



Newsletter

Winter 2018-19

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Members' Meetings for 2019

We have now finalised our plans for the year and several speakers are giving us a second talk - by popular demand! Unless otherwise specified, meetings are at 7.30 pm at the Church Hall in Free Street on the third Thursday of the month. So here are some dates for your 2019 diary:

Thursday 21st February - The Society's Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be followed by the usual cheese and wine and a short address by Julian Malec, chairman of the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust. This will then be followed by a short presentation by our chairman, Tony Kippenberger, on the four events at the Palace whose anniversaries will occur in 2019.

NB This is also formal Notice of the next AGM

Thursday 21st March - "Scurvy"

A talk by Dr Richard Ashton about the mistakes and breakthroughs that make up the story of this dreadful illness. From the 15th century onwards ships started to sail much further across the oceans, but with no fresh food. He will explain how the importance of vitamin C was uncovered and describe the role of a naval surgeon at Haslar Hospital who conducted experiments yet lacked conviction in his own results.

Thursday 18th April - Citizens Advice

Eighty years after it was founded, some 4 in 10 people in Britain contact Citizens Advice at some point during their lives. BWS member Sarah Berry will talk about what CA does and the challenges it faces. In its full financial year 2016-2017, the Bishop's Waltham office helped over 1,500 individual clients with some 3,000 different issues.



Thursday 16th May - "What the Butler saw?"

After a very successful talk at our recent Christmas Party, we have another costumed talk by Dr. Bob France. This time he again plays the role of Stedman, Petworth's Georgian butler, and shares his experiences and some things that he probably should not have seen! The talk explores the eccentricities of drinking and dining etiquette during Regency times. Fun!



Thursday 20th June - Midsummer at Titchfield Abbey

A 'Discovery Evening' for Society members as guests of Titchfield History Society at Titchfield Abbey. They have an annual evening meeting there and they have asked us to join them this year. Bring a picnic, chairs and rugs to visit the ruins at 7.30 pm.

Please note venue: Titchfield Abbey



Thursday 18th July - "Spitfire"

An expert on the subject, Colin van Geffen will look at the Spitfire's origins as Supermarine's entry in the Schneider Trophy, its production and subsequent development. All set against the Blitz in Southampton and the Battle of Britain. (According to recent research, Spitfire parts were stored at Claylands in a building that still stands.) He will also examine some of the myths that surround the famous plane and replace them with the facts.

Thursday 19th September - "Harlots, Dung and Glory: Part 3"

Andrew Negus gave us an excellent talk on an earlier period in Portsmouth's history (Part2) in 2018. This year he will give us the third part of his series, about the nation's only island city, covering the period 1850-1930. He returns by popular demand expressed at the time of his first talk.



Thursday 17th October - "The Defence of the Mission at Rorke's drift"

In 1879 the Battle of Isandlwana was the opening battle in the Zulu Wars and a catastrophe for the British Army under Lord Chelmsford. Geoff Heal will give us a talk about what happened afterwards at the rear hospital based at Rorke's Drift. He casts a more accurate light on events at the Mission Station made famous in the film 'Zulu'. A fascinating, detailed story!



Thursday 21st November - "The Deane Brothers and the Diving Helmet"

Dr John Bevan gave us an excellent talk last year about Commander 'Buster' Crabb. In this talk he will recount the story of how two brothers invented the diving helmet and sought fame and fortune. One died a horrible death while the other became the country's most expert diver, personally destroying Sebastopol Docks during the Crimean War.

Thursday 19th December - The Society's Own Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party for members and guests only. This year we'll again have the choir singing carols, some music, a quiz and our usual hot punch, wine, nibbles and mince pies.

