



BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

Newsletter for the Volunteers and Friends of the Museum Spring 2024 Issue 32

Editor: Tony Kippenberger

A message from the Chair of Trustees, Roy Stainton

We have been fortunate this last year in having been able to co-opt new Trustees in the last year, all of whom have made their own valuable contributions. They are Allison McNally, Roy King and Rob Romer. Together with our existing Trustees, the management team remains strong and effective, as the reports in your newsletter show.

We have for some while now spoken of our intention to initiate the building of a scale model of our town, set as it was around the 1840s. I am pleased to report that we have found a skilled model builder in our midst who has volunteered his services and we are currently discussing the costs that the project might incur. Once we have these figures, we shall be able to recommend how we might proceed and the eventual form the model might take.

As previously reported, we have been granted relatively significant financial funds which we are holding in reserve, but our experience over the past year has shown that any progress we make must be with caution. Income from donations made by visitors has been in decline, for which there are a number of possible reasons, including a greater reliance on payments by card and hence less cash carried and available. We are exploring opportunities to adopt a more effective card payment scheme and shall report back on that soon.

We are always indebted to our Volunteers who provide guidance at the Museum, open and close the Palace

CONTENTS:

Message from the Chairman	1
A Note for members	1
Events in 2023/4	2
2024 Annual General Meeting	4
The Parish Treasures	5
We need your help to find one!	5
Financial Report	7
Lost pubs: The Wheatsheaf	7
How to date C19th portrait photographs	9
A Bishop's Waltham Story	10
The Early History Posters	11

grounds and other important tasks. There are also our Members who pay annual subscriptions to the Museum, which are gratefully received. This too is an important form of income and we look forward both to your continuing membership and perhaps your recruitment of friends, relatives and others.

We very much hope that you will be able to join us at the AGM on Monday 25th March and I look forward to meeting you all again then.

A note for members from Gill Williams, Secretary

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.

If you are a member already, this is a gentle reminder that subs were due on the 1st February...

If you are not yet a member, come and join us! A membership application form can be found on our website:
www.bishopswalthammuseum.com

Events in 2023/4 by Penny Copeland

2023 Exhibition: Sporting Bishop's Waltham

This year's exhibition proved very popular and covered a really wide number of sports in the area. Apparently Bishop's Waltham has always loved its sports, and of course, the Palace would not have been built if deer hunting had not been so popular amongst the rich and famous.



We were fortunate enough to be loaned items from many people in the town on swimming, fishing, cycling, cricket, football, tennis, bowls and more... We can't thank you all enough for your contributions! We invited everyone who had helped or loaned items to join our members and volunteers at our summer social at the museum in July – a really fun evening.

2024 Exhibition

It was great to get some of the rarely seen items out of storage for display during the Sport Exhibition and we try to do that every year. This year, 2024, the theme is going to be the History of Bishop's Waltham in, say, 25 objects (or

groups of objects). We are just starting to choose them and it will be tricky.

Obviously we will include some of the objects on permanent display as they are crucial to our history, but delving deep into the archive is always fun! Is there anything you'd really like to see?

Forthcoming exhibitions are going to be 'Austin and Wyatt', 'Prehistoric Bishop's Waltham' and 'The Pubs of Bishop's Waltham' but not necessarily in that order...

New Online Exhibitions

As part of our collaboration with Southampton University, we have students working with us every year. We are happy to report that two new exhibitions are available online, showcasing our photographic archive.

One of the exhibitions is on the Crown Inn, an invaluable part of the town's history, and acting many times as an unofficial town hall.

The other is a celebration of Bishop's Waltham celebrations! These can be found here, together with our earlier online exhibitions on World War II and Postcards of Bishop's Waltham:
<https://www.bishopswalthammuseum.com/online-exhibitions>.

In addition, we have a Peregrine Reedpen walk around the town – see article on page 5.

Collections

We accepted quite a few items during 2023, including an archive of photos from the Primary School, given by former Headmaster John Watts – we don't know who many of the children are, so we will bring them along to functions so you can help!

Also from the Primary School are photos of Ridgemedde Swimming Pool given by former instructors and managers, including Gill Cooper and Trish Simpson-Davis. Some of these were on show during the exhibition to celebrate the incredible achievement that was the building of the pool.

Other less expected items were a socket bayonet found in the floor of No.8a Bank Street and given to us by Paul Cordery. We are still trying to date it, but it looks like it has been shortened...

