

1 Magdalen Chapel: St Mary Magdalen Chapel was originally built around 1100 and was used by pilgrims making their way to Glastonbury. It was rebuilt in 1495 and restored in the 18th century making it one of the oldest buildings in Bath.



Next door is the former leper hospital originally built in the 12th century but rebuilt in 1761.

website: <https://www.magdalenchapelbath.co.uk>



2 Bear Flat - option B: The area of Bear Flat is rather informal in its bounds. At its heart is the shopping area lying along a few hundred metres of the Wells Road from Hayes Place at the top of Holloway to the division of the road into Bloomfield Road.



The area is not named after bears – the word is derived from barley-village or barley-farm. But a well-known local landmark is the

Bear Hotel with its polar bear statue. There was a Bear Brewery and The Bear pub (pictured), which were both destroyed by bombing in World War II.



c1976 - courtesy of David Baker

A perfect area for a coffee or a bite to eat.

website: www.bearflat.org

3 Devonshire Tunnel: From Bloomfield Green you can access Devonshire Tunnel, which forms part of the Linear Park, a ribbon of countryside 13 miles long, originally part of the Somerset and Dorset Railway line. The line was closed as part of the Beeching Axe in the 1960s after a century of use. The walking and cycle way was opened in 2013 and was part of the Sustrans Connect 2 National Lottery funded project. At 409 metres, Devonshire is the shorter of the two tunnels on the route, the other being Combe Down Tunnel at 1672 metres.



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website: www.sustrans.org.uk



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4 Watery Bottom Viaduct (Lyncombe Vale): This three-span masonry bridge was opened in 1874. Its building incurred massive costs and sadly, only a year on, the Midland and South London railways took joint charge. The daily Bournemouth to



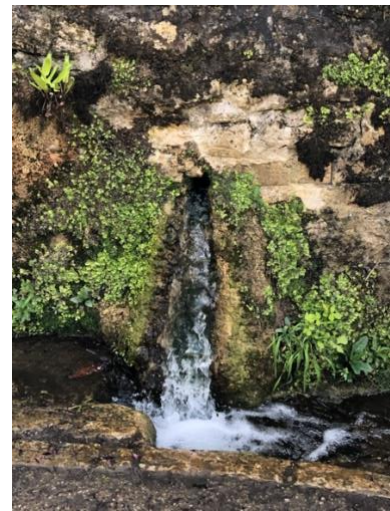
Manchester express had to jostle with freight and local passenger timetables. Saturdays in the summer saw processions of

holidaymakers making their way to the exotic south coast.



5 Springs: The 18th century brought the belief in the medicinal qualities of spring water which was exploited by numerous quacks with their 'cure-alls'. The Lyncombe Spa (or spaw) was discovered in 1737 by a Mr Wilson whilst searching for a leak in a pond.

It is said that a single drop of water added to a glass of brandy turned it purple – a few more drops, black! A large edifice was erected to exploit patients, but unfortunately the building works disturbed the ground to such extent the springs disappeared.



6 Lyncombe House: Built in 1738-9 and formally known as Lyncombe Spa (Spaw), this was the site of a pleasure garden developed to attract wealthy visitors to the city in the summer months to display their fine clothes, while they enjoyed light refreshments and dancing.



Gambling could also be surreptitiously fitted in with the other activities. *'Mrs Sewell is much better since she has been at Lincomb Spaw, a sweet place, that she eats two breakfasts every morning, and can pick a piece of roast veal at three o'clock.'*

The house was later an isolation hospital and is now the home of the Paragon School. An overflow still gushes from the wall on the street side.



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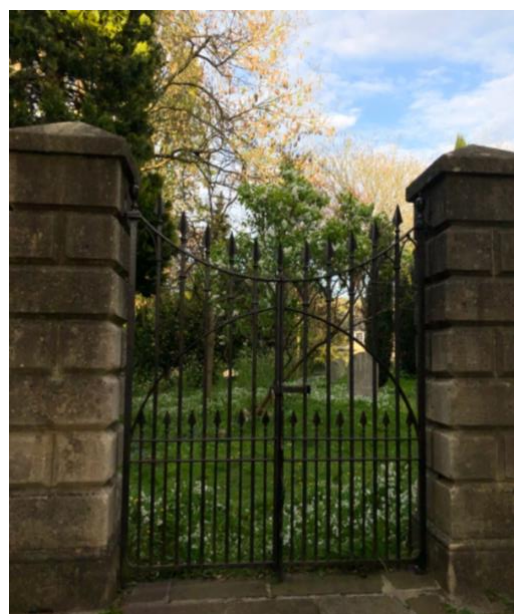
7 Lyncombe Hill & Southcot House: At the top of Lyncombe Hill, at its junction with Rosemount Lane, a zoo known as the 'Little Zoo' was run by dealers Walter Payne and Jack Wallace (known as the Bushmen). It was on land behind Montault Cottage between 1904-11 and housed emus, parrakeets, parrots, cockatoos, budgies, wallabies, and kangaroos. Most of the houses were built around 1817 but towards the bottom of the hill can be found the imposing and castellated Southcot House, built by John Evill in 1777. He lived there until his death and was a deacon at the Baptist church on the edge of Southgate.



View of Lyncombe Hill from Widcombe Hill

8 Southcot Cemetery: Now known as the Baptist Burial ground, the cemetery was opened in 1807. It was part of the grounds of Southcot House until it was granted to the Somerset Street Baptist Church in 1807 by Opie Smith, one of its deacons. No burial register or order books survive but it is thought that over the 80 years of use there would have been more than a thousand internments. It was closed by order of the council in 1887.

The Widcombe Poor House was built near here in 1729 where Southcot Place now stands.



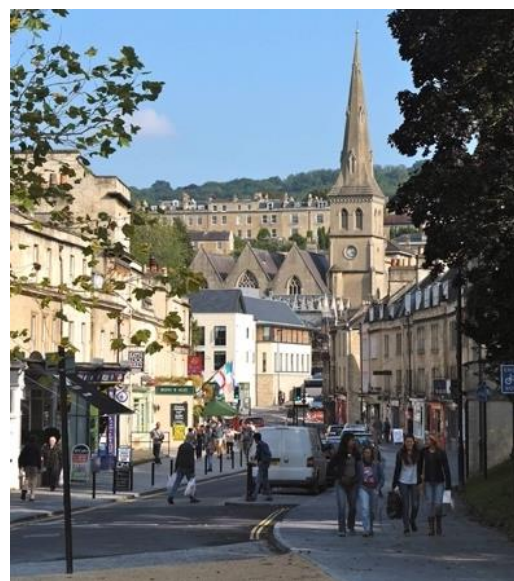
7 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings: Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge, why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and independent shops.

- two gift shops
- food and flower shops
- four pubs and restaurants
- two cafés/delis
- three takeaways, and
- two mini markets.



Claverton Buildings were built in 1770 and Widcombe Parade a little later. A fairly complete Georgian shopping street.

website: www.widcombeassociation.org.uk



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