

Dear Members

Our meetings for 2015 began with Neil Clarke telling us about his time as a shoe designer in Clarks, photography has been his hobby for a long time and having finished with shoes has become much more, moving from still photographs to short films one of which we saw at the meeting.

The February and March meetings should also prove interesting with the topics being The History of the Post Office locally and the archaeology at Hinkley Point. In April there will be a visit to the Burns Bakery in Glastonbury. Numbers here will be limited to 20 with a £10 charge to include: a tour, making a pasty and a goodie bag to take home. Names will be taken at the February and March meetings. Depending on interest a provisional second date has been arranged in October.

The committee is now looking at ideas for our May and June visits and your suggestions are welcome. On 17th and 18th of July we shall be celebrating 150 years since the birth of the poet Lawrence Housman, who lived in Street, with a special event.

Our meetings are well attended each month and we welcome new members and visitors.

Best wishes

Barbara Cowell - Chairman

mgcowell@tiscali.co.uk

01458 443397

Your Contributions

Items for the newsletter are always welcome, as are suggestions for articles.

Please email them to: thestreetsociety@btinternet.com or post them to:

Nina Swift, Street Society Newsletter Editor,

4 Wessex Close, STREET BA16 0ES



I was very pleased to receive this piece from Wendy Brine, one of our members. She has looked into the signatures that were illustrated in our Summer 2014 newsletter and here is what she found - Ed

Those WW1 signatures

Dear Editor, As promised here are the details about the signatures on the wall at Gs Autos.

As I was reading the last newsletter my interest was aroused by the mention of names on the wall at what was Ottons butchers and slaughterhouse. I have been researching my own family tree for several years and have a current membership to Ancestry UK, so I thought let's take a quick look. Anyone else who does this kind of research will realise a quick look doesn't work and it always turns into several hours or even days!

Starting with the details of the 1911 census I followed Edward James Denner, he was born in 1901 and did indeed live in Cranhill Road with his family. His father was Albert Edward Denner 1866-1931 and his mother Annie E Brewer 1864-1929. In 1911 Edward was still at school.

On Ancestry.com I found a members family tree with details of them all on it so I emailed the owner of the tree Mr Tony Denner, who lives in Adelaide Australia. I told him of the signatures and asked if he knew any details about Edward. The following day he replied saying Edward was his grandfather and he thought that the writing on the wall was probably graffiti as he was a bit of a lad! He also told me that Edward was an electrician by trade and he had never heard anything about working in a butchers from the family.

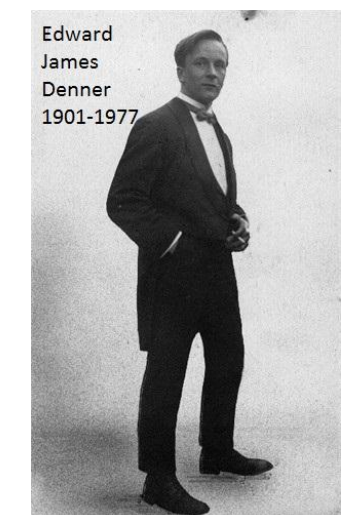
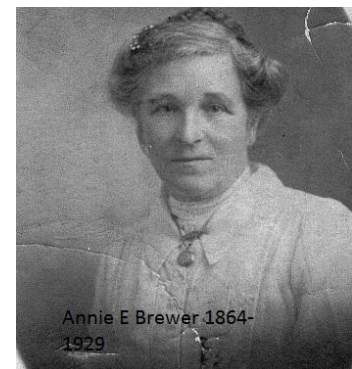
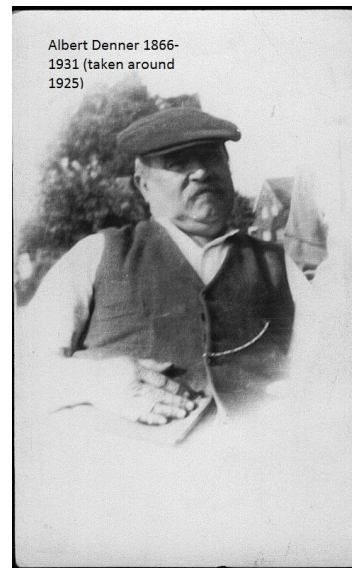
Then the next day I received another email in which he remembered his grandfather had about 40 yrs ago drawn him a diagram of the various cuts of meat on an animal, so therefore it seems very likely that he did have some butchery background.

