



Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Bishop's Waltham Society was founded 30 years ago

To celebrate its 30th anniversary and to recall how and why it was founded back in the mid '80s, we asked the Society's first chairman, Trevor Harvey, to cast his mind back.

"The years leading up to the formation of the Bishops Waltham Society in 1986 had not been good for those interested in preserving and enhancing our local environment.

Church House had been demolished. A capacious property bordering Bank Street, its Georgian facade concealed a much earlier interior. It had been the former headquarters of Gunner and Company, the last provincial private bank in the United Kingdom to print its own bank notes. As well as being in the Bishop's Waltham Conservation Area, it was listed in Hampshire County Council's *Hampshire Treasures* as a building whose "destruction would represent a serious loss to our heritage". Yet, none of the above appeared to amount to much. With scarcely a voice raised in its defence, Church House was demolished to make way for the Roman Row development that now occupies its site.

It seemed that the word had gone round that Bishop's Waltham was up for grabs. Next to be

proposed for the chop was Southbrook House at the corner of Brook Street and the Lower Lane car park. Although somewhat disguised, Southbrook is a large, mainly original timber-framed house of c.1600. Despite being another Hampshire Treasure, and in the Conservation Area, it seemed likely to suffer a similar fate to Church House. In this case its demolition was to make way for a Co-op Supermarket. However, residents now were rather better prepared and, at the end of 1984, I succeeded in getting Southbrook House emergency grade 2 listed by the Department of the Environment. This new designation did not, per se, save the house, but certainly had the effect of slowing things down. Ultimately, of course, the building was sensitively converted to offices.

Next, the historic and environmentally important North Pond was under threat. Two applications for a lorry park had been refused. With a Winchester City Council protective policy statement imminent, in June 1985 the owners (James Duke & Son) took matters into their own hands and felled scores of trees including mature standards. This high-handed action caused outrage among many residents, and the late Chris Smith told the Southern Evening Echo "This is an act of sheer vandalism". Following local pressure, led by Chris Smith, Winchester City Council issued an emergency Tree Preservation Order to protect the remaining trees.



The cutting from the Evening Echo on 21st June 1985

Shortly afterwards, I received an invitation to attend a meeting of the Hampshire Buildings

Preservation Trust to raise awareness of the plight of Southbrook House. To my amazement, I discovered that I was not alone. Speaker after speaker raised concerns about their own locality. But they were not acting (as I was) in an individual capacity. They carried much more clout, being officers of the Portsmouth Society, or the Gosport Society, or the Fareham Society...

Upon making enquiries, I discovered that these conservation groups were all local amenity societies. They were registered charities and affiliated to the Civic Trust, which existed in part to coordinate the work of such societies nationwide. (The Trust ceased to exist in 2009, and Civic Voice has subsequently been established to fulfil a similar role).

On returning from the meeting, I mentioned this to a number of those who had been involved in the various campaigns, including Mrs Judith Fairhurst. I advocated the formation of a Bishop's Waltham Society. I then contacted the Civic Trust, the Charity Commissioners, and local Societies for advice on how to proceed.

At the end of the summer of 1985, during a chance meeting with Judith Fairhurst, she asked me if I had given any further thought to the founding of an amenity society for Bishops Waltham. Arising from this conversation, a preliminary meeting was convened to seek support for the formation of the Bishop's Waltham Society. A small group of those who had shown concern over the recent environmental and planning matters formed the core of the meeting, and one or two other invitations were issued. This meeting took place on Thursday 17 October, 1985. Those present were Judith Fairhurst, the late John Bosworth, the late Chris Smith, Eric Cole, Greg Gregory, John and Pam Hayter, Alan Inder, the late Averil Leesmith and me.

At the meeting, I gave a brief account of the reasons for convening the meeting. Dean Clark, of the Portsmouth Society, gave a presentation and led a discussion on the role of a local amenity society, based on his own experience. The meeting resolved that the proposed Bishop's Waltham Society could fulfil a useful role in the community, and that sufficient support would be forthcoming to justify its launch at an augural meeting, which took place on Thursday 16 January 1986. At this meeting the Society formally came into existence.

