Brislington Community Museum News

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Cover of the first issue of this newsletter, published in July 2022.

An end

This is scheduled as our final newsletter. The decision of our committee on 14 April 2026 to wind up the museum before the end of the year (a step unanimously yet sadly taken as the best way forward) has been publicised on the home page of our website as an 'Important announcement' since 28 April.

To mark the completion of our postcard project, we're publishing here the results of one of primary aims - to update information on the dates of photographs printed in a varied selection of books.

For 46% of these, we can improve those published dates. This is significant because reliably knowing, even approximately, a photograph's date greatly increases its value to local historians.

Our more challenging goal - to identify the photographers who took the pictures that show us life in Brislington a century ago - has largely failed. Despite legally publishing hundreds of such photographs (with watermarks etc), we have received no new information. Therefore, an additional newsletter detailing those hoped-for discoveries is no longer needed.

With heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed exhibits, information, questions and enthusiasm over the years.

Ken Taylor, chair

Dating photos of postcards in books

Many books have published postcards of Brislington, and some have provided the date the postcard was posted, or even suggested a date for the photograph itself. This report uses data collected during our recent postcard project, to comment on those published dates.

The lists below show the earliest known dates for each postcard the project can usefully comment on. This is intended to offer a starting point for further research.

The process is simple: for example, a legible postmark on a postcard provides convincing evidence the photograph must have been taken by that date. Wherever possible, exact dates of postmarks are provided. If either the month or the day of the month is illegible, a pair of zeros is inserted in their place, to show this information is missing.

Even when we don't have evidence for an exact date, sometimes but we can still offer something better than nothing. For example, on 3rd June 1918 the price of sending a postcard rose from a half-penny to one penny. So, if there's a half-penny stamp (with an illegible postmark), or the postcard wasn't posted at all but carries a printed message advising the sender to affix a half-penny stamp, we can be sure the photograph was taken pre-3rd June 1918.

Many photographs were published as a postcard more than once. Mostly, we only notice this because they were reprinted on a newer type of printed card, had a more fashionable style of title, or were produced by another publisher. Sometimes though, we can see the images were cropped differently, or the postcards were created using an entirely different printing process. Here, we've not sought to provide dates for those events (illuminating as it would be) but instead focus purely on trying to date each individual photograph. This approach, we feel, is of most immediate value to historians researching the evolution of our local landscape.

This project is unable to comment on the time interval between a photograph being taken and it appearing on a postcard. There are instances elsewhere in Bristol where a major social event has been photographed, produced as a postcard, bought and posted on the same day. It seems more usual though, for topographical postcards to be issued at a more leisurely pace. Some series, for instance, appear to have photographs taken over weeks or even months, and published together in sets of 6 or 12 (the larger order probably attracting a discount from the printer).

For economy of space in the lists below, we've only included postcards for which we have discovered a useful date. This means, if the postcard commemorates an event on a date explicitly mentioned, or the date is obvious by context (such as a coronation), we've excluded it.

At a practical level, only the dates that either confirm an author's printed dates, or show the photograph was taken earlier than previously thought are helpful (happily, most of our results achieve this). We have, though, included postcards where the best date we can offer fails to immediately advance knowledge - we include these for the sake of completeness only (they aren't intended to cast doubt on the original author's date). Such examples merely expose the shortcomings of our relatively small sample size.

Our project looked at 1,718 topographical postcards of Brislington which contained 483 unique photographs. Nearly a third (147 photographs) lacked reliable dating evidence.

The project, incidentally, also catalogued 317 postcards of 83 unique photographs of a sociological nature (where the main subjects of the picture were people or events in Brislington, rather than a place here); 100s of postcards of only peripheral interest; and around 50 studio portraits and other commissioned photographs by professional local photographer William Winchester (Langton Road, Brislington).

A larger scale project, with access to more postcards, whether single examples or extensive private collections, would reveal a wealth of detail only hinted at by the present study.

Notes on our data

Many books with postcards of Brislington aren't reviewed here, that's only because they weren't conveniently available to the author in time for publication.

The books are ordered primarily by the number of postcards they contain (for which our project has found a valid match).

The postcards published in each book are listed in the order in which they appear (by page number, or plate number). This approach seems most beneficial to anyone using the books, who wishes to check the dates.

Each book is introduced by a standard bibliographic reference that shows its title in *italics*.

