



# BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

## Newsletter for the Volunteers and Friends of the Museum Winter 2019 Issue 27

Editor: Tony Kippenberger

### A message from the retiring Chairman of Trustees, Tony Kippenberger

For the museum, 2019 has been a year of change and progress. As those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting in April will know, the year started with our Chairman Julian Malec having to resign for personal reasons after just one year in a role he was really enjoying. At the same time, Anita Taylor, who had been the Museum's Curator for 14 years, felt that it was time she stepped down to pursue her other interests such as travelling and photography. Our Treasurer, David Warren, had also stepped down during 2018 and Anita had added this role to her already considerable workload. The museum's debt to Anita (and her late husband Bruce) is immense.

It was in these circumstances that, having been a Museum Trustee for six years before I resigned in July 2018 to reduce my own commitments, I agreed to become Acting Chairman and then short-term Chairman – basically from April to September 2019 – “the season”. I am pleased to say that with a short overrun this is what has happened.

In a year of change, Penny Copeland (already a Trustee) agreed to take over from Anita as Museum Curator. Penny is a wonderful inheritor of all Anita's work and someone who will take the Museum forward with humour and dynamism. Dr Roy Stainton, who was voted in as Treasurer and Vice Chairman at the AGM, has now taken on the role of Chairman and will use his wealth of experience to

#### CONTENTS:

Message from the retiring Chairman	1
A word from our new Chairman	2
A quick review from Penny Copeland	3
Volunteers' summer visit	3
Oral History project – an update	4
Photos from 1987 – who are they?	5
Do more bricks mean more Palace?	6
Time of Change Exhibition	7
Learning on the job	7
The 2020 Vision project	8
The Austin & Wyatt document rescue	9
Diary Dates	10

oversee the museum's continuing success. And I am delighted that Rev. Nick Whitehead, a new trustee, has agreed to take on the Treasurer's role.

Meanwhile we are lucky to have a group of committed trustees, individuals who take on voluntary responsibility and particular roles. So I'd like to add my great thanks to Dawn Woodsford, Gill Williams, Gill Atkins, June Edwards and our Parish Council representative Josie Wood.

So, finally, I hope that a potentially wobbly moment has turned into a new consolidation that will see the Museum move forward in all that it does. But, as always, the Museum Trust depends entirely on the volunteers' time and effort. It just wouldn't work without you! From digitising photographs to manning the welcome desk at weekends, from picking through the recently acquired Austin & Wyatt archives to helping with the increasingly valuable Oral History project, it is you who enable the Museum to add value to our community. Thank you!

# Some words from our new Chairman – Dr Roy Stainton

I was delighted to be the host at the 'Museum Garden Party' on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Around 30 of our stewards, members and trustees came along in somewhat inclement weather and we were able to accommodate everyone in our large summer house (later renamed 'The Chalet' by Anita).



**The Party in 'The Chalet'**

We all enjoyed wine and nibbles (organised by the Trustees) and such convivial company. It was an excellent way to get to know all our fellow museum friends better and to continue the tradition of hospitality set by Georgie Busher, who has organised such an event at her own home for many years previously. To those who did, thanks for coming and to those who couldn't, we shall be planning for another such gathering in 2020.

It is a simple truism to say that the needs of the museum depend upon its current activities and its intentions for the future. Human Resources (in my day they were called Personnel or People) are essential and without the volunteers on whom we rely, the museum could not exist. It is important too to have a viable income, firstly to cover the cost of everyday affairs (fixed costs) such as rates and insurance, and secondly to be able to develop new ways (variable costs) of presentation and exhibitions. We are fortunate that grants are made to us from various organisations to help

with the fixed costs and English Heritage are responsible for our accommodation and its maintenance in the Palace grounds. In return, we open and close the grounds each day and keep a watchful eye on the site as a whole.

As might be expected, the variable costs can be far more fluid, as well as the income that pays for them. There can be control over the expenditure by setting budgets and deciding in advance what we can do, for which contingencies are always necessary. Even so, we are dependent mainly upon member subscriptions and visitor donations, with occasional specific grants and lump sum donations, in cash and in kind.