And the rest is the next 30 years...."

What's happening now?

In some ways, the situation today is very different. There are plans to add another 500 houses to the town but the Parish Council has been busy

preparing for the impact. So we asked Society member and Parish Councillor Robert Shields to remind us of what has been going on.

The Development Plan

In response to the Government's demand for new homes, the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 allocated 500 houses to Bishop's Waltham. On 14th February 2012 the Parish Council resolved to accept the plan without any critical representations and agreed to cooperate with Winchester City Council on the production of the Local Plan Part 2. During the rest of the year parish councillors prepared the groundwork for community involvement so that by January 2013 over 40 residents assembled in focus groups to produce the Bishop's Waltham Development Plan. The guiding vision was "*All new developments to be situated as close as possible to the town centre to maintain the social ambience and vitality of Bishop's Waltham, a medieval market town surrounded by farmed lands*".

Two reports were prepared in 2012 - one defining what was required in terms of types of houses, the supporting infrastructure and the employment opportunities; and the other on where the development should be, in terms of the specific site allocations. There was considerable publicity, including many exhibitions, and community consultation ranging from household questionnaires, to a "Design Bishop's Waltham" day in which residents positioned the required number of new homes on large-scale maps. There was also consultation with landowners, developers and neighbouring parishes. Altogether approximately 800 people were involved in shaping the Plan. At the same time, the working groups analysed census data as well as geographical and environmental data to come up with priorities for site selection.



Residents at the Design Bishop's Waltham Day at the Jubilee Hall

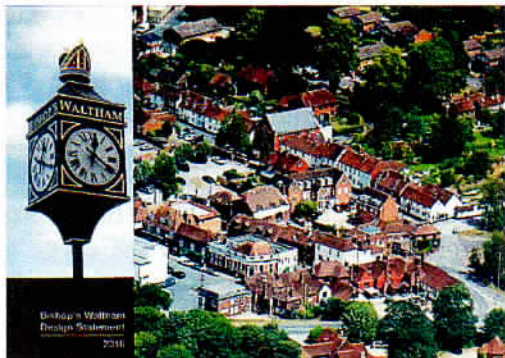
On 15th March 2014 the final Development Plan was approved by the Parish Council and submitted to Winchester City Council for incorporation within its Local Plan Part 2. It specified the policies for four main housing development sites; Coppice Hill,

Martin Street, Tangier Lane and Albany Farm; and a site for light industrial use at the Tollgate Sawmill. After a round of Public Consultation, the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State. Developers were then quick to draft their outline plans.

A Design Statement

A requirement of the Local Plan Part 1 was to “conserve identity, historic characteristics and rural character”. Unlike the majority of towns and villages in Winchester District, Bishop’s Waltham had never had a Design Statement. On 13th January 2015 the Parish Council approved the production of a Bishop’s Waltham Design Statement to be completed that year. Its main purpose was to provide a framework of local parish policies so developers could design in accordance with local requirements. There was a race to get the Design Statement approved by Winchester City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document before it approved any of the planning applications from the developers of the Local Plan 2 sites.

A Steering Group met on 19th January 2015 to set out the work plan and, in later meetings, toured Bishop’s Waltham thoroughly, reviewed others’ design statements and started to document the distinctive features of the town that residents valued and wished to see protected or enhanced. 28 policies were drawn up that, together, defined how best to manage the changes brought about by the forthcoming developments whilst preserving the unique characteristics of bishop’s Waltham. After a series of exhibitions the policies were put to public consultation and then refined. The final document was submitted to Winchester City Council who adopted it as a Supplementary Planning Document on 29th February 2016. Subsequently the main developers have used the Design Statement to guide their planning applications put before Winchester City Council.



Bishop’s Waltham Design Statement

Conclusion

The Bishop’s Waltham Development Plan and the Design Statement represent fine examples of how the local community can work together to shape the developments of their town. Future

generations might come to recognise that the current expansion of Bishop’s Waltham was largely designed by its residents.

