

Bitterne Local

History Society



'Keeping Bitterne's History Alive'

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1005127

BYGONE BITTERNE

AUTUMN 2020

VOLUME

150



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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).

Meetings are currently suspended due to Covid-19 virus

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

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Cover photograph: Gillian Mallett's childhood home that was totally destroyed by bombing in 1940. See the Chairman's letter, opposite.

150th Edition of our Magazine

To celebrate getting to one hundred and fifty editions of our newsletter we have given you the especial treat of a colour centrespread.





DEAR FRIENDS — From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

My best wishes to you all; I hope you are coping well with the unprecedented restrictions on our daily lives, forced upon us by this horrible virus. From the Society's point of view, the outlook is positive, not least because the finances are in good order – largely due to a Council Grant and generous legacies from two of our late members, namely Alan Leonard and Bob Lavington. I am pleased to report that Jill Abrahams has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer until the AGM, enabling the finances to be monitored during this interim period.

Earlier in the year I was contacted by Peter van Tongeren from Worcester, who said his mother-in-law, Gillian Mallett (nee Turner), would like to visit the area and perhaps talk to BLHS about her WWII experiences. Gillian, now aged 94, lived at 34 Peartree Avenue as a child and was evacuated to Winchester during WWII. Her childhood home was bombed in September 1940. A visit was arranged and Gillian, her daughter Julia, and Julia's husband, Peter, duly met up with our editor, Steve Adams, and myself on Peartree Green on 14 July. This was perfect as they were going there anyway to see where Gillian's mother was an air raid warden and where the anti-aircraft gun was stationed. It was a joy to meet Gillian, who is now a BLHS member, and hear her stories. My thanks go to Peter and Julia for making this possible and to Steve for his valued contribution on the day.

The BLHS fundraising appeal for digital storage hardware reached its target of £750 by the set deadline of 31 July this year. I can now reveal that our mystery donors are Mary Ann and Jim Wilkes, who have been delighted to match this amount with another £750, allowing us sufficient funds to purchase a computer and external hard drives to store our photographic images collected over many years. This will involve a great deal of work by our volunteers but now at last this much-needed project can begin.

The BLHS Charity shop in Peartree Avenue re-opened on 3 August with COVID-19 safety measures in place and continues to trade on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. We are looking for more volunteers to increase our opening days/hours so if you know of anyone who can help then please let us know. Unfortunately, we are not able to open our Museum and Heritage Centre at this time but will keep you posted.

VJ Day on 15 August 2020, which marked the 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan, was not forgotten in Bitterne. As reported on our FaceBook page, “A small group of people, including several Bitterne Local History Society members, gathered at the POW Memorial in Bitterne Parish Churchyard this morning [15 August] to mark the end of World War Two on VJ-Day. A short service was conducted and BLHS member Bert Warne, who fought in Burma during the war, laid a wreath.” Thanks go to Martyn Basford for representing BLHS on the day and taking a number of photographs to record the occasion.

A new book *St Mary-Over-The-Water: The Story of Jesus Chapel* by Dr Cheryl Butler is now on sale at the BLHS charity shop. In September 1620 the Jesus Chapel was the first church since the reformation to be consecrated using the new Anglican Service specially written by Lancelot Andrews, Bishop of Winchester. This book tells the history of the Chapel and its Parish over the last 400 years. An excellent Christmas present for local history buffs – order your copy now!

The winner of the Lion Cup Competition 2020 is BLHS member Beryl Varilone. Congratulations Beryl – a very worthy winner; her name joins that of others engraved on the trophy; you can read Jim Brown’s assessment of the story on page eight and her entry starting on page ten. This competition has now been running continuously for ten years and perhaps now is the time to look back at the names of previous winners: 2011 Sandra Naish; 2012 Jill Abrahams; 2013 Christine Bagg; 2014 Joan

Shergold; 2015 Beryl Varilone; 2016 Alan Clark; 2017 Alan Clark; 2018 Alan Clark; 2019 Peter Taylor; and 2020 Beryl Varilone. My thanks go to Vice-President Jim Brown for judging the competition once again this year.

BLHS Members' Meetings for the rest of this year have been cancelled due to COVID concerns. However, a full programme for 2021 is now in place and we look forward to resuming meetings albeit in the 'new normal' with hand sanitisers, face coverings and social distancing precautions in operation.

My thanks go to BLHS member Spencer Millard, who has been working tirelessly on our new website, with support from Steve Adams, Martyn Basford, and myself; at the time of writing the launching of the new site is imminent.

This is my last newsletter as Chairman and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support during my seven years in office and in particular to thank the other members of the BLHS Committee, whose team effort has helped to achieve so much. I wish the new Officers and Trustees all the best going forward and hope that the Society will continue to thrive for many years to come.

Thank you.



