

Bishop's Waltham Society



Past • Present • Future

Registered Charity Number 1170683

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The Society's 33rd AGM

Our 33rd Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday 15th February, was very well attended with more than 60 members present. We are delighted that so many turned out on a chilly evening to participate in the Society's affairs.

In introducing the Executive Report, the chairman Tony Kippenberger highlighted the fact that membership now exceeds 300 and that meetings during 2017 were all well attended, with an audience of 80 at many of them. He confirmed that the Society had already broken even on the re-publication of Alan Inder's book "The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham". The cost of production was nearly £5,500 - a reason for maintaining a healthy bank balance. More publications are now in the pipeline.

The chairman took the opportunity to say "thank you" to a number of people. Firstly, he wanted to express gratitude to all the distributors - last year their work involved delivery of three newsletters, the 4-page guide about the possible public purchase of the Palace and its grounds as well as an 8-page AGM document. Being a distributor is a bit of an invisible task but their work benefits the Society enormously.

He also thanked Pauline Mousley who, despite not being a Trustee, is heavily involved in the planning committee. Finally, he thanked Debbie and Ray

The enclosed envelope contains very important information which members should sign and return please!

Newsletter

Spring 2018

Crump who have served on the committee for a number of years, variously filling the roles of Treasurer and Secretary, but who are this year stepping down - they will be missed.

The Executive Report for 2017, the Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the two 2017 AGMs were all accepted. All the previous officers and committee were re-elected and the Examiner of the Society's accounts, Paul Emmerson, was re-appointed.

As an item on the AGM Agenda, the chairman pointed out that at the 31st AGM a number of points had been made about extending the Society's objects. As promised at the time, the trustees had started to review the Society's Objects in the run-up to the AGM but then took the view that rather than tinker with the existing Objects it would be better to think more widely about what objectives would be appropriate for the 21st Century.

The original Objects were decided when the Society was first formed 32 years ago and perhaps needed a full review. So the trustees decided that the whole set of Objects and Powers should be looked at in an open manner and in full consultation with the membership. It is therefore proposed to initiate the process by forming a group representing a cross-section of members who could participate in a brain-storming session. The output of this group and any additional input by the trustees would then be put to all members to seek their views. It is hoped that this consultation process will begin during May.

Another item on the AGM agenda was the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (a new EU law effective from 25 May 2018 replacing the Data Protection Act). This introduces new regulations on how organisations handle personal data. Keith Fry has been appointed Data Controller and new IT equipment will be purchased to prevent hacking. A Privacy Notice will appear on our website and also on new membership application forms. We have decided to seek 'new consent' from every member for us to hold their information and to use this for appropriate purposes. Members will receive, with this newsletter, a letter explaining the background and

asking for their specific consent to use various means of contacting them (post, email, telephone etc.). We are conscious that address details are given to those who deliver newsletters and we will be addressing the security aspect of that as well. See page 3 for more detailed information on the GDPR.

The AGM concluded with cheese and wine and a talk by Alan Inder on "The History of London from the 18th Century" that was very well received.

PLEASE USE THE STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO RETURN YOUR CONSENT FORM

How observant were you?

In our Summer 2017 newsletter we asked who had noticed the beautiful tree in the photograph below.



In particular we asked:

1. What type of tree is it (proper or common name)?
2. Where is the tree sited?
3. During what month did you see it flower?

We asked for answers by email and offered a prize of a £10 Amazon voucher for the winner. We also said that the winner's name would be revealed in the next newsletter.

Well, Joan Clarke was the winner - the tree is an Acacia (mimosa) that flowers in February/March and is sited on the Winchester Road opposite the Crown car park. Unfortunately she asked us whether it was an Acacia *dealbata* or not and we then had to wait until this spring to determine from its flowers whether it was an Acacia *dealbata* or Acacia *decurrens*. Keith Fry, our resident expert on matters botanic, looked at it closely in March and decided it was indeed Acacia *dealbata*.

A £10 Amazon voucher has winged its way to Joan. Unfortunately, its flowering season is over for another year. But do look out for it next February! It is actually in the garden of No 2 George's Square.