Fisher, Janet & Derek undated, *Brislington St Anne's on old Postcards*, Bristol, Bygone Bristol.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Arno's Gateway	1 (upper)	1937 05 22	postmark
Black Castle	1 (lower)	1909 06 16	postmark
Tram Depot	2 (upper)	1909 09 21	postmark
Kensington Hill	3 (upper)	1905 09 06	postmark
Arno's Court	3 (lower)	1906 12 22	postmark
Kensington Hill	4 (upper)	1909 05 29	postmark
Kensington Park Road	5 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
Crescent, The	7 (upper)	1911 07 07	postmark
Grove Park	8 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
West Town Lane	9 (lower)	1921 07 22	postmark
Water Lane	10 (lower)	1914 04 16	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	12 (lower)	1906 07 21	postmark
Bristol Hill	13 (lower)	1914 04 14	postmark
Village	15 (lower)	1911 06 03	postmark
Village	16 (upper)	1906 06 07	postmark
Old Vicarage	16 (lower)	1909 05 01	postmark
Village	17 (upper)	1904 09 19	postmark
Church Hill	18 (upper)	1910	postmark
School Road	18 (lower)	1917 09 13	postmark
Hollywood Road	19 (upper)	1924 06 22	postmark
Pound	20 (upper)	1912 08 19	postmark
Talbot Road	20 (lower)	1912 03 1	postmark
Bristol Hill	21 (upper)	1923 04 25	postmark
School Road	21 (lower)	1910 09 13	postmark
School Road	22 (upper)	1909 03 20	postmark
Montrose Park	23 (upper)	1911 12 31	postmark
Winchester Road	25 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Wick Road	27 (lower)	1912 10 07	postmark
Brislington Hill	28 (lower)	1912 05 16	postmark
Brislington Hill	29 (upper)	1904 09 15	postmark
Brislington Hill	31 (upper)	1908	postmark
Birchwood Road	32 (upper)	1914 10 29	postmark
Eastwood Road	32 (lower)	1908 03 01	postmark
First Avenue	33 (upper)	1912 08 04	postmark
First Avenue	33 (lower)	1960 01 11	postmark

Langton Court Road	35 (upper)	1906 02 28	postmark
Highworth Road	35 (lower)	1911 11 12	postmark
Highworth Road	36 (upper)	1911 05 18	postmark
Arlington Road	36 (lower)	1919 09 08	postmark
St Anne's Church	37 (upper)	1907 08 30	postmark
School, St Anne's	37 (lower)	1911 12 30	postmark
Salisbury Road	38 (upper)	1910 08 17	postmark
Newbridge Road	38 (lower)	1912 10 24	postmark
Newbridge Road	39 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
St Anne's Woods	40 (upper)	1926 07 02	postmark
St Anne's Woods	40 (lower)	1905 08 29	postmark
Railway station, St Anne's	41 (upper)	1911 08 02	postmark
St Anne's Terrace	42 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Birchwood Road	43 (upper)	1907 11 04	postmark

Winstone, Reece 1985, *Bristol's Suburbs Long Ago*, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Arno's Court	Plate 305	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
Black Castle	Plate 307	1912 10 17	postmark
Black Castle	Plate 308	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Black Castle	Plate 309	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Sandy Park Road	Plate 314	1911 07 27	postmark
Square, The	Plate 319	1910 00 00	postmark
Square, The	Plate 321	1911 09 15	postmark
Church Parade	Plate 322	1910 09 05	postmark
Linton Farm	Plate 324	1912 05 16	postmark
Square, The	Plate 326	1906 02 15	postmark
School Road	Plate 332	1914 09 08	postmark
Brislington Hill	Plate 334	1924 08 07	postmark
Water Lane	Plate 341	1907 08 21	postmark
School, St Anne's	Plate 351	1905 10 21	postmark
St Cuthbert	Plate 352	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
St Anne's Woods	Plate 356	1904 11 30	postmark
Railway station, St Anne's Park	Plate 358	1905 10 29	postmark
Robertsons	Plate 362	1916 08 00	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	Plate 363	1904 10 05	postmark

Chard, Judith & Mary Axford Mitchell & Jonathan Rowe 1995, *Brislington*, Stroud, Chalford Publishing Company.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Church Hill	10 (lower)	1910 12 31	postmark
Pound	11 (lower)	1912 08 19	postmark

