



# BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

## Newsletter for the Friends of the Museum Winter 2017 Issue 23

### Another good year! A message from our Chairman, Georgie Busher

The Museum has had a very good year, with an increasing number of visitors, and some very complimentary remarks in our Visitors' Book, including some from abroad. There is no doubt we are getting better known and people seem to enjoy their in-depth look at the history of our beautiful little town.

A major part of our success this year was the excellent exhibition designed by Penny Copeland, which was extremely popular, both with local residents and with visitors, many of whom came specifically to see it. The history of the shops in the High Street proved to be a big draw.

Anita Taylor has put in her usual year of hard work, archiving and cataloguing our collection, including the Bosworth photographs, aided by her increasingly knowledgeable team. She has also worked with the Vice Chairman, Julian Malec, on re-writing the Constitution to comply with the rules of the Charity Commission for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a most complicated exercise requiring much time, concentration and cups of coffee. But the final result will be to reduce the personal liability of individual Trustees in the event of an incident affecting visitors to the Museum.

Recently, following a long debate, the Trustees agreed to write to Winchester City Council objecting to the proposed

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demolition of the Abbey Mill building itself, on the grounds that we did not have sufficient evidence of the true state of the building and also that the building is an important part of Bishop's Waltham's heritage. It appears the developers are now changing their plans to preserve the Mill building.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Trustees, and to all our volunteers, without whom Bishop's Waltham would not have a Museum. In order to thank them Dawn Woodsford arranged two "outings," a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral and a visit to the Diving Museum in Gosport. Both were well attended, and much enjoyed. And we also had an evening jolly up at Thickets House. (See page 2 for more on this)

Thank you again, everybody, for your hard work and dedication, it is certainly producing great results.

# Our Volunteers

By Gill Atkins

We are very fortunate to have a group of excellent volunteers, without whom the Museum would not exist. This year we have welcomed a number of new people. This has enabled us to extend our opening hours and also complete a number of essential behind the scenes tasks. Two of our volunteers have given us their thoughts on their first year in this role...

# Our first year as Museum Volunteers

By Jem and Vonne

It took Jem and me a year or two to sign up to volunteering at the museum, but then we saw an appeal for help when the opening times were extended... not bad considering we had taken on a major renovation job with our house, an allotment which looked as if it was part of the SINC along the way, and closer proximity to grandchildren which allowed us to babysit a lot more than we used to!

We are both interested in history, though on a very amateur basis. Being part of the team has taught us much about BW and its past; something that makes us feel part of the community.

So what has surprised us? First the number and variety of the items in the museum – you really can't take it all in with a single visit and being volunteers allows you to browse at a more leisurely pace. Second the exhibition on 'Shopping through the Ages' – what a fantastic piece of work. All the visitors were fascinated and it was a great talking point. We were never at a loss for things to say as new visitors came through the door, which brings me to the people themselves.

They come from all over the country and in fact some from other countries; many

have a story to tell and particularly those from BW who are reminded of things that happened in their childhood and loved to share them. Even though we're not from BW we enjoyed reminiscing together, triggered by the exhibits and the exhibition.

We've had a lovely time this summer and met many interesting people. To be honest, we were rather sorry when the Museum shut for the winter!

## **Drinks at Georgie's**

On 30<sup>th</sup> August Tony Woodsford ushered us in through the front door of Georgie's house. The hallway was quite magnificent but we weren't there to admire the architecture but to meet a few of the other museum volunteers. Just stewarding at the museum ten times a year doesn't enable you to meet the others in the varied group who give up a few hours every month. The party meant we could chat to like-minded people and get to know a little more about the museum and the many helpers. Wine and canapés and strawberries and cream were kindly supplied by Georgie and others, and we had a very interesting evening talking about the museum. Thank you Georgie!

