



Newsletter

Winter 2016/17

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The Society's Annual General Meeting(s)

This year the Society will be holding two AGMs - see next article for the background - both on the same occasion, Thursday 16th February starting at 7.30 pm.

Full details of these AGMs are included with this newsletter and you will see that there will first be an AGM for the long established unincorporated charity, registered charity number 294433. As part of this AGM, motions will be put to accept the Constitution of the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1170683, and to wind up the older unincorporated one. At present, both charities, called The Bishop's Waltham Society, exist concurrently and have done so since the Charity Commission registered the new CIO in December last year.

This AGM will be followed immediately by the first AGM for the new CIO, including the election of trustees.

Cheese and wine will be served after the AGMs and, if there is time, there will then be a short talk by Tony Kippenberger on "Carved Graffiti in Bishop's Waltham". It will illustrate graffiti from the mid-20th century back to medieval times. We walk past it every day!

A new Constitution for the Society

The trustees of the Bishop's Waltham Society, which is a registered charity and thus governed by law, have been concerned with two issues: firstly that the existing constitution requires a little bit of updating and secondly, and much more importantly, that the current arrangements do not give adequate protection for the officers and members of the executive committee in the event of litigation.

Although called 'officers and members' of the Society's 'executive committee' they are, in law, the charity's trustees. Under the 1993 Charities Act (section 97), the law describes charity trustees as 'the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity.' The trustees are the individuals who take decisions at the governing body of the charity, regardless of their actual title. So what matters is the role, not the title.

Not many people realise that charity trustees are personally liable should there be any problems, and indeed it seems likely that many who have served on the executive committee over the last 23 years did not recognise that they were in fact trustees! As a result, the current trustees of the Bishop's Waltham Society agreed to begin the complex task of devising a new constitution. This new constitution enables the Society to change from an unincorporated charity (UC) to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in a move designed to significantly improve trustee protection. It also achieves some minor changes compared to the constitution for the unincorporated charity.

The CIO is a relatively new type of charity introduced in England by the Charities Act 2006. However, to spread the workload for the Charity Commission existing charities were unable to convert to a CIO until 2013.

Although the process has taken some time to achieve, all the trustees are in full and complete agreement. The main benefits of a CIO are that it has 'legal personality', the ability to conduct business in its own name, and limited liability so

that its members and trustees will not have to contribute in the event of financial loss. These benefits are, of course, already available to limited companies and charities can be formed as companies, but then they must be registered with both Companies House and the Charity Commission. In contrast, the CIO only needs to register with the Charity Commission and meet its current, less onerous, filing and disclosure processes. Hence the choice to move to a CIO structure. The trustees of a CIO are more like company directors where personal liability is not an issue. Trustees must, of course, continue to act properly in achieving the objects of the charity!

The new Bishop's Waltham Society CIO constitution was agreed by the Charity Commission in December 2016 and the new charity has been registered. The formal decision to adopt the new constitution will take place at the AGM in February 2017. The Society will then exist as two charities until the trustees decide the appropriate point at which to transfer the assets from the old to the new and apply to the Charity Commission to de-register the old charity.

The new constitution for the CIO can be viewed online at <http://bishopswalthamsociety.org.uk/> and we would urge all members to have a look at it before the AGM on 16th February 2017.

While the constitution for the unincorporated charity runs to just four pages, you will see that the new CIO constitution is more complex at 19 pages. This is necessary in order to comply with charity law governing the establishment and conduct of a CIO, and is insisted upon by the Charity Commission.

When you view the online material, the text in black in the constitution is what is required by law. It is not possible to change from a UC to a CIO without accepting this. The text in bold red is what the trustees have added to enable them to manage the affairs of the Bishop's Waltham Society effectively. You will see that the new constitution now incorporates many clauses, conditions and stipulations (mostly regarding trustee behaviour and performance) that the Charity Commission currently regards as 'best practice' for all charities.

