



BISHOP'S WALTHAM MUSEUM

Newsletter for the Volunteers and Friends of the Museum Spring 2020 Issue 28

Editor: Tony Kippenberger

A message from the Chair of Trustees, Roy Stainton

Despite these difficult times, the Museum grows from strength to strength. We have an excellent team of Trustees, a loyal group of Members and a dedicated band of Volunteers. We are housed in an ideal location, supported by English Heritage, the Parish Council and many Bishop's Waltham Clubs and Societies. We continue to be presented with valuable artefacts and with cash donations. The future is bright and we look forward to welcoming you all soon to your Museum and its many attractions and activities.

The past year has been somewhat varied and we have unfortunately lost some hard working Trustees but gained others. As Trustees, we have settled into specific roles and responsibilities which has meant that tasks are completed more effectively.

Administration is always something of a drag, but with a final push and effort we have been able to complete all the necessary documentation with English Heritage and the Charity Commission that has been hanging over us for some time. We are also well on the way to persuading English Heritage to complete the refurbishing of the farmhouse building in which we reside. As you will know, a number of interesting visits have been organised over the past year and there will be more when it is safe for us to mingle again. Exhibitions have been set up and are ready to go.

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Our Members, Volunteers and Visitors are the lifeblood of the Museum. We are expecting fewer Visitors this year, so without our Members we would not be able to survive financially. If you have not yet paid your subscription and intend to do so, please let us have it as soon as you are able. Volunteers (and there are Members who are Volunteers as well, of course) ensure that the Museum is properly staffed and that our responsibilities towards English Heritage for looking after the Palace grounds site are properly met. In turn, English Heritage provides us with our premises and pays a share of the rates and insurance. The work and dedication of our Volunteers is much appreciated.

I have fleetingly described some of the various activities of the Museum and they are covered by our respective Trustees in greater depth in other parts of the newsletter. My message is simple: we have a great, energetic team, a Museum of which we can be proud and an exciting future. There will be much to see and do when normality returns.

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

The New Year started off really well with a trip to the Aldershot Military Museum. Although it was a wet, cold miserable day, 16 people met at the Palace Grounds for our first outing of the year (although we did not know it then, this would probably also be our last for this year).

For people who have not visited this museum it is well worth a visit and we were privileged to have a very informative guide to show us around, finishing with a cup of tea before returning home.

At the start of the season we were fortunate to have 34 volunteers all ready and waiting for the grand re-opening. Arrangements were made for opening at Easter, also training days, a preview evening at the museum and a special opening for the VE Day anniversary in May.

Unfortunately all have been postponed for the time being. We were however able to meet at the beginning of March for a get-together at The Bunch of Grapes, kindly hosted by Stuart Pink. It was a very convivial evening with 22 people meeting up. It was a good opportunity for new and old volunteers to renew friendships and for the Trustees to hear new ideas and suggestions.

Looking ahead we have an evening booked for October (Monday 19th) for a talk on the 'Black Death' by John Merriman, which we very much hope will take place. In the meantime, see the article on page 4 by Trish Simpson-Davis.

We will, of course, keep you fully informed of further updates as and when they happen. In the meantime look after yourselves.

Our new website! By Gill Atkins, Trustee



Our new website is up and running and very fine it is too. Be sure to have a good look at it and while away some time by exploring the items included. It's at www.bishopswalthamuseum.com.

The heading, Exhibitions and Events, covers a short piece about our planned exhibition for this year which is, of course, postponed for the time being. Maybe it will be able to go ahead later in the year but failing that, it will be something to look forward to in 2021.

You can read a scrapbook from 2004, the year the Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust was formed from the foundation laid by the earlier History and Museum Societies. Read about the development of the Museum, the story of Saint Willibald, the windmills and toll houses of Bishop's Waltham, the Palace Fish Ponds and the mystery of Lawday House, a story which cites possible reasons for the presence of old public footpaths near Bishop's Waltham. Find information about the Victorian entrepreneur Arthur Helps, how D Day was experienced by locals and what the village was like in medieval times.

