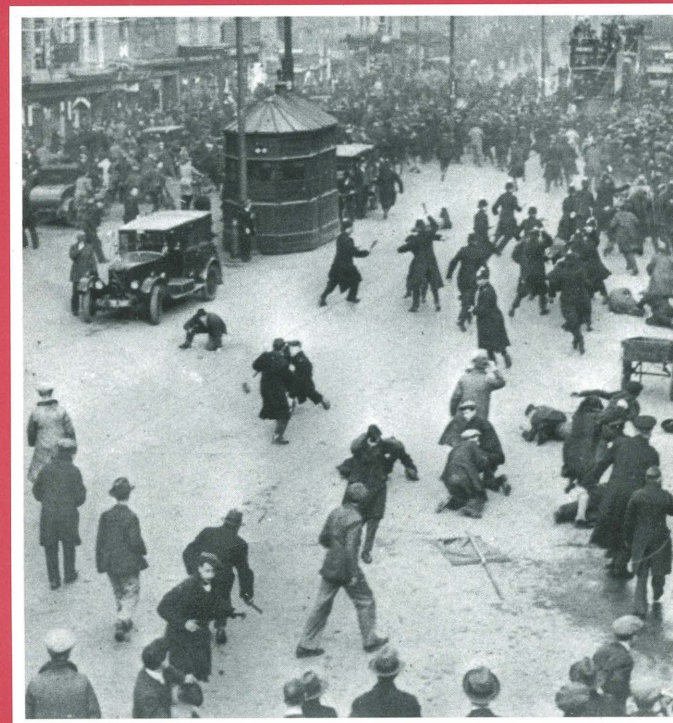


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BRISTOL 1927-1933



THE BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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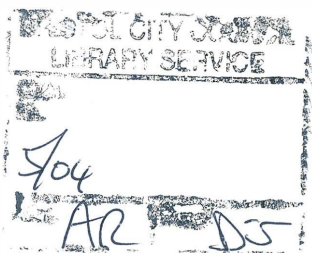
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Cover illustration: Old Market Street, 23 February 1932.
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**BRISTOL
1927-1933**

Life in Bristol at the end of the 1920s and in the early years of the 1930s was to some extent overshadowed by the problems of the unemployed who resented being subject to the means test and having to perform 'test' work in order to secure relief. There were ugly scenes in the streets as they gave voice to their protests. In 1930 the responsibility for administering relief was transferred from the Guardians to the City Council. Even many of those in work suffered pay cuts. In the Council chamber Labour councillors increasingly challenged the authority of the Citizen ruling party; they were particularly concerned that the method of appointing aldermen deprived them of the scale of representation that they felt they deserved.

During this period the face of the city was changing as a result of slum clearance programmes and the building of council estates on the outskirts to house the displaced tenants. The Council had to build more schools to cater for the children in the outlying estates and, as a result of Government policy, to reduce class sizes and raise the leaving age, although it appears that they did not implement the policy as quickly as the Board of Education would have liked.

Traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing made their first appearance and Bristol acquired its municipal airport. The 'newspaper war' and the take over of the bus company were signs that some of Bristol's businesses were passing out of the hand of local entrepreneurs.

Illustrations of many of the events described will be found in Reece Winstone's *Bristol As It Was 1939-1914* and *Bristol As It Was 1928-1933*. Articles on a number of topics of interest during this period are contained in *Bristol Between the Wars* edited by the late David Harrison.

1927

The effects of the war were demonstrated on 5 January when the War Pensions Committee put on an entertainment for 1,100 children. They were all sons and daughters of men who had been killed in the conflict. On 15 January Sir Isambard Owen died in Paris. He was the Vice Chancellor of Bristol University from 1909 until 1921 when he retired and went to live in Weston-super-Mare.

In February the Health Committee reported to the Council their decision not to use Blaise Castle as a convalescent home for tuberculosis sufferers due to the heavy expenditure that would be required to convert the building.

The same meeting considered the effects of the Rating and Valuation Act that required all premises to be revalued and made provision for poor rates to be collected in future by Bristol Corporation in place of the overseers. The Council agreed to set up the necessary establishment in the City Valuer's office.

At the beginning of February Miss Emma Saunders died at her home at 6, Sion Hill. She was a pioneer of a national movement to cater for the welfare of railway workers and was known as 'The Railwayman's Friend'.

The annual licensing sessions took place at the beginning of March and the court was crowded to hear an application on behalf of the trade for a general extension of the permitted opening hours from 10 pm until 10.30 pm. The licensees' solicitor told the justices that his clients considered that a city the size of Bristol should have longer opening hours but the application was opposed by a number of organisations and was unanimously rejected.

In the middle of the month the Bristol Rotary Club heard a talk by Commander H.M.N. Hardy on the work of the Economic League, a body that worked to promote goodwill and understanding between employer and employee. He told his audience that Communists were working hard to establish a branch in Bristol with groups in Bath and Avonmouth. A public meeting of the league took place in the YMCA Hall on 30 March; there were rowdy interruptions including the singing of 'The Red Flag'. At a luncheon held at the Royal Hotel it was resolved to form a Bristol branch.

Miss Helen Drew, the Headmistress of Colston's Girls' School, resigned on the ground of ill health in March and died a month later. The Governors appointed Miss Gladys Mary Morgan in her stead; Miss Morgan was the Second Mistress of Berkhamsted High School and took up her post in September.

At the April Council meeting Councillor Lyne proposed that, in the interest of economy, men other than qualified police constables should be employed to direct traffic in the city. The matter was referred to the Watch Committee who reported in the following month that they did not support his suggestion because the public would not recognise the men as having the same authority as policemen. The committee pointed out that men controlling traffic required an iron constitution and a sound nervous system.

On 11 April Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, visited the city. She inspected 2,000 Guides and Brownies and 1,000 Scouts at the Zoological Gardens before going to the Central Hall to meet members of the Women's Bright Hour; it was estimated that a crowd of some 40,000 people were in Old Market Street when she arrived. The princess later opened the new Docklands Settlement building in Rosemary Street; the premises had been provided by Mr. W. Melville Wills.

Many thousands were present at the Downs during the weekend of 23/24 April to watch a flying display by four Hawker Horsley bombers of the RAF. The machines landed on the Downs so that spectators could see the aircraft on the ground and then gave a demonstration of formation flying.

In May Bristol City Football Club received the Division III Championship Shield and was promoted to Division II. One of the important matches leading to the championship took place on 14 March when they played Swindon and won by 2 goals to nil. The match was witnessed by over 31,000 spectators, some 5,000 coming from Swindon.

At the end of the month the Education Committee heard that of the 96 Lord Kitchener Scholarships (to enable sons of ex-servicemen to undertake higher education) awarded nationally, four had gone to Bristol pupils. One of the boys attended Clifton College and the other three Cotham Secondary School.

On 2 June the Prince of Wales paid a private visit to the city to open the new science building at Clifton College.

At their meeting at the beginning of June the Bristol & District Employment Committee was told that there were currently 10,977 men, 1,631 women, 599 boys and 615 girls unemployed in the city. The committee urged employers to avoid overtime working wherever practicable so as to provide as many employment opportunities as possible.

Bristol's first Air Pageant, organised by the Wessex Flying Club, took place at Filton on 22 June; Air Vice Marshall Sir Sefton Branker, the Director of Civil Aviation, was present. Crowds lining the Gloucester Road witnessed various races, formation flying by four single-seater Bristol night fighters and a display of 'crazy flying'. It was later announced that the Government was intending to spend the sum of £137,000 to establish a permanent RAF station at Filton. The Wessex Flying Club was officially opened in October by Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for Air.

There was a total eclipse on 29 June. The weather was cloudy but improved in the middle of the eclipse for about ten minutes so that the spectators (including a group on Purdown) had a good view of the sun reduced to a narrow crescent.