If, for any reason, you would like to receive a hard (paper) copy of the new constitution please contact Keith Fry on 01489 894625 or at fry.keith@googlemail.com and he will post one to you.

It is important to understand that members should see little or no difference in the way that the Society operates. However, it is obviously one of

the principle duties of a charity to protect its trustees because if there are no trustees there is no charity! These changes should do this and ensure that any future trustees should feel secure in agreeing to serve. It should also enable any future developments of the constitution to be practicable. The trustees have unanimously agreed this constitution and hope that you will support these important changes to the Bishop's Waltham Society, which the trustees are convinced will be in everyone's interests.

Members' Meetings in 2017

We have now finalised our plans for the year. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are at 7.30pm at the Church Hall in Free Street on the third Thursday of the month. So here are some dates for this year's diary:

Thursday 16 February - The Society's Annual General Meeting(s)

Two Annual General Meetings! One for the existing charity and a second for its proposed replacement - a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Full details of the AGMs are included in this newsletter and the reason for changing the Constitution are explained on page 1. The AGMs will be followed by cheese and wine and, if there is time, a short illustrated talk.



Thursday 16 March - "Neville Shute: local author"

An illustrated talk by David Dawson-Taylor of the Neville Shute Foundation about the world famous author who wrote such novels as 'A Town like Alice' and 'On the Beach' and who lived in Waltham Chase in the 1930s (see page 5).

Thursday 20 April - "The Winchester Geese"

An illustrated talk by Tony Kippenberger about the prostitutes and brothel-keepers of Southwark who were, for more than 400 years, licensed, supervised and fined by the Bishops of Winchester. An important source of episcopal revenue and an extraordinary story!



Thursday 18 May - "The Ordnance Survey: Mapping the Nation"

A talk by Jonathan Simmons, giving us an insight into the inner workings of our National Mapping Agency, how it collects and manages over 10,000 map changes each day and how its survey methods, products and services have evolved through its 225 years of existence.

Thursday 15 June - The North Pond Project
A talk by Dr Barry Jerome, Chairman of the North Pond Conservation Group, who will describe the work the NPCG has undertaken to provide permanent water in the North Pond, and their plans for the future.



Thursday 20 July - "Life as a Female Prison Officer"

A talk by Gina Ireland MBE about some of her experiences during her 17-year career as a Prison Officer - including being the first female officer to work on the landings of the all-male Winchester Prison.

Thursday 21 September - "Cruises"

A talk by Oliver Hammerer, a cruise consultant, on the history of cruises including the development of world-wide itineraries, cruise lines and types of ship. He will include advice on how to make the right choices before booking!

Thursday 19 October - Wine Tasting

To celebrate 400 years of wine sales at the Merchant's House on Bishop's Waltham High Street ("the longest serving Off License Premises in Britain"), Kevin Latouf (son of the proprietor of Josie's) will hold a wine tasting evening for the Society.

The Society is hoping to install a blue plaque on Merchant's House (the brick building that houses both Josie's Deli/Cafe and Giorgio's Restaurant) as part of the celebrations. This anniversary is also being supported by Bishop's Waltham Museum who plan to hold a summer exhibition on the 'History of the High Street'.



© English Heritage

Thursday 16 November - "Monks, Marquis and Mystery"

An illustrated talk by Geoff Watts that traces the story of the Cistercian Abbey of Netley on the shores of Southampton Water, its different occupiers and uses over the centuries, and the mysteries associated with its ruins.

Thursday 14 December - The Society's Christmas Party

Mulled wine, mince pies, music and fun! Varieties of entertainment to be confirmed.

30th Anniversary 1986-2016

In the Spring 2016 issue of our Newsletter, founding Chairman Trevor Harvey described the events that led to the formation of the Society in February 1986. In this issue, another founding member (and our current President) Alan Inder looks back at the Society's achievements in its first two years.

