

Bitterne Local

History Society



ESTABLISHED 1981

'Keeping Bitterne's History Alive'

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1005127

BYGONE BITTERNE

SPRING 2019 VOLUME 144



Thornhill Park House — see page 2

Non-members £2.00 please

**Serving Bitterne and the community
for over 125 years**

**R.C.Payne & Son
Funeral Directors**

485 Bitterne Road East
Southampton
SO18 5EQ
Tel: 023 8044 9111

- Our staff are at your service 24 hours a day
 - Memorial advice and products available
 - Funeral Plans available
 - Members of the National Association of Funeral Directors



www.dignityfunerals.co.uk
Part of Dignity plc
A British Company

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.bitterne.net

President	Mr Ian Abrahams	023 8043 1067	
Vice Presidents	Mr A.G.K Leonard Mr J. Brown	Mrs J. Nicol Miss B. McCaffery	Mr R. Sperring
Officers & Trustees			
Chairman	Peter Richards	023 8044 0864	blhs.chairman@outlook.com
Vice-Chairman	Marion Marais	075 4412 2512	
Secretary	Martyn Basford	023 8063 7967	
Treasurer	Carol Masters		

Committee

The Officers and Trustees plus:

Marion Marais	Shop Management	075 4412 2521	
Elaine Canterbury	Shop Management		
Andrew Robertson	Membership Secretary	077 4358 2259	blhsmembership@gmail.com
Elaine Canterbury	Trish McPherson	Steve Adams	Peter Shawyer

Other Contacts

Minute Secretary	Peter Richards	blhs.chairman@outlook.com	
Programme Secretary	Peter Richards	blhs.chairman@outlook.com	
Magazine Editor	Steve Adams	blhs.editor@gmail.com	
Webmaster	Celia Mayo	023 8044 8426	celia.blhs@gmail.com
Schools Liaison	Celia Mayo	023 8044 8426	celia.blhs@gmail.com
Catering Coordinator	Jill Abrahams	023 8043 1067	
Heritage Centre Coordinator	Martyn Basford	023 8063 7967	
Data Protection Officer	Steve Adams	023 8055 4232	

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month (October — August) at 7.00 pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bitterne Village. Visitors are welcome (£3.00 per meeting).

Annual membership subscription - £14.00; second person at same address £6.00 (no magazine)

Concessionary (under 18 & over 80) - £8.00; Overseas membership - £20.00

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the Society but those of individual contributors

THIS MAGAZINE CAN BE PRODUCED IN LARGE PRINT OR ELECTRONIC FORMATS
PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dear Friends	Chairman	3
Lion Cup Winner:		
Back To School, Part 2	Alan G. Clark	6
Lion Cup 2019		12
Obituary, Bob Lavington	Ian Abrahams	13
Obituary, Eddie Croxson	Ian Abrahams	15
Henry Dumbleton of Thornhill Park	Paula Downer	16
From the BLHS Newsletter of 25 Years Ago		21
New Congregational Church Hall	Ian Abrahams	22
Help Wanted: Bitterne's Pubs	Phil Warren	24
History & Heritage Club	Mary Abraham	25
BLHS Shop Hours		25
Other Local Societies		26
Coach Trip to Savill Garden and Frogmore House		29
Presidential Patter	Ian Abrahams	31
BLHS Calendar		32

The cover photograph shows Thornhill Park House in about 1910 — see the story starting on page 16 about Henry Dumbleton by Paula Downer.

The estate, originally of 430 acres, was formed in 1825 by Michael Hoy of Middanbury. The house, completed a few years later, was of large size, having 13 principal rooms and 11 bedrooms. The estate was sold for housing development in 1923 and the house demolished in 1927.





DEAR FRIENDS — From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Now that the Christmas festivities are over (it seems ages ago the decorations came down!), it is my chance to say welcome to 2019.

It has been a while since we last published a book, so I am pleased to report that BLHS local paper No.44, *Supermarine: Seen through the eyes of Bitterne Local History Society members* (44 x A5 pages) was released just before Christmas and is selling really well. The book is a compilation of articles that have appeared in *Bygone Bitterne* between 1999 and 2018 on the subject of Supermarine, many by people who worked there before, during and after the war. Copies are on sale at our shop in Peartree Avenue and on line at www.bitterne.net at £4 each. This book was issued in advance of the Nuffield Southampton Theatres' (NST) recent production of *The Shadow Factory*, a play about the dispersal of Spitfire production after the bombing of the Supermarine factory in Woolston during World War II.

It is my sad duty to report the loss of three long-standing BLHS members, who have recently passed away:

Eddie Croxson, a loyal BLHS steward, who was involved with the Society from the early days, died on 19 November 2018, at the venerable age of 96. He led a long and fascinating life, which he outlined in his autobiography. [See page 15]

Barbara House, a hardworking member of the BLHS shop management team for many years, passed away on 27 November 2018, aged 71. Barbara, who many will remember, often distributed draw prizes at our monthly Saturday meetings, bravely maintained her cheerful disposition until the end.

Bob Lavington, an enthusiastic BLHS steward for many years, was well-known for his informative guided tours of the museum. He battled on

despite losing both his legs due to illness, but sadly died on 2 December 2018, aged 78. [See page 13]

More sad news – in the last issue of *Bygone Bitterne* I welcomed ex-policeman John Jordan to our team of museum stewards. Sadly John passed away peacefully on the 10 January 2019 aged 82 years. Although he was only with us for a short time, he became well-liked for his excellent communication skills and in particular for his tales of life as a copper.

On behalf of BLHS, I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of all of the above, who will always be remembered for their unique and valuable contributions to the Society. They will all be missed.

Our monthly Saturday evening meetings at Bitterne's United Reformed Church continue to be very popular. November's talk, *How Do You Take Yours? A Secret History of Tea* by actress and historian, Jane Glennie, created much hilarity as well as interest by those lucky enough to have attended. Master story teller, Mike O'Leary, entertained us with his *Tales of Old Southampton* in his own inimitable style in December and in January Dave Yaldren's *Mid Hants Railway (The Watercress Line): Past and Present* included a DVD presentation followed by Dave's personal anecdotes from his many years of volunteering on the Watercress Line.

