

Bramble Update

We thought it was about time, to let you all know what has been happening to Bramble after all this time.

Well we have had some problems with mooring the boat, somewhere that would allow us to work on it. The last mooring that Canal & River Trust allowed us to use was no good at all as there was no electricity for the use of any power tools.



But things are now looking up and we have with the kind efforts of the Lime Kiln Chandlers a secure mooring until we can lift the boat out of the water onto a hard standing on their property. Over the period that we have not been working on it some damage has been done by people at night, so now that has stopped we can now get to work. We have gathered material to carry out most of the main work with a generous gift from Thomas Vale, who have supplied timber, for which we are very grateful. We can now build the cabin back to what it should be, and to box in the hold for a classroom.

The period now before it goes back into the water should be about 4-5 months weather permitting. The one thing that we are finding hard to obtain is an old Cabin Stove with oven. It does not have to work just so long that we can show the type used in the working days of the boat.

Once again on behalf of Stourport Forward and all the volunteers a very big thank you. We will let you all know when it is going to be re-launched so you can all see it happen.

Anna Carter Audio Cassettes *By Mike O'Shaughnessy*

Since the last issue of the newsletter work on transferring the first 40 audio cassettes to CD's has been completed.

Since then a further 17 cassettes have been found and these are now being dealt with. The list overleaf details the contents of audio cassettes that refer to specific subjects. As stated in the last article many of the cassettes are discussions about photographs and maps and are difficult to follow without the actual photos or maps. It is now believed these were made by Anna as research material for her publication "Images of England, Stourport-on-Severn". When all the transfers are completed the CD's and cassettes will be stored with the Society archives.

Please see overleaf for a list of the transferred audio cassettes.

SUBJECT	SPEAKER	CD	CASSETTE
Working on the canal	Mr H Poole	1	1
George Nicholson and his Cambrian Travellers Guide	Audrey Cooper	3	3
Stourport Town Band	Geoff Neal	5	5
Stourport Town Band	Geoff Neal	6	6
Life on Lion Hill	Jean Horne	6	6
A history of the S & W canal	Alan Smith	11	11
Samuel Thorpe Clockmaker of Abberley	Chas Hadwell	17	17
The Baldwins	Pauline Annis	16	16
Wilden Works	Jack Stringer	21	21
The problems of funding and maintaining historic houses	National Trust, English Heritage (H. & W. Radio)	23	25
Staffs & Worcs canal	Talking Newspaper	23	25
Stourport Basins	Phil Garrett	23	25
A longboat trip on the canal	Brian Pickman (Artist)	23	25
Discussion on the state of Stourport High St.	H. & W. Radio	22	22 23 24
Boat trip in the Basins	H. & W. Radio	22	22 23 24
Live programme in the basins (Jeremy Dry)	H. & W. Radio	22	22 23 24
The Basins	Phil Garrett	24	28
War work at Worth Carpets	Kath Goodman	24	27
Phil Garrett interview	Radio W.M.	25	29
Phil Garrett Talks to members of the Civic Society	Phil Garrett	25	30
A walk around the basins with Civic Society members	Phil Garrett	26	30
Stourport Air Training Corps	Robert Stokes	28	32
The Anglo and the Foundry	Fred Bevan	8	8
Memories of Stourport during WW2	Mrs D Baynton	19A 19B	19
Memories of Stourport during WW2	Mrs D Baynton	20	20
Interview of Liz Bartley and Terry Green	H. & W. Radio	27	31
General conversation of Stourport	Fred Bevan, Amy Baylis, Dora Micklewright	12 13	12 13
General conversation of Stourport	Jim Livingstone, Mr & Mrs Verity	10	10
On the town trail	Geoff Neal	33	41
Radio Hereford and Worcester	Mayor of Stourport & Geoff Neal	33	41
Prince Arthur at Redstone Caves	Geoff Neal	33	41
The Earl of Dudley at War (the Boar War, WW1 and WW2)	Geoff Neal	33	42
A History of Severn Steamers	Len Holder	34	43
Kingfisher T.V. and Redstone Caves	Geoff Neal	35	44
Worth Carpets	Geoff Neal	35	44
Town Band, Rowing Club, Cobblers, Fire Brigade, Grandfather	Geoff Neal	35	44