SHOP VOLUNTEERS

As you will have read, in both Peter and Ian's letters, our Charity Shop is once again open, if only for three days a week. To continue to support the work of the Society we would love to open at least five days a week as soon as possible. If you know of anyone who may wish to volunteer then please let any member of the Committee know.



DIGITISATION EQUIPMENT APPEAL — Peter Richards

Mary Ann and Jim Wilkes [*pictured below and now revealed as the anonymous donors who matched your donations*] wish to congratulate the BLHS membership for their generosity in raising £750 towards the purchase of the equipment to digitise the Society's large collection of photographs, and they have been delighted to match this amount. Jim lived with his parents at 94 Athelstan Road and attended both Bitterne Park School and Taunton's Grammar School before leaving for Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he was a chemical engineering student from 1951–1955.



Jim was a chemical engineering faculty member at Cambridge from 1956–1960, before embarking on a similar 40-year career at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He and Mary Ann were married in Ann Arbor in 1956 and have travelled and hiked extensively in Fiji, New Zealand, Thailand, North Wales, and at least 30 times in the American West.

Jim has a special connection with 231 Peartree Avenue, extending from more than 50 years ago, when it was exclusively a shop selling knitting wool. Over more than a ten-year period, he selected and bought balls of wool at the shop and took them to his Aunt Gertrude Oscroft in Houghton, Hampshire, where she knitted them most beautifully into gorgeous cable-stitch pullovers, all seven of which are still in excellent condition and which he still wears.

Gertrude Oscroft was the daughter of Alfred Oscroft, whose 1,000-page manuscript, *Place-Names of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, was edited and typeset by Jim and was then printed in colour in Ann Arbor as a 624-page hardcover book and several hundred copies were shipped to various locations in England. Jim donated 50 copies to the BLHS for them to sell and keep the profit, and this stock has nearly been sold out.

Jim and Mary Ann say they “admire the significant historical work done by the BLHS and regret that living 4,000 miles away precludes them from attending its meetings.”

[If any member wishes to talk to Jim Wilkes about Bitterne Park School or Taunton’s he may be contacted at wilkes@umich.edu]



HELP WANTED

We have an enquirer looking for people with memories of the area of Woodmill Lane, specifically near the bottom of the hill on the north side roughly where Lingfield Gardens and Northfield Road are now. Before those houses were built it was a field containing a concrete structure that may have been a wartime anti-aircraft gun emplacement, a searchlight or barrage balloon base. If anyone can help by shedding some light on the former use of the structure then please contact the editor.

LION CUP 2020 – Our Judge, renowned local author, Jim Brown

I was born in Southampton in 1932, lived here for 82 years before we moved away to be with family, and have researched my home town for several decades. I have also had a number of my books published about different aspects of Southampton. There is, therefore, not much about the town that I do not know and one of the things I love is learning something new about what was the County Borough of my birth.

If I had been asked what I knew about the Bitterne Brewery I would, of course, have spoken about the public house in West End Road, but if you had asked about the Itchen Brewery I would have been stuck for words. Equally, if you had asked me about a sugar refinery in Southampton I would have been nonplussed, it was something I had never heard of.

Now, thanks to an entry in the Lion Cup competition I have an in-depth knowledge of both. I was amazed to see photos showing that both were massive buildings, with large numbers of staff employed. I was also unaware of the wealthy Garton family, involved with both establishments, although I did know of the Garton Ward in the Royal South Hants Hospital.

There is no doubt that the author carried out a massive amount of research before submitting their article and if any member of the Bell or Garton families wants to know about their ancestors they should obtain a copy.

When Sir William Garton died in October 1934 his estate was valued at over £2.64 million! The amount he left would be a fortune today, let alone in 1934 [According to the Office for National Statistics Composite Price Index prices in 2020 are 7,104.07% higher than average prices since 1934. The estate would have a value of over £190 billion today – Editor]

A worthy winner of the competition and a new file I am pleased to retain in my private collection. Please let more members submit similar research in next year's competition.

The winning essay starts on page 10





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ITCHEN BREWERY — Beryl Varilone – LION CUP WINNING ENTRY 2020

During the late 18th century, and the whole of the 19th, on the eastern side of the River Itchen, high on the hill behind Itchen Ferry Village stood the massive, imposing building of Bell & Son's Itchen Brewery, the towering chimney increasing its height even more.