Hoe Road roundabout wild flower bed

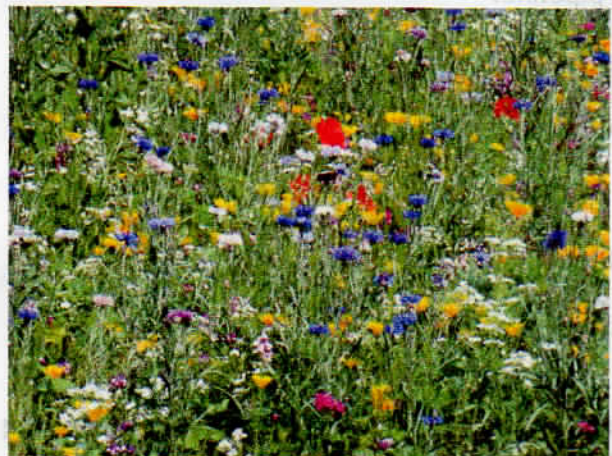
Many people enjoyed the display of wild flowers planted by Bishop's Waltham in Bloom (BWIB) on the Hoe Road/Willow Road roundabout and we were very pleased to sponsor it!



However, some of you may have noticed that the bed turned brown as spring arrived. This was the result of an unfortunate misunderstanding. BWiB had asked the Parish Council's groundsmen to poison the annual wild flowers at the top of Tangier Lane prior to the site being re-sown with a mix of annual and perennial wildflowers. Perhaps over-zealously, the groundsmen also poisoned the Hoe Road roundabout bed (which is already planted with a mix of annual and perennial wild flowers).

But all's well that ends well! The Parish Council have agreed that the Council will pay for the replacement seed and BWiB will sow it. We will still be the sponsors of the bed.

This all enables the Society to do what it had planned to do this year which is to sponsor the re-sown area at the top of Tangier Lane and also to sponsor all the costs associated with the children's hanging basket competition in Red Lion Street that BWiB arranges. The combined cost is expected to be £300.



We believe that the wild flowers are not only bee-friendly but add a richness to the town's floral displays that is of considerable value to everyone. We are also keen that children should get involved in plants and planting, and share in the reward of seeing something that they have planted produce an abundance of beautiful flowers over the summer months.

The General Data Protection Regulation

What's it all about?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law that comes into effect on 25th May 2018 to replace the current Data Protection Act. The regulation introduces new requirements for how organisations process personal data (in other words, how those organisations handle the information they hold on you, for example your name, address, phone numbers, bank details, etc). Although it's an EU law, Brexit is unlikely to have any impact on this as the UK will adopt all or most of GDPR as domestic legislation after we leave the EU.

Why the change?

The GDPR is designed to end the complacency that big business has shown when it comes to safeguarding our personal information. It was conceived during a time when data breaches - both accidental and as a result of cyber-attacks - were becoming far too commonplace. You may also remember the case of Olive Cooke, the 92-year-old poppy seller who took her own life following the huge number of requests for donations she received from charities (it was found that she may have received almost 3,000 mailings from charities in a year). About a quarter of the charities that had her details on file passed them on to other organisations. You may have experienced this yourself - perhaps you've requested a brochure for something and then find yourself inundated with others that you haven't asked for simply because the original provider has passed on your details to other organisations. The GDPR is intended to stop this practice.

The requirements of the GDPR are not optional and the penalties for non-compliance are potentially swingeing. Although any fines have to be "effective, proportionate and dissuasive" they can be huge - there are two tiers of administrative fines that can be levied:

1. Up to €10 million, or 2% of annual global turnover - whichever is higher
2. Up to €20 million, or 4% of annual global turnover - whichever is higher

These are intended as a significant deterrent!

But how does this affect your membership of the Bishop's Waltham Society?

Every organisation that holds data on its customers/members/supporters, irrespective of its size, must abide by the GDPR rules. So under the new legislation, we need to tell you what information we currently hold on you and you need to give us specific written consent to use that information. You also need to tell us which communication methods you are happy for us to use in order to contact you, for example post, email, phone or SMS.

So the trustees have put together a check sheet called a Privacy Notice which shows the data held on each member of the Society, how this data is stored and what it is used for. This notice gives you an opportunity to check the data, amend or delete it and crucially, to sign it. This signature gives your consent for us to use the data.

What do you need to do?

Included with this newsletter you'll find a form which you need to complete, sign and return to us. You'll also find a stamped addressed envelope for ease of return.