The April Meeting will feature our very own Martyn Basford, BLHS Secretary, with his talk, *WWI – Bitterne's Fallen Remembered*, prompted by the centenary of the end of the Great War last year.

The Lion Cup Competition is now open for 2019. Entries must be previously unpublished and may be an essay, poem, or one or more photographs with accompanying text. We are honoured that BLHS Vice President and distinguished local author, Jim Brown, has once again agreed to judge the competition.

Coming up this year:

On the 8 August 2019, the Community Event in Bitterne Precinct is back.

This will be a fun-packed day with lots of activities for children. BLHS will be running a treasure hunt, which has proved to be very popular in previous years. Bring children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren – all are welcome.

BLHS Treasurer, Carol Masters is organising a coach trip to Savill Garden and Frogmore House on Saturday 17 August 2019. Savill Garden was created in the 1930s, covers 35 acres and features rare plants from around the world. Located on the Windsor estate, Frogmore House has been a favourite Royal retreat for over 300 years; Harry and Meghan held their wedding reception here. This sounds like a trip well worth considering. [*see page 29*]

A new event for 2019 is the Southampton Heritage Fayre in West Quay shopping centre on 14 September. Naturally BLHS will be exhibiting along with many other groups. This will be on the same date as our Heritage Open Day, when our museum in Peartree Avenue will also be open to the public. We are hoping to arrange a free vintage bus link between Bitterne, the Docks and West Quay, so that people can hop-on and off at the various locations on the day.

And finally don't forget our shop in Peartree Avenue. We are always looking for donations – so if you are having a clear out bear us in mind. Also we have lots of high quality bric-a-brac, interesting local history books, Robin wool and knitting accessories, paperbacks at bargain prices and good condition vinyl records on sale. We pride ourselves on having a well laid shop offering excellent customer service – a real treasure trove - so why not pop in and have a browse.

Best wishes,

Peter



LION CUP WINNER 2018

Continued from the last issue (Volume 143 – Winter 2018)

BACK TO SCHOOL (Part 2) — Alan G. Clark

I also experienced bullying around this time. It was nothing much and it only lasted a couple of weeks but I didn't know how to handle the situation, other than to flap rather ineffectually at my tormentors. For some reason, at that particular time my face didn't fit and eventually in desperation I took what for me was unnatural and totally unplanned action. There was a boy in my year who was universally acknowledged and feared as the school bully. However, on the occasion I shall describe, he was an innocent bystander and had not been involved in the bullying I was experiencing. One playtime at the height of my troubles I noticed him close by. He was posing no threat and in fact was facing away from me when I attacked. I grabbed his belt and shirt, catching him off-guard and rammed him head first into a wall. Amazingly it worked like a charm. Not only did all bullying cease immediately but even the boy I had injured approached me the next day wanting to be my friend and offering to swap cowboy comics with me.

Sport was not really a high priority at Bitterne C of E in the 1950s. There were not the facilities. I remember in the summer, we boys would trail off in a crocodile, up through Old Bitterne to the sports ground between Hatley and Winter Roads where an attempt to organise a game of football would be made. We had no boots and played in our school clothes and if you didn't fancy it and preferred to sit it out – well, that was OK. After about half an hour we would form up again and wander back to school, always keen to see the collection of tortoises kept in wire netting frames in the front garden of the house on the corner of Hatley and West End Road. There was one occasion when boys were encouraged to go and watch Bitterne School football team take on Ludlow Road Juniors in a match held, I believe, at the Veracity ground. The score was something like 16 - 0 to Ludlow. I probably exaggerate, but this gives some indication of the standard of our football at that time.

The other sport-related activity that I recall was when it was decided that pupils should learn to swim and to this end we commenced weekly morning visits by bus, to the Inner Baths in Southampton. As I remember there were separate baths for girls and boys. Right from the start I hated everything about it. The primitive changing conditions, the overpowering stench of chlorine and the screaming loudness of it all. Most of all I disliked our swimming instructor. His name was Mr McCormick. He was a Canadian authoritarian, dressed in black and holding a long boat-hook. I like to think that I approached the prospect of these lessons with an open mind but my view soon changed. The first thing we were ordered to do was to jump into the pool at the shallow end and stay underwater for ten seconds and then, when we surfaced, do it again keeping our eyes open. Various other tortures then ensued. No doubt the system worked for some, but there was a good number of my friends for whom it didn't. Even the opportunity to purchase a penny bun at the end of the session was little compensation. After some weeks we were tested to see if we could swim the width of the pool. I, along with many others, couldn't and merely walked across whilst attempting some semblance of the breast stroke with my arms. At this point several of us gave up on swimming and instead of making our way to the bus stop each week, sidled off to play out of sight by the tiny stream that ran between the infant school buildings and Maytree Road. I think our teacher must have turned a blind eye to this. I made several attempts to learn to swim in succeeding years, all without success. Our teacher in class 3A was the avuncular Mr Mew (Tosher), whom I feel must have been getting fairly near to retirement in 1956. Most of his lessons at that time were given in Bitterne Church Hall, although throughout my Junior school years we were also taught at the Congregational Church and I believe another, perhaps the Methodist Church, occasionally — this as a result of the overcrowding caused by 'the bulge' following the war. Every day, morning and afternoon, we would form up in pairs for the short walk to the church hall, along the pathway between the school and the

church, then right into Bursledon Road. If the season was right, we would stoop to pick up the furry segments shed by the cedar tree that overhung Bursledon Road from the churchyard. We called these segments 'foxes' because of their shape, colour and texture. Being so close to the church, we frequently saw funeral processions approaching. When this occurred, our self-imposed rule was to hold on to our lapel until we spotted a dog, when the lapel could be released. I don't know how this practice originated but fortunately there were many loose dogs roaming the streets and so it never took long to see one.

I believe this was my first school year in which the concept of homework was introduced. Lessons under Mr Mew continued in a relaxed way with plenty of time for leisure and in fact I have no memory of any arithmetic being taught at that time, although obviously it must have been. I remember clearly, however, working from a blue, cloth covered book called *First Aid in English* and being tested regularly on collective nouns and various grammatical constructions. I think our parents were expected to purchase this book, as I remember my mother using it to test me at home.