# Volunteers visit to the Diving Museum at Stokes Bay

By Betty Hiscock

Following the talk on Commander Buster Crabb at the Museum Trust's AGM, museum volunteers were invited by the speaker to visit the Diving Museum housed in the No 2 Battery at Stokes Bay in Gosport. The visit took place in September, the volunteers being split into several smaller groups each accompanied by a knowledgeable Diving Museum volunteer. As each group toured the museum the volunteer guides gave informative talks on the museum's artefacts. These included examples of

some of the first diving bells – one from the 18<sup>th</sup> century was made of wood and used to salvage 'treasure' from sunken ships. There were also examples of early diving suits and helmets.

As well as Buster Crabb, William Walker, the famous diver who saved Winchester Cathedral from sinking, also had a display.



Susan Tatton-Brown tries out some diving gear!

Examples of communications and oxygen equipment together with many types of diving suits and accessories adorned the walls and ceilings, giving a very comprehensive view of the history of diving from its early origins to modern times. Topics that were covered included underwater sports, spear fishing, military, commercial and scientific research diving.



Outside there were also examples of diving chambers and bells, including the world's first 'transfer-under-pressure' diving bell and an example of a 'Newt Suit' made of heavy metal.

## Who owned this tractor?

Earlier this year, a visitor to the museum spotted a photograph of an old tractor. He was certain that it belonged to Ross Bartlett.

Ross, a keen collector of old farm machinery, phoned the Museum requesting a copy of the photograph which he wanted to exhibit alongside his tractor at the Alresford Show 2017.

On the day of the show the tractor and photograph were proudly displayed, but Ross was later to learn that the tractor in the photograph, although the same model, was not his as he had thought. It had belonged to Jack Carpenter's grandfather, who had bought the tractor as new in 1936. Jack lives on Beech's Hill and still farms Buryfield Farm at the top of the hill.



In the photograph Jack's father can be seen driving the tractor and Alan Phillips is on the binder. Both Jack's father and Alan were working at Hazel Halt Farm.

When the tractor was eventually replaced by a more up to date version, it was sold for scrap. What a good thing it is that Ross has his tractor still intact and in good working order. It made a fine exhibit at the Alresford Show this year.

## Behind the scenes

### By the Museum's Registrar, Anita Taylor

#### A new mentor

We have a new museum mentor, her name is Amy Adams, and she is the Archive Collection Team Manager at the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. Her core knowledge lies in archives, library and photography as well as film and sound archives. I am looking forward to working with her and I am sure that she will be able to help us make our archives, photos and oral history more accessible. We have met her and she is very nice. She is hoping to start early 2018.

#### Next year's exhibition

Penny's exhibition on 'Shopping through the Ages' was such a big success that we thought we would leave it exhibited for another season. The exhibition will be condensed slightly in order to make space for something new and there will be some changes to the artefacts.

#### 2018 exhibition:

We have decided to honour John Bosworth's contribution to the museum and the town. Throughout his life, John painstakingly recorded the changes in Bishop's Waltham with his photos.

He was also an avid researcher of the local places and people, through deeds,

directories, rentals etc. The idea is that 2018 is the year when we will start to



John Bosworth, camera in hand, in Bank Street in the late 1980s

revamp his research folders and transcribe his notes. We would also like to show how he recorded the changes to Bishop's Waltham through a slide show of his photos.

#### Future ideas

Tony Woodsford, who created our very successful Railway Exhibition, is interested in the History of Farming. This is a long-term project. If you have any photos, memories or information please let us know and we will pass on your details to Tony.

Trish Simpson-Davies and the Oral History Team are working on the history of Abbey Mill with the aim of publishing a booklet, of a similar format to the 'Shopping through the Ages' booklet.

#### Finally cataloguing, cataloguing and cataloguing...

Thanks to my faithful team of Wednesday volunteers, we are finally winning as the cataloguing and repacking of the collection backlog is almost completed: 95% of the artefacts and

archives are now catalogued thanks to Jenny Meadow and Jenny Williams. Peter Meadow and Amy Jones have spent the summer cataloguing and scanning the photo collection. So far, 2500 photos have been digitised. If you would like to help Peter, please get in touch. Amy has now returned to university.