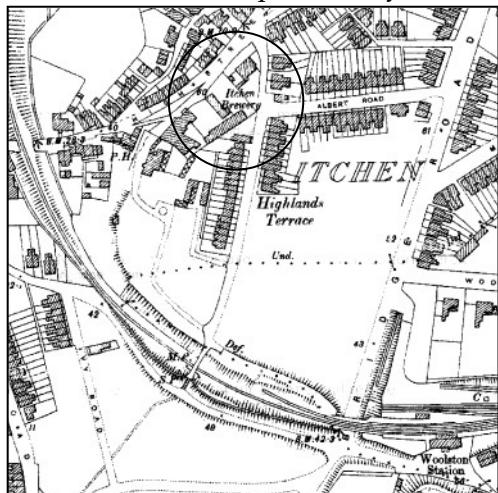
According to one of their adverts the brewery was established by the Bell family in 1765. As most of the early eldest Bell sons were named John, and were described as bakers, or brewers and bakers, it was not easy to sort out, but the first I can pin point is John (1) and Sarah who had a son John (2) in 1761 who married and had seven children before he died in 1812. They were named as John (3) born 1786, Richard, Henry, Ann, Mary, Marie (or Maria) and Elizabeth. From his will I learned that he was a baker and brewer. He owned several public houses and at least seven cottages with gardens.

The next in line was John (3), followed by John (4) who married Sarah Kerley in 1807 and George Henry was born in 1808. In 1817 Sarah died; three years later — in 1820 — John remarried. This time to Elizabeth Parley.

There were two houses on the brewery premises, each had a kitchen, scullery, two sitting rooms and four bedrooms, so were quite roomy.



Above: the Brewery



*Right: 1897 Map of the area —
Itchen Brewery in top left corner*

John (3), now a widower, was living in one and John (4) and Elizabeth settled down in the other where they produced John Henry in 1827.

In 1848 John Henry married Laurie Henderson Sutton and they had nine children, the relevant ones being Richard, born in 1851, Frederick, 1857 and William in 1865.

It seems that John Henry was suffering from a progressive and very painful illness. In spite of this, he led a very full and active life. In November 1874, at the young age of forty-three he died. In his obituary the Hampshire Advertiser wrote "... his sufferings had been intense lately, but he bore them with a resignation and cheerfulness which was quite comforting..." The list of his 'good works' is endless. To mention just a few – for fifteen years he was a church warden at St. Mary's Extra; he was a Guardian of the Poor, a Quarter Master in the 1st Hants. Volunteer Artillery; a member of the Clausentum Lodge of Freemasons and many other projects. He must have been popular, as the same report said the whole of the houses in the village and neighbourhood exhibited signs of mourning while the funeral was taking place.

Laurie moved to 'Fernleigh' in Onslow Road, where she lived until her death in 1914; in the 1891 census she was described as a retired brewer. Her unmarried daughter, Anne, was living with her "partly on mother's means". Also still at home was twenty-year old solicitor's clerk, William.

After John's death in 1874 when his sons applied for probate, the estimated value of the property was £3,230. Richard was described as a gentleman and William Henry as a solicitor, presumably they had no interest in the brewery.

The third son, Frederick, was living at 'Bordeaux' in Onslow Road, and was described as a brewer and later he was listed as a corn chandler.

The 1881 census shows 30-year-old Richard, a brewer, as the Head. Also living at Itchen (presumably in the brewery) was his 24-year-old brother, Frederick, listed as a corn chandler, and his 25-year-old sister, Ellen, who was a governess.

There were two other sisters, Caroline, 20 and Anne, 17, another brother, 16-year-old William, who was a law student and their 3-year-old niece, Ethel King.

The land on which the Brewery was built appears to have been leased from Lord Kirkcumbright although I cannot find much connection between him and Itchen Village.

An article written in 1894 titled “Southampton – Illustrated” gives a good description of the extensive brewery premises. There were offices, store yards, spacious cellars, stabling, cooperage, cask washing, bottling and other departments

The actual brewery part was large, lofty, well-constructed and equipped with the latest machinery. There was praise for the manufacturers and the end product. “... during the last 128 years the Itchen Brewery has maintained a reputation for turning out the finest ales produced on the South Coast, and the popularity of these beverages has greatly increased ...” Also, of course, there were the two comfortable houses.

As well as managing the Brewery, the family sold corn, hay, straw, meal, malt and hops. By 1851, they were employing eight men, even so, they advertised for estimates for doing extensive work and building additions to the premises. Was trade so good?

In 1889 William Garton, a director of Messrs Crowley & Co., bought the brewery for £2,140, retaining the name of Bell & Son. Frederick seems to have taken over the corn chandlery.

Unlike the Bell family, William did not live in the brewery, but bought ‘Roselands’, a fine house in Portsmouth Road in Woolston. There he settled down with his wife, Ellen, and their family of four sons, Richard, born in 1858, Charles 1860, William 1868, and in 1870, Frederick. They also had two daughters, Catherine and Rosa.

