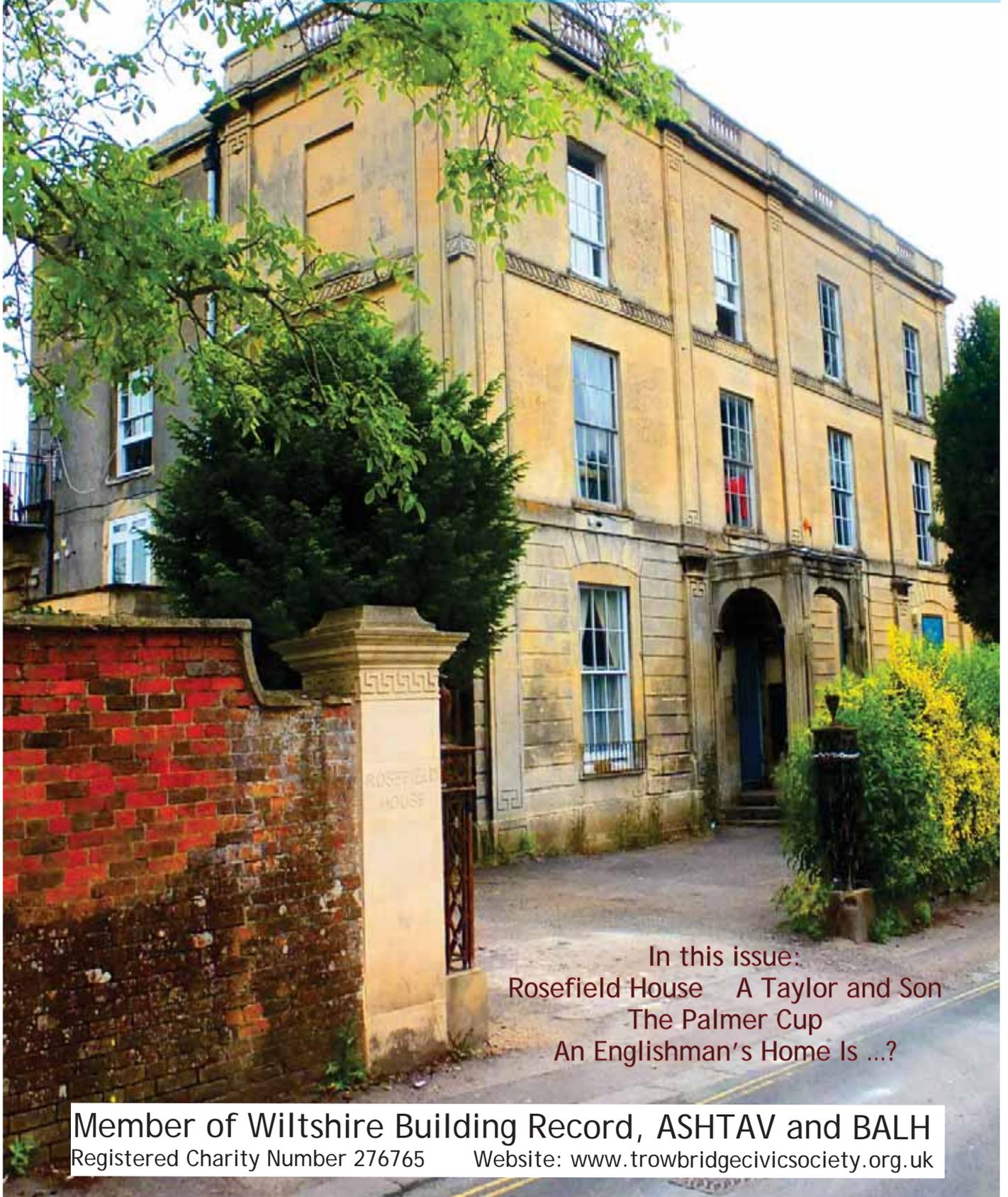




Trowbridge Civic Society NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018



In this issue:
Rosefield House A Taylor and Son
The Palmer Cup
An Englishman's Home Is ...?

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

Recent Meetings

Guided walk around Trowbridge led by Glyn Bridges
Photos by Mike Johnson



Corporate Member: The Trowbridge Museum

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our cover this issue features Rosefield House. I hope you enjoy the article by Kevin Eames about his and the society's struggle to get the gate posts properly reinstalled. Perhaps in our next issue we should have an article about different types of stone work. Any volunteers?

You may remember that in the last issue we asked for information about the Palmer Cup. We have a short piece about it on page 10. Last month we had an article about cricket. Would anyone like to write something about another local sports ground or team?

David Feather has written a stimulating piece on a new development in Trowbridge with, once again, some questions about the quality of planning in our area.