The new legislation says we cannot simply infer consent, so if you want to continue as a member of the Society you will need to let us have the completed and signed form as soon as possible please.

If you've got any queries, please do let us know and we'll be happy to help you through the process. Contact the Society through info@bishops-walthamsociety.org.uk or Eileen Rainey on eileenraineyuk@yahoo.com.

If you do not sign, then you are 'not consenting' which will, in effect, mean that you are resigning from Bishop's Waltham Society. We do very sincerely hope that you won't want that to happen!

PLEASE USE THE STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO RETURN YOUR CONSENT FORM!

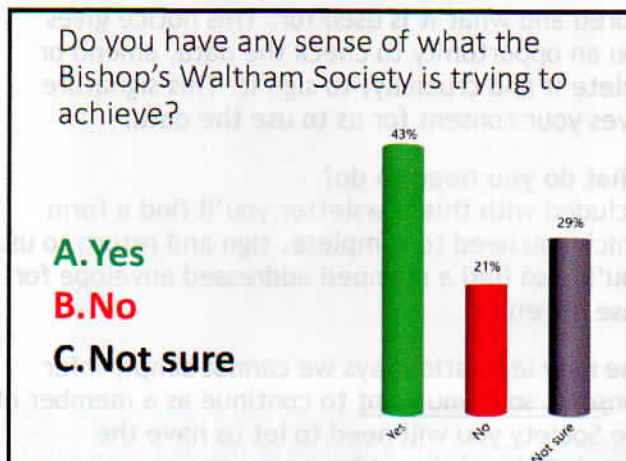
Constitution consultancy process

As described on page 1, at the AGM the trustees announced a full consultation process for any possible or proposed changes to the Society's current objectives and powers as defined within our Constitution.

We hope that the collection of data through the GDPR process described above will allow us - for the first time - to contact all Society members simultaneously. We know some members do not use or have access to email communication, but at least we will know who to contact by 'snail mail'!

At the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Wednesday 21st March, the Society was invited to be one of the speakers. An innovation this year was the use of an instant voting system and each speaker was invited to raise two questions as a means of discovering the reactions or response of the 200 members of the local community who attended.

This provided the Society with the opportunity to ask two relevant questions. At the start of his presentation our chairman, Tony Kippenberger, asked the audience "Do you have any sense of what the Bishop's Waltham Society is trying to do?" The instant voting response to the question is shown below:



43% said 'yes', 21% said 'no' and 29% said they were not sure. This suggests that we have a considerable amount of public relations work to do!

Tony Kippenberger then explained how Civic Societies evolved as a result of the formation of the Civic Trust (in 1957) and the Civic Amenities Act (1967) and then briefly described the setting up of the Bishop's Waltham Society in 1986.

The second question related to the relevance of the Society's objectives, which are as follows:

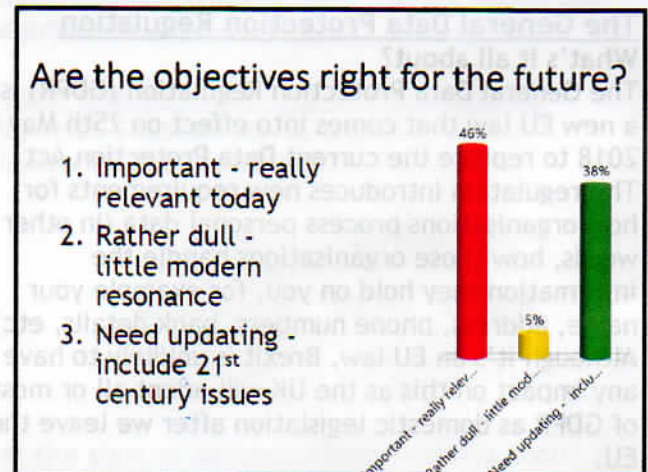
"The Society is established for the benefit of the public in the area comprising the Civil Parish of Bishop's Waltham.

- To promote high standards of local planning and architecture
- To educate the public about local geography, history, natural history and architecture
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of local features of historic or public interest."

Since these objectives have remained much the same since 1986 he wanted the audience to give

their opinion on the following three options. That these objectives are:

- Important objectives that are really relevant today
- Rather dull with little modern resonance
- Need to be updated to include 21st century issues



The results showed that 46% thought them still important and relevant, 5% thought they had little modern resonance and 38% felt they needed updating.

