



BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

Newsletter for the Volunteers and Friends of the Museum Winter 2020 Issue 29

Editor: Tony Kippenberger

A message from the Chair of Trustees, Roy Stainton

I am sure we can all agree that we are most fortunate to have our own local museum, of which we can be justly proud. We have an effective and collaborative team of trustees, members who as benevolent donors support the principles and objectives of the museum, volunteers who give their time and energy to ensure its smooth operation, and visitors who are generous in their donations. There are others who provide expert advice and skills, make gifts to us of valuable artefacts and donate significant sums of money. We are well supported by the Parish Council, various Bishop's Waltham societies, Hampshire County Council and the Charity Commission. In addition, we have a most amenable landlord in English Heritage who provides us with rent free accommodation and building maintenance for which, in return, we are pleased to carry out a number of services at the Palace site. We thank you all and each other.

So how have we been faring and what are our plans for the future? Details will be found in the reports in this newsletter, but let's just mention one or two.

We were awarded a grant of £10,000 earlier this year and we intend to spend it wisely on a specific project that enhances the standing and attraction of the museum. We have not yet fully determined what that will be and we would welcome suggestions from you. It is important that when it is chosen, it is managed effectively and to that end, we

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should like to identify and recruit a willing supporter, someone perhaps who would also wish to join our trustee team. Now that we have been formally approved as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), we can be assured that among various advantages, the liabilities of trustees and members alike are limited to personal actions only.

We were registered as a CIO last February but it could not be ratified by members until the AGM, which was eventually held as a virtual meeting early in September. As was intended, we have since examined in more detail the constitution, which was agreed originally with the Charity Commission, and have identified amendments we believe better reflect our activities. This proposed constitution will shortly be distributed to members for their consideration and after due discussion and deliberation, we shall be seeking formal approval at our next AGM which will be held on Monday 12th April at 7.30 pm*.

Do take care, keep safe and we look forward to an interesting and successful 2021!

*** Please make a note of this in your diary**

A note for volunteers – from Dawn Woodford, Volunteer Co-ordinator

What a strange year this has been. As many of you will know, we had planned a large exhibition “Time of Change” for 2020, devised by Trish Simpson-Davis. When we went into Lockdown#1, we really didn’t know when we were going to open up so we decided to shelve it. As the 75th anniversary of VE day loomed we decided to mount a virtual exhibition (12 page booklet), and that is still available on our website <https://www.bishopswalthamuseum.com/exhibitions> together with Bishop’s Waltham Society’s booklets on both VE Day and VJ Day celebrations, written by Tony Kippenberger.

When the first lockdown lifted we thought it important to open, particularly when it had become apparent that the grounds of the Palace had been so popular. We put together a small exhibition relating to WWII to complement our static displays and the online display. As many of you will know, this involved a LOT of paperwork, risk assessments and signage.



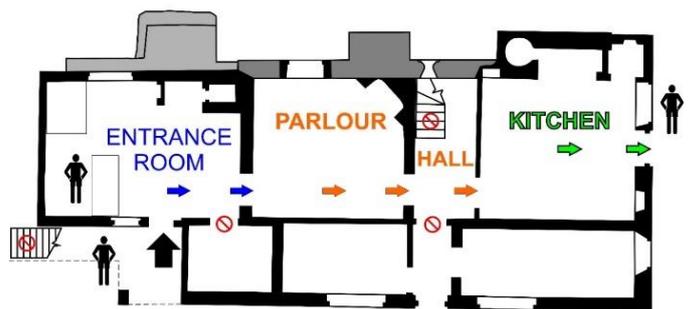
The well protected reception desk

The museum was opened for eight weeks in August and September with around 12 volunteers working in teams of three and we made good use of appropriate new signage.



All the restrictions were adhered to and it worked well, with the upstairs not open and a one-way system operating downstairs. Visitors entered in the usual way and exited from the kitchen (a door not normally opened).

WELCOME TO BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM
One group per room please!



Please do not move to the next colour room until it is empty

It was agreed by all that it had been a successful venture and well worth the effort – we were not short of visitors, and they were all beautifully behaved. We hope next year will be less eventful and that you are still able to volunteer for the museum in some capacity. We really appreciated the volunteers who

felt able to help, but if you couldn't join us, we missed you!

