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Hampshire Village of the Year 2019 by Robin Shepherd, chairman Bishop's Waltham Town Team
It was a real pleasure to have been part of the team that put the submission together for a nomination as the Hampshire Village of the year 2019.

As soon as the call for nominations was announced by the Association of Hampshire Councils in the summer, both the Town Team and Parish Council felt that we would be able to enter a really strong description of the great quality of our community. It didn't take many minutes to decide that in spite of the fantastic physical infrastructure in and around Bishops Waltham - the High Street, the Palace, the halls, the playing fields, the playgrounds, wild flower meadow, to name just a few - it is the people of Bishop's Waltham that are its great wealth.

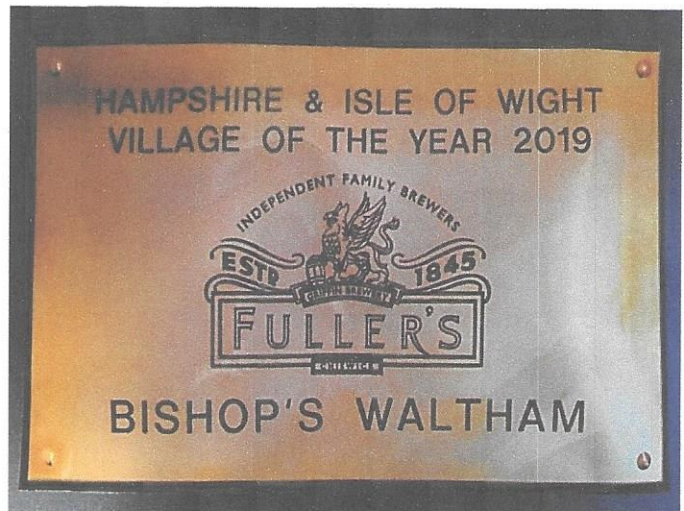
It is most extraordinary to realise that BW is home to over 70 community groups, all of whom, large and small, are focused on creating an ever more

Newsletter

Winter 2019

vibrant environment for all who live here - young, old and all those in between.

The pleasure for those of us who penned the submission and received the award on behalf of the people of BW, was in this recognition that it is the people who create a community. It is in this regard that the panel were most impressed and considered that we offer an exemplar for others to follow. We have thus committed to helping any and all communities who approach us for ideas, advice or simply encouragement.



We hope that you are as proud as we are of our community so that when you see the copies of the winning plaque in each of the High Street traders' windows, and the Village of the Year signs hanging from the Bishop's Waltham road signs, you can smile and continue to be proud of your 'village' as we enter another year of events, charitable activities, laughter and fun.

North Pond Group wins Hampshire Countryside Award by Alan Inder, Secretary, North Pond Conservation Group

In mid-summer the North Pond Conservation Group submitted an application for the Hampshire Countryside Awards, 2019, focusing on the restoration work that has been carried out over the past decade. The Award scheme is run annually by the Hampshire branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). Following the application, Martin Wilshire guided two CPRE judges around the site, and the Group

was pleased to hear that it had been short-listed among the 15 finalists.

All the finalists were represented at the Awards Evening, held at Littleton Hall on 17th September. The big prize was 'Hampshire's Choice', decided by open public online voting for the finalists. The NPCG trustees had been active in encouraging local people to vote, and were hopeful of being among the top three, which were announced in reverse order (to increase the suspense!). Much to the Group's delight, the Bishop's Waltham North Pond Conservation group was proclaimed the winner! The awards were presented by Nigel Atkinson, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, and he handed to the Group a certificate, winner's plaque and a cheque for £500.



Jason Allen Photography

This prestigious award reflects the enormous amount of hard work put in by volunteers over the past 10 years, and the ongoing support and encouragement from the local community. The North Pond Group thanks all who helped to win this award.

A Fair Exchange by Eileen Rainey

Those of you who attended 2018's mid-summer meeting in the Palace Grounds will recall what a balmy summer's evening it was - there we were,

sipping chilled white wine and trying to find some shade.

This year our June meeting was at Titchfield Abbey as guests of the Titchfield History Society (THS), and the weather could not have been more different! Those few hardy members who turned up were dressed in waterproofs and carrying large umbrellas as the British summer weather did its worst.



Thankfully the rain eased and the evening was very enjoyable, kicking off with a guided tour of the Abbey given by Marilyn Wilton-Smith, chair of the Titchfield History Society, when we learned all about the Abbey's history and importance. This was followed by a picnic - thankfully not outside, but in the wonderful Great Barn just a hundred yards down the road from the Abbey. It was built between 1408 and 1411 and at 156 feet long and 41 feet wide, is the largest barn in Hampshire and one of the largest in the UK.