The early years of the Bishop's Waltham Society by Alan Inder

"With all the energy and enthusiasm characteristic of a new organisation, the Society achieved a great deal in its first two years, which was recognised by winning First Prize in the Hampshire Village Ventures Competition 1985-87.

As mentioned by Trevor Harvey, one of the reasons for setting up the Society was to be an 'environmental watchdog', closely monitoring planning applications and commenting on proposals which would affect the character of the town.

The first major success was to save Southbrook House from demolition and prevent its replacement by a supermarket. The mainly Victorian exterior concealed a much older building, and the planners agreed to refuse the supermarket and to allow instead sensitive conversion of Southbrook House to offices; as part of the overall scheme Southbrook Mews was built in the grounds of the house.



Southbrook House today

The Society also became involved in the preparation of the Winchester Southern Parishes Local Plan by submitting a 'Position Statement' which set down the Society's views on planning policies in relation to development and conservation. When the draft Plan was published, we were pleased to see that it was largely compatible with our own thinking.

The programme of monthly talks that continues to this day was initiated. In the early years the focus was on talks about the townscape and historic buildings of Bishop's Waltham, and about nature conservation and farming in the area. The production of a regular Newsletter also started in 1986 and has continued to this day. However, the technology was more basic in those days. Articles were typed and then cut-and-pasted to fit the columns, before the whole thing was assembled into A3 sheets and photocopied!

The Society was keen to promote environmental improvements and had a pool of volunteers willing to carry out practical work. One example of the product of their efforts is the belt of trees and shrubs they planted along the west side of the Corhampton Road (B3035) to screen the houses in Brooklands Road.



Children helping to plant bulbs at Ridgemedes

The first major project initiated by the Society was the conversion of the overgrown track bed of the old railway line to a footpath. Hampshire

County Council owned the track bed and were going to sell off sections to adjacent landowners, but were persuaded by us to stop the disposal of land and to support our footpath project.

Consequently, the Council's Greenspace Action Project carried out the heavy work such as clearance of vegetation, drainage improvements and path surfacing. The Society's main role was to provide an attractive entrance to the path from what is now known as Old Station Roundabout. We found and installed the level crossing gates and section of track, and designed the original information panels. The path was officially opened by the County Council in June 1988, and has proved to be very popular.



Delivering the section of rail track

A small group of Society volunteers also installed Barn Owl nest boxes, adapted from old tea chests, around the parish.

One of our major achievements was to organise Environment Weeks in the first three years. My notes for the one held in 1986 show that we staged a major exhibition in the old Institute (the building opposite the Tandoori restaurant in Bank Street, now apartments); held a Farm Open Day; had guided walks, cycle rides and tree trails in the evenings; had a 'Friends of the Environment' Open Day with 10 environmentally-minded organisations; and concluded with a guided tour of Bishop's Waltham Palace followed by a barbeque.



Trevor Harvey and Alan Inder greet visitors at the exhibition

The Society also carried out a Parish Survey. The parish was divided into 40 areas, which were allocated to volunteers, who were provided with maps, forms and guidelines. The character of each area, and environmental features of interest, were recorded. This information was useful when commenting on planning applications and for assisting with the Society's response to new Local Plans, as well as identifying areas in need of environmental improvement.

The Society also had an interest in publications, notably assisting with the publication of the book 'Bishop's Waltham and Newtown: 25 Years of Change' by local historian and photographer John Bosworth. We also produced a reproduction of the Bishop's Waltham entry in the Domesday Book and a coloured reproduction of the Tithe Map of the centre of Bishop's Waltham.

Looking back, we achieved a lot in the first two years, but it is impossible to keep up that pace. As with so many voluntary organisations these days, we must lower our sights and tailor our activities to match the resources available. In the past five years the Society has undergone a revival, and has been doing a lot of good work. There is much more that could be done, but we do need more willing volunteers. If you feel that you might have time available to help the Society please contact Tony Kippenberger on 01489 893473; he would be very pleased to hear from you."

