



Past • Present • Future

Registered Charity Number 1170683

Contents

The Society's AGM(s)	1
The red telephone kiosk	1
Sponsoring a wildflower bed	2
Bishop's Waltham in Bloom	2
The Palace and its grounds	3
How observant are you?	4
Church House School - can you help?	4
New Crown Inn signage	5
BW Museum's Summer Exhibition	5
Murder Mystery 2017	6
Changes at the Town Team	6
Houses, houses everywhere!	6
Your 2017 Executive Committee	8
BWS 25 Years ago	8

The Society's AGMs

Our 31st Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday 16th February, was well attended with more than 40 members present.

The Executive Report for 2016, the Treasurer's Report and the Minutes of the 2016 AGM were all accepted. All the previous officers and committee were re-elected.

After discussion the motion to change the Society's constitution, to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), was passed as was a motion allowing the Executive Committee to transfer the assets from the existing charity to the new CIO charity. A third motion, to allow the committee to decide the timing of this transfer of assets, was also passed.

The meeting closed with the Society's chairman, Tony Kippenberger, thanking the membership for taking the time to look at the new constitution and for voting for the change unanimously.

The Society's 32nd AGM, under the new CIO constitution, was held immediately afterwards to ensure continuity. All officers and members of the Executive Committee were re-elected, Alan Inder was again appointed President and Paul Emmerson was re-appointed as Independent Examiner.

Newsletter

Summer 2017

Full details of the Society's officers and Executive Committee are provided at the end of this newsletter.

After the AGM members enjoyed cheese and wine and this was followed with a talk by Tony Kippenberger on "Carved Graffiti in Bishop's Waltham" which illustrated the many examples of graffiti around the town that date from mid-20th century back to medieval times. We walk past them every day!

Subsequent to the two AGMs, registered charity number 294433 was de-registered and the Society now operates under the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity number 1170683.

In early March the assets of the old charity were transferred to the new CIO.

The red telephone kiosk

One of the subjects raised at the 31st AGM was the red telephone kiosk in George's Square. Back in 1987, the Society fought to stop BT from modernising this kiosk.



The Society argued that the phone box, which was a famous design by Gilbert Scott, had already been in place for around 25 years and was part of the town's 'street scene'.

The Society's efforts centred on getting it listed "because of its setting - being in a Conservation

Area and adjacent to listed buildings". Their endeavours to save it proved successful and it remains a listed building.

At this year's AGM John Hayter urged the committee to buy the kiosk under BT's present scheme that allows local groups to acquire redundant phone boxes for £1 (though all liabilities including repair and maintenance are transferred with it). Many have been bought around the country and used in imaginative ways - from takeaway coffee stalls to book swap libraries.

John and other members might be pleased to know that the phone kiosk, still in full working order, was actually purchased under the same scheme by the Parish Council in 2016.

Sponsoring a wild flower bed

Another subject raised at the AGM was the Society's involvement in the local environment. In its early days the Society was active both in planting bulbs, trees and shrubs (for instance along the Corhampton Road), and in nature and wild-life conservation.

However, in 1997, Bishop's Waltham in Bloom (BWiB) was established to focus specifically on flower beds and floral displays in and around the town. Prompted by the discussion at the AGM the Society's committee invited Hazel Roddis and Pauline Daniels of the BWiB committee to attend one of our meetings to see if we could provide any help and support for their activities.

As a result, as well as the usual bed on the Winchester road, the Society has this year sponsored the experimental wild flower planting at the Hoe Road roundabout.



We are delighted with the outcome and hope you are too!

Bishop's Waltham in Bloom (BWiB)

As happens with other local organisations, many people do not readily appreciate what BWiB actually does. Every year hanging baskets full of

flowers appear along the High Street as if by magic. Tubs are planted up and beds along the Winchester Road and on the Old Station roundabout suddenly become colourful. But of course it isn't magic, it is the detailed planning and hard work of a small group of volunteers!