The current owners have converted part of it into a small theatre which regularly stages Shakespeare plays, with the rest being an open area with tables and chairs. This worked very well as our members joined the THS members there to enjoy our picnics. The very pleasant evening was rounded off with a victory - Marilyn had arranged a quiz on a variety of local topics and I'm pleased to report that a group of BWS members came out top!

Then, in August, THS members came to the Palace grounds for an exchange visit. Thankfully the weather was much better behaved, with only one brief shower to interrupt proceedings. After a picnic in the grounds, THS members had the chance to visit the Museum which had been opened specially for the evening, and they then had a guided tour of the Palace given by Anita Taylor.



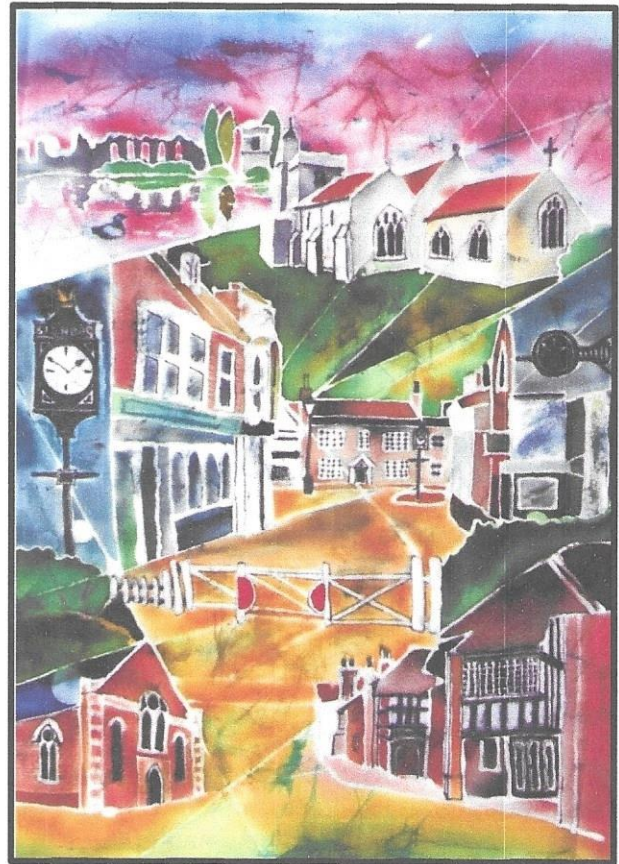
We provided our own quiz for the evening with a suitably strong focus on the English monarchs who have stayed at the Palace. THS members responded well and it was only because darkness was beginning to fall that the evening had to be brought to an end. The feedback we received was that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will no doubt be returning for another visit.



A Beautiful Image of Bishop's Waltham by Keith Fry

Quite by chance a beautiful card showing details of Bishop's Waltham has come to light. The image was sent to the United Free Church in the form of a thank you card for a gift which the Church had given. It is very attractive and captures the essence of what our community is about. It is

reproduced here by kind permission of the artist, Jenny Witchard. She has prints available in a number of formats and she can be contacted at jen.59@btinternet.com if anyone would like to obtain copies.



The original is in the form of a Batik. The word Batik is originally derived from Javanese. The technique uses cloth rather than paper and involves applying wax to the cloth to form the design. The wax resists the water-based dyes which are subsequently applied to the cloth. Thus the dyes are taken up by the cloth where the wax is not present and not by the waxed areas. The wax is removed at the end of the process to leave the completed image.

Renaming Maypole Green by Eileen Rainey

You may recall that in last winter's newsletter we included an article on the replacement of a finial on the church gates at St Peter's which had been missing for many years. This work was undertaken by Nick Brice who, with his family, moved into The Old Rectory 16 years ago.

Another of Nick's projects was getting the name "Maypole Green" used to describe/define the area outside the church gates on Free Street. In the early 20th century there were a row of cottages on the south side of the triangle called Maypole Cottages and there was a residual area of grass where, until the 17th century, a Maypole had stood.



© Copyright Bishop's Waltham Museum

When the Maypole cottages were demolished the connection was lost and the replacement - a single large house called the Old Pound - simply had Free Street as its address.

Apparently, all that was necessary to start using the proposed new name for the area was for the existing residents to agree to change their address from Free Street to Maypole Green and for the Post Office to produce a new postcode for the new name. In order to avoid problems for modern technology such as Satnav, the two postcodes had to run concurrently for a few years. Once this hurdle had been overcome, the address name was formally adopted and Nick arranged for Winchester City Council to produce two new nameplates in the old format of cast iron with raised lettering.



