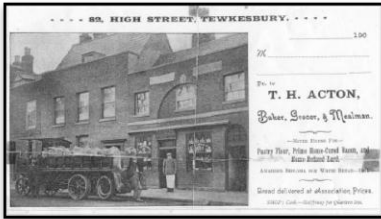


Tewkesbury's Demolished Treasures

The Society is now 20 years old and, each year, it has edited a Bulletin of Research which has given opportunities for members to publish their research.



In 1991 the Society met at the Library, built in the early 1990s. It is well remembered that it replaced the much-loved *Sabrina Cinema* but who remembers the bakers shop (left) which made way for it? The former doctor's surgery next door has survived since the 18th century but **Wendy Snarey** has written about her

research into '*Hunting the Fox*', a pub which disappeared in 1751 from that site.

The photograph right shows us what **Spring Gardens Car Park** looked like in 1928. **Trinity Church** is bottom right and **Chance Street School** is top right. However, the long building at the back was demolished in the 1950s. It was **Barnes' Almhouse** a refuge to save the elderly from ending their days in the dreaded workhouse. **Janet Devereux** has written an article about the importance of 19th century 'do-gooders' such as nail-maker Samuel Barnes who left this fortune to his nieces the Misses Mines who, in their turn, devoted their wealth to improving the life of poorer citizens.



William Morris Moore ended his life in that workhouse making - if the press can be believed - a confession in which he recanted his life as a '*Chartist*'. This was a group of political activists who sought in the 19thC to win the vote for working people by mainly non-violent means. It was a failure then but **Derek Benson**

has researched our local Chartist who lived for a time in **Jeynes Row** (left), still existing as a fascinating enclave in the Oldbury.

Another Tewkesbury pub which closed in the 1951 in the Oldbury was the **Railway Inn**, pictured right in 1928. On the corner of Oldbury Road, next door but one, was a shop at 1 Station Street in which deserted wife, Sarah Ann Young, struggled to live and bring up her three children. In 1901 she was found



dead and her descendant **Mike Everley** has established that she had poisoned herself with laudanum. Suicide or accident, it underlined how much many Victorians regarded this dangerous drug as a palliative for the difficulties of life.



One undoubted but over-ambitious ‘treasure’ was never built let alone demolished. Left is a plan of an ambitious scheme to move the War Memorial to the Riverside Walk. Many older Tewkesburians believe the Americans left a pot of golden dollars for this scheme and

wondered what happened to it. **John Dixon** has sought to ascertain if it existed and how this failed scheme still bequeathed us the Back of Avon we enjoy today.

The Historical Society’s 20th Bulletin, graced with another portrait of Neville Freeman, taken by his father professional photographer Halsey Freeman will be published in the spring 2011 and will be available at Alison’s Bookshop.