BWiB are involved in a number of areas - the planting of tubs in the High Street and beds around the town, an annual competition for the best floral displays (visible from the road), the biennial Hidden Gardens project and now the planting of wildflower areas. Many of the beautiful spring bulbs that brighten up the verges have been recently planted by BWiB with the help of local youth groups. And this autumn 1,000 crocus bulbs will be planted, sponsored by Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club.

They are just a group of volunteers, not a membership body, and so they are always looking out for new volunteers to assist with their activities. These include the preparation and planting of the beds and tubs in May, their continued weeding and maintenance through to the end of September, as well as assistance in preparing areas for wildflower planting and help with the Hidden Gardens day (either at the gardens themselves or to sell brochures at their stall in Red Lion Street) held in early July every other year.



BWiB hanging baskets in 2016

The scale of the work involved is underlined by the costs which run at between £10,000-12,000 a year. Apart from the plants, another major cost is the watering which, in addition to the cost of the water itself, includes the salary of the person watering and the insurance and maintenance of the watering vehicle. The watering takes place very early every morning for three months through the summer.

To fund this, the majority of beds and tubs are sponsored by local businesses, individuals and organisations (like the Society) with the hanging baskets being sponsored by the shops on which they hang. So next time you walk down the High Street, notice those who don't contribute - Barclays Bank is just one obvious example!

The Parish Council has traditionally given a sizeable grant (although in recent years this has been reduced to £1,000) but there is still a shortfall in the funding. This is covered by money raised at a Quiz Night held each year and the programmes sold for the Hidden Gardens every alternate year. We will try to put together a BW Society team for their next Quiz Night.

So far as the wildflower areas are concerned, the Parish Council is keen for BWiB to plant more of them but is not prepared to increase the grant they give.

This is what prompted the Society to offer to sponsor the experimental wildflower bed at the Hoe Road roundabout. It is planted with a three-year seed mix and cost around £170. We look forward to seeing how well it works again next year and will consider any other opportunities to support what we believe is an indispensable part of summertime in Bishop's Waltham.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Pauline Daniels at paulinebwib@yahoo.co.uk - she will be delighted to hear from you!

The Palace and its grounds

Toward the end of May the Society and a good number of other organisations within the town were approached by Robert Shields, on behalf of the Bishop's Waltham Parish Council, to try to assess the level of support there would be if the Council sought to buy the Bishop's Palace and its grounds. Palace House, whose land includes the Palace, had been placed on the market in May and Winchester City Council formally advised the Parish Council of this fact.

In early 2015, the Parish Council had registered the Palace and its grounds as "an asset of community value" with Winchester City Council. This action took advantage of the provisions within the Localism Bill (2011) that give local groups the right to nominate a building or other land for listing by the local authority as such an asset.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that when such a listed asset is to be sold, local community groups will have a fairer chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market because a "moratorium" can be triggered which precludes the sale of the asset for a period of six months. This period is designed to allow the local group to raise sufficient funds to make an offer for the asset. However there is no obligation on the owner to accept this offer if a better offer is available on the open market.

The Parish Council felt that the timescales precluded a full consultative process across the whole community and so it sought the "representative views" of various community organisations ahead of their decision-taking meeting on 13th June.

The Society hurriedly produced a 4-page guide for members and asked that they email the Society with their views or write to the chairman. Members were asked to provide us with a simple 'yes' or 'no' to the idea of trying to take the Palace and its grounds into community ownership.



By the deadline of 8th June we had received 79 replies (a very good response rate of 29%). Of these 32% voted 'yes' and 65% voted 'no' with 3% saying they didn't know. This was a very clear result with the 'no' vote out-numbering the 'yes' vote by 2:1. A big 'thank you' to all who voted!

In the event it all proved to be academic because legal advice said that since the ruins and its grounds were not for sale as an entity independent of Palace House they could not be purchased separately as a community asset.

We would like to thank our wonderful group of distributors - the unsung helpers who enabled us to distribute this guide so quickly and efficiently. Your help on this and all other occasions is really very much appreciated!

How observant are you?

Earlier this year some people noticed a tree covered in bright yellow blossom. It is sited beside one of the town's main thoroughfares and hundreds of cars, bicycles and pedestrians go past it every day. But can you answer the following questions?



