

Urban Sanitary Authority (U.S.A.) Letter Book 3 Mar 1896-21 Apr 1897. This set runs from 1892-1905. They are catalogued to December 1897. The letter numbers are given at the end of each subject entry. This volume is bound out of order. It appears to start in March but contains letters from December 1896 to February 1897 as well. Unless specified, all letters are addressed to Mr Moger, Clerk to the Urban Sanitary Authority. This letter book contains letters relating to the following subjects.

**GEORGE CLARK, GENERAL CONTRACTOR, 1 & 2 WEYMOUTH STREET, ST JAMES' CHURCH** - memo from March 1897 from Mr Clark asking if he might be favoured with consideration for any work from the Authority in the coming year. 6

**PRESCOTT, DIMSDALE, CAVE, TUGWELL & CO LTD** - memo written on the back of a paying slip for this bank. Limited is abbreviated to Limd. 14

**GODDARD, MASSEY AND WARNER** - builders of the destructor, offer a new steam disinfector which they think will help the pollution. 16. For the destructor, see Oct 1893-Jan 1894, 190 etc.

**HEDGEMEAD REDEVELOPMENT** - Mr Charles Fortune, City Surveyor writes to ask whether all of the arrangements with the Solicitors Adam and Thring are completed so that the drainage works under the field at Camden Crescent can be commenced. If so, he wishes to obtain the Surveying Committee's instructions on Monday, to insert advertisements for tenders. Dated 25 Feb 1897. 19, 20, 149

**NEW CHURCH, HENRY STREET** - Mr Charles Fortune sends a copy (not kept) of a notice of nuisance served on the owner of the stable and yard at the rear of New Church, Henry Street. 26

**RICHMOND COTTAGE** - Mrs Seager is prepared to take £50 off her previous offer and accept £150 for Richmond Cottage. The letter writer, A. J. Graham, lived at London Road. The Authority may be purchasing it from her. 31, 38, 69, 139. Also Jul-Oct 1897 17, 81

**CHEAP STREET** - letter from J. Allon Tucker, Solicitors, concerning pavement lights and cellar entrance (access to the basement via a trap in the pavement) which the Surveying Committee accepted subject to them being in a particular manner and only being open during certain hours, to which he agreed on behalf of his client. Now the committee want the entrance closed, greatly depreciating the value of the property and the client proposes to replace the grating with one the same size that he had before, and have one that opens. He is apparently within his rights to do so. No house number mentioned. 33, 107, 232

**READING ROOM AT COMBE DOWN** - letter from Stone, King & Co., Solicitors, about the will of a Mr Roxburgh. They say that they have been through the draft but the trusts are not such as in any way come within the terms of Mr Roxburgh's will and they therefore return the document (the draft) to Mr Moger. The words of the contingent gift are as follows 'upon trust to apply the same in such a manner as he may think fit towards the establishment improvement endowment or benefit of an un-denominational reading and recreation room – for the benefit of the poorer inhabitants of Combe Down nr Bath'. 35

**WOOD PAVING, STALL STREET** - Mr Vezey, Coachbuilder of Long Acre and Milsom Street, writes on headed paper with many business medals awarded to him on it, complaining about the state of the wood pavement in between the tram lines at the bottom of Stall Street to High Street. In some places, particularly opposite 16 Stall Street to the Grand Hotel, the roadway is dangerous for driving over. The tram rails in London Street and various parts of Walcot are also very bad and likely to cause accidents to horse and carriages. Respectfully soliciting the kind attention of Mr John Ricketts, Chairman of the Surveying Committee. 36

**WEYMOUTH HOUSE SCHOOLS** - unspecified planning permission, deferred. 39

**RAINBOW WOOD** - planning permission for new house near Widcombe Hill, deferred. 39

**LOMOND HOUSE, BATHWICK HILL** - planning permission for additions at rear, approved. 39

**LOWER OLDFIELD PARK** - planning permission for new houses, approved provisionally. 39

**TYNING VIEW, 1 & 2** - at Bloomfield Road, Odd Down. Planning permission for two W.C.s, approved. 39

**LYNDHURST, CRESCENT GARDENS** - planning permission for additions, deferred. 39

**SHAFTESBURY BUILDINGS, 1** - planning permission for new W.C. and scullery at rear, approved. 39

**ALBION TAVERN, ALBION PLACE** - planning permission for alterations, not approved. 39

**ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL 1897** - Rev E. Handley, the President of the hospital, writes to clarify what is to happen to suspected cases of infectious disease brought to the hospital.

**LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS ACT, USE OF PETROLEUM** - copy of the new legislation from the Local Government Board about safe use of petroleum. 57

**NATIONAL BOILER AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO LTD** - of 22 St Ann's Square, Manchester, sends letter saying when the new larger boilers are built at the destructor will it not be necessary to transfer the insurance, i.e. to them from their competitor. On headed engraved business paper. 63

**A.C. HARDING, THE BEAR INN, BATH** - Henry Mortimer, Commissioning Agent and Auctioneer, writes to Mr Sturgiss, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, that Mr Harding is at present unable to pay the £3.7.6 that he owes the Committee. He has executed a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of his creditors. Mr Mortimer has paid the Authority a dividend of 6/- in the £, and although he has no more money of Harding's top hand, feels that he can get him to pay a further 6/- if the Authority will accept it in dull settlement of their claim. Harding is quite unable to pay the full amount. He is at present managing the Bear for his brother-in-law. Written in the extremely unusual handwriting of Henry Mortimer. 67. In fact Harding pays a further £1, see 85. Also May-Jun 1897, 3 letters

**YORK BUILDINGS, 18, IN CLIFTON, BRISTOL** - Mr Waterston writes to his landlord Mrs Pinch, about the property he occupies. He says that when he paid her the previous quarters rent, it was arranged that he obtain from her a written guarantee before the next quarter rent was due that he would not have to carry out repairs as follows; a new floor in the warehouse, a new boiler in the kitchen range, a drawer in the kitchen dresser, a door to cupboard in kitchen. He trusts this will be attended to at

once, as the next rent is now due. He says that the window in the warehouse is put right. A Mrs Pinch lived at 6 St Mark's Place, according to the Bath Directory 1896. 72

**BRABAZON FAMILY** - Mourning card saying 'Mrs Brabazon and family return thanks for kind enquiries and sympathy'. 80, 103

**PIERREPONT PLACE, 2** - Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, sends Mr Moger notice of a nuisance at this address, for the issuing of the necessary proceedings. 70

**TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF STONE** - Mr Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, sends Mr Moger tenders for the following: W. H. Rawleys, W. Hickey for Black Rock, Clee Hill Dhu Stone Co. for hand broken Clee Hill Dhu basalt, and Tytherington Stone Co. for hand broken Mill Grit Stone. He says he has noted on the tenders the quantity of stone required. 77a

**FOOTPATHS AS RIGHT OF WAY, RAINBOW WOOD** - Mr Yates of the Bath Chronicle Office writes to Mr Rubie (of Castle Hotel, Northgate Street, and Wine Merchant 24-25 New Bond Street) that correspondents in the newspaper refer to a path which follows from Prior Park the curve of Rainbow Wood to the path on the south eastern side, thence across the field in front of Macauley Buildings to the stile close to Widcombe Hill. One of the correspondents says 'I have used the path occasionally for more than 50 years, in fact since I was a boy. My right to use it has never been challenged'. Mr Yates has no doubt that many more persons could be found to give similar testimony. 97, 108, 227 with map. Also W. E. Mallet writes from 36 Milsom Street on the subject of the closed footpath, Jul – Oct 1897 52

**NATIONAL FOOTPATH PRESERVATION SOCIETY** - of 42 Essex Street, Strand, London. Unopened newsletter in paper sleeve with stamp on it. Loose in folder, 97a

**DOLEMEADS SCHOOL** - Mr and Mrs Swift are represented by Stone King, Solicitors, who write on their behalf to say that an amount was agreed with the Authority for purchase, and yet the Authority are now going back on that agreement and proposing a different amount. They cannot agree to this. The original Dolemeads School was opened in 1856, under the railway arches. The Dolemeads area was compulsorily purchased for demolition to widen the river for flood prevention in the 1890's. 98

**DONALD M. D. SMART, MINING ENGINEER** - of Redland, Bristol, writes to ask if there are any further particulars of the Battlebury Road stone, necessary for him to submit a tender for the committee's requirements. Handwritten. 97

**BAY FARM AND EASTBOURNE DAIRY** - Mr George Payne writes about trespassing by many children across his field from Malvern Buildings to Mr Chaffin's. They are damaging the grass and fences. 'Boys are playing football and various games and on Sundays, pitch and toss and the swearing is something dreadful.' He cannot put any cattle there to graze in safety as the path is not fenced on either side. He trusts that something may be done for his protection. He says there is so much building and people coming to live there. 100, 114

