

“Summary Chronology of events in the history of Temple Fee, Bristol, England”

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A.D. 1145

Templars at Bristol, land granted.

1242

Two of the Templars’ horses, tethered to pillory in Temple Street, pulled pillory over, crushing boy to death. Deodand of twelve shillings paid, being the value of the horses and pillory.

1247/8

Bristol Bridge built - unites Bristol, Redcliffe and Temple.

1299

Chapel in Temple Church dedicated to St. Catherine, Patron Saint of Weavers (may date back to 1229).

1307

Apprehension of Templars, confiscation of lands.

1312

Templar estates at Bristol conferred on the Order of St. John; their preceptor at Templecombe having the privilege of the market in Temple Street with assize of bread and ale.

1330

Seventy families of clothworkers arrive from the Netherlands.

1390

Bernard Obelly and Reginald Taylor bequeathed money for a tower for the new Temple (Holy Cross) Church.

1460

Third stage of tower added after strengthening of foundations and attempt to correct lean; still a notable landmark in Bristol to-day - 1989.

1472

Tuckers Guilds - account books available from this date.

1525

Stallage Cross rebuilt.

1541

Possessions of the Order of St. John confiscated during the Re-formation. Bristol Corporation petitioned for a grant of Temple lands and the advowson of Temple Church.

1550

Royal Patent granted for Temple to hold an eight day fair on the feast of St. Paul. Profits to the Parish Poor and for maintenance of Temple Conduit.

1561

Temple Pump erected in Temple Street.

1613

Dr. White, Scholar and Theologian endowed almshouses.

1635

Edward Colston born in grandfather’s house in Temple Street.

1673

Millerd’s map shows rope house and rope walk at Temple Back.

1682

E. Ward from Brislington buys land in Water Lane for a pottery.

1703

Terrible storm sweeps England and the Low Counties. Temple Street navigable by boat from end to end; national report by Daniel Defoe.

1774

Mr. Lazarus Jacobs purchases Perrot’s Glasshouse and property at 108 Temple Street.

1786

The Jews take over the former Weaver’s Hall in Temple Street for use as a

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Synagogue. It was beautifully fitted out at the expense of Lazarus Jacobs. The Jews were previously using Sir John Knight’s old house, also in Temple Street. (This subsequently became a famous ale house known as the Stone Kitchen.

1790	Parish boundary mark placed on No 9 and 10 Bath Street.
1793	250 people in Temple Street reported to be employed in cotton manufacture.
1808	Temple Gate “an obstruction”. Materials sold to a local builder.
1810	Counterslip Chapel for Calvinistic Independents built.
1824	Mr. Graham’s famous balloon flight from nearby gas works.
1837	St. Philips Bridge Company formed.
1841	Bridge opened, cost £16,000, tolls of one halfpenny per passenger - hence soubriquet even to-day.
1857	Conrad Finzel’s Counterslip Sugar Refinery buys the Fourteen Stars tavern for the site.
1872	Sugar Refinery uses twenty-five steam boilers to produce 1,200 tons of sugar per week.
1881	Closing of Sugar Refinery caused economic disaster for two to three thousand local people.
1897	Bristol’s first purpose-built Electricity Generating Station erected on Temple Back.
1920’s	Corporation policy of improving housing resulted in rehousing population of Temple Parish in new suburbs at Knowle.
1940’s	Bombing in World War II destroyed most of the area including many of the remaining houses.
1960’s	Designated a Development Area.
1979	District given over to car parks and office buildings and the Crescent Centre becomes home to Sperry Gyroscope.
1980	Temple Local History Group formed and major find of Bristol pottery on the Counterslip.
1983	Sperry Gyroscope UK taken over by BAE and operation moved to Bracknell, Berks.
1990’s	Area around Temple Church developed by hotel chains. English Heritage take responsibility for fabric of Temple Church.
2001	Mixed Office & Apartment development – population once again ?
2002	Prposals for the use of Temple Church requested by EH
2003	The future?