To plan effectively for the future, we need to build up a reserve, allocate its subsequent expenditure and replace it with the current income, just as we would keep a supply of water in a dam, use it sparingly as necessary and refill as best we can.

Recently, HMRC have become more relaxed about qualifications for Gift Aid, to which we as a registered charity are entitled. Not only can we claim 25% Gift Aid on legitimate membership subscriptions, but we can also do so on visitor donations and lump sums from individuals, currently up to a limit of ten times the membership income. By claiming over the past four years, we have been able to add a significant sum to our funds and we can be more expansive and confident in our future plans and ideas for the museum.

Many thanks to all you Human Resources and providers of Financial Resources and remember that your membership subscription, through Gift Aid, can add almost three times the amount you pay. I shall leave you to work that out as an exercise!

**PS** Tony has been an excellent interim Chairman and it has been a pleasure to work with him; a great deal has been achieved during the year, as this newsletter illustrates. As a team, we shall continue to develop the many remaining latent ideas and I look forward to reporting progress at our AGM in April.

# A quick review from Penny Copeland

As a town, Bishop's Waltham has had a busy year and we have really enjoyed joining in! You could have found us open at the Festival picnic in June and at the Sam Jam Music Festival in August, when we provided a cool respite from the heat, or you could have come to the Party in the Park and had a go at our mini 'archaeological' dig.

During the year we have welcomed a good number of group visits, including the Beavers, West End History Society and the Titchfield History Society, and for next year we already have the Waterlooville U3A History Group booked in...



**The Titchfield History Society's guided tour of the museum**

At the Parish Annual Meeting in March we took a stand and, with our English Heritage representative Alison Naylor, we met a lot of volunteers from other Bishop's Waltham organisations which was really useful. We also appeared in BBC Radio Solent's Sunday morning show "Clued up with Pat Sissons" as a vital part of their treasure hunt! Back at the Palace, over the summer the museum had a lick of paint and a few necessary improvements to make us watertight and safe – we welcomed the long-awaited grab handles on the

staircase. We are now waiting for our new heating (hopefully before Christmas, but don't hold your breath), and the ivy removal on the tower, both of which we are told have budget approval...

## Volunteers' Summer Visit by Dawn Woodford

It was a fine day when 18 volunteers and Friends of the Museum left the Palace grounds for our trip to Rockbourne Roman Villa in a procession of cars. We arrived at Rockbourne in the drizzle but were delighted to find an excellent museum with many artefacts and lots of interesting exhibits. The villa has several sites to view, and although not large there are the remains of bath houses, farm buildings, living quarters and workshops. Also there are some well-preserved mosaics to see.

After refreshment we moved on to St Mary's Church, Breamore. This church was a mere three miles distant along a very narrow country lane. The church lies very close to Breamore House, which has been in the Hulse family for centuries. The family have a large vault in the grounds. The church itself is an almost complete example of an Anglo-Saxon Church. It has many unusual features including wall paintings, a rood, and stained glass windows. There is a very precarious ladder leading to the church bells.

Our last visit was again three miles distant to a village called Woodgreen, the village hall being our destination. The hall, whilst not hugely old, has murals painted on all the walls. These are titled "The Village on the Wall". A grant was secured from the Carnegie Trust for £100 for each of two students to revive the ancient technique of painting directly onto the walls of buildings. So Woodgreen village hall was chosen. This experiment took place in the 1930s. Each painting represents village life in Woodgreen with the inhabitants as models. Nearly 50 portraits were painted with only one person appearing twice – a poacher! We also watched two videos

about the project, one of which was made by the BBC.



### One of the murals

The two artists went on to become eminent men. Robert Baker a Professor at Oxford and Edward Payne was a consultant for the repair of stained glass windows at Wells Cathedral.

The icing on the cake was a cream tea served by the volunteers of Woodgreen Village Hall all for a cost of £7.

So then homeward bound contented after a varied and interesting day.