This winter I will be working on an index system which will make the photos and the archives easier to access on our website.

## Our Trustees

By Julian Malec, Vice-Chairman

The Charity Commission has registered Bishop's Waltham Museum as a small charity. This status gives some financial advantages to the museum, but it means that those who run the museum must abide by charity and company laws. To ensure proper management, the museum has a Board of Trustees, who not only oversee the administration of the museum, but also have the legal responsibility for its conduct.

The current composition of the Board of Trustees is what one might find in any small organisation. We have a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Registrar, Secretary, and Treasurer who, together with the other board members, bring their enthusiasm and their expertise to the management of the museum. The Bishop's Waltham Parish Council also has a representative on the Board. Currently there are 11 Trustees, some of whom have served for some years, and some who have recently joined. All the Trustees are volunteers, and the museum has no paid staff. Their common aim is the good of the museum and an interest in the history of our lovely town.

The museum's Constitution is written so that the Trustees, although they are volunteers for the role, must be elected by the Friends of the Museum, and this is

done at the AGM. In the near future the Trustees plan to propose a more modern Constitution to bring the museum in line with current Charity Commission procedures, and provide better legal and financial protection for the Trustees. Any changes will, of course, be subject to ratification by the Friends membership.

The Board of Trustees meets in committee about three times a year and holds the AGM in spring. Normally Board meetings are in the Museum, but in the winter the Museum is just too cold a place in which to sit, and so meetings are held in a friendly home. Meetings are conducted on business lines. Minutes are taken, reports are rendered and decisions recorded. Agreed Action Plans (things that must be done) and Forward Plans (things we would like to do) steer the discussions.

### Current Trustees

Georgina Busher – Chairman  
Julian Malec – Vice Chairman  
Anita Taylor – Registrar  
Gill Atkins – Secretary  
David Warren – Treasurer  
Penny Copeland  
Tony Kippenberger  
Gill Williams  
Josie Wood (representing the Parish Council)

## The child's carriage

Those of you who have visited the Museum will have noticed the poor condition of this exhibit. No wonder, since it was first in use about 1900.

Apparently known as a 'Mail Cart', the design of the carriage is derived from the carts used by postmen to deliver letters. This style of child's carriage first appeared in 1870s and was particularly popular during the Edwardian era.

It was intended to carry toddlers and young children who could sit up but some designs had an enclosed and adjustable foot so that a baby could lie flat.



The pram was found in a shed at the old Forge Cottage, Durley by Mrs Jenny Blanchard when she first moved there in 1961. Even at this time it was in need of repair and it seems likely that it was left at the Durley Forge for that purpose and was never collected by the owner.

The Museum Trust is in the process of having the pram conserved and some of your donations and membership fees will be used to this end. Hopefully you will see it at the museum in a slightly better condition when the Museum opens in May 2018.

## 'The Station, then and now'

By Anita Taylor

Below is one of five photographs that I created for the Blooming Art Festival held this summer.

As you know the Museum has an important collection of photographs and the idea came to me to tell the story of the past and present by merging an old photograph with one of the same view taken today.

The exercise was a challenge: I had to learn how to blend photos in Photoshop and matching the perspective often tested my abilities but I really enjoyed the challenge.

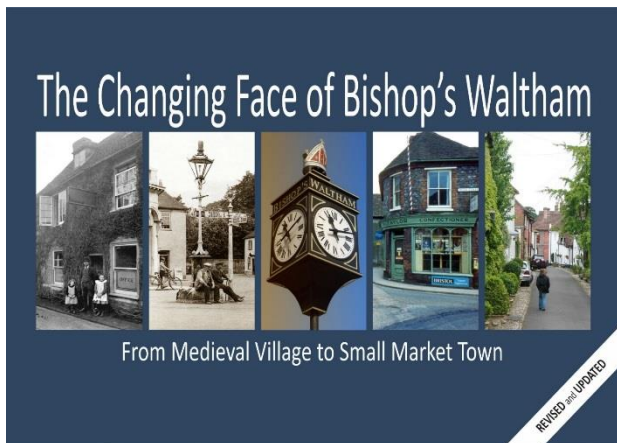
I will exhibit the photos at the museum next year, if we have the space.