The Palace grounds were extremely popular throughout the summer of 2020 and even now the benches are full at lunchtimes, despite the cold weather. Facebook is full of appreciation for keeping the grounds open during Lockdowns #2 and #3, and credit must go to Dawn Woodsford, Gill Atkins and Gill Williams for opening and closing the grounds, and keeping them as clean as possible (not easy as the grounds have become the coffee-drinking destination of choice for Bishop's Waltham!)

Events

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the talk by John Merriman entitled "The Black Death" as it was not suitable for a 'Zoom' meeting but we hope to have a 'face to face' talk in the Spring.

We did however have a shared "Christmas Party" meeting with the Bishop's Waltham Society on Thursday December 17th. There were two parts, first a reading by actor Simon Shepherd from JRR Tolkien's "Letters from Father Christmas" and then a fun quiz put together by Penny Copeland and her partner Mark. About 70-80 people attended.

Don Bryan, a local city guide will give us a Zoom talk on Monday 18th January 2021 on the marriage of Mary Tudor and Philip of Spain which we were due to have at the AGM in April 2020. Henry VIII's daughter, Queen Mary, waited many anxious days at Bishop's Waltham Palace until a much delayed Philip arrived and their marriage could take place at Winchester Cathedral.

Breaking News:

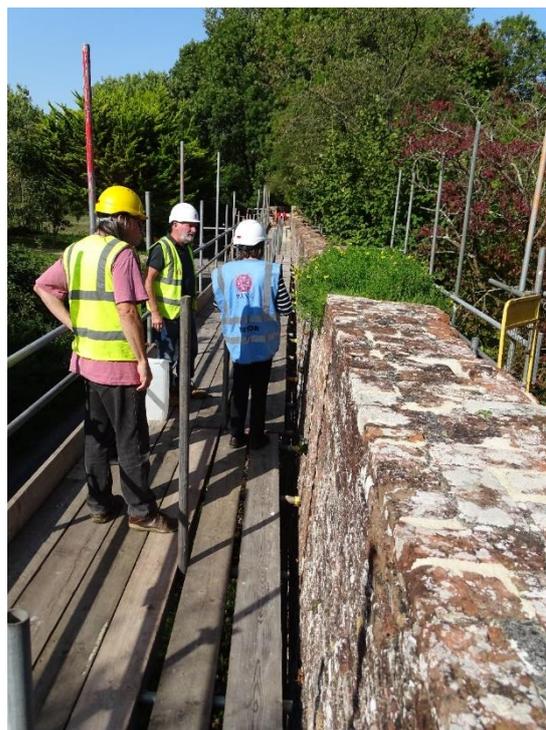
A quiz will be happening in the Spring/early summer (live, hopefully) and will be chaired by an 'Egghead', who will it be? Watch this space to find out.

English Heritage's conservation work at the Palace by Penny Copeland

This year has seen English Heritage really get to grips with conservation work at the Palace as it kicks off a two-year programme.

Many of you will have seen the contractors' porta cabins move in to the car park just after first lock down started and then move them out at the beginning of November. Bernie, their site manager, made himself at home for the summer and was incredibly accommodating. He kept us up to date on what was happening when Deborah, the EH project manager, was put on furlough soon after the project started (as were most of the EH staff). She was also one of the first to be called back because this is such a big project. The work has carried on through the summer together with routine maintenance once we came out of the first lockdown.

So, what's been happening? Initially, the project focused on the perimeter walls surrounding Palace House and the field on Palace Road.



This is Bernie on the scaffolding with Gill Atkins and Mark Turner, next to a

repointed section of wall and the first section of the experimental wildflower capping.

They have been repaired, repointed and recapped – which took months. The contractor, Paye (the owner's name!), specialises in stone masonry and they have done a great job on both the brick and the flintwork.



The wildflower turf in place. This will form a mat of roots that will shed water and prevent larger plants growing on the wall.