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?

Answers please by email to info@bishopsalthamsociety.org.uk. All correct answers will be put into a draw and the first name drawn will receive a £10 Amazon voucher and have their name in lights in the next newsletter!

A new sign at the Crown Inn

Back in September 2016 Fuller's applied for planning permission for new and refreshed signage at the Crown. Since our chairman does some 'Walks and Talks' round Bishop's Waltham he responded directly to Fuller's. The reason for this being that whenever he walked past the original plaque about Admiral Villeneuve and Admiral Nelson mounted on the front wall, he felt obliged to point out that it was incorrect!

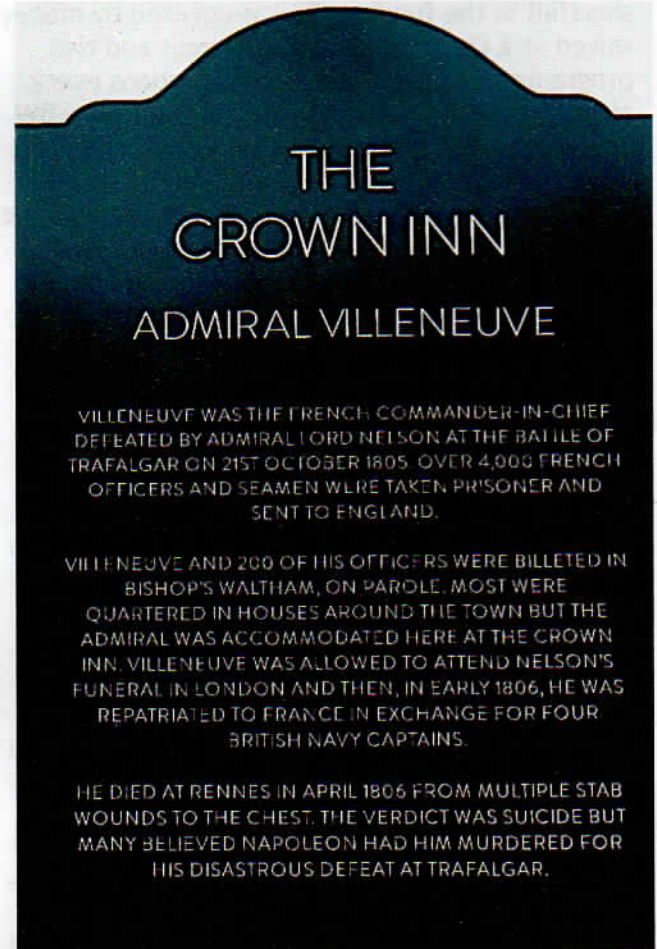
As with the original sign, their proposed new one contained the phrase "With two hundred of his men Villeneuve was billeted in Bishop's Waltham".

The point is that Villeneuve's "men" would have been imprisoned on hulks in Portsmouth harbour or prisons as far away as Dartmoor. The people billeted in Bishop's Waltham were Villeneuve and 200 of his officers. After several iterations, the chairman suggested a more detailed wording for use on the plaque to tell an accurate and fascinating story.

For example, it now points out that Admiral Villeneuve, having been exchanged for four British Navy Captains, was repatriated to France in early 1806, only to die at Rennes in April of that year from "multiple stab wounds to the chest".

The surprise is that these stab wounds to the chest were recorded as 'suicide'. Stabbing yourself repeatedly in the chest being a well-known method of committing suicide!? There seems little doubt that Napoleon had Villeneuve murdered by

shadowy state operatives because of his disastrous defeat at Trafalgar - which had been a devastating blow to Napoleon's ambitions.



The new sign now installed on the front wall of the Crown

Can you help with Church House School?

From time to time the Society is approached by someone who is interested in finding out about something to do with Bishop's Waltham's past. Sometimes we can help - either through the Museum, Hampshire Record Office or through personal knowledge and simple research.

In February this year we received a request for information about a school in Bank Street, Bishop's Waltham that had been called Church House School. The inquirer knew that it had catered for children with learning disabilities and that it had closed some time ago.