Take a look at the previous exhibitions or go to the collection section which shows a number of photographs of a bygone time. Maybe you will be able to identify some of the individuals portrayed!

If you are interested in Oral History you can select a name from an online

catalogue and request a transcript or recording of that person.

The website is designed by Greenfield Sites and is the work of local resident Justine Greenfield. For many years my husband and I (very regal!) ran a website for the Museum but age and ill health unexpectedly caught up with us and the site was looking in need of an update. It was time to hand over. I have pleasure in recommending Justine for her generosity of time and her commitment to delivering exactly what the Museum required

So enjoy your website and plan a visit to your Museum just as soon as we are able to reopen.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Our Partnership with English Heritage

By Nick Whitehead,
Treasurer

In 2008, when the Museum Trust moved into the Farmhouse, we took responsibility for the day-to-day care of the Palace Grounds on behalf of English Heritage (EH) under a 'Managed Property Agreement' (MPA). Each year we meet with EH to review our partnership, and every five years a new MPA is signed. In 2019 we began this formal renewal process and the new document was signed early this year, to run until 2023. This has coincided with a major, and very exciting, investment in the site by EH (see below).

Our main responsibilities are:

- To make sure the grounds are open to the public as advertised, and secured when closed.
- To ensure the grounds are clear of litter.

- To use the Farmhouse to display artefacts belonging both to the Museum and EH.
- To promote the site and to encourage visitors.
- To oversee educational trips.
- To deal with / report on complaints received.
- To report to EH maintenance and health and safety issues.
- To ensure Volunteers and other Museum representatives act responsibly and courteously.

English Heritage is responsible for:

- Maintaining the historic fabric of the grounds and its boundaries.
- Health and safety.
- Local and National publicity.

As many of you know, EH has recently reached the point of going out to tender for a maintenance project at the Palace, spending £1 million over the next two years as part of its responsibility under the agreement. This will include (hopefully later in 2020) rebuilding and repointing the perimeter walls, and the removal of the ivy from the Langton Turret in the Crown Inn car park, while in 2021 the contractors will remove the ivy from the West Tower. This is wonderful news - as is the fact that year after year so many volunteers, Trustees and others help the Museum Trust to fulfil its responsibilities.



The Langton turret – what's underneath the ivy!
(photograph taken in 1984)

Our Museum needs you...

By Gill Williams,
Secretary

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their museum membership for 2020. Although we are in strange times, the Museum continues to grow with planning, archiving and communicating with our experts at English Heritage.

All of this is only possible with the help of supporters, members and volunteers and what's more, we can claim gift aid on your contributions.

If you have overlooked subscribing for this year to support our unique little Museum, you can find a membership form on our lovely new website:
www.bishopswalthammuseum.com/support

Historical Jottings

By Trish Simpson-Davis

So what can we learn from history? Let's look back to two other pandemics. John Merriman is studying the Black Death in Hampshire at the University of Winchester and is due to give a lecture to the Friends of the Museum in the autumn. He writes:

"The Black Death's first and worst outbreak in England was during 1348-50. The Winchester Diocese, including Bishop's Waltham, suffered badly. About 40% of the rural population, about 50% of the clergy (parish priests) and about 60% of those in large towns, eg, Winchester, died. There were regular outbreaks of the plague until the last outbreak in 1665-66 which was ended by the Great Fire of London.

The horror of the Black Death was more prevalent in the summer months and its effect lessened in the winter, probably due to the demise of the rats and fleas.

There is a certain similarity between the Black Death and Covid-19 in that they both originated in China. The Black Death spread via trade routes to India and Asia Minor and then into Europe. Unlike the Coronavirus, the plague bacteria was not officially identified until 1894 by Alexander Yersin. The link with fleas and black rats was established by Paul-Louis Simond in 1898."