And so to my final year, which led up to the Eleven Plus examination in late spring 1957. Our teacher in class 4A was Mr Wetton and what a fine teacher he was! There was bound to be pressure during the year and perhaps some might have felt it more keenly than I did, but Mr Wetton minimised any stress by handling everything with kindly yet firm efficiency. I knew the exam was on the horizon but I don't think I worried too much about it. I was however identified as being somewhat weak at arithmetic and so for a period my parents sent me each Saturday morning to Mrs Diaper to help me with 'Problems'. Mrs Diaper lived further along Peartree Avenue, at a point halfway down Freemantle Common.

Special National Savings stamps featuring Prince Charles and Princess Anne were made available for us to purchase during this school year; every

week Mr Wetton undertook these transactions. Those who participated presumably did so according to their parents means and this was reflected in the price of the stamps; Prince Charles stamps cost half-a-crown, whilst those featuring Princess Anne were valued at only 6d (!).

Preparation for the Eleven Plus exam continued at an ever-quickening pace. I remember very well the spelling tests where Mr Wetton would go round the class asking individuals to spell words such as 'beautiful' and 'necessary', among countless other words. We continued with Mental Arithmetic, 'Problems', Grammar, Composition and related subjects.

However, it wasn't all work. On one occasion each pupil was called to the front of the class to sing. The purpose of this was to select a few of us to represent Bitterne Juniors in a massed school choir at a concert to be held in the Guildhall. I believe this was probably an annual event. I was one of the lucky ones to be chosen and after a couple of rehearsals at Beechwood School, where I remember being very surprised that the conductor could pick out a child who was merely miming, we performed before a full house, which I imagine was made up mainly of parents. We sang about four songs but I can remember only the wonderful 'Jerusalem'.

Once a week we had a lesson called 'Handwork', given by Mr Statham, who happened to be the father of one of the boys in my school year. Mr Statham was an easy going sort of chap and I'm afraid I rather abused his good nature by using this lesson, away from more academic work, to indulge my principal interest at the time, that of messing about. On one occasion Mr Statham decided he had had just about enough of my disruptive behaviour, and sent me to see the headmaster. Mr Shapley occupied a very small, brick-built, add-on to the main buildings, facing the girls' playground. I was instructed by Mr Shapley to stand in the tiny corridor outside his office for the remainder of the lesson. I can recall standing in this tiny space very clearly. There appeared to be several layers of coconut matting

on the floor, which gave it a strangely yielding nature as if one were standing on the deck of a ship, but the reason the occasion has stuck in my memory all my life is because I overheard the Headmaster's secretary say quietly to him, "It does make one wonder about the parenting in these cases". Suddenly I felt a dreadful sense of shame and I wanted to shout out "It's nothing to do with them - it's me!" I didn't, of course.



Oddly, my memories of the Eleven Plus examination seem almost non-existent. I have some vague recollection of sitting at an individual desk in one of our large classrooms puzzling over mental arithmetic, but nothing else comes to mind. Obviously it couldn't have made much of an impression on me. Was this because the build-up to the exam had been so skilfully managed by our teacher? Partly perhaps, but also my inability to think beyond the moment at that stage in my life might have had something to do with it. I believe the exam must have taken place in either May or early June. Earlier in the year my parents had been required to make their choice of which Grammar School they wished me to attend if successful. I wanted to go to Itchen Grammar, for several reasons, not least because my cousin was already there but also because the school was mixed and close

by. My parents view was that King Edward VI School was the best and therefore should be my choice.

I can't imagine that lessons continued as before once the exam was over and the purpose of those lessons had been removed. We were aware that a stage in life was coming to an end. A lot of time was spent collecting autographs of classmates and teachers. I recall my autograph book clearly: A5 in size with a royal blue cover decorated with golden fleur-de-lys. I had just about everybody's autograph, and then I remembered Mr Matthews. He had never been one of my teachers but I was going for the full set. He said he didn't have time to sign at that moment but to leave the book with him and collect it later. Whether this was on the last day of term, I can't remember, but for some unknown reason I never went back for it and so it was lost forever.

I remember very well the morning the eleven plus results were published; it was a wonderful moment of congratulation and celebration. I believe that fifty children out of the fifty-two in our class had passed the exam and to my shame, amid the rejoicing I gave no thought at the time to the remaining two, who sat at their desks and cried, having gained grammar courses at the local secondary modern schools, one being Merryoak School. It all seemed a wonderful success for Bitterne but of course we never considered the large number of pupils in the B, C and D streams. I'm not certain but I don't think any of these children gained a grammar school place. Looking back from a distance of sixty years I now think that in some respects our destiny was pre-determined from too early an age. It was as it was.

As for '4A' at least, we departed with high hopes and full of confidence in our futures. We said our casual goodbyes not thinking that most of our friends we would never see again. It was just as well we didn't think of it, for as the years rolled by and we were each shaped in body and

mind by life's events, we turned slowly into different, perhaps unrecognisable people, until eventually, all these years later, I am left with the sobering thought that most of us who remain alive would not recognise each other if we passed in the street. I know it is entirely natural but I still find that fact rather sad.

It is often remarked that one's school days are the happiest days of one's life. Would I agree with that? Well, if I were to take my school days in total, then no, but if I consider only my time spent at Bitterne Church of England, then my answer would be a resounding Yes - I feel privileged to have been there.

The above account is I believe, essentially true. However, it is heavily reliant on my individual memories, and the older I get, the more aware I become that my memory is not necessarily totally dependable, and whilst I may believe something to be true, sadly it is not always the case. If any reader spots an inaccuracy, I would be very happy to hear from them and to be corrected.



LION CUP 2019

Do you have a story to tell? Or some photographs with a historic story? Or have written a poem about the history of the area east of the River Itchen? Then why not get it down on paper and submit it for our annual history writing competition, The Lion Cup. This year the rules have been changed to allow photographs, with researched captions, and poems as well as essays to be submitted. The deadline is not until the end of July so there is still plenty of time. Rules and an Application Form are available either online at www.bitterne.net or by asking in our shop.