## New additions to the Oral History catalogue

By Trish Simpson-Davis

We have published eight interviews from 11 contributors since the last Oral History (OH) catalogue update in June. And what a lot of fascinating detail we now have about Bishop's Waltham in the 1940s, 50s and 60s! The earliest memories came from Bill Tier about his war-time childhood and Richard Harvey, who started his farming career at Hockley Farm, also in the 1940s. He remembered Hockley watermill, which proved very interesting to the Hampshire Mills Group. At their open day in September, they showed Richard round their renovations and picked his brain for further details of the mill's working life. My favourite image, though, is his recollection about coming home from the Victoria Road School to the top of the Winchester Road in the late 1930s:

"About that [time], Houghton Sawmills had quite a few steam engines and wagons that you could load trees on and that sort of thing. I can quite remember, that several times, they used to, this old steamer, I think it was a Foden, ... they used to come through Waltham with a timber carriage on the back ... So, as he was going up the hill from what was then the level crossing, ... this steamer, it had a cab on it, it was open, completely open at the back; it had a tender with the coal in and it dragged this big timber carriage.

... It quite often came through about four o'clock [going to] Houghton's Sawmills at Durley and we used to hang about for it and there was a long tree hanging out the back so we used to climb on that. And the driver, it was very slow I think it was hard work for them, actually. And he had a mate there and he used to shout at us to get off. And we didn't take any notice because we knew he couldn't stop on the hill, because with all that weight and those things didn't have any brakes much, he wouldn't dare stop on the hill, so we didn't take any notice of him.

So he started flinging the coal at us, see. We – he wasn't a good shot because he couldn't get his arm round the side of the cab, so we didn't take any notice. Anyway, when he got to the top of the hill, we used to get off a bit quick, because we knew that as soon as he got on the flat, he'd stop, where he could stop. And we retired then, but we'd had our ride up the hill.

... basically, I suppose, you would say nowadays we were a bit of a nuisance."

Pauline and John Thomas provided everyday details about 1950's life in the Avenue. At Milford Haven we recorded retired teacher and Scout leader, David Reed, about his first post at Bishop's Waltham All-Age Mixed School at around the same time. We talked to Gill Stainer from the bakery family about the 1950s and Lyn Thompson, who lived above the Waltham Fisheries shop before moving onto the newly built Ridgemedede estate in the early 1960s. Earlier this year we recorded memories from Geoff Pride, long time auctioneer and valuer for Frank Stubbs and Co.

Rather reluctantly (because of the technical difficulty of interviewing 3 people at once!) newcomers Ruth and Glyn Edwards interviewed Stuart Pink, Chris Gamblin and Paul Cole who grew up together in the village centre in the 1960s. 'I know it was hard times when we were younger,' reminisced Chris, 'but I think we were very lucky.'

Recently Val and George Perry visited Bishop's Waltham Junior School, to talk to Year 5 about their childhood in the Second World War, which they recorded for us as part of the D-Day project. Every question was about air raid shelters or about the experience of being evacuated! Fortunately, George was able to tell them about his home Anderson shelter in Gosport, being evacuated to his grandmother in Alresford and then later, with his school class to Romsey where he lived in a large servant-run house. Not quite the representative experience the children were expecting, but they were agog nevertheless!

The Oral History Team, currently 14 strong, recently celebrated the end of the Time of Change OH project with a tea party at the Anvil as a thank you to everyone for their hours of work. Ever eager, we laid the foundations for the next project ... but more of that in the next newsletter.

## The oral history bench

There is also great news to report about our idea of a solar-powered oral history bench for the Town Centre. The Parish Council are enthusiastic about the idea and have offered to install and maintain a bench if the Museum fund it. Thanks to a generous donation in memory of family members, and another generous gift from Peter Raftery of Hampshire Orthodontics, the Museum is well on the way to raising the £2550 needed.

In this month's Parish News I have appealed for donations and received the first one almost immediately. I am proposing to record any particular *in memoriams* in a commemorative book for the Museum, so if you would like past family members – local or not – remembered, or have participated in the oral histories yourself, then perhaps you

might consider contributing to the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust before Christmas, when I hope we will be ready to go ahead and purchase the bench.