The new Berkeley Café in Queens Road opened at the beginning of July. It included a restaurant capable of seating 300 diners with a separate entrance in Berkeley Square to be used for private functions. The builders were R.F. Ridd & Sons and the architect was W.J. Stenner. Before the Council meeting on 10 July the Lord Mayor (on behalf of the French government) presented the Croix de Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur to Sir Ernest Cook. He had inaugurated the appeal for funds to provide housing accommodation at Béthune.

Knowle Greyhound Racing Stadium opened on 23 July. The first race was won by 'Plunger', a dog owned by Albert Ford, the Chairman of Bristol Greyhound Club. In November the stadium was acquired by the Amalgamated Greyhound Racing Association, an organisation that owned a number of tracks in England.

At the end of July a deputation from the Western Liberal Federation went to see the Chief Whip at Liberal Party headquarters. They complained about the political conduct of Captain Frederick Guest and Sir Beddoe Rees, the members for Bristol North and Bristol South, who had on a number of occasions voted with the Government against the rest of the members of the party. They requested that the whip should be withdrawn from them.

On 28 July a Bristol Badminton aircraft piloted by Captain F.L. Barnard crashed in a field next to the old Gloucester Road at Winterbourne killing the pilot. Captain Barnard was an Imperial Airways pilot and was practising for the King's Cup air race that was due to take place on the following day.

On 7 September Lewis Miller, a licensed boatman, rescued a man who, whilst unloading a ship in the City Docks, was struck by a sack and fell between the quayside and the ship. Miller jumped into the dock and held the man until a rope could be lowered to pull him to safety. It was the 16th occasion on which he had rescued someone from the water and he later received the Edward Medal and a certificate from the Carnegie Hero Fund.

At the September Council meeting Alderman Sheppard proposed that in future aldermanic vacancies should be allocated on the basis of one alderman for every three councillors. The Citizen party opposed the suggestion maintaining that aldermen should be appointed on the basis of seniority and the proposal was defeated. At the same meeting there were two vacancies to fill and in both cases the Citizen party councillor was selected.

At the beginning of October William Burke, aged 19, left Bristol to emigrate to New Zealand. He was sponsored by Bristol Rotary Club who took responsibility for kitting him out and for his fare. On arrival he was to be looked after by the Rotary Club of Hastings, New Zealand who would find employment for him.

Later in the month the Health Committee was informed that a thirteen year old girl (a member of a family that had recently moved to Two Mile Hill from South Wales) had contracted small pox; it appeared that there had been an outbreak in the district from which they had moved. Two men living in the same house also became infected.

On 20 October Sir Kingsley Wood, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, came to the city to open a new block of flats at Orange Street, St. Pauls. The flats had been provided by the Bristol Churches' Tenement Association. The association had acquired five houses that were due for demolition for £100 and converted them into flats for working people. The opening was also attended by the Lord Mayor, Sheriff and Bishop.

St. Peter's Church, Henleaze, was consecrated by the Bishop on 29 October. The church had been designed by A.R. Gough and built by William Cowlin & Sons.

At the municipal elections held at the beginning of November the Labour party gained three seats from the Citizen party.

Sir Edward Burnet James died on 27 December. He served as Sheriff in 1900/01 and as Lord Mayor in 1904/5 and 1907/8 and was a partner in Edwards, Ringer & Bigg, tobacco manufacturers. He was a Conservative and was knighted during the royal visit to open the Royal Edward Dock.

1928

In the New Year's Honours List Colonel Gibbs received a peerage, becoming Lord Wraxall. This necessitated a bye-election in Bristol West; it was held on 2 February and the result was:

C.T. Culverwell (Con)	16,970
Lady Clare Annesley (Lab)	7,702
W.N. Marcy (Lib)	<u>4,996</u>
	<u>9,268</u>

At the beginning of January a foot crossing between St. Augustine's Bridge and St. Augustine's Parade came into use. There was a sign, illuminated at night, showing pedestrians where to cross and warning traffic to slow down.

The Corporation evidently recognised the need for more schools to cater for the expanding population in the new municipal housing estates. In January the Education Committee accepted a tender to build a junior mixed school at Bedminster Down with accommodation for 400 children. Tenders were also agreed for a junior mixed school for 400 children at Knowle Park (in March) and for over 600 pupils and 400 infants at Upper Horfield (in June). A new junior mixed school at Sea Mills was

opened by Sir Ernest Cook, the Chairman of the Education Committee, on 15 February. The building contained eight classrooms each sufficient for 50 pupils; it was designed by Holbrow and Oaten and built by G. Slade & Son of Shirehampton.

On 6 February Mr. H.C.M. Hirst, ARIBA told a meeting of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society that a seventeenth century chimney piece at 15 Small Street (adjoining Foster's Chambers) had recently been removed to London.

On 10 February there was a demonstration organised by the Bristol Unemployed Association to support seven men who were obliged to go into the Eastville Poor Law Institution as a condition for relief to be granted to their wives and families. About 400 men escorted them and then held a meeting at the Kingsley Hall in Old Market Street; the meeting approved a petition addressed to the Lord Mayor and Council.

In February the new crematorium at Arnos Vale was completed.

Greyhound Racecourse (Bristol) Ltd. had launched a share issue to fund a new track at Eastville Stadium. The prospectus envisaged that kennels would be constructed as part of the scheme and in February the Town Clerk felt obliged to inform the public that no application for planning permission had been received.

The annual delegates' meeting of the Bristol Miners' Association took place on 11 February. The meeting heard that a considerable number of members were out of work, that at one colliery men were only able to work one week in two and that some miners were forced to take dry bread with them as their 'snap'.

Thomas Watkins died on 2 March. He was a director of Walter Reid & Sons Ltd. and for nearly 40 years the editor of *Bristol Evening News*.

Pang Hang, whose laundry was at 361, Gloucester Road appeared before the magistrates in March charged with possessing a quantity of prepared opium and utensils for smoking it, being in possession of an automatic pistol and 44 rounds of ammunition and corruptly giving £5 to a police officer. The justices fined him £90 but declined to order his deportation.

The Baptist Union Conference took place in May and concluded with a resolution welcoming the growing influence exerted by the League of Nations. The delegates took the opportunity to visit historic ground at Hanham.

On 8 May the Council had a further debate about the method of filling aldermanic vacancies. A motion repeated the previous proposal that they should be appointed on the basis of one alderman for every three councillors but was opposed by those who maintained that the appointments should be based on seniority. Aldermen Edward Robinson and William Howell Davies, both Liberals, suggested a compromise

amendment whereby the 'seniority' system should be suspended for a while to enable the Labour party to have more representation but both the amendment and the original proposal were defeated.

The Prince of Wales visited the city on 23 May. After arriving at Temple Meads he was taken via College Green, where 2,000 women and children cheered him, Bridge Valley Road and the Portway to Avonmouth. The purpose of his visit was to open the Eastern Arm Extension; he boarded the *Bayano* at R Shed and the vessel steamed into the extension breaking the ceremonial ribbon. 1,300 guests sat down to lunch in V Shed and the Prince then left by car for Dorchester.

Sir George Alfred Wills died on 11 July. He became chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd. and retired in 1924. He made many gifts to the city.

The Duke and Duchess of York visited the city on 7 July. They saw the East Street factory of W.D. & H.O. Wills and the Dockland Settlement in Rosemary Street. The Duke then laid the foundation stone at the open-air school at Winford which was being built to cater for the treatment and cure of crippled Bristol children.

The Housing Committee reported to the Council in July that they proposed to acquire 420 acres in Southmead and 394 acres in Bedminster. This would enable them to build 5,000 houses in Southmead over a period of 10 to 15 years and 3,000 in Bedminster over six to seven years. In October the committee announced the commencement of 50 more houses in Fishponds.

In July the Council decided to set up its own printing and stationery department and in October they agreed to inaugurate a development and publicity committee.

Viscount Haldane died on 19 August. He was Chancellor of Bristol University from 1911 until his death.

Horace Livermore died on 26 October. Born in 1851, he spent his life in the theatrical profession from the age of four until his retirement in 1920. He built the People's Palace in Baldwin Street and ran it for many years as a music hall before it was converted to a cinema. He was a councillor and his death prompted a bye-election in St. Augustine's ward; it resulted in a Labour gain.