And Roger Newman looks back at the history of Taylors in Trowbridge. Look out for the mosaic in front of Howard Travel in the town centre. I am sure this article will bring back a few memories. We have had to shorten Roger's article a little because of space requirements so if you want the full article let us know and we can email or "snail mail" it to you.

Part 2 of the article on Bath Abbey will appear in the next issue.

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 August	

Programme of future event

2018

22 August Trip to Llandaff Cathedral, St Fagan's National Museum

8 September Heritage Open Day

23 October Why the Boundary of NW Wilts Ignores the River Avon - Martyn Whittock

The Supper room, Town Hall, 7.30pm

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 (speaker to be announced)

The Supper room, Town Hall, 7.315pm

Rebels and Radicals - the Road to Democracy

The Henry de Bohun History Festival Conference will be held on Saturday, the 6th October at the Civic Centre, Trowbridge. This Conference will celebrate the Centenary of Women getting the vote and of Universal Male Suffrage.

Welcome to new members:

Ros Histed, Stephanie Morris, Mike & Jaqui Snelling, Dawn Newlove, Dawn Follet

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. Thank you.

From the Chairman

Glyn Bridges

While we await the development of Ashton Park for 2500 houses, schools and employment facilities following its permission in April there are many more sites for housing development. At Southview Park 121 houses, Charterhouse 40 apartments, at the former District Council site 79 new homes and White Horse Business Park 104 new homes while Court Mills is being converted to provide 7 town houses overlooking the park. At the United Church there is an application for 25 apartments, at McDonough Court in Polebarn Road an application for 20 houses and flats, at Clark's Mill the owners have submitted an application for conversion to 19 dwellings and the Ashton Street Centre will be sold by WC and should accommodate 70 dwellings. Development of St George's Works will provide 30 apartments and at Courtfield House Ashford Homes have submitted an application to convert the House and build 16 houses in the grounds. This is one of those cases where the developer needs revenue from the houses to defray the cost of the very expensive restoration and conversion work on the Grade II* listed house. We can only hope that the new development will not impact on the house and in particular the residents in Polebarn Road.

Planning Matters

Sue and Kevin Eames

An application to change the use of an area of land within the curtilage of 20 Springfield Park from amenity land to domestic land was met with strong disapproval from several quarters. Trowbridge Town Council objected because the plan is "out of keeping with the prevailing character of the development ... causing a harmful visual impact and detracting from the character and appearance of the area." The Civic Society objected that the plan would "hardly promote community cohesiveness, as by removing an amenity it would adversely affect the situation and outlook ... which contribute to the pleasure and enjoyment of the occupants." The Society also felt that were it to be approved, it would set a dangerous precedent for further transfers of public realm amenities to private ownership. Six letters of objection were received from neighbours as well. The application was refused because it would not "retain or enhance this existing green infrastructure and the applicant has offered no compensatory green infrastructure of equal or above its current value or quality." The Society hopes that the applicant will soon remove the hedge planted to separate the area of land in question from the rest of the public amenity.

The Civic Society has recently made comments of support on two planning applications. It felt that the application to develop derelict land behind Rosefield House in Polebarn Road would "enhance the area and may provide impetus for the regeneration of the sadly-neglected Roundstone area of the town. The design of the houses seems appropriate to the context." The Society, commenting also on an application for a development behind the Grange in Hilperton, welcomed the care with which it had been put together, "showing commendable awareness of architectural context," while lamenting the lack of chimneys which would result in a bland roof-line, out of character with the prevailing architectural style of the area.

The long-awaited planning application has been received for Courtfield House a rare example of a clothier's house built with an integral workshop. Once part of Courts Mill the house, the adjoining workshop, and the wool store are now separate from the nearby remnant of the once-vast industrial site, which has been the subject of a separate planning application (below).

The application for Courtfield House is summarised as "Conversion of former school principal building to five dwellings and associated external works; the erection of sixteen dwellings; conversion and alteration of the Wool Store Building to form a communal garage/store and vehicular access; and comprehensive landscaping." The Civic Society commented: "Although the loss of the orchard is regrettable, the parlous state into which Courtfield House had been allowed to fall by its previous owner has left few options in preserving such an historic asset. The proposed housing seems from the drawings to be appropriate for the architectural context, and the alterations to the Wool Store are acceptable as this building is not listed and the wall to the footway into the park seems to be retained."

In addition, the Heritage Statement makes the following suggestions: "Information boards or public art could be used to enhance public appreciation of the historical interest of Courtfield House and its associated structures as key components of the Trowbridge textile industry during the 18th and 19th centuries." And: "The decorated cast iron column, thought to be a 19th century gas lamp, which is currently located within the gardens to the rear of Courtfield House could be restored and incorporated as a feature within the new development." We fully support these suggestions and request that they are put into practice. We feel that Ken Rogers should be asked to approve the board design, given his detailed knowledge of the building.' (Thanks are due to Ken Rogers and to David Feather, for information and comments supplied).

