

4 Hillside Cottages
Barrow Street
Barrow Gurney
Bristol
North Somerset
BS48 3RX
3/08/2022

Dear Andrew and Dave

Many thanks for your letter 15th July and thanks for the phone call. Sorry for the late reply to your letter but I felt I needed to complete the lengthy Bristol letter and the spreadsheet. Both of which have now been completed. (At least for the current known check).

It certainly is a good pub from my perspective. Thankfully it has not been invaded by a sports screen. The total permanent staff numbers are about 25 -27. A number of contractors ie electrician and consultants appeared while we were there. The visitors who were staying totalled about another 60 people. As a result we managed to get to know some of the permanent staff and I got a lot more information about the running of the island and day to day life. I asked the Marisco tavern barman why the brewery could not continue. He informed me that the island could not provide a guaranteed water supply. During the Winter there is no problem with amount of water but it seems to run short when the weather is better and this links with the arrival of more visitors. Your pump clip was most likely to have dated back to the time when the island had its brewery.

The island is not linked to the mainland for water or mains electricity. Use of mobile phones and internet are limited to a few locations. This is provided by a microwave link and a local Wifi network. Most of the residential areas are not linked. For me it was very enjoyable to be totally unplugged. I made sure my mobile phone was switched off before we got on the ferry for the crossing. We have been to Brownsea, the Farne Islands and Isle of Skye.

Thanks for the visit dates. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 14th afternoon. If it is dry, we could go for an afternoon tea down at the sea front if you are interested. We look forward to seeing you Sunday afternoon. We also discussed during the phone call Dave's current situation with his mother. I am sure we can be flexible around his availability.

At the time of writing Dave's latest version is dated 01-08-22.

Bristol letter: I looked closely at the 6290 image in the book and the one I took at the Gl. M. In some respects, I prefer the images in the book for the obv. and then in other aspects I prefer to Gl. M images. I have looked again. The images in the book have a warmer colour than the Gl. M images which appear slightly harsher but then again they are a bit whiter /brighter. I think the reverse of the Gl. M image shows a bit more detail. I can see some of the lettering for Durning and BIRM is more visible. When we talked on the phone you mentioned the possibility of using the image from one checks for the obv and the image from the other check for the rev. 6300 There is not a lot to choose from between the images in the book and those of Gl. M but I tend to think the Gl. M images have are a slight improvement on sharpness.

6320 I understand about the image changes it is another marginal difference and difficult to choose between the two.

6330 Thanks for your comment about the mark which is on this check. Unless other checks are seen with an identical mark then as you suggest we should ignore it.

We managed to get a name for the new curator with information from Alexa. My suggestion is that we do a face to face visit rather than try to get a reply via e mail. Alexa did tell us that the Gl. M computer system had been hacked and that the Gl. M e mail system was not operational for a period of time. Probably it was still out of action when Dave was trying to contact them. If Dave wishes to try contacting the Gl. M again then that is fine. I sent the Gl. M database files of their tokens to Dave but I have not had a reply. I wonder whether he is busy helping his mother. If he has not managed to sort them out and uploaded them to the website for you to see before you come down to Clevedon then I am sure we can take some time out for a joint viewing.

The aspect of making contact with the BM appears to have improved as we discussed on the phone and when we have sorted out the Gloucestershire checks into a short list it can be forwarded to the BM and a date organised.

Introduction and Tables

Thanks for your comments. I hope the latest updated versions which I sent with the Bristol letter have not gone away from that again when I created tables 3 and 4. Tweaks can easily applied, when we meet.

Makers

1220 Thanks for the clarification with Cottrill. I have deleted this check from the stats. It now moves the percentage dominance of Cottrill down to 4% as you can see. No other makers percentages changed. The reduction of Cottrill meant that the 'others' category increased by 1 to 14%.