At the municipal elections held at the beginning of November all 23 wards were contested. Labour gained 2 seats.

A gale hit the city on 16 November. A man was killed by a falling tree in St. Werburghs and a chimney stack crashed through a glass roof at Chappell & Allen's factory in Redfield. The side of a house at Beaufort Road, Kingswood was completely cut away and the Mardyke ferry was held up because of 'heavy seas'.

Arthur William Page died on 28 November. He was a solicitor and a Gloucestershire County Council alderman. He made many gifts to the Staple Hill area including the Page Institute and Page Park.

Samuel White died on the following day. He was Sir George White's brother and associated with him in his many business enterprises.

Dame Clara Butt opened the Salvation Army Mount Hope maternity home at Ashley Hill on 10 December.

The Bristol West Liberal Association held a meeting at the end of December at which the members unanimously resolved to withdraw from the North Bristol Liberal Association (which supported Capt. F.E. Guest, MP) and to affiliate to the newly formed North Bristol Liberal and Radical Association.

1929

Bristol's first lady solicitor, Angela Tuckett, was admitted in January.

The Education Committee meeting at the end of January was faced with a request from the Finance Committee to reduce their estimated spending by £5,000. They considered but rejected a proposal to purchase another van to be used to convey crippled children to school. They heard that some pupils had to leave home at 7.45 am and did not return until 5.30 pm; another van would have cost £400. They also considered class sizes in view of a circular from the Department of Education which hoped that classes containing more than 50 children would be eliminated before March 1930.

The Franchise Act 1928 that came into force at the beginning of 1929 introduced universal adult suffrage and thus granted equal franchise to women. This added 55,098 to Bristol's voters' lists and they were then in the majority. The list included 32,954 unmarried women.

The revised valuation list was published in February; it contained 94,335 hereditaments and the city's rateable value had increased by £558,697 to £2,843,713. The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 came into force in April at which time the collection of general rate and poor rate were merged.

William Wines, the Bristol Guardians' head gardener at Stapleton, appeared before the magistrates on 14 February charged with shooting eight seagulls in contravention of the Wild Birds Protection Act. He told the court that he did not know that it was illegal and that his gardens had been troubled by birds. Inspector Hart told the court that seagulls were edible if an onion was placed inside the bird for twenty-four hours and that, although the dead birds had been buried, he had caused one to be disinterred so that it could be produced in court. The justices dismissed the case on payment of costs and the court had to be disinfected before the next case could be heard.

In March a large meeting of women addressed by Lady Astor MP and Sir Thomas Inskip, the Attorney General, took place in the Colston Hall. Amidst heckling Lady Astor told the audience that it was useless to talk of equality when every woman knew that her children were not equal and that, if parents could not give equality to their children, they could not expect the State to do so.

The Housing Committee agreed on 15 April to purchase 4½ acres at Whiteway Road, St. George for municipal housing. They were told that the direct labour scheme at Shirehampton was drawing to a close and agreed to build 170 houses at Ridgeway Road, Fishponds also by direct labour.

The Health Committee, meeting on the following day, heard there had been 549 deaths from influenza during the previous 10 weeks but that the epidemic was subsiding. They also learnt of the problem of rat infestation at the Coldharbour Road tip and agreed to engage two rat catchers at £2:19s per week.

Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, addressed a large meeting at the Colston Hall on 25 April; his speech was also relayed to Durdham Down and a number of towns in Somerset. He told the audience that whilst unemployment was a big problem that should not overlook the fact that 90% of the population was enjoying a higher standard of living and that the government's fiscal policy had reduced the cost of living and thus added to purchasing power. On the following day he visited the University and the Royal Infirmary.

The Bristol Guardians reported in April that they were currently relieving 4,490 people (including dependants) at a cost of £1,111:19s:5d per week.

On 9 May Prince Arthur of Connaught, after inspecting a detachment of ex-servicemen at Temple Meads, visited Ham Green Hospital where he officially opened a hostel to train boys for work in farms in the Dominions.

On 13 May the Council accepted a report recommending the establishment of an airport at Whitchurch at a cost of £23,000. The report noted that the number of passengers carried by airlines was 10,000 in 1921 and 28,000 in 1927. The Director of Civil Aviation later wrote to the Corporation to congratulate Bristol on its foresight.

On 23 May the statutory meeting of Barton Warehouses Ltd. appointed a receiver for the debenture holders. The meeting was told that the company's voluntary liquidation would continue.

A General Election took place on the same day; the results were:

<u>Bristol Central</u>	
J.H. Alpass (Lab)	20,749
Sir Thomas Inskip (Con)	<u>16,524</u>
	<u>4,225</u> Lab gain

Bristol West

C.T. Culverwell (Con)	25,416
Lady Clare Annesley (Lab)	11,961
W.N. Marcy (Lib)	<u>9,909</u>
	<u>13,455</u> No change

Bristol North

Walter Ayles (Lab)	18,619
Capt. F.E. Guest (Coalition Lib)	12,932
J.O.M. Skelton (Lib)	<u>6,713</u>
	<u>5,687</u> Lab gain

Bristol South

A.G. Walkden (Lab)	23,591
Sir Beddoe Rees (Lib)	<u>18,194</u>
	<u>5,397</u> Lab gain

Bristol East

W.J. Baker (Lab)	24,197
C.G. Spencer (Lib)	<u>12,576</u>
	<u>11,621</u> No change

On 27 June Winston Churchill was elected as Chancellor of Bristol University. He came to the city on 13 December and was welcomed by students at Temple Meads; the car in which he travelled from the station was accompanied by several students on grotesquely decorated motorcycles. In his speech after his installation he appeared to advocate regional government; he expressed the view that the country was at a disadvantage when compared with the United States and Germany in that 'we have no large units of state government between the counties and the central power of the realm'. On the following day he opened Wills Hall as a hall of residence. The house had previously been the home of W.E. George and the cost of its acquisition and conversion had been the gift of H.H. Wills, brother of Sir George Wills.

The 'Resignation' Honours List at the beginning of July awarded a peerage to Sir Gilbert Albert Hamilton Wills who became Lord Dulverton of Batsford. He was the second son of Sir Frederick Wills and was Chairman of Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd. from 1924 to 1947 and the company's president from 1947 to 1956.

Alderman George Bryant Britton died on 11 July. He was born in 1857, founded the boot manufacturing business which bore his name and played an active part in the initiation of an electric tram service to Kingswood. He became a councillor in 1897, an alderman in 1921 and served as Lord Mayor in 1920. He was Liberal MP for Bristol East from 1918 to 1922.

In July Holman Gregory KC, the Recorder of Bristol, was appointed Judge of the Mayor's and City of London Court and Recorder and Common Serjeant. He was a Bristolian and was educated at Bristol Grammar School; he originally qualified as a solicitor and practised for 11 years before being called to the bar. The new Recorder, Herbert Du Parc KC was sworn in on 15 July.

In the same month the Medical Officer of Health reported to the Health Committee that there were then five whole-time school medical officers employed by the Education Committee. It was agreed that they could be styled Assistant Medical Officers of Health.

In answer to a councillor's question at the July Council meeting the Chairman of the Watch Committee gave the following information concerning accidents caused by vehicles:

	Number of accidents	Persons killed	Persons injured
1924	1939	19	588
1925	2048	30	529
1926	2462	26	700
1927	2680	35	672
1928	3124	27	894

In July the Watch Committee decided to establish a police band and engaged Captain Frederick Moore, MVO, who had just retired as Director of Music to the Scots Guards, as the band's conductor at an annual salary of £350. He could not find any proficient musicians from amongst the existing force and recruited 32 military musicians who were appointed constables. It is difficult to reconcile this arrangement with the information provided in the following March when the committee was told that the band then comprised 28 members who practised each morning and that the creation of the band had not resulted in an increase in the authorised force.

Fred E. Weatherley died at his home in Bath on 7 September. He was born in 1848 and practised as a barrister but was better known as a song writer, writing such gems as *Stonecracker John* and *Up From Somerset*.