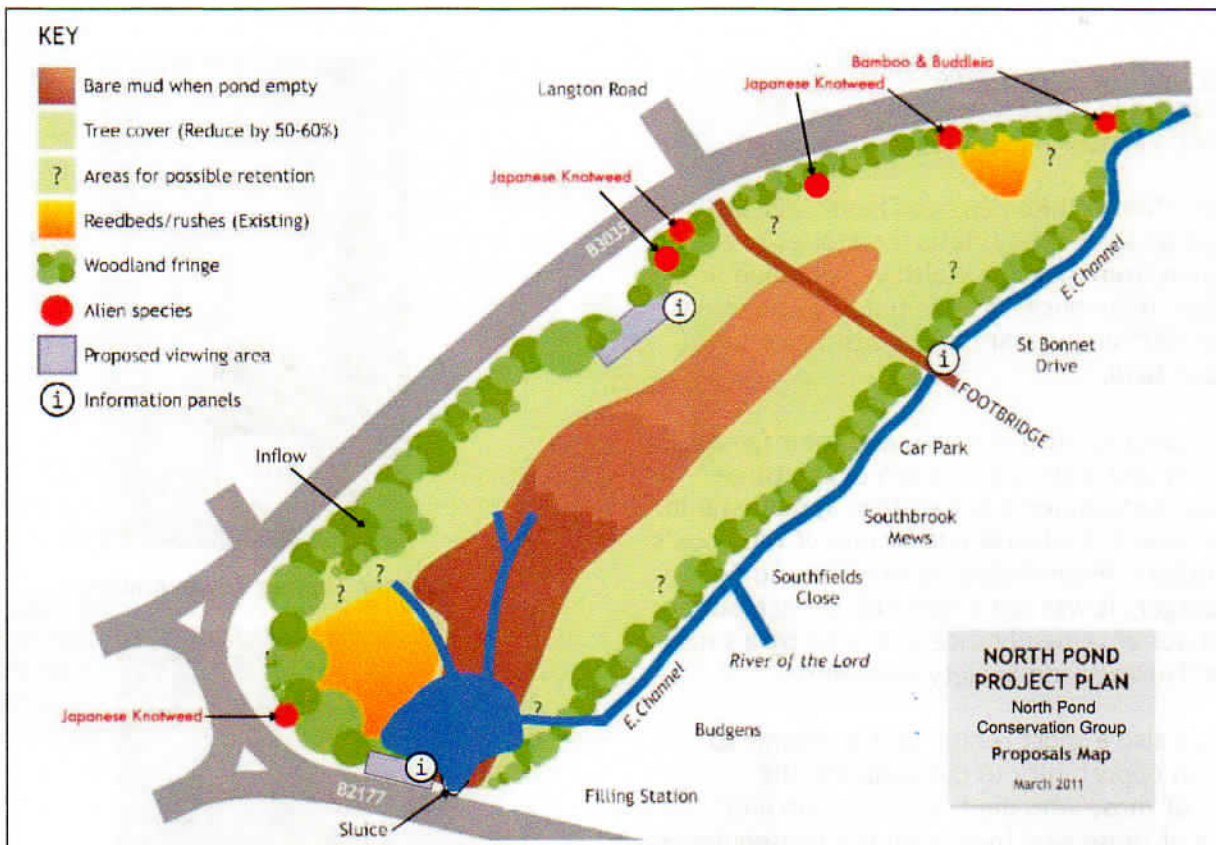
The North Pond Conservation Story

By Alan Inder

On 28th April 2018, the new viewing area by the B2177 was formally opened by Councillor David Mclean, one of his last acts as Mayor of Winchester. This event was especially significant because it marked the completion of the restoration of the North Pond, a process that started in the autumn of 2008 when the Parish Council set up a working group to produce a restoration plan. By that time the Pond had a sad air of neglect. Most of the Pond bed had become very overgrown by the encroachment of trees and scrub, mainly willows. Over the previous 20 years or so, various attempts to restore the Pond had failed.

By 2008 the task seemed almost impossibly daunting. However, the Restoration Plan, produced in 2010, received broad support and encouragement. Its main features were:

- Removal of most of the trees and scrub from the central part of the Pond, to open up views;
- Retention of a belt of trees and scrub around the edges of the Pond, to retain a feeling of rural seclusion;