The following are the sites identified for development, the number of houses on each and the names of the current developers.

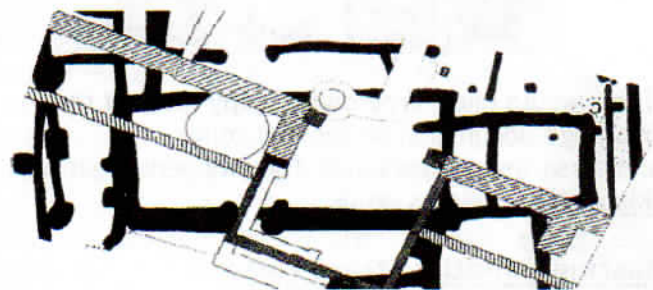
BW1 Coppice Hill (half the site) - Bargate Homes: 35 homes (LPP2 requirement for the whole site is 80 homes)
 BW2 Martin Street - David Wilson Homes: 61 homes
 BW3 Tangier Lane - Crest Nicholson: 120 homes
 BW4 Albany Farm - Southcott Homes: 120 homes
 BW5 Tollgate/Sawmill - No developer

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Bishop’s Waltham

There is still no information available about the future of the Abbey Mill site. It was put on the market by Sainsbury’s last summer with offers required by the end of October. It is believed that one potential buyer, thought to be a house-builder, is still in negotiations.



Meanwhile Country Homes have purchased land at Malt Lane. A positive sign in terms of the long-lasting need for this unsightly area to be resolved, but also an area where careful archaeological work will be needed. The Saxon hall and tower (below) uncovered by Elizabeth Lewis’s excavations in the 1960s lies just a few metres away underneath Budgens store. What may lie under the grassed area around Fox’s and beneath the wooden NHS and Youth Club huts must be properly investigated.



The Saxon ailed hall with connected tower (all shown in black) uncovered in 1968

Bishop’s Waltham’s Anniversaries

The fact that it was only by happy accident that July 2015 was found to be the 600th anniversary of King Henry V’s stay at Bishop’s Waltham Palace

was a shock. The realisation that the town might very easily have missed the opportunity to celebrate Henry V's stay, on the Road to Agincourt, has prompted the Society to investigate other forthcoming anniversaries.

The anniversaries cover the next 25 years (2016-2040). This is well beyond the point at which many of us are likely to be involved, but it provides the basis of a document that can be continually updated over time. It is worth noting that many important anniversaries have been missed in the last ten-fifteen years and therefore do not come up again until 2025-2040!

The anniversaries are broken down into three groups: important Palace anniversaries, a number of (inevitably rather random) town anniversaries (both at 25 year intervals) and some organisational anniversaries (at 5 and 10 year intervals). We would like to add more to all these groups.

At present there around 50 anniversaries identified, 20 for the Palace, 25 for the town itself and several for local societies.



If you would like a free digital copy (pdf) of the five-page document, or know of other anniversaries, please email Tony Kippenberger at tkippenberger@csbs.co.uk.

Roaring Twenties Street Party

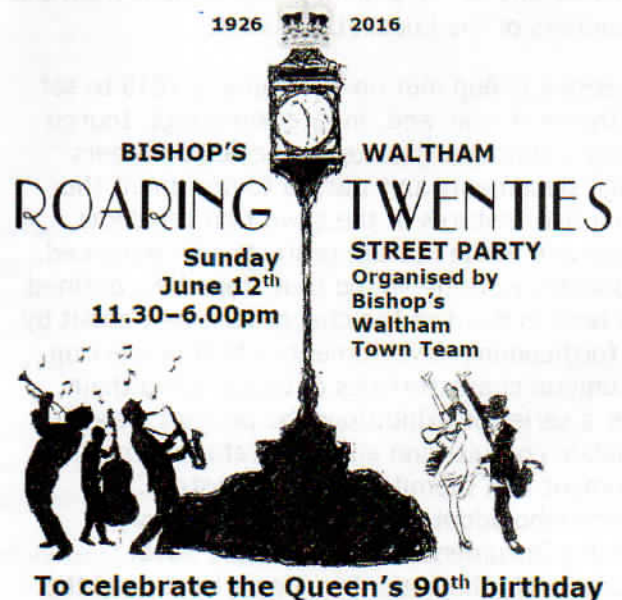
To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, Bishop's Waltham Town Team are holding a Street Party along the same lines as the successful 2012 Jubilee Party. The difference is that the theme is the 'Roaring Twenties' - the decade in which the Queen was born.