BOB LAVINGTON, 1940 - 2018 – Ian Abrahams

Bob was born on 30 October 1940 at Southampton Borough Hospital, as the General was then known. His parents were living at number 4 Poplar Road, Merryoak and this was to be Bob's home for most of his life. After his father passed away in 1981 Bob cared for his mother until she herself died in 1992 at the age of 92 years. By this time his brother, Arthur, who was fourteen years older than Bob, had retired. Arthur sadly passed away suddenly in 2006 and Bob continued to live at Poplar Road on his own.



Bob also retired in 2006 and it was at this time that he joined Bitterne Local History Society and soon offered to be a steward in our museum, he liked nothing more than showing people round and explaining the different items on display, he also helped with various shows and exhibitions which the Society staged.

Bob was very proud of being a Lavington and had researched where the name originated. He went on several of the holidays which were organised by a member of the BLHS and much enjoyed the company. Just over two years ago his legs became worse (he was finding it difficult to walk as far as the Museum) and following a spell in hospital he was unable to return to his home of 76 years and moved into Rosewood Care Home, something he found hard to accept at first. Soon, though, he came to appreciate the excellent care he was given, especially when he lost one leg then the other within a short space of time. He was very concerned that he would not be able to return to Rosewood, but the staff rose to the challenge and coped with Bob's situation excellently. He often said that once he was in his wheelchair it gave him freedom and he was more mobile than many of his fellow residents. His positive attitude never

wavered even when diagnosed with oesophagus cancer at the beginning of 2018. He continued to visit the Museum occasionally, and much appreciated the weekly visits of Mike Paget and Gerry Franks who kept him up to date with what was going on. I understand they always visited him at tea and cake time!

It was a pleasure to have Bob as a friend and part of our History Society.



See story opposite

Left: Eddie Croxson at the re-opening of our refurbished Museum in 2013

Below: Eddie Croxson [third from left] with [L to R] Peter Baker, Mike Paget and Jim Mulholland.



EDDIE CROXSON, 1921 - 2018 – *Ian Abrahams*

Eddie's earliest memory was of using a slate and chalk when he was at school. His father showed him how to take a picture on a glass negative and develop it to get a print, he also showed him how to build a crystal set and encouraged him to read, a habit he continued for the rest of his life. He learnt to use a computer by reading books which was remarkable when you think his early schooling was using a slate and chalk.

He started work as a telegram boy and was issued with a bike to deliver his telegrams. At the start of each shift his hands would be inspected to ensure that both his hands and fingernails were clean, he would then put on white gloves before he could start his deliveries. He also worked for a local garage and used a carrier bike to deliver fully charged accumulator batteries for people to power their radios.

Eddie spent the rest of his working life at Thorneycroft's in Woolston. He worked in the shipyard for fifty years being in ship and machine maintenance he progressed to be a foreman in the engineering machine shop, finally becoming the senior training instructor in the apprentice training school. It was while working in the shipyard that he met and married his beloved wife Jean, they were married for nearly seventy five years until Jean sadly passed away early last year. As Eddie had lived in Bitterne for over eighty years he had a wealth of knowledge of the local area and was an early member of our Society. He spent over twenty five years serving as a steward in our Museum and really enjoyed helping with research and answering visitors questions. Indeed he spent many years carrying out research for his own book about his life which was finally published for his ninetieth birthday.

When the plans for the new Bitterne Bypass were put forward Eddie was instrumental in the formation of Bitterne Village Residents Association and was elected chairman. He was very proud of the fact that the group was able to influence the council's plans for the local area and helped to make Bitterne a better place in which to live. He was also involved with Bitterne Carnival when it was revived in the 1980s.

We shall always remember his willingness to help others and encourage them in their research



HENRY DUMBLETON OF THORNHILL PARK – *Paula Downer*

Reproduced from ‘Westender’ magazine by courtesy of West End Local History Society

Henry Dumbleton was born in 1782, the son of Charles Dumbleton, Esq. and Sarah Buxton of East Horsley Manor in Surrey. Like many sons of the landed gentry in the 18th century Henry Dumbleton entered the Civil Service of the Honourable East India Company, this was often seen as an opportunity to make serious money. Thereby, by appointment from the Directors of the Honourable East India Company, Henry Dumbleton set off for Bengal in India as a Writer (clerk). A year after his arrival in 1799, an academic centre for Oriental Studies was established at Fort William College in Calcutta. Henry Dumbleton soon became fluent in the Persian language winning a medal and a prize of 1000 rupees, he needed to be able to communicate with Indian officials and rulers. Persian was the official language until 1837.

Henry Dumbleton’s role as a Writer entailed assisting the Export Warehouse Keeper, within five years Henry had progressed to being in charge of collecting revenue and from then on further progression called for judicial duties. Henry Dumbleton stayed in India until 1819 when he ‘proceeded to Europe’ (ref. General Register of the Honourable East India Company’s Civil Service). In 1820 Henry Dumbleton married Ellen Norris from Hughenden House in Buckinghamshire. Her father John Norris, Esq. had inherited from his father, also John Norris, property and land in Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Warwickshire and London which included two manors, Hawley Place in Hampshire and Hughenden Manor in Buckinghamshire.

