

Bishop's Waltham: A brief timeline

The first 11,000 years

Mesolithic settlers dig shallow pits near the River Hamble to find useful flints for them to shape into tools

Celtic tribes spread across Britain and the first hill forts are built as the Iron Age begins

Small farming settlements continue to farm fertile land around the Hamble

Julius Caesar invades and conquers Britain, but does not occupy it. He returns to Gaul

The Catuvellauni attack the Atrebates and Verica, their king, asks Rome for help

Local settlers would have known about the huge Roman army passing by, with thousands of soldiers and cavalry and all their equipment

A Roman road is built 1½ miles south west of here: Winchester to Chichester

The Roman Empire in serious decline

The last Roman soldiers leave Britain

Saxons, Angles and Jutes start to settle across southern and eastern Britain

This Waltham is a Royal estate in the Kingdom of Wessex ruled by King Ine, who establishes new laws

King Alfred's son, King Edward the Elder, swaps 'old' Waltham for the Bishop of Winchester's estate at Portchester

King Harold is killed and his army defeated by King William of Normandy at the Battle of Hastings. The end of Saxon rule in England

The last Ice Age ends and as the ice sheet retreats Stone Age hunters and gatherers re-settle Britain

Local settlers/farmers build Bronze Age barrows (near Hoe Farm and Little Shore Lane)

In times of trouble local Celtic settlers sought safety in the huge hill fort at Winchester Hill near Exton (about 7 miles away)

The local tribe, the Belgae, are associated with the Atrebates. Both trade with Roman Gaul and use coins

The Romans invade Britain. Vespasian's Second Legion marches along the south coast, probably crossing the Hamble at Botley, or Durley, on its way west

The large number of 3rd and 4th century coins found and evidence of tile kilns suggests a Roman settlement near the modern town

Increasing Saxon raids on Britain

Saxons create a settlement called Wealdham (Waltham - one of 12 Saxon 'Walthams' in the south and east of Britain)

In 722 St Willibald leaves Waltham's Benedictine Monastery to travel to the Holy Land and Germany

A horde of thousands of Vikings sail up the Hamble and "burn the residence at Waltham and many nearby villages" (*Anglo Saxon Chronicles*)

10,000 BC

1300 BC

800 BC

100 BC

54 BC

42 AD

43 AD

200-300 AD

407 AD

450-550 AD

688-726 AD

904 AD

1001 AD

1066 AD

Published by

The next 700 years: the Palace heyday

The Domesday book shows Waltham to be the 11th largest settlement in Hampshire

Civil war, called The Anarchy, breaks out in England (1135-1153). Henry of Blois builds three castles – one of them at Waltham

Henry II holds a Royal Council at Waltham Palace to raise money for the 3rd Crusade

King John stays at Waltham Palace in 1200, 1205 and 1213

Edward II stays at Waltham Palace

The Black Death kills 65% of Waltham's inhabitants!

Henry V stays at the Palace for two weeks on the road to the battle of Agincourt

The Wars of the Roses between the houses of York and Lancaster

Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, Anne Boleyn, Thomas Cromwell are frequent visitors to Waltham Palace over this period

Edward VI, stays at Waltham Palace

Queen Mary stays at Waltham Palace for many days awaiting the arrival of the Catholic King, Philip of Spain, before their wedding in Winchester Cathedral

Start of English Civil War

Royalist troops occupy Bishop's Waltham

After the Battle of Cheriton, Royalist cavalry holding Waltham Palace surrender to a stronger Parliamentary force. Two days later it is set on fire and never re-occupied.

1066 Norman rule is established across England and Wales. Only 5% of land was left in Saxon hands!

King Henry I and Queen Edith stay in Waltham while waiting to sail to Normandy from Portchester

Henry of Blois, brother of King Stephen, is made Bishop of Winchester

Henry of Blois starts building a Palace at Waltham

Richard the Lionheart holds a Royal Council at Waltham Palace

Edward I, "Longshanks" and "Hammer of the Scots", stays at Waltham Palace

Edward III visits often. His Queen, Philippa of Hainault, gives birth at the Palace to 'Mary of Waltham' – a sister to the 'Black Prince'

Henry VI, King of France and England, stays at the Palace

Edward IV, the first Yorkist King, stays at Waltham Palace

Henry VII (Henry Tudor) stays at the Palace in 1496 and again in 1499

Henry VIII and the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, sign the 'Treaty of Waltham' (against France) at Waltham Palace in 1522

Elizabeth I stays at Waltham Palace

Parliamentary troops plunder Bishop's Waltham

Without the Palace, Bishop's Waltham rapidly becomes just another rural market town. The social impact must have been immense!