Cheques should be made payable to Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust and sent to our Treasurer, Dr Roy Stainton, at Beech Close, Dean Lane, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1FX.

## Can you remember?

Wickham Parish Council recently acquired a collection of photos taken by Stan Woodford, and Wickham History Society have passed some on to us (although they are keeping the commercial copyright). In particular we now have some photos of Bishop's Waltham Carnival in 1987 – anyone know who is enjoying the fun?



**Outside the Cadet Force building in Victoria Road**



**The Youth Hall Party in the Square**

If you recognise any of the people in the photographs let us know...drop an email to [penny.copeland@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.copeland@btinternet.com)

# Does more bricks mean more Palace?

By Penny Copeland

This has been a year for bricks at the museum, and recently even more interesting bricks have turned up. The recent fire behind Town House in St George's Square has led to the builders taking off the render on the back wall, revealing many different phases of brickwork, none of which match the front or side wall! As the front of the building appears to be early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this means nearly all of the back wall is earlier, with the front of the building wrapped round it.



**The rear wall of Town House**

The ground floor of the wall is of particular interest to me as the bricks are nice and thin (4-5cm thick in contrast to a modern brick which is 6.5cm), laid without any pattern and therefore likely to be Tudor. These are the bricks on the picture which have been painted and then "pecked" for plaster or render. The bricks on the floor above and in the roof truss have never been keyed so they are later (although they are still pretty slim).

So high quality, expensive, Tudor brickwork, very close to the Palace which had many areas rebuilt in brick? What could that be?



**Inside view of Town House's rear wall**

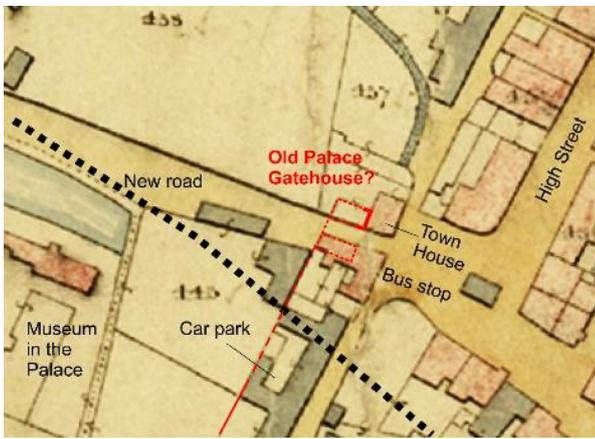
I am speculating then that this is the front wall of the lost gatehouse of Bishop's Waltham Palace. English Heritage have a reconstruction of the gatehouse in their guidebook, showing it behind the line of the Lord's River, but sitting in front of the boundary wall. The wall still exists and can be seen in the car park. So, the construction fits and the location fits, but we can't prove any of this unless there is a dig...

Incidentally, my thanks go to the building contractors DPB who have been hugely patient with me!



English Heritage's illustration of the gatehouse (above) shows the wall that might have been found – marked with a red line.

This 1841 map below shows the ancient boundary lines and the newly discovered wall – in thick red.



## Time of Change Exhibition for 2020 By Trish Simpson-Davis

Preparations for next year's exhibition are moving into reality. The shape of the exhibition is now emerging as being very much aimed at children: a display downstairs from the Junior School will commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Upstairs will be dedicated to the 1950s and 1960s, based on details from our oral histories. We'll be looking through children's eyes at their lives – food, modernising homes, school, and social life. This last theme is particularly exciting as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop's Waltham Guides are joining us to assist with a 1950's camp activity for younger children in a display remembering the long history of Scouting and Guiding locally. Watch out too, for a village-to-town activity for families.

Keeping the best news to last, a late 1950's room-set is due to be built after Christmas by the Men's Shed. They have already proved a multi-talented bunch, what with skilled IT input and helping out with replica food.



**I just wish my baking looked like this!**

Thanks to Ron Upfield, who donated the 1950's wireless and Roger Freemantle, who is installing the sound delivery system, you will be able for the first time to listen to the voices behind our oral history research by pressing a couple of buttons in the room set.