Henry Dumbleton and his new wife may have lived at Hawley Place for a short while, their first son being born in 1821, (incidentally, Ellen Norris was born at Hawley Place) before moving to Shirley which was then described as a rural area lying two miles outside Southampton. Initially, they lived at Shirley Villa, between 1823 and 1829, a daughter and three more sons were born. By 1831 the family had returned to the village of Hawley, settling in Hawley Place where another two sons and four daughters were born. The

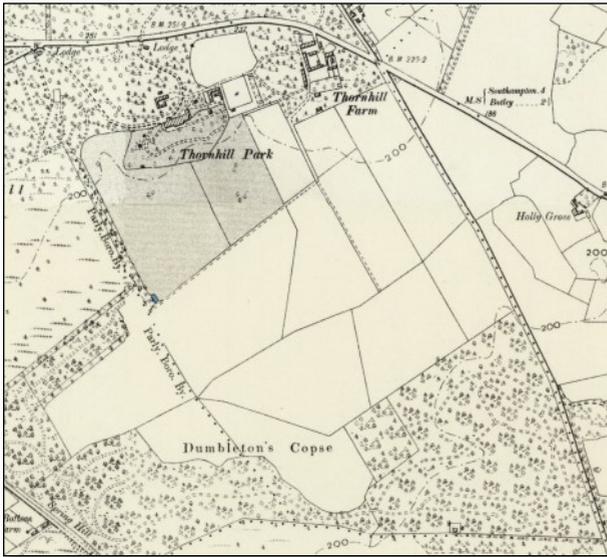
district of Hawley needed a larger church which was built in 1837, its foundation stone can be found by the north door; the inscription reads: 'The Foundation Stone of this Church Dedicated to The Holy Trinity was laid July 28th A.D. 1837 by Mrs Dumbleton of Hawley House'. The 1841 Census for England show the family had moved again and were then living in Mil-land, a village on the border of Hampshire and West Sussex.

Henry Dumbleton and his family eventually settled at Thornhill Park. In 1843, James Barlow Hoy of Thornhill Park died and his estate was put up for sale. James Barlow Hoy had been heavily in debt, Thornhill Park was difficult to sell, it was offered for sale privately and put up for auction without success and, for good measure, involved the Court of Chancery. For sale was a large country estate situated about 2 miles to the east of the Town of Southampton; a colonnaded mansion built of white bricks high up on a hill, with a view of the surrounding area of South Stoneham, Bitterne Village lying to the west. Thornhill Park was eventually sold to Henry Dumbleton in 1846.

In 1848 Henry Dumbleton was appointed Land Tax Commissioner for the County of Southampton. Names of wealthy landowners were put forward by Members of Parliament of each County in England. For Henry Dumbleton this entailed an unpaid role of assessing and collecting taxes due from the local landowners and property owned by businessmen, the rate of tax being set by the government based on the value of land and/or property.

The Census Returns of England and Wales show that the Dumbleton family employed a number of servants to look after them - Housekeeper, Lady's Maid, Housemaid, Under Housemaid, Cook, Kitchenmaid, Butler and a Footman. Two long driveways led from the road towards the mansion which faced south. A lodge was situated at each entrance. In 1871 their coachman, James Chamberlain, his wife Ann and their two young children were living in one of the lodges. Farm buildings nearby housed estate workers.

Over the years Henry Dumbleton increased his landholding, by 1873 he had a total of 429 acres, 3 roods and 23 perches which included 61 acres of woodland rented from Thomas Chamberlayne of Cranbury Park (nephew of William Chamberlayne of Weston Grove). The woodland



OS 1888-1913 series historical map of Thornhill Park [1898] with Dumbleton's Copse to south
 'Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland'

area became known as Dumbleton's Copse.

Henry Dumbleton obviously kept a watchful eye on his land, and woe be-

tide anyone who dug up his trees! A labourer was taken to court accused of stealing a 'stick' from Henry Dumbleton's land. The 'stick' in question was actually a large oak sapling which had to be held up in court by two policemen! The labourer John Cove was found guilty and sent to jail for a month. Henry Dumbleton of Thornhill Park died 9 March 1877, aged 94, and is buried in the churchyard of the Holy Saviour in Bitterne

Henry and Ellen Dumbleton had eleven children:

Henry Dumbleton born 1821, Farnham - lived in South Africa in the 1840s, married Clara Marianne Garcia in the town of George - 1850 Henry described as a Justice of the Peace - exhibited 43 specimens of Cape Woods at The Great Exhibition of 1851; awarded 'Honourable Mention' (The town of George was established in the 18th/19th century due to the growing demand for timber) - after a spell in England, Henry and Clara settled in Victoria, British Columbia.

Ellen Dumbleton born 3 Feb 1823, Shirley - 7 January 1851 married Reverend William Mortimer Dyne at St. James' Church, West End, South Stoneham. The Reverend died in June at the age of 30 whilst in service as Chaplain with the Honorable East India Company in Ghazipur, India -

Ellen Dyne re-married in 1877 to Reverend George Alfred Frederic Saulez, Rector of Exton, Hampshire.

Charles Dumbleton born 13 May 1824, Shirley - 10th Bengal Light Cavalry as Cornet - took part in Mahratta War - awarded the Maharajpooor Star (made from the bronze of captured Mahratta guns) - involved in Indian Mutiny of 1857 as Captain - awarded Indian Mutiny medal - 1856 married Elizabeth Reed, daughter of General Sir Thomas Reed G.C.B. (veteran of Waterloo) - promoted to Major in 1864 - Colonel in 1877 - Lieutenant-General in 1886 - General in 1890 - lived in Droxford, Hampshire for a number years - while in India made a series of sketches which are in the National Army Collection. Son - Colonel Horatio Norris Dumbleton (Royal Engineers) born 1858 was a first-class cricketer for England.

Arthur Vincent Dumbleton born 30 July 1826, Shirley - after 20 years service retired with honorary rank of Major 21st Regiment Hussars - married i) Marian Benson ii) Ellen - settled in Tasmania - Arthur Vincent Dumbleton is buried East Devonport Pioneer Park Cemetery.

Edgar Norris Dumbleton born 4 July 1829, Shirley/Hill - married Mary Hatherell 18 July 1853 at Hatton, Warwickshire, her father James Williams Hatherell was the first incumbent of the church of St. James' in West End, South Stoneham, built in 1838. Reverend Edgar Norris Dumbleton was Curate Newchurch Isle of Wight - Vicar St. Paul's Truro - Rector St. James' Exeter.

Horatio Dumbleton born 1831, Hawley - married Blanche Catherine Robson in 1877 in Parish of St George Hanover Square, London - Horatio was a solicitor, retired to Bedfordshire.

Agnes Augusta Dumbleton born 1833, Hawley - married Reverend Charles John Dickinson, Rector of Narraghmore, Dublin, eldest son of the late Bishop of Meath, 20 February 1854 at St. James' Church, West End, South Stoneham - Reverend Charles Dickinson residing at Narraghmore at this time.

