:

OS website: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>

Bench Mark Database: <https://www.bench-marks.org.uk/>

Upton Lovell FBM: <http://trigpointing.uk/trig/537>

Trowbridge BMs (some): <https://www.bench-marks.org.uk/viewsearch?q=196f402d2a4caebfafcd7e1520a0d87c>

Trowbridge trig points: <http://trigpointing.uk/trigs/view-trigs.php?q=2201773>

Ordnance Survey: National Grid and Benchmarks: <http://www.ajb-settingout.co.uk/downloads/SEG%20Essentials/SEG%20Ordnance%20Survey.pdf>

The Mapping of Great Britain by Chris Knights:

http://www.thebasicroamer.co.uk/epages/es133467.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/es133467/Categories/%22History%20of...%22/Mapping/Part_One



Letter from a member

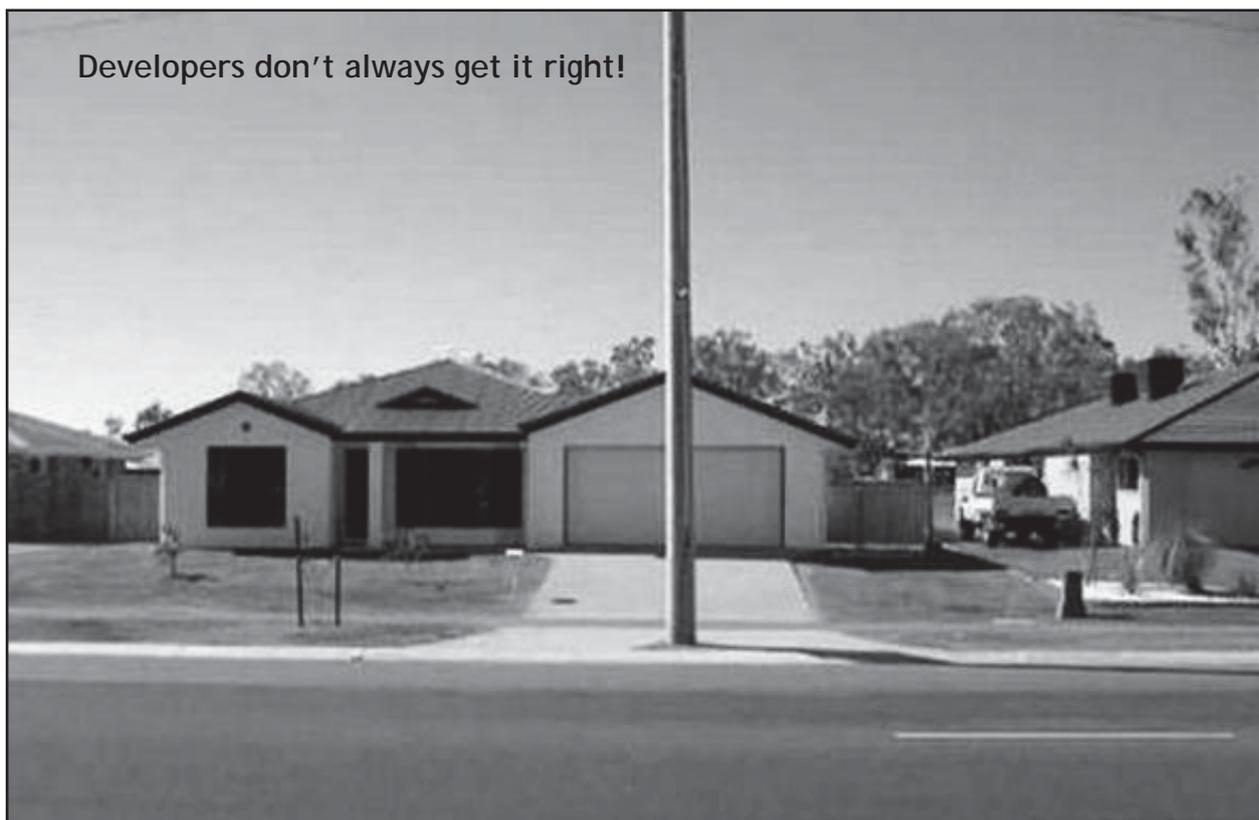
The Society's *Summer Newsletter 2018* contained two articles related to planning in Trowbridge. One focused on problems facing the historic environment, and the other the future of the built environment.

