

Whitehall Pavilion - WW1 history (potential BOD profile and teaching resource focus)

Old Georgians Sports and Social Club

The building was called the Bruce Cole pavilion and concert hall, Messrs H. J. Packer and Co. had the plans drawn up and building erected for the benefit of the Packers Chocolate Factory employees. During the First World War the club first served to house Belgian Refugees and in 1916 as a Military Hospital..... trying to find out who built the main building as I know Cowlings built the extension in 1916 but they do not have any more information. We know the city council took over the running off the club in the 1930s.

A letter of intent to build the pavilion in Johnson's Lane was deposited with Bristol City Engineer and Surveyor's Department on 16th January, 1912 by Walter J. Paul and Sons of 31 Nicholas Street, Bristol. The estimated cost of the building at the time was £5.000.

<http://oldgeorgians.webs.com/pavilionhistory.htm>

Historic image here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/brizzlebornandbred/6992379495/>

The building now: <http://brisray.com/bristol/bstgrg4.htm> and also old drawing of the building: <http://brisray.com/bristol/bstgrg4.htm>

H. J. Packer was an employee of Fry's and in 1881 left to set up his own chocolate factory at 46 Armoury Square, Easton with three employees each earning 2/6d a week. In 1883, the company moved to new, larger premises in St. Pauls St. and in 1884, Bruce Cole, whom the pavilion and concert hall was named after, paid £950 in his take-over of the company. The company moved again in 1901 to even larger premises in Cooperation Road, Greenbank. The company had a series of owners from Bonds to Famous Names and finally to Elizabeth Shaw which closed in 2006.

During the First World War the club first served to house Belgian refugees and in 1916 as a Military Hospital when it was called the Bruce Cole Auxiliary Hospital. First class cricket had been played there since 1922 with the first major match being between Gloucestershire and Sussex. In 1926, a bowling green was opened on the site which already also hosted football and tennis matches. The company had mixed fortunes and in 1935 had to sell the pavilion, sports fields and company houses to the local council.

The area is currently in danger of being leased and campaigns such as [Yahoo Groups: Easton Bristol](#) and [Packers Field](#) have been started by local residents to keep the area free.

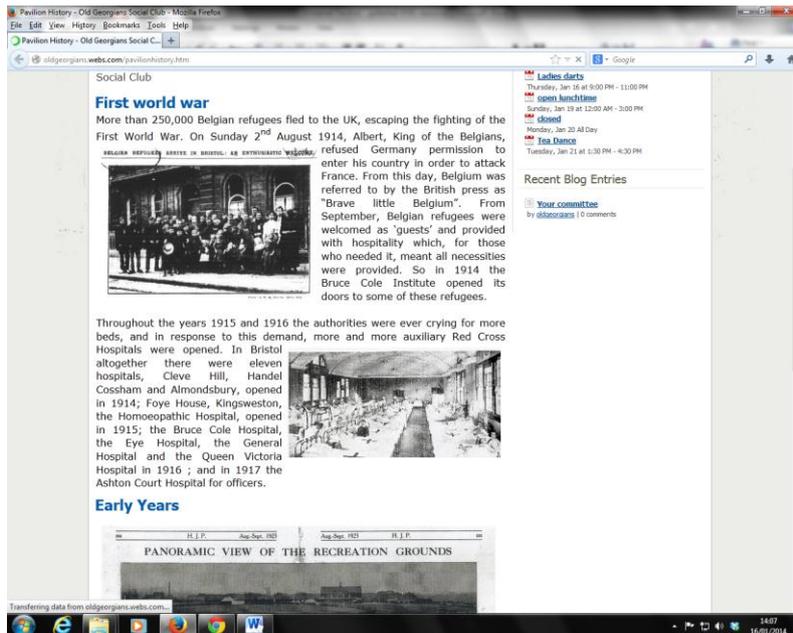
The building has been submitted to Know Your Place for inclusion in the Local List, here is the entry:

Fomerly known as the George Cole Institute this large, and impressive building was constructed by Packers Chocolate for use by its employees as a sports pavilion associated with Packers Field. It was put to use serving Belgian refugees and as a military hospital during the First World War. It is currently in use as a social club. The building is a prominent and attractive building and landmark in what is a largely modest residential neighbourhood. It has an important place in local social and cultural

history and plays a role in defining local character and identity and for this reason should be considered for inclusion on the local list.

WW1 - The military hospitals at home

The flow of casualties from the various theatres of war soon overwhelmed the existing medical facilities in the United Kingdom, just as it did the recently established bases in France and Flanders. Many civilian hospitals and large buildings were turned over to military use. This listing is by no means complete.