Maker	Gloucester	Cheltenham	Rest of County	Total
Alldridge	1			1
Ardill			1	1
Bird	1			1
Cottrill	5	1	4	10
Daniell	10	3	4	17
Dipple		3	2	5
Durning (Pope)	6		7	13
Harper			1	1
Hinks	1			1
Hiron			2	2
Joy & Brown			1	1
Lane			3	3
Ludgate			1	1
Mappin			1	1
Mole			4	4
Pitt			1	1
Pope	53	3	40	96
Rose	7	1	4	12
Ryland		1		1
Sale	5	3	5	13
H. Smith		1	6	7
W. Smith	8	3	15	26
Tye		1		1
Vaughton	4	8	9	21
White			1	1
Williamson	1			1

Main Makers of Signed Checks %	
Pope	40
W. Smith	11
Vaughton	9
Daniell	7
Sale	5
Durning (Pope)	5
Rose	5
Cottrill	4
Others	14

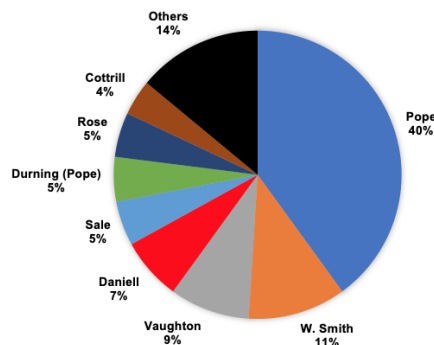


Table 1. Check Makers for Gloucestershire

Alternative table width. Is that better than the current width?

Main Makers of Signed Checks %	
Pope	40
W. Smith	11
Vaughton	9
Daniell	7
Sale	5
Durning (Pope)	5
Rose	5
Cottrill	4
Others	14

Denominations

By the time you receive this letter it will probably be too late for you to reply before arriving in Clevedon. Perhaps by the time the visit has been completed you may have sight of the Millington check and we will be able to go with another update to the stats for the additional 3d.

I am not certain about the David Powell / Alan Hunt work I am sure you will explain more when we meet.

With respect to the creation of the spreadsheet for Bristol as you have seen by now I have just managed to create the Bristol spreadsheet. I think I am on the track of another new addition but otherwise as you say nothing new seems to be appearing on ebay.

I don't think we will be able to get back to working on the map until after the Clevedon visit. There are a number of other distractions unfortunately. Harvest time for a lot of vegetables is fast approaching and the hedges need some major work. I have lifted all my shallots and in between everything I am trying to clean them up before storing them. The frying onions and the potatoes I have will probably be the next to be lifted. I usually harvest them over the next couple of weeks but they will have to be delayed.

Convention Consistency v Text Review

Ref pubs with checks carrying over onto next page thanks for your comments I agree, we will do a check for any 'As XXX above when we are near finalisation.

Thanks for the comments about “signed” checks. I will need to include note about this in the Bristol Introduction.

Trawl vs 16 June

1220 When I revisited the stats, I noticed that it was still accounted for and have therefore now deleted it as mentioned above. It does though nudge Cottrill closer to the “Others” group.

1230 Thanks for your comment.

2410/60 noted

4200/20 Thanks.

5150/55 Thanks for amendment.

5990, 6250 Thanks for the amendments.

5425 & 5690 Noted.

I understand your thoughts about image alignment and can understand that Dave would like to sort this out at a later stage when all the available images have been added. With regards to the use of the term blank for uniface and single sided. It seems that ‘blank’ has been used for both throughout. Is that intentional? Eg 3130 which has rev with a beaded edge v 3770 which does not. Or is there a vestige of a beaded edge which is as a result of it being filed / worn flat? There are also checks 5190, 5280 which do not appear to have existed with a beaded edge rev.

I certainly agree with you about showing the rev. even if it is blank, single sided, uniface because that is a visual aid which supports the text and removes ambiguity. If it is felt to be tidier with a single obv only image shown and I went down that route I would then show two rev. images in the definition section of both types with a suitable note supporting the text within the catalogue. With a single image would you keep it in the left column under the other obv. images or centralise it?

Good to know the sizes for the Simmons checks has been sorted. That reduces those queries. The restrictions for the BM viewing seem to make it much more difficult if there is a need to determine variants. Often there is a need to look closely at one then compare the view side by side with another, but from your comments it would seem that is no longer possible at the BM. Before long, at that rate of adding more restrictions, eventually the BM will close themselves off to researchers. I suppose we have to thank all those unscrupulous people in the past for their misdemeanours. The digitising of their collections with good descriptions and images seems to be woefully lacking to allow them to close themselves off. I hope when you pay them a visit you present that concern to them.

We were certainly allowed to measure the size and weight of each item at the Stroud Museum. Whilst Alexa handed each check individually to us and handed out the next when the previous check had been returned it was certainly more relaxed than I feel it will be at the BM.

1370 image and size obtained great.

1740 Image size suggested works and 24 mm. (est.) in brackets I think helps to emphasise what we have done.

For me a question mark in this instance is a bit vague.