The final issue to be resolved was that there had been many occasions when it was impossible for residents to get in or out of their own drives because of the number of cars parked in the triangle. By negotiating with the Parochial Church Council, who own Maypole Green, Nick and the other residents managed to get the parking restricted to five specific spaces. They were also responsible for installing the planters, which have the combined effect of improving the space and preventing other cars parking there. Nick says that when he was putting out the planters, he was delighted at the number of people who stopped to

say what a good idea it was and how much nicer the area looked.



Nick Brice's next project, in conjunction with his neighbours, is to get an area of grass put back on to Maypole Green. Although he isn't set on the idea of actually having a maypole permanently in place, he thinks it might be a good idea because the school is just across the road and it would be nice to reintroduce the practice of maypole dancing. So keep an eye out!

Planning Matters by Pauline Mousley

Whilst it has been a lot quieter this year in terms of the number of planning applications, there have been a couple of quite contentious ones! However, we continue to review all local planning applications of any size or significance.

Locks Farm Standby Generator 18/01337/FUL
Permission for this development was finally refused in June this year after a long and protracted campaign. The Society sent a number of letters objecting to the development.

Malt Lane mixed housing/retail/youth hall 18/000170/FUL

This application was finally refused in July this year. The Society had mixed feelings as this is an important site which sorely needs attention but the plans submitted had a number of issues to which the Society objected.

Post Mead, Shore Lane 29 apartments for the elderly 18/01654/FUL

After two iterations, this application went to appeal where it was still refused, mainly on the basis of it being too big a development for the site. There is now a new application for the demolition of the existing house and erection of seven dwellings (19/02153) which is being supported by the Society.

Abbey Mill site, Station Road 17/02075/FUL
This application was for the conversion of the Abbey Mill buildings and the erection of a Care Home, assisted living properties and other

residential dwellings. It appears to still be outstanding with no decision made. Letters of objection to some aspects of the scheme were sent by the Society in July and October 2018.

Developments in progress

No doubt members will be aware that the major development sites included in the last Local Plan have now had planning approval and in most cases development has commenced with properties now being sold. These include: Martin Street, Coppice Hill, Albany Farm, and Tangier Lane East. Tangier Lane West has been approved but work has not yet started.

Out and about with the Society

The Society reached its self-imposed target of more than 300 fully paid up members by January 2018, and then at the AGM in February 2019 we set ourselves a new target - to have more than 350 members by the 2020 AGM. It looks as if we are within a hair's breadth of achieving that aim.

To do so we need to be out and about making the Society known to newcomers as well as to long-standing residents whose children have flown the nest and thus perhaps have more free time to join in with community activities. We were sorry that the Friends of St Peter's did not have a Fete this year: it has been a very successful event for us, in terms of recruitment, over the past few years.

However we did, once again, attend the Annual Parish Meeting in the Jubilee Hall (the photograph below shows our chairman at the BWS stand). As ever, we also rely on members to actively recruit friends as new members. So don't forget to mention the Society as a worthwhile activity within the town and suggest that anyone can sample the Society for free at our monthly meetings!



A Dangerous Blaze

In the early hours of Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May, the kebab van that was regularly parked on the concrete hard-standing between Fox's Garden

Machinery and Town House caught fire, and it took fire crews from Bishop's Waltham, Botley and Wickham about three hours to bring it under control.

Not only was the van destroyed, but severe damage was done to Town House itself where the intense heat blew some of the plasterwork off the wall and set fire to the roof (see photo below).



But the story doesn't end there. Arch Associates, a structural and engineering consultancy who occupied the building, had to move out and for the last few months DPB Contractors have been at work restoring the building. As part of the process they have stripped the rear wall both inside and outside. This has revealed some very interesting brickwork, as Penny Copeland explains in the next article.

Do More Bricks Mean More Palace? By Penny Copeland, Curator of Bishop's Waltham Museum

This has been a year for bricks at the museum, and recently even more interesting bricks have turned up. The recent fire behind Town House in St George's Square has led to the builders taking off the render on the back wall.

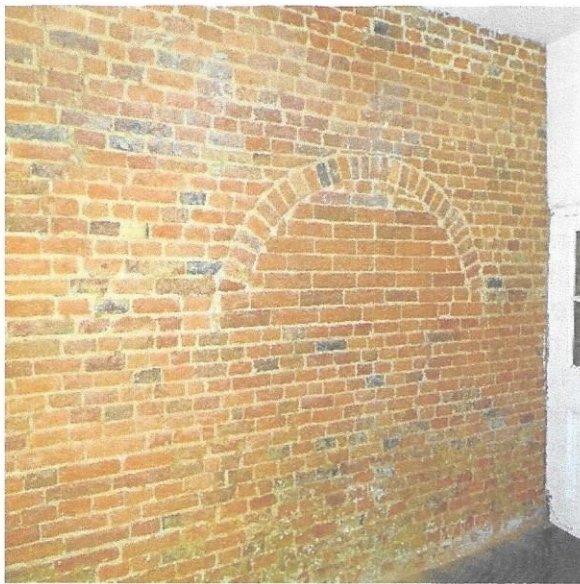


This revealed many different phases of brickwork, none of which match the front or side wall! The front of the building appears to be early 19th century, this means nearly all of the back wall is

earlier, with the front of the building wrapped round it.