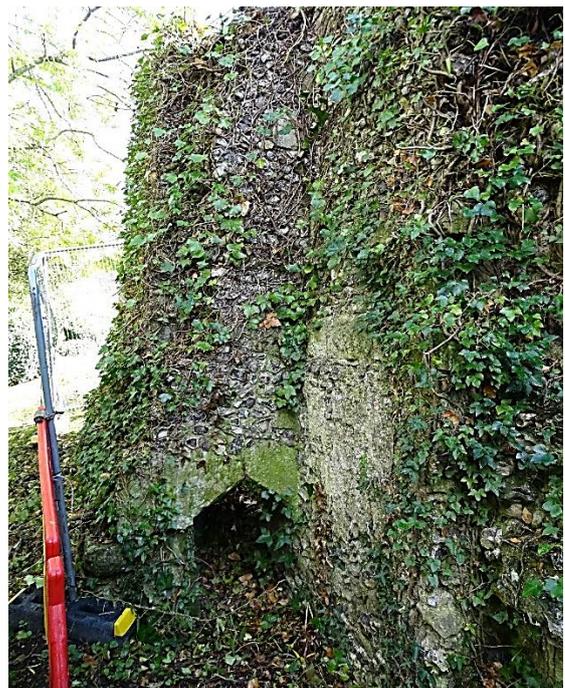
A view inside the turret – only possible because of the scaffolding.

The jury is out on the purpose of the little upstairs room to the left-hand side of the turret (see above), but the larger first floor room might be a summerhouse or dining room – it has the remnants of a large window just out of shot to the right, which would have looked out over the Bishop's Park.

Here (below) is the corner turret with the window remnants at the top to the right and possibly a hearth behind the corbelled-out part. Newly cleaned and repointed, it is possible to see the "diaperwork" in the wall – the diamond shape pattern made with darker bricks. You can also see this type of brickwork on the museum's walls, although it's mostly not as old as this.



The other main work done so far is removing ivy leaves from parts of the Palace ruins that are worst affected. The gatehouse was dealt with first and this revealed a window long forgotten about, and a small arch close to a pit – almost certainly a latrine! The arch is at moat level so could it be an early flush mechanism?



The arch in the moat at the back of the gatehouse.

The most exciting part of the conservation work is the extreme gardening in the West Tower. BCS (Building Conservation Solutions) has been abseiling off the tower to clear ivy leaves and found that much of it came off easily. As a result, it is now possible to see the fireplaces in the Bishop's private apartments for the first time in a decade. BCS moved on to complete the stripping of ivy from the South Turret, and then back to the end wall of the kitchen. More photos can be found on our Facebook and Twitter sites. The press machine at English Heritage went into action and the story made it into the Times, the I, the Hampshire Chronicle (two weeks running) and BBC South Today.

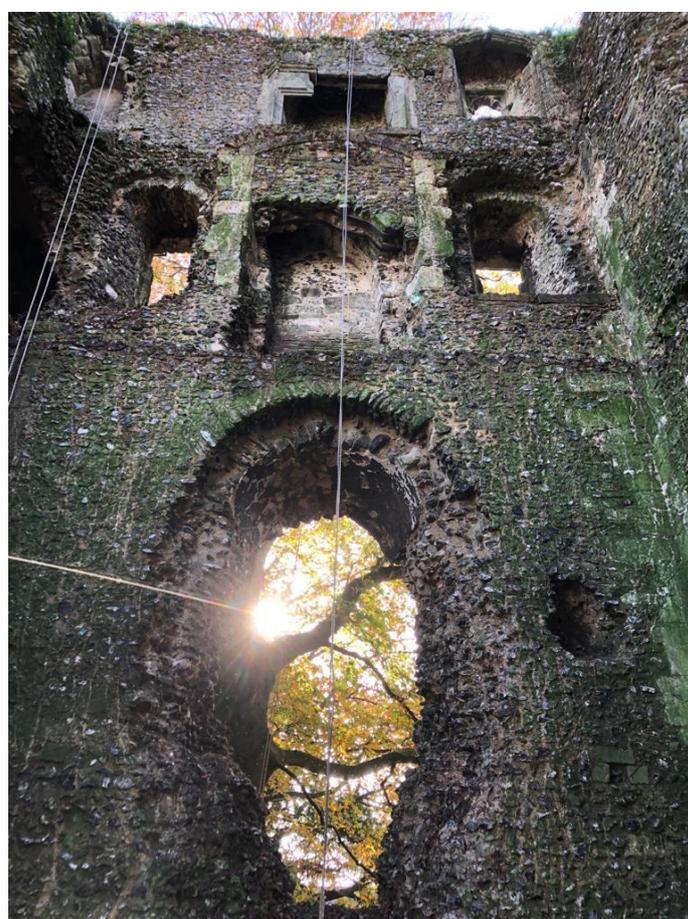
Cunningham from BCS – a view we won't see again for a long time.