Social Club

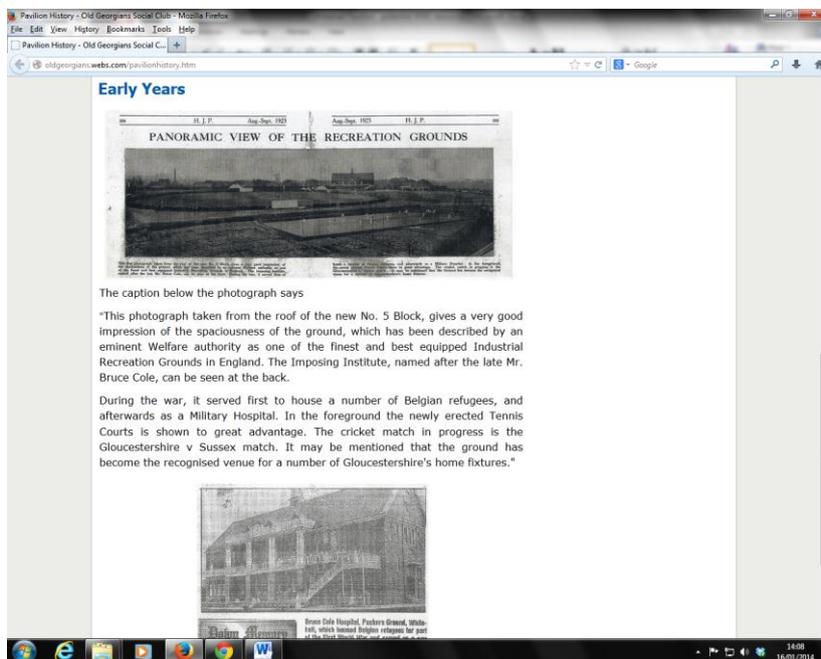
First world war

More than 250,000 Belgian refugees fled to the UK, escaping the fighting of the First World War. On Sunday 2nd August 1914, Albert, King of the Belgians, refused Germany permission to enter his country in order to attack France. From this day, Belgium was referred to by the British press as "Brave little Belgium". From September, Belgian refugees were welcomed as 'guests' and provided with hospitality which, for those who needed it, meant all necessities were provided. So in 1914 the Bruce Cole Institute opened its doors to some of these refugees.

Throughout the years 1915 and 1916 the authorities were ever crying for more beds, and in response to this demand, more and more auxiliary Red Cross Hospitals were opened. In Bristol altogether there were eleven hospitals, Cleve Hill, Handel Cossham and Almondsbury, opened in 1914; Foye House, Kingsweston, the Homoeopathic Hospital, opened in 1915; the Bruce Cole Hospital, the Eye Hospital, the General Hospital and the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1916; and in 1917 the Ashton Court Hospital for officers.

Early Years

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS



Early Years

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE RECREATION GROUNDS

The caption below the photograph says

"This photograph taken from the roof of the new No. 5 Block, gives a very good impression of the spaciousness of the ground, which has been described by an eminent Welfare authority as one of the finest and best equipped Industrial Recreation Grounds in England. The imposing Institute, named after the late Mr. Bruce Cole, can be seen at the back.

During the war, it served first to house a number of Belgian refugees, and afterwards as a Military Hospital. In the foreground the newly erected Tennis Courts is shown to great advantage. The cricket match in progress is the Gloucestershire v Sussex match. It may be mentioned that the ground has become the recognised venue for a number of Gloucestershire's home fixtures."

Bruce Cole Hospital, Foye House, White Hill which housed Belgian refugees for years

Bristol - St. George (4) - Old Georgians - Mozilla Firefox

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bristay.com/bristol/bstgrgl.htm

Open all Close all

In June 2003 and July 2004, I received some emails asking for help with the history of St. George, Whitehall and in particular, The Old Georgians. These I put on the [Help Wanted pages](#). On the last day of 2013 a lady named Caroline contacted me with some information that led to the creation of this page.

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- Dads Navy Days
- Exaggeration Postcards
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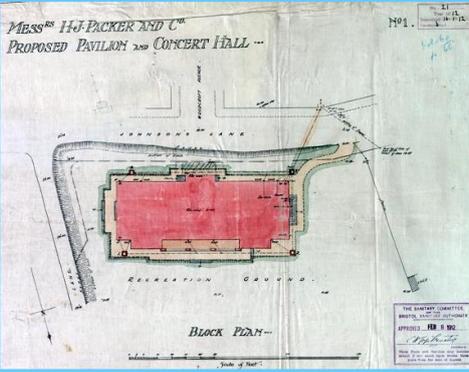
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Plans for the pavilion and concert hall
These were approved on 8th February, 1912

Bristol has a long and distinguished history concerning chocolate. Joseph Fry, a Quaker, of Fry and Sons set up his factory in 1728 in Newgate Street, Bristol. The factory was moved to Union Street in 1777 and produced the first chocolate bar as we know it in 1847. In April 2000, 2 1lb tins of Pure Concentrated Cocoa and 2 of Malted Cocoa, made in this factory were auctioned at Christie's. The reason these tins are special is that they were recovered from Captain Robert Scott's doomed Antarctic expedition. They were given to Scott in 1910 and 11 tins were recovered from the camp in 1955. The tins were returned to Fry's, which by then had moved to Keynsham.



14:09
16/01/2014