

OBITUARY: ANN HEELEY 1940–2017

Ann Heeley, who made a huge contribution to the study of local and social history in Somerset for over 40 years, died suddenly and unexpectedly on 8 March. It seems fitting that on the day before she died, Ann was doing what she most enjoyed: interviewing and recording Somerset farmers.



Ann Heeley interviewing Walter Baber of Chewton Mendip in 1981

She was born Ann Williamson in Warrington, Cheshire, the eldest of four children. Her father, Barnet, was a dairy farmer, while her mother, Mary (nee Williamson – the two were distant cousins) was a cheesemaker. She attended Seascale School in Cumbria, then the Elizabeth Gaskell College of Domestic Science in Manchester, and worked as a catering manager at Montgomery House, a student hall of residence.

In 1961 she met David Heeley, a research assistant in economics at Manchester University, and they married the following year. In 1969 they moved to Somerset when David took a post with Clarks, in Street, and the family settled in Butleigh, where they lived ever since. Ann was a member of St Leonard's Church in the village and of the parish council. She also led the Sunday school for several years.

As a young mother with three small children Ann involved herself in all aspects of village life. She started to gather information about the history of the village and as she met local people and noted their life stories, she collected photographs and archives. Ann's work was also more widely recognised and in 1982 she became the star of a 'History on your doorstep' TV programme

presented by Fred Housego.

In 1975 Ann volunteered to help the newly developing Somerset Rural Life Museum (SRLM) in Glastonbury, her youngest child now in pre-school. Demonstrating her growing enthusiasm for local and rural history, Ann was asked to gather information for the forthcoming exhibitions by interviewing strawberry growers in Cheddar (using a cumbersome reel to reel tape recorder). Returning a few days later, elated by her conversations, she launched into a lifetime of commitment to what has become the 'Somerset Voices Oral History Archive'.

Ann's extraordinary dedication to oral history grew from her delight in meeting people – especially those who shared her love of the countryside, farming and rural life. Over 40 years she accomplished more than 700 recorded interviews, ranging from farmers and their families to those working in the many distinctive Somerset crafts and industries. Fascinating accounts of working and social life reflect a time of enormous change, with memories going back well into the Victorian period and other more recent interviews recording life in the 21st century. The archive is one of the UK's most significant collections of its kind and is particularly valuable since the interviews have been transcribed and digitised with the help of an extremely dedicated volunteer team.

The SRLM's first permanent galleries featured the life story of a Victorian Somerset farm worker, John Hodges. It was no coincidence that he lived in Butleigh: Ann generously shared her local research with the museum staff, enriching the story with details of the village and its community from her knowledge and constantly growing collection of information. This landmark exhibition opened in 1978, with an accompanying booklet, and proved extraordinarily successful, with two complete redisplay over the following years, and reincarnations as a BBC Bristol radio play and drama.

Ann was a founder member of the Friends of the Abbey Barn (now Friends of the Somerset Rural Life Museum) and served on the Committee of the Friends for over 30 years, her posts including Secretary and Chairman. She also held leadership roles on the research, education and publications teams, besides actively supporting many volunteering and social activities. Ann was also influential in the Friends later joining the British Association of Friends of

Museums (BAFM) and in 1996 she was elected to the role of Regional Secretary and then National Secretary in 2000. Retiring from that position after three years, she continued supporting BAFM in the role of Co-ordinator of Regional Representatives for the National Committee.

It was in the mid 1980s that Ann decided to give up her part-time role as Library Assistant in Street Library, so that she could devote more time to her museum work. She then became effectively a full-time Friend, supporting the curatorial staff in developing and researching the collections in whatever way was needed. She contributed her own research to numerous projects and co-authored many of the museum's publications, as well as a number of resource packs for schools.



Recording Ron and Ern How, wheelwrights at Brompton Regis in 1987

She was a key member of the team recording and collecting a complete wagon works in Brompton Regis. This monumental task involved hours in the works identifying tools and their uses with the How brothers and then organising a volunteer team to identify, document and conserve the collection back at the museum. From 1986 to 1991 she led a detailed study of the 1851 and 1881 Census returns for Glastonbury, Street and surrounding villages (22 parishes in all). This tremendous piece of teamwork led to a touring exhibition funded by the Area Museum Council for the South West, a booklet titled 'People Count' and a set of teachers' resource packs on a range of Victorian themes. With characteristic energy and enthusiasm, Ann led another documentation project in 2004 when the County Museums Service acquired a collection of over 300 late 19th-century glass plate negatives of West Somerset taken by Revd John Derrick. Her efforts led to a well catalogued collection, a book titled 'In a Good Light', an exhibition and a range

of cards for sale.