The information we have been able to put together is sketchy and so we thought would we turn to the "wisdom of the crowd" and ask our members to tell us what they know.

We know that the school was based in a house called Holmoak - at one time owned by the Gunner family (the owners of Gunner's Bank) and then by a Major Cartwright, before becoming a school. It was a fine old house that was demolished to make

way for Roman Row - the 22-flat retirement housing built on the land in 1987.



Holmoak and Bank Street in 1973

Holmoak is the white-shuttered house on the left in the photograph - opposite the entrance to Malvern Close. Gunner's Bank was run from the buildings next door to it.

We know it was an independent school run by Helen and Laurence Oldfield and that it was inspected by HM Inspectors and registered under the Education Act 1944 in 1976.

It appears that Laurence Oldfield, described as a Private School Proprietor of Church House, Bishop's Waltham, was declared bankrupt at Winchester Law Courts in 1981. So it may be that the school was not open for very long.

It also seems that in 1985 Federated Homes arranged a loan from Chartered Trust plc who took a legal charge on Church House. It seems therefore that Laurence Oldfield sold Holmoak/Church House to Federated Homes in order to clear his debts. He was discharged from bankruptcy at Winchester in December 1986.



1984 view from Malvern Close

The photograph above shows Holmoak/Church House on the left (by then painted white and without shutters) for sale in 1984.

Sadly Laurence Oldfield died just 15 months after his bankruptcy discharge, in March 1988, aged only 60. He is buried in Hoe Road Cemetery.

Just as a historical footnote, Federated Homes, who were the developers for Roman Row, had themselves gone into receivership by 1988! This may have been the result of the US stock market collapse in October 1987 and the subsequent last great global financial crisis before 2007/8.

Be that as it may, whilst all this is more or less interesting, it tells us little about the school, Helen and Laurence Oldfield and whether and where any records or details might still exist.

If you have any memories or knowledge of Church School or any records PLEASE let us know - no detail too small!

Just email info@bishops-walthamsociety.org.uk with anything you know or think might help. Please also let us know if you want your information to remain confidential. The person asking for information is a private individual and we have not asked why they are seeking information.

The Museum's 2017 Exhibition



BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

This year's exhibition at the Museum in the Palace grounds focuses on the very heart of the town. Entitled "Shopping through the Ages", it has been put together by Penny Copeland, a Museum trustee.

It tells the story of some of the shops, retailers and traders who have occupied premises around the town centre since the 15th century. There are sections on grocers and food retailers, wine and beer sellers, fizzy drink makers, butchers and fishmongers, sweetshops, ironmongers, clockmakers, tailors and dressmakers, cordwainers and shoemakers and much more beside.

It is full of fascinating facts and detail as well as being lavishly illustrated by photographs and copies of old bills and invoices. What is striking is the constant effort that traders have made, over the centuries, to keep up with new products and services and ever-changing consumer tastes. There are some great examples of diversification and the mix of products sold by a single outlet.

The museum is now open for four hours each Saturday and Sunday (12.00 - 4.00 pm) until the

end of September. So do make time to enjoy this exhibition over the next couple of months!

A new Murder Mystery

Those of you who participated in or remember the 'Murder Mystery' organised by the Bishop's Waltham Town Team in 2014, might want to make a note of another Mystery event on 2nd September.

**GO BACK TO THE 1960s FOR JUST ONE DAY
ON SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER**

**Bishop's Waltham
Murder Mystery**
1:30pm—5:30pm

**1960s DISCO
JUBILEE HALL
7:30pm**

The Mods & The Rockers

WORK OUT WHO DID IT!
Crime files available 1:30pm onwards in Jubilee Hall

**SESSIONS
MOBILE DJ.**

**WELCOME DRINK &
MID-EVENING FISH & CHIP SUPPER
CASH BAR OPEN UNTIL 11:00pm**

**Tickets sales from 3rd July at Apple Crumble & Kitsch
and Best Wishes ... but hurry ... numbers are limited!**

Proudly bought to you by the Bishop's Waltham Town Team
See lovebishopswaltham.com for more information

Sponsored again by the Town Team and organised by Robert Shields, this murder mystery involves a clash between Mods and Rockers in Bishop's Waltham in 1964. The purpose is for participants to solve the crime and find out whodunit! Crime files will be available at the Jubilee Hall at 1.30 pm on that Saturday and having quizzed witnesses around the town there will be a 'reveal' four hours later at 5.30. In the evening there will be a 1960s disco in the Jubilee Hall starting at 7.30 with a welcome drink then a fish and chip supper and a cash bar.