He also gave us a Triumphator adding machine from Duke's, an early Barclay's Bank sign from the High Street, and two brass plaques for dentists that used to be attached to his house at April Cottage, Bank Street. At the 2023 AGM he described finding an alarming number of human teeth in the garden....

The Coronation

A Party in the Park to celebrate the Coronation was held in the Palace on the 7th May 2023 with the blessing of English Heritage. A really good time was had by what seemed like most of Bishop's Waltham, but was probably just over 1,000!



English Heritage News

The big news is that the viewing platform in the West Tower is going ahead! The archaeologists will come in the spring to clear the way, and work will start around May. The stairs are already under construction off site. The platform will be gated off so will mean more work for our volunteers who open and close the grounds, but it will enable everyone to see the fine detail of the building inside.

Heritage Open Days

This year we expanded our offering, and ran tours of the Palace, the museum and *new for 2023* the turret that can be seen in the car park of the Crown Inn.



This is a small, but very interesting little building, constructed in the 1400s, so look out for more tours in September 2024...

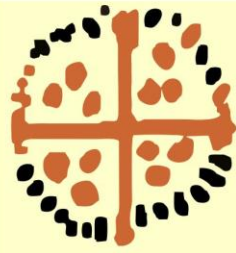
HOW MANY? If you weren't aware, every time anyone enters the site, they are now being counted by clickers on the pondside gate and the bridge over the moat. According to Ali Naylor, our Free Sites Manager, we are the third most popular free site being counted. The first is Wolvesey Palace in Winchester and second is Chester Amphitheatre. We had a staggering 39,000 visitors in the first 5 months of counting (including 1,200 for the Coronation Picnic).

English Heritage have now changed some of the rules for giving free membership passes to volunteers. We hope this will mean that our hardest working volunteers will be able to claim them and we are working towards this at the moment.

And other news

As we go to press, the Malt Lane development has started with the demolition of Fox's. The archaeologists will move in after demolition, but the Youth Hall is not being touched at the moment – please do continue to support it if you can.

Town model work is continuing so that we can explore costing more precisely. As part of that, Penny Copeland is attempting to date the buildings in the High Street. As many of them conceal their true ages behind new frontages and shop windows, this is a big job. Any information on any building from 1840 backwards will be gratefully received!



BISHOP'S
WALTHAM
MUSEUM

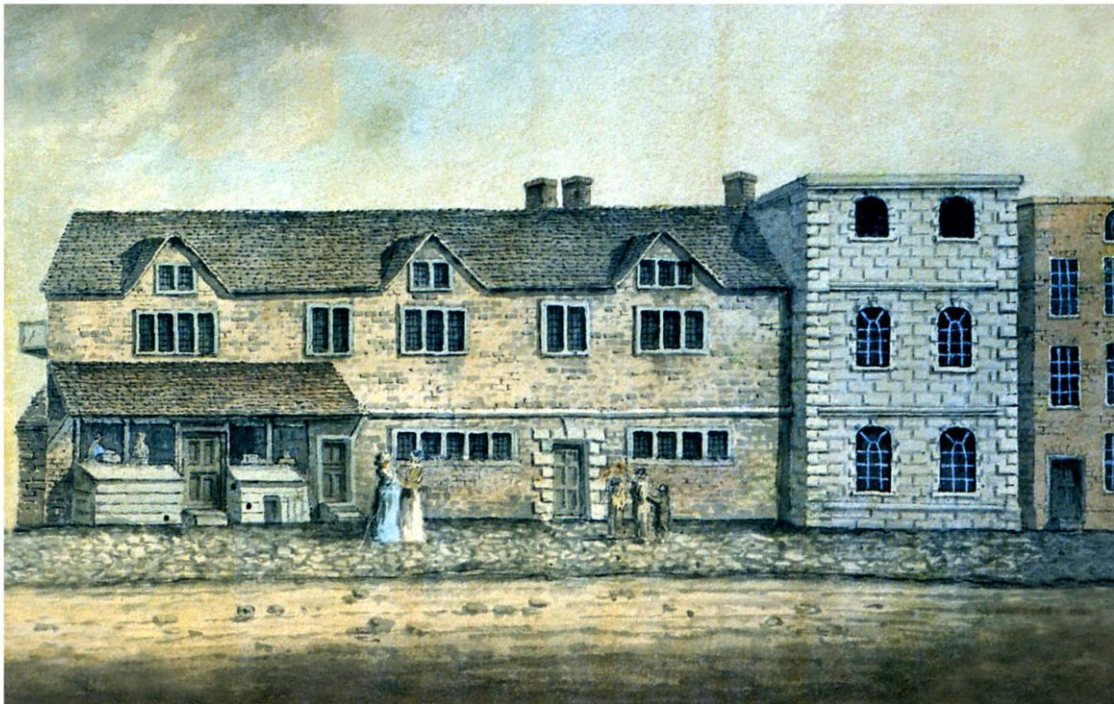
Please join us for our AGM!