The ground floor of the wall is of particular interest to me as the bricks are nice and thin (4-5cm thick in contrast to a modern brick which is 6.5cm), laid without any pattern and therefore likely to be Tudor. These are the bricks on the picture above which have been painted and then "pecked" for plaster or render. The bricks on the floor above and in the roof truss have never been keyed so they are later (although they are still pretty slim).

So high quality, expensive, Tudor brickwork, very close to the Palace which had many areas rebuilt in brick? What could that be?



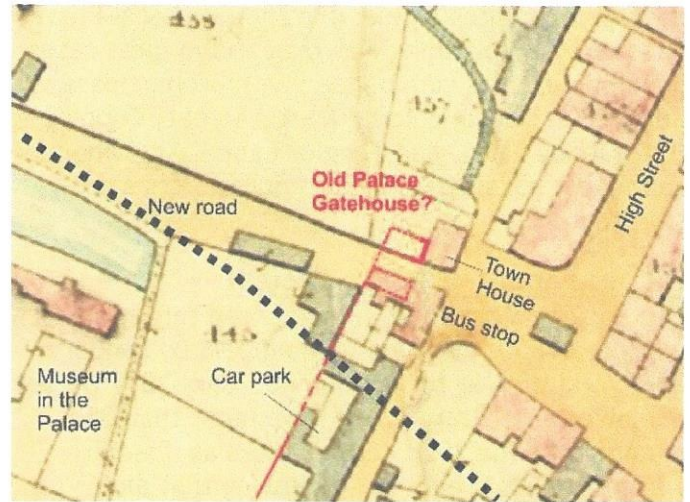
Inside view of Town House's rear wall

I am speculating then that this is the front wall of the lost gatehouse of Bishop's Waltham Palace. English Heritage have a reconstruction of the gatehouse in their guidebook, showing it behind the line of the Lord's River, but sitting in front of the boundary wall. The wall still exists and can be seen in the Palace/Museum car park. So, the construction fits and the location fits, but we can't prove any of this unless there is a dig...



English Heritage's illustration of the gatehouse (above) shows the wall that might have been found - arrowed and marked with a red line.

This 1841 map below shows the ancient boundary lines and the newly discovered wall - in thick red.



Incidentally, my thanks go to the building contractors DPB who have been hugely patient with me!

First Pet Cemetery in Hampshire

West Hoe Cemetery, in Hoe Road, is owned by Bishop's Waltham Parish Council but is jointly managed by the Bishop's Waltham and Swanmore Parish Councils. The Cemetery's Management Committee is made up of three Councillors from each Council.

In April this year the first pet cemetery in Hampshire was opened at the site. The idea was first proposed in late 2017 and an application for planning permission was made to Winchester City Council in November 2018. The site of the pet cemetery is near the entrance to the main site in a triangular plot of land beside the car park - now screened off by a newly planted hornbeam hedge. It is unconsecrated ground.

Although there was some opposition from individuals who objected to pets' ashes being buried near to human remains, the area is very separate - positioned well before the Lych Gate into the cemetery proper.

Each pet's plot will be 40cm x 40cm (15.75" x 15.75") square and to a depth of 100cm (39") although deeper plots can be considered on request.

The ashes can be loose or in a biodegradable container. So it is for small pets only, with a plaque that must be a maximum of 30cm x 30cm (12" x 12").

Perhaps fittingly, the first animal ashes buried on the site were those of Piper, a beagle that was killed in a road accident and owned by Robin Howe, the chairman of the cemetery committee. Robin said, 'We hope the cemetery will give people the opportunity to maintain their connection with their beloved pet. The feedback we have had has shown people are absolutely delighted.' The cost is £90 a plot.

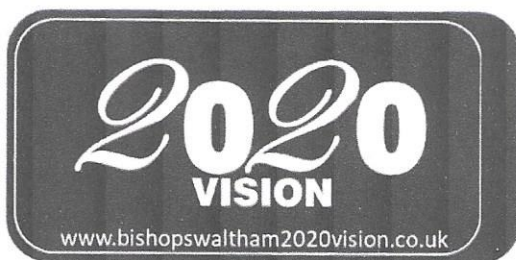


Robin Howe's beagle, 'Piper'

"2020" Vision for Next Year

Bishop's Waltham "2020 Vision" is a new community photographic project designed to record everyday life in and around Bishop's Waltham during the year 2020. Its express purpose is to add a modern set of photographs to the John Bosworth Collection held by the museum.