**SHAFTESBURY ROAD** - planning permission for amended plan of stable and coach house, approved. 108

**WEYMOUTH HOUSE SCHOOLS** - planning permission for rebuilding, approved. 108

**RAINBOW WOOD** - planning permission for new house, near Widcombe Hill, approved. 108. See 97, 227

**PULTENEY STREET, 12** - planning permission for alterations, approved. 108

**E. C. GLENDALL'S SHOP, MARCHANT'S PASSAGE, SOUTHGATE** - planning permission for alterations, deferred. 108. Approved, 155

**MILSOM STREET, 22** - planning permission for new shop front, deferred. 108. Deferred again, 155, approved provisionally in 199

**SOUTHGATE STREET, 44** - planning permission for alterations, deferred. 108. Approved, 155

**GREEN PARK, 20** - planning permission for new room at rear, not approved. 108

**MISSION HALL, LARKHALL** - planning permission for new Mission Hall, deferred. 108. Approved. 155

**WALTER LOVEGROVE, CHAIRMAN OF MARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL** - writes about pavements. He says that the pavements in Marlow are in a very bad condition but they cannot get them repaired by Bucks County Council. He has heard the same happened in Bath and that Bath entered an action against Somerset County Council with success. He says if this is correct, please could they do him the favour of giving brief particulars? 117

**SAM DEARDS, HORTICULTURAL BUILDER & HOT WATER ENGINEER** - of Victoria Works, Harlow. Mr Deards, supplier of glasshouses, writes on headed business advertising paper which includes a photograph of himself and details of many large commissions completed. He enquires whether any glasshouse is needed for the new electric lighting buildings. 118

**THOMAS HUGHES, 10 HAVERSTOCK ROAD, KNOWLE** - Contractor and Building Works Engineer, writes to enquire about tenders for the extension to the electric lighting buildings. His writing paper is hand amended to read 'Hughes and Weeks'. 120

**SPRING GARDENS** - valuation of property. Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, writes that the difference between the two valuations of £2,228 and £2,415 can be explained. The lower is Mr Spackman's valuation. Since then, higher amounts have been agreed or claimed. 123

**TENDERS ACCEPTED FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** - Mr Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, sends Mr Moger the names of those who have won the tenders so that contracts can be drawn up: Pitching and Paving, J. Welch; Wheelwright's work, W. H. Hazeldine; Cement, Bladwell & Co.; and Brushes, W. Palmer. 123a, for details of individual contracts see 145, 147, 152, 166, 196

**C. WIBLY, BUILDING CONTRACTOR, JAMES STREET WEST** - says Mr Timmins has instructed him to do the repairs to the pavement at 31 Westgate Street and he has written to Mr Fortune for permission to open the ground to do the work. On headed business paper. 124, 127

**WILKINSON BROS. GENERAL PRINTER** - of 19 Union Street, writes on distinctive maroon headed engraved business paper with a picture of the shop on it. They have the Medical Officer of Health's report ready and wonder what the date for release is. 128, 181

**A. GODDEN, 5 TRINITY SQUARE, WALCOT** - Mr Abbott of the City Weigh Engine, Sawclose, reports that this boy, who attends the Blue Coat School, threw a stone which broke a piece of glass over the entrance of the urinal in the Sawclose on Friday afternoon, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1897. 132, 137. In 158, the headmaster of the school sends Godden himself, duly admonished, to Mr Moger carrying the letter and asks Mr Moger to add his own words of scolding to the punishment which he has been given by the headmaster and the scolding from the officer who delivered Mr Moger's letter. The headmaster thanks Mr Moger for the kind way in which he has dealt with this and said that Godden's poor mother is very grateful. 132, 137, 158

**R. KING & SON, DRESSMAKERS, JOHN STREET, 6** - the establishment's workshop notified to the Authority under the Factory Act (1891), on official form. 135

**E. D. MULLIS, GENERAL BUILDERS MERCHANT, LOUGHBOROUGH** - returns the contract for the supply of stoneware pipes. Informative advertising business paper. 136

**EMBANKMENT WALL, DOLEMEADS** - Mr Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, asks Mr Moger to kindly push on with this contract, so as to save time. 140