Monday 25th March 2024, 7.30pm

Bishop's Waltham Church Hall, Free Street

Speaker: Penny Copeland, Collections Manager

GEORGIAN
BISHOP'S WALTHAM
Rise of the Merchants



St George's House, High Street, Bishop's Waltham. Circa 1800.

Non members welcome

For more information, please see our website bishops-waltham-museum.com
or contact us at bishops-waltham-museum@gmail.com

The Parish Treasures by

Cllr Ritchie Latham

One of the functions that a parish council can take on, if it so chooses, is as a 'repository of last resort' for community assets when their owners are unable to continue to manage them – whether those assets be local buildings, open spaces, or an eclectic collection of historical items connected with the town.

It was the latter of these that led to Bishop's Waltham Parish Council taking in the 'Bishop's Waltham Historical Collection' at the beginning of the 20th Century, when its previous curator died. The collection had originally been put on display in the hallway of the Education Institute on Bank Street in 1898 – now the apartments known as The Old School House. Once it passed into the Parish Council's hands the collection was relabelled as 'The Parish Treasures'.

Those treasures are now at the heart of the Bishop's Waltham Museum's ever-growing collection, having been restored to what is much more a 'repository of first resort'. Bishop's Waltham Parish Council have a representative (currently me) who joins the Museum Trust's trustee meetings, and, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to give thanks to the sterling work of the Museum Trustees and their team of volunteers, whose work and dedication provide us with this fantastic resource for visitors and residents alike to enjoy.

We need your help to find one of our Parish

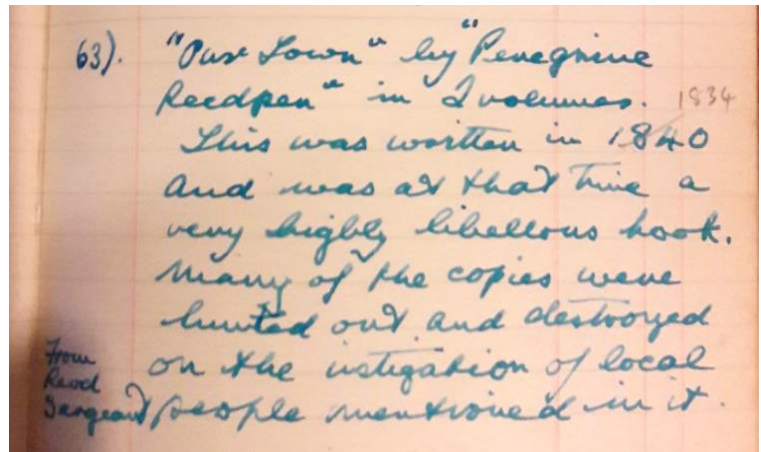
Treasures!

 From Trish Simpson-Davis, Penny Copeland and Godfrey Hebdon

Our Town by Peregrine Reedpen is a two volume book that takes a satirical look at Bishop's Waltham from the early 1800s. The pen name used by Charles Fitz

Adderley allowed him to get away with some very unflattering portrayals of the local inhabitants.

Bishop's Waltham Museum's copy of the two volumes of *Our Town* was originally owned by a Mr Blatherwick and came to us as part of the Bishop's Waltham Institute's Collection of Objects of Local Interest, otherwise known as the "Parish Treasures" (see article opposite).