The during...



So here's **the before**, featuring Dave Godley and photographed by Andy



And **the after**: a glamour shot by Dave that he should be rightly pleased with. The fireplaces in the Bishop's own quarters on the top two floors are now visible again.

Then there was the South Turret in the Crown's carpark. This has gradually disappeared under its cloak of ivy over

recent years and had started to look like a Victorian grotto.



Before...



And after...

Dave at work on the South Turret with the sun shining in through the open door on the south-east side.

English Heritage will continue work on the Palace in 2021. This started with surveys of the North Turret and the West Tower (including the use of a drone) and continues with the new fencing down Station Road. This should greatly improve the security of the site, a very welcome development!



View of the south turret roof from the cherry picker (Dave Godley). There is certainly more to this building than we thought.



A safe place to leave your tools...

The museum building has also been treated to some works this year. All the intruder alarm sensors were replaced in the spring and, after a period when they seemed to be very keen on spotting ghosts, they seem to have settled down (fingers crossed).

And the most marvellous news – we have heating once again in the museum. All the storage heaters have been replaced and they are already improving the museum environment – it's now both warmer and drier.

Our great thanks to English Heritage for not cancelling the works due to Covid financial pressures.

This year we can look forward to the second phase of works in the Palace grounds. This is set to include: a new fence down Station Road (now underway), new gates at the pond side, treatment of the ivy branch and roots that are now visible, and some repointing. This will involve scaffolding up around the West Tower for some time (possibly blocking off the Great Hall to visitors as well) so there will be some inconvenience.

However, we are working with English Heritage to host an open day in the school holidays with masonry demonstrations and scaffolding tours – so watch this space!

South Downs National Park grant for our archive by Gill Williams

As most of you know from previous newsletters, in September 2019 a group of volunteers rescued a treasure trove of Austin & Wyatt archives and following this a dedicated team of treasure hunters uncovered 150 years of documents, maps, property plans and office records. Not only are local archives included but also hundreds of regional items which illustrate the importance of the company records. We can now see a focus around the First and Second World Wars when there were many changes in agricultural land use in the first half of the twentieth century.

Penny Copeland marshalled helpers over the winter and spring to dissect very many fragile pieces, including hundreds of maps, rent agreements, also photos and details of inventories of house and

farm sales, listing descriptions of farm stock and equipment and even what was stored in the scullery cupboards, all great social history!

Then the dreaded C word emerged and plans had to be assessed. One of the concerns was the safe storage of the unique Austin & Wyatt trove to keep it as carefully as possible until archiving work could continue.

By great good fortune we were informed of an emergency fund by our Museum Development Officer that was available to museums like ours, named "Saving Collections" in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority. As the archives cover a wide range of the South Downs area, we were able to apply. It resulted in a grant paying for a dehumidifier to keep the fragile materials as dry as possible, professional storage materials for protection purposes and warehousing facility for the overflow of materials.

For now the treasure trove remains safely stored. When completely uncovered, there will be further plans to share and exhibit with local and regional archives and research facilities and so 150 years of social history will be made available to all.

Another Padbury clock!

We are deeply grateful to Peter Stevens and his wife Janet for their donation of another Padbury clock to the Museum. Peter was an active member of the Bishop's Waltham Society and the Bishop's Waltham Action Group that fought against Sainsbury's plans for a superstore next to the Palace grounds.

However they moved away from Bishop's Waltham a few years ago. But they visited this autumn to donate a clock made by Andrew Padbury. Andrew was the earliest Padbury with a connection to us – born in 1718, he married a local girl Elizabeth Cammis. The Padburys made and repaired clocks in BW for around 150 years, including repairing the church clock. The last clockmaker Padbury (James) sold his shop in the High Street

in 1898, but you can still see his clock on the wall outside. Andrew's son William started a blacksmithing dynasty in Cross Street.