Hollywood Road	15 (upper)	1907 08 08	postmark
Church Parade	16 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Brislington Hill	17 (upper)	1924 08 07	postmark
Bristol Hill	20 (upper)	1938 08 12	postmark
Kensington Hill	20 (lower)	1906 07 24	postmark
Winchester Road	21 (upper)	1911 09 30	postmark
West Town Lane	24 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Holymead Fields	25 (lower)	1912 08 15	postmark
Arno's Court	30 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Black Castle	31 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Arno's Gateway	31 (lower)	1906 07 12	postmark
Rock, The	48 (lower)	1916 07 31	postmark
Church Hill House	50 (upper)	1906 08 07	postmark
St Cuthbert	64 (upper)	1910 08 31	postmark
St Cuthbert	64 (lower)	1939 04 28	postmark
Grove Park	65 (upper)	1913 12 24	postmark
Wesleyan	66 (lower)	1904 10 19	postmark
School, St Anne's	76 (lower)	1911 12 30	postmark
Linton Farm	82 (upper)	1912 05 16	postmark
Robertsons	93 (upper)	1916 08 31	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	94 (upper)	1904 10 05	postmark
Tram Depot	104 (upper)	1911 08 04	postmark
Tram Depot	105 (upper)	1923 12 31	postcard

Jones, F C & W G Chown 1977, *History of Bristol's Suburbs*, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	**Plate**	**Project date**	**Evidence type**
Pound, The	Plate 51	1912 08 19	postmark
Square, The	Plate 52	1907 04 01	postmark
Wesleyan	Plate 54	1904 10 19	postmark
Church Parade	Plate 55	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Holymead Fields	Plate 56	1912 08 15	postmark
School Place	Plate 57	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Kensington Hill	Plate 58	1916 07 25	postmark
West Town Lane	Plate 61	1905 01 24	postmark
Water Lane	Plate 62	1909 09 23	postmark
St Anne's Woods	Plate 63	1905 08 29	postmark
St Cuthbert	Plate 67	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Wick House	Plate 68	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
School Road	Plate 73	1909 03 20	postmark

Williamson, B 1985, *Old Brislington Postcards*, privately published.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Railway station, St Anne's	Front cover	1905 10 29	postmark
Holymead Fields	2	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
Grove Park Road	3	1910 07 18	postmark
Water Lane	7	1906 06 08	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	8	1904 10 05	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	9	1904 09 00	postmark
Chapel, Methodist	12	1905 08 21	postmark
Village Square	13	1912 02 05	postmark
Sandy Park Road	14	1909 02 13	postmark
Brislington Hill	17	1909 07 24	postmark
Kensington Park Road	back cover	1910 09 07	postmark

Crimmins, Graham & Lynda Harris, Beth Knight & Jonathan Rowe 2008, *Brislington Revisited*, Stroud, The History Press.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Black Castle	11	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Newbridge Road	15	1912 10 24	postmark
School Place	12 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
St Anne's Terrace	13 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
St Anne's Post Office	13 (lower)	1912 01 27	postmark
Birchwood Road	19 (upper)	1914 10 29	postmark
Eastwood Road	19 (lower)	1908 03 01	postmark
St Anne's Church	22 (upper)	1924 08 27	postmark
Black Castle	25 (upper)	1912 04 03	postmark
Bristol Hill	37 (upper)	1921	postmark

Fisher, Janet & Derek Fisher & Mildred Ford & Francis Ford 1987, *Bristol on old postcards*, Volume 3, Keyworth (Nottingham), Reflections of a Bygone Age.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Montrose Park	31 (middle)	1911 12 31	postmark
Black Castle	32 (lower left)	1912 10 17	postmark
Black Castle	32 (lower right)	1918 04 06	postmark
Water Lane	33 (upper left)	1910 06 24	postmark
Talbot Road	33 (lower left)	1912 03 01	postmark
Church, St Anne's	34 (upper left)	1907 08 30	postmark
Church, St Cuthbert's	34 (upper right)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Church, St Cuthbert's	34 (lower right)	1911 09 21	postcard

Fisher, Janet & Derek Fisher & Mildred Ford & Francis Ford 1989, *Bristol on old postcards*, Volume 2, Keyworth (Nottingham), Reflections of a Bygone Age.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
St Anne's Park	39 (upper)	1907 11 04	postmark
Newbridge Road	39 (lower)	1912 09 04	postmark
Winchester Road	40 (upper)	1918 07 24	postmark
Wick Road	40 (lower)	1912 10 07	postmark
Hollywood Road	41 (upper)	1924 06 22	postmark
Arnos Court	41 (middle left)	1906 12 22	postmark
Church, St Cuthbert's	41 (lower)	1939 04 28	postmark
Railway station, Brislington	55 (upper)	1907 00 00	postmark

