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ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

A Short History of Bristol's Newspapers since 1702

JOHN PENNY

THE BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
LOCAL HISTORY PAMPHLETS

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All the News that's Fit to Print is the one hundred and first pamphlet in this series.

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The title 'All the News that's Fit to Print' is the motto of the *New York Times* by Adolph Simon Ochs, US newspaper publisher (1895-1935).

Cover Illustration: The ornate offices of the *Western Daily Press* on the corner of Baldwin Street and St Stephen Street, circa 1934

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

A Short History of Bristol's Newspapers since 1702

At the dawn of the third millennium Bristol possesses two long established local newspapers, the *Western Daily Press*, published each morning since 1858 and the *Evening Post*, in existence since 1932. Originally independent titles, today they are both part of the Bristol United Press, now wholly owned by the Daily Mail & General Trust, an organisation which also embraces the Northcliffe group of regional dailies, as well as London's *Evening Standard*. However, this monopoly position is a fairly recent phenomenon, for although Bristol had just one paper in 1702, from the mid-eighteenth century they gradually increased in number until a peak was reached in the Edwardian era when, in addition to several weeklies, the city boasted no less than three morning and three evening newspapers, the products of three independent proprietors, two of which supported the Liberal Party and one the Conservatives. Although the story of the press in Bristol is very complicated, punctuated with many short-lived attempts to establish newspapers and journals of all kinds, it is still possible to provide a reasonably concise account of its development, even though a lack of space prevents any mention of the more obscure publications and journalistic personalities.

1702 to 1799

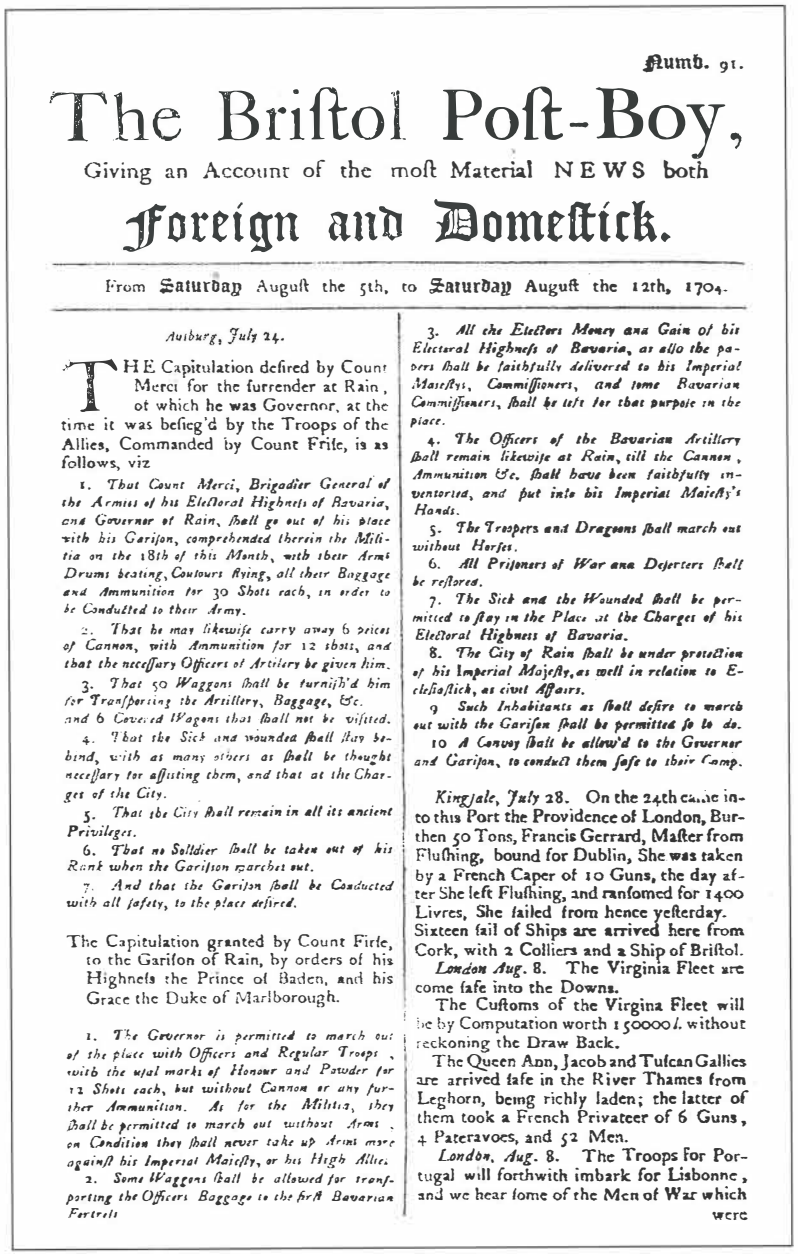
Since its introduction, printing in England had been subjected to long periods of prohibition and repression, with only brief intervals of official tolerance, thus ensuring that the few newspapers permitted consistently followed the Government line. The Printing Act of 1663, the principal obstacle to the establishment of uncensored publications was, however, not renewed in 1695, and newspapers were soon flourishing in London, where by 1709 some eighteen were being produced, including its first daily founded in 1702. By contrast the provincial reading public of late seventeenth century England was quite small, being confined generally to the gentry, clergy and prosperous tradesmen; nevertheless, during the reign of Queen Anne a large number of Charity Schools were set up all over the country to encourage literacy amongst the children of the poorer

classes, and these were complemented by the network of schools established by the various Dissenting sects. These movements were to provided the potential market for newspapers outside London, while the steadily growing competition in the capital inevitably led to a migration of trained printers to provincial towns where printing presses had previously been banned.

Among the pioneers was William Bonney who in 1695 arrived in Bristol to set up the first printing press in the area, and the oldest surviving copy of an English provincial newspaper is *The Bristol Post Boy* published by him on Saturday August 5th 1704. It is numbered 91, indicating the first issue appeared in November 1702. Unfortunately this 'calculating back' technique is notoriously unreliable due to the careless numbering adopted by many eighteenth century printers, and so the claim by the *Norwich Post* to be the country's oldest provincial newspaper (by back calculation from 1708 to 1701) is equally suspect. *The Bristol Post Boy* was a simple two page weekly containing, in common with the other provincial journals, intelligence copied from the London papers which were now being delivered outside the capital by the rapidly expanding stage coach and postal services. It was, however, to be around the middle of the century before the provincial papers managed to get circulations sufficiently large and geographically concentrated to support much in the way of their own gathering of local news and so no such items ever appeared in *The Bristol Post Boy*. Likewise, in the earliest surviving copy there is just one advertisement, that placed by John Mitchell, a local physician and surgeon who resided in King Street.

Taxation, the bane of newspaper proprietors throughout the eighteenth century, started with the Stamp Act of 1712 which, although primarily aimed at the vociferous outcries of the Whig pamphleteers, was also the first serious setback to the newspaper press and the beginning of a long series of official efforts to control it through what later became to be known as the 'taxes on knowledge'. The act imposed duty of one penny on a printers sheet, from which two leaves could be produced, while proprietors were also forced to pay tax of one shilling for every advertisement inserted.

In spite of this *The Bristol Post Boy* survived until at least December 1715, by which time a rival paper had been set up in the city by one Samuel Farley, son of an Exeter printer, and member of a dynasty which was to play the prominent part in the development of the newspaper press in the West. *Sam. Farley's Bristol Post Man*, was launched in August 1715 and although a competitor made an appearance in Bristol in 1716, only one copy of the *Bristol Weekly Mercury*, published by Henry Greep, has survived. Farley's paper probably lasted until 1725



Numb. 91.

The Briſtol Poſt-Boy,

Giving an Account of the moſt Material NEWS both

Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Saturday Auguſt the 5th, to Saturday Auguſt the 12th, 1704.

Auſburg, July 24.

THE Capitulation deſired by Count Merci for the ſurrender at Rain, of which he was Governor, at the time it was beſieg'd by the Troops of the Allies, Commanded by Count Friſe, is as follows, viz

1. *That Count Merci, Brigadier General of the Armies of his Electoral Highneſs of Bavaria, and Governor of Rain, ſhall go out of his place with his Gariſon, comprehended therein the Militia on the 18th of this Month, with their Arms Drums beating, Coulours flying, all their Baggage and Ammunition for 30 Shots each, in order to be Conducted to their Army.*

2. *That he may likewiſe carry away 6 peices of Cannon, with Ammunition for 12 ſhots, and that the neceſſary Officers of Artilery be given him.*

3. *That 50 Waggons ſhall be furniſh'd him for Tranſporting the Artillery, Baggage, &c. and 6 Covered Wagons that ſhall not be viſited.*

4. *That the Sick and wounded ſhall ſtay behind, with as many others as ſhall be thought neceſſary for aſſiſting them, and that at the Charges of the City.*

5. *That the City ſhall remain in all its ancient Privileges.*

6. *That no Soldier ſhall be taken out of his Rank when the Gariſon marches out.*

7. *And that the Gariſon ſhall be Conducted with all ſafety, to the place deſired.*

The Capitulation granted by Count Firſe, to the Gariſon of Rain, by orders of his Highneſs the Prince of Baden, and his Grace the Duke of Marlborough.

1. *The Governor is permitted to march out of the place with Officers and Regular Troops, with the uſual marks of Honour and Powder for 12 Shots each, but without Cannon or any further Ammunition. As for the Militia, they ſhall be permitted to march out without Arms, on Condition they ſhall never take up Arms more againſt his Imperial Maieſty, or his High Allies.*

2. *Some Waggons ſhall be allowed for tranſporting the Officers Baggage to the firſt Bavarian Fortreſs*

3. *All the Electors Money and Gain of his Electoral Highneſs of Bavaria, as alſo the papers ſhall be faithfully delivered to his Imperial Maieſty, Commiſſioners, and ſome Bavarian Commiſſioners, ſhall be left for that purpoſe in the place.*

4. *The Officers of the Bavarian Artillery ſhall remain likewiſe at Rain, till the Cannon, Ammunition &c. ſhall have been faithfully inventoried, and put into his Imperial Maieſty's Hands.*

5. *The Troopers and Dragoons ſhall march out without Horſes.*

6. *All Priſoners of War and Deſerters ſhall be reſtored.*

7. *The Sick and the Wounded ſhall be permitted to ſtay in the Place at the Charges of his Electoral Highneſs of Bavaria.*

8. *The City of Rain ſhall be under protection of his Imperial Majeſty, as well in relation to Eccleſiaſtick, as civil Affairs.*

9 *Such Inhabitants as ſhall deſire to march out with the Gariſon ſhall be permitted ſo to do.*

10 *A Convoy ſhall be allow'd to the Governor and Gariſon, to conduct them ſafe to their Camp.*

Kingſale, July 28. On the 24th came into this Port the Providence of London, Burthen 50 Tons, Francis Gerrard, Maſter from Fluſhing, bound for Dublin, She was taken by a French Caper of 10 Guns, the day after She left Fluſhing, and ranſomed for 1400 Livres, She failed from hence yeſterday. Sixteen ſail of Ships are arrived here from Cork, with 2 Colliers and a Ship of Briſtol.

London Aug. 8. The Virginia Fleet are come ſafe into the Downs.

The Cuſtoms of the Virgina Fleet will be by Computation worth 150000*l.* without reckoning the Draw Back.

The Queen Ann, Jacob and Tuſcan Gallies are arrived ſafe in the River Thames from Leghorn, being richly laden; the latter of them took a French Privateer of 6 Guns, 4 Pateravoes, and 52 Men.

London, Aug. 8. The Troops for Portugal will forthwith imbark for Lisbonne, and we hear ſome of the Men of War which were

The front page of the oldest surviving Bristol newspaper, The Bristol Post Boy of August 5th to 12th 1704

when a more draconian Stamp Act was introduced, closing certain loopholes, including one which allowed many newspapers to claim the status of a pamphlet, thereby enjoying a much lower rate of taxation. This caused Farley to reduce the size of the *Post Man* from twelve to four closely printed sides and rename it *Farley's Bristol Newspaper*. Its title was changed again in 1733 to *Sam. Farley's Bristol Newspaper* and as such continued until at least 1738 when, probably following Samuel's death, it was being published by Samuel and Felix Farley, his sons, who had been working with him since 1718, and who soon after established themselves as the leading newspaper printers in Bristol.

During the early 1740s the majority of provincial newspapers were in opposition to the Whig regime, and in national politics the Farleys' strong Tory, almost Jacobite, views became so provoking that in 1742 competition arrived with the appearance, on April 3rd of that year, of Andrew Hook's *Oracle*. This paper survived against the odds until September 16th 1749, during which time the title was changed a number of times in an attempt to evade the duty which was causing printers throughout the country so much financial pain. Hook, a Whig and one of the most colourful characters in the history of the Bristol press, had been born into an old Bristol family which had lost its wealth through speculation and although he had even been a Gloucestershire J.P., it seems that he was in prison for debt when he started the *Oracle*!