Rosalind Dumbleton born 1834, Hawley - married Alexander De Courcy Scott (Royal Engineers) 20 May 1862 at St. James' Church, West End, South Stoneham. Alexander De Courcy Scott joined Royal Engineers in

1853 - involved in design/construction of barracks and fortifications - 1860s Ordnance Survey Southampton - Madras Public Works Department - 1877 Superintendent of the Revenue Survey Department - 1879 Executive Officer of the Ordnance Survey - 1882 retired from Royal Engineers with honorary rank as Major-General.

Walter Douglas Dumbleton born 1836, Hawley - lived in South Africa 1850s - employed as Land Surveyor - 1866 married Emma Pelly daughter of Sir John Pelly, Governor of Hudson Bay Company - after Emma died in 1885 met Elise Sundt whose parents represented the Norwegian Consulate in London - they married in 1886 - youngest son Bertram, artist, exhibited works at the Royal Academy between World War I & II. Alice Louisa Dumbleton born 1838 Hawley - married Otto J.C. Striedinger 14 July 1868 at St. James' Church, West End, South Stoneham - Otto Striedinger was H.M. Inspector of Factories (factory inspectors were appointed under the Factories Act 1833, to regulate working hours and conditions of women and children).

Mary Florence Dumbleton born 1840, Hawley - married widower John Orsborn 1880 Easthampstead, Berkshire - John Orsborn was a Physician G.P., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh - Medical Inspector under Passenger's Act - Lived in Bitterne for several years (c.1840s-1870s - 1871 Chapel Street - 1876 Brewery Road) when he died in 1883, London Gazette acknowledged John Orsborn formerly of Bitterne, late of Longdown Lodge, Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Ellen Dumbleton did not stay for long at Thornhill Park after her husband Henry died, she moved to Longdown Lodge in Sandhurst, Berkshire - The clock and one of the bells (tenor bell) of St. Michael's and All Angels Church were gifted by Mrs Ellen Dumbleton - 1881 census show Ellen Dumbleton as 'Head of family' at Longdown Lodge with her daughter Mary Florence Orsborn, both mother and daughter described as 'Annuitant'. Ellen Dumbleton died 16 August 1884.

Today, Henry Dumbleton is still remembered, there is a 'Dumbleton Close to the left of Pinewood Park from the A27 and a block of flats named 'Dumbleton Tower' adjacent to Bursledon Road near Hightown, erected 1964.



April 1994 — FROM BOSKY DELL – *Irene Pilsen* [edited]



Among the many phone calls I have received since our last Newsletter was one from an old Bitternite over on holiday from New Zealand. David Rees had been to our Charity Shop and Heritage Centre in January and had thoroughly enjoyed looking at the exhibits there. He was full of praise for the Society's book, 'Bitterne Before the By-pass'. David is in his late fifties and says the book covers the period that he remembers. ... [he] added some more information concerning, this time, the tragic death of Mr. Thornton, the very popular and efficient manager of Lankester & Crook's Butcher's shop. He told me that he was a little boy at the time and was in the shop with his mother when Mr. Thornton was using the cleaver to cut some meat on the wooden butcher's block. The cleaver suddenly slipped and pierced his leg. Mr. Thornton must have been in great pain for he ran out of the shop to seek help. He said that several people gathered round but when I asked if anyone had attempted to bandage the leg he said "No". That was all he could remember, but he seemed quite sure of his facts. I expect there was an account of the accident in the Echo, as Mr. Thornton was a much-respected man and his sudden death in so tragic a manner must have been reported. To have remembered it so vividly after all these years shows the deep impression it must have made on the little boy who saw what had happened.

I have just received a letter from Mrs. Jan Windebank, whose father was John (Jack) Bartlett of No. 4 Dean Road. He lived next door to our much-missed member Vera Read. Mrs. Windebank says she recalls quite vividly visiting her grandmother there, probably in the 1950s when she was quite small. She recalls a small, semi-detached cottage type house with a large orchard at the back where they were allowed to pick the "fallers" from the fruit trees. Her grandmother was always making jams and jellies from the fruits. ... Jack died five years ago and Vi who was in her 90s, died last year. She lived in Surrey, but despite her age would often come to visit them even though she had had two hip replacements! She adds, "As you said in 'Memories of Bitterne', they certainly built them tough in those days".



NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HALL – Ian Abrahams

Eighty years ago, in February 1939, Rev. Wilfred Wall was inducted as Minister of Bitterne Congregational Church. Since 1897 when their 'new' church building had been constructed on the corner of Dean Road and High Street they had used their previous building in Commercial Street (erected 1854) as their Church Hall. Not very convenient to have a hall several hundred yards away from the Church!

Rev. Wall launched a fund to raise money to erect a new hall at the rear of the church. In April of that year the old Sunday School Hall in Commercial Street was sold for £750 (they tried to get £1,000!). The local Roman Catholics wanted to buy it but in those days it would not have 'done' for Congregationalists to sell their building to the Catholics! In the event a prominent local business man purchased it, he was connected to the Roman Catholic Church and I am sure you can guess what happened next! Building commenced in June with the foundation stones being laid on July 10th, made of Portland Stone they cost 5/- each plus 3/9 per dozen letters.

Estimates were obtained from:

Mr Haines	£2,369 0s 0d
Mr Dowman	£1,178 0s 0d
Mr Walley	£1,312 0s 0d

Mr Dowman of Bitterne Park got the contract and it seems the final cost came to £1,300, the rest of the money needed was raised by donations,



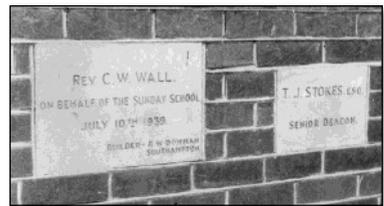
Rev. Wilf Wall laying one of the Foundation Stones



The Congregational Hall shortly after it was opened and in use as a schoolroom

including those given for autographed photographs of Rev. Wall himself!

The hall was opened in October, one month after the outbreak of WWII, shortly after it was taken over by the Auxiliary Fire Service who ate and slept there. Rev. Wall was a very popular preacher who often filled the church on Sundays, with extra seats having to be put in the aisles.