The Civic Society took commendable action in drawing the attention of officers at Wiltshire Council to missing and damaged entrance features at a listed building in Polebarn Road. I suspect that the acrimonious attitude displayed by one of the officers stems from inadequate resources, and poor levels of training. The Enforcement Officer is probably called on to cover all manner of issues and thus lacks the specialist knowledge that is imperative for resolving issues expeditiously. It therefore almost beggars belief that the officer should start to argue the toss over architectural terms and heritage law, matters in which he or she has little understanding. It is worth remembering that list descriptions were never meant to be a complete record of what was of special interest. Rather, their purpose is merely to identify which structure it is that the Secretary of State intends to be preserved. Addresses come and go as time passes and the description is a practical way of identifying the subject. It follows that the absence of mention of some feature in the list description does not mean that it is not of importance, or unprotected.

The concern noted in the second article regarding design standards in new housing developments in the outer suburbs of the town neatly summarises the failure of house purchasers to influence urban design. This places the local planning authority in a central role in achieving decent arrangements. But again the problem is the lack of resources made available by the Council to predict problems, and to achieve local distinctiveness.

I would say that the problem does not rest with one planning officer, or one developer. The Wiltshire Council needs to strengthen its development management function across the board if performance is to be improved. Perhaps the Civic Society could play a role in taking these issues up with the relevant cabinet post holder. The cases discussed in the Summer Newsletter could be used to illustrate the point if a meeting could be arranged. Somewhat belatedly a Neighbourhood Plan - led by the Town Council - for our expanding town is to be prepared and this may be a further way of driving up standards.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Lund



George Moore - Builder

Abney House, on the corner of Avenue Road and Wingfield Road, is an imposing house which was once the home of George Moore, a Trowbridge builder who named his house Atherfield. When it later became the manse of the Methodist minister it was renamed Abney House, after the Wesleyan Methodist seminary.

George Moore originally lived in Church Street and was the licensee of the Anchor and Hope pub in Frome Road before becoming a builder and contractor. He was a churchwarden for Trinity Church for several years.



Here is a list of some of the Trowbridge properties he was responsible for:

Four semi-detached houses at the end of Avenue Road facing Wingfield Road (including Abney House).

1893. Won the tender for alterations and additions to Farleigh Hungerford Castle for Lord Donington. Architect was W.H.Stanley of Trowbridge. Cost £4137.

1897 April. He began work on the demolition of properties in Roundstone Street between the premises of Mr Wilkins and Williams & Co. and the construction of five large shops on the site. The new shops were taken Feb.1900 by:

36. E.W.Tomlinson, Fancy Draper (later 36 & 37 after Pitt moves to Silver Street). 37. H.B.Pitt, Ironmonger, House Furnisher, China & Glass Dealer. 38. Caines & Son, Tailors (formerly 2 Church Street.) 39. Richard Newth, Brush Manufacturers (Newth were already at this location and in May 1897 moved into empty premises across the road before moving to the new shop.) 40. Oliver Wilkins, Baker & Confectionary Works (Also opened the Ivy Cafe on Stallard Street in June 1905.)

1897. Moore built the new wing at the high school. Estimated cost was £900.

1897 July. Built the extension to Trinity School, Park Street. The extension faced Frome Road which meant the main entrance and gates were moved to Park Street. Estimated cost was £230.

1899 April. Installed new pews to accommodate 168 people in the back part of Holy Trinity Church.

1899 May. Built J.H.Aplins Victoria Works Mineral Water Factory on Bythesea Road opposite the railway station. The architect was W.W.Snailum.

1903 April. Improvements at Trinity Church including choir stalls and chancel floor being raised in steps, encaustic floor tiles, choir stalls moved closer to allow additional singers at the rear and oak screens for the choir stalls and organ sides. Paid for using an anonymous donation of £100.

1903 August. Won the tender for the new Trowbridge Infectious Diseases Hospital (later St John's hospital) on Bradley Road at a price of £6934. Work commenced October 1903 and the hospital opened November 1905. Now demolished and the site is Cavell Court.

1905 June. Won the tender for the new Post Office, Inland Revenue, Probate and Registry Offices at Castle Street, Salisbury. Completed 1907. Architect was Henry Nicholas Hawks. Cost £7436 13s

1905 June. Purchased Cradle Bridge mill, formerly used by the Acetylene Light Syndicate, to use as his new workshops.

He also had workshops in Castle Street next to the Salvation Army Citadel (site later occupied by Massey, printers.) Also, a workshop in Back Street.

1906 June. Built a new dining room at the George Hotel. Architect was W.H.Stanley. Cost £4 2s.

A Trowbridge Murder

Peter Collier

I was doing some research on internet archives for the U3A computer club when I came across the Library of New Zealand's *Papers Past* site. The site contains scans of newspapers of New Zealand and the Pacific in the 19th and 20th century. I did not explore the site very carefully but casually put Trowbridge in the search box. I was surprised to find brief accounts of weddings, golden anniversaries, and of suffragettes burning a manor house in Wingfield in 1913. Perhaps the most interesting was the Trowbridge murder in 1926. It is difficult to find very much on the internet about this crime, but the NZ site gives enough details to make it an interesting case. (If you know more details about this case we would be interested to publish them - Editor).