Ann was passionate about teaching and passing on her knowledge and was deeply involved in the regular educational programmes for primary schools held at the Rural Life Museum. She led activities with visiting school groups for over twenty years, dressed in Victorian costume and presiding over cooking on the range or managing the laundry with boiler and mangle. Ann also lectured throughout Somerset to local societies and more widely, particularly on oral history, to regional and national meetings and conferences.

Most recently, while the SRLM was closed for refurbishment, Ann and her team carried on their research and documentation projects in temporary premises. Ann continued to undertake interviews with local people and members of the team transcribed them. The cataloguing of the museum research archive is now nearing completion, as is the digitisation of the large collection of photographic negatives. Although aspects of the work are slower without Ann, all are determined to complete the task and feel it a great privilege to have been part of Ann's team.

In 2010 Ann was awarded an MBE in recognition of her work on behalf of the SRLM – a richly deserved acknowledgement of her exceptional talents, dedication and accomplishments.

Ann is survived by her husband, David, their three children, Jane, Michael and Barnet, four grandchildren and her siblings Patricia, Susan and John.

Martyn Brown, Louise Clapp,
Mary Gryspeerdt

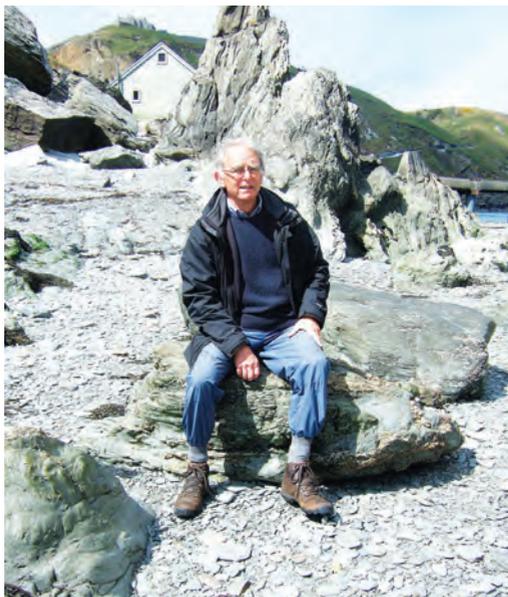
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- 1996, Ann Heeley and Mary Vidal, *Joseph Harding, Cheddar Cheese-Maker*: Friends of the SRLM
- 2006, Ann Heeley, Louise Clapp and Liz Snelgrove, *In a Good Light – Holidays in Victorian Somerset with a Camera – Photographs by the Reverend John Derrick*: Friends of the SRLM
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OBITUARY: **BARRY LANE 1944–2017**

Barry Lane died in the evening of Saturday 4th March 2017, a few hours after his paper on the Roman lead pig found at Westbury-sub-Mendip had been read on his behalf to the Society's Annual Archaeology Meeting at Wells and Mendip Museum. Having been given short-notice of his impending death, it was typical of Barry to ensure that all his archaeological commitments were left in a state in which they could be completed. The short bibliography below is an indication of how the sum of the products of his ever fertile mind have been brought to fruition. His involvement in so many organisations and genuine interest in sharing knowledge with other people goes to explain why he is so deeply missed.

Barry was born and educated in Watford. His interest in archaeology was first stimulated by boyhood visits to rural Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire and in particular to Ivinghoe Beacon where a kindly soul pointed out flint implements from the profusion of natural flint littering the ground. A scholarship to Oxford and growing interest in the arts laid the foundations of his career as a champion of photography. He was a founder and the first director of Oxford Museum



On a field trip to Lundy

of Modern Art before joining the Arts Council in 1970. There he did so much to raise photography from a little respected art form to the primary position of regard it holds today. His progress finally took him to the post of Secretary General of the Royal Photographic Society in 1995 at their headquarters in Bath where eventually increasing internal challenges over the future management of their important collections led to his retirement in 2001.