John Bosworth founded the museum and steered it through its early years in a room behind Barclay's Bank. As a photographer and historian, John not only took many hundreds of photographs of Bishop's Waltham in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s, but also actively sought out old photographs of the town dating back to the mid/late 1800s. He donated his archive of around 5,000 photographs to the museum - the last of these are still being digitised and catalogued.



These are the many wonderful photographic images that have appeared in books such as Alan Inder's *The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham* (co-published by the Society and the Museum). However since John Bosworth's death in 2005, there has been no systematic attempt to collect photographs. Although thousands of photographs will have been taken within the Bishop's Waltham area over recent years, those in the public domain (i.e. in the museum collection) are small in number.

So Vision 2020 intends to address the shortfall by running a year-long community-wide initiative capturing everyday life in and around the town. It's not a competition, so it's not just for the experts. What the project organisers are interested in are photographs which provide an image of the town's everyday life in 2020. The emphasis is 'everyday' - from the Co-op lorry trying to park in the High Street to new houses springing up at Albany Farm, from grass-cutting in the churchyard to families feeding the ducks on the North Pond.

This independent group have created a website www.bishopswaltham2020vision.co.uk that provides guidelines on what photographs to take and how to upload them onto the site. The aim is to collect as many photographs as possible and then, at the end of 2020, to select 1000 photographs that can be donated to the museum's existing record.

This will benefit the museum and the wider community for years to come. It is endorsed by the Bishop's Waltham Society, Bishop's Waltham Museum, the Parish Council and Winchester City Council. Meanwhile the Town Team will actively support it with updates on the 'Love Bishop's Waltham' website. Initial costs are being met with sponsorship from Clear Dentistry and running costs by a contribution from the Society.

What they now need are people - adults, children, friends and neighbours - to pitch in with at least one photo each during 2020.

If you would like more information please contact Trish Simpson-Davis, on 01489 893261 or at trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com.


New Car Parking and New Yellow Lines by Keith Fry

Whilst the arrival of neither of the above may be particularly new to most residents of Bishop's Waltham, it might nevertheless be helpful to know the up-to-date information.

First of all the Jubilee Hall car park: it is understood that the contract for the construction of 71 additional car parking spaces on the Jubilee Hall site has now been let; the cost is in the region of £250,000; the start date will be in January 2020 with completion expected by March 2020.

The *proposed* operating plan is that parking will be 'pay and display' with a 2-hour free parking slot available. Two electric car charging points will be offered and Season Tickets will be available with a guaranteed parking space for those who wish to buy a regular/daily parking slot. Compliance will be monitored by the Parish Council.