Bristol's Broadcast Week took place in September. It had been hoped to arrange a transmission featuring such notable local musicians as Dame Clara Butt, contralto, Eva Turner, soprano, Dennis Noble, baritone and Marie Hall, violinist. Unfortunately Clara Butt was unwell and Eva Turner was out of the country.

The September Council meeting received a report from the Watch Committee recommending the purchase of 'Elmside', Stoke Bishop as a residence for the Chief Constable, John Henderson Watson. The proposed purchase price was £1,550 and an expenditure of £800 was needed for alterations and decoration. An amendment to the proposal

referring the question back to the committee was carried by 31 votes to 29. It then appears that Watson and Sir John Swaish, the chairman of the committee, arranged with the owner of the house to rent it to the committee and to pay £800 to Watson to enable him to have the necessary works carried out. Sir John agreed that members of the fire brigade could carry out much of the work. When the full committee learned of the arrangement they stopped the work and strongly condemned this error of judgement. The Chief Constable resigned on 5 March and retired to Eastbourne. At the end of May Sir John resigned as chairman on the ground of ill-health. In October concern was expressed when Watson went missing from his home and the search for him extended to Beachy Head. No body was found but the Town Clerk later reported to the Watch Committee that a coroner's jury had presumed death to have taken place on 7 October. Some 15 months later his body, with a self-inflicted wound, was found in an Eastbourne park.

The Methodist Conference which took place at the Central Hall in October discussed world evangelism and Christian reunion. The meeting welcomed the Bishop of Bristol who referred to differences in the Church of England and said that Christian reunion would be one of the most vital problems to be discussed at the next Lambeth Conference.

At the October Council meeting the Tramways Option Committee recommended that the option to purchase the undertaking should not be exercised as to do so would be too expensive; the advice was accepted.

The first shots in the forthcoming 'newspaper war' took place in October when, on the first of the month, Northcliffe Newspaper's *Evening World* published its first edition. The proprietors of the *Bristol Times & Mirror* made an unsuccessful application in the Chancery Division for an injunction preventing Northcliffes from attempting to induce some of their employees to leave their service.

At the November meeting the Council discussed a report from the War Memorial Committee who said they had no recommendation to make as the cost would be too high. An amendment instructing the committee to investigate sites within the Council's ownership was carried by 39 votes to 33. In the following June the committee suggested a site in Colston Avenue and observed that funds for the memorial had already been subscribed privately.

At the municipal elections taking place at the beginning of November 22 seats were contested and there were four Labour gains.

A report of The Museum and Art Gallery Committee in December announced that the Hon. Mrs. Smyth had donated the whole collection of the Ashton Court museum; it included nearly 600 mounted birds of exceptional rarity and beauty together with the heads of three bisons that

had been shot by Sir Greville Smyth upon the North American prairies in the sixties.

During the course of the Christmas period the Lord Mayor visited Southmead Hospital that was shortly due to be transferred from the Guardians to the Corporation. During his visit the medical superintendent, Dr. Philips, said, 'There is an impression in the public mind that radium is a cure for cancer. I do not think that at present we can regard it as a cure [but nevertheless] we should be glad if this hospital is made the radium centre for the West'. The Lord Mayor responded that he was glad that hospitals were no longer having to compete with each other for supplies of radium. He added that one result of the transfer to the Corporation would be that the stigma of pauperism would be removed from the hospital.

1930

At the beginning of January the Duchess of Beaufort, with her pilot Captain C.D. Barnard, arrived at Filton after their record flight from India, having travelled there and back in a week.

Also at the start of the year Mr. F. Pickles retired as headmaster of St. George Secondary School.

In January the Education Committee reported on the effects of the legislation that would raise the leaving age to 15 from 1 April 1931. They noted that primary education would cease at the age of 11 and that class sizes would have to be reduced to 40 for seniors and 50 for juniors. An extra 6930 additional school places would have to be provided.

In January the Council agreed to adopt a superannuation scheme for all their employees.

On 15 January 1928 St. Mary's Church, Shirehampton had caught fire and was completely gutted. The rebuilding commenced in June when Mrs. Yda Richardson laid the foundation stone and two years after the fire, to the day, the rebuilt church was consecrated by the Bishop of Malmesbury.

In January the members of Kingswood Urban District Council discussed the failure of their surveyor, Glynne Warner, to send plans for proposed road schemes to the appropriate government department. They heard that this would result in there being no government subsidy and thus no work for the unemployed during that winter. The surveyor resigned.

The first appearance in the provinces of Herr Siegfried Wagner took place at the Colston Hall on 8 February when he conducted the Bristol Choral Society and an orchestra totalling 450 performers. The programme included music from *Tannhäuser* and *Die Meistersinger*.

At the end of the month James Ross, the deputy city librarian gave a series of broadcast talks from Cardiff about some of the treasures in the library.

In February in the House of Commons the Bristol Tramway Company was criticised by J.H. Alpass. He pointed out that the Corporation had built a number of homes at some distance from the centre thus requiring many tenants to travel to work but that the company had no workmans' return fares and that the cheapest fare was 1½d. He also pointed out that the company did not encourage unions and alleged that they had dismissed some employees known to be members.

On 13 February John Wesley's Chapel in Broadmead was re-opened after extensive restoration. The work cost £6,000.

Paul Robeson appeared in a concert at the Colston Hall on 25 February.

In March the *Evening News* ceased publication and the two remaining evening papers, *Evening World* and *Evening Times and Echo*, were left to fight a circulation war.

At the end of March ten men were convicted at Weston-super-Mare Magistrates' Court; they had trespassed in search of game on Steep Holm. PC Hanham managed to overhaul both of their boats and found rabbits on board. He also saw that one of the men was in possession of a volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* that he had taken from Mr. Sleeman's house on the island. The magistrates were lenient because the men were unemployed and fined them modest amounts.

In March Miss Elsa R.H. Nunn was appointed Principal of the Diocesan Training College at Fishponds. A graduate of Girton College, Cambridge, she had gained a good second class degree in both parts of the history tripos and an MA in education at London University.

In the same month Captain Guest, who had formerly been MP for Bristol North as a Liberal, joined the Conservatives.

Horace Walker died in April. He had been Chairman of H.J. Packer & Co. Ltd. He was a councillor from 1921 to 1927 and served as Sheriff in 1922/23.

The Kingswood Urban District Council had been criticised for exploiting 'test' workers (men in receipt of assistance from the Warmley Poor Law Authorities). They considered the matter on 30 April and did not feel that the criticism was justified. After discussion they decided not to accept any more 'test' workers on the ground that they had a tendency to encourage council workmen to malingering.

At their May meeting the Watch Committee heard representations from E.H. Parker of the Bristol Unemployed Association who claimed to speak for the 21,000 unemployed in the city. One councillor strongly

deprecated the way in which policemen who retired on pension took employment thus keeping some jobs from the unemployed.

In May the Lord Mayor opened a new block of flats opposite Broadweir Baths provided by the Bristol Churches' Tenements Association. The project had cost £7,000.

A 'French Week' was held at the end of May. *H.M.S. Selkirk*, a minesweeper, and a French despatch boat *La Somme* visited the city docks. The Suspension Bridge was illuminated, an aerial 'derby' was held at Bristol Airport and there was a service at the Cathedral attended by the French ambassador, the Mayor of Rouen and other distinguished visitors. The celebrations also included a demonstration by 6,000 children who formed themselves into a representation of the Union Jack, a regatta at Hotwells, a dancing demonstration at the Colston Hall by pupils of Miss Maddocks, and an exhibition of modern French art at the Royal West of England Academy. The licensing justices refused to grant an extension of hours for the occasion. At about the same time Sir Ernest and Lady Cook visited Béthune and were enthusiastically received.

On 27 May the Art Gallery extension was opened by Sir William Llewellyn, the President of the Royal Academy. The project had been made possible by a donation of £80,000 from Sir George Wills.