Tickets are available at Apple Crumble & Kitsch on the High Street. But remember - numbers are limited!

Changes at the Town Team

Changes have taken place recently at the Town Team (TT) on which the Society has two representatives. At the TT's AGM in March Tony

Kippenberger resigned as chairman of the Town Team after five years in the post. He has other projects that he wishes to pursue including two that the Society has initiated.

The Society is still represented by Robin Shepherd - a Society Committee member who has also served on the TT since it was started in 2012 - who is now its acting chairman. Our second representative is May Martin, a Society member who was already a member of the Team.

Subsequently, in June, Heidi Isa, the Market Towns Development Officer, who started working with the Team in 2013, resigned from Winchester City Council to pursue a bigger role with Southampton's Business Improvement District (BID).

A BID is a business-led and business-funded body formed to improve a defined district or commercial area - usually a town centre. In other words it is funded by local businesses and traders rather than being reliant on grants as the Town Team has been. Unfortunately the Bishop's Waltham Chamber of Trade has never felt able to make any financial contribution to the Town Team.

We are delighted for Heidi as she moves on to a bigger job and thank her for all her help in bringing so many ideas to fruition - like the Pumpkin Parade, the Easter Egg Hunt, the BW Bites as well as playing a central role in many other events like the first Murder Mystery, the Agincourt weekend at the Palace and the Street Party last year. She will be sorely missed.

Houses, houses everywhere!

In the last issue of the newsletter Robert Shields, chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, kindly provided an update on the state of play with the various planning applications for the notional 500 houses due to be built in Bishop's Waltham.

Over the last five years the Society has continued to assess all significant applications and to submit objections and comments wherever appropriate. This process has been greatly helped since the Executive Committee was able to re-create a Planning Sub-Committee in early 2016. We are all indebted to the work and effort put in by its chairman Jonathan Simmons (Committee member), Alan Inder (our President and a founder member of the Society) and Society member Pauline Mousley.

Not only has this lifted a significant workload from our chairman, who tried to manage this role alone

from 2012-2015, but it has added expertise and a real knowledge of planning issues that has proved invaluable to our appraisals and submissions. All three members of the sub-committee were involved in the creation of the Parish Council's 'Bishop's Waltham Development Plan' and also played a very real part in putting together the Parish Council led 'Bishop's Waltham Design Statement'. Both of which now have a significant role to play in BW's planning considerations. We are lucky to have this expertise on board!

Having said that, we seem to be in the middle of a maelstrom of planning issues and applications. Some are in our own back yard, but there are others just down the road. Are we paying enough attention to them?

Bothering with local affairs

Any Society members who were fans of the 'Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy' (written by Douglas Adams and served up as books as well as a radio and TV series in the 1970s and 1980s) could be forgiven for a sense of *deja vu*. The editor admits to being one such cult follower!

In Douglas Adam's opening chapter of his first book a decent simple soul called Arthur Dent, clad in his dressing gown, is lying down in front of a bulldozer to stop it from demolishing his home as part of plans for a new bypass. His lack of interest in local plans meant that he had failed to realise that this was a possibility!

He is rescued from his doom (being bulldozed) by a friend from his local pub called Ford Prefect (research had shown this to be the most common name on the planet at the time!), who is actually a non-earthling journalist from the intergalactic publication 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy'.

With Ford's help they hitch a lift on a Vogon Constructor Fleet spacecraft, conveniently hovering above Earth and about to destroy it. Protesting furiously at this even more calamitous proposal, Arthur Dent is simply reassured that it is essential to destroy Earth in order to build a new space super-highway.