The catalogue entry for the copy donated to the Museum of Local Antiquities by Rev. Fred Sergeant

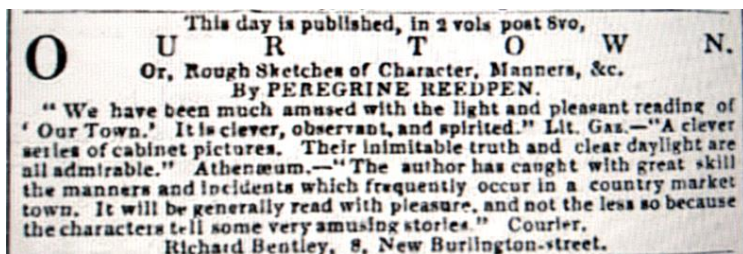
The books disappeared after the Museum had both volumes rebound by Atkinson of Wilton in 2001. As John Bosworth was the curator at the time, we assume it stayed at John Bosworth's house until his death in 2005. It seems that Bob Eastlake may have looked after it after John's death, but following Bob's death its whereabouts are unknown, so we can't be sure he ever had it. We would really like it back so if you know where it is, we would love to hear from you!

A fuller version of this article can be found in the March 2024 Parish Newsletter.

What do we know about *Our Town*?

In 1834 *Our Town*, was published by Bentleys of London. Richard Bentley signed famous authors of the day such as Victor Hugo, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and Charles Dickens.

Our Town is one of a small group of satirical novels that were written in the early Victorian era about village or town life and published by Bentleys.



The London Morning Herald's advertisement for the book on 24th May 1834

How do we know it's BW?

Does this sound familiar? "We are now standing at the door of the head inn, posting house and post office called 'The Crown'; ... opposite is the King's Head." (p.8) "This infernal sharp corner turning round by the side of our 'head inn', has been very detrimental to drunken men and carriage pannels ..." (p.205).



The Square with the Crown in the distance on the right and opposite the Kings Head c. 1840 BWA5ii

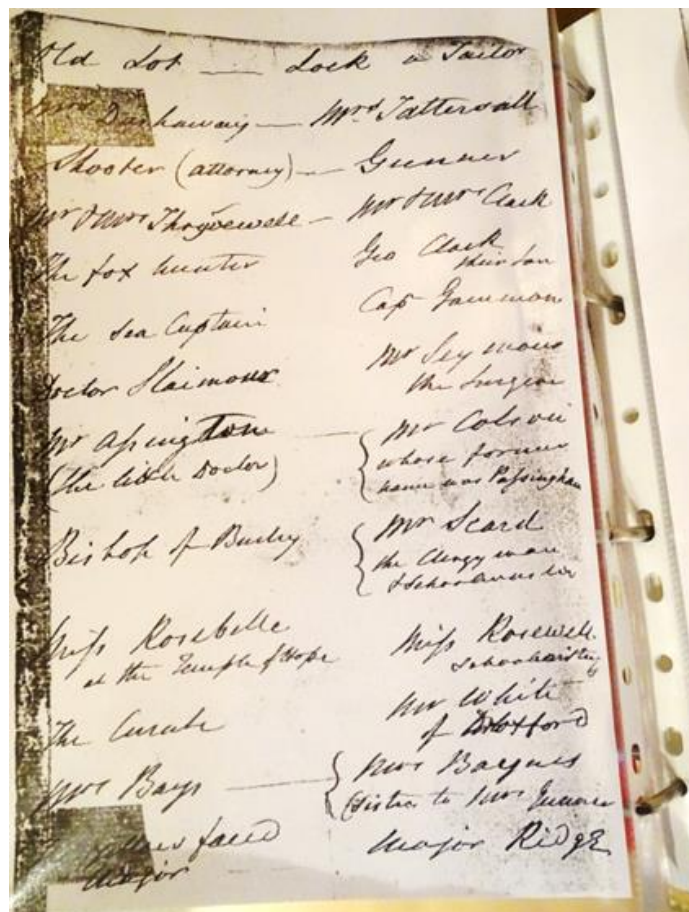
The Palace too is mentioned: "These ruins are all that remain of the abbey that once adorned 'our town', and which was founded by the ecclesiastical dignitary whose abode stood on the site of the dwelling now called 'the abbey'... one of the finest portions of the ruin has been turned into a vile cow-shed and a pig-stye!" (p.209-11). On Cobbett's plan of 1789, the Brewhouse is indeed marked as a Cowshed.