John tells me that Portsmouth and Gosport had a 100% death rate. An interesting pointer to the benefits of social distancing is that none of the Bishops of Winchester seem to have died of the Black Death or subsequent plagues.



A 1970's expert, Jan Titow, put the deaths in Bishop's Waltham at 65%, due to its proximity to Titchfield. Titchfield was then a European trading port on the river Hamble and the rats landed with the cargo. He based his figure of 264 deaths in an estimated population of 404 in the Manor of Bishop's Waltham (which would have included Curdrige, Durley, Upham, Swanmore, and part of Bursledon but not Droxford).

The Black Death is thought to have killed at least 75 million people in the world, probably as much as anything because the poor were pretty malnourished in those days, so their immune systems stood little chance of resisting bacteriological infections. During those Plague centuries, knowledge of the workings of the human body was primitive, let alone understanding how disease spread, so the only defence to infection was *a pocketful of posies*.

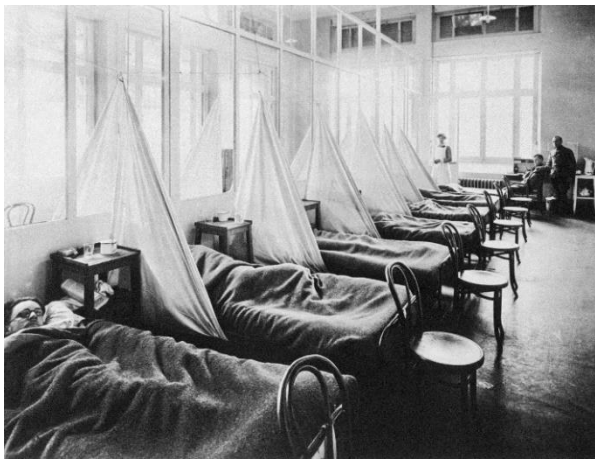
There was no paracetamol in those days, although the active ingredient in aspirin, salicylic acid, was found in willow (whose Latin name is *salix*). As willow

would have been used for so many everyday uses, we can guess that offcuts of the 2-year old saplings grown around the Upper Hamble streams and Great Pond were easily available to the local population to treat pain and fever.

Feverfew, or Bachelor's Buttons, part of the daisy family, grows into a small bush and was another plant used in medieval potions. The Latin word *febrifugia* means fever reducer, although this use is discredited today. Feverfew has numerous nasty side-effects if taken regularly and isn't a potion to make at home if you spot some growing locally!

A more recent pandemic

By 1918, knowledge of basic hygiene had improved, but when the Spanish flu (H1N1 virus) struck, European populations were already weakened by four years of war. Governments tried to hide the facts from the public, so that returning soldiers brought it home with them. More younger people died of Spanish flu than were killed in the First World War, due to virus infection ... it was to be years later that antibiotics were discovered and flu vaccines developed.



A ward during the Spanish Flu pandemic

In Britain, the death rate was a quarter of a million, about 10% of the population. 50 million people died from the Spanish flu pandemic worldwide. Today we have a sophisticated understanding of physiology and epidemiology, with a medical service free to everyone in the UK, medicines and techniques to combat infection and support life where necessary. We are horrified that the death toll might be as high as 4% of today's flu victims.

Our ancestors wouldn't even have been able to imagine such wild hopes of survival. Covid-19 isn't the worst that Bishop's Waltham has seen.