The results will feed into our consultation process.

KidSTreat 2018

By Sarah Berry



The Bishop's Waltham Town Team is putting on a very special event for the children of our town this summer and is involving many of the town's voluntary organisations in making it happen. It is called KidSTreat.

Like many rural communities, Bishop's Waltham has limited public transport and its young people do not have access to the range of activities typically found in larger conurbations - and we know that young people want more things to do close to home. Yet the town has an active community with many voluntary organisations and a healthy volunteering spirit.

The Town Team is therefore planning a greater focus on meeting the needs of the town's young people over the coming years and wants to do this in partnership with other community organisations.

KidSTreat will kick-start this process this summer. It will be a collaborative effort involving many of the town's community organisations - all working together to create a range of child-centred activities.



On 24th June the High Street will be closed and between noon and 5:00pm it and the surrounding area will become a "kids' zone". The town centre will come alive with masses of activities for children between age 3 and 13 including learning to do something, making something, participating in music or performing arts, being entertained, competing or just watching. In this way we will showcase what the town has to offer its young people, enthuse people to get more involved and hopefully build a platform for more sustainable partnerships in the years to come.

The High Street will provide an excellent backdrop for KidSTreat, demonstrating its potential for similar community events for the future. The Chamber of Trade is very supportive of this initiative and will be encouraging its members to get involved so that we can create a real party atmosphere for all the family to enjoy.

At the time of writing 25 local community organisations have committed to provide an activity for children on the day. There are too many to mention individually, but along with the Bishop's Waltham Society there will be sports teams, youth groups, the WI, The Museum, Rotary, Lions, The Photographic Society, The Wildlife Trust, The Parish Council, The North Pond Conservation Group and many others.

Children will be able to learn magic and circus tricks, try their hand at various crafts like paper weaving, origami, sewing and knitting. They can have fun dressing-up, challenge their brains with quizzes on all sorts of subjects from history to wildlife. They will be able to make bird boxes, play games, undertake an archaeological dig and try out various sports - and much more.

For further information, or if you would like to be involved (there will be lots of opportunities for people to help out on the day!), please email bishopswalthamtownteam2@gmail.com. And don't forget to put the date in your diary!

A note on Pew Rage in Bishop's Waltham

By Penny Copeland who gave an excellent talk on 'Pew Rage' to the Society in March.

My interest in pew rage in Bishop's Waltham all started with a short snippet from a parish newsletter of 1934 found in a folder at the Bishop's Waltham museum, where the vicar stated that "There has been from time to time a certain amount of misunderstanding with regard to seating accommodation" in the church. He then went on to explain that all of the seats are free except for one pew in the nave (owned by "Holmoak", now demolished but at the time owned by the Gunner family) and five of the pews in the west gallery.

As was the tradition when the gallery was built in 1733, the pews were allocated to the houses, not the people. So for example, we can trace pew no. 8 from Harry Willis, named in the permission to build the gallery, to the vicar repeating in 1934 that no. 8 belongs to Chase Mill (Harry Willis's daughter married Daniel Jonas whose family owned the Mill House up to the late 19th century).

In the 18th century, people who had any money bought or rented their box pews. This should have led to an orderly church service but human nature is not like that. It did not take long for someone to see the gallery built in 1733 and think "I'd like one of those...". Thomas Cooke was the man, and he got permission in 1735 to build a gallery just for himself between the first two pillars at the northwest end of the church. This caused a storm of protest among the church wardens and parishioners, and appeals to the Archbishop of Canterbury including accusations of coercion and libel.

One of the questions asked of more than 30 witnesses is what yearly value is Cooke's house and land, and does he have any other money or land or prospects? The answers come across as outraged parishioners queue up to say that there are twenty or thirty people in the parish who have larger estates than him. The subtext is clear: 'who does he think he is?' 'If anyone is going to build themselves a private gallery pew it should be Thomas Penny or Walter Barefoot who have the biggest estates...'

Unfortunately, we do not have any result for the court case and there is no evidence for the gallery

being built, although it was accepted that "The church is too strait [small] to hold all the several parishioners that assemble there in the summer season"!

The box pews and a later gallery of 1798 had been taken out by 1899 when pew rents had also stopped being charged. The museum holds the plaque (see below) commemorating the gift of money to the church to sweep away the old pews and old habits, but as the 1934 article by the vicar shows, those habits persisted long after the furniture was changed...