Alan Inder

Membership subscriptions

Many thanks to all of those members who have paid their subscriptions for 2017, which were due on 1st January. We are very grateful for prompt payment. If you have overlooked your payment, please could you pay as soon as you can?

There are different ways you can pay:

- by cash or cheque payable to Bishop's Waltham Society (**NOT BWS** please) and send to Keith Fry, Gable Cottage, Coppice Hill, Bishop's Waltham SO32 1AG;
- or
- by faster payment from your bank to ours: Lloyds sort code 30:90:85 account number 00135279;
- or
- by Paypal to treasurer@bishopswalthamsociety.org.uk; (You do not need to have a Paypal account to use Paypal, just visit [Paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and click personal, type in the email address then the amount - £7.50 for single and £12.50 for family and click send - you will be asked for your card details which is usual for internet payments.)

or

- by setting up a standing order from your bank to ours, the bank details you need are above.

If you do not currently gift aid your subscription, would you please consider doing so. It makes an individual subscription worth £8.75 to the Society.

In the latter part of 2016 we had a small surge in new members - all of whom are very welcome! It will be a priority in 2017 to keep up this momentum. So if you know people who might be interested in joining the Society, do please persuade them to come to one of the evening meetings detailed on pages 2-3.

Did you recognise this house?



In the last newsletter we asked if anyone could give us any information about the house in this photo. The prize, if one had been on offer, would have gone to Pat Ellis Jones who responded promptly: "This house is, I believe, on the left hand side of the road that leads to Curdridge from the Waltham Chase traffic lights. It's just beyond the Methodist Chapel and is the second half of the now semi-detached house."

She also knew what our article had not revealed, that Neville Shute lived there when he was working in Portsmouth.

In fact the house is called Landfall after the book of that name written by Neville Shute. [More at http://www.nevilshute.org/](http://www.nevilshute.org/) And do come to our March 2017 meeting - see page 2 - with a talk about Neville Shute.



Update on Bishop's Waltham Housing Developments

By Robert Shields (BWS member and Parish Councillor)

The Development Plan

The Bishop's Waltham Development Plan, compiled by residents during 2013 and 2014, was adopted by Winchester City Council (WCC) within its Local Plan Parts 1 and 2. This, in turn, has been approved by the government's inspector. The Plan shows the numbers and the locations of the housing developments to accommodate the additional 380 houses required.

The Design Statement

The Bishop's Waltham Design Statement, compiled by residents during 2015, was also adopted by WCC. It specifies 28 policies to influence the layout and design of the new developments.

Planning Applications

Housing developers were quick off the mark to secure the allocated land from the owners and to submit outline planning applications. The five sites are now all at various stages and a summary follows which includes the issues of concern to some residents. (Numbers in brackets are the planned number of dwellings.)

Coppice Hill (80)

The development will be in two parts with the access opposite but offset from Shore Lane. Only the northern part currently has plans. The developer has responded well to the Bishop's Waltham requirements but has had to amend the layout slightly to accord with advice from the WCC planning staff. Good use will be made of the contours and natural features, including a strip wood giving access to Park Lug. Concerns about the access from the Winchester Road will be alleviated by a number of measures to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. The planning application was received by WCC on 19 December 2016.



Part of the Coppice Hill proposals

Martin Street (60)

The original plans for the development have been changed to accord with the Design Statement by removing the 3-storey buildings

and creating more interest in the street scene. The Parish Council objected to the route of the southern footpath cycleway that cuts diagonally across the Priory Park east field and joins the railway footpath well to the south. This was over-ruled, but Martin Street will be improved and the access to Victoria Road modified in design with wider visibility splays. The planning application for 59 dwellings was approved by WCC on 15 September 2016.