Think of a drapers' shop and most will think of Taylor's shop on the corner of Church Walk and Fore Street, which was a little piece of Trowbridge history. Many Trowbridge people have memories of the draper where you could buy anything from a yard of ribbon or a button to a roll of fabric. Trowbridge was a close-knit business community resulting in many business families being connected through marriage.



Jacob Taylor was born in Bath in 1808 and was a builder who erected many of the Trowbridge factory buildings and chimney stacks. About 1838 he married Sarah Harford of Ross-on-Wye. Jacob and Sarah lived in Union Street and had five children in the decade between 1840 and 1850. James and John, first and third children respectively, both followed their father into the building trade. Nothing is known of Sarah, the fourth child. The second child, Mary, was born 24th August 1841 and on 12th April 1860 married George Westall, born 8th April 1838, at the General Baptist Chapel, Trowbridge. They lived initially at Timbrell Street and moved to 21 Duke Street where, according to the 1871 census return, he carried on the trade of carpenter and Mary was a dressmaker.

Through the Westall family there is a connection by marriage between the Taylor and (Isaac) Pitman families.

The fifth was Albert, born 1850, who, instead of entering the building trade after his father, entered the retail trade. About 1862 his father Jacob arranged with Ebenezer Chettle in Market Place, at what became 46 Fore Street, for young Albert to be apprenticed to him for four years for the sum of 5 guineas. William Chettle, a draper and silk mercer, had commenced business in 1844 and about the 20th April 1861 had passed the business onto his son Ebenezer. Having completed his apprenticeship, Albert sought further experience by moving to a big store in London. He saw the future in the drapery trade for, one day, when back in Trowbridge on holiday in 1878, he walked along Church Walk and found that Benjamin Hammond, an outfitter at 8 Church Walk, was seeking to sell his business and leave the town. The remaining stock-in-trade and effects of Mr Hammond, who presumably had been running down his stock in anticipation of closure, were auctioned by George Snailum on the 8th and 9th May 1874. Albert Taylor probably did not purchase the stock, or at least not all of it, as it may have been out of date because he announced his opening on Saturday 16th May 1874 of his shop 'with an entirely new and carefully selected stock of general drapery and fancy goods purchased for cash in the best markets'. He also said that he 'was able to offer superior stock at reasonable prices and that ladies should visit his establishment before making their Spring purchases'.

A year later he married Elizabeth Louise Newman of Heavitree, Exeter. Probably as a result of his training, the business thrived and, shortly after April 1877, Albert acquired the adjacent 9 Church Walk premises from Mr Linzey, tiler and plasterer. This Albert converted into a millinery show room where the stock was hats and bonnets from the English and French markets and crape mourning bonnets. 8 Church Walk is, in 2018, The Codfather fish restaurant and take-away.

Albert and Elizabeth were probably living over the shop at 8 Church Walk when their four children were born. Elizabeth was born in about 1881, although the 1891 census shows her as aged 10 and the 1901 census shows her as aged 23. She was followed in 1882 by Albert Charles, known as 'Charlie', who went into the family business. Jessie arrived in 1883 and was described as a draper's assistant but it is not known whether that was in the family business or with another draper and, finally, Percy was born 1888. Business must have been profitable for the 1891 census return shows that Albert and Elizabeth had two-servants, Mary Lack and Florence Cook.

The family was complete and, with a prospering business constrained by the size of 8 Church Walk, in July 1892 Albert seized the opportunity to buy the business of John Heston, a draper for 22 years, at 13 Church Walk. Prior to John Heston opening in 1870, the building had been occupied 1863-1870 by John Tracey, draper, and from before 1848 to 1863 by EM Butterworth, a linen and woollen draper. Albert opened almost immediately on 21st July 1892 and whilst open for business, probably selling off John Heaton's stock, he reconstructed the shop for his own use. It may have been at this time that Albert had made the mosaic bearing the name 'Taylor & Son' which can be seen to this day in the doorway and is one of only three mosaics still visible in the town. About 15th October 1892 Albert vacated 8 and 9 Church Walk in favour of Albert Purnell, a draper and silk mercer who moved from 12 Church Walk and from then traded only at 13 Church Walk on the corner of Church Walk and Market Place (Fore Street) which in 2018 is Howard Travel. Albert and Elizabeth and family moved from 8 Church Walk to above the new shop at 13 Church Walk.