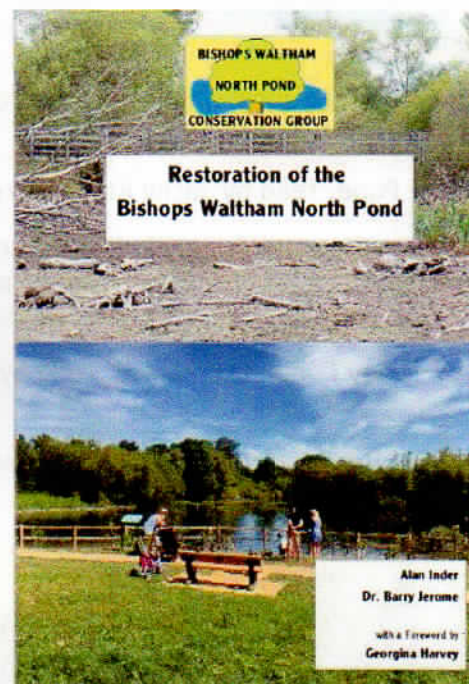
- Formation of a 'lagoon' to hold water all year round;
- Formation of two public viewing areas.

The biggest challenge was the lack of resources to carry out the plan. At a conservative estimate, the total costs of implementation were thought to be in the region of £60,000, based on extensive use of contractors. How was this money to be raised? The North Pond Conservation Group (NPCG), newly formed to take over from the working group, set about seeking grants, and using volunteers to make a start on clearing the scrub from the Pond bed.

Over the next two or three years, although the substantial grants that were needed seemed increasingly difficult to find, the Group was encouraged by the growth and commitment of the volunteer task force.

In 2014 the NPCG was offered the opportunity to acquire free of charge the ownership of most of the Pond - from Dukes Holdings Ltd - and boldly took it on. In the process the Group became a registered charity, run by trustees.

The main outstanding challenge was the creation of an area of permanent open water, which became known as the 'All Year Water' project (the 'lagoon' in the original Restoration Plan). Over a period of nearly four years significant obstacles were overcome, especially obtaining planning permission and raising the funds necessary to employ specialist contractors to dig out the silt and transfer it to build up the land for the new viewing area.



A new book (see above) has been published to describe the ups and downs of the decade-long restoration process. Written by Alan Inder and Barry Jerome (the previous and current chairmen of the NPCG), it's a heart-warming story of community support and commitment to create an environmental asset that is greatly appreciated by local people and visitors to Bishop's Waltham. This lavishly illustrated book costs £8.50 and can be purchased from Studio Four and Julia's Kitchen in the High Street, or via the North Pond Group's website: www.bwnpcg.org.uk.

Wreath-Laying Ceremony

As announced in the last newsletter, on 8th November a simple wreath laying took place.

The book, "We Will Remember Them", recently published by the Society, tells the stories of the 61 servicemen from Bishop's Waltham who died in the Great War. Its publication was timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November 2018.

Out of respect to all these men and their families, the Society laid a wreath on each of the three Great War servicemen's graves that actually lie in the churchyard. Each was laid by one of the book's three authors: Peter Ridley, Alan Inder and Tony Kippenberger. It was not a religious service but an informal act of remembrance attended by a small group of Trustees and Society members.

There was also a short recital of War Poems to provide an opportunity to contemplate the sacrifice of those who died, and the pain and suffering of those who lived with the consequences of this terrible conflict.

The poems were:

The Lads in their Hundreds A E Housman, read by Alan Inder, President of the Society

Socks Jessie Pope, read by Jacky Kippenberger

The Kitchener Chap attributed to Horace Bray, read by Tony Kippenberger, Chairman of the Society

A Story of Today Constance Powell, read by Angela Fry

In a Soldiers' Hospital: Pluck Eva Dobell, read by Keith Fry, Treasurer of the Society



Gunner Harry Etheridge



Gunner Thomas Edwin Andrews



Private George Cottle

Poppy painted rocks for Remembrance

Anyone who attended the Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church on 11th November will have seen that the upper surface of the War Memorial was covered with beautifully painted stones, each with a painted poppy and the name of a serviceman who died in the Great War.



The Remembrance Day 'rocks' before display

This was the work of a group called #bwrocks which has "Paint, Hide and Seek Rocks in Bishop's Waltham" as its motto. The Facebook group has over 360 members and describes its activities as follows: "Paint a rock, write on the back 'Facebook #bwrocks', hide it somewhere in Bishop's Waltham and post a photo on here of its location. If you find one then please let us know by posting a photo and either keep it or re-hide it somewhere else in Bishop's Waltham for the next person to find. Have fun and get out and about with the kids!"

