

# 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

10,000 BC

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

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

1300 BC

Local settlers/farmers live on and around Coppice Hill and build Bronze Age barrows (near Hoe Farm and Little Shore Lane)

Small farming settlements continue to farm fertile land around the Hamble river and up on Coppice Hill

800 BC

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

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

54 BC

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

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

42 AD

43 AD

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

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

200-300 AD

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

The Roman Empire in serious decline

The last Roman soldiers leave Britain

407 AD

Increasing Saxon raids on Britain

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

450-550 AD

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

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

688-726 AD

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

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

904 AD

1001 AD

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

King Harold is killed and his army defeated by Duke William of Normandy at the Battle of Hastings.

1066 AD

Duke William marches from Canterbury to Winchester while reinforcements land at Chichester and march through Waltham - plundering the land as they go

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# The next 700 years: the Palace heyday

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

**1086** The Domesday book shows Waltham to be the 11<sup>th</sup> largest settlement in Hampshire

**1111** King Henry I and Queen Edith stay in Waltham while waiting to sail to Normandy from Portchester

**1129** Civil war, called The Anarchy, breaks out in England (1135-1153). Henry of Blois builds three castles – one of them at Waltham

**1138** Henry of Blois, brother of King Stephen, is made Bishop of Winchester

**1158** Henry of Blois starts building a Palace at Waltham

**1182** Henry II holds a Royal Council at Waltham Palace to raise money for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade

**1194** Richard the Lionheart holds a Royal Council at Waltham Palace

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

**1294** Edward I, “Longshanks” and “Hammer of the Scots”, stays at Waltham Palace

**1326** Edward II stays at Waltham Palace

**1344** The Black Death kills 65% of Waltham’s inhabitants!

**1348-49** Edward III visits often. His Queen, Philippa of Hainault, gives birth at the Palace to ‘Mary of Waltham’ – a sister to the ‘Black Prince’

**1415** Henry V stays at the Palace for two weeks on the road to the battle of Agincourt

**1422** Henry VI, King of France and England, stays at the Palace

**1455-1487** The Wars of the Roses between the houses of York and Lancaster

**1476** Edward IV, the first Yorkist King, stays at Waltham Palace

**1496 - 1499** Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, Anne Boleyn, Thomas Cromwell are frequent visitors to Waltham Palace over this period

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

**1509 - 1547** Henry VIII and the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, sign the ‘Treaty of Waltham’ (against France) at Waltham Palace in 1522

**1522** Edward VI, stays at Waltham Palace

**1552** 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

**1554** Elizabeth I stays at Waltham Palace

**1591** Parliamentary troops plunder Bishop’s Waltham

**1642** Start of English Civil War

**1644** Royalist troops occupy Bishop’s Waltham

**1645** 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.

**1645** Hundreds of “Clubmen” from Bishop’s Waltham and Petersfield march to Beacon Hill to jointly protest against lawless soldiery. The meeting is broken up by Cromwellian cavalry

# The next 250 years: Victorian boom

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

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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, secretary to the Privy Council, opens his terracotta works at Claylands

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

1863

1864

Newtown School opens to provide education for 200 children

1866

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

Sir Arthur Helps is made bankrupt

1871

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

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

# The last 120 years:

## Decline & revival

On 28<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Ridgemedede 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 Bishop's Waltham's first telephone exchange opens at the Post Office in the High Street

1914 At the naval Battle of Jutland, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, five servicemen from Bishop's Waltham die on the same day

1916

1918

1920 Oddfellows Hall becomes the Palace Cinema

1932 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

1933

1939 War declared against Germany on 3<sup>rd</sup> September

1940

1944 Clayland brickworks and Botley railway line bombed

1945 38 local service personnel die during World War II (1939-45)

1953 Gunner's Bank (the last County Bank in the country) is sold to Barclays Bank

1957

1961 Town's population is still less than 3,000

1962

1965 Mains sewage becomes available in Bishop's Waltham for the first time

1966

1967 Houses along Houchin Street and part of Basingwell Street demolished to create space for central car park

1967-8

1970 The new bypass opens

1973 Ridgemedede Junior School opens

1980 Buildings along west side of Brook Street demolished for road widening

1986

1987 The Bishop's Waltham Society is formed

1996 Bishop's Waltham in Bloom is started

1997

2002 The Jubilee clock in St George's Square is erected with public subscription

2018