Edward married Ethel May Perrin in Bath On 28th April 1927; she was a nurse at Bath hospital. They moved to Australia at some stage and Edward died in Hove Australia 1977, Ethel died in 1964.

They had 2 sons, Ronald 1927-1976 and another who is the father of Tony and is still living so the details of living persons are private.

Tony has relations in Scotland and he hopes to come to England sometime in the future to further his family research. Perhaps even to Street. I scanned the signatures and sent him a copy of the newsletter report. He replied that indeed it looks like Edward writing although the signatures he has for him are slightly shaky, as they were done much later.

Why they are there I still do not know, and we probably never will but it's good to put faces to names. Wendy Brine





Christmas probably seems an age ago, but below is a taster of Christmas in Street 1914 sent into the newsletter by Paddy Thompson. It arrived after the last newsletter went to press. Paddy has recently moved to Cheddar, which is a great loss to the committee, but she has assured me that she will keep in touch - Ed

Christmas in Street 1914

The first Christmas of the war saw people beginning to come to terms with the changes although much of life had to go on as before. There was cooking to do and shortages had not yet started to bite.

The Central Somerset Gazette in December 1914 carried this patriotic advertisement:

Christmas Presents for the Forces

Send your soldier friends a pudding made with ATORA Shredded Beef Suet. Requires no chopping and makes the best puddings and mincemeat. British made and owned. Your grocer sells it.

The property column advertised:

House to be Let or Sold:
Houndwood Villa, situated Farm Lane, Street, Somerset, with large garden, immediate possession. Apply Samuel M. Harding, 2 Nevill Place, Clifton, Bristol.

Entertainment:

The **Street Choral Society** advertised a concert in Crispin Hall on Thursday December 10th. The programme was to include Brahms Requiem, and Bach's Suite in B minor. Proceeds to the War Relief Fund.

The Gazette of December 18th contained a glowing report on the Concert:

'The programme was a most ambitious one ... a very rare musical treat. Soloists **Miss Olive Sturgess**, soprano ... and **Mr Alfred Vernon** who sang the

baritone solo with much taste One of the best concerts ever given in Street.'

Food:

The **Street Urban District Council** heard from the Surveyor that he had marked out **12 allotments** of 18 perches, which were to be let for 10 shillings (50p) each. A perch was about 5 metres.

Many men had of course already enlisted and this left shortages which had to be filled.

Employment:

C and J Clark advertised for boys to work a 50 hour week for 5 shillings (aged 14) or 4s 6d if aged under 14, the Factory Rule regarding under 14 years being temporarily suspended. Girls were also wanted for clerical and warehouse work.

Domestic servants facing unemployment or other girls willing to engage in domestic service should proceed to Australia. Work would be guaranteed by the Government.

And finally:

another advert to help readers cope with any health problems that might arise over the Christmas period: **Clarke's Blood Mixture** cures eczema, scrofula, bad legs, abscesses, ulcer, glandular swellings, boils, pimples, sores, blood poison, piles, rheumatism, gout etc., etc.



Alfred Gillett Trust – launch of new website

The Alfred Gillett Trust is responsible for the heritage collections of the Clark family and C & J Clark, a Quaker company established in Somerset in 1825 and now a major global shoe firm.

The Trust has done substantial new work on updating the Trust's website, so do please take a look at it. Please note the new URL and update any of your bookmarks as the address has changed.

There are several pages now available about the Trust and our facilities for readers:

<https://alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/about/>

There is also a series of pages about the Trust's diverse collections, including the family archives:

<https://alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/collections/family-archives/>

The collection overviews have been updated where appropriate, and are now all available on this page. There are also new overviews for collections recently arrived or catalogued, particularly the Clothier papers.

Of course, there are also pages about the Trust's large shoe collection:

<https://alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com/collections/shoes-and-costume/>

Of all the collection pages recently created, the shoe section will change substantially over time as the shoe digitisation project progresses (1940s done, now well into the 1950s!). So please keep an eye on this in the weeks to come. We hope that a more detailed overview of our holdings will be added very shortly. The pages are aimed at a generalist audience, so I hope you agree that they offer an attractive and very visual introduction to our holdings.