The next 250 years:

Victorian boom

The Bishop of Winchester, George Morley, founds a charity Grammar School in Bishop's Waltham

The 17th century building that is now the Barleycorn Inn becomes the Parish Workhouse and Basingwell Street is known as Workhouse Street

After the Battle of Trafalgar the defeated French Admiral Villeneuve and 200 French naval officers are billeted, on parole, in Bishop's Waltham

Revd James Ogle opens a Girl's School in the Market House in St George's Square

The 'Swing Riots' spread across southern England. Gangs roam the countryside at night destroying threshing machines and farm buildings. In November, riots occur at Corhampton, Droxford, Durley and Upham

The opening of the Botley to Bishop's Waltham railway line

Bishop's Waltham becomes the first small Hampshire town to have gas street lighting

Newtown School opens to provide education for 200 children

Sir Arthur Helps is made bankrupt

Terracotta Works taken over by Henry Blanchard. His Brick and Tile Works supplies bricks for Buckingham Palace, Natural History Museum, St Pancras Station and even Cairo's Grand Hotel

The Grammar School, founded by Bishop Morley, closes after more than 200 years

Bishop's Waltham Waterworks Company Ltd is founded to provide piped water

A new adult Educational Institute opens at the east end of Bank Street

The south aisle of St Peter's church is rebuilt, using material from the ruins of the now abandoned Palace

A large local gang 'black' their faces to poach deer on the Bishop of Winchester's land at Waltham Chase. In response Parliament enacts the draconian 'Waltham Blacks Act'. As a result, 340 offences become punishable by death

In November, Gunner's 'Bishop's Waltham & Hampshire Bank' opens for business to a peal of the Church's bells. It immediately issues its own £5 notes

Revd James Ogle opens a Boy's National School in the SE corner of churchyard

The Market House, a two-storey building in the middle of St George's Square, is demolished. It had been a market, local lock-up and school

Sir Arthur Helps, secretary to the Privy Council, opens his terracotta works at Claylands

Foundation stone of Sir Arthur Helps' Royal Albert Infirmary is laid by Queen Victoria's son Prince Leopold. It never operates and later becomes The Priory

'The Beer Riots'. The new Curate, Revd Edward Falconer, opposes alcohol and tries to close down some of the town's pubs. Plans to throw him into the Great Pond fail but his effigy is burnt and drunken rioting continues until 3.00am

The first civil Parish Council for Bishop's Waltham is elected

The Free Street School (now the Library) opens to replace the National School in the churchyard

1652

1679

1722

1762

1805

1809

1816

1822

1830

1841

1862

1863

1864

1866

1871

1884

1892

1894

1896

1898

The last 120 years: Decline & revival

On 28th November the first of 61 servicemen from Bishop's Waltham to die during the Great War is killed in France

The Great War ends on 11th November. Two Bishop's Waltham families, the Gunners and the Andrews, have both lost three of their sons

The Botley-Bishop's Waltham railway line ceases to carry passengers

As another war threatens, 200 children from Gosport are billeted in the town

Threat of German invasion. Road blocks set up around town and three local bridges prepared for demolition

V1 rocket hits Chase Mill. 17 soldiers stationed there dead or seriously injured

First woman councillor, Mrs Henry Smith (*sic*), elected to Parish Council

Chase Mill ceases operations

The Botley-Bishop's Waltham railway line closes

Housebuilding on the Ridgemedes Estate begins

Road building over the Bishop's Great Pond begins, as part of the town's new bypass

Residences, shops, café, Youth Club, petrol station and other properties, as well as the ancient Palace Mews, demolished to make way for new bypass

The Jubilee Hall opens

Bishop's Waltham Museum is founded

Bishop's Waltham Festival begins organising events

The North Pond Conservation Group completes project to retain water in North Pond all year round

1910

1914

1916

1918

1920

1932

1933

1939

1940

1944

1945

1953

1957

1961

1962

1965

1966

1967

1967-8

1970

1973

1980

1986

1987

1996

1997

2002

2018

Bishop's Waltham's first telephone exchange opens at the Post Office in the High Street

At the naval Battle of Jutland, on 31st May, five servicemen from Bishop's Waltham die on the same day

Oddfellows Hall becomes the Palace Cinema

Electricity supply becomes available in Bishop's Waltham. First installed at Mr Locke's fish shop on the corner of Bank Street and Basingwell Street

War declared against Germany on 3rd September

Clayland brickworks and Botley railway line bombed

38 local service personnel die during World War II (1939-45)

Gunner's Bank (the last County Bank in the country) is sold to Barclays Bank

Town's population is still less than 3,000

Mains sewage becomes available in Bishop's Waltham for the first time

Houses along Houchin Street and part of Basingwell Street demolished to create space for central car park

The new bypass opens

Ridgemedes Junior School opens

Buildings along west side of Brook Street demolished for road widening

The Bishop's Waltham Society is formed

Bishop's Waltham in Bloom is started

The Jubilee clock in St George's Square is erected with public subscription