Here was the great opportunity to resume his passion for archaeology and he pitched himself both into fieldwork and into the organisations that support the discipline. He had settled in Westbury-sub-Mendip shortly before taking up his position in Bath and so it was his adopted village, the surrounding area and the county of Somerset that benefitted most from his incisive mind and commitment to community archaeology. He was elected to the Archaeology Committee of SANHS on which he served for the rest of his life and in addition was elected a Trustee from 2003-2009. He served as Honorary Secretary to the Society from 2005 to 2009 tackling the task of reforming the constitution and putting the Society's relationship with Somerset County Council with regard to the museum collections onto a more secure legal footing. From 2003 he was also Administrator to the Heritage Grants Committee to which post he was able to bring his considerable experience of grant administration for the Arts Council until his death cut short his term. Having represented SANHS on the committee of the Council for British Archaeology South West, he went on to become its Chairman from 2008 to 2011 at a difficult time of transition. He also represented SANHS on the board of Trustees and Managers of Wells and Mendip Museum and in 2010 he was persuaded by Chris Hawkes to succeed him as Curator, a post which he held very successfully until he retired in 2015 to do more work on the archaeological collections.

Archaeological fieldwork and research were his great loves – working with the Charterhouse Environs Research Team, the Somerset Vernacular Buildings Group, the Wells Pottery Study Group and especially with the Westbury Society of which he was a co-founder. He was fascinated by the relationship between buildings, settlements and landscapes and how archaeological excavation, building surveying, test-pitting, scientific analysis

and fieldwalking, as well as documentary research, could be used to question and elucidate our understanding. The publications cited below give a sample of the wide range of his thinking. Like all archaeologists he became very frustrated by the limitations of our knowledge, for example our inability to date sherds of medieval coarse wares but he supported and participated in attempts to tackle this issue.

One can sense that Barry did not compartmentalise his interests whether archaeological fieldwork or cider-making. It was all one to which he brought his great enabling and organising abilities, his knowledge and his enthusiasm. He will be remembered as someone who cheerfully pursued archaeology with tenacious curiosity and encouraged and supported others in their endeavours. His generosity in sharing his time and expertise will be greatly missed by the many who came to know and esteem him.

Our sympathies go to his wife, Sue, and his daughters by his first marriage to Judith, Thalia and Helena, his step-daughter Imogen and his four grandchildren.

David Dawson

Select bibliography

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OBITUARY: ROY MARTIN HAINES 1924–2017

After a distinguished academic career as teacher of schoolboys and undergraduates, editor of texts and ecclesiastical historian, Roy Haines and his wife came to live in Curry Rivel. Naturally, Roy gravitated to the Society, in whose library he relished browsing and on whose library committee he sat from 1994 until 2011, serving as chairman from 2003.

He taught at his old school, St Michael's, Otford, and at Westminster, where he was a housemaster; in between those posts he was for a year assistant editor of the V.C.H. of Oxfordshire. Equipped with an M. Litt. from Durham, his first university, and

a D. Phil. from Oxford, he was in 1966 appointed Associate Professor at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada, and from 1972 until retirement was Professor of Medieval History at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was awarded the degree of D. Litt. by Oxford University in 2010.

The texts he edited included the registers of two bishops of Worcester, Adam of Orleton, bishop 1327–33 (1980) and Wulstan de Bransford, bishop 1339–48 (1966) and his very extensive published work included a study of Orleton among his political and ecclesiastical contemporaries and

another of John Stratford, archbishop of Canterbury 1333-48. Perhaps his most significant work was on Edward II; a small supplement, which he gave me with typical diffidence, traces the king's survival in Italy some years after the gruesome reported events at Berkeley Castle. Roy's initials are to be found at the end of a considerable number of entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, of which he was rightly just a little proud. Roy was a regular attender of conferences in England while he lived in Canada, notably that of the relatively new Ecclesiastical History Society, at which he read several papers.

Roy's academic achievement was recognised in his appointment as a Canada Council Senior Killam Research Scholar and as a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. He had the honour of delivering the Bertie Wilkinson Memorial Lecture at Toronto in 1987.

From time to time in its long history the Society has welcomed into its membership distinguished scholars whose careers or residence lay outside the county but who in their time contributed greatly to its activities. Roy was one of those.