About 1899, 47 Ashton Street became available when Edwin Whitmarsh, having retired from his jewellery business two years earlier at 10 Church Walk, wished to live elsewhere. Edwin had his business next door to Albert Taylor for the whole time that Albert was at number 8 and presumably having got on well together, Albert became the new owner of 47 Ashton Street. He lived there until his death on 20th May 1934. Subsequently, the renumbering of 19th August 1963 made the very distinctive house named Ivy Lodge number 71. The 1901 Census indicated the family, inclusive of all four children, were living at 47 Ashton Street and rather interestingly also in residence as domestic help was Rosa A Westall, aged 35, daughter of George and Mary (nee Taylor) Westall.

About 23rd May 1903 Albert acquired 12 Church Walk from Mr S.G. Endacott, a hairdresser and tobacconist. The floor level of 12 Church Walk was about one foot higher than number 13 with the result that, when the dividing wall was breached to make one large shop, two steps were put in to climb from 13 to 12. Approximately on 6th May 1905 Albert Charles joined in partnership with his father. Albert Charles lived in West Ashton Road until Clarendon Road was built which spoilt his rural view, so he moved to Hilperton Road. The car of Albert Charles was always parked at the Central Garage owned by the Knee family in Fore Street. Albert Charles married Lilian Rose Griffin and they had two male children, Albert Francis, known as 'Bob', born 18th November 1913, and Dennis Charles, born 1918. Bob sometimes worked in the shop at weekends as he had entered a career in engineering with Rolls Royce. At one time he was attached to RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland and later was at RAF Lyneham. Dennis went fully into the family business and married Vera Elizabeth Tucker. They had two sons, Michael Dennis, who went into accountancy, ending up as a partner in Pearson May in Wicker Hill, and Anthony John who entered the teaching profession which included a period of time at John of Gaunt School, Trowbridge.

The telephone number of the shop was Trowbridge 215. A very good customer was Albert Taylor himself. In the Sales Ledger of 1908–1949, no less than sixteen pages was devoted to sales to Albert. Interesting sales included, on 30th September 1909, three night dresses at 41 shillings each and, on 30th July 1912, one Gladstone bag at £1/19/0. Business expenses included on 25th March 1912 rent at £17/10/0 a quarter, on 30th March 1912 insurance £2/210, and on 12th July 1912 Local Rates at £5/12/0. He settled his account periodically and his last payment was £1/12/10 ³/₄ on 2nd May 1934, eighteen days before his death. He died on 20th May 1934 when still living at 47 Ashton Street. In his will he bequeathed £50 to Ethel Andrews, an employee. Following the death of Albert, his son Albert Charles took over the responsibility of running the business until he died on 7th November 1939 at the young age of 57, when the business was taken over by his son, Denis Charles.

Albert Charles was a supporter of the Trowbridge Amateur Operatic Society with the business usually taking advertising space in the programme and in 1932 he was a steward. War had been declared and Dennis joined the army where he became an officer. The family business was rudderless as Albert Francis had not joined the business but assisted the RAF, although in later years he helped Dennis with the accounts. Denis obtained six months compassionate leave, during which time he engaged a Mrs Hill to act as Manageress.

Church groups who had accounts were the 'sewing classes' of Bethesda Baptist Girls, Conigre, Trinity and Emmanuel Baptist Sewing Classes, St Stephen's Girls' Guild, Timbrell Street Sunday School and Wesley Road Methodist Sewing Meeting. The range of products included underwear, gloves, linings, ribbons, hats, muffs, buttons, chiffon, feathers, lace, calico, silk, taffetine, umbrellas, tape, damask and wool, together with patterns for knitters and dressmaking.

Former staff have been interviewed and cumulatively their employment covers one half of the years in the period from 1943 to closure in 1986. In general terms, they agree with each other. Ladies were normally referred to as 'Miss' although in fact some may well have been married and so the same person may sometimes be referred to by two names. Miss Hill (or Mrs Hill) was still managing the shop in 1943 but had left by 1962 and in latter years before closure Molly Ottaway looked after the shop when Denis was absent. On entering the double fronted shop there was on both the left and the right two glass fronted and topped counters with, on some counters, a brass yard measuring ruler screwed to the assistant's side of the counter (as can be seen in Trowbridge Museum). In due course, brass metre rules were added. Facing in front towards the rear were two steps up to the higher floor of 12 Church Walk and a staircase leading upstairs.