Footnote: I well remember Rev. Wall returning to preach in his retirement, he never used any notes and would relate stories of his early days working in the coal mines. He 'retired' from preaching on his eightieth birthday and preached his last sermon at Bitterne, a church he always held in much affection. The foundation stones were saved when the church and hall were demolished to make way for the Bypass in 1982 and were re-laid in the corridor of our present church in 1985.



HELP WANTED

BITTERNE PUBS — *Phil Warren*

Hi, I'm Phil Warren with a cheeky request for help, What do you know about the pubs of Bitterne?

There are times when we are doing something and we think to ourselves 'Why on earth did I ever start this?' I started researching the pubs of Southampton a couple of years ago and it really has been an eye opener, social media has been a tremendous source of information and photos.

In Bitterne there have been quite a few pubs over the years, the Alma, Angel, Bitterne Brewery, Carpenters Arms, Commercial Inn, Firs, Fox and Hounds, John Barleycorn, Percy Arms, Red Lion, Star Inn, Uncle Tom's Cabin and Yewtree; some of these have had several names. Sadly just three are left.

Photos are known of all but the Star Inn, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and Yewtree, the known photos of the Carpenters Arms are unfortunately from a distance.

My request is that members please search amongst their collected photos and records for anything to do with, not just the latter four, but all of the pubs mentioned. Did any of your ancestors run or work in any of them, do you have any family stories regarding the pubs of Bitterne? I feel strongly that unless the memories are recorded they will be forgotten forever.

Will I ever write a book about this ... remind me ... 'why on earth ...'

I can be contacted on southamptonpubs@gmail.com or via the editor.

[By coincidence the Heritage Centre is currently displaying some of it's collected artefacts from Bitterne's pubs — bottles, matchboxes, signs, pub games, ashtrays, etc. and has lists of licensees of the Bitterne pubs during the Victorian era.]



HISTORY AND HERITAGE CLUB — *Mary Abraham*

Hampshire Heritage - Saturday 18 May. A local coach trip out around our heritage; a guided tour with Jill Daniels commentary. We hope to incorporate interesting areas from 'our patch' to the Meon Valley and taking in a lot of Hampshire's wonderful countryside, stopping for a pub lunch. Details and pricing TBC.

War On The Line - Saturday 15 or Sunday 16 June. Possible trip to this special event on the Watercress Line, the Mid Hants Railway . Further details TBC.

Duxford Air show - Sunday 22 September. Further details TBC.

Holiday to the North East - Date TBC. Based at Bishops Auckland. Staying at Redworth Hall Hotel and visiting the area. Main booking is for **Kynren** - An Epic Tale of England, the action-packed live blockbuster performed by a cast and crew of 1,000 which has won the Group Travel Awards for 2018 and was taken from Puy du Fou in France where it is well established. Please put your name down if interested. Includes trip to Hartlepool Quay while in the area.

Please phone for any further details or ask at the meetings.

Mrs Mary Abraham, telephone 02380 394930.



BLHS SHOP HOURS

Our Charity Shop in Peartree Avenue, always worth a visit, is changing its opening hours. From the beginning of March it will no longer open on a Saturday morning but will be open every weekday.

Monday to Friday 10.00 to 16.00

The shop is always looking for donations of quality Bric-a-Brac, Books, Records, CDs and DVDs, Toys and Games.

OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES

West End Local History Society

Meetings in West End Parish Centre, Chapel Road, SO30 3FE at 7.30 pm

3 Apr AGM + MYSTERY RELIGIONS of the Roman Empire
by Andy Skinner

1 May SOUTHAMPTON LIDO by Jake Simpkin

5 Jun AN UNWILLING PURITAN MARTYR: Dr John Bastwick
by Frances Hard

Contact: 02380 471886

Botley, Curdridge and Durley History Society

Meetings held at the Jubilee Hall, 93 High St, Botley, SO30 2ES at 8.00 pm

26 Apr HOW DO YOU TAKE YOURS? - A secret history of Tea
by Jane Glennie

Then no more meetings until September

Contact: 01489 860760

Bishop's Waltham Local History Society

Meetings at St Peter's Church Hall, SO32 1EE at 7.30 pm

18 Apr CITIZENS ADVICE by Sarah Berry

16 May WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by Dr Bob France

20 Jun MIDSUMMER AT TITCHFIELD ABBEY with Titchfield HS
info@bishopswalthamsociety.org

City of Southampton Society

Meetings at Edmund Kell Church Hall, Bellevue Road, SO15 2AY at 7.00

29 Apr ARCHAEOLOGY FINDS AT ST MARY'S by Dr Andy Russel

20 May FROM BLITZ TO D DAY: Southampton in World War II
by Dr Cheryl Butler

29 Jun OUTDOOR VISIT TO NIGHTINGALE CHAPEL ROYAL
VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK and lunch at Dancing Goose pub

Contact: info@coass.org.uk

Hampshire Genealogical Society

Meetings held at Roman Catholic Hall, Commercial St, Bitterne at 7.30 pm

15 Apr TO THE END OF THEIR DAYS by Tony Cross
20 May MEMBERS' EVENING - To be arranged
17 Jun SUFFERING SUFFRAGETTES by Jane Glennie
Contact: 02392 387000

Friends of Southampton's Museums, Archives and Galleries

10 Apr FOOTLOOSE IN FLORENCE by Gordon Massie
12 Jun THE MAYFLOWER THEATRE by Katie Muncer
Meetings at Dolphin Hotel, 34-35 High Street, SO14 2HN at 10:30 am
Contact: info@fosmag.org.uk

Millbrook Local History Society

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millbrook Road at 7.30 pm
4 Apr THEME PARKS & CHOCOLATE : History of Paultons Park -
by Gordon Lewis
2 May CRUISE SHIPS OF THE DAY by Keith Hamilton
6 Jun POST WAR SOUTHAMPTON BUSES by David Hutchings
Contact: 023 8077 0148

Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society

Meetings at the Underhill Centre, St. John's Road, SO30 4AF at 7.45
1 Apr TROLLEYBUS TECHNOLOGY - early days by John Stainforth
13 May ALONG THE PORTSMOUTH DIRECT RAILWAY
[Portsmouth & Petersfield] by Peter Keat
3 Jun THE PANAMA CANAL by Jon Sims
Contact: 01962 855200

Nursling and Rownhams History Group

Meetings at Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall, Nursling Street,
Nursling, SO16 0YL at 7.30 pm
11 Apr JAMES NICOLSON, VC by Steve Alcock
11 May VISIT - D DAY STORY MUSEUM at Southsea
13 Jun VISIT - SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY
Contact: 02380 738552





MOBILE FOOT HEALTH CLINIC

Do you suffer discomfort from ...