3280 Yes that is fine.

4290 I hope your search of Birmingham is successful. At the moment, our records suggest that there were only 2 2 ½ d checks in Bristol and those were both Cottrill. No help there. Example 1320 Bristol T.Pope Newhall St 23 mm, 2410, 2420 Bristol 27mm but has T.Pope Coin & Press etc not a good example ?,

5180 I will leave 4290 and 5180 with you as suggested.

5270 There is so little to go on with this one. Your estimate is probably as good as we can get.

5730 Thanks for confirming agreement.

5670 I was replying to your previous letter in which you said “Image added but looks larger than 23.5mm.”

Therefore, to solve your query I was suggesting that the best way to solve that is to print out the page and compare the printed image with the check itself. Your comment for this one about image size v known dimension follows other similar comments. Sorry if I confused you.

5930/31 dimensions I hope will be updated by Dave. He was recording the measurements.

4939 Thanks for the amendment.

An extract from What pub copied below and then further below an entry from the Retreat pub website All suggest that the name was changed from the Lamb to the Retreat in 1988. According to What pub the pub dates back to 1768. The information also suggests that the Retreat opened in 1988. Further below is a list of landlords but there seems to be a gap between 1955 and 1988 which I cannot fill.

Perhaps we could amend the traced dates to read ‘Traced 1768 – 1955 ... 1988 as Retreat to present.’

Historic Interest

Dating from 1768 what was then called the Lamb Inn was built – the street was originally part of The Shambles. The street became known as Lamb Street after the Inn but this was later changed to Church Street. According to newspaper archive website, britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, coaches carrying post, running from the Lamb Inn

to London, were the first to carry Royal Mail packages. The pub was also a meeting place for the Society for the Prosecution of Felons before the creation of a National police force. Named the Retreat in 1988.

Family run Since 1988

Ian Morrison and his friendly team have been welcoming the rich and famous and the not so for the last 34 years

Opened in 1988 in partnership with Retreat Cheltenham, after a restoration project to remove the 70s decor. The Retreat now boasts tall ceilings, polished wooden floors, classic bentwood furniture and that red which is only Retreat red.

Locally sourced homemade lunches, served Monday to Friday 12noon to 3pm and from 12noon to 6pm on Saturday. This famous quirky bar offers local ales, fine wines and an impressive range of spirits in a relaxed atmosphere.

Gloucestershire's pubs website lists the following landlords but there is a gap between 1955 and 1998.

Landlords at the Lamb Inn / The Retreat include:

1824-1836 James Wakefield

1856 W.H. Barnfield

1885 William Stephens

1891 Silvanus Fawkes

1902 George Ball

1903 James Kerton Horler

1927 John B. Ayers

1944-1955 Geoff and Peggy Davis (moved to the Forge Hammer in Lydbrook)

1998,2008 Ian Morrison (Retreat Wine Bar)

Problem Diameters

1740 Your guess est 25mm seems reasonable.

3280 The reasoning to select 23mm. is perfectly acceptable.

4290

For similar examples of this Pope made check with value not in a circle.

An example in the Bristol check series is 1320 2d which is recorded with a diameter 23 mm.

An example in the Pun Checks of Wales is number 42 3d which is recorded with a diameter 23 mm.

Example number 89 2d which is recorded with a diameter 24 mm. Rev value not mentioned in a circle but value on obv is in a circle. I haven't found any examples in the Somerset book. (Only a quick look).

Either 22 or 23 how about 22.5mm?

5180 I cannot see any similar checks in Cox's Pub checks of Wales. How about the example 243a Portishead in the Somerset book? It reasonably agrees with your assessment. Dia 26.4mm.

5270 I do not have a copy of that image to consider.

5730 See example 1425 Charlton Kings Duke of York 27mm, 5360 Old lodge 27 mm which you have no doubt already seen.

Cox's Pub checks of Wales.

1064 27 mm

1083 27 mm

1091 27 mm

I think we are all in agreement with 27mm

Thanks for adding 'est.' to abbreviations list as discussed earlier.

I hope that helps. Not all but some we can be reasonably confident about reducing those we are uncertain about.

As you know, I am sure from Dave, the Stroud visit went very well. The next one will be Gloucester.

Ref Latest version

6235 The text is on page 98 and the images are on the previous page.

I have just come across this item again. The images of the check copied below were from the Simmons website.

I am sure I have asked you this question before but cannot remember your answer. I noted that this check was labelled as a Charlton Kings check but I am not certain now what it is. Please remind me. Is it a gambling chip?