William senior had been born in 1832 in Bath where his father, who died very young, had a small brewery. After his death, William and his elder brother, Charles, had helped their mother to keep it going for a while. They later had their own brewery and were very interested in experimental



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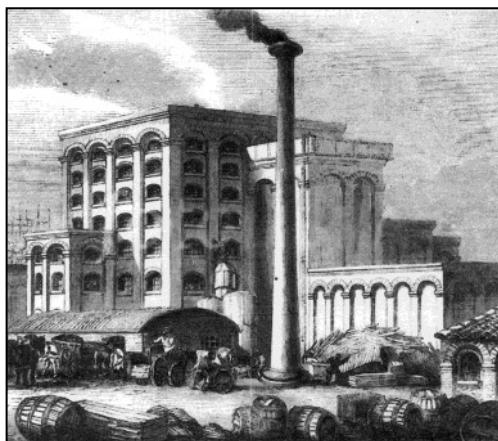
On Friday afternoons
ITCHEN, near Southampton.

work. They became directors of, and partners in, several brewery companies, including the Anglo-Bavarian Group, which concluded that a paler, lighter ale, such as was brewed in Germany, could be produced by using sugar products and adding saccharin. This produced a less alcoholic but superior flavoured drink.

William's sons, William, Charles, and Richard grew up and became active in the firm. They continued the experiments and won a medal for their ale in the 1862 Exhibition. They became very rich men. (I do not know what happened to Frederick. He

must have chosen a different career, because he does not seem to be mentioned at all in connection with the brewery).

They needed to produce things on a larger scale so, together with a Mr. Thomas Hill they started up a sugar factory just outside Southampton Docks. Thus they could produce their own "sacchrum" to use in their own brewery.



The sugar refinery in Canute Road

I know nothing at all about Mr. Hill except that he was a well-known Southampton shipping agent. Was his job to arrange for the transport to England of molasses, etc., and then the shipping abroad of the finished beer?

The following anecdote is not linked to the Southampton factory but I will include it just to illustrate the kind of thing that used to

Continued on page 19

CELEBRATION OF OUR 150TH EDITION — Editor

This is the 150th edition of the Bitterne Local History magazine and so our printer, John Buttler, kindly offered to sponsor a colour page to mark the event for which we are very grateful.

The first edition was published in September 1982 and consisted of a single foolscap sheet printed both sides. Since then we moved to a saddle stitched A5 style in June 1987, and have had four editors. In Spring 2006 the name of the magazine became *Bygone Bitterne*.

To celebrate 150 editions we have asked our President, Ian Abrahams, to select some images that shows Bitterne as it was forty years ago, and to write captions for them.

The pictures:

1. In 1986 the area in front of the Red Lion pub is being prepared to take the plinth and the Bitterne Lion. Remember Mr West the chemist, Olan Mills Photographic Studio and Curtain World? Note Mrs Diaper's house in Dean Road in the background.
2. In 1985 to celebrate the closure of Bitterne Road to traffic the local Boys Brigade Band are on the march. Some will remember them parading to the United Reformed Church on Sunday mornings. Do you remember these shops in Bitterne Road?
3. The Roman Catholic Church Hall in Commercial Street prior to being demolished and replaced with the present building. Until 1939 it was the Congregational Church Hall.
4. Remember when Bitterne had several hardware shops? Guster's and O'Dell's for many years and Westbury's was the last, closing in 2005.
5. The former Drill Hall in Red Lion Cut, immediately behind the Red Lion pub. It was used in later years as a builders and glaziers workshop.

Images overleaf, captions continue on page 18

2



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5



10

9





4

12

17

6. House for sale in 2002; formerly the home of Claude and Marie Daper. She lived there in very primitive conditions until she died aged 101. Our Society tried to save the old cottage for use as a museum but our bid was unsuccessful.
7. Bitterne Road pictured in the snow of January 1982. The Fruit and Veg shop where Ian's Grandfather traded during WWII, next is Dave's Hairdresser (he is now retired after serving our village for almost forty years), Stan Newbold's Antique Shop, Michael Lowes' Newsagency, and Tom Misselbrook Car Sales premises.
8. Albert Terrace in Bursledon Road, named to honour Prince Albert. It was home to many well-known Bitterne families, including the Eden's and Fisher's. It was demolished to make way for the bypass.
9. Do you remember the Nissen Huts at Bitterne School? Extremely cold in winter and boiling hot in summer! They came from Southampton Common where they had been part of the Allied Troop's Transit Camp during WWII. They were in use until the old school was demolished in the nineteen-eighties.
10. Harry and Dora Fraser's Newsagent shop pictured just before closure in 1982. Formerly this was 'Granny Godwin's. It had been a newsagents for approximately a hundred years. We rescued several items for our Museum, including the shop gas lamp and cash till.
11. In 1987 when the precinct was being laid out the horse trough had been removed and is seen here pending reinstatement. Sadly the lower trough and 'legs' were never put back.
12. Ted Broomfield (on the left) and Bert Gatehouse demonstrate some of their 'trick' cycles in Almatade Road on the occasion of their shop's closure in 1988. The fascia signs from the shop are on display in our Charity Shop.