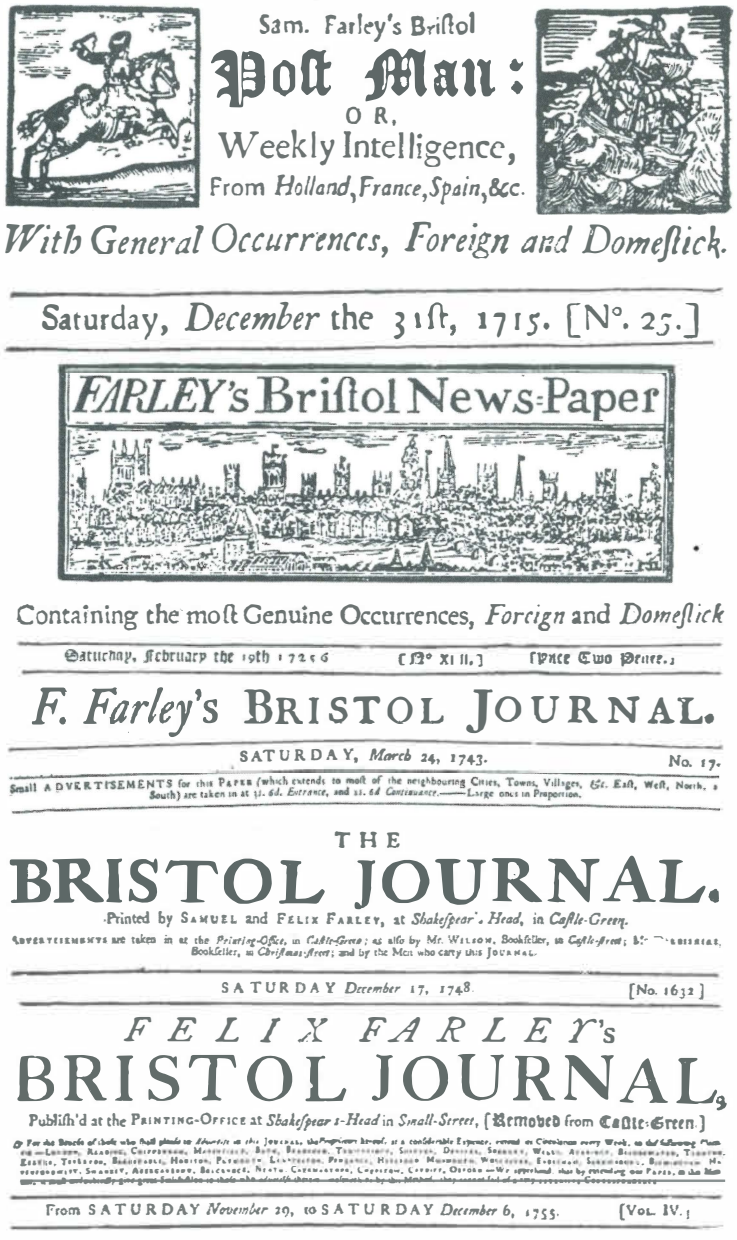
Unlike the Farleys, Andrew Hook was not a newspaperman and was therefore forced to have his journal produced by various jobbing printers in Bristol; nevertheless, he was a stickler for geographical detail and delighted in ridiculing his competitors' lack of knowledge in that discipline. With public interest much aroused by Britain's involvement in the War of Austrian Succession, Hook became the first local newspaper proprietor to operate his business in conjunction with coffee houses, the principal public places at which people could gain access to both the Bristol and London papers. At first he worked closely with his wife Mary who ran St Michael's Coffee House in Maudlin Lane, but later rented the Barber Surgeon's Hall, which became known as Hook's, and later the West Indian Coffee House, an enterprise he continued to be associated with until shortly before his death in September 1753 at the age of 65. He also deserves a special mention as the first local journalist to take a serious interest in the city's history, for in June 1748 Hook advertised Part 1 of 'Bristollia or Memoirs of the Ancient and Present State of Bristol, both Civil and Ecclesiastical' as well as publishing 'A Dissertation on the Antiquity of Bristol' in the *Oracle*.

Towards the end of 1742 Felix Farley & Company began to issue two newspapers with a number of titles which appeared on alternate

Saturdays in an another ingenious attempt to evade Stamp Duty and this arrangement was continued until January 1748, by which time the papers were known as *S. Farley's Bristol Journal*, published by Samuel and *F. Farley's Bristol Advertiser*, issued by Felix. During that month alternate production ceased, a single weekly known as *Farley's Bristol Journal* and published jointly by the brothers, taking its place. This in turn was renamed *Bristol Journal* in March 1748, but in 1751 Samuel and Felix appear to have quarrelled violently and split up, Samuel continuing to produce the *Bristol Journal*, while Felix moved to new premises and set up a rival publication, *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, which was launched on May 2nd 1752. At this time, as relatively few advertisements were being placed in local papers, the publishers often resorted to unusual ways to boost their incomes, Felix Farley becoming the sole retailer of 'the Bristol Tooth-water, made out of the noblest ingredients in the whole materia medica', in addition to selling quack medicines and Durham mustard!

With the demise of the *Oracle*, Edward Ward, another man of Whig persuasion, immediately began producing a new paper which laid special emphasis on the fact that it would not contain 'personal Invectives, or general Hints, or Arguments, founded on an attempt to kindle the Flames of Division, or Misunderstandings, among any of our fellow Countrymen, of whatever Rank, Profession, or Degree'. Nevertheless, apart from the odd snipe at the Whig sympathies of Robert Raikes, proprietor of the *Gloucester Journal*, the Farleys had rarely mentioned purely local politics until the launching of this rival *Weekly Intelligencer*, on September 23rd 1749. Ward, who had previously, and much to Felix Farley's contempt, conducted business as a haberdasher, maltster, distiller and vintner, continued to produce Bristol's alternative newspaper until around 1758, and it is just possible that it was in fact a continuation of a re-launched *Bristol Mercury* which Ward had produced between 1747 and 1749.

As the Farleys seem to have been united in political thought, the cause of the family feud appears to have been religion, a fact which came to light with the publication of the wills of the Farley brothers, both of whom died in 1753. Felix, who passed away in April, was a Methodist, describing John and Charles Wesley as his 'honoured and much-esteemed friends and pastors'. At the time of his death he was still in conflict with his brother Samuel, leaving him a token guinea 'that his eyes may be opened that he may see the injury that he has done me and my poor family, and that he would soften his heart and conscience to end the partnership affair with justice, honour and integrity'. Samuel, who died in the autumn, reacted in a similar manner with a bequest of one shilling to Felix's widow, Elizabeth, who had assumed proprietorship



Sam. Farley's Briſtol
Poſt Man:
OR,
Weekly Intelligence,
From *Holland, France, Spain,* &c.
With General Occurrences, Foreign and Domeſtick.

Saturday, *December* the 31ſt, 1715. [N°. 25.]

FARLEY's Briſtol News-Paper

Containing the moſt Genuine Occurrences, *Forcign* and *Domeſtick*

Saturday, February the 19th 1726 [N° XII.] [Price Two Pence.]

F. Farley's BRISTOL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, *March* 24, 1743. No. 17.

Small ADVERTISEMENTS for this PAPER (which extends to moſt of the neighbouring Cities, Towns, Villages, &c. Eaſt, Weſt, North, & South) are taken in at 3*s*. 6*d*. *Entrance*, and 1*s*. 6*d Continuance*.——Large ones in Proportion.

THE
BRISTOL JOURNAL.
Printed by SAMUEL and FELIX FARLEY, at *Shakeſpear's Head*, in *Caſtle-Green*.

ADVERTISEMENTS are taken in at the *Printing-Office*, in *Caſtle-Green*; as alſo by Mr. WILSON, Bookſeller, in *Caſtle-ſtreet*; by [illegible], Bookſeller, in *Chriſtmas-ſtreet*; and by the Men who carry this JOURNAL.

SATURDAY *December* 17, 1748. [No. 1632]

FELIX FARLEY's
BRISTOL JOURNAL,
Publiſh'd at the PRINTING-OFFICE at *Shakeſpear's-Head* in *Small-Street*, [Removed from Caſtle-Green.]

From SATURDAY *November* 29, to SATURDAY *December* 6, 1755. [VOL. IV.]

Some Bristol newspaper titles 1715 to 1755

of *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*. The feud now continued as an all-female affair for Samuel had willed the *Bristol Journal* to his niece Sarah, daughter of Edward Farley of Exeter, on condition that she remained a Quaker. The family was now irreconcilably split along religious lines, the two ladies remaining staunch rivals until Sarah died over twenty years later.

Elizabeth was a formidable woman and only months after her husband's death was carrying out a major propaganda campaign against Jews in general and the proposed Bill to give a wealthy minority of them rights without having to take the Anglican Sacrament. In 1754 she referred to her Whig opponents as 'a Plague of Locusts ... devouring Insects who have their Origin in Filth and Ordure, and whose very Existence depends on corruption' and, not surprisingly, in 1757 this outspoken lady became the first Bristol journalist to be prosecuted for libel, following her spirited support of Jarrit Smith, the Tory Member for the city in the elections of March 1756. This case, the only action for libel brought against a Bristol newspaper proprietor during the eighteenth century, was heard in the city in August of that year and fortunately resulted in her being acquitted. From the retirement of Elizabeth Farley in 1767, until her death in 1779, Thomas Cocking had been responsible for the production of *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, and he continued as proprietor until March 1785 when, on account of ill health, he entered into partnership with one John Rudhall, who took over the paper following his death in July 1787.

Although since 1753 the number of provincial newspapers had been growing steadily, in 1757, following the outbreak of the Seven Years War, stamp tax was raised to two pence a sheet and advertisement tax increased to 2s. As a result, the Bristol printers announced in a joint statement that in future their papers would cost two pence halfpenny and that no advertisement would be inserted for less than 4s. In July 1776, the American War of Independence further increased stamp duty by a halfpenny, causing the price of newspapers to reach three pence, and when new advertisement duty of 2s. 6d. came into force in June 1780, the rate at which such insertions could be made rose to 5s. for twenty lines. Several new regulations also accompanied the increases of a halfpenny and six pence respectively in the stamp and advertising duties in 1789, while stamp tax rose to three pence halfpenny in 1797, at a time when Britain was making serious preparations for a French invasion.

January 1760 saw another new newspaper known as the *Bristol Chronicle* commence publication, probably to fill the gap left by the demise of the Whig *Intelligencer* and bring the number of newspapers in the city back to three. The *Bristol Chronicle* was launched by John

Grabbham who had been apprenticed to Felix Farley and afterwards worked for his widow. He was joined in the venture two months later by his brother-in-law William Pine and he appears to have become sole proprietor in January 1761. Just how long the paper remained in existence is not known, but in August 1767 Pine was producing another title, the *Bristol Gazette*, which was published on Thursdays, unlike the Farley newspapers which appeared on Saturdays. The *Gazette*, which was the organ of the old Corporation and the Whigs, was a great success and went on to retain an independent existence for over one hundred years.

The death of Sarah Farley in 1774 resulted in yet more religious squabbles within the family and their associates, for Sarah bequeathed the *Bristol Journal* to Hester Farley, daughter of Felix Farley whose widow Elizabeth was still running the rival *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*! Nevertheless, Hester's interest in the paper did not last long for in September 1775 she sold out to George and William Routh, printers, and Charles Nelson her brother-in-law. Nelson, however, withdrew from the partnership in 1777, at which time the newspaper was renamed *Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal*, but the two brothers remained in partnership until 1784 after which William, occasionally aided by others, continued producing the paper until the end of the century.

Sarah Farley's death also affected her employees for it appears that Samuel Bonner, a Quaker, who had been her foreman and Richard Middleton, her ex-clerk, refused to work with Hester their new Methodist proprietor. Consequently the men left and set up in business together culminating, in August 1774, with the launch of a fourth newspaper in the city, *Bonner and Middleton's Bristol Journal* which was published on Saturdays. Although the original partnership lasted only until September 29th 1783, when Middleton retired, the *Journal* survived to become one of Bristol's longer running newspapers, albeit under a number of alternative titles.

On October 27th 1777 there appeared in Bristol the first issue of *Bee and Sketchley's Weekly Advertiser*, in which it was stated: 'Notwithstanding there are already four respectable newspapers in this city, it is the opinion of many, that a magazine or repository for the reception of advertisements, essays etc. published on Monday is still wanted (there being five days space between the publication of the Saturday and Thursday newspapers)'. Extant copies exist until December 1777, but just how long after that the paper survived is unknown. A rival to *Bonner and Middleton's Bristol Journal* is also known to have been published on Thursdays from December 7th 1780 until at least April 1782 by Hill and Blagden, but exactly how long the *Constitutional Chronicle* continued to be printed remains a mystery.

FELIX FARLEY's
BRISTOL JOURNAL.

Published at the PRINTING-OFFICE at SHAKESPEAR's-HEAD in SMALL-STREET.

SATURDAY, *March* 19, 1757. [VOL. VI.]

To the AUTHOR, *&c.*

Servare damum! servare nepotem!