**CHARLES W. OUTRAM** - Sanitary Earthenware Manufacturers, of Excelsior Potteries, Burton on Trent, with branch office and showroom at Masonic Hall Building, 13 Ethel Street, Birmingham, write to offer tender for the sanitary earthenware and appliances at the new electric lighting facility. Detailed pictorial letterhead showing the factories with kiln chimneys. 146

**HARINGTON CLUB** - write to complain about the erection of an extremely ugly wooden building which is blocking their easement of light. 153

**BELVEDERE PLACE, LANSDOWN ROAD, 2** - planning permission for alterations, not approved. 155

**TYNING TERRACE, 1-7, CAMDEN GARDENS ESTATE** - planning permission for amended plan for construction of these houses, approved. 155

**WALCOT PARADE, 9** - planning permission for additions, approved. 155

**MAYOR VS PONTING** - County Court High Bailiff's Office, 9a York Street – execution of warrant A214, against Mr Ponting, returns the answer 'No Effects. Bill of Sale'. Addressed to the plaintiff, the Authority. 156

**ROBERT BOYLE & SON, VENTILATING ENGINEERS** - of 64 Holborn Viaduct, London and of Glasgow, write to ask whether there is ventilating work needed on the new electric lighting building. 161

**OLDFIELD ROAD** - land purchased for street improvement now given up and Charles Fortune, City Surveyor, has taken possession. 162, 166a

**SUPERANNUATION CONFERENCE, MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION** – letter from the association concerning the second reading of the Local Authorities (Offices) Sept. 165, 171, 185

**STREET LIGHTING IN THE MORNINGS** - Mr Gatehouse, new Inspector of Electricity, writes to ask whether it is possible to extend the hours that the public arc lighting is on in the dark spring mornings. Lights were extinguished in on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> of April at 4.17am and 4.30am and at 4.30am it was quite dark. 173

**WATCHMAN'S BOX, NORFOLK CRESCENT** - letter from Mr Fortune, City Surveyor, asking Mr Moger whether he minds a notice being affixed to the Watchman's Box saying the following 'This, the only remaining City Watchman's Sentry Box in Bath, was restored by the Urban Sanitary Authority in 1896. Any person found damaging the same or trespassing therein will be prosecuted. By Order, F. H. Moger, Clerk.' 177. Also May-Jun 1897, 163

**LONDON STREET, 4, 5 & 6** - Solicitors Payne and Fullers write to enquire about the final cost of purchasing these properties for the Authority. Apparently a Bristol man is querying it and the solicitors advise that 'it might be expedient for the Authority to buy it without further delay.' 191

**BRIDGE PLACE, DOLEMEADS, 2, 3 & 4** - Solicitor Thomas Vezey writes that he has finally been able to persuade his client Mr Tom Theophilus Stone to sell these properties to the Authority for £350. The rents are as follows: 2 Bridge Place, Dolemeads, let at 3/- 9d per week producing annually £9.15.0; 3 Bridge Place, Dolemeads let at 3/- per week producing per annum £7.16.0; and 4 Bridge Place, Dolemeads, let at 3/- per week producing per annum £7.16.0. Also a Posting Station let at £2 per annum. 193. See May-14 Jun 1897 23. See Oct-Dec 1897 97

**MORGAN BRACHER** - an apprentice who has run away from his apprenticeship and wants to get a licence to drive a cab. His apprentice master still holds his indenture and wishes to stop him from having a licence. Letter from Mr J. Bush, 4 Fountain Buildings, Engraver and General Printer. 196. The story unfolds further when his mother Emily Bracher of 22 Belvedere writes to Mr Moger. She says that her son did not get on in the apprentice job and Mr Bush had sent Morgan home and written to her and told her that Morgan should do something else and was wasting his time. He said that he would not pursue the indenture as long as Mrs Bracher didn't either. She agreed. She then bought a horse and cab for her son, so that he could do what he was suited to, which was to be a cabman. Then Mr Bush and his son said that they would raise an objection to this and did so. They said if she paid £5, they would drop the objection. She refused. She went to see Mr Bush and his son in person and said that he had made the agreement with her. He agreed that he had. She says to Mr Moger that she hopes he will think she did right in providing an occupation for her son and grant him the license. 209

**POWLETT ROAD/ VILLA FIELDS ROAD** - planning permission for a pair of houses on the corner of these two roads, approved. 199

**CHARLES BISHOP** - a licensed cabman who has had a criminal conviction in the year to April 1897. The Chief of Police sends details that Bishop, licence number 331, had left his horse and cab unattended and been fined 10/-. 204