An organising group, under the leadership of Robert Shields as project manager, has been

working hard since September last year. Apart from Robert himself, other members of BWS involved in the group are: Sarah Berry, Georgie Busher, Joan Ferrer, Sandy Kara, May Martin, Martin Wiltshire and Tony Kippenberger. Heidi Isa, our Market Towns Development Officer, is heavily involved as well, as are many others.

Plans are now in place for an event starting at 11.30 am on Sunday 12th June and ending at 6.00 pm. This is the day after Rotary Club's Carnival, so it should make a great weekend of fun and entertainment for the town.

There will be seating for around 750 people at any one time and it is expected that up to 2,000 may attend during the day. There will be food stalls on the High Street and food shops, cafes and pubs will all be open on the day. So whether you bring your own or see what's available there'll be plenty to eat and drink.



To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday There will also be non-stop entertainment with jazz bands, a steel band, a stilt-walking band, Morris dancing and Peterkin the Fool (anyone who attended the banquet at the 'Road to Agincourt' weekend last year will know what a treat that is!). There will be plenty of buskers and Bishop's Waltham's own Gatsby Girls. Cross Street is being set aside as a childrens' area with story-telling, Punch and Judy and Circus Sensible. The afternoon will end with live music on stage in St George's Square.

Tickets (in the form of badges) are available at £5.00 a head (children under 16 free). They can be bought at Apple Crumble and Kitsch, the Post Office, Best Wishes and Hays Travel.

So round-up the family, come dressed the part if you can and enjoy the party! There's a special celebration for our own 90 year-olds on the day!

Bishop's Waltham's Museum wins national accreditation

By Julian Malec, Museum Trustee

The Museum is now accredited by the Arts Council of England (ACE). This accreditation is the national standard for museums and galleries. It defines good practice and agreed standards and guides museums towards future development in how they are run, how they manage their collections and how they treat their users and staff.

We set out along the trail towards Accreditation two years ago. It seemed a daunting task. The instructions were held in many pages of computer data. To even be considered we had to submit a large number of documents to ACE who then decided whether it was worth our while making an Application. This hurdle was completed in late 2013, and we received approval to Apply. We had a year to complete all the electronic paperwork and submit it to our allocated Assessor and Advocate Mrs Shabeena Anait, who is based in Birmingham. She would first assess and then advocate our application to the ACE Assessment Panel.



*The Museum in the Palace Grounds.
Entry to both is free*

Our Registrar Anita Taylor worked for hours preparing about 35 individual documents, from the Governing Document, to the Emergency Plan and Care of the Collections, all of which were to be scrutinised. After submission to ACE in early January 2015 a visit by the assessor was fixed for August. On the appointed day, Shabeena arrived accompanied by the Museum's mentor, Ross Turle from the Hampshire Museum Service. At this meeting, attended by Georgie Busher, Anita Taylor and me, Shabeena examined the museum and looked at the collections. She wanted to see how items were logged into the data base, how they were cared for, and see the policy for acquisition of new items. She chose at random a number of the items on display and compared them with the written record. Because of Anita's care, the comparison was faultless.

Shabeena represented us in front of the ACE Accreditation Panel on 24 September 2015 and on

12 October issued the result. There are some areas to follow up, but the Museum gained Full Accreditation in the Small Museums class. We can be proud of that achievement.

Like to volunteer?

If you are interested in what the Museum does, or would like to help, either as a volunteer or trustee, please come along when the Museum is open. We have just opened for the summer season from **2pm till 4pm each Saturday and Sunday afternoon**, until the end of September. Alternatively please contact Dawn Woodsford (01489 894640) or Anita Taylor (01489 895428). They would be delighted to hear from you.