On 31 May Prince George (who later became the Duke of Kent) flew to Filton and went to Winford to open the orthopaedic hospital known as the Bristol Crippled Children's Open Air Hospital; at the time there were about 50 children in residence. After lunch with the Merchant Venturers he carried out the official opening of Whitchurch Airport and witnessed a display by aeroplanes from many countries including a squadron from the Royal Air force who gave a demonstration of 'converging bombing'. The Council incurred expenditure amounting to £4,000 for the occasion including £1,000 to improve the narrow lanes leading to the airport as they expected considerable motor traffic for the event.

At their June meeting the Council gave approval for a new mental hospital at Barrow Gurney and the construction of a war memorial in Colston Avenue.

During 'Navy Week' at the end of June two Destroyers - *Velox* and *Warwick* visited the city docks, and two more - *Versailles* and *Vimy* were at the Royal Edward Dock in Avonmouth.

There were 70 applications for the post of Chief Constable including six from serving chief constables. The Watch Committee recommended the appointment of Superintendent Charles George Maby of the Bristol force; he had been educated at Barton Hill and St. George Secondary School and had joined the force as a junior clerk at the age of 16.

The first meeting of the creditors of Sir Beddoe Rees, the former Liberal MP for Bristol South, took place in London in July. He did not attend the meeting on medical grounds and the meeting was told that doctors had advised him to go abroad for health reasons.

On 15 July the first stage of the new electrical generating station at Portishead was opened by Sir Andrew R. Duncan, the Chairman of the Electricity Commission. The station, constructed by the Bristol Corporation Electricity Department, had cost £1,000,000 and on the opening day was visited by 700 to 800 people.

On 22 July Dame Janet Stancombe Wills opened a home for nurses at the Bristol Maternity Hospital in Southwell Street, Kingsdown. The home was the gift of Mrs. Yda Richardson and was built by William Cowlin & Son Ltd; the plans were prepared by Oatley & Lawrence.

At their July meeting the licensing justices received a petition 27 yards long containing some 2,000 names objecting to the Sunday opening of cinemas. It had been prepared by young people at Kensington Baptist Chapel, Stapleton Road with the aid of some neighbouring churches.

In July the Imperial Tobacco Company agreed to give the sum of £10,000 to Bristol Churches Tenements Association to enable them to construct 26 houses at Bedminster. There was an arrangement for the Corporation to own and let the houses and to make annual payments to the association over a period of 75 years.

The match between Gloucestershire and the touring Australian cricket team at Fry's athletic ground (which later became the County Ground) ended on 26 August with a thrilling finish. Gloucestershire batted first and scored 72 runs and the visitors responded with a score of 187. The county in their second innings made 202 leaving the tourists to score 118 to win. They only managed 117 and so the match ended in a tie.

The British Association met in Bristol from 3 to 10 September. The delegates visited the Bristol Aeroplane Works and witnessed an autogyro demonstration. Amongst the visitors were Sir Oliver Lodge and George Bernard Shaw. Professor F.O. Bower gave his presidential address in the Colston Hall and later received an honorary LL.D from the University.

The city's first traffic lights had been installed at the junction of Whiteladies Road and Tyndall's Park Road. They worked satisfactorily and in September the Watch Committee decided to install a dozen more.

Responsibility for the administration of the poor law had been transferred from the Guardians to the Corporation. A meeting of the newly appointed Public Assistance Committee took place on 26 September and, in his absence, the chairman Alderman H.J. Maggs was criticised for a speech in which he had expressed his view that there was some duplication of functions and a waste of money in the work of the committee.

In October a meeting of boot and shoe workers at the British Schoolroom in Kingswood protested at the proposed reduction of pay from 56s. to 52s. pre week.

Mrs. Yda Richardson opened the Infirmary's Medical Officers' Hostel in October and was presented with the golden key with which she had performed the ceremony. A week or so later she laid the foundation stone at the new central YMCA.

At Staple Hill Magistrates' Court on 23 October a 15 year old St. George boy was charged with breaking into the powder magazine at Frenchay Quarry and stealing 17lb of gelignite. When interviewed by a police inspector he admitted the offence, adding 'I done it for mischief'. With some friends he had broken the explosive into small pieces and thrown them at passing trains; they had also exploded some of it in the street. The bench remanded him for a medical examination and told him that they were considering sending him to a training ship.

At the October meeting of the Housing Committee a member questioned why imported doors were being used when it should have been possible to make them by directly employed carpenters. They were told that the doors were mass-produced and made of Columbian pine; it appears that locally made doors were more expensive and that the panels tended to shrink.

During Bristol's 'Radio Week' the broadcasts included a programme called 'A Naval Affair' that recorded the activities at the *Flying Fox* and a programme by the Bristol Harmonic Choir.

At the municipal elections at the beginning of November 19 wards were contested and there was no change in representation.

The Lord Mayor opened the new police and fire stations on 5 November in the presence of Sir John Anderson, the Permanent Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

The Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment met in November and it was reported that there were currently 1,000 boys and girls unemployed and that 80 to 100 were being placed in employment each week by the Juvenile Exchange. The Merchant Venturers' Technical College was holding classes in salesmanship for assistants and apprentices in the drapery, outfitting and boot and shoe trades but that they were not being supported by employers. A session of talks on 'Homecrafts' and 'Opportunities for Girls in the Printing and Allied Trades' was held at Wills Hall. Miss King, the Headmistress of the Bath School of Housecraft told the audience that there was no nobler trade for any woman than that of being a good mother and homemaker.

Walter Baker, the Labour M.P. for Bristol East died on 2 December. Before being elected as an MP he was a civil service telegraphist. Mr. Baker was a Fabian and a member of the ILP; he was very active on behalf of the Union of Post Office Workers.

The New Year's Honours List contained a baronetcy for Richard Gregory, the noted scientist and editor of *Nature*. He was the son of the poet John Gregory and was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital.

Sir John Swaish died on 19 January. He had founded a local pawnbroking business with several branches in the city. Sir John became a councillor in 1890, an alderman in 1906 and served as Lord Mayor in 1913/14. He received a knighthood in 1920. Two weeks later, on 5 February, Walter Henry Eyles died. He was a wholesale fruit merchant, became a councillor in 1919 and Lord Mayor in 1928/9.

On 24 January the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra conducted by Sir Dan Godfrey gave a concert in the Colston Hall. The programme was in conjunction with the Bristol Choral Society and included Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and Elgar's *Six Songs from the Bavarian Highlands*. Other notable appearances during the year were Maurice Chevalier on 3 January and Paderewski on 19 October.

In the same month a mobile detachment was added to the police force. There was subsequent criticism of the fact that the Watch Committee had purchased Sunbeam motor cycles instead of machines produced locally by Douglas. The fact that the Kingswood manufacturer was able to make suitable machines was illustrated in March when they supplied two 750cc bikes to the Newport police.

On 27 January Sir William Morris opened Bristol Motor Company's new Morris service station at Ashton Gate.

The Bishop of Clifton, Dr. Burton, died on 8 February.

A new offence of taking and driving away a motor vehicle without the owner's consent had been created; this was because it was necessary to prove that an accused had intended had to deprive the owner permanently of the vehicle in order convict him of stealing it. The first prosecution in Bristol for this new offence took place in February when Edward Carr (aged 27) of Brislington was fined 10/-.

The results of the Royal Empire Society's essay competition were announced in February. All classes of schools in the United Kingdom and the Dominions were eligible and Bristol had four prizewinners; this was more than any other town or city. The local winners were pupils of Cotham Secondary School, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Newfoundland Road Girls' School and Parson Street Senior Mixed School.

Miners at Speedwell and Parkfield were on strike from the end of February. They were in dispute with the East Bristol Colliery Co. about a wage settlement and refused to accept an arbitrator's award. Mediation attempts were made by the Lord Mayor and officials from the Ministry

of Mines and the men suffered a setback at the end of March when the Court of Referees ruled that the strikers were not entitled to unemployment benefit. They returned to work on 18 April and accepted the terms offered under protest.