Affordable housing at Martin Street development

Tangier Lane (120)

The developer has co-operated well with the Parish Council on the design of the two sites. Each access has resulted in objections from residents. The narrow access through Tangier Lane has been subjected to much scrutiny and a final design has now been approved by the Highways Authority as it accords with policy requirements. The congestion in Albany Road and the difficulty of exiting on to the Winchester Road has caused much concern to residents. A survey and analysis conducted to support their case was presented to the Parish Council attended by local representatives, but it served only to support the Highways Authority conclusion that the new development would have very little impact on Albany Road. The planning application for 66 dwellings on the west site was approved by WCC on 27 October 2016; the east site has only the outline plan approved so far.

Albany Farm (120)

The developer has been very keen to increase the number of dwelling on this plot but the maximum of about 120 remains WCC policy. The layout and the design is still being evolved, but it improves at each iteration. There are few objections to this site, which will be accessed directly from the Winchester Road. The planning application is expected during 2017.

Tollgate/Sawmill

The site is allocated for light industrial use, with the addition of 10 houses to provide

sufficient inducement to a developer to restore the toll-house, which is included in the Plan as a requirement. There has not been a formal approach from a developer yet.

Conclusion

Each of the developers is now co-operating well with the Parish Council during the evolution of their designs. All the planning applications are being considered by the Parish Council at meetings for which the agendas are published in advance. The Parish Council assesses the applications against the Development Plan and the Design Statement, both of which represent the requirements of Bishop's Waltham residents. Any member of the public may attend the meetings. In addition, the Parish Council is represented at and contributes to the proceedings of the WCC Planning Committee. The public may attend and speak at these meetings as well.

In summary, the Parish Council is satisfied that the planning authorities are keeping the developers well within the guidelines and constraints to keep our town the way we want it.

25 YEARS AGO...

The Society was concerned about how the funds secured from the developers of both 'Poet's Corner' on Rareridge Lane and Cricklemede were to be spent. Hampshire County Council planned improvements at road junctions that would be affected by the resultant increase in traffic.

The roundabout on Hoe Road was the first product of the funding but 'improvements' to the Shore Lane junction with the B2177 (Winchester Road) were also planned: a third lane and traffic lights were proposed. The Society objected to the loss of many fine trees on the south side of the Winchester Road that this would involve and sought instead to have money spent on the 'Crown crossroads'! We failed.

Difficult today to imagine the absence of the Crown roundabout. However the original junction/crossroads was a notorious accident spot before it was built.

The Battle of the Somme film

Anybody who attended the Society's November meeting will know that we did not show the Imperial War Museum's film but instead had an excellent talk from Ian Cooper. Ian used sketches from the trenches drawn by his grandfather to illustrate his talk.



However, the DVD of the film, owned by the Society, has been out on loan ever since. Those who have seen it have found it very interesting. If you are a member of the Society and would like to borrow it, please phone Debbie Crump on 01489 896802 or debbiejev53@gmail.com.

The Society's Christmas Party 2016



The Christmas Party was again very well attended this year - with all seats taken. Those present enjoyed red or white wine as well as Fred's mulled wine and mince pies. The choir helped us sing carols before the serious business of answering a 50-question Christmas quiz got underway. The winning table each got a £5 voucher for the Anvil whilst the runners-up all got a £3 voucher for Sweet Corner. The losing table won the wooden spoon! The evening ended with a raffle draw with some excellent prizes.

A Norwegian connection

One of the questions in the Christmas quiz was: "The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square in London is an annual gift from the people of Oslo. When did this custom begin?"

The answer is: "1947 to be exact but we will accept answers such as 'just after the war'. It is a token of gratitude for British support to Norway during the Second World War."

This prompted Society member Jill Forrest to find a letter, written by her father, who was a Sub-Lieutenant on a minesweeper escort to the convoy that took Norway's Crown Prince Olaf back to Oslo in May 1945. Jill's father, Jack Clemens, was on board HMS Cynthia (pictured below):



History note: King Haakon of Norway and the Royal Family, including Prince Olaf, had been transported (with some members of the Norwegian government) to the UK, on a British cruiser, as Norway fell to the German invasion in April 1940.