A local scandal

The museum copy of Volume 1 has many of the characters identified as real people (presumably by Mr Hatherwick), and this is its most notable feature. For example "Dr Slaimour" is identified as Dr Seymour; the "fox hunter" as George Clark, one of the brothers who ran the general store where Josie's is now; and the most convincing evidence is: "there is Miss Shooter, the attorney's daughter ..." (p277). The Bishop's Waltham

attorney at the time was Mr William Gunner. The Gunner family were so incensed by what they read that they bought up all the copies they could find and burned them!

Fortunately, the museum books were photocopied before being sent off for rebinding... so we know some of the real characters.



Will the real Peregrine Reedpen please stand up?

Charles Fitz Adderley is listed as the author by the British Library but we have no proof of his residence in the town. Research has found a Charles Fitz Adderley born in 1803 who had something of a chequered career in occupations which included "author" on his children's baptisms, but also master mariner when he was convicted of fraudulent misrepresentation. His wife, Sarah Fitz Adderley is listed in Pigot's gazetteer 1831-2 as the proprietor of a Ladies' Boarding School in Basingwell Street. Their stay in Bishop's Waltham was presumably of limited duration - a prison sentence and libellous book by the proprietress's husband would have discouraged most

parents from sending their children to the school!

Interested to know more?

There is a short and very entertaining Reedpen Gossip walk around Bishop's Waltham now on our website, made by Jess, one of our student interns. You can find it here:

<https://www.bishopswalthammuseum.com/online-exhibitions>

The Princeton University Library copy of *Our Town* is available online for free, annotated by hand after 1953 by someone familiar with Bishop's Waltham. You can find it here:

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=171UAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Our Finances by Nick Whitehead

Better interest rates on bank deposits, and sharply reduced Business Rates, helped us to make a small surplus of £300 in 2023, despite the fact that subscription income and donations were about 20% lower. We are working to reverse this trend and would be very grateful if our members would consider using standing orders so that their annual payments to the Museum don't get forgotten.

The reduction in Rates follows a successful campaign by museums nationwide to persuade the Rating Office to change the way such non-profit institutions should be assessed.

In 2024 the Trustees will be considering carefully how to use the £18,000 Covid grants the Museum received in recent years. This might include the provision of the 19th century model of the High Street and improved resources for our younger visitors.

The Bishop's Waltham Society will be re-booting a different House History activity later this year based on widespread participation and a dedicated website. More to follow...

Lost Pubs of Bishop's Waltham: The Wheatsheaf

Allison McNally with Penny Copeland

The location of the Wheatsheaf is well known – it is currently divided into three cottages and stands at the corner of Free Street and Hoe Road, opposite the Bishop's Waltham Tandoori, formerly the White Hart. The building is listed as a late medieval hall with a two storeyed cross wing and an early C18th extension (now End Cottage with the fine timber framing exposed on the north side, after an even later extension was demolished).



Wheatsheaf Cottages in November 1952
(Photographer John Bosworth) BW0120304

Why were there two inns, possibly both coaching inns at that site? Because that was the main road from Winchester to Gosport! Before Winchester Road was improved or "turnpiked" in 1833, the main road came down Beeches Hill, over the ford at Northbrook and up Free Street. It is hard to believe now, but the road then carried straight on down Green Lane (just a footpath today) and past Chase Mill.

There has been some discussion about whether the Wheatsheaf was ever The George – another lost inn – mentioned in the 1550 Rentals of the Bishop's Waltham Manors (translated by Harold Barstow). This is a possibility because, according to the late John Bosworth, the

Wheatsheaf is not mentioned until after The George has ceased being mentioned – around 1800. However, The George listed in the 1550 Rentals is likely to be elsewhere since an “Old George” is mentioned in the will of James Lacey in 1749.

In 1784 and 1792 George Lee is recorded as the brewer at The George, and he is a local man born in BW. We then lose the George around 1818 when it is sold by a Mr J Latham who became bankrupt. The Wheatsheaf pops up in a directory of 1828 with Thomas Eades as the Landlord, aged 47. He is succeeded by Ann his wife by 1830, and then Edward Eades, his son.

The 1841 Tithe Map has Ann Eades as the owner and occupier, with the 1841 census listing her son Edward as a farmer. The map shows her owning orchards and barns close to the house (pink buildings are residential, grey are outbuilding e.g. stables/barns).



By 1851, Edward and his large family had moved into the White Hart opposite (now the Bishop’s Waltham Tandoori) and was running a farrier’s business on the side. Ann was a housekeeper at Meetlands (now Metlands) Farm for Isaac Holdaway, a small farmer.

