

## **Excursion No 5: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (Evening)**

### **Pensford Village and Publow Church Walk**

Excursion Leader: Les Hayes

Phone: 01225 312510

e-mail: [havercroft@talktalk.net](mailto:havercroft@talktalk.net)

#### **Summary**

The evening stroll commences with a walk through the fields to Publow (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile). There will be a guided tour of All Saints church which is Grade 1 listed and is the parish church for Publow and Pensford. It lies in rural splendour by the banks of the River Chew. Much of the church dates from the 14C and the magnificent tower is 15C. Acker Bilk was born in Pensford and his grave is close by his beloved River Chew.

After visiting the church we make our way back to Pensford village for a second tour led by local historian Hilary Cox. Pensford's importance grew with the medieval wool and textile trades and in the 14C the largest cloth market in Somerset was in Pensford. Later industries coal, milk, tannery and the railways have left their mark. Many buildings date from this period.

The most dominant feature is the stupendous railway viaduct – 30m high with 16 arches it is Grade II listed – you may still be able to buy it – for £1! It and the railway lines closed in 1968 as the collieries shut down.

In 1968 the Chew Valley experienced devastating floods with 7 – 10 inches rain falling in 7 hours. Pensford suffered severe damage as did other villages in the Chew valley and the bridge over the A37 was washed away.

#### **Meeting time and place.**

We will meet in the Publow Church car park at **18:15hrs**

**Directions** from Bath: A4 to Corston roundabout. Proceed on A39 past Bath Spa University via Marksbury. Straight at traffic lights onto A368 and at Chelwood roundabout turn right onto A37 Bristol. After passing the Memorial Hall on the left (post code BS39 4HW) carry on down towards the visible Publow church tower and the car park is on the right, just before the bridge and the church.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

**Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and by joining the BACAS excursion you do so at your own risk.**

Maximum participants – **25**

Members priority booking until **28<sup>th</sup> July**

Latest booking date – **25<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Cost: members priority **£6** / non-members **£8**