# The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham - now revised and updated!

By Tony Kippenberger

The Bishop's Waltham Society and the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust jointly published the first edition of Alan Inder's popular book in 2011. The Museum received a fee from the Society for the use of many of the photographs used in the books 'then and now' format. The Museum was also a significant retail outlet for the book – netting £5.99 for Museum funds on every copy sold.



At the start of November this year a revised and an updated edition was

published. It contains new features on Abbey Mill, North Pond, Winchester Road and the Pondsides area (including Pondsides Farm – the original site for the estates approached by Langton Road).

The history sections throughout the book have been updated to take account of recent research and many 'now' photographs are new in order to reflect changes over the last six years.

Now at 108 pages in length, with more than 250 photographs and dozens of maps, the book is designed to provide local residents with a sense of their town's development and how it has changed over time. It is a great spur for conversation between children and their parents and grandparents who remember the changes they have seen in their lifetime.

The Society will again be paying the Museum a *pro rata* fee for the photographs and it hopes that the retail sales will also go well again. This time the Museum will collect a profit of exactly £6.00 for each sale.

The book was offered at a special pre-publication price of £12.00. If, for any reason, you were unable to take up this offer and would like to buy a copy, please complete the form below and send it by post or email to Keith Fry.

**To: Keith Fry, Treasurer, Bishop's Waltham Society, Gable Cottage, Coppice Hill, Bishop's Waltham SO32 1SF**

**Please supply ..... copy/copies of 'The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham' to me at the following address:**

**Name**.....

**Address** .....

.....

..... **Tel:** .....

*I enclose cash or cheque (payable to Bishop's Waltham Society) for **£12.00** per copy. Delivery is **FREE** within Bishop's Waltham, but please add £2.50 per copy for postage and packing to other locations.*

*You can also pay by PayPal to **treasurer@bishopswalthamsociety.org.uk***

# The Museum Website

The website is undergoing an update to bring it more in line with modern sites. Hopefully it will be more informative and accessible. The work is being done by one of our volunteers and will take time, so please be patient. It will certainly be up and running in time for the new 2018 season at the Museum.

## The Museum is Tweeting! @BishopsWMuseum By Penny Copeland



In May this year the Museum dived into the world of Twitter to raise awareness and hopefully bring in new visitors. If you are not familiar with Twitter, a tweet from the Museum is seen by its "Followers", and if they "like" it, then that "Like" is seen by their followers etc. We currently have 42 followers including local people, clubs, shops, pubs and societies. Our followers also include Museum organisations such as Milestones, Around Hampshire and friends but the reach is so much wider. I recently asked for help identifying a fossil in the Museum's collection and the answer came back within 3 days from a

Palaeontologist in Australia! (a section of ammonite in case you were wondering...). So come and join us on Twitter - the more the merrier!



## And finally, what our visitors say...

### From the children

'The dressing up as a queen. I like the palace. I like the old things in the museum.' Bethany

'I enjoy dressing up as a knight. Jack, me and my grandad came here and we had a very interesting time.'

### From the young at heart

'My 35-year-old partner really enjoyed the dressing up! Lovely museum and cheerful volunteers.' Kate and Greg

### The others

'First time to museum even though we live at Locks Heath. Will bring others now. Lovely.' Jane and Keith.

'An excellent addition to the Palace Ruins, some very interesting exhibits all nicely presented and accompanied by solid information. Thank you.'

'Very well laid out and interesting exhibition about shopping, shopkeepers etc. of BW through the ages.' Catherine (Swanmore)

### In a word (or two)

'Excellent!'  
'Impressed!'  
'Brilliant!'  
'Will be back!'

### And finally...

'Best small museum!'