**JAMES WOODWARD** - a licensed cabman who has a criminal conviction in the year to April 1897. The Chief of Police sends details that Woodward, licence number 38, was prosecuted for assaulting Walter Bedford and fined 40/- and costs. 204. Also May-14 Jun 1897 80

**JAMES WOODWARD** - licensed cabman number 38. A complaint against him from Henry Gould, Director of the Bath Road Car and Tramway Co. Ltd of 8 Old Bond Street. Apparently Woodward has broken the conditions upon which he was granted a license by standing in Burton Street outside the Tram Car's Waiting Room. He touts into the office for passengers. Apparently on March 10<sup>th</sup> last, he was overheard by the Tram Secretary say to his conductor 'Bill, just look inside our office and see if there is anybody for Twerton' (referring to the Tram waiting room). He also did not run a cab in the winter, but only in the summer, afternoons only, so not for the convenience of the public, unlike the Tram Co., who have to keep to a strict timetable. 206. Also May-14 Jun 1897 80

**RESIDENTS OF ROYAL CRESCENT 1897** - petition against the replacement of the surface on the Roadway with tar macadam. They also say that practically no money had been spent on the road in the past 40 years. The petition is formally drawn up in beautiful script and there is a place for each signature beside each house number. There are two copies, hand written, both signed differently. They were successful, as the road is still cobbled in 2016. 207. See also May-14 Jun 1897 10

**MR BALLY BARTRUM** – part owner of property in Margaret's Place and Margaret's Hall, London Street. He is willing to sell to the Authority for a sum that will, if invested in groundworks, bring in a sum equal to that which he now receives. Letter from Solicitors Gill and Bush at 6 Miles's Buildings. 215. Further to this, another Solicitor Payne and Fuller write on behalf of the other trustees of the Bartrum estate, Messrs J. S. Bartrum and R. D. Commans, also accept on the same terms provided that all costs are also covered. 216

**MR T. JAMES F. TUTTELL, SOLICITOR**- owner of Arlington House, York Street, writes that considerable loss has occurred to himself by the frequent opening of the sewer shaft opposite the property. Tenants have left the property and he has trouble getting new ones due to the horrible stench. The sewer is within 6ft of the house. The house has now been empty for 10 months. 217

**DOLEMEADS** - George Henry Bartlett, Solicitor, writes 'How does this stand? Have you got any forwarder with the immaculate Liberal and stern defender of the rights of the working man? I have the chance of buying a little house which would suit my client for the term of her natural life if she has to first quit her present eligible residence upon the esplanade'. 218

**OMNIBUSES, DANGEROUS STEPS TO TOP LEVEL** – Mr J. Spiers, Baker, of 104 Sydney Place writes to complain about the danger to outside passengers posed by going up the outside steps, due to the position and angle of the steps. The omnibuses belong to the Bath Tram Car Co. Omnibuses 37, 13 and 14 are given as examples. He wants the licensing authority to make the company do something. 219

**CALTON ROAD, 87** - Solicitor Way & Son write that they are not the statutory owner of this property. Their client, who must be the owner although Way do not admit this, say that they had no idea the property was occupied. The previous tenant had left and he had paid no rent for over a year. Arrangements have been made for the sale of the property. 222

**NATIONAL CYCLISTS UNION** - letter concerning the Authority's request for a danger board to be erected by the union on the north hill into Bath. The union ask for the exact position of the hill in question, so that they can consider it. 223

**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES COMMITTEE** - passed a resolution on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1897 and the Corporate Property Committee has instructed J. Stone, Town Clerk, to inform Mr Moger that the only suitable property now in had is Ivy Cottage, Grove Street. 226

**NUISANCE OF SMOKE AND SMELL FROM DESTRUCTOR** - as complained of by many residents. The Medical Officer of Health William Henry Symons has been instructed to report on this. In his opinion, 'there is no nuisance within the meaning of Section 91, Public Health Act 1875 and the vapours from the destructor are remarkably free from dust and in no way injurious to health.' 228

**MR WELCH V THE AUTHORITY OVER RENT OF YARD AT LONGMEAD BUILDINGS** - there has been a long running dispute over rent. Mr Vezey, Solicitor, writes that Mr Welch thought his obligation to pay rent at £75 a year ended when his tenancy with Mr Sinnott ended. He is prepared to pay £25 for the use of the yard after that as a tipping place while the destructor was completed. 235. See also Oct-Dec 1897, 142