Camp Burlish, An idea becomes a reality! By Lisa Cooper



Many locations in the Wyre Forest District housed American soldiers between 1943-1945, The largest camp being at Burlish Top. Camp Bewdley housed over 4,000 American troops between November 1943 - April 1944. On 31st May 1944 General G.S Patton (Old Blood and Guts) visited Camp Bewdley to give the troops a morale boosting exercise ready for the D-Day landings on June 6th 1944. His speech in places filled the air with language unrepeatable to ladies and small children! However it certainly did the trick. This took place on the current 10th and 11th holes at the Wyre Forest Golf Course. After D-Day Camp Bewdley was then turned into an army hospital which had 1442 beds with 650 medical staff. It received approx 4,500 battle casualties which arrived by hospital train at Stourport railway station.

After the end of the war it then housed residents of Wyre Forest waiting to be re-homed in the District. These included many of our Polish community who resided at Burlish Top, (Upper Camp); and other families at Lower Camp. Everybody who lived there knew it as Burlish Camp and the various stories that have been given to me via my Facebook page "We Love Stourport on Severn Past and Present day" have been that all these people had happy memories of living there and formed a strong community within it.

However this was an important part of our local history and as it was not commemorated in any way , it could sadly be lost. All that remained of the Camp Bewdley/Burlish Camp complex was a few battered bricks hidden in all the undergrowth and a small wall.



A small group, comprising of Paul Allen, Geoff Shaw, Lisa Cooper and Jon Cooper, got together to do something about this. After much discussion we decided memorial marker plaques, a website (which is now up and running), a huge stone memorial and information boards would be just what was needed. With the help of Heritage Lottery Funding our small idea grew into everything we dreamed of and more. On the 26th February 2013 we had our Camp Burlish launch, school children were invited and activities arranged. Our very own General Patton came and gave the children an idea of what it was like (minus the speech). A CVRW army vehicle was bought in to show the children, which I even got to ride on. Finally the plaque was unveiled by Adrian and Neil Turley who wrote the book "*The U.S Army at Camp Bewdley*". The feeling of pride that the four of us had was totally overwhelming and we want our project to be added to over the years.

Plans are now in place to have a celebration on 31st May 2013 with the re-enactment of General Patton's speech up in the exact place it was first done, followed by a 1940's Ball on the evening with a big band playing and then to continue the celebration there will be re-enactment soldiers and vehicles by The Basin on the 1st June 2013 .



Camp Burlish, An idea becomes a reality! continued

We have had lots of positive comments since, about how great it is that finally this important part of our local history has been recognised. For anyone that would like to contribute any memories or photo's the websites are:

<http://burlishcamp.co.uk/>

<http://www.facebook.com/STOURPORTPAST>

Geoff Shaw, talking about Burlish Camp and the project, will be one of our speakers in our 2013/14 programme.

JOHN WEAVER- THE HONEST POLITICIAN

by Peter Hall

John Weaver was born in 1862. He was the fourth son of Benjamin Weaver who lived in Mill Street, and was the general man for George Harris, the carpet manufacturer. He lived in the mansion in the High Street where the HSBC Bank is now. Weaver went to the town school (4d per week) and then to Hartlebury Grammar School. He left when he was 13 and became office boy at the Wilden iron works, and then a clerk for the Severn and Canal Carrying Company.

When he was about 16 he decided there was not much future for himself in Stourport, and made up his mind to go to America to seek his fortune. He set sail from Bristol to Philadelphia. Here he knew no-one and was virtually without means so he had to get a job immediately. He tried various jobs eventually moving to a lawyer's office, teaching himself the required shorthand and typing.

He was sent to the law courts to record cases, and decided that he would become a lawyer. He entered himself as a student at the University of Pennsylvania for a five-year evening course, passed the examinations and qualified to be Notary Public. He joined the staff of a well-known lawyer, was called to the bar, married the sister of a friend, became a member of the Republican Party, an American citizen, a Mason, and an effective public speaker.