The Trust has learned that our funding from Clarks to digitise the entire shoe collection (Clarks and non Clarks), the Clarks Point of Sale, Clarks shoe catalogues and Clarks in-house publications has been significantly extended. The project will now run until early 2020, with the in-house photographic studio carrying on its work on the shoes in Street and the other collections being digitised off-site. We are already reaping the benefits of having catalogued the Clarks POS collection and digitised the film collection

as part of the early stages of the project, so watch this space!

Please do circulate widely to any individual or associations who might be interested.

Charlotte Berry

For further details, please contact:

Dr Charlotte Berry, RMARA | Head of Collections | Alfred Gillett Trust (C & J Clark Ltd) Box One | 40 High Street | Street | Somerset | BA16 0EQ

Email: charlotte.berry@clarks.com
archives@clarks.com

Tel: +44 1458 842557 or 444060 or direct dial 444064

Website: <http://alfredgilletttrust.wordpress.com>

Thank you Charlotte, the society has really benefitted from our links with The Alfred Gillett Trust.

We are hoping to continue this great working relationship with planning for 2015 Heritage Days and our Housman Day - Ed

Merriman Park

The society's representative on the committee set up to look at plans for Merriman Park is our secretary and vice-chairman Hilary Napper. She attended a meeting on the 13th of January and here is a short report about that meeting and the society's response.

'The management group have decided to apply for 'Awards for All'. Lesley Hide is to research this. Proposals include keeping the hedges, and for the trees to be cut to 10', the Sun Parlour is to be demolished, and new lamps have been chosen and passed by Street Parish Council (SPC).

There will be a family seating area with Avalon School involved in planning the children's equipment, and there will also be sustainable toilets. It is a 10 year project.'

At the last Street Society committee meeting, Nina Swift proposed and the committee agreed that Barbara should write to SPC and the chair of the park management committee to express our concern that it must be ensured that the lamp posts and any future equipment is fully vandal proof. -Ed

This was sent to the newsletter by member Neil Clarke, after I had asked around for possible articles for the newsletter. We may be able to get Adam to come and speak to one of our meetings in the future-Ed

The Leaveners

Some news of a Street person some of the Society members might know:

In March 2014 Adam Clarke joined the Leaveners; a Birmingham based arts charity, with strong Quaker roots.

As MD he quickly established a new vision for the organization, focusing upon inspiring and transforming lives. This is achieved by delivering eclectic programmes of arts-based workshops and events that draw on Quaker values; exploring issues relating to human rights, social justice, peace and spirituality. Through participatory drama, music and visual arts activities, the charity aims to create opportunities for people of any faith –

or none - to discover their potential power to effect change. After being in the role for almost a year, several projects are now coming to fruition: an international tour of the one woman show 'Mary's Joy' about the persecution of Mary Dyer at the hands of Massachusetts colonists in the 17th century, is travelling throughout the UK, Europe and the Northwest US

From February to December; a range of new drama, films and animation workshops are now available, and preparations for a human rights symposium for 2016 are well underway, and much more!

Further information about Leaveners projects can be found by visiting www.leaveners.org. If you would like to find out more about the organisation, or would like to support the work that we do please contact Adam via adam@leaveners.org.



LEAVENERS

A Success Story

In the last newsletter there was an appeal from Anne Biley for people to volunteer to go on a rota to help with the coffee mornings held in the Crispin Community Centre. She is pleased to say that two people have already come forward and she hopes more will follow. Ring Anne on **440023**.

Another Ask

For many years Barbara Cowell has organised our successful speakers programme, and not surprisingly she feels ready to hand it over to a willing volunteer. She is very keen to support such a recruit by passing on her list of possibilities and by helping the new person get started. So if you think you might be able to help please phone her on **443397**.

November's Evening meeting

We had a very good turn-out of members that evening, and we were all looking forward to a talk about gardening in small spaces.

Barbara knew she was unable to attend that meeting but she had made all the arrangements in readiness.

Hilary volunteered to make the final contact in the days preceding the meeting. So Hilary rang, and she rang, and she rang, and got no answer each time. She even went onto the gardener's web site to check she was ringing the correct number.

So on that evening we waited and waited but sadly we didn't get to find out about gardening in small places because our speaker did not arrive. It was an uncomfortable experience for the committee members.

The embarrassing situation led the committee to think of strategies to deal with this if it should arise again.

Linda Wilson suggested that we could have an interesting quiz to hand so that members who have made the effort to turn out often in poor weather would still have an enjoyable evening.