ITCHEN BREWERY – continued from page 14

happen. Sugar factories were notorious for the dreadful accidents that happened in them - mostly men falling into the huge vats of boiling sugar.

There were many other accidents. In one case, a man who had been a respected grocer fell heavily into debt, lost his business and ended up working in a sugar factory. Unfortunately a hogshead of sugar fell onto his head and killed him, “dashing his head to atoms”. He left a widow and six young children, one of whom was a cripple. A few days previously, all their furniture had been sold to pay part of their rent. Because this did not raise nearly enough money, every window and door had been taken out of the house and the chimneys blocked up. So what was going to happen to this little family? They had already been destitute before this last blow! This was reported in the Liverpool Mercury, who opened an appeal for help for the family.

Here at home, on the 25th of May 1895 a very severe fire at the Brewery caused several thousand pounds worth of damage. It broke out at the top of the building and worked its way down to the cellars. It destroyed the tank room, the copper room, the mill room, the mash tun room, part of the roof of the cooling room and cellar, and a lot of damage had been done to other parts of the premises. The report in the *Southampton Times* said that “... a message had been sent over the telephone to the Southampton Fire Brigade. Superintendent Johnson and his men turned out very shortly and within twenty-five minutes of this they were on the spot, notwithstanding they had to cross the river by means of the Floating Bridge. By this time the fire had gained a firm hold and it was feared the whole of the premises would be destroyed.”

Despite many problems with the water supply, the firemen managed to subdue the fire in two hours., but several men were left on the premises for some hours, just to make sure that it did not break out again.

Unfortunately, the fire happened at an extremely busy time, when the



A fire engine of the period

Reprinted with the kind permission of Mr Alan House

brewery had just been extended and business had increased anyway. However, they quickly informed everyone that, because of their vast resources, all the orders would be met.

In 1871, Carton & Hill had bought the Shepton Mallett Pale Ale Brewery. The next year they changed the name to The Anglo/Bavarian Brewery. Here they employed about fifty people, so it was quite large. Even so, they spent a great deal of money modernising and enlarging it, even having their own electricity plant installed so that work might be continued during the night when necessary. Eventually it was large enough to need 200 workmen to keep it going.

Even after this, they soon needed to look for larger premises and began by moving their sugar refinery to Battersea.

William senior was a well-known, but very modest, philanthropist, giving a lot of money to good causes, specially the Royal South Hants Hospital, where he was a governor, and also on the Visiting Committee. He did such a lot for them that a ward was named after him. Another of his interests was the Hartley Institute, where he was a Director.

He was greatly interested in agriculture, specially roses, always winning prizes with the blooms from his magnificent garden. He gave a lot of support to the Netley and Hound Agricultural Society. Indoors he had, what was reputed to be, the finest art collection in Hampshire.

He died in 1905 at the age of seventy-five, although he had been ailing for some time his death was still unexpected. He had a very large funeral with at least nine carriages following the hearse and an enormous number of floral tributes.

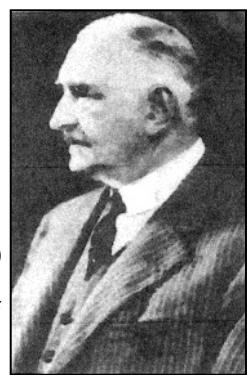
His son, Richard, attended university and attained his degree as a chemist before going to Germany and taking courses in various aspects of brewing. He became director of several brewery companies. With his brothers, he continued the experimental brewing. Even so, he managed to make time for his favourite pastime of horse racing and breeding.

He, his wife, Ellen, and their six children lived in Guildford until about 1902 and then moved to Haslemere. Here, like his father, he gave very generously to his local hospital. Like the rest of his family he was a great philanthropist. He established The Garton Foundation for the study of international relations and a British Empire Cancer Campaign.

At some period he was connected with the Army, which in 1908 led to him being knighted, and so he and Ellen became Sir Richard and Lady Ellen. Then in 1918 he was created G.B.E. He died in October, 1934, leaving an estate worth £2,641,364. 19s 7d.



William Garton (left)
1832 – 1905



Sir Richard Garton (right)
1852 – 1934

William junior, like the rest of the family, was committed to the brewing business and was on the board of several breweries, including forty years as a director of the Southampton brewers, William Cooper He was a rich man and a local benefactor, especially to the Royal South Hants Hospital. He was well respected and liked in the neighbourhood. As far as possible he tried to keep his good works secret.

He lived in "Sarisbury Court" in Bursledon for many years, then moved to "Brixiedone." This was probably in the same area. I know it was a large house overlooking the Hamble river.

He was a founder-member of the Royal Automobile Club, a committed yachtsman, a gardener, and keen on shooting.