- **Callus**
- **Athletes Foot**
- **Corns**
- **Ingrowing Toe Nails**
- **Verrucas**
- **Fungal Infection**

**ALL ASPECTS OF FOOT CARE TREATED
TREATMENT IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME**

CONTACT:

MELLOWJANE ROSALES

S.A.C .Dip FHPT S.A.C Dip FHPP

078 4368 6239

Evening and weekend calls available



BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
COACH TRIP TO SAVILL GARDEN AND FROGMORE HOUSE
SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 2019

Our visit begins at the Savill Garden, created in the 1930s and covering 35 acres. It features rare plants from around the world, arranged in stunning seasonal displays. There are places to eat in the garden, or you can picnic on the Obelisk Lawn, adjacent to the gardens.

In the afternoon we will make our way to Frogmore House, which has been a favourite Royal retreat for over 300 years. Harry and Meghan held their wedding reception here. It is only open to individuals on three days a year, so this is a good opportunity to visit a royal palace that is not normally easily accessible.

We will be back in Southampton at approximately 6.00 pm.

Pick up points are:

Please state your preferred pick up point when booking your seat(s).

Times to be confirmed.	Sainsburys, West End Rd, Bitterne
	Bus stop, Bitterne Park Triangle
	Bus stop, Mitre Public House, Portswood
	Chilworth Roundabout

The price of the trip is £40, which includes the coach and entrance fee. Payment may be either by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Bitterne Local History Society. Please note refunds can only be made if your seat(s) can be re-sold.

TO BOOK:

- Call in to the BLHS shop at 231 Peartree Avenue
- Add your name to the list at one of the BLHS Saturday meetings
- Telephone Carol Masters on 02380 557216
- Email csgm.masters@gmail.com



Harris Bathrooms

Bathroom Showroom Affordable Luxury Bathrooms & Tiles



- Bathroom Design Service
- Large Selection of Mirrors
- Good Choice of Accessories
- Easy Living Options
- Walk-in Shower Enclosures



Fitted Furniture in a Selection of Finishes

148 West End Road, Southampton SO18 6PL

www.harrisbathrooms.com

02380 473299

Open: Mon - Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-4pm

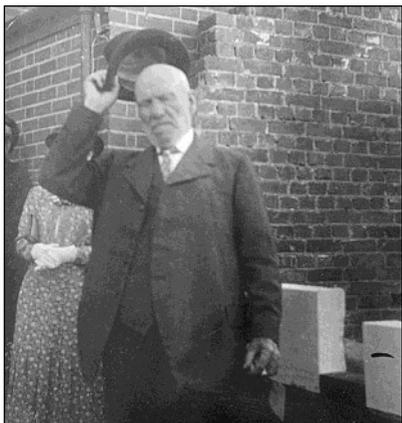
PRESIDENTIAL PATTERN — Ian Abrahams

Dear Friends,

Sadly we have lost several of our longstanding members in recent months, see elsewhere for tributes to Eddie Croxon and Bob Lavington. We also lost Barbara House after a long illness, so bravely fought, and give thanks for her many years of dedication and support to our Society, not least as Manager of our Charity Shop.

Unfortunately we are not able to open our Shop and Museum as much as we would like – do please consider whether you could offer a few hours a week or month; it is very disappointing when a visitor comes along only to find us closed, especially if they have come some distance.

Thank you for your support at recent meetings when we have had some excellent speakers (thanks to Peter) and do encourage your friends along and maybe to join our Society, even if they cannot attend meetings regularly they would, I am sure, enjoy reading our excellent magazine and, hopefully, be encouraged to share their own memories.



Thomas James Stokes, aged 84 years.
'Uncle Tom' was the owner of the local shoe shop in Lion Place and my Grandmother's Uncle. Born in January 1855 he went on to live to the grand old age of 100 years old.



2019 BLHS CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Apr 13	WWI - BITTERNE'S FALLEN REMEMBERED	Martyn Basford
May 11	TALKING BUTTS	Anthony Poulton-Smith
Jun 08	CARLTON CRESCENT & ROCKSTONE PLACE	Jake Simpkin
Jul 13	I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE	Simon Gomm
Aug 10	NEW HOPE RURAL LEPROSY TRUST IN INDIA	Jill Ghanouni MBE
SEPT 14	HERITAGE OPEN DAY - NO EVENING MEETING	

**Deadline for contributions to the Summer Edition
is Saturday, 11th May**

Please send contributions to the Editor, Steve Adams
blhs.editor@gmail.com

or address them to The Editor at the Heritage Centre
231, Peartree Avenue, Southampton, SO19 7RD

WHY BE DOWN AT HEEL?

visit the

SHOE REPAIR CENTRE

at

9A West End Road
Tel: 80446154

also providing

KEY CUTTING

and a good range of

Leather Goods



OPENING TIMES

Monday Closed

Tuesday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00 pm

Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm

enquiries@shoerepaircentre.co.uk

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CHARITY SHOP

including viewing of Museum displays

Monday — Friday 10am-4pm

Closed Saturdays

HERITAGE & RESEARCH CENTRE

Stewards available to help at

times listed on our website

www.bitterne.net

or by arrangement — telephone 023 8063 7967

231 Peartree Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton

SO19 7RD

Printed by:

**John
Buttler**
PRINTING

10 Holland Road · Woolston · Southampton · SO19 9FW

Tel: 023 8068 5248 · Fax: 023 8068 5248 · Email: johnabuttler@sky.com