In 1900 he was elected as District Attorney with his own stipulation that he should always be allowed to do what he considered to be right. He waged an effective campaign against bribery and corruption which were rampant. In 1903 he was invited to stand for election as Mayor and succeeded with a huge majority. The office of mayor was salaried, so he could devote his whole time to the city's business. He sacked many department heads who were known to put party politics above the welfare of the city and set about cleaning up the city, starting by taking betting off the streets. He made extensive reforms in Philadelphia and was commended by the Secretary of State for his efforts. At a time of extensive racism he was even-handed in his dealings with the black population of Philadelphia.

At the end of his term of office he was asked to become Governor of Pennsylvania, but he resolutely refused, and went back to his profession in which he was very successful becoming President of the Philadelphia Bar Association. This brought him on a visit to England, where he met the Prince of Wales, and, possibly came to Stourport, since he met his old school mate, Isaac Wedley, chronicler of Stourport.

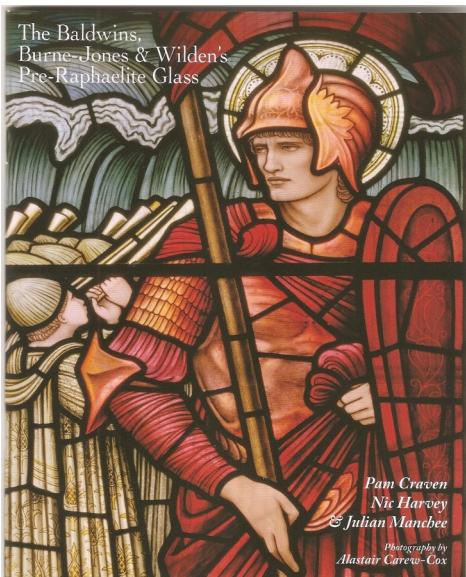
John Weaver died in 1928. A leading article in a Philadelphia newspaper said: "John Weaver went into the mayoralty campaign of 1903 in the honest belief that he could serve two masters. Sponsored by the organisation, he was honest in his determination to serve the public interest. When he found that political and public interests did not run in parallel lines, he broke with political overlords and stood firmly by his oath."

The Baldwins, Burne-Jones and Wilden's Pre-Raphaelite Glass

A new publication by

Pam Craven, Nic Harvey & Julian Manchee, featuring photography by *Alastair Cox-Carew*

It is just over 6 years since an Open Day at Wilden attracted 1,339 visitors. On that occasion a photographer from the Press Association had taken a series of photos that appeared in several national newspapers and suddenly the whole world wanted to come and view Wilden's Burne-Jones windows. In the intervening years visitors have called in smaller numbers but have still been fascinated by the windows. A few members of the congregation have become very proficient as 'tour guides'. Nic Harvey, retired headmaster of All Saints School and until recently a churchwarden at All Saints had recorded Wilden's history over a number of years and produced a guide book. However when Churchwarden Pam Craven visited Birmingham, a chance purchase of a Cathedral guidebook inspired a new project. The Birmingham book presented information accompanied by stunning photos, and Pam set out to track down the photographer, Alastair Carew-Cox. Pam invited Alastair to visit Wilden and as soon as Alastair set foot in the church he fell in love with the windows. He expressed an interest in working on a book to showcase the Wilden windows and Pam put the proposal to the PCC. The quality of Alastair's work made this an easy decision and in the unheated church during the coldest months of the recent winter, he produced an exquisite set of photos. In the meantime Pam, Nic and organist Julian Manchee produced an accompanying text and the result is an informative, interesting guide book with spectacular photos.



On Sunday May 19th, Earl Baldwin joined the Wilden congregation for a celebratory launch of the book. Over 100 guests had been invited to attend; sales of the book were brisk and many queued to request a signature from the Earl in their new acquisition. Earl Baldwin is a Patron of Wilden Church and the book has fittingly been dedicated to him and the Baldwin family.

The publication aims to set into context the relevance of the historical, industrial background of Wilden, and Alfred Baldwin's gift of All Saints church, built in 1880, a time when the fortunes of the local ironworks had reached a pinnacle of success. Alfred was married to Louisa Macdonald, one of the four Macdonald sisters famed for their notable marriages.