Wartime privations and shortages

By Trish Simpson-Davis

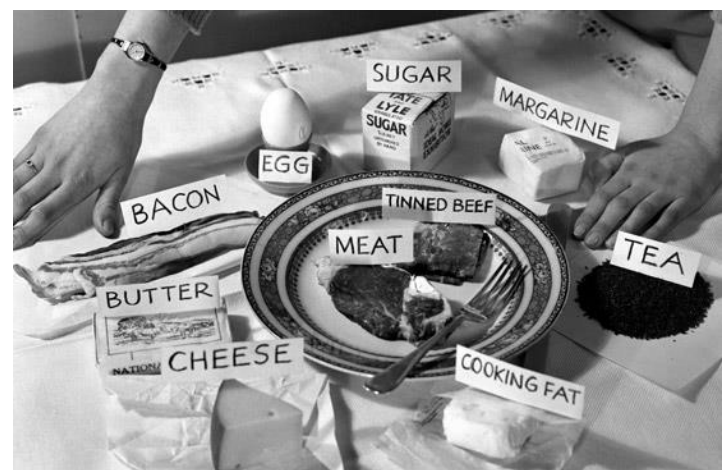
For a few weeks we have recently suffered shortages but at least we are not contending with bombs and rationing. Our Oral History gives a few insights into life over 75 years ago:

"Petrol was rationed, so we rode our bikes everywhere ...

Food was rationed from the beginning of the War and Droxford Rural District Council Food Control Office was in the Institute at Bishop's Waltham. With hundreds of other people, we had to queue to get our ration books and every year to get the new ones. Farmers were given some extra rations in Swanmore, and I used to go to the Parish Rooms in Swanmore once a week, for half a pound of cheese and some corned beef.

About 1942 there was a meat pie allowance for everyone. On Friday mornings I used to cycle to Swanmore to get one pie per person living in the house for 4d each. Eggs were rationed to one egg per person a week, but we sold packets of dried eggs to customers who had bought eggs before."

(Joan Gamblin)



An adult's wartime rations for a whole week!

"There may have been tins of corned beef, because that was a basic thing then, although now it's just like everything else. Spam, yes Spam was another thing - Spam fritters, I can still smell the fat they cooked it in, 'cos I didn't like it very much. If they had a bit of dried egg left, they mixed it with flour and water and coated it in and fried it, but I can't remember it being very nice at all!"

(Jean Marriner)

"You see, the Sunday afternoon touring they used to do had all gone. There was nothing like that: no pleasure trips, you couldn't get fuel for that sort of thing, fuel was rationed. Another thing, there was no cars on the road only people who had important duties like MoD work and government work, those sort of cars. Nothing like the cars you or I had." *(John Gent)*

An unknown narrator talks about his first job - "At 14 years old we used to come into BW in the high street and catch the bus at 6 o'clock in the morning and we never had the clothes you have today. You'd have chilblains all up the back of your legs. The bus used to drop us in Botley and we used to have to stand there and wait for the bus to come from Fareham to take us down to Hamble and then get home at quarter past eight at night. 14 years old! I'd like some of the 14 year olds today to have a taste."

A sense of community in the 1940s

"People were so nice. You would be in the garden gardening and a woman quite unknown to me would say, "Things are off ration in the street." There were sausages and you know, you would drop everything and run down and just get four sausages or something. People were so friendly everywhere. It was a different world altogether, people helped each other."

Were they so friendly before the war or do you think the war made them pull together?

"I think it made them pull together." *(Sybil Churcher)*

"It seemed everyone was ready to take children, and other people as well that could come out, particularly with babies. They used to come out at night after the bombing started in a double-decker bus and up outside the Priory Inn [*then called the Railway Inn*]. They used to park there for the night and all the houses around, if they had room, took them in and let them have a night's sleep. They used to see that they had a drink and that, and a lot of them found a home here and stayed after the War." *(Melva Avekuk)*

"Yes, it just seemed the natural thing to do." *(Unknown narrator)*

"I don't know, everyone was so neighbourly. No one that was ill was ever left to fend for themselves. We found it very neighbourly up where we lived." *(Unknown narrator)*

Val: "It was a fantastic time to live because everybody else ... no matter what you needed, somebody else would have it, and give it to you willingly, wouldn't they?"

George: "Mmm. And people would help out as best they could, you know." *(Val and George Perry)*

Times past – the 1950s

John: "On Good Friday, Stainer's bakery would be selling their buns. They'd be open for a couple or 3 hours, just selling the buns. And I can remember seeing the queue of people all the way down the street for their buns."