Robert Dunning

OBITUARY: STEPHEN JAMES CROAD MBE BA FSA FRGS
(17 MARCH 1946–12 SEPTEMBER 2017)

Stephen Croad joined the National Monuments Record in 1968, the year after graduating from the Courtauld Institute with a degree in the History of European Art. He came to embody the buildings section of the Record which although long absorbed into the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), maintained the degree of separation and individuality of approach which had characterised the former National Buildings Record, notwithstanding integration with the recording arm of the organisation. The public library

of photographs, meticulously arranged in red boxes, by county and civil parish was Stephen's domain. But as Head of the Architectural Record 1981-94 he was responsible for far more: the vast store of records in the basement and elsewhere pertaining to architectural investigations carried out throughout the country by the Commission and others, the large collections of photographs purchased or acquired by gift or bequest. This was a treasure trove for the researcher, crucial evidence for conservation and preservation, protection through listing, serious historical enquiry and analysis, and straightforward illustration for publications and television. Stephen also believed that the library in Savile Row was used for research by at least one well turned-out country house burglar. It was a first port of call for anyone with a serious interest in the built heritage.

Stephen was born in Bridgwater, an only child, the son of Lionel, a golf course groundsman, and Dorothy, a school secretary. It was his mother, together with the history and art teachers at his grammar school who encouraged his enthusiasm for art and architecture which he indulged productively by first cycling and later driving with a friend to visit, sketch and photograph local buildings. Through his art teacher he became aware of impressionist and post-impressionist painting and by extension the Courtauld Gallery. So the Courtauld Institute became the obvious place to study, once he had achieved, with some difficulty and more than one attempt, the requisite Latin O-level. It must have been a culture shock to go at that time from a provincial grammar school to



the cultural hub directed by Sir Anthony Blunt, but he made the transition, applied himself very successfully, made many friends and graduated in 1967. It was no surprise to him in 1979 when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher outed Blunt in Parliament as a spy: 'we all knew about that – Guy Burgess's suitcase was still in the basement'.

Stephen was a paraplegic wheelchair-user following a devastating car accident in 1969 which kept him in hospital in Sheffield for six months and a regular visitor to Stoke Mandeville thereafter. He was not expected to survive and indeed heard the doctors explaining this to his parents. Stephen recalled regaining consciousness and, seeing so many medical staff around his bed, thought they were probably over-staffed with not enough to do. That he recovered at all and was able to enjoy a very successful career, greatly respected by all his peers, with a very large circle of friends and a wide range of interests is a tribute to those hospital staff and also to his own indomitability and great courage. He would not be deflected from what he wanted to do – come back to work with buildings – and live an independent life. He achieved both of these with great success, overcoming everyday impediments which would have sapped the morale and strength (he always used a manual wheelchair) of the hardiest of the able bodied. He was a keen theatre-goer, having acted himself successfully in the 6th form, a follower of cricket, particularly Somerset, the eternal bridesmaids of the County Championship, and an avid, omnivorous reader. He had a great love of animals and wildlife.

In the NMR Stephen was ever-present, always helpful and extremely knowledgeable. One of our colleagues recalls his 'keen curiosity to help to the point of nosiness, wheeling across the library to ask what it was you were investigating, and his extraordinary visual memory. More than once he took a look at the pictures of the building I had out and said something along the lines of 'oh, that looks like X [obscure building elsewhere], have you looked at that?', which of course I hadn't. Computers still can't match that'. He was a natural cataloguer. If he had become post-Courtauld an expert on paintings rather than buildings he would have produced the catalogue raisonné of a hitherto under-studied British painter. He was dedicated to the public service of providing an accurate and accessible basis of information for people to use for whatever purpose they had in mind – he did not distinguish or privilege one form of research over another. He helped everyone and transmitted

that impulse to a loyal and devoted staff to whom he was always generous and encouraging. He was so eminently decent and even-handed in all his dealings that he was able to get on with everybody without revealing any *parti-pris* of his own. Although conservative, valuing tradition, public service and avoiding change, he was not religious, and never had any desire to be a spokesperson for any ideology, even disability equality – it was a non-issue for him; he was a very private man who did not burden others with his difficulties.