This story also led me to find out about the father of the man who was executed for the murder. I thought you might find this interesting as well even though it is not about Trowbridge.

In the 1920s the recording of crime details by the Wiltshire Police were modernised. Robbery books were discontinued and, instead, all crimes were to be entered in a crime register - whether solved or undetected. One of the first crimes to be recorded in the register was the Trowbridge Christmas Eve murder. In the early evening of December 24th, 1925, brewer's traveller Teddy Richards was robbed and shot dead outside his home. Within twenty-four hours, Superintendent Alf Underwood, of Trowbridge Division, arrested two young Bombardiers. The men, one of whom was John Lincoln, both served in the Royal Horse Artillery at Trowbridge Barracks.

On the evening of Wednesday 23 December 1925, John and another Royal Artillery Bombardier, Ian Stewart had been out drinking. They travelled to the Trowbridge home of Edward Richards, a "brewery traveller", with the intention of robbing him. They both carried weapons because they believed that Edward kept a pistol. They entered Edward's home and soon found the pistol. When Edward arrived home from work he realised that someone had broken in. He fired a pistol into the kitchen - not with the intention to harm but in defence as he was in possession of a large amount of money belonging to the Brewery. John fired back. He shot Edward and then attacked him with an empty beer bottle. Edward died in the early hours of Christmas Eve, soon after reaching hospital.

The case aroused the interest of the national press because Lincoln was the son of a former Member of Parliament. Lincoln was the eldest son of Ignatius Timothy Trebitsch-Lincoln. Born Natzl, he changed his name in order to distance himself from his father. The trial, at Devizes, opened with Lincoln pleading guilty and his accomplice not guilty. In Lincoln's evi-

dence he told the jury that he had shot Richards. In summing up, the judge pointed out that only one of the men could have fired the shot. But he added that if the other knew his companion was armed, then he was guilty too. After Lincoln was sentenced to death and taken down to the cells, his colleague was released - only to be re-arrested on a charge of armed robbery. Later the man was tried at Salisbury and found guilty. He was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment. On 1 March 1926 John was visited at Shepton Mallet Prison by his fiancée, Miss Lily Brown of Trowbridge, Lily's brother, John's brother, Lincoln, and his mother, Gretchen. His estranged father wasn't present. He had been refused permission to enter the country. On the morning of 2 March 1926 John Lincoln had breakfast, played (and won) a final game of crib and then, at

LINCOLN TO DIE.

LONDON, February 28.

The Home Secretary has declined to interfere with the sentence of death passed on Bombardier Lincoln for the Trowbridge murder.—(A. and N.Z.)

8am, went to the gallows. Tom Pierrepont was the executioner. This was the last civilian execution in Shepton Mallett.

Ignác Trebitsch, born in Hungary in 1879, subsequently moving with his family to Budapest. After leaving school he enrolled in the *Royal Hungarian Academy of Dramatic Art*, but was frequently in trouble with the police over acts of petty theft. In 1897 he fled abroad, ending up in London, where he took up with some Christian missionaries and converted from Judaism. He was baptised on Christmas Day 1899, and then went to Germany to study for the ministry. He was sent to Canada to carry out missionary work among the Jews of Montreal, but he returned to England in 1903 after a quarrel over the size of his stipend.

He became **Tribich Lincoln** (or **I. T. T. Lincoln**) by deed poll in October 1904 and secured British naturalisation, in May 1909. He made the acquaintance of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who appointed him as a curate in Appledore, Kent. Next, he met Seebohm Rowntree, the chocolate millionaire and prominent member of the Liberal Party, who offered him the position of his private secretary. With Rowntree's support, he was nominated in 1909 as the prospective Liberal candidate for the Parliamentary constituency of Darlington in County Durham, even though he was still a Hungarian citizen at the time. Surprisingly, he was elected in 1910. However, as MPs were not paid at this time, he soon had financial difficulties. He was unable to stand when a second general election was called later in the year.

Before the First World War he tried many schemes to make money across Europe. He even offered his services to the British government as a spy. He was rejected so went to the Germans, who employed him as a double-agent. Returning to England, he narrowly escaped arrest, leaving for the United States in 1915. The Germans lost faith in him so he published his story in a magazine and published a book *Revelations of an International Spy* in 1916. He was extradited to Britain on a charge of fraud and served three years in Parkhurst prison.

He went back to Germany where he met Hitler and became part of the right wing fringe. When Hitler's putsch failed he went to Austria where he was eventually tried for high treason and deported.