June: "And the fishmongers."

John: "Oh yes, and the fishmongers opposite, Mr Backhouse, on the Friday. That was the only two places open on Good Friday." *(John and June Edwards)*

The 1960s

Stuart: I think what happened was, the community were all united and it reflects now in that we're all over 60, (we) go back 50 years and anybody that you knew then from different pockets of Bishop's Waltham, all totally mates ... We're all sort of Bishop's Waltham boys together and I think we remain that way. ... We were a real close-knit community in my era of remembering the times that you've been talking about. That's my view." *(Stuart Pink)*

The A & W archives

By Penny Copeland, Curator

As most of you will know, the museum took in the extensive archive of local estate agents, Austin and Wyatt, when they left their old home in the Square last year. Our aim was to see/preserve those items that related to BW most closely, and eventually pass on the rest to the Hampshire Record Office.

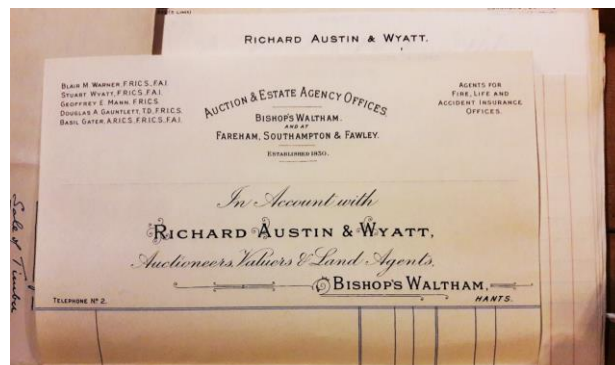
So how is it going? In short, really well! There were around 55 boxes of material, and well over 900 Ordnance Survey maps. Alan Inder took over the cataloguing of the maps and has been doing a splendid job organising them into location and date, and then whether they have been annotated (important local detail) or not. Hand-written notes (annotations) are relatively common as Austin & Wyatt appears to have dealt with most of the major land estates nearby and some further afield.

The boxes of papers have been fascinating as the range of the business was remarkable: buying forestry in Scotland, valuing carpets and lino, selling off army surplus, annual farm tax valuations (usually including the animals, tractors, feed, harvest and even dung), compensation for sewers going through land, valuing strawberry plants, property lets for military folk, valuation of jewellery etc. etc. etc.

We have all had fun from it and there are just ten boxes left in storage to look at. Of nearly a thousand entries in our database, it is hard to pick out any snippets but we do have some minor celebrities in our midst.

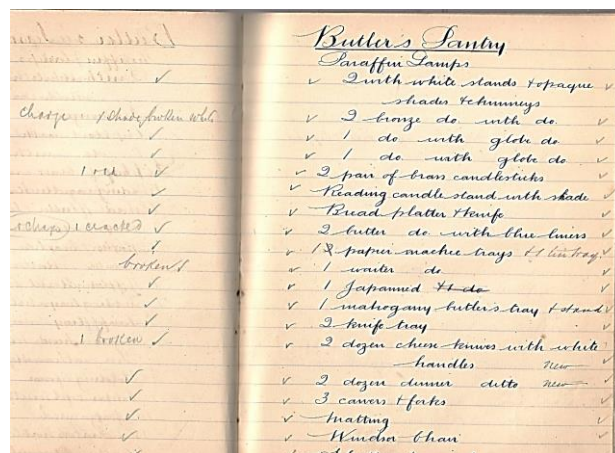
The uncle of the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, Roland Vaughan Williams QC., owned a lot of land in and around Bishop's Waltham. He lived in Surrey, so it would be interesting to know why he had land around here. Similarly, Lord Ivor Spencer Churchill, Winston Churchill's cousin, owned land here...