SIR,

IT is the happy Conſtitution of Britain, that nothing can paſs into a Law, or become an Act of the Legiſlature without the Concurrence of King, Lords, and Commons. If the King and Commons are impoſed upon, THEN is the Opportunity for the Lords to ſhine moſt nobly in their Legiſlative Capacity. If Wiſdom was ever more particularly the Genius of this Houſe, it was moſt eminent in the preſent Circumſtances. The King was ready to comply with the great Council of the Nation: The Commons, we are informed, had acquieſced with the Solliciations of the Court-Martial and Friends of *Mr. Byng*: The Lords did not want powerful Advocates to engage them paſs the Bill for enquiring into the pretended Scruples of the *Conſiſtory* of Mr. Van—— and ſome others of the Court-Martial, in Order, by protracting, to ſave a Life already condemned by the Law. But, as the Glory, Peace, and Strength of the Nation were depending upon the Iſſue of this ſeeming inſignificant Sacrifice to the Manes of Minorca, and Juſtice of Britain, neither the Sanction of the other Houſe, nor Family Connections, nor the merciful Diſpoſition of their Sovereign, could divert them from the chief Object of their Attention, as Council to the King and Guardians of their Country, ſo clearly diſcovered and diſcuſſed by that brighteſt Ornament of the Law, long entitled to the Dignity, tho' but lately adorned with a Coronet, and raiſed to the Office of Chief Juſtice.

INTO this Debate there entered not the leaſt Syllable of Party, no invidious Reflections, no perſonal Animoſity, no Aggravations of Guilt. The ſole Enquiry was, Whether they (the Members of the Court-Martial) knew any Matter that juſtify'd greater to the Sentence proounced upon Admiral *Byng*, which might ſhew that Sentence to have been unjuſt, or, that it was given through any unlaw Practice or Miſtake? Which, was unanimouſly anſwer'd in the Negative.—Whether they were of Opinion, that they had any Particulars to reveal, relative to the Cale of, and the Sentence paſs'd upon Admiral *Byng*, which they judged neceſſary for his Majeſty's Information, and they thought likely to incline his Majeſty to Mercy? To this, ſeven replied *No*; three knew nothing more, than the Sentence and the Letter which all the Members ſigned to the Admiralty; One ſaid, That at the Time he was deſirous the Act ſhould take Place, he underſtood that they (meaning the Court-Martial) ſhould have an Opportunity of delivering their particular Reaſons for ſigning the Sentence and Letter of Recommendation; another thought himſelf not at Liberty to anſwer it while under his Oath; and a third imagin'd he could not reſolve that Queſtion without particularizing his Vote and Opinion.—Whether they were deſirous that the Bill then under Conſideration of the Houſe, for diſpenſing with the Oath of Secrecy, ſhould paſs into a Law? Eight ſpoke point blank againſt it; Two, tho' they had no Deſire for its paſſing, yet they were not againſt it—*if it would afford Relief to the tender Conſciences of any of their crying Brethren*; however, One was particularly deſirous it ſhould paſs, that he might be abſolved from the Oath, having been under great Concern, when he had taken the Oath, ſilo' he did not mean upon this Tryal; One more anſwer'd Yes; and laſtly the Queſtion being put to the gallant Spokeſman, he boldly reply'd, *Yes, undoubtedly.*

BUT upon the whole, Their Lordſhips finding that there could be nothing advanced to countenance ſo extraordinary a Proceeding which was to ſet aſide not only the Sentence of a Court eſtabliſhed by Law, but the unanimous Opinion of the twelve Judges: And it appearing to the Diſpaſſionate, that an Act of ſuch a Kind would be arbitrary, create a new Form of Appeal unknown to the Laws of this Nation, and influne an univerſal Diſſatisfaction againſt his Majeſty and Government, in a Time, when *Union* is the chief Prop of our Liberty and Religion; they let not Party nor Private Solicitations determine their Judgment: But conſidering how far ſuch a Meaſure carried into Execution by the Legiſlature would affect the Conſtitution; how much it would clog the Wheels of Government; how it would looſe the Confidence of the People; how it would embolden factious Spirits to rebel; how it would deter the Friends of the Common-wealth from acting with the neceſſary Vigour againſt the Enemy; and how it would operate to the Prejudice of our King and Country; Juſtice was decreed to take Place, and Satisfaction is reſtored to thoſe, who with well to his Majeſty's Arms and Government.

I am, Your's, &c.

BRITANNICUS, Junr.

A VISION.

[BRITANNIA *ſpeaking to the Author, bids him be attentive, and communicate thoſe her Complaints and Admonitions to degenerated Children; and thus begins.*]

ALAS! how much degenerated; I that for ſeveri Centuries have boaſted of my Offspring, at Length ſee all my Glories buried in the Duſt, my Laurels blaſted, and my long-worn Garlands ſcattered to the Wind. My beſt loved DRAKE is now no more—RAWLEIGH ill-rewarded, ſubmitted to the Axe—ſtern BLAKE the Dread of all my Foes is gone—the gallant RUSSEL ſleeps—and Treachery ſo ſubdued my honeſt BENBOW—jealous of SHOVEL's Honours my Grand-ſire NEPTUNE plung'd him in the WAVES—Farewell my Sons, farewell ye Heroes, for ye are indeed no more.——O! could I put on Mortality that I likewiſe might be permitted in Ely-ſium, to ſhare the Company of my beſt lov'd Children: Why am I doom'd to ſee my Shame? Why muſt I ſurvive my Glory? I that held ſubjected ſo many Silter Iſlands, whoſe cheariful Sway far diſtant Empires own'd, in whoſe Preſence Potentates and Princes trembled: Do I find myſelf at laſt deſtitute of a Son to conduct my Thunder, and teach the hoſtile World to tremble at my Flag? Have thoſe Eyes ſeen, O Grief! to ſay, a BRITISH Admiral avoid the Foe and *meanly ſuffer French* Fleets to uſurp the Poſſeſſion of *my Garriſon and Iſlands*, and immenſe Treaſures lavifhly thrown away without ſtriking a ſingle Blow?——*O my Son, let not thy Soul come near unto thoſe Men who thus ſquander away* BRITANNIA's *Property; unto their aſſembly be not thine Honour united, for in their Folly they have well nigh ruined my Country!*

I HAVE ſeen my Elders who ſate at the Gate, my Counſellors and Judges, my Orators and Scribes, convent'd together to diſſolve the Laws of GOD, and forbid MY People to encreaſe and multiply.—Believe it After-ages if ye can; I ſaw the Miniſters of GOD, the Expounders of his Divine Law, aſſent to adopt a People who dare deny the DIVINITY of their great MAKER, and blaſpheme his *ſacred Name*, endeavouring to mingle the Scorn and Reproach of Nations with mine; and, thereby entailing upon my People, the dreadful Curſe denounced by GOD Himſelf from the Mouth of his Prophets, againſt that perverſe Generation: I then looked upon Deſtruction as unavoidable; and in ſilent Sorrow beat my Eyes towards the ſupreme Throne; JEHOVAH heard my Prayers, and their evil Imaginations were brought to nought.

BE attentive my Son, for after Evil cometh Good, and after Sorrow, Gladneſs; the ALMIGHTY hath once more look'd on his BRITANNIA, and lent an Ear to my Prayer. But-now, I heard a Voice ſay,—" Britannia, Britannia! " ariſe, take up thy Shield, and graſp thy Spear; thy evil " Counſellors, thy corrupt Lawyers, thy depraved Orators, " and thy weak Scribes, are diveſted of their Power: Thy " GEORGE ſhall live to triumph over his Enemies, and his " grey Hairs be crowned with Glory.—My favourite PRINCE " ſhall ſoon enjoy the Reward of his Toils, and reap the " Fruit of his Labours. By Thouſands and by Ten Thou- " ſands, I will pour my armed Bands around his ſacred " Throne, and Britannia's Iſles ſhall alone be found worthy " to defend Britannia's King. The heroic Spirit of thoſe re- " nowned Men, who in the Fields of Creſſy and of Agincourt, " ſtook all France, ſhall glow with its antient Ardour in the " Boſoms of their Offspring: The Lilly of *Navarre* ſhall fade, " and the proud crefted Cock elated with Succeſs no longer " clap his Wings."——Fly HAWKE, *fly* BOSCAWEN, *fly* my Sons, retrieve your Country's Honour, and reſtore her Credit.—But thou, O! *Son of Ignominy*, to whom I owe my fullied Glory, go meet the juſt Reward of Cowardice, inexorable *Redmanthus* waits to pronounce my irrevocable Doom, Blithe and Eſtrade, fit Mates for ſuch a Wretch, impatiently expect thee:—And ye Abettors of Guilt, the Sword of Vengeance is already drawn—behold, impartial JUSTICE ſhakes it over your impious Heads, the Meaſure of your Crimes is filled up, Sentence is paſſed, ye ſhall offend no more.—

IN Confirmation of what was ſaid, the now ſtruck the Ground with her Spear; the Hills trembled, the Earth ſhook, and vaſt Ocean ſeem'd to feel the ſudden Shock: The grateful Viſion inſtantly diſſolved, and our Author awaking, found himſelf ſtretched out in an eaſy Chair, cover'd with a damp Sweat, and incapable for a conſiderable Time of recovering from the Reverie he was caſt into, upon recollecting the Circumſtances of ſo intereſting a Scene.

March 16.

SUNDAY *and* MONDAY's POSTS.

Arriv'd a Mail from Flanders *and* Holland.

Hotand.

DANTZICK, *February* 24.

THE King of Poland and the Empreſs of Ruſſia have exhorted our Regency to put this City in a Poſture of Defence;—and the King of Pruſſia on the other Hand has recommended to them to keep a ſtrict Neutrality, and not to ſend any Aſſiſtance to his Enemies, his Majeſty being determined to purſue them wherever he can find them. The Report of three Villages in the Pruſſian Territories being burnt by a Party of Ruſſians, ſeem at leaſt to have been premature, as the laſt Letters from Konigberg make no Mention of any ſuch Thing.——His Pruſſian Majeſty has reſolved to aſſemble, in the Beginning of next Month, ſeveral Bodies of Cavalry, in Order to teach them ſome new Exerciſes and Evolutions, which they are to practiſe when they come to an Engagement with the Auſtrian Hards.

DANTZICK, *February* 17. We are here in a conſtant Expectation of hearing of a Battle between the Ruſſian and Pruſſian Armies in Courland. By the laſt Advices, upwards of 25,000 of the former had already paſſed the Dwina, and the ſame Number were aſſembled in Livonia, an d onthe March into Courland. At the ſame Time we are at Enchbe Pruſſians, to the Number of 34,000 Men, are actually encamped not far from Memel, and have large Train of Artillery, which the Ruſſians have not, their whole Train conſiſting of a very few Field-Pieces, the Cannon from Peterſbourg not being yet arrived; inſomuch that it is thought the Pruſſians will attack them to great Advantage, Field-Marſhal Lehwald bowing, as it is conſidently aſſerted, poſitive Orders to march into Courland, and attack the Ruſſians, on the firſt Advice of their paſſing the Dwina.——The advanced Guards of both Parties are already within a few Miles of each other.

MARSEILLES, *Feb.* 21. The Valiant Privateer of 14 Guns, commanded by Capt. Honore Lartigue, has had an Engagement of above four Hours, in the Mediterranean, with two Engliſh Merchantmen, one of 14 and the other of 10 Guns; and took the latter, which he has brought into this Port; her Cargo conſiſts of Lead and 1250 Barrels of Herrings.

LONDON, *March* 12.

Miſcellaneous Occurrences.

POLITICAL.—Yeſterday the Lord Preſident of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal, and ſeveral other Lords, aſſiſted by Virtue of his Majeſty's Commiſſion, gave the Royal Aſſent to the following Bills.—An Act to prohibit, for a limited Time the Making of Low Wines, and Spirits, from Wheat, Barley, Malt, or any other Sort of Grain, or from any Meal or Flour.—An Act for the Regulation of his Majeſty's Marine Forces while on Shore.—And to two Road and two Private Bills.

The following Scheme was Yeſterday laid before the Hon. Houſe of Commons for raiſing 2,500,000l. for the Service of the current Year:

For 66 Years	4	per Cent.
54	4	4
46	4	4
41	4	4
36	5	

And the following is another Scheme for Annuities to ſurvivorſhip:

20 Years or under	4	per Cent. for 60 Years.
20 to 30	4½	50
30 to 40	4½	42½
40 to 50	4½	38½
50 and upwards	5	35

The Publick are to have the Option of ſubſcribing to which Scheme they like beſt. The whole Sum to be raiſed is 7,500,000l.—Aſſignable Exchequer Orders and Tallies will be granted for the Sum which ſhall be ſubſcribed to the firſt of the above Schemes, for the raiſing the Supplies for the Service of the current Year: The other will be in Exchequer Orders and Tallies for Life-Annuities, with Benefit of Survivorſhip in the reſpective Claſſes during the reſpective Terms; Intereſt to commence the 5th of July, and to nominate the Lives at Chriſtmas. Perſons may ſubſcribe 'till the 14th of April, and have till Chriſtmas to chuſe which Scheme they will take.—*It were to be wiſhed that the Guinea Lottery was laſt free and unlimited for any Perſon to ſubſcribe for any Number under twenty, and that Books were opened in every Town in England where the Receipt is taken, for that Purpoſe: it would then remove all Objections to which it at preſent is liable, and in all Probability it would ſoon be full.*

We hear there will be an additional Duty on Stamps and Wine Licences, &c. and 'tis ſaid the Duty on Plate will be taken off.

It is expected that the Parliament will not riſe ſo ſoon as the latter End of May.

It is certain that the King of Denmark has acceded to the Proteſtant Alliance, and will furniſh an Army of 25,000 Men.