Immediately left was a counter (for identification we will call it number 1) which sold wools, buttons, knitting needles, patterns and ribbons. Staff over the years included Miss Eileen Benjamin and in 1962 school leaver Stephany Davies joined Mrs Marel Kersey and in 1964 was joined by school leaver Miss Julia Newbury, sister to William Newbury who later married Stephany Davies. Next left was the cash office, referred to as the cubby hole, run in the 40s by Miss Barbara Gillingham. In the 60s, sale information would be written on the back of raffle tickets, one part kept under the counter and one part on a hook

in the cash office which was staffed by Alice Wickham. This had ceased by the 1980s when counters 1 to 4 had a float in a shoe box under their counters. Each morning and each evening, Denis would balance up the sales recorded on raffle tickets and prepare the float for the following day. Up two steps, the second counter on the left (2). was the household counter with items such as material lengths and rufflet tape. This was run in the 40s by Miss Brenda Bickmore, an evacuee from London, but in the 60s, Mrs Pat Cleverley, Margaret Peck, Miss Jennifer Bishop, Doreen Walters and Mrs Molly Ottaway could at various times be found on this counter. The first counter on the right (3) was haberdashery covering items such as collars and elastic. Miss Evelyn Hulbert (now Mrs Evelyn Sweetman) on leaving school, aged 14, was, in 1943, allocated to this counter for the sum of 10/6d a week. She left in 1946 to join Waldens at Canal Road where she stayed until 1953. She married in 1952 and returned to Taylor's shop in 1978 where she stayed until closure in 1986. In the 60s, the haberdashery counter was run by Miss Diane Newton and Miss Gill Elkins. Counter (4) second on the right was hosiery including ladies' underwear. Mrs Pascall worked here in the 40s but in the 60s it was Heather McCullum, Mrs Hurn, Eileen Trent and Mrs Ann Stillman. Staff on counters 1-4, when making a sale, would make out a bill which, together with the customer's money, was taken to the cash office, staffed in the 60s by Sheila Newby, who sat on a stool, with cover from Molly Ottaway, and then they returned to their counter with the bill and any change.

Under the stairs was a store room in which bicycles could be kept. Ascending the stairs, on the left was a door into the stock room and staff room. Straight ahead was the fashion room, selling coats and millinery, in the care of Miss Hurn and in the 60s Mrs Esme Miller and Mrs Minnie Bendall. To the right was the hairdressing salon with three chairs run in the 40s by Brenda Scadden. This was open by 1936 registered as 'Eugene Wavers' and it closed about 1963 with the equipment going into a store room at the back, where it stayed for many years in the company of dummies, with Denis Taylor using the vacated room as his office. There was a further flight of stairs up to store rooms on the 2nd floor.

It was a friendly and happy shop and Dennis Taylor, described as a good boss and always well dressed, would ask after the well being of the customers' families. He was diabetic, wore glasses and enjoyed eating boiled eggs with 'soldiers'. Once a year the staff was invited to dinner in the town. When meeting a lady, he would touch his cap. The staff were always most helpful. For instance, if you asked for a denim needle and there was not one in stock, they would explain how you could use a glover's needle. Yarn and other products for a customer could be put on one side for collection and payment up to six months later. Denis provided good customer service to the villages in the 50s by going around such villages as Tinhead and Bratton, taking orders one week and then delivering the following week and taking payment. One customer purchased a large quantity of zips as she ran a zip repair business. At the end of each day, the 'iunior' (in length of service) member of staff would sweep the shop, including cleaning the toilet. In the 1980s there were thirteen staff excluding Denis and Saturday girls.

In the 50s and until the early 70s, a cash railway accounted for retail sales and payments for the counters on the first floor. From the memories of staff. it was probably a pneumatic railway which went from the cash office through a hole in the ceiling to the first floor. At times of stocktaking, each department did their own, with items like buttons individually counted and fabric measured in yards, the results being written on pieces of cardboard. Payment in the 60s was less than £3 a week and given to staff in cash in a brown envelope. Opening hours at this time spread over five and a half days and were 9.00am-5.30pm except Wednesday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. with no Sunday trading. There were two weeks paid holiday, one hour for lunch when the shop did not close and a quarter-hour break morning and afternoon, taken upstairs. The dress was an overall with three-quarter-length sleeves, button or zip front, in royal blue made from cotton or nylon and supplied by the shop according to what garments were in stock, worn over any blouse.

Dennis retired 12th July 1986, died 3rd October 1998, and after 102 years of serving the town, the draper's business of the Taylor family no longer existed. When the Taylor shop closed, 13 Church Walk had been occupied by drapers for 142 years. In 2018 it is Howard Travel, another business with a name for good customer service.

Part of the Taylor's shop has been recreated in Trowbridge Museum although the cash railway is not from 13 Church Walk.

[If you would like to know more about the connection between the Taylor and Pitman families, please contact the editor who can let you have the full article written by Roger.]