At the beginning of March the Bristol Employment Committee were given the numbers of persons out of work in the previous month. They were: Men 19532 Women 5645 Boys 747 Girls 894 Total 26818. The total for the preceding month was 23707.

A bye-election in Bristol East was held on March. The result was:

Sir Stafford Cripps (Lab)	19261
P.J.F. Chapman Walker (Con)	7937
E. Baker (Lib)	<u>4010</u>
	<u>11324</u>

The successful candidate was the Solicitor General.

The opening gala at the newly built Bristol South Baths took place on 16 April. The architect was C.F.W. Dennis and the builder Frank Wilkins. The baths cost £60,000.

In April there was a vacancy for an alderman following the death of Sir John Swaish. In accordance with their usual practice the Citizen party voted for Councillor F.G. Mullins, the most senior councillor and a member of their party. The Labour members walked out in protest as they continued to press for the number of aldermen to reflect the number of councillors.

At the April Council meeting the members received a report from the Housing Committee dealing with the question of new licensed premises on their estates. The committee's policy was that no application to build a public house would be granted unless a majority of residents gave their approval on a canvas. A number of members of the committee had been in favour of an outright ban.

Alderman J.S.G.W. Stroud died on 28 April. He became a councillor in 1895 and an alderman in 1924. He served as Sheriff in 1914.

At the end of April it was announced that Sir James O'Grady was retiring as Governor of Tasmania and had been appointed Governor of the Falkland Islands. He was the son of a Bristol docker and during the interval between the two appointments he visited the city for a reunion with his old school friends from St. Mary's on the Quay.

On 1 May the BBC opened its first studio in the city over a branch of the Midland Bank in Queens Road. Mr. W.S.A. Brown gave the first talk.

At the beginning of May the Lord Mayor visited the City of Bristol bombing squadron at Whitchurch Airport.

Sir Beddoe Rees, the former Liberal MP for Bristol South, died on 18 May.

There was an unusual incident in the magistrates' court in the middle of May. After hearing 15 motoring cases and whilst in the middle of a case Alderman Dyer announced 'There has been a dispute between the magistrates and I am going to leave the court'. The other justice, Mr. F. Leonard, said 'You may as well add that the alderman wants to rule the roost but he is not going to do it with me'. Both then left the court but eventually returned after a discussion with one of their colleagues. They then concluded the case and the business of the court.

In June Bristol County Court, Judge Parsons heard a claim between two motorists arising out of a collision on the Portway. He gave judgement for Arthur George Bridge of Stoke Bishop who said he had 33 years of claim-free driving to his credit. The other party was Miss Rosa Campo aged 23 of Henleaze, the daughter of the Colombian consul for Bristol and Cardiff. Of Miss Campo the judge said 'It is these young women who make the roads almost impossible to drive upon. Thank God they are held up a little by the new road laws and the compulsory insurance'.

Sir George Newsom the chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health opened the Frenchay Park Sanatorium and Orthopaedic Hospital on 17 June. The estate had been purchased ten years previously for £20,000. The erection of wards cost £46,000 but the Ministry had provided £18,000 and would add a further £24,000. The local authority thus had to find only the balance of £24,000.

George Robey, the 'Prime Minister of Mirth' appeared at the Hippodrome on 6 July.

There was a peace demonstration on Durdham Down on 12 July witnessed by 50,000 children.

The July Council meeting approved the report of the War Memorial Committee recommending the erection of a memorial in Colston Avenue.

The same meeting discussed a report from the Education Committee concerning the threat to withhold a grant by the Board of Education. The Board criticised the committee's failure to proceed swiftly enough with the provision of elementary schools for the new housing estates, the implementation of a reorganisation of the city's schools or the reduction of class sizes. There was a move to appoint a committee to investigate the matter during which Councillor W.S. Cox claimed that correspondence had not been disclosed to the Council, that the committee was dominated by its chairman Sir Ernest Cook and that the elementary education of some of the city's children had been put at risk. In reply Alderman A.L.H. Smith claimed that Bristol's children got as good an education as any children in the country and that the loss of the grant had only been a temporary inconvenience. The motion was lost by 45 votes to 33. Sir Ernest resigned as a member and chairman of the committee on the ground of ill health in the following October.

At the beginning of August a new motor ferry between Beachley and Aust was inaugurated.

In September Mrs. Hoddinott, aged 70, of Fishponds returned her pension book to the Chancellor of the Exchequer telling him that at such a time of national need she hoped he would accept it in the spirit in which it was offered. His reply is not recorded.

During the second week of September the Trades Union Congress met at the Victoria Rooms. The President, Arthur Handay MP, attacked dole cutting and wage cutting schemes. The delegates voted in favour of a 40-hour week with no reduction of wages and protested at the meagreness of the unemployment benefit. The police had to prevent attempts by unemployed hunger marchers to enter the conference.

A Council meeting at the end of September discussed cost cutting proposals suggested by the Finance Committee. Feelings ran high; Councillor Habgood's criticisms of the committee and the Citizen party prompted Alderman J.E. James to comment that his speech convinced him that money used for the construction of a mental hospital would be well spent. Alderman Hennessey complained that Colonel Woodcock turned up his nose at the unemployed and called him a dirty dog. He refused to withdraw the comment and the Lord Mayor threatened to call the police to have him removed. Eventually his colleagues persuaded the alderman to leave the chamber.

In October a meeting of the Council received a deputation of unemployed men. After they had withdrawn a number of members wanted to discuss their complaints but the Lord Mayor tried to proceed with the agenda. Members refused to give way to him and eventually he yielded. The Public Assistance Committee was asked to consider demands that all relief should be paid in cash, that rent exceeding 6/- per week should be paid by the committee, that the coal allowance should be increased from 1/- to 2/- per week during winter and that the committee should loan blankets to the unemployed. The chairman of the committee commented that the scale of relief in Bristol was the sixth highest in the country.

The results of the general election held in October were:

<u>Bristol Central</u>	
Lord Apsley (Con)	22311
J.H. Alpass (Lab)	<u>15143</u>
	<u>7168</u> Con gain
<u>Bristol North</u>	
R.H. Bernays (Nat Lib)	27040
W. Ayles (Lab)	<u>13826</u>
	<u>13214</u> Nat Lib gain

Bristol South

N. Ker-Lindsay (Con)	26694
A.G. Walkden (Lab)	<u>17174</u>
	<u>9520</u> Con gain

Bristol East

Sir Stafford Cripps (Lab)	19435
J.M. Spreull (Con)	<u>19006</u>
	<u>429</u> No change

Bristol West

C.T. Culverwell (Con)	43264
F.E. White (Lab)	<u>8875</u>
	<u>34389</u> No change

Lord Wraxall of Tyntesfield (formerly Colonel Gibbs, MP for Bristol West) died in October.

The October meeting of the Housing Committee were told that houses built on the Southmead estate by direct labour had cost £60 each in excess of the estimated figure. A sub-committee was appointed to investigate this discrepancy.

The municipal elections at the beginning of October saw 16 contests in the 23 wards. Labour (who needed to gain three seats to get overall control of the council) lost five seats.

In November a GPO detector van arrived in the city and began to track down people using a wireless set without a licence.

At midnight on 28/29 November the Bristol telephone system became automatic and subscribers had to become accustomed to using a dial and no longer needed to use the services of an operator to call a local number. The Lord Mayor was welcomed by trumpeters when he made a civic visit to the telephone exchange on 7 December; he learned that 52,000 calls per day were being handled by the automatic system.

On 10 December Sir Ernest Cook formally opened the new secondary school at Cotham; its cost was £48,000. In his speech Sir Ernest said that it was the most important step in education in Bristol since King George V opened the University.

On 18 December Dr. Knox Shaw, the President of the Royal Astronomical Society, unveiled a tablet in memory of W.F. Denning, the famous astronomer, at his house in Egerton Road, Bishopston. Mr. Denning, who died on 9 June, discovered no fewer than five comets and compiled a unique catalogue of meteors.