Map showing new layout of the Jubilee Hall carpark

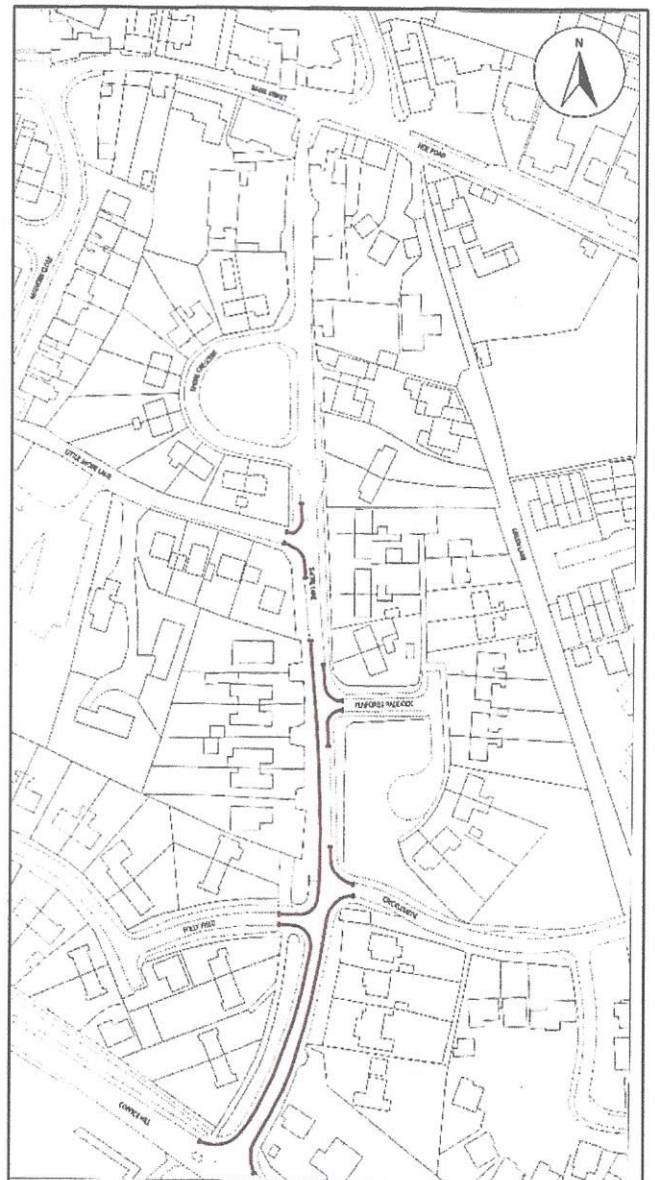



There are also two new proposals for yellow lines within the town. One will be in Free Street and the other in Shore Lane. We understand that the Free Street proposal is now out for public consultation, whilst the Shore Lane proposal is still with Winchester City Council for consideration. The locations of both sets of lines are shown in red on the plans below.

Free Street Yellow Lines



Shore Lane Yellow Lines



NEXT YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A huge thank you to all members who renewed in 2019, or paid their subscriptions for the first time. Your support is indispensable and enables the trustees to carry out the work of the charity.

This is a reminder that 2020 subscriptions (£6.00 single and £10.00 joint plus any donation - yes please!) are due on 1st January. Those of you who pay by standing order need do nothing (unless your standing order is wrong in which case please contact your bank). Those who pay by faster payment, please go online and make the payment. Those who pay by cheque or cash, please let Keith Fry, our Treasurer, have the money as soon after 1st January as you can, or before if you wish, it will still count for 2020.

Also a plea for those who not yet do so to Gift Aid your subscription/donation. At present Gift Aid is worth well over £400 to the Society. Since our 2019 AGM all the Gift Aid money we receive will be directly donated to help chosen local good causes. This year £215 went to the Minibus Group and £215 to the Gateway Club (see photos below). We will be donating Gift Aid money in this way for the foreseeable future.



The chairman presents a cheque to the Gateway Club



And the Minibus Group

The Austin & Wyatt Document Rescue by Tony Kippenberger

Background

The firm's founder, Richard Austin, started his business in Bishop's Waltham as an Estate Agent (in the original sense of the words - managing large estates) in 1836. He also became a well-known Auctioneer, holding regular auctions at the Crown Inn in Bishop's Waltham as well as many other places (including pony sales in the New Forest).

He owned the brick works on Coppice Hill and lived in Coppice Hill House. He subsequently bought the town house in the Square (probably built by Thomas Fox in the early 1790s) where Austin & Wyatt's offices were until they were closed down by the current owners, Countrywide, in early summer 2019.

The documents

As the then chairman of the BW Town Team, I had called in on Austin & Wyatt in 2012 to see if they would hand out a 'Welcome Pack' for new house buyers moving into Bishop's Waltham. As part of the conversation, the manager invited me to look at the old documents stored on the premises. As a result I spent a couple of hours looking at the many bundles and piles that were "dispersed" through the building (see below)!



It was immediately clear that these old archives (estate maps, property details, rent ledgers, house inventories, tithe books etc.) were an invaluable resource to discover more about the past in Bishop's Waltham as well as elsewhere in Hampshire.

However, there were so many documents that the museum at that time felt there was too much for them to cope with and so it was suggested that the manager contact the Hampshire Record Office (HRO).

In 2014 Sarah Farley of the HRO came to Bishop's Waltham to inspect the documents and the HRO offered to take everything, but Countrywide decided to keep them after all. So they continued to languish on shelves and in attics.

A New Opportunity

Having noticed in May 2019 that the Austin & Wyatt offices had closed, I wrote to Austin & Wyatt/Countrywide to ask about these documents but received no reply. So we kept our eyes open for a skip to appear outside. In June I spotted a white van loading office equipment and together with Alan Inder we enquired what was happening to the documents.

Subsequently we met Countrywide's Senior Estates Manager, Chris Maher, in July. He confirmed that they wouldn't be destroyed but he expected the new leaseholders (another firm of Estate Agents) to want to keep them. A proposal we found unlikely, so we sought his assurance that the new owners would let us know if they didn't want to continue storing them.

Sure enough, we were contacted by Charters Estate Agents in late July to say they didn't want them and a further assessment visit was arranged for early August.

It was clear we needed a rescue plan. So it was decided that we would pack up the documents in boxes and store them at StorAway near Droxford (paid for by the Bishop's Waltham Society who also now keep their archives there) and to store the maps in a container store in Free Street provided by a Friend of the Museum.

In just three days, between the 8th and 10th September a small but highly motivated team, headed by Penny Copeland, managed to rescue everything!