Stanley, Alfred and Louisa's son was to become PM three times, while Alice, married to John Lockwood Kipling gave birth to Rudyard Kipling. Agnes and Georgiana married the artists, Edward Poynter and Edward Burne-Jones. It is the latter union that culminated in the choice of Pre-Raphaelite glass installed in the church between 1900 and 1914.

A detailed account of each Wilden Pre-Raphaelite window records biblical and literary significance, dedications to family and associates, listings in the Burne-Jones catalogue and identifies the Morris Company glass painters. Searches in church log books, PCC records and family accounts reveal the stories behind the window designs. Lavishly illustrated throughout, the narration attempts an interpretation of Alfred's beliefs and his duty of care towards his workers through the medium of glass iconography.



The Baldwins, Burne-Jones and Wilden's Pre-Raphaelite Glass

continued

This is essentially a local book which has a huge appeal for a wide spectrum of readers- history students and societies (Baldwin, Stanley Baldwin), Victorian and Industrial archaeology, (ironworks), art lovers (Pre-Raphaelites, Burne-Jones, stained glass design), Religion (Biblical subjects and texts), family history. It is also a very touching human story- Minister's daughter (Louisa) meets ambitious , politician and Industrialist (Alfred Baldwin) They live happily ever after and produce son, Stanley (Prime Minister) and found a small village church/ treasure house.

The church is open on the first Saturday of each month between 10 am and 2pm, during which books are on sale.

Postal purchases are available from Sharon Toy, "Glentress", Waresley Road, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, DY11 7XT, or via the website at <http://widentowitley.org.uk/>, Amazon, or eBay. Worcester and Bewdley Tourist Information Offices and Worcester Cathedral Book Shop also stock copies. Each book costs just £6.99 with all profits going to the church fabric fund.

Pam Craven will open our new programme when she speaks to us in September 2013.

A Tale of Nineteenth-Century Poachers!

The following item was found recently in the Anna Carter Collection. It comes from the "Worcestershire Guardian" in 1844.

Since our last edition some very important convictions have taken place on the prosecution of the United Association for the Protection of the Fisheries of the Severn and its tributaries.....

At Stourport, on Tuesday, Samuel Cole and Levi Rowley of Stourport, was summoned by Chas. Reed, conservator of the river Severn for the Worcester district, for fishing on the fords at Hampstall, near Stourport,, with a dragging net, against the form of the statute in such case made and provided. The case was proved by Robert Darke and Henry Hayes of Worcester. Cole pleaded his ignorance as to fishing on fords being illegal. Mr Rea, of Worcester, who appeared for the Fisheries Association, did not press a heavy penalty, and both were convicted in the sum of £2.15s.6d., including expenses.

Levi Rowley with John Appleby, of Stourport, were also summoned by Mr H. George, secretary to the Fishery Association, for a similar offence on another occasion. This case was proved by Reed the conservator, and they were jointly fined £2.17s.6d. including costs. The parties not paying the money, they were informed that a distress warrant would be issued against their goods: and, moreover, that in the event of an insufficient levy, they would be committed to gaol for at least a month, that being the minimum punishment awarded by the law. The defence set up by Cole, viz., that he was ignorant of breaking the law, is a mere subterfuge. Notices were posted in conspicuous places on the river banks early in the fishing season, setting forth the penalties in such cases: and, moreover, all the fishermen between Stourport and Worcester were *individually* cautioned against fishing on the fords at the prohibited time.

The Stourport delinquents, on entering the Magistrates' room, treated the cases with bravado, but at the close of the investigation their tone was greatly altered....

Lucy Baldwin Hospital *By David More*

The Hospital was a gift from Sir Julien Cahn of Linby, Nottinghamshire. It was named after Lucy Baldwin, the wife of the then Prime Minister Sir Stanley Baldwin, who was a campaigner for improved maternity care and facilities. It began its life as a Maternity Hospital in 1929. In 1945 the facility was taken over by the NHS.

A covenant was placed on the land in 1931. The agreement stated the site "shall at all times hereafter be used primarily as a maternity hospital and secondarily for such maternity and child welfare work."