The Elector of Bavaria has given Orders, not only for recruiting his Troops, but alſo for an Augmentation of 14 Men in each Company of Foot, to the End that he may be in a Condition to furniſh his Contingent of Troops to the Empire.

We are aſſured from the North, that Col. Montgomery's Battalion of Highlanders, conſiſting of 1000 Men, are completely levied.

The front page of 'Felix Farley's Bristol Journal' of March 19th 1757, probably the best known of Bristol's early newspapers

Much longer lasting, however, was the third time resurrected *Bristol Mercury*, which commenced publication on March 1st 1790, this time successfully accommodating the 'Monday Slot' in competition with the four well established titles. The proprietors were William Bulgin, son of a Melksham clothier, who had served his apprenticeship with Thomas Mills, a Wine Street bookseller, stationer and bookbinder, and Robert Rosser, a printer and bookseller who had his business in Broad Street. The venture, they stated, was begun as 'There is no other paper, or vehicle of information and advertisement, printed here on Monday: no London paper arrives, or is circulated here on that day; but a number of country papers, which have scarcely any reference to the concerns of this city'.

Although from about 1715 provincial papers had incorporated illustrations in their titles, and the *Northampton Mercury* had published crude political cartoons in 1720, the wooden blocks used only had a short life and inserting them into the frame along with the text slowed production down when time was already too short for reliability. As the readership reacted with only mild interest, illustrations, except for small logos in titles and certain advertisements, quickly faded from the pages of local journals and did not return until the arrival of improved technology in the next century. By contrast, advertisements, in spite of the heavy taxation imposed upon them, had become an important source of revenue for the newspapers and by the end of the eighteenth century they were appearing in relatively large numbers in most journals, the front pages of which were reserved exclusively for commercial and retail announcements.

1800 to 1857

Even though Britain had been the first country to abolish the licensing of newspapers, during the first half of the nineteenth century they still laboured under a series of frustrating restrictions which rendered them, though legal, inaccessible to all but the well-to-do and made every proprietor live in constant fear of the consequence of a libel action. 'The newspapers of Great Britain may be reckoned among its noblest spectacles,' modestly observed *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* of September 9th 1815, when commenting upon the Budget of that year which increased the stamp duty on newspapers from three pence halfpenny to four pence per sheet. Although a discount of twenty per cent was given, the concession was counterbalanced by the imposition of three pence per pound duty on printing paper, which was charged in addition to the stamp. As a result proprietors were forced to raise the price of their papers to seven pence per copy, and it was suspected that the tax was imposed not so much for the sake of the revenue, which was

only slightly increased, but to check the circulation of political ideas amongst the people. Simultaneously, the duty on advertisements went up to the exorbitant sum of 3s. 6d. per announcement. Shortly after, in 1819, England was also subjected to the repression of the Six Acts, again designed to suppress radical movements, included in which were further measures designed to curb the press. In the new legislation, the term 'newspaper' was re-defined and a tax of four pence was imposed on all publications sold at less than six pence, while to guard against the results of prosecution for criminal libel it was also made obligatory for newspaper publishers to lodge a cash deposit.

The campaign to abolish these newspaper taxes went on to be one of the great issues on which Victorian society divided, for to remove them would place the press in the hands of the uneducated classes, while retaining the taxes would prevent the newspaper from acting according to the *laissez-faire* precepts of the time. Nevertheless, a first step towards a completely free press was taken in 1833 when advertising duty was lowered to 1s. 6d. per insertion, while in 1836 stamp duty was reduced from four pence to one penny, bringing the price of a paper down to 5d. a copy. Finally, by the mid-nineteenth century, when the press was no longer being regarded as a menace to the state, the way was opened for cheap mass circulation newspapers with the final removal of Advertisement Tax in August 1853 and the repeal of the Stamp Act in July 1855.

Not surprisingly, the local press made relatively slow progress during the first half of the century, but following the removal of the repressive taxation the newspaper industry all over Britain underwent momentous changes which completely altered the character of the product. One of the most important involved the network of electric telegraph lines which were then being constructed alongside the newly built railways, and the first paper to take advantage of the new technology was *The Times* in London which, in early August 1844, carried the story of the birth of Queen Victoria's son at Windsor based on telegraphed information. Bristol, however, had to wait until the following year until the telegraph line from the capital was eventually completed and the city's journals were able to benefit from instantaneous communication, their first telegraphed reports, those of Parliamentary proceedings, appearing on April 30th 1852.

Up until the time of the Napoleonic Wars, production methods had changed little since the dawn of printing, the presses used consisting basically of an oaken screw with a horizontal iron platen attached to its lower end which rose and descended between two braced vertical posts, the page of pre-inked type being laid on a movable flat bed which slid under the platen. These machines were capable of producing about 150


THE
BRISTOL JOURNAL.
Printed by SARAH FARLEY, in CASTLE-GREEN; where *Advertisements* are taken in.
SATURDAY, *September* 24. 1774. [No. 3049]

BONNER and *MIDDLETON's*
BRISTOL JOURNAL,
Published at their Printing Office in CASTLE-STREET; where ADVERTISEMENTS are taken in:
VOL. I. SATURDAY, October 1, 1774. No. 8.

The Mirror,
Late Bonner and Middleton's
BRISTOL JOURNAL.
SATURDAY, [No. 1361.]—Price 6d.

The Bristol Mirror,
LATE BONNER AND MIDDLETON'S JOURNAL.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1811

BRISTOL TIMES,
AND BATH ADVOCATE.
SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 2 1839.

FELIX FARLEY'S
Bristol Journal

Bristol Times,
AND FELIX FARLEY'S BRISTOL JOURNAL.
VOL. XV.—No. 736. SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1859. PRICE

Daily Bristol Times and Mirror.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1868. ONE PENNY

Some Bristol newspaper titles 1774 to 1866

sheets per hour and although some improvement in efficiency came with the introduction of Lord Stanhope's cast iron press during the eighteenth century, it was not until 1812 when Friedrich Koenig invented a press which dispensed with the platen, using instead cylinders to pick up the paper and ink, that the techniques of printing were transformed. As a result, in August 1814 *The Times* became the first newspaper to be produced on a Koenig press, to which a steam engine had also been added, and by 1820 these machines were turning out 1000 copies an hour. Further improvements and more cylinders were added to rotary presses during the next forty years opening the way for the introduction of mass production in the newspaper industry during the 1860s, while as the century progressed proprietors throughout the country gradually gave up the day to day journalistic work on their papers, choosing instead to appoint professional editors to undertake such tasks.

The advances in printing technology also made possible the regular use of engraved pictures in newspapers culminating in May 1842 with the launching the *Illustrated London News*. Along with the improvements to the machinery being employed for newspaper production, similar advances in paper technology also took place, beginning at the start of the nineteenth century when chlorine was introduced as a bleaching agent, enabling coloured rags to be used in the manufacture of paper. Another step forward took place in 1820 with the arrival of an improved paper-making process developed by Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier, after which newsprint dropped in price by a quarter.

With the exception of *Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal*, the principal Bristol newspapers which had established their positions during the eighteenth century continued to flourish throughout the first half of the nineteenth, during which time Bristol and the surrounding districts were provided with four weekly papers, *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, the *Gazette*, the *Mirror* and the *Mercury*, to which must be added the *Bristol Times* launched in 1839, a publication which later absorbed the *Journal*. A large number of less successful newspapers also appeared, some for very brief periods, and of these Philip Rose's *Bristol Liberal* and Joseph Emery's *Bristol Times & General Advertiser,* which were both issued during the years 1831 and 1832, were probably published to profit from the public's interest in the Reform Bill.

In June 1800, following the death of William Routh proprietor of *Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal*, Catherine, his widow, succeeded him, but the paper which, during the late eighteenth century had probably been second in popularity only to *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, was in a downward spiral and in January 1806 she advertised it for sale before retiring to Tenby. Its new owner was John Agg, probably the son of the

postmaster of Evesham who, in early 1806, transformed it into the *Mercantile Gazette and General Intelligencer with Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal*. However, other changes followed in quick succession and in June 1807 it was announced that editing and printing would henceforth be undertaken by Edward Bryan and Joseph Wade, allowing Agg to launch the *Western Star & British Commercial Chronicle* in partnership with G. Saunders at 43 Broadmead in the autumn of 1807. Unfortunately, this seems to have been a short-lived venture, with the two papers probably merging to become the *Western Star and Mercantile Gazette*, a publication which struggled on at least until 1808, or even into 1809 when Agg was finally declared bankrupt.

Bonner & Middleton's Bristol Journal continued to be produced by Samuel Bonner until April 1802 when he followed his partner into retirement, the old journalist, 'universally respected for mildness of manners and strict integrity' finally passing away in September 1813, aged 80. Bonner had, in fact, been part of a large family, two of whom, Harry and John, also tried their hands at the newspaper business when, about 1803, they made an unsuccessful attempt to establish the *Bristol Chronicle and Commercial Advertiser*.

Samuel Bonner's business was taken over by John Fenley, a bookseller and binder of Broadmead in partnership with one William Baylis, but after little more than a year the latter had been replaced by William Sheppard, a local bookseller and stationer who had, until August 1799, been in partnership with William Bulgin, one of the two proprietors of the *Bristol Mercury*. As a result of these changes, on January 7th 1804, *Bonner & Middleton's Bristol Journal* became *Fenley & Sheppard's Bristol Journal*, only to be re-titled *The Mirror, late Bonner & Middleton's Bristol Journal* on April 14th 1804. Shortly after, John Fenley severed his connections with the paper leaving Sheppard to carry on alone and forcing him to have the paper produced by several local printers before, in December 1808, it was taken over by Andrew Brown, son of Major A. Brown of Philadelphia who, on January 19th 1811, changed the title to *The Bristol Mirror*, under which name it continued to appear for the rest of its existence. Brown finally retired to London in 1826 after which John Taylor, who had been one of the proprietors of the *Mirror* since 1809, took over as editor, a post he was to hold until 1859. Taylor, who came from a Congresbury family, soon became one of the foremost journalists in Bristol and had, by 1840, changed the *Mirror* from a Liberal to a Conservative newspaper.

Following the death of the founder of the *Bristol Gazette* in February 1803, his son William Pine junior inherited a reasonably prosperous paper and in 1807 he took on as a partner John Mills, son of Thomas

Mills, for many years a bookseller in Wine Street, and a man who had learnt his trade in a 'eminent printing office in London'. As Pine soon after retired to the capital, by late July 1809 responsibility for the production of the paper had passed entirely to Mills who was later to figure prominently as a leader of public opinion in Bristol, serving as Liberal member for the St James Ward from 1837 until his death in 1849. About 1832 Mills was joined by his eldest son Thomas, who in 1840 assumed control of the *Gazette* in partnership with the other surviving brother Henry James Mills. Misfortune, however, went on to afflict the family, the brothers' partnership ending in June 1849 when Thomas Mills died from consumption, leaving Henry in sole charge at the *Gazette*.

Over at the rival *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* John Rudhall continued on alone until October 1805, when his failing health forced him to take John Mathew Gutch into partnership, finally allowing him to retire to London in December 1806. Gutch, the new proprietor, had been born in 1776, the eldest son of John Gutch, the Oxford antiquary, and, following education at Christ's Hospital, had in 1800 left London for Birmingham where he formed a partnership with a coachmaker named Wheeley, marrying his daughter Mary in 1807. It was this business association which, on November 18th 1813, caused John Mills of the *Bristol Gazette* to style him 'the infallible harness cutter from Birmingham'. The simmering quarrel continued for a number of years and in July 1818 Gutch wrote that certain remarks published by Mills in his paper 'exceeded all those bare-faced perversions of truth to which he had previously become accustomed'. This resulted in John Mills taking action for libel but the case, which was heard in February 1819, ended with acquittal for Gutch who went on to become a local journalist of outstanding merit and whose pre-eminence among the provincial editors of his day was shown by his work towards the formation of the Provincial Newspaper Society in 1836. Sadly, Gutch's wife died in March 1822 but, after a suitable period of mourning, between October 10th 1822 and April 19th 1823 he published in the *Journal* his famous series of letters signed 'Cosmo' which dealt with every aspect of the management of the Port of Bristol. This campaign completed, on August 12th 1823 he married Mary, daughter of J.P. Lavender, a Worcester banker, after which he joined his father-in-law's firm, but still found time to travel to Bristol each week to supervise the production of the paper. Nevertheless, assistance was required and Gutch was eventually joined by James Martin who went on to take over the bulk of the editorial work.

Until the mid-1830s *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* had remained fairly prosperous but, in 1837, whilst commenting upon a case of perjury connected with the Hon. Francis Berkeley, the local Liberal MP, Gutch,

who had for some time been noted for his robust personal attacks, wrote that three of the Bristol Charity Trustees had been involved in offering bribes to secure votes for Berkeley. Unfortunately, the accused men responded by instituting actions for libel, and the trials, which took place in July 1839, resulted in the defendant having to pay damages totalling £725 plus heavy costs. The oldest of the Bristol newspapers, and once the most powerful, never recovered from the blow and in October 1844 Gutch retired to Worcester, where he died in 1861.