Stephen was clear sighted, with a sharp intelligence, a witty pricker of pomposity and never sentimental in his view of the world. Visitors who did not know him, who took his occupation of a wheelchair to be indicative of a more general disability or defect and either shouted, believing him to be deaf, or spoke very slowly and clearly, as if he were slow on the uptake, were frequently surprised. He did have a tendency when not out and about, to hide behind his desk, a captive audience. Always ready to talk, listen and advise, he did not like being talked-at or hectored and the characteristic slide down the wheelchair began as ennui set in and he became almost horizontal, remaining thus until rescued by another colleague alert to the situation. The sole advantage for being in a wheelchair for Stephen was that it offered a ready-made excuse for avoiding boring meetings, sending out others in his stead to those less glamorous departmental gatherings requiring the mere reporting of and justification for activities which he himself regarded as self-evidently valuable and in no need of further justification at all.

Stephen's meticulous approach to cataloguing and to historical accuracy was manifest in numerous publications. He was from 1994 until 2011 the assistant (and book reviews) editor of the *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* – self effacing and preferring the back room he consistently avoided the actual editorship, but his contribution to the AMS was nevertheless immense. He first published in the *Transactions* in 1989 on the architectural records of the RCHM(E), following this in 1992 with an essay on the early years of the National Buildings Record. From 1996-2000 he produced annual accounts of significant findings from emergency recording, initially throughout the UK and latterly concentrating on England and Wales. He was an expert on London and wrote notable essays on the Carreras factory (1996), the 'temple of tobacco' in Camden Town where 3,000 staff produced 1,300 cigarettes per

minute (Black Cat and Craven A – said to be kind to the lips and harmless to the throat), and on the transformation of the Thames and the Port of London (2005). The latter followed his two immensely valuable books on the river: *London's Bridges* (1983) – from Tower Bridge to Teddington Lock – and *Liquid History: The Thames through Time* (2003) (republished and retitled in 2016 as *The Thames through Time: Liquid History*), which went the other way, from Staines to Yantlet Creek, delimited by the London Stones, ancient boundary markers of the jurisdiction of the City of London. Both of these books take the catalogue form – historic and contemporary photographs from the NMR collections accompanied by succinct accounts of buildings and landscape. *Liquid History* in particular is a beautifully produced book (by Batsford) featuring the very best of London's photographers over 150 years. Stephen was responsible also in collaboration with Secretary Peter Fowler for much of the work on an account of the first 75 years of the RCHM(E), published in its *Annual Review* (1983-4), which according to his co-author was intended to be definitive. A further catalogue of NMR photographs with descriptive extended captions was published (with an introduction by Sir John Summerson) in 1991 as *50 Years of the National Buildings Record*, accompanying an anniversary exhibition at the V&A. Stephen was not named on the title page since this was a collaborative effort, but Secretary Tom Hassall's foreword gave the game away in thanking Stephen for conceiving and co-ordinating the exhibition and publication. Here once more was the assistant editor doing most of the work.

The removal of the headquarters of the Royal Commission and much of the library to Swindon in 1994 was far from universally welcomed and Stephen became Head of the small, surviving

London office, remaining until he was able to take early retirement in 1996. He had an active life thereafter, moving home to Somerset where he continued independent life in a new flat, built to his specifications, overlooking the River Tone in Taunton, full of books and papers, supported by his network of old friends and many new ones. He became an active member of the Somerset Vernacular Buildings Research Group (Chairman 2005–07) and continued editing, summarising survey reports and reviewing books for the *Proceedings* of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, of which he was a trustee, until declining health curtailed activities. On the national scale his great contribution to scholarship and public service was fully recognised. He was one of the first members of the Committee of the National Inventory of War Memorials (from 1989), a member of the Council of the London Topographical Society (from 1996), a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (1990) and of the Royal Geographical Society (2000). He was appointed MBE in 1997.

In later years Stephen's life became constrained although he remained independent, stoical, uncomplaining and cheerful (on the telephone) to the last. He began to find the use of the car too difficult, then, after a period in hospital, was not able to re-establish computer use and email contact. He continued to write letters and cards, was abreast of all recent publications and news and enjoyed very long telephone conversations at prescribed times. Stephen was greatly loved, a notion which he would have found embarrassing and inappropriate, and highly respected. His was one of the great enabling contributions to English architectural history and public life. We are in his debt.

John Bold