The wonderful clock face



Peter and Janet with the clock in its rather modern case on their visit to Bishop's Waltham to present it to the museum.

And another donation – Bishop's Waltham Station

The Reverend Tom Johns spotted this oil painting of Bishop's Waltham Station by Eleanor Kirk in a gift shop in BW and offered to buy it and donate it to the museum if we were interested. The answer was a swift "yes please", and it will now take its place on the museum's walls as a beautifully rendered representation of what used to adorn Station Roundabout!



We are extremely grateful for Tom Johns' generous gift, and to all our other recent generous donors.

Dear Friends...

We love our museum Friends and their annual membership subscriptions are vital for the success of the Museum. With this regular income, the Trust is able to house, maintain and display its collection of photographs, documents and artefacts and to ensure their proper cataloguing and conservation. We can also create new exhibitions every year, invite speakers, and host social events. As well as helping to preserve the heritage of Bishop's Waltham, Friends receive two newsletters each year which keep them abreast of Museum developments and local history.

With a new year, may the Trust remind you that the Museum membership is due on 1st February for 2021, with a joint membership of £15 and single of £10. Gift aid is also gratefully received if you are a UK tax payer.

Please post your cheque to the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust with any change in personal details to the Membership secretary, 6 Warden Lodge, Winchester Road, Bishop's Waltham SO32 1NT. If you would like to pay by BACS, please pay to Barclays Bishop's Waltham Branch, to the credit of Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust. Sort code 20-97-01. Account number 30015431. If you have any problems please contact gillwilliams64@hotmail.com

Malt Lane Archaeology by Penny Copeland



The dig site with Winchester Road at the top, Town House and the Square to the left (Photo donated by 20/20Aviation).



This is the site of archaeological dig in 1965. The wall and gardens on the right belong to The Elms. The area to the extreme right is Rookes Garage forecourt, now in front of Fox's. The building to the left was demolished when the road was widened, and the buildings at the far end are approximately where Sainsbury's and the car wash now stand. New archaeological excavations took place in November/December in the

town centre at the Malt Lane site where development was proposed last year. The planners have established that there is a need to dig in advance of development and the archaeologists carried out "an evaluation" i.e. testing the ground by putting in strip trenches (a digger bucket wide) to see what is there.

They dug at least six trenches around the Scout Hut and Youth Hall and came up with a variety of results. Behind the Scout Hut there was a very large pit, probably Tudor, a small flint wall (possibly medieval) and some post holes (technical term meaning holes for posts, which also means they are likely to be the supports for a building if they are big enough). More post holes were found down the side and out the front of the Scout Hut so joining the dots could make a building? They are undated – but Tony Kip is hoping for Anglo-Saxon...

Some later walls were found at the front of the site, including one which could have been part of (Wych) Elms House, the Victorian house that was formerly on the site. Part of the old public toilet was also dug up and it was sat over a large pit with plenty of medieval pottery. Close to Town House and the Square a much earlier flint wall was found which would cross the road towards the palace.



The wall to the left is a mix of reclaimed stone and brick (very similar to the front wall of the museum so perhaps c. 1700?). In the centre are a couple of carved stones almost certainly from the palace but probably dumped as they sit on a quarry tiled floor, and to the right is

the flint wall. Just behind the flint wall is an early drain of brick with a slate over the top (mid 1700s?).

The flint wall may have been an early boundary wall, predating the brick one incorporated into the back of Town House (see newsletter 27, Autumn 2019), or perhaps the real remnants of the gatehouse.



The building behind Town House appears to be stables in c.1896 – it was later converted into Rookes Garage

We will have to wait for the final archaeological report to be certain of what was found, but it seems clear at this stage that the closer to the Square you go, the more archaeology has survived. The next stage will be to see what the developer proposes for the site – and what extra archaeology they have to carry out, if any.

Georgie Busher

Died 24th November 2020,
aged 92

Georgie became Chairman of the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust in 2011, when Linda Didymus retired, and continued in this role until she retired in 2018.