Small, A, G Strange, R Davey 1979, *Brislington Not So Long Ago*, privately published.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Village Square	Front cover	1910 01 00	postmark
School Road	6	1914 09 08	postmark
Village Square	9	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Brislington Hill	14	1908 00 00	postmark
Church Hill	15	1910 00 00	postmark
School Road	18	1910 09 13	postmark
School (School Road)	25	1932	postcard

Anon 1980, *Brislington Book Three*, privately published.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Brislington Square	Front cover	1906 02 15	postmark
Brislington Square	9	1907 08 19	postmark
Grove Park	15	1911 07 07	postmark
Brislington Hill	17	1920 09 08	postmark
Hollywood Road	20	1907 08 08	postmark
Hollywood Road	22	1924 06 22	postmark
Chapel, Wesleyan	28	1904 10 19	postmark

Fisher, Janet & Derek Fisher & Mildred Ford & Francis Ford 1985, *Bristol on old postcards*, Volume 2, Keyworth (Nottingham), Reflections of a Bygone Age.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Brislington Square	27 (upper)	1907 00 00	postmark

West Town Lane	27 (lower)	1922 07 31	postmark
School, St Anne's	28 (upper)	1911 12 30	postmark
Salisbury Road	28 (lower)	1910 08 17	postmark
Railway station, St Anne's	48 (upper right)	1904 09 23	postmark

Oakley, Mike 1990, *Bristol Suburban*, Bristol, Redcliffe Press.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Railway, Brislington Station	38	1904 10 05	postmark
Railway, Brislington Station	39 (upper)	1916 08 00	postmark
Railway, St Anne's Station	68 (upper)	1904 07 13	postmark
Railway, St Anne's Station	68 (lower)	1905 10 29	postmark

Fisher, Janet & Derek Fisher & Mildred Ford & Francis Ford 1983, *Bristol on old postcards*, Keyworth (Nottingham), Reflections of a Bygone Age.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Bristol Hill	45 (lower)	1906 06 07	postmark
Brislington Hill	46 (middle)	1932	postcard
Brislington Hill	46 (lower)	1908 00 00	postmark

Winstone, Reece 1974, *Bristol's Trams*, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Village square	Plate 92	1907 08 19	postmark
Tram depot	Plate 118	1930 08 26	postmark
Tram depot	Plate 175	1938 07 14	annotation

Cooke, Robert 1957, *West Country Houses*, London, B T Batsford.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Black Castle	139 (upper left)	1912 11 08	postmark
Black Castle	139 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Black Castle	182 (lower right)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard

Winstone, Reece 1965, *Bristol as it was 1914 - 1900*, 2nd Edition, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Black Castle	Plate 103	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Black Castle	Plate 104	1912 11 08	postmark

Winstone, Reece 1960, *Bristol in the 1890's*, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Talbot Road	Plate 126	1912 03 01	postmark
Sandy Park Road	Plate 145	1906 03 19	postmark

Waller, Peter 2018, *Lost Tramways of England - Bristol*, Llanelli, Graffeg Limited.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Tram Depot	19	1909 09 21	postmark
Village Square	54	1915 09 02	postmark

Taylor, Ken 2014, *The holy well and the Chapel of St Anne in the Wood, Brislington, Bristol*, Bristol, Archyve.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
St Anne's Well	16	1904 09 26	postmark
St Anne's Well	17	1905 08 29	postmark

Maggs, Colin G 2013, *The Bristol-Radstock-Frome Line*, Usk (Monmouthshire), The Oakwood Press.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Railway, Brislington Station	53 (upper)	1917 01 00	postmark
Railway, Brislington Station	54 (upper)	1907 00 00	postmark

Smith, Ian 2011, *Tin Tabernacles Postcard Album*, Lulu.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Church, St Cuthbert	116 (upper)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Church, St Cuthbert	116 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard

Maggs, Colin G 2001, *The GWR Bristol to Bath Line*, Stroud (Gloucestershire), Sutton Publishing.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Railway, St Anne's station	52 (upper)	1904 07 13	postmark
Railway, St Anne's station	52 (lower)	1912 02 13	postmark

Fisher, Janet & Derek 1994, *Totterdown Knowle on Old Postcards*, Bristol, Bygone Bristol.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Arnos Vale	5 (lower)	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp
Wells Road	42 (lower)	1908 09 24	postmark