When he protests yet more strongly he is admonished by the Commander of the Vogon Constructor Fleet for not having bothered to find out about the planning proposals. Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz points out that the detailed plans involving the need for Earth's destruction had been available on Alpha Centauri for all to see and that it was up to mankind to have bothered to read them and made their objections appropriately.

Arthur's protests about travel to Alpha Centauri were cut short:



What do you mean you've never been to Alpha Centauri?!

For Heaven's sake MANKIND, it's only 4 Light Years away!!!

I'm sorry but if you can't be bothered with local affairs...

Our own backyard...

We've all spent a great deal of time recently focusing on our own back yard - the houses to be built at Albany Farm, Tangier Lane West, Tangier Lane East, Martin Street and Coppice Hill.

But, on top of those 380 homes, we now know that Beechcroft Development have plans for the Abbey Mill/Sainsbury's site. Housing here will involve a 66-bed care home, 39 assisted-living dwellings, 19 family (3-4 bedroom) homes and 12 affordable homes.

We also recently learnt that Churchill Retirement Living have bought Post Mead at the corner of Shore Lane and the B2177 Winchester Road. There they plan to build a large three storey retirement home with 30+ one- and two-bedroom flats.

In addition, Country Homes are hoping to resolve the problem that is the Malt Lane area (next to Budgens) with a large development that includes approximately 28 flats as well as retail outlets and community space. All these residences will be on top of the 500 houses called for in the Local Plan! And all this is just in our backyard!

Meanwhile, elsewhere...

We are surrounded by other, much larger developments that are in various phases - being proposed, being planned and under construction. This is a brief summary:

Already under construction is the development called "West of Waterlooville" - a joint Winchester City Council and Havant Borough Council enterprise. Taylor Woodrow have permission for 450 new homes and Grainger Trust have outline permission for 2,250 houses. How close? It reaches nearly to Denmead to our east.

Meanwhile a consortium of developers, made up of Bloor Homes, Bovis Homes and Linden Homes, have had outline planning permission since 2013 for 1,400 new houses at Boorley Green, just north of Botley. As many have seen, the first phase - 441 houses - is already under construction to our west.

In March this year a planning application for what is known as the 'Welborne' development was submitted to Fareham Borough Council. The application is for 6,000 dwellings to be built between the north side of Fareham (from the M27) all the way up to Hoad's Hill just south of Wickham. A vast swathe of land.

Meanwhile Eastleigh Borough Council has been contemplating building 6,000 new homes on land between Fair Oak and Upham - right on our doorstep to the northwest. A great deal of opposition was expressed at an Eastleigh Council meeting held on 20th July - at which the Society was represented by Alan Inder and Keith Fry. However, although many local Parish Councils were represented, Bishop's Waltham Parish Council had decided not to involve itself.

The problem with all these plans is that they appear to be being considered in isolation. Nobody seems to be taking the holistic view and, for example, considering the impact all this will have on the future traffic on the B2177 Winchester to Wickham road.

The Society hopes to put together a special newsletter to cover all these different and various plans for our members (and the wider public). We hope our distributors will be able to cope!

Havant, Winchester, Fareham and Eastleigh are not as far away as Alpha Centauri. We mere mortals must continue to involve ourselves in 'local affairs'!

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BWS 25 Years ago...

The Society was following the Parish Council's plans to purchase the Priory Playing Fields from Hampshire County Council. These had been part of the Police School and College that occupied the 4.5 acre site and which itself was being sold by the County Council to a residential property developer. Tying these two separate transactions together was clearly causing some issues for the County Council's legal team.



The Police Cadet School and College at Priory Park before demolition

The Parish Council did buy the site and the developer went on to build the houses in what is now Elizabeth Way.

What was in the legal agreements, finally agreed in 1993, came back to haunt the recent plans to give access to the Tangier Lane Development (East) via the Avenue. There were restrictive covenants within the deeds of sale which precluded any land within the Priory Park recreation grounds being used for anything other than sporting recreation or agricultural purposes. So the property developer seeking to build on the Vineyard site could not access the site from the Avenue. Hence the now approved, but perilous, use of Tangier Lane itself as the entry route to the planned new development!