Jack Linton, the spokesman for the Bristol Unemployed Association addressed the December Council meeting. He said that some councils, like Liverpool, were refusing to operate the means test and that others should

follow their example. He added that the test recalled the operation of the poor law and that disabled ex-servicemen were penalised. He instanced one such case where the man was receiving 16/- per week disablement pension and the means test reduced his unemployment benefit by 15/3.

James Ross was appointed City Librarian on 22 December following the resignation of Acland Taylor after 47 years of service.

The census returns for 1931 showed that Bristol's population comprised 185,173 men and 211,745 women, an increase of nearly 20,000 in ten years.

1932

The new YMCA in Colston Street was opened by Princess Helena Victoria, a cousin of the King, on 13 January.

Henry William Twiggs died on 14 January. A Liberal, he served as Chairman of the Docks Committee for 16 years and as Lord Mayor in 1918/19.

L/Cpl Frederick G. Room VC died at Ham Green Hospital on 19 January after a long illness. In May 1933 a large gathering of ex-servicemen gathered at Greenbank Cemetery to witness the unveiling of his headstone.

Monsignor William Lee was consecrated as Bishop of Clifton on 26 January.

On 29 January the proprietors of the *Evening World* and the *Evening Times and Echo* agreed an arrangement whereby the latter ceased publication. However Bristolians did not relish the prospect of only having a Northcliffe evening paper and a number of citizens subscribed the necessary funds to establish an independent paper; the *Evening Post* first appeared on 18 April.

At the end of the month Sir Thomas Walter Hobart Inskip, a member of a Bristol family of lawyers was appointed Attorney General. He had been Member of Parliament for Bristol Central from 1918 until defeated in 1929, after which he became member for Fareham. He had previously held the same post from March 1928 until 1929 under a previous administration.

On 9 February 2,000 unemployed men marched from the Horsefair, where they had held a meeting, towards the Council House. Their intention was to protest at a decision to reduce the rates of relief and when the police tried to divert them a battle ensued during which banners and placards were broken and their poles used as weapons. One mounted policeman was unseated and trampled on by his horse; he sustained a broken arm. On the following day two men (one from Blackburn) were imprisoned for 14 days for behaving in a disorderly manner. On 23 February there was a further

demonstration by 3,000 men who intended sending a deputation to the Council House where the full Council was meeting. Men snatched bricks from passing lorries to use as weapons and there was a battle with the police in Old Market Street during which over 20 men were injured and treated at the Royal Infirmary. The disturbances went on until about 10 pm. The meeting of the Public Assistance Committee meeting on 26 February agreed to postpone the reduction in relief until the whole council could discuss it. The council met on 8 March and received a deputation and again on 22 March.

A deputation of unemployed men was received by Warmley Council on 23 February and the men then dispersed peacefully.

Stuart James Bevan KC, MP was appointed Recorder of the city in March. He replaced Herbert du Parc who had been made a judge.

In March the Western National Omnibus Co. Ltd. acquired a controlling interest in the Bristol Tramway & Carriage Co. Ltd.

Sir Frank Wills died on 26 March. He was a son of Henry Overton Wills and practised as an architect and surveyor. He became a councillor in 1908 and served as Lord Mayor in 1911/12. He received a knighthood in 1911 on the occasion of the King's visit to open the King Edward VII memorial building at the Royal Infirmary.

George Riseley died on 12 April. He was organist at the Colston Hall and the Cathedral and director of the Orpheus Glee Society and the Bristol Choral Society. He served as Sheriff in 1909/10.

There was a further demonstration outside the Council House during the meeting on 12 April. It was mostly good-humoured but three men and women were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct; the magistrates bound them over to be of good behaviour.

The GPO introduced a scheme of numbering the city's postal districts that came into operation on 2 June.

On the afternoon and evening of 9 June some 1,000 people demonstrated violently in Old Market Street. Mounted policemen had to clear Castle Street and there were three baton charges. Three men were arrested and charged with inciting others to assault the police; one was reported as saying, 'If you come up against them give it them like hell. If we get together we can rule the city'. They appeared at the assizes held on 27 June when the grand jury found a true bill and recommended that they should be treated mercifully. Charles Henry Webber and Archibald Bailey received six months and Ernest Parker 12 months in the second division.

During June there were almost daily demonstrations outside St. Peter's Hospital, the offices of the Public Assistance Committee, and on one occasion men demonstrated for two hours outside the home of a relieving officer.

On 26 June Sir William Birdwood unveiled the War Memorial in Colston Avenue.

On 28 June the Housing Committee discussed a report that the housing scheme in Southmead, which was carried out by direct labour, had resulted in an overspend. The original scheme was for 732 houses. When the overspend was discovered 494 houses had been completed and the direct labour scheme was stopped. The committee then arranged for 122 houses to be completed from first floor level by private contract. The remaining 116 houses were never built. One member attributed it to the fact that the managers were timid when they had to discharge men for slacking for fear of intimidation. Others took the view that inefficient managers were the cause. A sub-committee had investigated the matter and its report to the full committee, although marked 'private and confidential', was leaked to the press. The committee members expressed their dismay at the leak.

At their July meeting the Health Committee approved the proposal that the University should assume responsibility for the city's pathological and bacteriological work.

There was an accident at Speedwell colliery on 22 August. Two miners were overcome by fumes and a fireman (Jack Emery of Fishponds) carried out Isaac Kendall but collapsed when trying to recover Frank Plummer. Plummer was rescued by others but Emery did not recover. His widow later received a commendation and a cheque from the management.

At the Council meeting on 23 August, whilst discussing relief schemes, a group of unemployed men entered the chamber. The Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting and the police had to eject the men. Some 2,000 were demonstrating outside the chamber and eight men arrested and charged. When they appeared before the magistrates a few days later three were sent to prison and the remainder bound over. Two weeks later the council met again and resolved to speed up some relief schemes.

On 26 August the Public Assistance Committee received a deputation of unemployed men and discussed the possible reinstatement of the cuts in rates of relief. As an illustration of the effects of the cuts the committee noted the following:

Week ended	Number relieved	Cost (money and kind)
30 July	9264	£1264:8:4
6 August*	6908	£903:8:5
13 August*	7089	£916:8:11
20 August*	6946	£876:3:10

* weeks when the reduced rates were in operation.

The cost of reinstating the cuts would amount to a rate of 1½d in the £.

A further demonstration was planned for Saturday 10 September. It took place in Queen Square and was organised by Bristol Trades and Labour Council and unemployed organisations. They expected that 20,000 would attend but in the event the number was nearer 5,000. Jack Linton, the chairman of the Unemployed Association observed 'Seems to me that more of our comrades have gone to the Rovers match than have come here'.

At the beginning of October the Clifton Rugby Club chartered seven aeroplanes to take them to Cardiff where they were playing Glamorgan Wanderers.

In October the police were called to Spring Gardens, Knowle, where they had to disperse a crowd of unemployed men who were protesting at the enforcement of an eviction order.

A temperance meeting at the Colston Hall on 18 October was addressed by the Bishop of Worcester and Lady Astor who told the audience that they should realise that, if less money were spent on drink, society could cut down on the numbers of police, prisons, workhouses and orphan asylums.

Dissension amongst the organisations representing the unemployed manifested itself on 28 October when the Bristol Unemployed Association and the National Unemployed Workers Movement could not agree on the membership of a deputation to visit the Public Assistance Committee. The committee refused to meet two groups and their refusal resulted in more violence in Union Street. The police drew their truncheons and in the disturbances arrested a number of demonstrators. When they appeared in court five men received short terms of imprisonment.

Sir William Howell Davies died on 26 October. He was a Liberal, a leather merchant and a prominent Methodist. Sir William became a councillor in 1885 and Mayor in 1895. He contested Bristol South in 1900 but was unsuccessful. However he was elected in 1906 and sat as a Member of Parliament until 1922 when he retired.

In the municipal elections held at the beginning of November, fifteen wards were contested and the Citizen party gained two seats. During the hustings several Citizen party meetings were broken up by rowdyism.