Some of the team at work labelling boxes



About 900 maps head for storage



50+ boxes of documents go into store

These archives are all now being painstakingly sorted, box by box and map by map, by more volunteers - a job that will last some time. But it has been, without doubt, a job well worth doing and something that will provide Bishop's Waltham, HRO and many other societies and communities in Hampshire and across the south with valuable information. Our thanks to all who have been involved, and continue to be so!

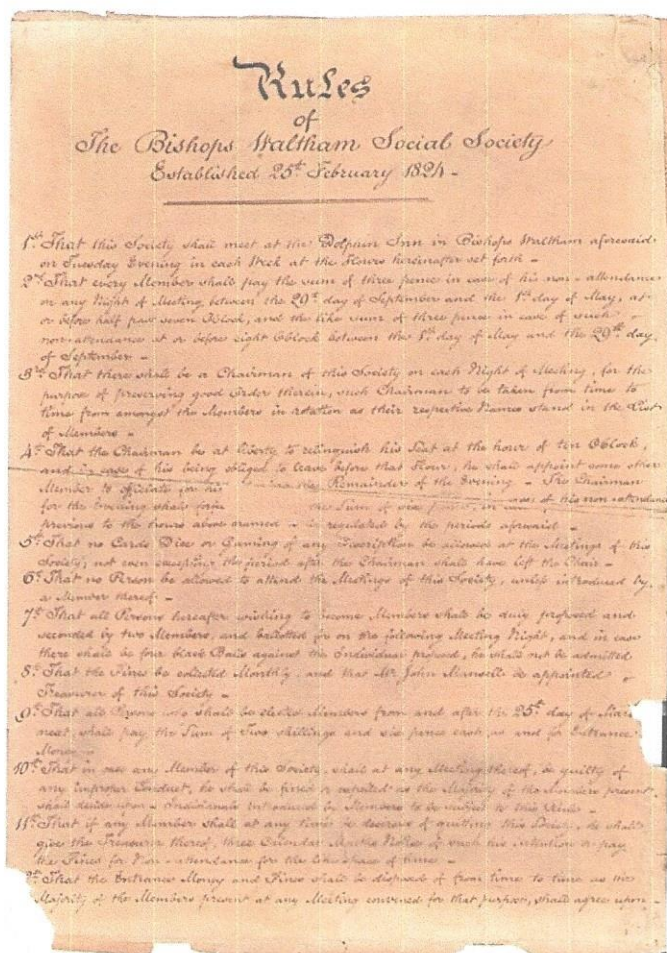
Sponsoring Wild Flowers

The Society continues to support Bishop's Waltham in Bloom's wildflower planting. We sponsored the Hoe Road roundabout for three years and will relinquish that to another personal sponsor next year. The Tangier Lane site (see below) was planted with biennials last year and so will need re-seeding in 2020.



The Other, Older Bishop's Waltham Society
 During 2019 all of the Society's archives have been catalogued and put into storage at StorAway (where the Austin & Wyatt files have also gone).

In the process a set of Rules for another, much older Society were found amongst the documentation. They are for the differently titled 'Bishops Waltham Social Society' which was established on 25th February 1824. Faded and yellowed, the rules nevertheless giving an insight into late Georgian Bishop's Waltham.



The Society's 11 rules include the fact that all its members would meet in the Dolphin Inn (present-day Hylands on the High Street) every Tuesday at 7.30 pm between 29th September and 5th May and at 8.00 pm between 5th May and 29th September. Non attendance would incur a fine of 3 pence (modern day equivalent £2.50-£3.00). How would current BWS members feel if we fined them for non attendance?

The chairman for each meeting would be responsible for the "purpose of preserving good order" and would be chosen by a rotating order of members. If the expected chairman did not attend, he would be fined 6 pence (£5.00-£6.00).

However, the said chairman could relinquish his chair at 10 o'clock but should he need to leave

earlier, he could appoint another member to 'officiate' for the remainder of the meeting.

'Social' was the clear emphasis. "No cards, dice or gaming of any description" would be allowed at the weekly meeting - not even after the chairman had left. So just socialising over a drink then!

Anyone wishing to join would have to be proposed by two current members and be voted in, but anyone who received "four black balls" would be precluded from joining.

The cost of joining the Society was significant at two shillings and sixpence a year - about £27 in today's money. Leaving the Society was also onerous - three months' notice, or the weekly fine of 3 pence per week for three months, about £36. BWS members get a much better deal today!

25 years ago...

The town was excited by the visit of the Tour de France! The route came through Swanmore and on to Winchester so many spectators chose Beeches Hill - a fairly stiff incline - as their chosen viewing place to watch the race speed past on Thursday 7th July 1994.