Rosefield House

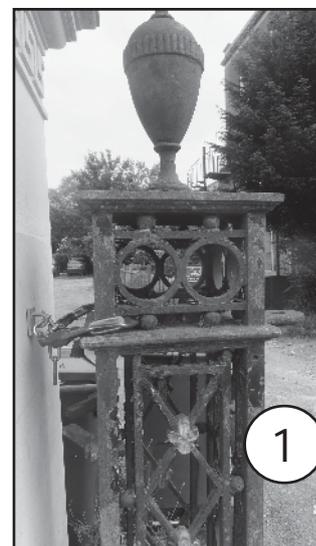
Kevin Eames

Vigilance in maintaining a living architectural heritage for Trowbridge

Civic Society members will be familiar with Rosefield House, on Polebarn Road, listed 11* (as 'Rosefield and Homefield') by Historic England - and thus a very important contributor to the irreplaceable architectural heritage of Trowbridge. The listing describes the design as 'reminiscent of Sir John Soane's work', and the 1950s extension as 'sympathetic'. The cover of this newsletter shows a view of the house from Polebarn Road.

Buildings of such distinction are to be treasured, but it is always a challenge to maintain our heritage assets while 'putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation', as the National Planning Proposal Framework (NPPF) indicates. The NPPF acknowledges that these 'heritage assets' are an 'irreplaceable resource', particularly in the contribution they make to the character of a place. In the case of Rosefield, it's not just the building itself, fine though it is; the listing picks out, as significant parts of the overall asset, two 'pairs of cast iron panelled gate standards of diagonal pattern with urn finials to road' and 'one remaining rusticated stone pier with key pattern at base of capping.' Without these small details, the contribution to 'local character and distinctiveness' (NPPF) would be much reduced, if only on account of the rarity of the gate standards - and the advice in the NPPF is that such 'irreplaceable' assets should be conserved 'in a manner appropriate to their significance'.

As can be seen from Fig 1 the items are of cast iron, with lattice-work on the panels, and an urn finial. The listing gives the date as late C18th/early C19th, so they have survived through a couple of hundred years, huge social changes and two world wars. As far as I can establish, gate standards don't seem to be very common; an internet search only brought up two references in Historic England listings, one of which was Rosefield House itself. Additionally, even the Complete Oxford English Dictionary didn't have a specific definition that I could track down, but 'standard', it suggests, is probably derived from 'stander' and therefore related to the verb 'to stand' (as in 'standard lamp'). There is, in fact, a pair of gate standards outside the (Ushers) Directors' House in Fore Street, which look very similar to the two pairs at Rosefield House; presumably, they were made locally by the same craftsmen, and would have been, in both cases, features to demonstrate the wealth and taste of their owner - what Pevsner would call 'swagger'. The standards outside the Directors' House have lugs to which gates are attached, but the gates at Rosefield seem to have disappeared long ago, although the lugs are still discernible.



The story of the Trowbridge Civic Society's contribution to the conservation of these assets begins when Cllr Glyn Bridges, Chairman of the Society, noticed that the house was being renovated by a developer. He made an approach to ask that the gate standards should be carefully preserved, and he took a photographic record of one pair of standards in their original position. In compliance with his request, via the Town Council, to the County Council's Conservation Officer, the gate standards were removed and placed carefully in one of the ground-floor rooms within the building. Some time later, however, when he checked on their safety, he discovered that the items had vanished, and that nobody on the site knew what had happened to them. Accordingly, he contacted the Conservation Officer and the Planning Enforcement Officer, but they informed him that nothing could be done, as the gate standards were not listed.

When Cllr Bridges passed this on to me, I was sceptical of such a view, and checked the Historic England listing (List Entry Number 1021633) which clearly identified 'Rosefield and Homefield with gate standards...'. When I emailed the Planning Enforcement Officer to point this out, his reply was swift. There was an 'anomaly' in the listing, he said, and he and the Conservation Officer had consulted the listing for the wall between Rosefield House and the Police Station (List Entry Number 1364211), in which the gate standards were not mentioned (although it seemed to me that there were two separate listings, rather than any 'anomaly' in the listings themselves). Moreover, he had visited the site that morning and was pleased to report that one of the gate standards had been 'retained by the owner and developer' in a safe place. In fact, the standard had been placed there the previous day by members of the Civic Society, who had been alerted by the owner of Rosefield



Cottage to the fact that there was a gate standard lying on the ground next to a skip into which, presumably, it was fated to be dumped. (Fig 2)

When I reported the story so far at a committee meeting of Trowbridge Civic Society, the committee members were very appreciative of the speed with which the Planning Enforcement Officer had responded and visited the site. However, they expressed concern about the fate of the other gate standard which completed the pair mentioned in the listing and they wished me to enquire what actions would be taken to find the missing gate standard - or replace it. The committee also expressed a wish to know how the repair of the stone pier had been decided, and why the replacement was not 'rusticated', as described in the listing. (The repaired stone pier appears in Fig