This year's Museum Exhibition: The Great Pond and Abbey Mill Stories

By Trish Simpson Davies

This year, the Museum's summer exhibition tells the story of the Great Pond from its medieval origins to the end of the 20th century. The Great and Little fishponds built for the Bishops of Winchester more than 800 years ago changed the town's landscape and still impact on Bishop's Waltham today.

A first floor display relives the mixed fortunes of the Abbey Mill, built in 1862, and owned by James Duke and his family for more than a hundred years. Duke's was the major employer in the town after the Second World War, when the company became a market-leading distributor of seeds and animal feeds. Local historians from the Oral History Project hope to make contact with more of the men and women who worked for Duke's before the 1990s who may visit the Museum over the summer.

The exhibition records four years of historical research. Before 'buttoning up' the project in the autumn, I hope to unpick fact from fiction in the Victoria County History account of the mills of Waltham. I acknowledge the assistance of Hampshire Record Office for primary sources; the University of Winchester's Medieval Manuscripts Research Group for translations from the original Medieval Latin Pipe Rolls; and the expertise of Edward Roberts, John Hare, Elizabeth Lewis and others for their original research. Local people's recollections have also proved invaluable in investigating the Abbey Mill and James Duke & Son stories. I particularly thank the Bishop's Waltham Society for their support throughout.

The exhibition may prove to be the swan song for the Abbey Mill. No firm plans have been announced by the prospective buyers of the Sainsbury site to regenerate the mill, which currently lies in a semi-derelict state.

Bishop's Waltham House History Project

BW

Bishops Waltham
House History Project



This project - launched at the start of 2014 - was rather overtaken by events once planning for the 'Road to Agincourt' celebration at the Palace was started in August of that year.

It is now planned to re-start the project with a gradual collection of work done to date (and quite a lot has been going on in the background) with a view to a full re-launch meeting in the early autumn. There should be enough research already completed to re-ignite enthusiasm and interest! We will be in touch with all participants shortly.

Sponsored by the Bishop's Waltham Society and the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust, some 90 participants, representing about 65 properties, joined the project at the start. But it's not too late to join - contact tkippenberger@csbs.co.uk.

An exciting proposal for the North Pond to retain an area of permanent water

By Barry Jerome, Chairman, BWNPCG

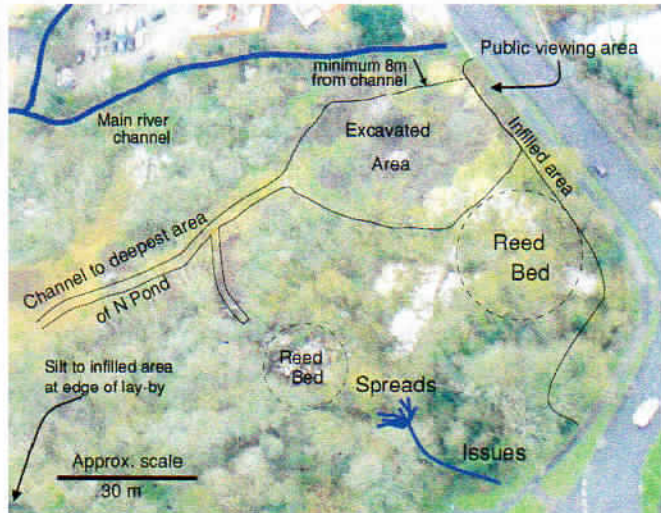
Nearly every year, the North Pond dries up. It is clay lined and is therefore reliant on ground water levels. When the pond dries up it has a major environmental impact on amphibians, fish, water birds, invertebrates and water plants.