Richard Austin was the principal, but we still don't know anything about the mysterious "Wyatt". An early letterhead has a Stuart Wyatt on it, but this cannot be the original Wyatt – perhaps a son or grandson? There is work to be done here and it is in progress!



Early 20th century letterhead, their telephone number was No. 2 (Was Gunner's Bank No. 1?)

I am now looking for help in bringing more of the Austin and Wyatt information to the public. We have inventories for houses rented out (particularly common during and after the war), and some of the rent books of Austin and Wyatt from the early 20thC. If you could spare some time in your isolation, could you type out some of the information if we sent you some photos and a form to follow? For example, we have one for Shedfield House around 1900-1910 (see below), a typed one for Palace House rented out in 1939, and then the rent books, which tell you who owned what in the 1920s (could be anywhere Richard Austin collected rent!).



Excerpt from the Shedfield House Inventory c. 1900-1910. The item is on the right hand page, its condition, in pencil, on the left hand page.

If you are interested, please contact me at penny.copeland@btinternet.com and I will give you a few pages to see if you like it. But if you would rather enjoy a quest, I have a range of people and subjects that need a good rootle around on the internet! Just drop me a line...

The Treasurer's Report

By Nick Whitehead

At the start of 2020 I would have predicted that our income would be quite close to our expenditure. Friends' subscriptions were expected to be £550, with a further £1,500 coming from visitor donations, and £1,400 from Rate and Insurance contributions and Gift Aid. On the other side, Rates and Insurance would normally cost us £1,350 with £2,400 being spent on museum (Farmhouse) costs, printing, stationery, exhibitions, IT, etc.

Instead we now expect to make a loss, though it is not clear at this stage, how much. We are very hopeful that Friends' subscriptions will not be much affected, but visitor donations will probably be down, depending on when the present lockdown is lifted. Fortunately, our Rates are being refunded by Winchester Council, and our general expenses will inevitably fall if we are unable to run as many activities as usual.

So, overall, we are very hopeful that we will start 2021 with the majority of our reserves intact, if slightly depleted; and we are very grateful to those of you who support us through gifts of time and/or money.

VE Day Celebrations

Obviously the more normal celebrations can not go ahead at the moment, so instead of a display at the Jubilee Hall, we are putting together a "virtual exhibition" to commemorate it. This will include Austin and Wyatt gems, and other items from the museum's collection.

You will be able to find it at: www.bishopswalthammuseum.com and on the parish website soon.

Quiz Night!

By Penny Copeland

In this new world of modern technology, we are having an online quiz night! The quiz will happen at 8.15pm, Thursday 14th May (lasting around 1½ hours).

I'm sure that many of you have now ventured into the world of virtual meetings such as Zoom, but if you haven't, it is truly very easy. If you would like to participate, please email me on penny.copeland@btinternet.com by 12th May. I'll send through a meeting "invite" and instructions (and help you through setting it up if needed). If you don't want to join in on the night, then we can send you the questions to wrestle with at your leisure.

THIS IS JUST FOR FUN, AND THERE ARE NO PRIZES EXCEPT THE GLORY OF WINNING!



Oh and another thing...

As well as a new website (see page 2), our new Facebook page @bishopswalthammuseum is up and running too - please do have a look!

We welcome contributions and you can already find some cine film of the carnival in 1982 uploaded by Paul Cordery which is well worth watching.

If you "Follow" us, you will be among the first to know when we will re-open the grounds.

Our Facebook site is being looked after by Kirsten Woodsford, a new, or rather, returning volunteer!

Our football team - 100 years ago! By Penny Copeland and Tony Kippenberger



Bishop's Waltham Football Club 1920-21

This photograph has recently been donated by Fred Butters who spent the early part of his life in Waltham Chase and Bishop's Waltham. His father, Frederick Butters, had been a keen footballer but having been gassed in the First World War he became a loyal supporter of the local team instead.