Although the paper lingered on for a number of years with James Martin in sole charge, its place was being taken by more ably conducted Conservative organs, the *Bristol Mirror* and newly established *Bristol Times*, which had only been launched in 1839. Consequently, by early 1851 Martin was experiencing serious financial difficulties and finally relinquished the post of editor in April 1852 when we have the first mention of Charles Watling Wisbey as co-partner. This allowed James Martin to emigrate to Sydney, Australia, where he took up a government printing post, remaining in the antipodes until his death in 1862. However, by this time *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* was in fact in terminal decline, its last edition appearing on March 26th 1853 when the copyright of the fine old Tory paper was sold to Joseph Leech, proprietor of the *Bristol Times*.

The Whig *Bristol Mercury* continued to be published by Bulgin and Rosser until September 1800, when the latter seems to have ended his connection with the paper, dying shortly after in July 1802. It is impossible to determine exactly how long Bulgin soldiered on alone, but in October 1805 the printing was transferred to James Kemp of 12 College Street, although Bulgin retained active business interests right up until his death in September 1831. Nevertheless, on August 29th 1808 the copyright of the *Bristol Mercury* was purchased by John Evans, who is probably best remembered for his 'Chronicle Outline of the History of Bristol' published in 1824. Around 1811 he was joined by John Grabham, son of the ex-proprietor of the *Bristol Chronicle,* but the partnership was brief, ending in March 1814, after which Grabham ran the paper alone until September 1818 when he moved to London, in which city he died of apoplexy in May 1824. Following Grabham's departure the *Bristol Mercury* passed into the hands of William Pine of the *Gazette,* but by 1820 he had sold the paper for £600 to a consortium of fourteen individuals, including Thomas John Manchee, who became sole proprietor in October 1823. Unfortunately his ability as a journalist was somewhat limited and after admitting in March 1828 that he was competing unsuccessfully for advertising, his relationship with the paper ended in September 1829. Nevertheless, Manchee went

on to have a successful career with the Bristol Charity Trustees, which he joined in 1836.

His place at the *Mercury* was taken by William Henry Somerton who, in contrast to some of his contemporaries, was first and foremost a working journalist. The new proprietor came from a long established newspaper family, his father Joseph having worked for 40 years on *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, while his grandfather had spent some 55 years in the trade! Somerton had actually begun work as a printer in 1821 and shortly before he took over at the *Mercury* had even attempted to establish a new paper called the *Bristol Herald & West of England Gazette*, which survived for only a few weeks during June and July 1829. At the *Mercury* Somerton's reputation as a courageous reporter was established following his work in connection with the Bristol Riots of 1831, while after a switch to Saturday publication on April 7th 1832, he succeeded in doubling the paper's circulation. Around 1840 Somerton, whilst still retaining control of the *Mercury*, transferred the editorial work to William Cox, and although the latter died suddenly in August 1847, aged only 42, by that time Somerton was almost certainly receiving help from his two sons Charles and George.

On Thursday August 7th 1817 there appeared the first edition of a new newspaper, the *Bristol Observer & Gloucester, Monmouth, Somerset and Wiltshire Courier* printed by John Sharp. Unfortunately this gentleman died suddenly in August 1819 after which the title was continued by Henry Savery who renamed it the *Bristol Observer & Gloucester, Somerset, Wiltshire, Monmouth, Brecon and Glamorgan Courier* on September 9th 1819. In February 1822 Savery retired and Henry Augustus Laurinson, an experienced printer who worked for the paper throughout its life, temporarily took charge before, in August 1822, he was succeeded by John Evans, who some years before had been proprietor of the *Bristol Mercury*. However, although Evans was to preside over the demise of the *Bristol Chronicle*, the last issue of which appeared on October 1st 1823, he was not tempted to offer it for sale for fear 'that it might sink in to the slumbering dullness of a loosely completed provincial paper'.

A little over three years later, on May 28th 1827, there appeared the first number of a daily journal styled *The Bristolian: Daily Local Publication*, published at Broad Street, price three-halfpence, by one James Acland, the son of an army contractor whose business had been ruined by Napoleon's return from Elba. Born in 1799, the young Acland, who had been educated at Camberwell, left home at the age of sixteen following a family quarrel and whilst still in the capital became associated with the newspaper business, first as a reporter, then as a sub-

editor. However, his name soon became notorious in every one of London's newspaper offices, forcing him to move away, arriving in Bristol in 1827 to lecture on mnemonics. Here he soon acquired an extensive knowledge of the moods and grievances of Bristolians and the conduct of the Corporation, against whom he went on to wage a long campaign.

Acland's paper was almost exclusively made up of local news, and the proprietor fearlessly took up the role of champion of the liberties of the press with the publication failing to carry the legally required stamp. Instead, he coolly alleged that it was in fact a pamphlet, and for a few days the Stamp Office authorities were content to receive the pamphlet duty of three shillings on each publication. However, on June 5th they decided that *The Bristolian* was a newspaper, with the result that the following morning Acland brought out a new journal titled *The Bristolian: Daily Literary Publication*, in which all the local news was omitted. Though in this form it escaped the duty on newspapers, it ceased to be attractive to local readers, so on June 18th he announced that it was to close, promising instead to produce a pamphlet every Wednesday and Saturday.

This he did, and in that form it attained a large circulation, especially as for the first time in a Bristol newspaper the business of the police court was reported, not only at length, but often in a manner far from complimentary to the dispensers of justice. Consequently, the authorities gave orders to exclude Acland from the proceedings and a sergeant was placed at the door of the court to prevent the admittance of anyone not directly concerned with the day's business. He also accused the entire Corporation of being unjust, tyrannical and corrupt and these charges provoked the Court of Aldermen to institute a criminal prosecution against Acland, who was tried before Mr. Justice Park at the assizes in August 1828 and subsequently sentenced to two months imprisonment at Gloucester gaol.

He restarted *The Bristolian* on November 15th 1828 and the following year petitioned the Common Council to be admitted a free burgess but, as his appeal was rejected, he took revenge by renewing his attacks on prominent members of the Corporation in *The Bristolian*, which was reduced in size and once again described as a pamphlet in an attempt to evade stamp duty. In 1830 he stood for Parliament, but only managed to secure about twenty five votes; nevertheless, his paper continued to be published twice a week at 4 All Saints Street until May 25th 1831. Then, after being threatened with another prosecution by the aldermen of Bristol, Acland moved to Hull in the summer of 1831, where he set up a similar style paper. As a postscript, early in 1872, after many of the

changes for which Ackland had fought had been accomplished, he returned to Bristol and on February 23rd published the first number of a new *Bristolian or Memoirs & Correspondence of James Acland* which was issued weekly at 1 St Nicholas Parade, until May 11th 1872, after which this remarkable character disappears from the pages of history.

In 1838, whilst waiting in Bristol for a ship to carry him back to Ireland after a holiday in London, Joseph Leech amused himself by making a study of the local press, rapidly coming to the conclusion that there was ample scope for a fresh approach to journalism in the city. Born in 1815, at Ennis, County Clare, son of the proprietor of a substantial hardware business, Joseph first attended Ennis College and afterwards went to live with his sister at Maryborough, Queen's County, where he gained some journalistic experience by working on his brother-in-law's newspaper. Following a visit to his father John, who financed him to the tune of £500, Joseph Leech, a staunch Conservative, returned to Bristol and on Saturday March 2nd 1839 launched the *Bristol Times & Bath Advocate*, produced at his lodgings at 124 Redcliffe Street. Luck was with him and immediately he began to profit from the decline of his rivals moving, in December of that year, to 33 Broad Street, a more central location next door to the rival *Mercury* before finally transferring his business to Small Street in 1849.

During Leech's early days at the newspaper, personalities were freely attacked, landing him, on one occasion, in serious trouble which could have easily cost him his life! The problem started in December 1845 when he wrote in the *Bristol Times* that a situation at the Custom House had been conferred upon an Irishman, and that 'this was the second or third instance in which, probably through the remissness of those who were expected to look after such matters, the patronage of the Government offices had been snatched by other localities'. This piece brought him in conflict with Charles Blisset at a meeting of the True Blue Club, whereupon Henry Shute, on Leech's behalf, requested Blisset to appoint a second, with a view to a duel, but sensibly the latter declined! Joseph Leech was also joint proprietor of the *Bath Chronicle* for sixteen years, his partner Charles Thring Bleeck becoming his brother-in-law following marriage to Leech's sister Adelaide. Although he seemed to care little for accuracy, the main gist being considered sufficient, his spelling, proof reading, standardisation of punctuation and spelling leaving much to be desired and being involved in libel actions several times, Leech became a very successful journalist and in March 1853 was able to purchase the floundering *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal,* the new joint title *Bristol Times & Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* making its first appearance on April 2nd 1853.

1858 to 1918

The provincial press experienced unparalleled growth in the mid-nineteenth century following the removal of the straight-jacket of taxation. In 1821 there were just 267 newspaper titles in the whole of Britain and numbers only rose slowly until the abolition of taxes in the 1850s, after which they mushroomed, so that in 1861 some 1102 titles existed. Numerous specialist papers also went on to be founded, catering for such interests as religion, temperance, humour, fashion and sport.

The expansion of the newspaper industry was helped considerably by William Bullock who, in 1863, perfected a method by which instead of using single stamped sheets the paper was fed into the presses continuously from rolls 3½ miles in length. Prototype machines were introduced at *The Times* in 1866 where, known as Walter presses after John Walter II publisher of the newspaper, they printed on a continuous web of paper fed from the roll at a rate of 25,000 impressions an hour, an economy of scale which was to play an important part in bringing the price of newspapers all over the country down to a penny. The presses also employed metal plate impressions of the type, rather than the type itself which was prone to wear, and the use of these so called 'stereotypes' removed the necessity to set a paper in type more than once. Finally, in 1889, a press was demonstrated which turned the roll of paper back on its path, enabling successive sheets to be printed on both sides, before being cut and folded into piles of completed papers.

Type-setting was also greatly improved during the nineteenth century culminating in the appearance in 1892 of the 'Linotype' machine which used a keyboard to set not type, but reusable matrices of letters which formed the mould of a line, molten metal then being used to set the line of type. In 1872, the goal of placing photographic images easily into newspapers came a step nearer with the invention of zincography, which by combining photography with etching allowed the resulting picture to be sized up or down as required, and although limited to a uniform black on white, this technique enabled *The Times* to introduce zincographed weather maps in 1877. Further progress was made in March 1889, when the *Illustrated London New* started using photographs on its pages, while in November 1891 by the *Daily Graphic* introduced a system of producing the now familiar half tones directly from a photographic plate. Rotogravure illustrations etched on the printing cylinder followed in 1895 so that by the end of the century photography had become an important new subdivision of the journalistic profession.

However, with the rapid expansion of the press came newsprint shortages resulting in cotton being added to cheaper paper, but even this was not a permanent solution as the American Civil War cut off supplies

of the material during a particularly severe shortage of rags, prompting Britain in 1861 to abolish the penny halfpenny per pound paper duty. It also forced Europeans to adopt a new method of producing newsprint in which first esparto grass, and then wood pulp, were used to replace rags as the raw material. All of these improvements in the production equipment and the paper it used ensured that by the 1870s the halfpenny newspaper had arrived.

Meanwhile, the telegraph had brought to an end the London papers' monopoly of national, and especially parliamentary, news, and in 1868 the Press Association was founded by provincial proprietors to furnish them with the same news as was available to their London rivals, while compiling a weekly paper was rendered both simple and cheap by the wire services provided by such organisations as the Press Association, Central Press and Reuter's news agency. However, the introduction of special newspaper trains in 1876 meant that the London papers could then circulate throughout the country competing with the major provincial papers in their own home territory.

Back in early 1858, at what turned out to be a very important year in the history of the development of the press in the city, some six weekly journals were being published in Bristol, three of which supported the Liberal Party, two the Conservatives and one which considered itself independent. Four of these, *The Bristol Times & Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* and the *Bristol Mirror*, both of which were Conservative, together with the Liberal *Bristol Mercury* and John Burbidge's *Bristol Advertiser*, which had only been launched on July 14th 1855, appeared on Saturdays, while the other two journals, the *Bristol Gazette*, which also supported the Liberal Party, and the 'neutral' *Clifton Chronicle*, came out on Wednesdays.