Winchester, Evelyn 1986, *St Anne's Bristol a History*, Bristol, White Tree Books.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
St Anne's Terrace	53	pre-3rd June 1918	postcard
Railway, St Anne's station	60	1904 07 13	postmark

Morse, A, M Boyd & R Davey 1979, *Brislington - Buildings and People*, privately printed.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Vicarage, Brislington	20	1909 05 01	postmark
Brislington Hill	28	1912 05 16	postmark

Appleby, John B 1969, *Bristol's Trams Remembered*, Westbury-on-Trym (Bristol), privately printed.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Tram depot	Front cover (upper)	1938 07 14	annotation
Tram depot	Front cover (lower)	1938 07 14	annotation

Fisher, Janet & Derek undated, *St George Hanham on Old Postcards*, Bristol, Bygone Bristol.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Beese's Tea Gardens	43 (upper)	1905 01 05	postmark
Ariel Boat Club	43 (lower)	1905 05 29	postmark

Taylor, Ken 2009, *Ghosts of Arnos Manor Hotel Bristol*, Bristol, Archyve.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Arnos Court	7	pre-3rd June 1918	stamp

Lowe, Barbara & Tony Brown 1988, *Around Keynsham and Saltford in Old Photographs*, Gloucester, Alan Sutton Publishing.

Subject	Page	Project date	Evidence type
Beese's Tea Gardens	70 (lower)	1909 07 07	postmark

Winstone, Reece 1969, *Bristol as it was 1939 - 1914*, 4th Edition, Bristol, Reece Winstone.

Subject	Plate	Project date	Evidence type
Tram Depot	Plate 92	1923	postcard

Five-star ratings

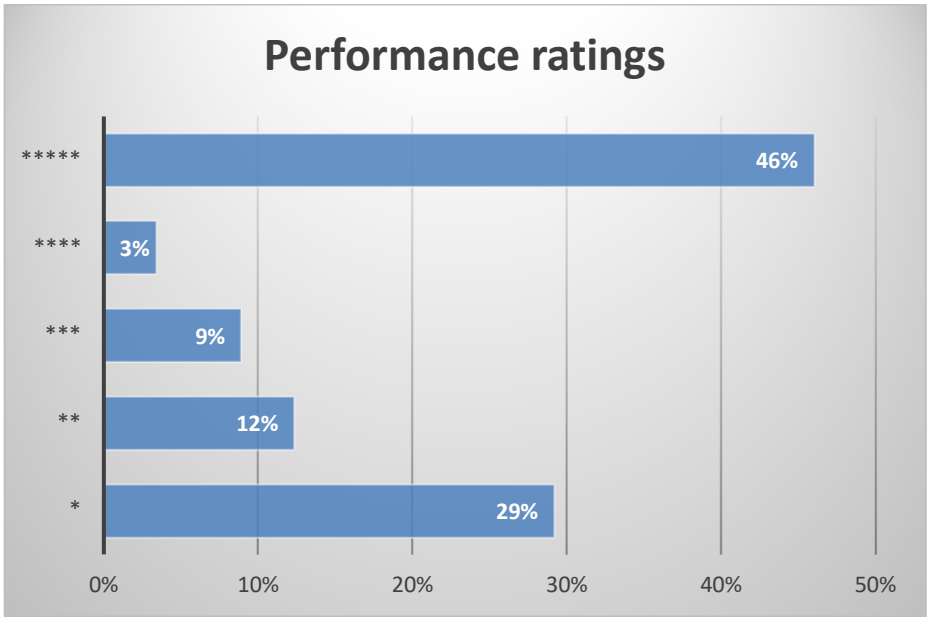
It isn't our intention to rate the accuracy of the thirty books being reviewed here, so we've not put a rating against each of the 202 rows of data above. Also, there are many different rating systems, each generating different results, so it could be doubly unfair for us to 'mark our own homework'.

It does seem useful, however, to evaluate the effectiveness of this project's goal (to refine the earliest known date of a photograph). Our five-star rating system compares the published books' date with the date our project found:

*****	earlier than the date or range (if any)
****	in the earlier half of a range of dates
***	in the same year, or middle of a range
**	in the later half of a range of dates
*	later than the date or range

Where a range is around a date, the range is taken as being plus or minus three years. For example, c.1909 would indicate a range from 1906 to 1912 (inclusive).

Where a range is said to be before a date, the suggested range is taken as six years. For example, pre-1914 would indicate a range from 1908 to 1913 inclusive.



Credits & Contact details

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