After the service, all the named rocks disappeared to be hidden. Remarkably, many are making or have made considerable journeys!

George Casey's rock got to Portsmouth, Neil Gibson's rock made it to Lee-on-Solent, Charles Bell's rock arrived in Epsom, Harry Etheridge's rock turned up in Tunbridge Wells while Esau Richards arrived at Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. All captured in photos on Facebook. Two other stones made it even further:



This one is perched on the ship's bell aboard Queen Victoria, on its way to the Caribbean, whilst the one below made it all the way to Table Mountain!



What a brilliant idea and a great way to express Remembrance. Well done Cara Smyth and Mandy Mowbray for organising it!

Church gate's finial restored

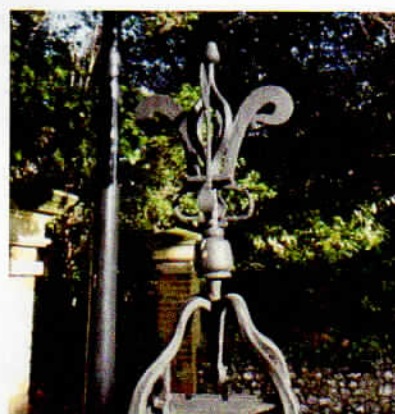


The gates photographed two years after their erection

At some point between 1913, when the above photo was taken, and 2003, when Nick Brice and his family moved into the Old Rectory nearby, one of the finials on this gate disappeared.

Nick noticed its absence and, as a gesture of goodwill, has wanted to reinstate it ever since. He finally got around to doing this last year. He knew a retired metalworker in Somerset called Tony Gane so Nick asked him if he'd be able to make a replacement. He realised that he couldn't ask Tony to come all the way to Bishop's Waltham just to take a look at what was needed and, on investigating the remaining finial, Nick found that it simply lifted off the post (no wonder one had gone missing)!

With permission from the Parochial Church Council, he took this original to Somerset and the copy was created. He defies anyone to tell which is the original finial and which is the replacement.



One of the finials

Both have now been properly fixed with screw bolts to keep them in place. Next time you walk through the gates see if you can tell which is old and which is new. Answer in the next newsletter.

The story behind the gates themselves is a sad one. In 1889 the long-serving Rector of St Peter's Church, William Brock, was already over 80 and

needed help. So he employed a 33-year-old, Thomas Archer Meynell Archer-Shepherd, as his Curate.

Four years later, in 1893, Thomas Archer-Shepherd moved on to become the Vicar at Lock's Heath. During his time at St Peter's he no doubt came to know the Gunner family. But it was not until 17 years later that he married Caroline Harriet Gunner in 1906. He was 49 and she was 38. Caroline was the daughter of Caroline Gunner, the remarkable Victorian woman who took over the running of Gunner's Bank for many years after her husband died. Sadly the older Caroline died in the same year that her daughter was married and even more tragically Thomas Archer-Shepherd's died just two years later, in 1908, aged just 51.

The iron gates that enclose St Peter's churchyard at both St Peter's Street and Maypole Green were erected by Caroline Archer-Shepherd in 1911 and dedicated to her husband. The inscriptions read: "in loving memory of T.A.M.A-S" and "given by his wife". If you look closely at the Maypole Green end, beneath the finials, you can see the dedication picked out in white.

Straightening up a leaning wall!

Another piece of valuable restoration or conservation work has been going on in St Peter's Street.

Anyone who walks up and down the street will be aware of the extensive works that have been taking place at North House over the last many months. But at the end of November a remarkable feat was successfully achieved.

The wall from the driveway to the yellow gate had, over the years, developed an ominous lean. It had a tie-brace attached to a long bar to hold it back but this only helped the north end of the wall.



In November an attempt was made to "push" the whole wall back into the vertical - see photograph below.



Adjustable scaffold props, wedged against wooden blocks on both wall and road, were used to apply pressure to the wall. The Acrows were repeatedly adjusted by $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ turns in sequence until the vertical was reached in about half a day. The wall moved by at least 7 inches - as evidenced by the tie bar being left standing free of the wall.