4. Fig 3 shows the gate standard and pier in its original condition). The committee was even more delighted when (alerted again by the owner of Rosefield Cottage) we were able to rescue the second gate standard from the pile of rubble, where it had apparently been dumped, and place it safely beside the first one that we had retrieved. I was pleased to send details and photos to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

From this point, however, communications with the Officer became confused. According to his reply, he seemed to think that the Civic Society was asking for the stone pier to be 'age(d) or weather(ed) ... artificially' - which of course we had not asked for, as that's not what 'rusticated' means. Indeed, he disputed our interpretation of the two listings (1364211 and 1021633), asserting that there was no gate standard 'in the location that you refer (sic). Furthermore, the Local Planning Authority are not aware that a gate standard was present in the location that you refer have been lost historically (sic). Presumably this is why it is not detailed in the listing.' (The listing is very clear that there are 'two pairs' of gate standards at Rosefield.) Moreover, he seemed to be under the impression (as far as I can gather) that we had asked (we hadn't) for a 'second stone gate pier ... at the right-hand side of the entrance' to be replaced and that it would be unreasonable to require this, as such a feature was 'not present at the point that the current three owners bought the property.' Certainly, it would have been unreasonable, but as the listing only mentions 'one remaining rusticated stone pier', the latter was the only feature we were interested in.

Final communications from the Planning Enforcement Officer unfortunately took on an acrimonious tone, although I'm not sure whether this was owing to my obscure explanations, or to misunderstandings and misreadings on the part of the Officer involved. Whatever the explanation, such acrimony is to be regretted, as the Conservation and Planning Enforcement Officers, and local bodies such as the Civic Society, are working towards similar ends in ensuring that the 'local character and distinctiveness' (NPPF) of Trowbridge should be maintained or enhanced, and we ought therefore to be mutually supportive wherever possible. As it stands, the Society has had no answer to its question about rustication, and I have not been given assurances as to the nature and veracity of the information passed on to the owner/developer, as I had requested. Neither has there been any acknowledgement of the service rendered by the Civic Society in rescuing the gate standards and moving them to a place of relative safety. There is a more positive later stage in the story, however, in that the gate standards have been replaced in their original positions (See front cover)) although at present they are in the same damaged condition as they were when retrieved by members of the Society. When they are finally restored, and when the renovations of Rosefield and Homefield are completed, I hope to see the house, some time in the future, as an entry for a Trowbridge Enhancement Award!



The Major Allen Llewellyn Palmer Cup

[In our last issue we asked if anybody knew anything about the Palmer Cup. Almost immediately we were sent all the information we wanted to know about it.]

A silver challenge cup was provided in November 1922 by Mrs G Llewellyn Palmer in memory of her son. The 1st match was between Trowbridge Town and Spencer-Moulton's at the Flower Show field and ended in a draw. A second match was played for possession of the medals provided by Mr George Lansdown.

At the opening of the Bythesea ground in 1923, General and Mrs Palmer asked Viscount Long to hand over the cup to Mr Allan Young, Chairman of the Football Club Committee, to be played for annually with the gate receipts associated with it to be donated to The Cottage Hospital. It became known as the Allen Palmer cup. Gold medals were provided for the winners by local businessmen. Mrs Palmer had been long associated with raising funds for the Cottage Hospital.

Allen Palmer Cup matches

1924 Trowbridge 6 - 1 Bradford & Spencer-Moulton's (1st Palmer Cup match 10th May)

1925 Trowbridge 1 - 1 Bristol City

1926 Bristol City 6 - 1 Trowbridge

1927 Bristol Rovers 1 - 0 Bristol City

1928 Exeter City 1 - 0 Bristol Rovers

1929 Wolverhampton Wanderers 3 - 2 Exeter City

1930 Wolverhampton Wanderers 4 - 2 Bournemouth & Boscombe

1931 Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 - 1 Bournemouth & Boscombe

