

D-e-a-r

F-u-t-u-r-e

B-r-i-s-l-i-n-g-t-o-n

Brislington has always been a vibrant and popular place to live. Since Roman times, people have been working, living and playing here. With a history dating back over 1000 years, there's a lot to celebrate. Here you can explore some of the locally held collections that depict Brislington's past and think about what you would like to see in Brislington's future.

George Braikenridge Collection

The George Weare Braikenridge Collection is a group of artefacts collated in the 1800s by an antiquarian of the same name. The collection includes a series of watercolours commissioned by Braikenridge to depict the beauty of the city. A large number of these paintings show the luscious green space and stately homes of Brislington.

Brislington Museum Postcard Collection

In 1894, the British post office permitted the private publication of the picture postcard as we know it. This new medium soon became a popular way for people to share images of their lives and travels with family and friends. Local photographers and publishers in Brislington capitalized on this trend, producing vivid images that captured the area's landscape and community. These historical postcards, many of which have now been collated by the Brislington's virtual museum, offer a valuable window into life in the early 1900s.

“The prettiest village in somerset”

For a long time Brislington was known as a tranquil place of escape from the bustling centre of Bristol and its busy docks. At the turn of the 19th century as the tourism industry began to boom, more and more people would flock to the village to enjoy the peace of the valley and strolls along the brook. Before being brought in to the Bristol boundary in 1933, the area was once described as “the prettiest village in Somerset.” The natural beauty and wealth of green space inspired a wide variety of images like these postcards of the wood or the painting below of what is now known as the Black Castle Pub.



Top: In St. Anne's Wood
Brislington, postcard, c. 1926.

Right: St. Anne's Holy Well,
postcard, c. 1926.

Left: The Black Castle
Brislington, drawing/watercolour
by Thomas Rowbotham .



Brislington Landmarks

Whilst many of the prominent buildings we see in heritage collections are no longer standing, those that are often become landmarks, helping to determine Brislington's character and tell its story. This image of Bath Road from 1916 shows a chapel, once part of Arnos Court, and the old tram depot. Whilst the chapel was demolished in 1960 to make way for a wider road, the depot stands today as a reminder of Brislington's role in the UK's first electric tram network.

The Tram Depot on Bath Road, postcard, c. 1916.



Signs and Lettering

Sandy Park Road Brislington, postcard, c. 1918



In the 19th and early 20th centuries, ornate, hand-painted signs were a common sight on high streets and in industrial districts. Whilst walking around Brislington you can still see remnants of these signs today. Over time, as mass production and modern materials (like neon and plastic) took over, these signs gave way to the more standardised designs.

What lettering can you see around Brislington today, including handwritten lettering like graffiti? How does this compare to the signage and advertising we see depicted in heritage collections?

“A hub of Industry”



200 years ago

At the time the industrial revolution was sweeping across Britain, Brislington's abundance of clay and coal made it an ideal location for both sourcing raw materials and production - as can be seen in this painting of the kilns in Langton Court at what was St. Ann's Mill.

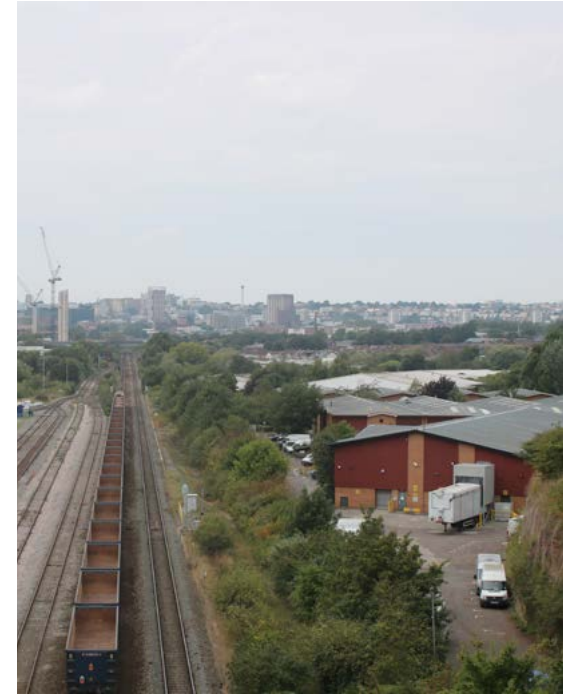
St Ann's Mill with Pottery Kiln and Langton Court, drawing/ watercolour by Rev. John Eden



100 years ago

Later, Brislington's strategic location, with easy access the River and transport routes, made it an ideal site for expanding industries, like Robertson's Jam, pictured above. Construction boomed, and major factories replaced what had once been farmland.

Brislington Station and Robertsons Jam Factory Postcard c. 1916



Today

Brislington today is a diverse and thriving center for business and commerce. While the area's historical industries, such as ceramics, have largely given way to new sectors, its still home to both large scale manufacture and great independent craftsmanship.

How do you imagine brislington's industry in 100 years time?

Where can I engage with Brislington's Heritage?

There are loads of great places in the city to explore Brislington's heritage such as MShed, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery or in the new community café space at St. Anne's house where the co-created exhibition 'Gather' is on display. You can also view and research collections online using the resources detailed here.

Made with support from



**Brislington
Community
Museum**



- **Brislington Community Museum**
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- **Bristol Archives**
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Images Courtesy of Bristol Museums: Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and Brislington Virtual Museum

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