I am still looking for a few items: 1940's, 50's and 60's material (or clothes to alter to children's sizes); 2x1950's chairs; about 1/2 roll of 1950's wallpaper; a 1950's roasting tray or pressure cooker - if you can help with any of these, I'd love to hear from you.

It would also be good to have some traditional games for visitors to play – Ludo, Happy Families, Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes spring to mind, and I still hanker after a display case with toys from the 1950s and 60s – Cindy and Action Man both started life in that era – if you can help with any of these, I would love to hear from you on 01489 893261 or at [trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com](mailto:trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com).

## Learning on the job By Hazel Whitehead

What better way to discover interesting things about our new home town than to join in with the Oral History Project. Newly retired, with opportunities to slow down and unhampered by our normally full diaries, we began to look around to see how we would get involved in the life of Bishop's Waltham. One of my choices was to answer a request in the Parish Magazine. I'd always been interested in literature, stories, history and people so this looked as if it could fit the bill – and it was a flexible commitment, not tying me down to particular times and dates.

Having got to grips with the technology of transcribing the recordings, I began to learn how to get attuned to different voices and accents, and am still working on the art of getting text in the right place, remembering to include the time each section starts and creating a summary of headings to make it easier for researchers coming along in the future to find exactly what they are looking for.

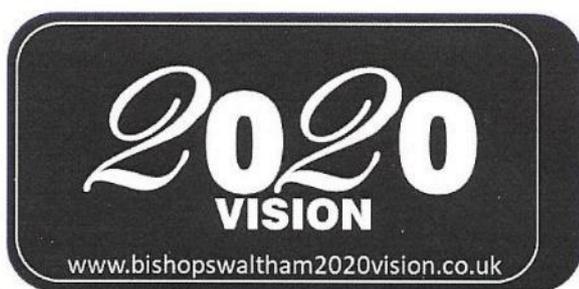
After transcribing three recordings – which takes a lot longer than I first imagined – I know quite a lot about the education system (including the Line for naughty children), the Brick works, the piggeries, the rise and fall of the railway, the building of the Ponds and the workings of the Parish Council (particularly its efforts to provide more parking). As a former Girl Guide, I was not surprised to hear about the important influence of uniformed organisations on the young people of the town. And the sports teams – especially football – have also kept youngsters occupied and all through the efforts of locals.

Buildings, infrastructure and institutions are key to any town or village but what makes a place *live* is the people who are rooted in that community, who have such interesting lives and are willing to share them for posterity through the Oral History Project.

## 2020 Vision

By Trish Simpson-Davis

Bishop's Waltham 2020 Vision is a community photographic project designed to record everyday life in our locality. It is intended to add a modern set of photographs to the John Bosworth Collection held by the museum.



You'll already know some of those wonderful old photographic images from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century that have appeared in books such as *The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham*. Many were prints collected by John and then added to by his own important work in recording change in the period 1950-1985. However since his death, there has been no systematic attempt to collect photographs.

Although thousands of photographs will have been taken within the Bishop's Waltham area over the last 35 years, those in the public domain (i.e. in the museum collection) are small in number.

We intend to address the shortfall by running a year-long community-wide initiative capturing everyday life in and around the town. It's not a competition, so it's not just for the experts, and anyone can participate through the project's website. Take a photo a day, a week, a month or just one in the year – it's up to you. We'll help you all we can.

What we want are interesting photographs which make a comment on the town's everyday life in 2020. The emphasis is 'everyday' – from the Co-op lorry trying to park to new houses springing up at Albany Farm, from grass-cutting in the churchyard to geese on the North Pond.

We've created a website:

[www.bishopswaltham2020vision.co.uk](http://www.bishopswaltham2020vision.co.uk) which goes live on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. It will provide guidelines on what photographs to take and how to upload them onto the site. The aim is to collect as many photographs as possible and then, at the end of 2020, to select 1000 photographs that can be donated to the museum's existing record.

This will benefit the museum and the wider community for years to come. It is of course endorsed by the Museum Trustees, as well as by the Parish Council and Winchester City Council.

The Town Team will actively support us with updates on the 'Love Bishop's Waltham' website and our costs are being met with generous sponsorship from Clear Dentistry and the Bishop's Waltham Society.