In early 1934, his health began to deteriorate and he had to relinquish a lot of his directorships. His brothers Charles and Richard had already died earlier in the year and in November, at the age of sixty-seven, William too died – a further blow to the family, to lose three members in one year.

At some point the Itchen Brewery Company had been sold to Crowley and Co., a Southampton company who had a large brewery close to the Bargate in Southampton, and who already had connections with the Itchen Brewery. What happened after that?

Presumably they sold it on. I read that for a while it was used as a fire lighter factory, with people taking their old wood there to sell. I think that eventually another fire completely destroyed the building and it was never rebuilt although I cannot find any official information on this.

What an undignified and pathetic end.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES

Miss V. Green, in the Special Collections Library, Southampton., who gave me enormous help.

Mr Martyn Basford, Bitterne Local History Society

Mr A. House. Ex-Southampton Fire & Rescue Service

Wikipedia

Sotonopedia

Census Returns

Southampton Times

Southampton Daily Echo

Journal of The Institute Of Brewing

Winchester Records Office.



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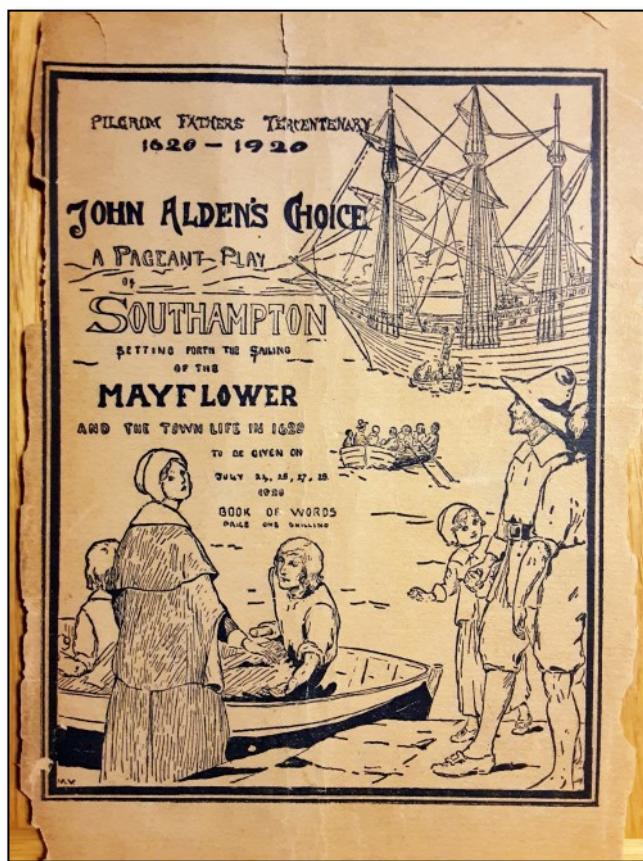
MAYFLOWER TERCENTENARY — Steve Adams

One hundred years ago, in July 1920, a pageant-play called *John Alden's Choice* was staged at West Quay to celebrate the voyage of the Mayflower three hundred years previously. Written by Myra Lovett with her father, Canon Neville Lovett, Rector of St Mary's Church, acting as pageant master and producer. The pageant was just a part of the celebration, with other events such as sporting competitions like swimming, running and climbing a greasy pole.

The play's story opens on the Town Quay in July 1620 with preparations for the sailing of the Mayflower and discussions of why they were leaving Britain. The story then took the form of a vision of America's future given by a gypsy to John Alden, an apprentice, and takes place over a number of years in the United States until the last scene returns to the Town Quay in 1620.

There was a public luncheon before the first performance attended by dignitaries from the USA and many American visitors, some of whom had just landed in England on the SS *Imperator*.

Although much of the Pageant was of a comic nature there was serious consideration of topics such as War, Slavery, Racism and Patriotism, remember the First World War



Pilgrim Fathers Tercentenary

PROGRAMME

12.30 p.m. PUBLIC LUNCHEON, Pier Pavilion,
Speeches by distinguished Americans and
others

2.45 p.m. PAGEANT PLAY, "John Alden's
Choice," by Miss Myra Lovett, will be given
on the Ancient Quayside from which the
Pilgrim Fathers sailed 444 Performers

The "Mayflower Morning," Ode by Miss
Strode-Jackson, set to music by Miss Zenie
Whitehill for Band and Chorus, will be rendered
at the opening of the Pageant

Soloist :

Reserved and Numbered Seats, 15/-, 12/-, 10/6,
5/-, 3/-, 2/-. Plan at Storry's Pianoforte Salon,
117 Above Bar, Southampton Phone 99