It seems that by 8am people were arriving with folding chairs, tables, picnic baskets and - perhaps inevitably - umbrellas to take up positions on the hill. Apparently, by 10.30 that morning the hill was "awash with people" with everyone good-naturedly jostling for position.



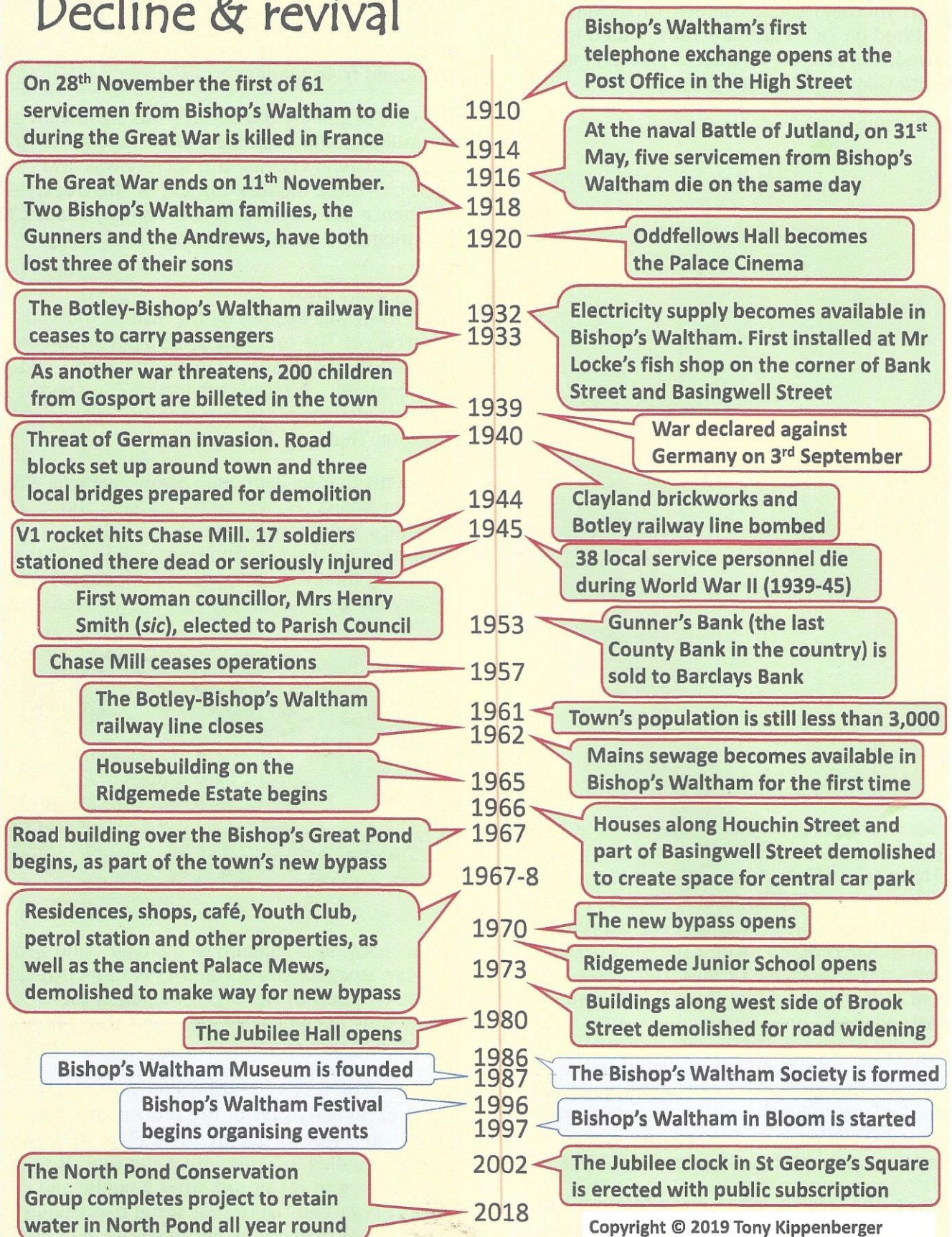
The anonymous committee member, who wrote up the story for the autumn 1994 newsletter, lived on Beeches Hill and remembers the "whoosh" as the cavalcade swept through in a matter of seconds.

25 years on it is a bit disheartening to learn that at an early part of the proceedings "we also had a view of Jimmy Saville" as he "shot past" standing in a car with a sun roof. It is astonishing to recall just what a public and highly regarded figure that serial paedophile really was! How did he get in on the act?

A Timeline for Bishop's Waltham

Tony Kippenberger has developed a brief timeline for the town. This is part 4. You can see the first three parts on the back of the last three Newsletters or on the Society's website.

The last 120 years: Decline & revival



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