This idea was welcomed and Linda and Neil Clarke are devising it even as we speak!

Other ideas for quizzes or other activities and offers from members who may be able to do an 'off the cuff' turn for us would be much appreciated. Let Barbara know, don't hide your light under a bushel – come forward! Please!

Hopefully this won't happen again, but who knows?

Nina Swift



The Christmas Event

Christmas Afternoon Tea

Members of the society celebrated the festive season at Street Mission Church on Sunday 7th December.

They enjoyed a performance by local choir Street Sings.

Alice, the granddaughter of a member, also beautifully sang a couple of solo pieces.

This was followed by afternoon tea.



This is the third time we have held an afternoon Christmas event followed by a tea. It does seem to be a popular timing for our December meeting. It makes a change from Christmas dinners or lunches. Suggestions for 2015 are welcomed.- Ed

The Street Society is a Friend of Strode Theatre and also a Friend of Street Library. We see both these organisations as important.

For those of you who have not yet joined Friends of Street Library (FROSTLIB), here is a list of the activities planned for the start of 2015. If you wish to become a Friend please contact Jane Langton (you can do it through Nina Swift 443881)

FEBRUARY	
6	The Booker Club 4-6pm in the library – the books chosen for this book group are all Man Booker Prize winners
7	FOSTRLIB coffee morning 10-12 in the library
14	Valentine’s Day. Book with the library Children’s spring half-term event – theme LOVE – hearts & flowers!
16	Poetry Lunch Club 1pm in the library
MARCH	
5	The Booker Club 4-6pm in the library – looking at Booker Prize winners
6	FOSTRLIB coffee morning 10-12 in the library
16	Poetry Lunch Club 1pm in the library
28	Children’s event Book with the library Theme - Spring
30	Annual General Meeting of the Friends
APRIL	
3	The Booker Club - looking at Booker Prize winners
4	FOSTRLIB coffee morning 10-12 in the library
20	Poetry Lunch Club 1pm in the library
23	Shakespeare’s birthday
23	100 th Anniversary of Rupert Brooke’s death
24th	200 th anniversary of Anthony Trollope’s birth
MAY	
01	The Booker Club
02	FOSTRLIB Coffee Morning 10-12 in the library
02	Winner of Folio Prize announced
19	Winner of International Man Booker prize announced

Here is our latest Civic Voice information, it's good news!!



PRESS RELEASE

Select Committee accepts Civic Voice recommendations

Civic Voice today welcomed the report from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Select Committee which has accepted its call for greater powers to be given to communities to enable them to save local assets.

Dr Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice, said;

“Civic Voice was pleased to submit written and oral evidence to the Select Committee on the success of community rights legislation. We are now delighted that the Committee has taken account of the views of the civic society movement and agrees with our recommendations that:

- the time given to communities to prepare bids for buying assets should be extended from six to nine months;
- the Government should consult on removing permitted development rights from all Assets of Community Value for the duration of their listing;
- the Government should amend its guidance so that an Asset of Community Value listing becomes a material consideration for local authorities in planning applications;
- the Government should redirect resources to community group umbrella organisations who provide face to face support;
- a nominator's right to appeal against a local authority's decision not to list an asset as an Asset of Community Value should be introduced.

The DCLG Select Committee published its report “Community Rights” on 3rd February and considered the awareness, use and operation of the community rights agenda along with how the

rights can be improved. The report is available [here](#).

Dr Gick finished by saying “Individuals who take the time and effort to register community assets should have the confidence and certainty that these assets will be given the necessary protection. Our call to communities is that there has never been a better time to get more involved in your local area and to protect its assets. So, this is your opportunity to make your voice heard, to make a real contribution to maintaining and enhancing a strong vibrant community, protecting what is best and building an active, forward looking society for the future.”

Individuals can sign up to the national civic movement campaign to nominate Assets of Community Value [here](#).

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement. We work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and to promote civic pride. We speak up for civic societies and local communities across England. We believe everyone should live somewhere they can be proud of and we know how people feel about places because we feel the same way.

Civic societies are the most numerous participants in the planning system. Since its launch in April 2010 Civic Voice has been joined by over 290 civic societies with 75,000 members. Further information is available at <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk> including how to join Civic Voice (£10 individuals) and contact details for local civic societies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ian Harvey
T 0151 707 4319/ 07877096968
T @civic_voice