The first Armistice Day parade at the new War Memorial took place on 11 November.

Charles Edward Ley Gardner died on 14 December in his 90th year. He was a wholesale grocer and a Wesleyan Methodist; in early life he had been a captain in the volunteer Bristol Artillery. He was a member of the council from 1882 until 1929 and served as Lord Mayor in 1901.

In December a group of citizens, wishing to mark Sir James O'Grady's appointment as Governor of the Falkland Islands, presented him with a large and handsome cigar box, a cigarette box and a pair of lighters mounted on a dolphin stand. The items bore the arms of the Falklands and Bristol with a suitable inscription.

In December Mrs. Lilian Maud Pheysy became the first lady alderman.

At the end of December it was announced that the Bishop of Bristol had resigned on the ground of ill health, to take effect at the end of February.

On 19 December the East Bristol Colliery Company made public the fact that it had decided to close the Speedwell Colliery on account of the geological conditions experienced there. The 300 miners employed there were given a week's notice.

1933

Following the colliery company's announcement of the proposed closure of the Speedwell pit the Lord Mayor launched a public appeal for funds to save the jobs that would be lost. Within a very short time Bristol citizens had subscribed the sum of £3,000. This was sufficient to fund two tunnels to an area where larger seams were anticipated and work started at the end of January employing 150 men. In May a new seam of good coal had been located and work resumed.

In February a 12-year-old boy appeared before the magistrates and pleaded guilty to stealing cigarettes valued at 8s:6d. The bench bound him over to be of good behaviour on condition that he stayed indoors every day after 8 pm, attended Sunday School and joined the Boys' Brigade.

On 16 February the statue of John Wesley in Broadmead was unveiled. The sculptor was Arthur J. Walker and the ceremony was performed by Edmund S. Lamplough whose generosity made the work possible. It was unveiled on the third anniversary of the re-opening of the chapel.

The Bishop's last official engagement was the dedication of St. Cuthbert's Church, Brislington in February. He was accompanied by the Lord Mayor and Mrs. Yda Richardson, who had laid the foundation stone in the previous year and whose gift of £4,000 had substantially contributed to the building fund. The building was designed by Harland Thomas, the Diocesan Architect and constructed by William Cowlin & Sons.

The new Labour Exchange in Nelson Street was opened on 17 March by R.S. Hudson, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour. The building was designed by C.M. Childs ARIBA and built by L.E. Weeks.

On the nights of 18, 19 and 20 April a number of people were disturbed by the sound of aircraft over the city. The authorities reported that this was due to the Air Force carrying out night practice and the Watch Committee did not feel that it could complain about the noise.

During the course of a speech on May Day Sir Stafford Cripps warned against fascism which he said had begun to be apparent in Britain with a wave of intense nationalism in 1931.

In May the Housing Committee decided to close the register of people waiting for council housing until the end of the year. During 1932 there were more than 3,000 applications and only 591 houses vacated. The building of council houses continued but principally to rehouse families who were affected by slum clearance programmes. At the Council meeting held on 22 May a deputation from the Bristol Trades and Labour Council urged the local authority to continue building houses over and above the number required for this purpose.

The new Bishop of Bristol was consecrated at Westminster Abbey on 25 May. He was Rev. Clifford Salisbury Woodward. The new bishop was born in 1878, the son of Rev. R.S. Woodward of Canynge Road, Clifton. He was a Canon of Westminster from 1926 and a Chaplain to the King.

Herbert George Newton, the licensee of the Swan Hotel, Bridge Street, appeared before the magistrates at the end of May charged with permitting billiards to be played on licensed premises on Good Friday. A police sergeant told the court that he heard the click of balls in the early hours of the morning. The licensee told the court that he was in Chippenham at the time and that his boots had allowed some residents to finish their game late on Maundy Thursday. The charge was dismissed on payment on 40/- costs.

Bristol Brighton Week took place on 17 to 24 June. The licensing justices allowed an extension of hours until 11 pm. A delegation from Brighton arrived by air and during the week the largest air pageant outside Hendon took place at Whitchurch. Buildings were decorated and illuminated and there was a gymnastics demonstration by 3,000 children on the Rovers ground.

On 31 July there was a conference of members of the local authority and representatives of the building industry and building societies. They discussed the effect of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1933 which would abolish subsidies from March 1934. The responsibility for providing homes would then rest upon private builders and building societies and the removal of subsidies would enable builders to build houses for rent and not have to compete with local authorities on rent levels. It was planned that building societies would grant 90% mortgages guaranteed by government and local authorities.

The responsibility for paying relief to the sick and the unemployed who were not entitled to insured benefit lay with the Public Assistance Committee. As a general rule one half of the relief for the unemployed was paid in kind and payment entailed a means test. Men were required to report for 'test' work and the money earned by this was deducted from their benefit. At the Council meeting on 29 August a deputation from the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers attended to protest at this practice as they felt that it removed work from their members. At the same meeting the council considered a letter from the Ministry of Health commenting that the rates of benefit paid in Bristol were in excess of those found to be adequate in comparable areas. With regard to test work the letter commented that it was not undertaken for financial reasons, but rather to accustom the man to a habit of working and quoted, with apparent approval, from the minority report of the Royal Commission of the Poor Law 'The enforced idleness and prolonged privation characteristic of unemployment have on both the strong and the weak, on the man of character and conduct, and on the dissolute, a gradually deteriorating effect on body and mind, on muscle and will'.

Brighton reciprocated the 'twinning' with Bristol by holding a Brighton Bristol Week in September. The Lord Mayor and other dignitaries visited and there was a Bristol Art Exhibition and an opportunity for local industries to display their products.

The Council had imposed a reduction of between 2½% and 9% in officers' salaries from 31 March. At their meeting on 12 September the members agreed to reinstate the cuts as to one half from 1 November and as to the remaining half from 1 April 1934.

Bristol University's Faculty of Law was inaugurated on 6 October; Malcolm Lewis was appointed the first Dean.

In October a tablet commemorating French prisoners of war was unveiled at Stapleton by the Lord Mayor and French representatives. The Shaftesbury Silver Band played *God Save the King* and *La Marseillaise* and there was an exhibition of Arthur Everest's collection of prisoners' works.

The Duke of York came to the city on 27 October to visit the 13th Annual Fruit Show and Canning Exhibition at the Coliseum.

At the municipal elections at the end of October ten candidates were unopposed and there were contests in 13 wards. In a poll of 44.6% Labour gained one seat.

At the end of November the Coroner held an inquest into the death of a pillion passenger who died in the Royal Infirmary. He was killed in a collision between a motor cyclist and a lorry at the junction between Cleve Road and Westerleigh Road, Downend, and it was the tenth fatal accident investigated by the Coroner during the month.

At the end of November Mrs. Edmond King laid the foundation stone of the new Eye Hospital designed by Oatley and Lawrence. The stone was inscribed in memory of Mrs. King's late husband and Francis Richardson Cross.

On 28 November Sir Ernest Cook resigned as leader of the Citizen party.

On 15 December the Dean of Bristol, Very Rev. Henry Lawe Corry Vully de Candole died.

At the beginning of December the Bristol Waterworks Company gave notice that, owing to the unusual drought during the previous 7½ months (when rainfall was a half of the usual amount), they were imposing restrictions on the use of water. They warned that, if the restrictions did not result in an immediate reduction of one third of the normal consumption, the company would be forced to cut off all supplies between 4 pm and 7 am.

Lord Mayors and Sheriffs.

(The Civic year ran from November)

1926/27 Edward Malachi Dyer	Frank Ernest Sampson
1927/28 John Curle	John Arnold Arrowsmith-Brown
1928/29 William Henry Eyles	Ernest John Taylor
1929/30 Walter Bryant	Henry James Gilbert Rudman
1930/31 Frederick Francis Clothier	Herbert George Tanner
1931/32 John Hampden Inskip	Edwin Stanley Gange
1932/33 Thomas James Wise	Walter Kenneth Wills
1933/34 Francis Crispin Luke	Francis Sydney Philpott

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