The following are extracts from that letter showing the sheer delight of the Norwegians at the return of their heir to the throne. It starts as the flotilla of minesweepers enters Oslofjord - the long waterway that runs from the North Sea up to the city of Oslo:

"We turned into the fiord in the early evening ... and a small motorboat put out from the shore about three miles distant and came over to us. It was full of young chaps and girls - about a dozen of them - and they cheered and shouted and waved flags - many of which were gathered in on board and soon all the flotilla had a Norwegian flag at the masthead (we fly our ensign aft, of course).

Well, that was just the beginning, for in the grey dawn next morning every village we passed turned out en bloc - local resistance troops properly fallen-in and flags hanging from all the houses. I tell you it was impressive - the wooded sides of the fiord quite close in on either side and sometimes you would see a little red dot miles up the side and, on putting your glasses on it, it would turn out to be two Norwegian children just standing there and holding a flag. Lashings of boats were coming out now, dressed with flags, silver birch branches, flowers etc. We seemed to be cheered continually and they all wanted to know "Have you got our Prince?"

I must say we looked pretty good - seven of us in line ahead (you can be sure we were a bit fussy about station keeping!) doing about 10 knots on a flat calm summer morning. The cruisers etc. were about five miles astern and we eased up to let them close a little. That started the fun and before we knew it we had a whole boat-load of chaps and girls on the sweep deck, hanging garlands and flowers all over the troops. The Old Man sent Johnny aft to see them off and he got mobbed, coming back looking like a harvest festival. By now we were getting well up the fiord and paddle steamers, rowing fours and every type of rowing and power boat seemed to be everywhere. The ship was garnished with silver birch and flowers and flags and the whole thing was rapidly becoming very hard to believe.

Well, for the last seven miles we had to do a special sweep for our own aircraft-laid mines and I shall never sweep under such unbelievable conditions. As we took sweeping position I think everyone thought we were laying on a show for

their benefit and when we were actually doing our stuff they were sculling up to the gear and inspecting it at about a yard's range! You imagine the scene - a hot summer morning, the wooded sides of the fiord rising steeply away with little picture book log huts and multi-coloured wooden bungalows dotted about, lashings of flags and a regatta (it seemed) in full swing.

As we came around the final bend and in view of the quays, which were black with people, the roar that went up was most impressive and when we broke formation and went to our allotted berths, we each got an individual reception ...

We were completely powerless to do anything and they hugged us, screamed "Welcome to Norway", gave us flowers, badges - in fact gave me my first (and possibly only) example of that term beloved of journalists "delirious with joy". It is no good trying to write about it - it had to be seen to be believed and I shall never forget it. What hit me hard was that it wasn't play-acting - it was spontaneous and they seemed to be crying and laughing by turns.

They were very hungry [Norway had faced famine for much of the war] and I felt proud of our ship's company when they turned over their midday meal to the invaders. It developed into a free for all and, in the words of the Cox'n., "Lor, sir, they started at one end and went thro' the ship like a shower of ruddy locusts!" Nothing was taken without leave being given, but we simply had to offer them all we had. A newly-baked batch of bread went just like that, as did cocoa, tea, coffee, soap, toothpaste, Bovril etc. The wardroom alone dispensed 7,000 cigarettes and, of course, Jolly Jack was in his element and working like ten men.

I couldn't begin to describe the arrival of Crown Prince Olaf in a very tiddly pinnace - this very unemotional people fairly cheered to beat the band and most of the women were crying unrestrainedly. All they seemed able to say was - "Oh, thank you, thank you, we have waited five years for this!"

So when we next see the Christmas tree lit up in Trafalgar Square we can appreciate its lasting significance, thanks to Jill's father's descriptions in this letter. The plaque underneath the tree always reads: "This tree is given by the city of Oslo as a token of Norwegian gratitude to the people of London for their assistance during the years 1940-45."