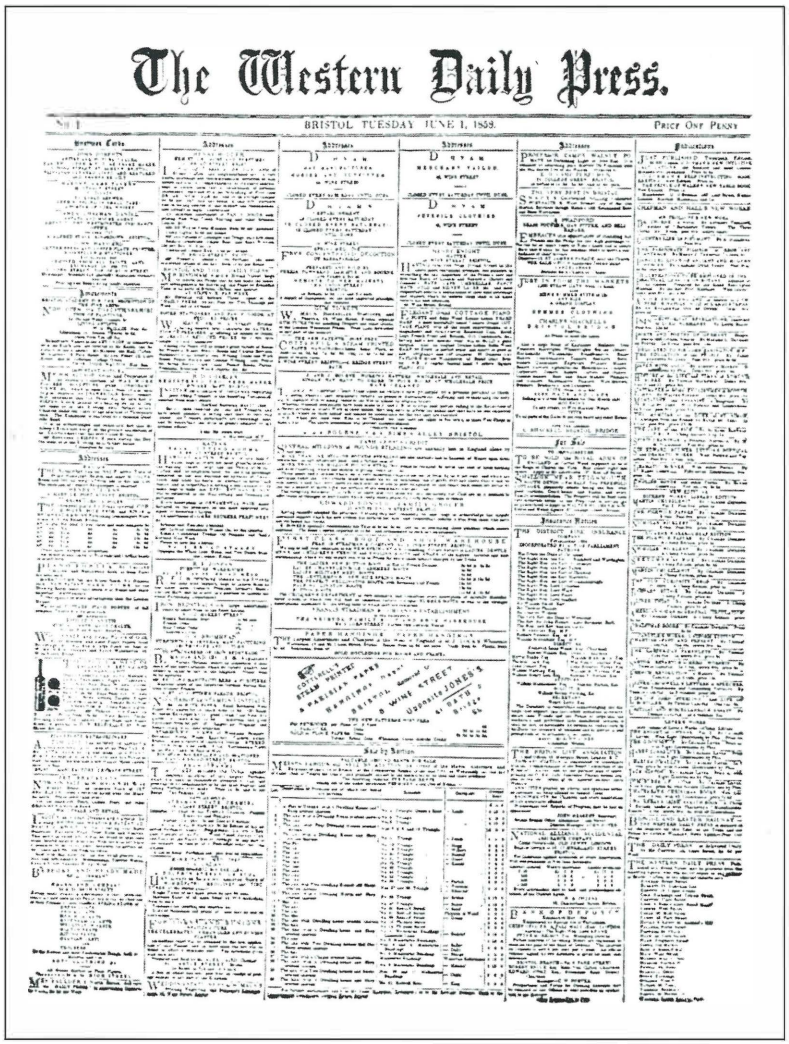
The vast improvements in reporting and production methods in the middle of the nineteenth century meant that henceforth relatively large sums of money would be needed to launch a new title, so the idea that a daily paper could be produced in Bristol was still regarded by many local people as impractical and there is no evidence that the proprietors of the existing weeklies had even given the matter a thought. Nevertheless, as a well run provincial paper selling a thousand a day could make its owner as much as £3000 a year in profit, men with ability, enterprise and the necessary capital were actively looking round the country for centres which could support a daily newspaper, and it was the keen business instinct of one of these, Peter Stewart Macliver, a Scotsman, at that time living in Newcastle, which led him to Bristol. Here, with the help of Newcastle journalist Walter Reid, and at a time when there were only half a dozen daily journals in the whole of

provincial England, he founded the *Western Daily Press*, the first proper daily paper to be published in the West of England.

Supporting the Liberal cause, it was launched on the morning of June 1st 1858, price one penny, carrying an amount of local news and advertisements previously unthinkable. However, by the 1870s a group of evening papers had also begun circulating in London, their editorial policies targeting the great mass of the emerging generation which had great curiosity but little education. This practice soon spread out to the provinces and Bristolians' introduction to such newspapers came on May 29th 1877 when Peter Macliver launched the *Bristol Evening News*, at the price of just one halfpenny. This lead was somewhat belatedly followed on October 26th 1901 by the *Bristol Echo*, issued from the *Mercury* office, and still later by the *Bristol Evening Times*, first published on October 3rd 1904 by the proprietors of the *Bristol Times & Mirror*.

Peter Macliver, who also went on to become an M.P., subsequently took his son Colonel David Macliver, an Advanced Liberal, into partnership and in 1885 the paper moved from 1 Broad Street to larger premises at 27-31 Baldwin Street. However, following David's unexpected death in January 1888, at the age of only 45, and that of his father in 1891, Walter Reid became sole proprietor of the *Western Daily Press*. He in turn took his son William Nichol Reid as a partner, but the young man also died prematurely in July 1915, following a three month long illness, after which Walter Reid & Son, a private company, was formed to run the firm's three existing titles, the *Western Daily Press*, *The Bristol Evening News* and the *Bristol Observer*, an arrangement which continued for the rest of the group's independent existence.

Elsewhere in Bristol, in 1858, William Somerton appointed John Latimer editor of the *Bristol Mercury*, a position he was to hold until 1883. Born in Newcastle in 1824, he nevertheless went on to become a Bristolian in the noblest sense of the word, living in the city for over forty tears, and is perhaps best known today for his five volumes of the 'Annals of Bristol' which appeared between 1887 and his death in January 1904. Latimer's arrival opened the way for Somerton to withdraw from the day to day running of the *Mercury* and in April 1859 he retired, finally passing away at Bayswater in September 1870, his proprietorship being taken over by his two sons. Charles, the eldest by about eight years, was a firm Liberal who, after an initial education at Bristol's Bishop's College, went on to study at University College, London, where he took his B.A. in 1845. He went on to concentrate on the literary management of the *Mercury*, while George devoted himself to the financial part of the business.


The Western Daily Press.

No. 1 BRISTOL TUESDAY JUNE 1, 1858. PRICE ONE PENNY

The front page of the 'Western Daily Press' no. 1 - June 1st 1858 - which, in common with most other newspapers of the time, was completely covered with small advertisements

The arrival of the *Western Daily Press*, with its new and cheaper system of production, forced Bristol's existing titles to either compete or face probable closure. Consequently, on January 24th 1860 the Somertons launched the *Bristol Daily Post*, published from Monday to Friday, the existing *Mercury* supplying the sixth day's news. They stated that 'its cause will emphatically be the people, and its advocacy will be conscientiously given to social, moral, intellectual and political progress.' To facilitate this, in October 1860 new and improved production equipment was installed at 35 Broad Street, bringing the price down to two pence, and after a move to new premises in Tower Lane a rotary web printing machine by Foster of Preston was acquired, this being brought into use in January 1878. At the same time the two journals were combined, the first issue of the *Bristol Mercury and Daily Post, Western Counties & South Wales Advertiser*, appearing on January 26th. However, in June 1883 the Somerton brothers retired and although Charles died in August 1888, his younger brother lived on another ten years.

The new owners, William Lewis & Sons, proprietors of the *Bath Herald*, finally renamed the paper the *Bristol Daily Mercury, Daily Post, Western Counties and South Wales Advertiser* on December 21st 1901, by which time it was 'recognised as the chief medium for prospectuses, sales of property by auction and other announcements interesting to commercial men, agriculturists and the monied classes.' It continued as an independent Liberal publication until November 30th 1909 when, following acquisition by the proprietors of the *Bristol Times and Mirror*, it was closed, along with The Bristol Mercury Ltd's other two titles, *The Bristol Echo* and the *Western Weekly Post*, which under the previous title of the *Bristol Weekly Mercury* had run from January 26th 1878 until June 12th 1909.

Of the other existing weeklies, the *Clifton Chronicle*, which had first appeared on November 13th 1850 as the *Clifton Directory* and continued as the *Clifton Chronicle & Directory* from January 7th 1852 and *Clifton Chronicle* from January 27th 1921, alone survived. Published by Philip Weeks, even this paper which gave precedence in its columns to West Bristol news and social events and considered itself politically 'neutral', was eventually added to the Bristol Times and Mirror Ltd publications, finally closing on September 27th 1928. In spite of having brought daily newspapers to the city, on February 12th 1859 Peter Macliver still thought it worthwhile to launch a new weekly paper of his own. Surprisingly, throughout its long life *The Bristol Observer*, known as *The Penny Observer* from November 3rd 1860 until July 5th 1862, remained unaffected by changes in the newspaper world, it being especially popular with local people who had settled in the far corners of the

Empire to whom it was sent by post. Consequently, this valued link with home did not finally cease publication until June 1st 1962.

In 1859 John Taylor, proprietor of *The Mirror*, died and ownership of the paper passed to his son Thomas David Taylor, who had been born in Bristol in 1823. After education at Blundell's School, Tiverton, in 1848 he joined his father in journalistic work and although for some years he owned and edited the *Bath Chronicle*, upon receiving his inheritance he sold his interest in that publication and returned to Bristol. Nearly six years later, in January 1865, a major reorganisation took place involving the city's two Conservative journals when Thomas Taylor agreed to merge *The Mirror* with Joseph Leech's *Bristol Times & Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*. This resulted in the appearance of the new combined title, the *Daily Bristol Times & Mirror*, which first rolled off the presses on January 5th 1865, and was subsequently published from Monday to Friday at a penny, and on Saturdays at two pence.

Although during his life Leech accrued considerable wealth, one issue, the great libel case of 1875 in which he and Taylor were both defendants, could easily have made him bankrupt. In spite of it being an issue of great complexity, involving an alleged libel by Leech against Handel Cossham and his handling, as director, of the affairs of the bankrupt railway carriage manufacturer Shackleton, Ford & Co, Taylor and Leech won at the end of a trial which took place in early November. This was the last occasion on which a local newspaper proprietor was hauled before the courts in a high profile libel case, for in 1881 Britain abolished the obligatory depositing of cash by newspaper publishers which had survived from the hated Six Acts and introduced new legislation which freed publishers from the fear of prosecution for criminal libel. Joseph Leech lived on for almost another twenty years, finally passing away in August 1893, leaving the not inconsiderable sum of £107,077.

His partner Thomas Taylor, who was to live on until December 1908, was an entirely different character and although a loyal and energetic supporter of any cause which met with his approval, he always appeared friendly, witty and courteous, even when engaged in social or political advocacy, although this in no way impeded his natural shrewdness. Not surprisingly, Taylor was friendly with a number of distinguished men of his generation and several books were dedicated to him at different times by well known authors, one of the latter being Joseph Hatton, at one time editor of the *Mirror*, and another the Rev. A.B. Beaven, who dedicated his 'Bristol Lists' to him, describing Taylor as the 'Grand Old Man of Journalism in Bristol'.

Following Leech's death, a private company, the Bristol Times and Mirror Ltd, was formed to run the newspaper, Thomas Taylor occupying

the position of chairman until he finally retired in 1901 after rather more than 50 years actively and prominently associated with local journalism. The company, however, remained in the hands of the family for the time being, his eldest son Goodenough Taylor, who unfortunately died prematurely in September 1907 and his second son, Henry Ward Taylor, both being directors, while his grandson Lionel Goodenough Taylor also went on to become a member of the board. Following the company's acquisition of The Bristol Mercury Ltd, the *Bristol Evening Times* was retitled the *Evening Times & Echo* on December 1st 1909, and although the group maintained an independent existence for a number of years the Bristol Times and Mirror Ltd was eventually purchased by the Berry family who owned newspapers in various parts of the country.

By the 1870s it was obvious that only a few of Bristol's existing weeklies had the remotest chance of survival against the new dailies. Consequently, it was no surprise that even Thomas Henry Mills's old *Bristol Gazette* which, although never such a prosperous paper as its rivals, had nevertheless managed to retain an independent existence longer than any of its contemporaries, finally ceased publication on May 23rd 1872, the same date upon which the *Bristol Advertiser* was also discontinued.

Sunday papers also became more widespread towards the end of the Victorian era, the audience for them being increasingly drawn from the newly literate who could not afford six papers a week and who were not too interested in political news. Consequently, many of the Sunday journals specialised in reporting murder, rape and seduction, although this was generally combined with a distinct brand of radicalism. The majority of these papers were published in London, but an attempt was also made to establish a Sunday paper in Bristol, the publication in question, *The Postscript*, first appearing on June 12th 1892. Its editorial announcement did not err on the side of modesty, the paper being described as an up to date journal in which 'along rail, over wave and along wire will come the cream of Saturday's news. There are diligent emissaries already scouring the surface of this worn-out old planet for something new and striking to send to *The Postscript*'. So successful was it that it had a life of just three issues, being discontinued by its proprietors, the *Bristol Mercury*, on June 26th.

1919 to 1945

Although Britain had a large provincial press before 1914, during the period 1919 to 1939 the national dailies killed off many of the provincial morning papers. This process had really started in the final decade of the nineteenth century with the arrival of national halfpenny newspapers, of

which Northcliffe's *Daily Mail,* launched in 1896, was the first and most important. At the outbreak of the First World War there existed in Bristol two penny dailies and an equal number of halfpenny evening papers, but inevitably it was the latter which gradually became the more viable as the new mass audience London publications made their unrelenting advance into the provinces.