Thankfully, 100 years later we know the names of the players from notes on the back. They are (from left to right): Top Row: Ralph Chalke, [?] Duke, Wilf Blackman. Middle Row: Ernie Edwards, Tim King, Reg Apps, Harry Apps, Hugh Apps. Bottom Row: Chips Apps, George Etheridge, Bill Parvin, George Moore and Alf Corke. Many of these names will be familiar to regular readers!

Fred also kindly donated another photo (below) of a team taken at an Inter League Match on the 5th February 1921. Sadly this second photograph has no names, though Reg Apps and Bill Parvin are identifiable as being part of this team. We also know that the photograph was taken at the rear of The Dolphin pub in Botley (and it looks as if the one above was too).



Meon Valley League Team 1921

These two historically interesting photographs prompted us to do some research. One thing we had noticed was that, if you look closely at the first photo, you'll see that Bill Parvin and Reg Apps have shields on their shirts. In the second photograph it is possible to see that all players have a shield badge sewn onto their shirts. These signify that they have played for the Meon Valley League Team. So what is all this about?

First things first. Bishop's Waltham Football Club was formed in 1901 and the Meon Valley League was started in 1906. It was a Sunday League which meant that all the teams in it played at the same time every Sunday in the season. Other leagues were formed as Saturday Leagues with clubs playing on Saturday instead.



The range of clubs that joined the Meon Valley League were geographically spread from Portchester and Waterlooville in the east to Bishop's Waltham, Burridge and Titchfield in the west. Other leagues also formed across Hampshire and apart from teams playing each other within the leagues, each league would have its own team, with the best players drawn from individual clubs. They would play together as a league team at annual inter-league matches.



So the second photograph is of the Meon Valley League team for 1921 – hence they all have a cotton badge saying who they are representing. In the first photograph, the fact that Reg Apps and Bill Parvin are wearing the badge means we can deduce that they had played for the Meon Valley League team in 1920 as well. So they had

earned the right to wear the badge on their own club strip.

This now helps us interpret another photograph already in the Museum's collection. It shows the Bishop's Waltham Team for 1921-22 (see below).



Bishop's Waltham Football Club 1921-22

From this we can see that there are now four players displaying the fact that they have played for the League team. In the back row, both W. Blackman and A. E. Apps have a badge and in the middle and front rows Reg Apps and Will Parvin are still wearing theirs. With four league team players on the side it is perhaps not surprising that Bishop's Waltham were that year's winners of the Meon Valley League Division 1, the South Hampshire Hospital Cup, and the Meon Valley League Pink Cup, as witnessed by the two trophy cups and the shield in the foreground. In fact these were the club's glory days, being League Champions in 1921/22 and 1922/23 and the Pink Cup winners for three years running, from 1921/22 to 1923/24.

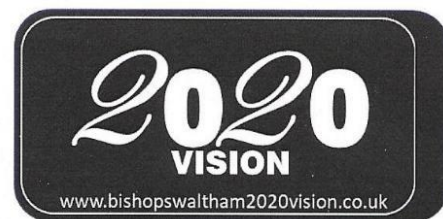
Coincidentally, also in the Museum's collection are Bishop's Waltham Football Club season tickets for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22. These provide more information on the make-up of the team, and the management, at the time.



Bishop's Waltham Football Club Season Tickets

Sadly Bishop's Waltham Town Football Club, having moved on to the Southampton League and then the Hampshire League, ceased playing in 2014. In their stead Bishop's Waltham Dynamos have done well in the Southampton League recently and are proud successors to their forebears.

And finally...



Don't forget about 2020 Vision! When Trish Simpson-Davis proposed "a community photographic project designed to record everyday life in our locality" she can have had no notion how extraordinary "everyday life" would become in 2020.

But the work will now be even more valuable as it captures such an unusual period in our town's history. Well-spaced, socially distant queues in Budgen's carpark and in the High Street, an eerily empty B2177, and an unusually empty central carpark, and there's lots more to capture! So get snapping...