The Night the Ram Raiders failed

Crime does happen in Bishop's Waltham. A couple of rogues have swiped cosmetics, openly displayed in Boots, into a sack and run away. The Co-op lives with regular 'pilfer-and-run' petty crimes. But a crime that hits the headlines is unusual.

But at 3.00 am on Sunday 4th February three men tried to break into Lloyds Bank and make off with thousands of pounds in their cash machine.

Having stolen a long-armed forklift truck they noisily battered the wall containing the cash machine sufficiently to dislodge the safe itself. However it seems they lacked the knowledge of how to operate the forklift to pick up the safe and deposit it in their van.



Aware that the noise they were creating had woken nearby neighbours and people sleeping just across the road in the Crown, these rather incompetent raiders made a hasty retreat on foot down Houchin Street leaving the forklift, their van and the safe behind.

The photograph above (courtesy of Robert Shields) illustrates the damage done and the debris and equipment left behind.

John Bosworth: A Life in Photographs

By Trish Simpson-Davis, organiser of the Museum's 2108 Exhibition.



BISHOP'S
WALTHAM
MUSEUM

At the start of January, I knew nothing about John Bosworth's life, except vague memories of a tall, rather unkempt figure in an old beige raincoat, wandering through 1980s Bishop's Waltham. As always, I asked around: bingo, one of our Oral History interviewees, Barbara Glasspool, remembered him from The Avenue, where they both lived until 1952. His first commission as a professional photographer was her wedding in June 1956, when he was just 19.

Long-standing Museum members remembered John in historical action, and eventually I caught up with two relatives who filled in most of the gaps in his life story. Seventeen telephone chats, several pages of notes and quotations, and I had a rough idea of his biography.

What emerged was that John's friends respected him and admired his work, many calling him 'a lovely man'... Many comments focussed on John's huge contribution to the conservation and promotion of our Bishop's Waltham heritage - and not just as the Museum's first curator. He was a plant expert, archaeologist, researcher, collector and then, importantly, recorder of 'Then and Now' as the sleepy village of Bishop's Waltham transformed to the busy market town we know today. His friends recounted how old photos and papers were dumped into his willing arms; how he salvaged relics from businesses and farms; how he took shots of a changing town centre as the old was torn down and the new built.

In the exhibition I also wanted to reflect my informants' opinions of John's collection in his house, which ranged from 'hoarder' to 'cluttered

but interesting'. So I have used a glass cabinet for a symbolic (perhaps I mean to say shambolic) display from his life: a photo from Barbara's wedding, subtly tinted by John, a little bug in a walnut, that wobbles when it opens, the four and five-leaved clovers he found locally and pressed, an invoice from Pinks the funeral directors, John's own price list, coffee mug and much more... I forgot to count the exhibits as we piled them in.

John had a passion for the High Street, so the exhibition this year has a game I've called "The Baker's Dozen" which requires visitors to match photographs of the High Street shops at various times in their history. For younger families there are jigsaws and Anita Taylor, the Museum's current Curator, has developed a trail of cards showing knights and dragons etc. for our smallest visitors to find. And from a newly discovered image from the John Bosworth Collection, a 'fake news' item is also revealed.



In celebrating John's work, we pondered about his legacy today. The Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2018, was invited to display local images. If you study Anita's own work, you will see John's 'Then and Now' theme as a clear influence. Also upstairs, take a look at her fine display of contemporaneous cameras.

While back downstairs, a slide show features images from the John Bosworth Collection and beside it sits a remembrance book.

Please record your memories of John, or reflect on his contribution to the town, lest we forget the importance of conserving our heritage.

"John Bosworth: a Life in Photographs" is open from 5th May-30th September from 12.00-4.00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in the farmhouse of Bishop's Waltham Palace.

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The Trustees are always pleased to hear from any Member who would like to join our committee and enhance the Society's contribution to our local community. It's actually quite fun!!!

BWS 25 Years ago...

The Society, in its May 1993 newsletter, included a photograph of the Brewery Mill in Lower Lane. It was included to mark the start of the Mill buildings' demolition in March of that year - to be replaced by a new housing development (St Bonnet Drive).