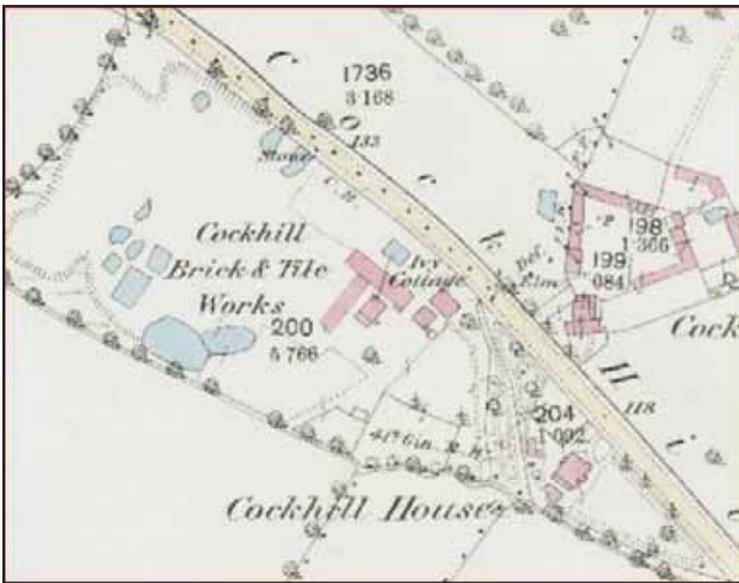
He turned up in China, and became a Buddhist monk. During the Second World War he offered to help the Nazis by mobilising Buddhists against the British, proclaimed himself the new Dalai Lama, continued to work for both the Germans and the Japanese, but died in 1943 in Shanghai, aged 64, possibly poisoned by the Japanese.

Cockhill Brick & Tile works

Janet Carpenter

On a constitutional walkabout on the Broadmead estate in Trowbridge I came across an unusual drop in the level of the land between Clipsham Rise and Cloford Close. This was clearly visible from Cloford Close but from Cockhill or from Broadmead you would not have realised it was there, as both roads gently rise up the hill. After looking at the 1886 map of Trowbridge, I discovered the reason why. This was the site of the old Cockhill Brickworks.

Evidence of a business on this site dates from the 1844 trade directory but there may well have been activity before this. In the 1841 census, the named resident engaged in brick making was Sarah Hall, who also appears in the 1844 Kelly's Directory. The Post Office Directory of 1855 and 1859 lists Walter Newth as brickmaker and in 1875 it has his son Arthur Newth listed as the Cockhill Brickmaker. However, by 1889 the business is being run by White, Nimrod and Sons. Finally, in 1901 the site of the brickworks was sold along with other holdings in Trowbridge which were part of the Earl Manvers estate. The sale particulars in 1901 list some of the items on the site including a three-bedroomed cottage divided into two dwellings, a brick kiln and a brick drying shed.



In 1901 the residence was occupied by Mr E Lindzey, a local builder, who had been instructed to fill and level the ground where the clay had more recently been dug. This residence previously known as Ivy Cottages was lived in by the Newth family from 1851 through to the 1880's. In 1891 the cottage was divided in two and in one half lived Nimrod White. The cottage is the only part of the Brick Works which still remains and has been empty for many years.

The growth of the inland waterways and the demand for cheap and quickly constructed houses and other engineering works such as tunnels led to a dramatic expansion in the brick making industry in

the late 18th C and early 19th C. The clay was dug out by hand during the winter months. The clay was made into a slurry and allowed to settle in washbacks. It was then mixed with sand, lime and a little iron oxide and moulded into bricks. The moulded bricks were air dried in open sheds over a couple of weeks to reduce burning time and to increase the strength of the finished brick. The dried bricks were then burnt in the kiln at a high temperature. Once cooled the bricks were ready for use. Tiles and bricks were generally burnt together as the tiles warped if they received too much heat. The bricks could be banked up in the kiln to shield them.

Other Trowbridge Brick Works were Lady Down Brick Works, The Down Brickworks at Coal Ash Walk and Upper Studley Brickworks, one at Waterworks Road and one at White Row Hill. In 1925 Wyke Brickworks was established by Mr Crees. This was the last remaining brickworks in Trowbridge and ceased trading in 1956.

Earl Manvers

Earl Manvers was a title in the Peerage of the United Kingdom. It was created in 1806 for Charles Medows Pierrepont, 1st Viscount Newark. He had already been created Baron Pierrepont, of Holme Pierrepont in the County of Nottingham, and Viscount Newark, of Newark-on-Trent in the County of Nottingham, in 1796. In Wiltshire he owned land in Bradford-on-Avon, Great and Little Trowle, Trowbridge, Paxcroft and Holt. Much of the land was sold 1913-14.