What we need now are people – adults, children, friends and neighbours, to pitch in with at least one photo during 2020 – ideally more than one!

If you would like more information please contact me, Trish Simpson-Davis, on 01489 893261 or at [trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com](mailto:trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com).

# The Austin & Wyatt

## document rescue

By Tony Kippenberger

### Background

The firm's founder, Richard Austin, started his business in Bishop's Waltham as an Estate Agent (in the original sense of the words – managing large estates) in 1836. He also became a well-known Auctioneer, holding regular auctions at the Crown Inn in Bishop's Waltham as well as many other places (including pony sales in the New Forest).

He owned the brick works on Coppice Hill and lived in Coppice Hill House. He subsequently bought the town house in the Square (probably built by Thomas Fox in the early 1790s) where Austin & Wyatt's offices were until they were closed down by the current owners, Countrywide, in early summer 2019.

### The documents

As the then chairman of the BW Town Team, I called in on Austin & Wyatt in 2012 to see if they would hand out a 'Welcome Pack' for new house buyers moving into Bishop's Waltham. As part of the conversation, the manager invited me to look at the old documents stored on the premises. As a result I spent a couple of hours looking at the many bundles and piles that were dispersed through the building (see below)!



It was immediately clear that these old archives were an invaluable resource to discover more about the past in Bishop's Waltham (estate maps, property details,

rent ledgers, house inventories, tithe books etc.) as well as elsewhere in Hampshire.

However, there were so many that the museum at the time felt there was too much for them to cope with and so it was suggested that the manager contact the Hampshire Record Office (HRO).

In 2014 Sarah Farley of the HRO came to Bishop's Waltham to inspect the documents and the HRO offered to take everything, but Countrywide decided to keep them after all. So they continued to languish on shelves and in attics.

### A New Opportunity

Having noticed in May 2019 that the Austin & Wyatt offices had closed, I wrote to A&W/Countrywide to ask about these documents but received no reply. So we kept our eyes open for a skip to appear outside. In June I spotted a white van loading office equipment and together with Alan Inder we enquired what was happening to the documents.

Subsequently we met Countrywide's Senior Estates Manager, Chris Maher, in July. He confirmed that they wouldn't be destroyed but he expected the new leaseholders (another firm of Estate Agents) to want to keep them. A proposal we found unlikely, so we sought his assurance that the new owners would let us know if they didn't want to continue storing them.

Sure enough, we were contacted by Charters Estate Agents in late July to say they didn't want them and a further assessment visit was arranged for early August.

It was clear we needed a rescue plan. So it was decided that we would pack up the documents in boxes and store them at StorAway near Droxford (paid for by the Bishop's Waltham Society who keep their archives there) and to store the maps in a Container Store in Free Street provided by a Friend of the Museum.

In just three days, between the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September a small but highly motivated team, headed by Penny Copeland, managed to rescue everything!



**Some of the team at work**



**About 900 maps head for storage**



**50+ boxes of documents go into store.**

These archives are all now being painstakingly sorted, box by box and map by map, by more volunteers – a job that will last some time.

But, without doubt, a job well worth doing and something that will provide us, HRO and other Hampshire societies and communities with valuable information.

Some 18 members of the 'rescue' team had a special guided tour of the HRO in Winchester on the evening of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## Dates for your diaries:

Forthcoming events for Volunteers and Friends:

### **16<sup>th</sup> January 2020: A trip to Aldershot Military Museum.**

The Museum tells the story of the British Army in Aldershot, the "Home of the British Army", from the Army's arrival in the area in the 1850s to the present day.

It also acts as the local history museum for the civil towns of Aldershot and Farnborough.

We look forward to welcoming the Aldershot Museum volunteers to our museum in the summer – as a return visit.

### **6<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Annual General Meeting.**

Our next AGM will be in April with a post AGM speaker.

Details to be announced nearer the time but the talk, by Don Bryan, will cover when Mary met Philip (that's Tudor and the King of Spain) at the Palace in 1554 before their marriage in Winchester Cathedral.