5.45 p.m. GRAND WATER CARNIVAL and
AQUATIC SPORTS

SWIMMING EVENTS

- 50 yards (scratch race) Elementary School Boys
 - 100 yards School Boys Race (14-16 years)
 - 50 yards Team Race - Elementary School Boys
(5 in a team)
 - 100 yards Open Handicap (Men)
 - 100 yards One Handicap (Ladies)
 - Musical Life Buoys (Ladies)
 - Exhibition of Diving (Ladies and Gents)
 - Mop Flight
 - Hat and Bladder Flight
 - Grensy Pole
- GRAND WATER POLO MATCH

ROWING EVENTS

- Four-Oared Galley Race
 - Whaler's Race (5 Men and Cox)
 - Dinghy Race (open to all comers)
 - Fishing Boats, with stern benches, not exceeding
14ft. and rowed by one person
 - Mine Sweeper's Dinghy Race (3 Men and Cox).
 - Naval only
- DUCK HUNT

Prices of Admission to Train Ferry Jetty and Royal Pier Enclosure:
After 5.30 p.m., 1s. 6d. (including Pier Toll and Tax)

July 26th, 27th, 28th, Additional Performances of the Pageant
will be given at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets, 10/6, 8/6, 5/9, 3/6, 2/4
Plan at Storry's Pianoforte Salon, 117 Above Bar

had ended less than two years previously.

The Grandstand had seating for 700 although the total number who watched is unknown and there were 444 performers.

An aspect that attracted a lot of attention in the press in Britain and America was Anglo-American cooperation in the context of wartime and post-war diplomacy, offering a basis for future shared interests.



Far Left: the cover, and Above, the inside of the programme from Ian Abraham's collection.

Right: a scene from the play – John Alden in the stocks.

Illustrated London News 31 July 1920



POEM – *Anonymous*

When I was born in Merry Oak so many years ago
We had no indoor toilet, so at night we used the po.
The lavvy was a fearsome place — so dark and spiders, too.
The seat was high, the hole was huge. I knew I'd fall right through.

The old tin bath was filled each week, then in it we would go.
First Ern then Dave then me then Tom, were scrubbed from top to toe.
Carbolic soap came in a bar for hair and body too.
We changed our undies every week like everyone we knew.

The Monday wash went in the tub, all ready to be boiled
The sheets, the undies, all went in, e'en if not really soiled.
A blue bag thrown into the rinse ensured the whitest wash.
Then all was folded neat and through the big old mangle crushed.

We didn't have much illness then — no fancy posh syndromes.
The medicine was simple, too. Doc made it up at home.
For indigestion it was white. If coughing, brown instead.
You needed a tonic? That was foul. A nasty taste and red.

These were about the only ills that came to spoil our day
Although double pneumonia would sometimes come your way.
The worst case Doc had ever seen, and sure to strike you dead.
The crisis came and all your kin were gathered round your bed.

But luckily for most of us, we lived to tell the tale,
And every time 'twas told it was embellished without fail.
Life was good then, it's still good now. I've loved it either way
And if I live to 99, I'll still enjoy each day.



FROM THE BLHS NEWSLETTER OF 25 YEARS AGO



The Mayflower Pilgrims from July 1995 — Ian Abrahams

Looking through my diary for 25 years ago I realized that this year is the 375th Anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower Pilgrims. Former minister of Bitterne Congregational Church Rev. Arthur Nagle, composed a verse reproduced here to commemorate the 350th Anniversary in 1970, copies of which were "sold in aid of the church building fund". It was to be another 15 years before the new building was erected! Also to raise money were Souvenir letter racks made by our Vice-Chairman Bob Payne, complete with a picture of the Mayflower — I still have mine on my desk today.



MMOVED BY CONVICTION THAT THE
INWARD LIGHT
ABOVE CROWNED PRINCE, PROUD PRELATE,
RANK MUST TAKE,
PIELDING TO NONE FREEDOM OF
WORSHIP'S RIGHT,
JORTH FROM GOD'S WORD ASSURED
MORE LIGHT WOULD BREAK,
LEFT THEY THEIR BIRTH-LAND.
THEN IN TINY BARQUE
OVER STRANGE, STORMY SEAS
IN FAITH THEY SAILED,
WENTERED AT SAVAGE COST
ON LAND-FALL STARK,
GNDURED, STRUCK ROOTS. THEIR
VISION HIGH PREVAILED:
ROCK-FIRM IN HISTORY STANDS
THE PILGRIMS' MARK.

A. F. Nagle



OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES

At this time most local history societies have closed down their programmes although a few are giving their talks by Zoom. Instead of the normal list of dates here are the contact details so that as things improve you can check for yourself what is taking place.