John Savage (a shoemaker!) is running the pub in the 1851 Census, another local born in Bishop’s Waltham. He married Charlotte from Droxford and had nine children. By 1861 they had moved

into the Red Lion in the centre of the village – landlord mobility in Bishop’s Waltham was remarkable!



View down Free Street to the Wheatsheaf on the left before the end bay extension and the house opposite was demolished (Photographer probably T. Duffett) BW150031

William Houghton’s will of 1846 bequeaths “*all my estate and interest in the messuage or public house called the Wheatsheaf at Bishop’s Waltham*” among his many property holdings, but he did not run it. He owned at least 10 buildings in the town, plus a lot of farming land around.

The Savage family appear to have been succeeded by the Langridges from Bighton. A Harriet Langridge was fined for short measures in her “earthenware cups” in 1855. However, she seems to be the younger sister of Mary Langridge who is listed at the landlady by around 1859. She is unmarried in 1861 but her brother George Langridge seems to have been living separately in part of the building, perhaps the first time the Wheatsheaf is divided up.

In 1871, Mary is still unmarried but her grown up illegitimate daughter Mary Ann is now with her. George has now got a large family so has moved out. Mary stayed in Bishop’s Waltham when she left the Wheatsheaf and in 1878 she is recorded at the Bunch of Grapes – clearly downsizing, but passing that pub on to her sister Harriet and her husband William Wall by 1891.

The next landlord, Henry Bicknell from c.1876, lost his wife at 54 to “excessive indulgence” especially in alcohol, with the marriage already on the rocks. He

did not stay long and it then passed through the hands of a number of landlords, including Henry Hall whose parents were running the King's Head in the village centre in 1871, and John Salter and his wife Annie who came from Devon.

The Drake family take over the pub in the late 1890s and stay for a while until we find Charles and Ann Warren in charge in 1907. The Warrens were both born in Durley and a Walter Warren had run the Robin Hood in 1891.

In 1908 the pub was sold to the Lion Brewery Company of Winchester including its outbuildings, stable and yard for £1010 (£150,000 today). The Shotts became the landlords, but by 1912, the pub had closed down and became a private house.



Early photo of the barn and stables of the Wheatsheaf to the left and White Hart Cottage as it was then called to the right (photographer possibly T. Duffett) BW00100043

The photo above by Duffett shows Hoe Road as a narrow track, and the Wheatsheaf having a number of thatched barns or stables. Note that White Hart Cottage had been divided in two at the time – see the double front doors.

How to date 19th century portrait photographs by Rob Romer

In last year's Museum exhibition on Sports there were some photographs that had not been dated. In this article I will attempt to show how photographic portraits from the second half of the 19th century can be dated.

The earliest photographic portraits were the Daguerreotypes. These date from the late 1840s and early 1850s. The image would have been fixed directly on to a silvered copper plate. The highly polished surface produced a mirrored (i.e. reversed) image which was then mounted behind glass and placed in a frame. Depending on the viewpoint, the image was seen either as positive or negative. Originally these were extremely expensive and not at all affordable by everyone. Tintypes were a later variation and much cheaper. Ambrotypes were similar in that glass plates were used to hold the image. The rear of the glass was blackened to produce a kind of positive image.

Portrait photography really took off with the introduction of the *carte de visite*. These were small albumen prints mounted on card. They measured 2½ x 4 inches and were first used in 1854 and became hugely popular in the 1860s. It became a craze to collect them and put them in albums. A much larger format, known as the cabinet card, was being used from the 1870s. These cards measured 4¼ x 6½ inches. They became very popular in the 1880s and were produced in great numbers right until the early part of the 20th century.



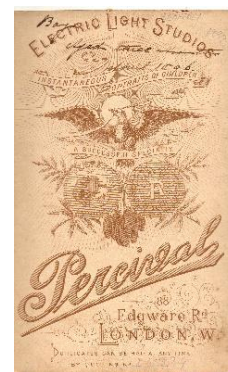
Carte de visite around 1870



Cabinet card around 1880



Cabinet card around 1890



Cabinet card about 1896

In dating early portraits the format (size) will give us a starting point. The quality of the image improved greatly over time. This was in part due to improvements in the photographic paper as well as developments in camera and lens design.

