

# Bath and District Group Newsletter

Issue 4, December 2009

**From Group  
Chairman,  
Brian  
Robertson**



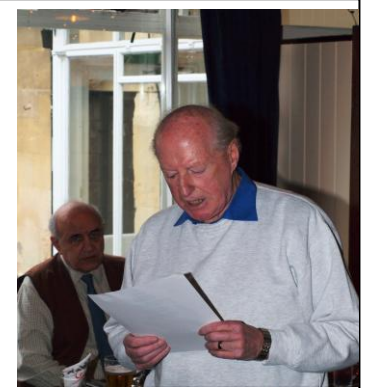
**Greetings!** On behalf of the Group I wish all our members our best wishes for the Christmas Season and happy prospects for 2010. We look forward to more of you attending our monthly meetings in central Bath, but if not, please keep in touch via our website for news, views and comment.

Would the member in Trowbridge who called about a lack of a stamp on the previous newsletter envelope, please get in touch with me as we have not been able to identify him yet.

## Group Christmas Meal, George and Dragon, Batheaston



Group President, Edgar Fillis, addresses the members during the meal.



Group Vice Chairman, Ray Cliffe, reads one of his poems at the start of the meal (see page 3).



Members enjoy the festivities.



Alf Riley, Group Treasurer and meal organiser, provides some light entertainment.



**Letters and Articles required for the next Issue. Please send to the Editor.**

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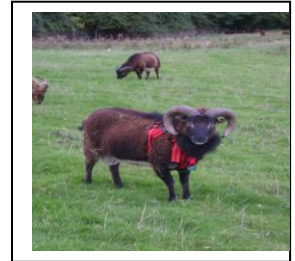
## Out and About With Don Percy

### Bath City Farm

The farm is on the Southern heights of the city and some members will remember the excellent picnic that we enjoyed there a few years ago. To reach the farm from the Lower Bristol Road by car, turn under the railway bridge (opposite MacDonald's) by the traffic lights into Twerton High Street. Take the next left into Shophouse Road and follow the road to The Hollow. Continue up the hill through the traffic calming scheme and take the first right into Kelston View. The main gates to the farm are approximately 150 yards on the right. There is ample car parking space, available on weekdays, normal "office hours" and on special occasions. The farm is always open to pedestrians via the various gates. If using public transport, take the "Haycombe Hoppa" (Service 12) from Bath City Centre, Ambury, and alight at the "Beehive Surgery". Walk about 150 yards down The Hollow and turn left into Kelston View. Bath City Farm does not have an extensive range of animals, but there are Soay Sheep, goats, pigs (usually Tamworth); also chickens and ducks. A local farmer grazes his cattle on the farm from April until September. In area, the farm is very large and it is possible to walk from Whiteway to Twerton. Some fields are on the slope with rough terrain which make for difficulty in walking, although there are many negotiable paths, especially near the animals and picnic areas. Once on the site, there are spectacular views over the city and beyond. Have you heard it said that Bath, like Rome, is built on or surrounded by seven hills? You can see a number of hills, but some imagination is also necessary. To the east, far distant can be seen Box Hill, Bannerdown and Solsbury Hill (Little Solsbury), but surely too far away to be counted in Seven Hills of Bath. More realistically, start at Bathampton Down, then clockwise, Claverton Down, Combe Down, Odd Down and Southdown, all on the South side of the River Avon, five in all. On the North side is Kelston Hill, but again, too far away to be included, so we are left with a sixth hill, Lansdown. To make the seventh hill, Beacon Hill, just below and to the

*Out and About continued...*

east of Lansdown, could be included. Beechen Cliff to the South could be a contender, but our readers might have other views. Whatever conclusions may be reached, enjoy Bath City Farm if you are able to make a visit.



## Programme of Events

### 19<sup>th</sup> January

Brian Robertson talk and photos on Peru

### 16<sup>th</sup> February

Talk by Barry Pearce of "Lansdown Place" on individual finance planning. "Lansdown Place" is a nationally available firm of Independent Financial Advisors based in Bristol.

### 16<sup>th</sup> March

Group AGM. Guest speaker Jim Dunlop, CSPA Chairman.

Note. All meetings held at the Central United Reform Church Halls (Argyle Room), Grove Street, Bath, commencing 2.30pm.

## Special Meeting of the CSPA SW Region

By Alf Riley

Sheila Tutty hosted a special meeting of the SW Region called for and chaired by the CSPA General Secretary, Mike Duggan. With the prospect of Departmental budgets being drastically reduced over the life of the next Parliament, he explained that HQ were preparing a joint campaign with UNITE, the National Federation of Royal Mail and BT Pensioners for all politicians to consider, in the run up to the next General Election, important changes in present policy to benefit not only society members but all old people.

With the main focus on preservation of occupational/main pensions, and proper funding of Health and Social Care, he said HQ were well placed and sufficiently resourced to mount a rigorous campaign on behalf of members, but would welcome the support and any practical assistance that could be provided at branch level.

This could include writing letters to the media and prospective parliamentary candidates to ensure the key issues are given due recognition.

More information will be released as the campaign progresses in the New Year.

## ADMIRALTY – MOD(N) – BATH

By Ray Cliffe

During the long involvement of the MOD with the Heritage City of Bath there was a strong link with the social and sporting activities of the City.

The Civil Service at one time ran five soccer teams who played in the Somerset Senior League, the Wiltshire League and the Bath and District League. They also had teams in the Rugby Football League together with a successful Hockey team.

The Admiralty Swimming Club was successful in local and national competition and held and *cont...*

held an Annual Gala.

During the Summer season they were well represented in the local cricket league. A number of individuals took part at local and Country level in the athletics field. There was the Admiralty Horticultural Society, together with the Fishing Club, Camera Club and Rifle Club. There still remains a strong Civil Service Bowls Club.

Many of the Departments and Sections had their own Social Clubs and organised a range of social events too numerous to mention.

There was the Admiralty Sports Day which was supported by a number of individual Departmental Sports events. These were held on the site where the University now stands or in more recent years, the Civil Service Ground at Claverton, now part of the University's social facilities.

Many departments also organised children's Christmas parties, socials, dances and the Admiralty Ball.

The Social and Sporting activities of the Civil Service were a major factor that contributed to the close community relationship which successfully developed over the years between the people of the City and the Royal Navy and Civil Service.

The Charter Trustees of the City of Bath granted the Freedom of the City to the Royal Navy on 25 September 2000. The Freedom was presented by The Right Worshipful Mayor of Bath Cllr Angela Godfrey and received by Rear Admiral Brian Perowne, Senior Naval Officer, Bath.

## THE DAY OF PEACE

By Ray Cliffe

Lay down grenade and rifle

Put aside the tools of fear

The lust to kill now stifle

For Christmas tide is here.

Relax your grip on the enemy throat

Above his corpse now stand and mourn

And on the air let carols float

For at this time The Babe was born.

The ranks then swell of soldiers past

Pray listen to the words they say

All proud to tell no stone was cast

Least not on that blessed day.

With the day of Christ's birth by

Take up your weapons burrow in the clay

Among you maybe some will sigh

For the moments peace that was yesterday.