When it opened, the Hospital had two private wards, a main ward of 8 beds and an isolation ward. Over the years the site was expanded to provide further maternity accommodation. However, with various reforms within the NHS, maternity support was removed from the unit and it was eventually taken over by Worcestershire Mental Health Trust. It was then used as a mental health clinic and day centre until its closure. This land off Olive Grove has laid derelict for many years.

Deeming the site surplus to requirements, it has now been sold to housing developers, which is a very contentious issue due to the covenant. The NHS Trust maintain however, that this was made ineffective by the NHS Act of 1946, and last year arranged for the Land Registry to remove the covenants.

The developer, Taylor Wimpey had plans for 37 new homes and four apartments originally rejected but they have now been approved by Wyre Forest DC. Concerns over the development included; the removal of most of the trees on the site, the limited road access in Olive Grove and the covenant issue preventing any other use except NHS use.



Disappointing news is that the lintel over the front door, depicting a baby in swaddling clothes, has been smashed by vandals. Peter Basset, Conservation Officer, WFDC is investigating whether English Heritage can offer advice on its' repair. Even worse, the bronze plaque to commemorate the opening of the hospital is missing, presumably stolen. It had been hoped to incorporate some of the features in any new development.



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST
www.visitchurches.org.uk

ST SWITHUN'S

The Friends of St Swithun's
www.swithun.org.uk

2013 RECITAL SEASON

on the historic 1795 Gray organ
and the reconstructed Tudor organ (the 'Wetheringsett')
every Friday starting at 1.10pm



7 th June	Henry Fairs (Birmingham Conservatoire)
14 th June	Students of Birmingham Conservatoire
21 st June	Christopher Allsop (Worcester Cathedral)
28 th June	Katherine Pardee (University of Oxford)
5 th July	Peter Nardone (Worcester Cathedral)
12 th July	Andrew McCrea (St Swithun's)
19 th July	James Luxton (Worcester Cathedral)
26 th July	Hilary Norris (Leominster)
2 nd August	Andrew McCrea (St Swithun's)
9 th August	Gerdi Troskie (Worcester)
16 th August	Peter Bassett (Newick)
23 rd August	David Brookshaw (St Martin's, Cornmarket)
30 th August	James Perkins (London)

Come with your friends, bring your lunch, and enjoy the exquisite sound of these early English organs. Admission is free, with a retiring collection to support the work of the Friends of St Swithun's in maintaining the organs and promoting music events.



St Swithun's, Church Street, Worcester WR1 2RH

Church Street runs off the north end of Worcester's pedestrianised High Street (opposite Debenhams). There are recitals each week through the season.

Admission free, retiring collection in aid of the organs

In addition, the St Swithun's Festival is now established each year around St Swithun's Day and runs this year from 12th—15th July. For further information please see <http://www.swithun.org.uk>

Important Civic Society matters

The Society's finances have been hit hard by rising costs including the recent steep rises in postal rates. We would be pleased to hear from members willing to receive communications via email, to reduce printing and postage costs. These would include our full colour newsletters, AGM documents and a reminder when subs are due. We would still post out our membership/programme leaflets for your information.

We also need to recruit more members. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join by passing on a membership/ programme leaflet.

Email davidemore@btinternet.com If you would like to receive communication by e-mail.

But don't worry if you haven't got an e-mail account, we will still post information to you unless you advise us otherwise. Also Information is delivered by hand to most local members.

Events at St Swithun's, Worcester

Our President Will Scott has been very involved with St Swithuns and the conservation of its 1795 Gray/Nicholson organ. A second organ, the Wetheringsett, a reconstructed Tudor organ, owned by the Royal College of Organists is resident in St Swithun's for two years. The society has recently visited the church, which is open on Friday 11am-3pm and Saturday 11am-4pm until the end of September. The church is open at these times thanks to Friends who act as volunteer stewards.

As well as hosting occasional religious services, the Friends have organised a series of Friday lunchtime recitals starting at 1-10pm and lasting until 2pm. These recitals are free, but the Friends ask for a retiring collection to assist with the maintenance of these organs.