Cabinet cards from the 1890s have more of a black-and-white look than the sepia colour of earlier portraits. Exposure times in the 1850s were several seconds and were reduced to a fraction of a second by the 1890s. This meant that later subjects could be less static and a little less formal. They did not have to use props to steady themselves or have chairs to sit on.

Working from the realistic assumption that when a portrait photograph is taken then subjects would ensure that they looked their best, most likely with the latest fashion. For the most part, changes in fashion were reflected in portrait photographs and can usually be accurate in determining a particular year or years.

The back of the *cartes de visite* and cabinet cards usually had details of the studio producing the cards. Research into a particular studio can reveal the dates during which they operated. The actual card mounts can also provide helpful clues to establishing dates. All cabinet cards and some *cartes de visite* had rounded corners from the mid-1870s. Thickness and colour of the card as well as the type of lettering can provide further clues.

It may be thought that the extent to which a photograph has faded could be a good indicator. However, fading is more to do with how thorough the fixing process was completed than just the age of the picture. Also printing portraits as vignettes was popular during the 1880s and 1890s. In this technique, the image is deliberately faded out around the edge.

The above information can be used to date this photograph of members of the Gunner family. No date had been recorded.



It is a cabinet card with rounded corners and was produced by G. West & Son, of Southsea and Gosport, who were known to have operated from the 1880s. The image colour has a little less sepia appearance which would point to it being produced in the 1890s.

The image is relatively sharp considering young children are involved. This also suggests late 1880s or early 1890s. The clothing would seem to be consistent with that time period as well. This is speculation, but the image of the baby on the far right may be a kind of ghost image. It does not seem to be part of the main group and was possibly added later. Taking everything into account this photograph was most probably produced around 1890.

A Bishop's Waltham Story

by Roy King



Beeches Hill House from the Hangers. To the right is the White Horse with shop in front demolished for car park (Photographers Gain and Adams) BW0140018

In the 1920s and 1930s my great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, lived at Beeches Hill House, Bishop's Waltham.

Prior to the Second World War, they both passed away and the house was inherited by their only child and daughter, Elsie Florence who was married to my paternal grandfather, James William King.

Elsie and James were living at Myrtle Cottage in Free Street, nearly opposite to Maypole Green at the 'back' entrance to Saint Peter's Church (photo below).



Myrtle Cottage and Lithend, Free Street in 1962 (Photographer John Bosworth) BW0120167

Beeches Hill House was sold for £4,000. My grandparents decided to invest this money in the form of a Government War Loan. In return, they received a set annual interest rate of 3½%. The interest was always drawn and not reinvested. My mother once told me that it paid for Christmas and an annual summer holiday in the West Country. When my grandparents died, their papers were kept by my mother...

My father died around the turn of the century and, after a few years of living on her own in Vicarage Lane, Swanmore, my mother went into care at Ridgemeded Rest Home in Bishop's Waltham. One of my jobs at the time was to sort out any cash and investments to help pay for her care.

With regard to the War Loan, which was a single sheet of paper in a brown envelope, she told me to go to Lloyd's Bank and they would sort it out. This I duly tried to do, but the cashier looked at me, slightly bemused and called the manager.

He was very helpful and told me I needed to see a qualified stockbroker. He recommended one who worked out of a small office at the top end of Houchin

Street. The stockbroker was very helpful and smiling when I handed him the document and asked me if it had been 'officially registered'. Following my negative response, he informed me that the piece of paper that had spent the previous fifty years in the drawer was worth approximately £3,500!

Of course Beeches Hill House is now worth in excess of £1,000,000 and has been extended.

The History Posters by Tony Kippenberger



The 34 posters relating the Early History of Bishop's Waltham, on the Malt Lane site hoardings, were officially opened at the end of September by Alan Lovell, Chair of the Environment Agency and the Hampshire Cultural Trust (and former resident of Palace House).

The opening was attended by local MP Flick Drummond, the Deputy Mayor of Winchester, Russell Gordon Smith, and Judy Marsh, chairman of the Parish Council. The Museum's own Penny Copeland and local artist Chris Beardshaw (both on the right) were also there.

We hope that with repeated mention of the Museum's exhibits on many posters and full details of opening times, this Exhibition will boost visitor numbers in 2024.

Printed A4 booklets of the posters are on sale at the Museum and local shops at £5.00 a copy.