Frog and newt tadpoles do not reach maturity, fish and immature water birds are stranded, invertebrates and water plants dry up and die. In a normal winter, when the stream is flowing strongly under the Winchester Road (B2177), fish escape from the South Pond to the North Pond in large numbers. As the water level drops the fish become stranded and hundreds die despite fish rescues conducted jointly by the Environment Agency Fisheries Division and the Bishop's Waltham Parish Fishing Club. The dead and dying fish cause considerable concern for local residents, and has resulted in much adverse publicity involving local MPs, local councillors, Portsmouth Water Company as well as TV and newspaper media.

Many attempts have been made to find a solution to the problem of fish escaping from the South to the North Pond. To date these have been unsuccessful but it may be possible to build an otter tunnel in the future if funding can be secured. If built, this would solve the fish problem, but it does not solve the general impact on other pond wildlife.

The new proposal is to deepen an area of the North Pond so that it is deep enough to hold water for several months both before and after the main

pond dries up. The water table is only just below the surface of the silt when the pond first dries up and an excavated area should therefore hold water for an extended period if it is at least 2 metres deep in the centre. There is also an alternative source of water into the North Pond and a pilot hole dug when the pond was dry has shown that water can be held even when the general water table continues to fall. The excavated area would include feeder channels to direct pond life into it as the water level drops.



The work required involves excavating the silt, digging the feeder channels and redistributing the excavated silt to build up the banks and provide two public viewing and information areas. Approximately 900cu m will need to be excavated and redistributed. No excavated material will be removed from the site. The estimated total cost of the work is £26,420, of which the silt excavation and redistribution is £19,320.

Before engineering work can start, planning permission will be required from Winchester City Council and approvals will be required from the owners (James Duke & Son (Holdings) Ltd) and Environment Agency Flood Risk Management (EAFRM). Initial discussions with EAFRM indicate that the proposal is acceptable from a flood management point of view. The Conservation group has some funds available, other funds have been volunteered and several sources of grant funding are available which will be sought to reach the total cost. Volunteers from the community will provide a lot of the labour requirements both before and after the silt excavation and will thereby reduce the total costs.

Donations can be made online at <http://www.bwnpcg.org.uk/>

The Society itself is currently considering making a donation to support this proposal.



One of the North Pond swans with their seven cygnets swimming upstream by the Corhampton Road in May

The Saga of Dave and Davina Goose

By Barry Jerome

A white goose first appeared on the South Pond about five years ago. We suspect it had outgrown its home as a pet and someone thought it would be happy on the pond. It was adopted by the Fishing Club and became a mascot. Thinking it was a male goose it was given the nickname "Dave". Dave was self-sufficient, grazing the grass around the pond and along the road-side verges, supplemented by some feeding from the anglers. It had a safe roost at night, using the barley straw bales in the centre of the pond, which are put in place to stop algal blooms in the summer.

After a couple of years of solitary existence a second white goose appeared, equally unexpectedly, possibly another unwanted pet. The anglers speculated as to whether the new arrival was male or female but, as Dave seemed to look out for and protect the new arrival, it was assumed it was female and so named "Davina".

Dave and Davina lived a happy existence on the South Pond and became quite an attraction for local residents. They continued grazing the grass around the pond but then decided that the grass on the roundabout looked especially lush. This involved the tricky negotiation of the traffic to cross each morning to the roundabout, spend the day there eating, and cross back in the late afternoon to the South Pond.

Tragedy struck during the summer of 2015 when Davina was attacked and killed by a dog which was not on a lead. The bird was taken to the vets but nothing could be done for it. Despite their names they were in fact both female geese who simply looked out for each other. The survivor looked rather lonely, still crossing the road to graze on the fresh grass on the roundabout and, after the death, one of the most frequently questions asked of the anglers became "What happened to the other goose?"

There was a lot of concern about the loneliness of the survivor and a variety of options were looked into to see if it was possible to provide another friend for Dave. Unfortunately domesticated geese are all used to being given supplementary food and would need feeding with grain every day and so would not make a suitable companion for a goose who was already self-sufficient.

Unfortunately by early 2016 Dave had become a hazard on the roundabout. Instead of crossing once to eat the grass and returning later, the goose had taken to crossing back and forth, thus causing traffic chaos. This became such a nuisance that even the local MP became involved! Something needed to be done so a new home was eventually found in Denmead with other geese. Catching Dave was not easy and involved nets and the boat on the South Pond but was eventually successful.