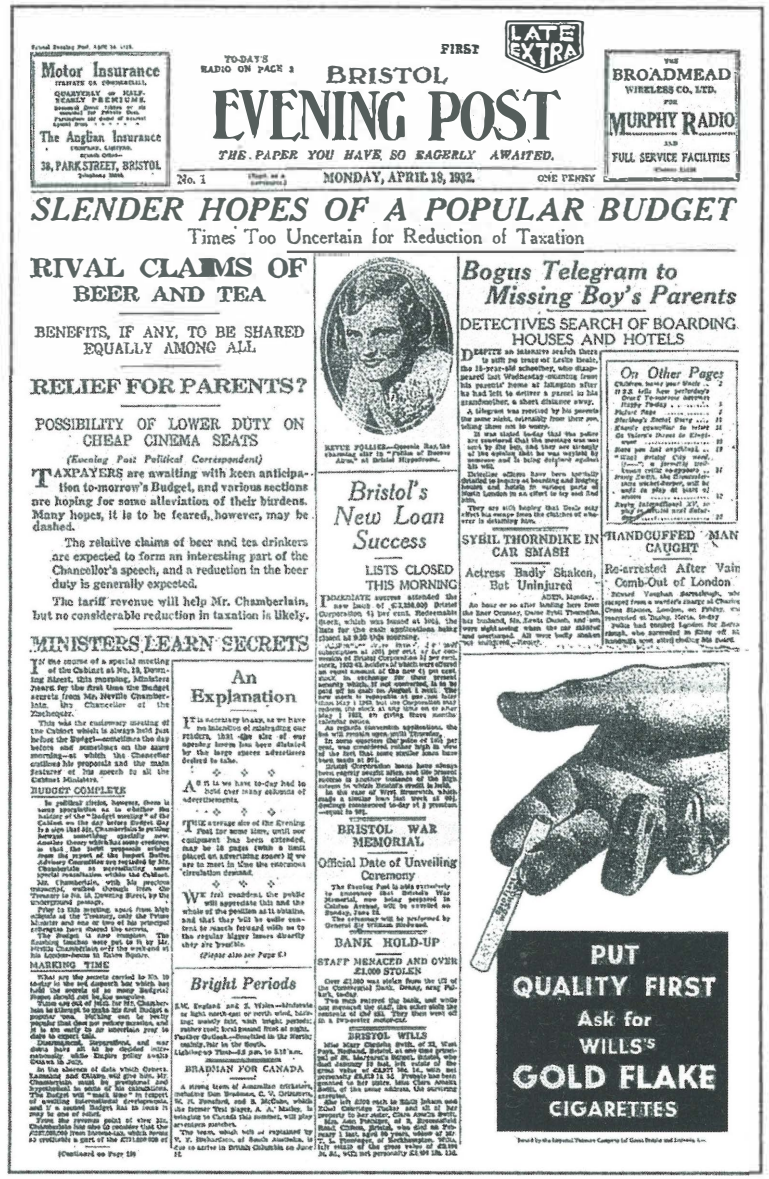
This situation was further exacerbated, when on October 1st 1929 Lord Rothermere, who hoped to blanket the regions with a chain of local newspapers, commenced publication in Bristol of the *Evening World*, a modern, well financed and distributed publication. Although the existing local titles were in reality incapable of competing, a fierce newspaper war nevertheless broke out which resulted in both the *Bristol Times & Mirror's* proprietors and those of the *Evening World*, facing disastrous losses from promotional stunts which were costing millions of pounds. In one the *Evening World* offered a five-shilling book of National Savings Stamps if you ordered the paper for ten weeks, in effect a free penny a day paper!

It was obvious that this situation could not last and a truce was eventually called, after which the Berry family agreed to amalgamate the *Evening Times & Echo* with the *Evening World* if Rothermere promised not to compete with their other publications. This took place on January 29th 1932, when the *Bristol Times & Mirror* and *Evening Times & Echo* both ceased publication, the *Evening World* appearing the following day under its new name, the *Evening World and Evening Times & Echo*. The paper subsequently underwent minor re-titling until its final demise on January 27th 1962, by which time it was appearing as the *Evening World*. Likewise, Walter Reid & Son, proprietors of the *Western Daily Press*, discontinued their *Bristol Evening News* on January 30th 1932, but having entered into a mutual agreement with the owners of the *Bristol Times & Mirror*, secured the copyright of that paper which was then merged with the *Western Daily Press*, the new title, *The Western Daily Press and Times & Mirror*, being adopted for the first time on February 2nd.

For the next few months the *Evening World* was Bristol's only evening paper, but in order that readers in the city should continue to have a reasonable choice of reading, Richard Hatt edited a temporary publication, *The Bristol Paper - Bristol's Own*, which appeared weekly from February 13th 1932 until January 21st 1933. In the meanwhile, the thought of having such a newspaper as the *Evening World*, part of an anonymous chain rather than independently run, was too much for Bristolians and Rothermere's jibes at the existing local press, including one in which he said 'these penny papers would be dear at a half-penny', proved to be the fatal flaw in his campaign for local domination.

The establishment of a rival paper was now a distinct possibility and one of the displaced Bristol management team, Herbert Hawkins, whose father had also been a newspaperman, was the person to whom many of the sacked local staff appealed, offering to work for minimum wages if he would set up an independent evening newspaper in the city. Hawkins agreed and after gaining the support of the Newsagents' Federation, the Bishop of Malmesbury, Dame Violet Wills, Stephen Carwardine, E.S. & A. Robinson, Taylor's the printers, the owners of the city's largest bonded warehouses and other local businesses, twelve men were chosen as directors of a new company. This organisation, with Hawkins as company secretary, fixed a minimum subscription of £40,000 in £1 shares and before the launch of the *Bristol Evening Post* finally went ahead hundreds of ordinary Bristolians had invested in the project. In spite of difficulties in raising the necessary capital, help from London financiers was rejected out of hand, as was the offer from Lord Rothermere of seats on the board of the *Evening World* for the new directors if they abandoned the scheme, aithough the gift of an old press from the owners of the *Birmingham Post & Mail* was accepted. Other equipment was bought cheaply or on very long term credit enabling the *Bristol Evening Post* to be set up in an old leather warehouse in Silver Street where the first copy of 'the paper all Bristol asked for and helped to create' rolled off the presses at 2pm on Monday April 18th 1932, achieving a circulation of 138,529 on its first day. The first editor was Arthur Spurll who went on to guide the fledgling paper through its most difficult years, before finally relinquishing the position in 1948.

Unfortunately, the *Bristol Evening Post's* initial promise was not realised and by June 1932 it was obvious that national advertising would be slow in coming and that local auctioneers and estate agents were not supporting the new paper, while to add to the misery the cobbled-together machinery was under strain and sales were being lost through late delivery. All this came to a head in a period of financial crisis when the struggling paper had to pay large outstanding bills for the purchase of the building and its equipment, as well as facing increasingly aggressive competition from the *Evening World* which sued for libel in 1934 when the *Bristol Evening Post* publicly challenged its circulation figures. However, before the case could really get started the *World* refused to open its books and peace was finally declared with the formation of a new company, the Bristol United Press, to run both papers but with control split between London and Bristol. Unfortunately it proved unworkable and consequently in 1939 control of the BUP passed to the *Bristol Evening Post*, albeit with Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers retaining a large stake.



FIRST

LATE EXTRA

Motor Insurance
The Anglian Insurance
38, PARK STREET, BRISTOL

TO-DAY'S RADIO ON PAGE 2

BRISTOL EVENING POST

THE PAPER YOU HAVE SO EAGERLY AWAITED.

No. 1 MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1932. ONE PENNY

THE BROADMEAD WIRELESS CO. LTD. FOR MURPHY RADIO AND FULL SERVICE FACILITIES

SLENDER HOPES OF A POPULAR BUDGET

Times Too Uncertain for Reduction of Taxation

RIVAL CLAIMS OF BEER AND TEA

BENEFITS, IF ANY, TO BE SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL

RELIEF FOR PARENTS?

POSSIBILITY OF LOWER DUTY ON CHEAP CINEMA SEATS

(Evening Post Political Correspondent)

TAXPAYERS are awaiting with keen anticipation to-morrow's Budget, and various sections are hoping for some alleviation of their burdens. Many hopes, it is to be feared, however, may be dashed.

The relative claims of beer and tea drinkers are expected to form an interesting part of the Chancellor's speech, and a reduction in the beer duty is generally expected.

The tariff revenue will help Mr. Chamberlain, but no considerable reduction in taxation is likely.

MINISTERS LEARN SECRETS

BUDGET COMPLETE

MARKING TIME

REVUE FOLLIES—Gwenda Ray, the "Follies of Pleasure Alone," at Bristol Hippodrome.

Bristol's New Loan Success

LISTS CLOSED THIS MORNING

IMMEDIATE success attended the new loan of £2,356,000 Bristol Corporation 4½ per cent. Redeemable 1962-72, which was issued at 101½. The lists for the cash applications being closed at 9.30 this morning.

An Explanation

Bright Periods

BRISTOL WAR MEMORIAL

Official Date of Unveiling Ceremony

BANK HOLD-UP

STAFF MENACED AND OVER £1,000 STOLEN

BRISTOL WILLS

BRADMAN FOR CANADA

Bogus Telegram to Missing Boy's Parents

DETECTIVES SEARCH OF BOARDING HOUSES AND HOTELS

SYBIL THORNDIKE IN CAR SMASH

Actress Badly Shaken, But Uninjured

On Other Pages

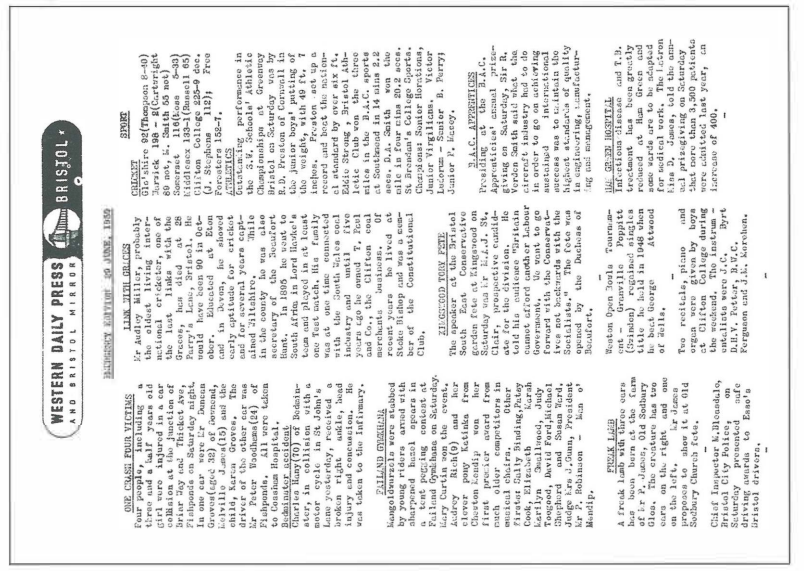
HANDCUFFED MAN CAUGHT

Re-arrested After Vain Comb-Out of London

The front page of the Bristol 'Evening Post' no. 1 - April 18th 1932

In spite of newsprint rationing, which was introduced in 1940, and the censorship and controls of various kinds placed upon it, Bristol's press served the city faithfully through the whole of the Second World War. The local papers not only worked closely with the authorities, but also with each other, so that between 1939 and 1946, 'Bristol's Own Fund', inaugurated by the *Evening Post,* but supported by the *Evening World* and the *Western Daily Press*, organised the collection of articles of many kinds for the troops. Inevitably, like the rest of the community, the city's newspapers were also to suffer and during the winter of 1940/41 there were several instances when elements of the local press were put out of action. As the 'blitz' began in earnest, papers already reduced in size shrank still further and at times the *Western Daily Press*, the worst affected of the three, consisted of just a single page, while on one occasion it even had to be printed on a hand press that had languished unused for fifty years. Particular difficulties occurred after the raid on the night of December 6th 1940, when widespread damage to Bristol's electricity supply forced the production of the following day's edition to be undertaken by the *Bath Chronicle*, while on the same date emergency combined typewritten bulletins were also issued by the *Post* and *World*, just as they had been after the first large scale 'blitz' of November 24th. The *Western Daily Press* had further problems on the night of January 3rd 1941, when adjoining premises in Baldwin Street were set on fire, but the most serious incident of all took place early in the morning of March 17th 1941 when the whole building caught alight, resulting in a brief period when printing was transferred to the offices of the *Evening World*, which itself was then reduced to tabloid size. The last large scale attack on Bristol, which took place on the night of April 11th 1941, resulted in Wright's Printing Works in Colston Avenue being destroyed by a fire and although this also caused considerable damage to nearby 'Northcliffe House', home of the *Evening World*, publication was continued in co-operation with the *Evening Post*, which fortunately escaped serious dislocation by enemy action.

Some of the most striking images of Bristol during the Second World War were the work of Jim Facey, the *Evening Post's* picture editor and chief photographer, an outstanding local photo-journalist who showed skill, flair and considerable bravery while documenting the raids as they took place. Jim, originally employed by the *Bristol Times & Echo,* was one of those who joined the *Bristol Evening Post* when it was set up in 1932 and that year his courageous coverage of the unemployment riots in Old Market, during which he was physically assaulted, earned him the World Press Medal as photographer of the year. After the war Jim, who died in 1977, left journalism to set up the successful commercial photography firm of Tudor, Facey and Miller from which he retired at the age of 65.



WESTERN DAILY PRESS AND BRISTOL MIRROR — BRISTOL

EMERGENCY EDITION 29 JUNE 1959

ONE CRASH FOUR VICTIMS

Four people, including a girl were injured in a collision at the junction of Hayward Road and Filwood Park on Saturday night.

In one car were Mr Duncan Gravel(aged 38) of Bedminster, and his wife (39) and little child, Karen (5). The driver of the other car was Mr Peter Woodhams(24) of Filwood Park. They were taken to Southmead Hospital.

Bedminster accident

Charles Hoey(70) of Redcliffe Way, in Bedminster, was knocked down by a motor cyclist in Victoria Street, Bedminster, on Saturday night. He received a broken right ankle, head injury and concussion. He was taken to the Infirmary.

FAINTING EPISODES

Hungry Generals were stabbed by Fainting Fits when they sharpened hazel spears in a test pegging contest at Filton Conholme on Saturday.

Audrey Rich(9) and her clever pony Kitkats from Clifton Lendip won the Ladies Open Jumping Competition.