As part of this she was instrumental in the Museum's move from its cramped premises behind Barclays Bank to the farmhouse in the Palace Grounds. She recalls this in her Oral History interview. "I got the Museum into the Palace, although they probably don't realise it, through a connection I had [as a

Winchester City Councillor]. The then Chief of Planning had just left to work for English Heritage. I was Chairman of Planning, so I just rang him up. We discussed it, he spoke to them and we were there. That, I think, was one of my major achievements."

Georgie and her husband came to Bishop's Waltham in 1960 and she quickly immersed herself in local activities. With previous experience in both Guides and Brownies, she soon became District Commissioner. She also became County President for St John Ambulance and Chairman of the Bishop's Waltham Care Group. She joined the Citizen's Advice Bureau committee for a time and was a member of the Friends of St Peter's Church.

But she also became a City Councillor as an Independent, where she did a lot of committee work. She recalled that she had been chair of every WCC Committee except Health and Works. Jean Hammerton (who also sadly died in 2020) was another Independent Councillor for Bishop's Waltham as well as being Chairman of the Parish Council. Between them Georgie and Jean persuaded Hampshire County Council to accept the Parish Council's offer to buy the land owned by the Police College - the land that is now Priory Park.

The high point of her time as a City Councillor was to be Mayor of Winchester at the Millennium. Her proudest moment, she said, was taking the salute at the march past of her late husband's regiment at the Millennial Parade through Winchester's High Street.

Georgie even found time to breed chinchillas and was a longstanding national judge for the National Chinchilla Society and served as their president for over 10 years. She was also, for many years, a volunteer Guide at Winchester Cathedral.

Anyone associated with the Museum will have known Georgie Busher and known how selfless she was in serving others and the community in which she lived. As she said in her Oral History, "I was always brought up to volunteer for

everything”, and she did! We will all miss her greatly.

Some tributes: “She felt a strong obligation to contribute to the local area”; “Above all she was a source of really good common sense advice... and she knew everyone!”; “Fiercely independent, a great role-model; if anyone needed advice, Georgie was available to help”; “a unique character, full of humour, enthusiasm for life and lots of determination”.



Georgie Busher and Alan Inder in conversation at the 2012 Street Party to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

Alan Inder

Died 28th October 2020, aged 73

Alan had a long and successful career in local government as a planner. Bishop’s Waltham first benefitted from his planning background when he founded the Ponside Playing Field Group in the early 1980s. For nearly 30 years they fought off attempts to build on the triangle of land near the vineyard.

Eventually Linden Homes agreed to provide a fully equipped play area there. From then on he brought his knowledge of planning and his broader interests to a variety of community groups. He was quietly influential on a number of different fronts, founding or contributing to the following: the Bishop’s Waltham Society; the establishment and care of local Nature Reserves, including the conservation of the North Pond; the Meon Valley Locomotive Society; the Aviation Enthusiasts Group (which became Bishop’s Waltham Aviation Group); Bishop’s Waltham Camera Club (which became Bishop’s Waltham Photographic Society).

The list goes on. He was a contributor to Bishop’s Waltham Design Statement. He wrote a number of successful and well-researched books about Bishop’s Waltham; he was interested in old maps and it is typical that Alan stepped forward and agreed to store and then catalogue some 800 maps and documents that Austin & Wyatt had stored in their offices. A task he fulfilled for the museum within a few months with the help of a small team of fellow enthusiasts.

He was a regular worshipper at St Peter’s where he served as Sidesman and was on the Parochial Church Council. He also found time to provide guided walks around the town and gave talks to many different local groups on subjects ranging from “Bishop’s Waltham High Street, in old photographs” to “A Short History of London from the 18th Century” and “Narrow Gauge Railways in Wales”.

Alan was a remarkable but modest man. He lived in Bishop’s Waltham for 44 years and made an outstanding and unique impact on the town. We will all miss him a great deal.

Some tributes: “a warm-hearted enthusiastic man – generous with his time and talents”; “an outstanding member of the community who had the ability to bring people together for the greater good and who quietly got things done”; “He was a visionary and a doer and a finisher. A real asset to his local community”.