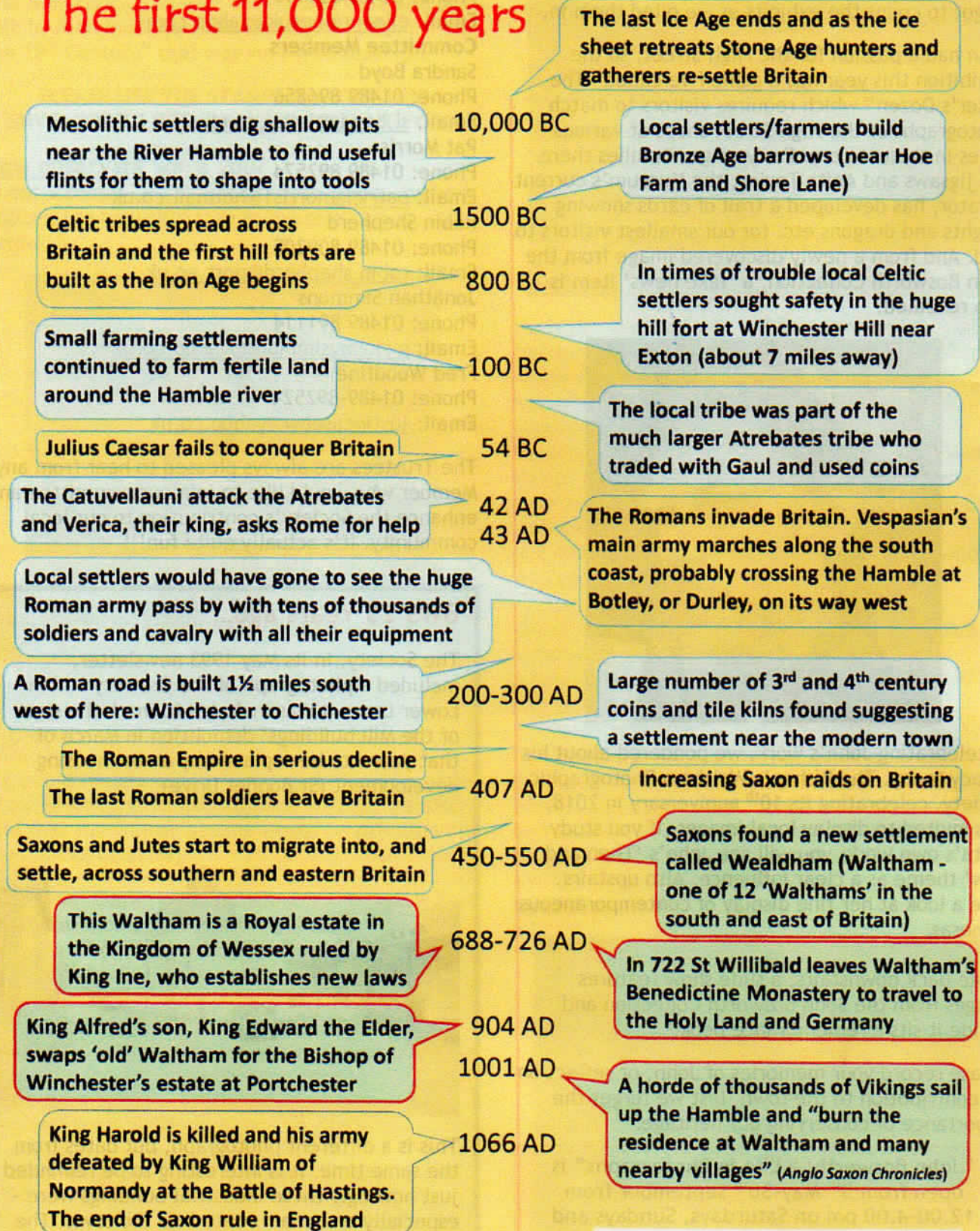
This is a different photograph, but dates from the same time. It is interesting to be reminded just how ugly these industrial buildings were - especially on a main route into the town. The Congregational Church on the right was also subsequently demolished.

A timeline for Bishop's Waltham

The BW Museum recently asked Tony Kippenberger to develop a timeline for the town. This is part I. You can see Part 2 at the Museum and there is a third one still to come! We hope you find it interesting!

Bishop's Waltham: A brief timeline

The first 11,000 years



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