FRIAR LAIN

A freak lamb with three ears has been born at the farm of Mr Ernest Gould Bailey at Frampton Cotterell.

LINK WITH BRACES

Mr Archie Hurd, probably the oldest living international cricketer, one of the last links with the Gloucestershire team of Dr. W.G. Grace, has died at Bristol.

Mr Hurd, who was 94, would have been 95 in October. He played at Eton in 1883 and 1884 and was early spotted for cricket and for several years captained Wiltshire. While at Eton he was also secretary of the Beagles Hunt.

In 1895 he went to South Africa in Lord Hawke's team, and took 7 for 49 in one Test match. His family was at one time connected with the South Wales coal industry and he himself as a youth ran around 7. Hall and Co., the Clifton coal merchants' business.

Mr Hurd married Miss Maud Stoke Bishop and was a member of the Constitutional Club.

ILCHESTER TOUR FETE

The speaker at the Bristol South East Conservative Fete at Ilchester on Saturday was Mr Rhodri Chair, prospective candidate for the division. He gave an address from a musical chairs.

Other events included Tug-of-War between Bedminster and Knowle, Fancy Dress Parade, Fatty Binding, Fatty Lifting, Bicycle Polo, Marilyn Swallwood, Judy Toogood, David Ford, Michael Hughes and Susan Bird, Jennifer Jones and Jacqueline Jones.

FRIAR LAIN

A freak lamb with three ears has been born at the farm of Mr Ernest Gould Bailey at Frampton Cotterell.

Chief Inspector W.Rhoades, Bristol City Police, on Saturday presented ten driving awards to Esso's Bristol drivers.

CRICKET

Gloucestershire 92(Thompson 8-40) Norwich 198 - 8(Cartwright 78 not out, Wilson 4-33)

Somerset 116(Jesse 8-32) Middlesex 183-1(Bennett 65) (Clifton College 225-9 dec. Forsters 132-7, Forsters 132-7.

ATHLETICS

Outstanding performance in the Bristol Schools Championships at Greenway Bristol on Saturday was by R.D. Preston of Cornwall in the under 15 high jump. He cleared the bar with 49 inches.

Preston set up a record and beat the minimum standard by over six inches. It stumped by over six inches. It stumped by over six inches. It stumped by over six inches. It stumped by over six inches.

letic Club won the three miles in the B.A.C. sports at Southmead on Saturday. It was the fifth win in the mile in four runs 20.2 secs.

St Brendan's College Sports. Championships Senior Boroughs, Lucerne - Junior Boroughs, Lucerne - Senior B. Furry Junior P. Facey.

B.A.C. APPRENTICES

Presiding at the B.A.C. Apprentices' annual prize-giving on Saturday, Sir R. Verdon Smith said that the aircraft industry had to do in order to go on achieving successful international competition was to train the highest standards of quality in engineering, manufacturing and management.

UNI CAMPUS HOSPITAL

Infectious disease and T.B. treatment hubs have been greatly extended. Additional beds and some wards are to be adapted for medical work. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Mrs. Dorothy Kirk, said at Monday's meeting of the Hospital Management Committee that more than 3,500 patients were admitted last year, an increase of 400.

Weston Open Youth Tournament - Granville Poppitt (Grindel) regained singles title he won in 1958 when he beat George Attwood of Wells.

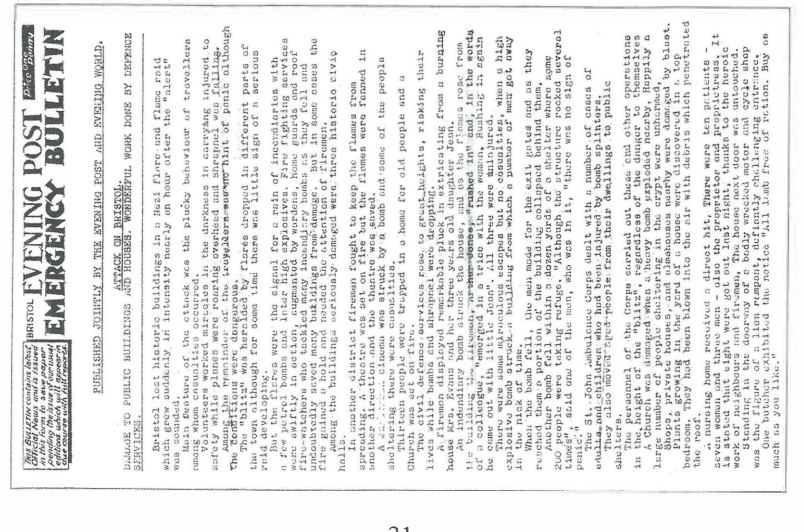
Two recitals, piano and organ were given by boys at Clifton College during the weekend. The instrument was a new organ given by Mr Robinson - Ken o' Beaufort.

Mandip.

Emergency Bulletins were issued on a number of occasions in Bristol during the twentieth century when, for various reasons, normal newspaper production proved impossible.

Left:
The first wartime emergency bulletin produced jointly by the 'Evening Post' and the 'Evening World' on November 25th 1940

Right:
One of the emergency bulletins published by the 'Western Daily Press' on June 29th 1959 during the national strike of the printing unions.



BRISTOL EVENING POST

EMERGENCY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY THE EVENING POST AND EVENING WORLD.

DAMAGE TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HOUSES. WONDERFUL WORK DONE BY DEFENCE SERVICES.

ATTACK ON BRISTOL.

Bristol lost historic buildings in a Nazi flare and flame raid which began quickly in intensity nearly an hour after the "alert" sounded.

Main features of the attack was the plucky behaviour of travellers among whom casualties occurred as in carrying injured to safety while planes were roaring overhead and shrapnel was falling.

Among the remainder of the troops there was no hint of panic although the "blitz" was heralded by flares dropped in different parts of the town although for some time there was little sign of a serious attack.

But the flares were the signal for a rain of incendiaries with a few petrol bombs and later high explosives. Fire fighting services were swiftly in action, augmented by wardens, home guards and roof spotters, but in some cases the fire gained a hold and needed the attention of firemen, undoubtedly saved many buildings from damage. But in some cases the fire gained a hold and needed the attention of firemen.

Among the buildings seriously damaged were three historic civic halls.

In another district firemen fought to keep the flames from spreading to the Bristol Hippodrome, which is in another direction and the theatre was saved.

A [illegible] cinema was struck by a bomb and some of the people during there were casualties.

Another bomb fell within a dozen yards of a shelter where some people were sheltering, but the shelter withstood the blast.

Several of the houses were wrecked by bombs.

A fireman displayed remarkable pluck in extricating from a burning house Mrs. Stone and her three years old daughter Jean.

The building [illegible] and the woman, rushing in again he came out with little Jean. All three were bundled.

Another fireman, [illegible] when a high explosive bomb struck a building soon which a number of men got away in the nick of time.

Another bomb fell within a dozen yards of a shelter where some people were sheltering, but the shelter withstood the blast.

Several of the houses were wrecked by bombs.

Plants growing in the yard of a house were discovered in a top bedroom. They had been blown into the air with debris which penetrated the roof.

A nursing home received a direct hit. There were ten patients - seven women and three men - also the proprietress. It was a terrible scene. Rescue workers, firemen and wardens, as well as members of neighbouring fire posts, were quickly on the scene. The house was unlocked.

Standing in the doorway of a badly wrecked motor cycle shop was the figure of a lion rampant, defiantly challenging criticism. Its tail had been severed from its body and published the notice "All lion free of petrol. May be much to you like."

1946 to 2000

After the war, local newspapers started to enjoy something of a renaissance, peaking in the period 1953 to 1955, after which the arrival of television was responsible for a sharp cut-back in the provincial evening press, so that by the early 1960s even cities as large as Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds and Bristol had only one such newspaper. By this time it had also become clear that against all the odds some provincial morning papers were going to survive, although two-thirds of their sales in England are now located in just five centres, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Norwich and Darlington. This steady loss of provincial titles has also ensured that in most places, including Bristol, a monopoly of ownership has developed, while in recent decades the papers have grown ever more localised following the arrival of the free weeklies in the early 1970s.

By providing over 90 per cent household coverage at the local level these publications, such as the *Bristol Journal*, seized an ever increasing share of available advertising, while at the same time pushing the editorial output towards the parochial. As a result, during the last thirty years the opinion leading functions of most paid-for local papers have all but disappeared and where they once competed for the attention of political and special interest groups, they now tend to concentrate their efforts in making themselves more desirable to the consumer in a drive for ever more classified and retail advertising, almost all adopting a tabloid format in the process. By 1989, the freesheets had peeked at 42 million copies per week nationally, after which their numbers have fallen back somewhat as the major provincial papers have responded, either by buying out the opposition, or by starting their own 'defensive' frees, this latter option being the one adopted by the Bristol United Press which is currently producing for the *Bristol Observer* series.

In the coronation year of 1953, the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the *Bristol Evening Post* was chosen by the directors to remind staff and readers of the aims of the paper, which was enshrined on a plaque mounted in the boardroom. It reads as follows: 'To perpetuate the *Bristol Evening Post* as an institution charged with a high public duty, and to maintain the *Bristol Evening Post* as an independent newspaper, entirely fearless, free from ulterior influences, and unselfishly devoted to the public welfare without regard to individual advantage or ambition, the claims of party politics or the voice of religion or personal prejudice or predilection. To reflect the best informed thought of the country, honest in every line, more than fair and courteous to those who may sincerely differ from its views. To present, without recognising friend or foe, the news of the day - all the news that's fit to print - and to present it impartially, reflecting all shades of opinion. To conform to the highest standards of business ethics in its business departments and to

treat all persons associated with, or connected with, any of the departments of the *Bristol Evening Post* organisation with justice and generosity'.

During the early summer of 1959 some ten printing unions in Britain put in a claim for a ten per cent pay increase, a reduction in working hours from 43½ to 40 hours per week in addition to a range of other extra payments and concessions which added up to between 22 and 28 shillings a week. This put them on a collision course with the proprietors of newspapers and general printing works all over the country, culminating in a national strike by more than 100,000 print workers starting after the publishing of the *Western Daily Press* on the morning of Saturday June 20th and lasting until August 5th. During that period some 1100 provincial and local papers were affected and in Bristol about 6500 newspaper workers were idle. The local papers immediately put into place emergency measures which initially consisted of placing reports of local and national news in the windows of their respective offices, augmented by the preparation of daily duplicated news sheets for distribution to local newsagents for their own window displays. However, a more satisfactory solution came with the launching, on July 2nd, of the *News of the West*, jointly sponsored by the *Western Daily Press*, *Evening Post* and *Evening World*. Prepared by about 50 volunteers from the affected newspapers, all non-printers or craftsmen, the paper continued to be produced until August 5th, after which the strikers returned to work and Bristol's three newspapers reappeared.

This prolonged dispute did nothing to help the two most financially vulnerable papers in the city, and the following year the Bristol United Press, owners of the *Bristol Evening Post*, acquired the ailing *Western Daily Press* for just £250, the last edition of the previously independent newspaper appearing on April 2nd 1960. This was followed on January 29th 1962 when the flagging *Evening World*, the circulation of which had dropped to just 30,000, was finally merged with the *Bristol Evening Post*, the title used from then on being abbreviated to just *Evening Post*. By 1966, as it was obvious that the *Evening Post's* cramped Silver Street site, with its leaky roof, poor access and almost tame mice, was overdue for replacement, the decision was made to move, the new site chosen being in Temple Way. Construction began in 1970 and in September 1974 the *Post* and *Press*, together with *Bristol Observer* series of weeklies, were at last able to take up residence.

In technological terms the twentieth century added only speed and quantity to the production capacity of the newspaper until the development of offset printing and photo-composition in the 1970s, at which time cheap computers also became available enabling journalists to directly input their copy. More far-reaching changes took place in

Some Bristol newspaper titles 1932 to 1959

1986 and 1987, when the previously all-powerful newspaper print unions, not only attacked by the likes of Eddie Shah and Rupert Murdoch but also seriously weakened by internal conflict, were finally emasculated, allowing substantial cost savings to be achieved by newspapers throughout the country.

The new climate within the industry following the 'Newspaper Revolution' encouraged many proprietors to make large investments and between 1995 and 1997 over £20 million was spent by the Bristol United Press on advanced printing technology, leading to the formation of a separate company, Western Newspaper Printers Ltd, to print the *Evening Post* and all the group's other publications. The BUP also expanded to take in both free and paid for weekly papers in Somerset, as well as its old rival the *Bath Chronicle*, and during the first half of 1999 its three Bristol newspapers, the *Evening Post*, the *Western Daily Press* which has been the 'British Telecom Regional Daily Newspaper of the Year' for two years running, and the free *Bristol Observer*, were achieving circulation figures of 81,242, 56,679 and 179,785 per issue respectively. By the end of the twentieth century the era of the electronic newspaper had also arrived, with many journals, including the *Evening Post* and *Western Daily Press*, following the lead of the *Daily Telegraph* which, in November 1994, became available to anyone with an internet connection. Finally, in February 2000 the Bristol United Press itself became part of the Daily Mail and General Trust group which was actively expanding its regional newspaper business, thereby ending a tradition of independent locally owned newspapers in Bristol which had lasted since the reign of Queen Anne.

Bristol's newspaper titles June and July 2000

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