

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

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

Small farming settlements continued to farm fertile land around the Hamble river

Julius Caesar invades Britain and defeats the Britons but then returns to Gaul

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

Local settlers would have gone to see the huge Roman army pass by with tens of thousands of soldiers and cavalry with all their equipment

A Roman road is built 1½ miles south west of here: Winchester to Chichester

The Roman Empire in serious decline

The last Roman soldiers leave Britain

Saxons and Jutes start to migrate and settle across southern and eastern Britain

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

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

King Harold is killed and his army defeated by King William of Normandy at the Battle of Hastings. The end of Saxon rule in England

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

Local settlers/farmers build Bronze Age barrows (near Hoe Farm and Shore Lane)

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

The local tribe was part of the much larger Atrebates tribe who traded with Gaul and used coins

The Romans invade Britain. Vespasian's main army marches along the south coast, probably crossing the Hamble at Botley, or Durley, on its way west

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

Increasing Saxon raids on Britain

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

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

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

10,000 BC

1300 BC

800 BC

100 BC

54 BC

42 AD
43 AD

200-300 AD

407 AD

450-550 AD

688-726 AD

904 AD

1001 AD

1066 AD

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The next 700 years

The Domesday book shows Waltham to be the 11th largest settlement in the whole of Hampshire

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

Henry II holds a Royal Council at Waltham Palace to vote supplies for the 3rd Crusade

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

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

The Black Death kills 65% of Waltham's inhabitants!

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

The Wars of the Roses between the houses of York and Lancaster

Henry VII (“Henry Tudor”) stays at the Palace in 1496 and again in 1499

Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, Anne Boleyn and Thomas Cromwell were all frequent visitors to Waltham Palace over this period

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

In the English Civil War, after the Battle of Cheriton, Cavaliers holding the Palace surrender to a superior Parliamentary army. It is set on fire and never re-occupied.

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

King Henry I and Queen Edith stay in Waltham while waiting to sail to France from Portchester

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

Henry of Blois starts building a Palace at Waltham

Richard the Lionheart calls a Royal Council at Waltham Palace

Edward II stays at Waltham Palace

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

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

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

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

Edward VI, stays at Waltham Palace

Elizabeth I stays at Waltham Palace as part of her annual Royal Progress

Without the Palace, Bishop's Waltham gradually becomes a typical, rural market town

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The next 250 years

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 17th 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

1863

Sir Arthur Helps, private secretary to Queen Victoria, opens his Terra Cotta Works at Claylands

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

1864

1866

Newtown School opens to provide education for 200 children

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

'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

Terra Cotta 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 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

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The last 120 years

On 28th 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 11th 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 Ridgemedes 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

1914

1916

1918

1920

1932

1933

1939

1940

1944

1945

1953

1957

1961

1962

1965

1966

1967

1967

1967-8

1970

1973

1980

1986

1987

1996

1997

2002

2018

Bishop's Waltham's first telephone exchange opens at the Post Office in the High Street

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

Oddfellows Hall becomes the Palace Cinema

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

War declared against Germany on 3rd September

Clayland brickworks and Botley railway line bombed

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

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

Town's population is still less than 3,000

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

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

The new bypass opens

Ridgemedes Junior School opens

Buildings along west side of Brook Street demolished for road widening

The Bishop's Waltham Society is formed

Bishops Waltham in Bloom is started

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