Now the wall, suitably reinforced within its brickwork, stands straight again despite the WCC Conservation Officer's serious doubts about the feasibility of the plan. The work was carried out by DPB Contractors of Fareham under the supervision of The Goddard Partnership in Basingwell Street. So much better than demolishing it and trying to recreate it, even with the same bricks. Hats off to the knowledge, effort and skill involved!

Brief Planning update

Activity on the main planning applications in Bishop's Waltham has been surprisingly quiet recently. Whether this is Brexit uncertainty, developers' protracted negotiations with Winchester City Council or a pause to await the outcome of the Shore Lane Postmead development's Appeal is difficult to tell.

Abbey Mill, application no. 17/02075/FUL - no further documentation submitted since the end of September 2018.

Locks Farm Standby Generator, application no. **18/01337/FUL** - a 26-page letter and attachments from law firm DMH Stallard in November last year makes a convincing case against this application.

Malt Lane development, application no. **18/000170/FUL** - no new documentation since mid-July 2018.

Postmead, Shore Lane, application nos. **17/01723/FUL** and **18/01654/FUL** - the Appeal Hearing was held on 9th January. The Society made its representation for a rejection of the Appeal on 3rd December 2018.

Thank You To All Our Members

A massive thank you to all members for your great support over the past year. It has been wonderful to welcome so many of you (often over 60 members) to the monthly meetings.

We are grateful also for your financial support through your subscriptions and donations, without which we could not function.

If you pay your subscription by standing order, then no action is needed, but if not please could you pay your 2019 subscription by sending me a cheque or pay via PayPal or by bank-to-bank transfer to sort code 30:90:85 account number 00135279, as soon as is convenient for you.

The rates are unchanged for 2019 at £7.00 for a single membership and £12 for a joint membership.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Happy New Year.

Keith Fry, Treasurer

Where was the wisteria?

In the last newsletter we asked whether anyone had spotted the wisteria that put on a great display beside a busy road in May 2018. The answer is that it is growing up a tall tree on the west side of the Corhampton road just a couple of hundred yards from the Old Station roundabout. Don't forget to watch out for the Acacia (Mimosa) tree near the Crown Inn - it is about to come into flower (early this year)!

A new makeover for our website!

We are delighted to be working with Justine Greenfield of JKG Designs on a complete makeover for the Society's website. Justine was responsible for the redesign of the Town Team's website and comes highly recommended! Our hope is to be able

to announce that the new site is complete and officially open at the AGM in February.

Our Christmas Party

We were delighted by the attendance of members at this year's Christmas party. 70 members and their guests enjoyed the carol singing, nibbles and mince pies with red, white or mulled wine. This was topped off with a highly entertaining talk by Dr Bob France (see page 1 for his second talk, due in May).



25 years ago...

The Society was fighting an Appeal by Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's against Eastleigh District Council's refusal of their Phases II and III development plans at Hedge End.

Phase II would have roughly quadrupled the mall between the stores so that outlets like Boots and C&A, along with about 20 smaller stores, could open there. Phase III was for 'retail warehousing' - such as a new Sainsbury's Homebase and a garden centre.

BWS Committee member John Hayter spoke for the Society at the Appeal, seeking to protect the viability of Bishop's Waltham town centre and that of other nearby towns. To everyone's relief, the stores' joint Appeal was refused.

A Timeline for Bishop's Waltham

Tony Kippenberger has developed a brief timeline for the town. This is Part 3. You can see Parts 1 and 2 on the back of the last two newsletters and there is a fourth one still to come!

Bishop's Waltham: A brief timeline

The next 250 years

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

1652

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

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

1679

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

1722

1762

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

1805

1809

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 Girl's School in the Market House in St George's Square

1816

1822

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

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

1830

1841

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

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

1862

Sir Arthur Helps, private secretary to Queen Victoria, opens his Terra Cotta Works at Claylands

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

1863

1864

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

Newtown School opens to provide education for 200 children

1866

Sir Arthur Helps is made bankrupt

1871

Terra Cotta 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

1884

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

1892

1894

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

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

1896

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

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

1898

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