Shortly after Dave was rehomed, a small statue of a goose appeared on the roundabout to be followed by other figures including a flamingo and a rabbit! The shrine remained there for some time.

Dave is missed, not only by local residents, but especially by the Fishing Club members who had grown attached to the bird and used to feed it. In return Dave had acted as a sentry on the pond and kept away any cormorants that might have otherwise ventured in to eat the South Pond fish.

Bishop's Waltham Festival's 20th Anniversary 1996 - 2016

By Lynn Lee, Chair, BW Festival Committee

Our Festival was started in 1966 by John Cochrane and his late wife Helga. He came, looked at the village with the Palace, and thought 'every Irish village has an arts festival, why not here? This is ideal!' He told me this with great glee last July when he came to our hugely successful Music Festival. There have been many ups and downs over the years but we are still thriving and entirely run by volunteers, with grant help when we can get it.

Regulars of the early years were the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and one year the Black Dyke Mills Band attracted 1000 with their picnics. Ah, the picnics... who will forget last year's Tempest? Other famous performers have included Humphrey Littleton (on a lovely summer's evening), Kenny Ball, the Albion Band, Show of Hands, The Tremeloes (very wet) and George Melly (who had to be pushed up on stage). Joe Whetham's son's student company gave us a magical Midsummer's Night's Dream, roving the grounds with the Court by the Brewhouse wall, the fairies in the Dell and Titania waking to a glorious sunset. It's the Dream again this year from the Rain

or Shine Theatre Company who have been coming here now twice a year for the last 12 years.

Showcasing local talent is a huge part of the festival. The excellent Festival Singers, first with Sammy Cross and now with Fleur Wainwright, are in concert annually in St Peter's Church and today's Music Festival grew from the battles of the bands. The early Art exhibitions arranged by the Parret family have grown into community art creations - think of the Agincourt photo figures and the 1914 commemorative poppies.

The Festival has always been about children, performing and making, creative activities and workshops. When we had to leave the Palace (one of the downs) we relocated the Festival to the High Street setting a new trend. New spaces led to new ventures - comedy nights, concerts in restaurants, pavement art and storytelling and, now back in the Palace, outdoor cinema.

To our great delight 2,000 people came last year and we hope to welcome you all again this year on the weekend of 14th-17th July.

A new 'Early History' project!

The Society is supporting a new project designed to start to uncover 1,000 years of Bishop's Waltham's hidden history, from 250-1250 AD. More details in the next newsletter. If you are interested, please contact the chairman, Tony Kippenberger.



The Society's AGM

Our Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday 18th February, was well attended with more than 35 members present.

The Executive Report for 2015, the Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the 2015 AGM were all accepted. Although the chairman was unable to attend, the previous officers and committee were all re-elected. Alan Inder, who chaired the meeting, was re-appointed President. The role of Vice Chairman remains empty. Full details of the Society's officers and Executive Committee are provided below.

After the AGM members enjoyed cheese and wine and there followed a presentation by Heidi Isa, Market Towns Development Officer on Bishop's Waltham Town Team, its role and its ambitions.

The Society has two representatives on the Town Team, one of whom is currently its chairman.

Members of the 2016 Executive Committee

The officers and members of the current Committee:

Chairman: Tony Kippenberger

Phone: 01489 893473

Email: tkippenberger@csbs.co.uk

Treasurer: Keith Fry

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Email: fry.keith@googlemail.com

Membership Secretary: Debbie Crump

Phone: 01489 896802

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Fred Woodfine

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Email: justincasebw@yahoo.co.uk

25 YEARS AGO...

The Society provided a concrete based bench to be sited on the western side of the North Pond.

It is great that the North Pond Group have spent time this spring refurbishing it. Here Gill Overton, one of the North Pond Conservation Group Trustees, having first removed the moss and lichen, re-varnishes it. Great to see it has lasted and good to see the care being taken of it! Thank you Gill.