West End Local History Society

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

No meetings until 2021

Contact: 02380 471886

www.westendlhs.co.uk/meetings/

Bishop's Waltham Local History Society

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

Meetings now on Zoom, go to website for details

info@bishopswalthamsociety.org www.bishopswalthamsociety.org.uk/

City of Southampton Society

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

No meetings until 2021

Contact: info@coss.org.uk

www.coss.org.uk/

Millbrook Local History Society

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millbrook Road at 7.30 pm

Contact: 023 8077 0148

millbrookhistory.webs.com

Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society

Meetings at the Underhill Centre, St. John's Road, SO30 4AF at 7.45

Contact: 01962 855200

www.hias.org.uk/meetings.htm

Botley, Curdridge and Durley History Society

Meetings at Diamond Jubilee Hall, Botley, SO30 2ES at 8.00 pm

Contact: 01489 691777

www.botley.com/history-society

Nursling and Rownhams History Group

Meetings at Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall, Nursling Street,
Nursling, SO16 0YL at 7.30 pm

Meetings cancelled until further notice

Contact: 02380 738552

www.nandrhistorygroup.wixsite.com/nurslingandrownhams

Hamble Local History Society

Roy Underdown Pavilion, Hamble-le-Rice, Southampton SO31 4RY at
7.30 pm

Meetings postponed until further notice

Contact: 023 8045 7189

www.hamblehistory.org.uk

Hound Local History Society

St Edwards Church Hall, Grange Road, Netley, SO31 5FF at 7.30 pm

Contact: 023 8045 3641

www.hugofox.com/community/hound-local-history-society-13390

Hampshire Genealogical Society

The Southampton Group is currently closed. Some of the other groups are holding Zoom meetings, see their website for details

Contact: 02392 387000

www.hgs-familyhistory.com/

Friends of Southampton Museums, Archives and Galleries

Contact: info@fosmag.org.uk

www.fosmag.org.uk/events/

The Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery

www.fosoc.org/news

Highfield History

www.highfieldhistory.co.uk



THE BITTERNE BREWERY — Ian Abrahams

I have recently changed our display in the old 'Lego Brick' shop in West End Road (courtesy of the owner) and put in a couple of the pub signs in our collection.

One is from the Bitterne Brewery and the other the Cat & Mouse (we don't have The Big Cheese sign!)

Do you still ask for the 'Bitterne Brewery' when you get on a bus? Sadly the pub is no more and ten houses are being erected on the site.



PRESIDENTIAL PATTER — Ian Abrahams

Dear Friends,

As I write we were planning to hold our forthcoming AGM, but having listened to the government's latest restrictions to combat the coronavirus I doubt we shall be able to meet as 'normal'. I would like to express my thanks to those who are standing down for the contribution they have made to the life of our Society over many years.

Our shop was able to re-open on 3 August, only for three days a week as some volunteers still feel unable to return. We thank those who have been helping us to keep open and look forward to being able to open for more days as time goes by. It has been good to welcome both regular and new customers and our thanks must go to those who have donated goods to sell.

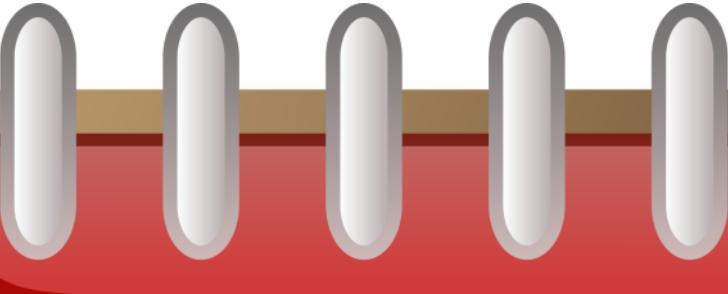
Our Museum and Heritage Centre remains closed at present but we are looking at ways of being able to re-open as soon as it is practical and safe to do so.

I would like to thank Peter and Steve for the preparation they did to enable our shop to open safely and for the way they are using 'technology' to keep in touch with members during these unusual times — what would we have done without the internet?

Do keep safe and well and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "I" and "a" connected.



BLHS CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Currently meetings are suspended due to the COVID-19 virus
At this time we are intending to start meetings again in January.
Please check on our website for the latest information.

www.bitterne.net

Jan 9	MURDER OF AN ENGLISH ACTRESS	Paul Stickler
Feb 13	WINCHESTER: BISHOPS, BUILDINGS AND BONES Part 3	Andrew Negus
Mar 13	BYGONE BITTERNE	Ian Abrahams
Apr 10	SHIPS OF SOUTHAMPTON	Dr Cheryl Butler

**Deadline for contributions to the Winter Edition
is Saturday, 12th December**

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

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Tel: 80446154

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Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm

enquiries@shoerepaircentre.co.uk

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CHARITY SHOP

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am - 4pm

HERITAGE & RESEARCH CENTRE

CURRENTLY CLOSED

Check our website for updates

www.bitterne.net

231 Pearmtree Avenue, Bitterne,
Southampton, SO19 7RD



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