1932 Nottingham Forest 3 - 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers

1933 Bristol Rovers 2 - 0 Nottingham Forest

1934 Not played due to no opponents available

1935 Bristol Rovers 5 - 2 Southampton

1936 Bristol Rovers 2 - 1 Bournemouth & Boscombe

1937 No match

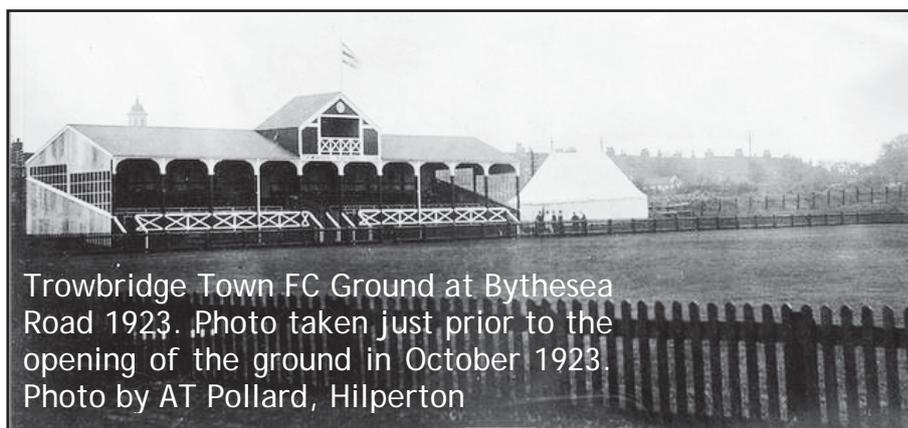
1938 Bournemouth & Boscombe 6 - 1 Trowbridge

The final Palmer Cup match was held on 3rd May 1939.

In 1952 the cup was reported to be in the possession of Ted Long, former Trowbridge team manager. In 1955 there was a mention of a possible revival, with the cup being 'in safe hands.'

Trowbridge Town moved from the Flower Show Field to the new Bythesea Road ground on 10th Oct 1923. The ground and stand, built by Mr Isley, cost £2000 and was provided by Brigadier-General and Mrs Palmer in memory of their son, Major Allen Palmer, who died during the war from wounds received in action.

A brass memorial plate on the stand read "This pavilion was presented to the Trowbridge Town Association Football Club on October 10th, 1923, by Brigadier-General and Mrs G. LI. Palmer, in devoted memory of their eldest son, Allen Llewellyn, Major Royal Wilts Yeomanry and late Captain 14th Hussars, who died at Amiens, November 15th, 1916"



Trowbridge Town FC Ground at Bythesea Road 1923. Photo taken just prior to the opening of the ground in October 1923. Photo by AT Pollard, Hilperton

In 1934 the club moved to Frome Road and took the stand with them.

The Bythesea Road ground was later used as the site for the new County Hall which opened in 1940.

The Bythesea ground was the fifth location for Trowbridge Town after previously playing at the County ground, then an adjoining field, then the High School field followed by the Flower Show field.

[Thanks to Trowbridge Postcards and Ephemera on Flickr for picture and information]

An Englishman's Home is?

David Feather

It would be nice to think that the old saying "An Englishman's home is his castle" applied today with people buying a new property. Sadly, some modern developments just do not deliver on their promise of an ideal home. We in Trowbridge seem to have an example of a less- than- satisfactory new development on our doorstep with Southview Park, just off West Ashton Road, but accessed via an earlier development from Hargreaves Road. (See plan).



The main deficiency, raised by residents at a Trowbridge Town Council Town Development Committee meeting in February, is a shortage of parking. New houses have so little storage space that few garages are used to park a car. In any case, can a garage provided by a developer actually accommodate a modern car? (See 1) If you drive into the garage, can you

open the car door or do you need a sun roof to get out? One resident also reported that a house with five bedrooms had six cars associated with it. There is clearly a problem with parking standards. The planners want us to use our cars less, but at the same time, bus services are being reduced. Is this sensible planning?

Another parking problem is the way an electric car owner without an off- road parking space will be able to charge the car. Who will arrange and pay for charging points?

Sparrow Street, the main circulating road in Southview Park has such a tight bend at the south end that, with parking present, lorries over-run the footway. (See 2) We must ask whether the planners can spare the time to look at a developer's plan in sufficient detail to pick up potential problems. Before I retired, I was a safety auditor employed to examine all sorts of highway schemes to look for potential safety issues. It looks as if these are no longer done.



The same developer, Wainhomes, now wants to build 120 houses just to the south. The main access will be via the bend in Sparrow Street and through a severe chicane in Toucan Street. (See 3) The Southview Park residents are objecting to the application and with some justification, I believe. They do not object to the houses but want a different access to be arranged. However so far, there does not appear to be any collaboration between Wainhomes and the Ashton Park developer. We shall see how Wiltshire planners deal with this problem.



I also quarrel with the design of houses in new developments. There is just no appreciation of the locality. If Trowbridge was in the Cotswolds we would have stone (or perhaps artificial stone). As it is we get the "anywhere mixed" design. (See photo) Sadly, many people are understandably so relieved to be able to buy a house that four walls and a roof are enough for them. They are not in a position to influence design.



So many new estates have now been built around Trowbridge that it is perhaps silly to go on about design. But, just south of Southviews Park, Ashton Park will be a really large development and it may be that it could be designed to a distinctive district style. I live in hope.

Recent Meetings

Guided walk around Melksham led by Melksham Historical Association.
Photos by Mike Johnson

Visit to Lullington, Orchardleigh and Rodden Churches led by Glyn Bridges.
Photos by Alan Cooper

