

Bitterne Local



History Society

ESTABLISHED 1981

'Keeping Bitterne's History Alive'

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1005127

BYGONE BITTERNE

SPRING 2021 VOLUME 152



Sunday School Outing, 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 vacant

Vice Presidents Mr R. Sperring Mr J. Brown Miss B. McCaffery

Officers & Trustees

Chairman	Ian Abrahams	023 8043 1067	ianbitterne@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman	Kate Martin	023 8044 5062	
Secretary	Mary Abraham	023 8039 4930	maryabraham_22@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Jill Abrahams	023 8043 1067	jillbitterne@gmail.com

Committee

The Officers and Trustees plus:

Pam West 023 80448256

Other Contacts

Minute Secretary	Jo Stacey	
Programme Secretary	Peter Richards	
Membership Secretary	Barbara McCaffery	blhs1981membership@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	Steve Adams	blhseditor@gmail.com
Webmaster	Spencer Millard	
Schools Liaison	Martyn Basford	023 8063 7967
Catering Coordinator	Jill Abrahams	023 8043 1067
Heritage Centre Coordinator	vacant	
Data Protection Officer	Steve Adams	074 0110 7026

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, but see page 5

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

© Bitterne Local History Society 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Chatter	Chairman	3
Virtual BLHS Meeting		5
BLHS 40th Anniversary	Mary Abraham	6
The Lion Cup 2021		7
Shop Volunteers		7
James Wilkes – Obituary	Peter Richards	8
WW11 Letter Unites Families	Mavis Bird, Jim Wilkes	11
Women's Liberation in the 50s	Jim Brown	16
Sholing's Lost Features	Jim Brown	19
Book Review - Southampton in 50 Buildings by Garth Groombridge	Jim Brown	22
Book Review - Southampton Memories, People and Places by Peter Wardall, Rod Andrews & Ben Waring	Jim Brown	23
Demolition of Salvation Army Hall	Jim Brown	24
From the BLHS Newsletter of 25 Years Ago		27
Other Local Societies		28
From our Collection		30
BLHS Calendar		32



Cover photograph: Sunday school outing to Boscombe, in the 1930s. Do you recognise anyone? Please let us know if you do.



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Friends,

What a strange time the last twelve months have been, I do hope you have all been keeping safe and well. Jill and I have had our first jab and I expect many of you have, so here's hoping 2021 will gradually see us getting back to normal. Sadly it may be that we are not able to meet in person for several months. Our speaker Cheryl Butler has offered to host the April meeting on Zoom, so this will be a first for our Society and I hope some of you will be able to join us on this occasion (see page 5). We are looking at holding a special event in the Autumn to celebrate our 40th Anniversary year. If anyone has any photographs of Society events over the years we should be pleased to see them and may include them in a souvenir publication.

May I welcome new members who have joined us recently and a number who have re-joined after lapsing, it is good to have you back and we thank you for your support. Very sadly we have lost two members in recent months. Firstly, our good friend and benefactor from the USA Mr Jim Wilkes. He was a fascinating gentleman who will be much missed and you will find a tribute elsewhere in this issue. We also lost David Wheeler who was a regular at our meetings (his mother Nellie had been a member in the early years of our Society). Our thoughts are with the families of both these friends.

Our thanks go to Bruce and Fran Kettle who have taken over looking after our crisp packet recycling scheme and to those who regularly save them and drop them into the shop, just recently we received a payment of £50.

Sadly, our shop has been closed since Christmas but as I write we are planning to reopen on 12 April, assuming no changes in the government guidelines! We have taken the opportunity to improve the layout of the shop whilst we have been closed and have had a couple of large donations of saleable items (house contents in one case!) so we have plenty of

stock to sell.

We have also had several additions to our archives, including material relating to the Methodist Youth Club of the 1930s, donated by the family of the late Molly Bell who was active in the church for many years. Do you recognise anyone in the photograph (cover) taken on a Sunday School outing in Boscombe? Also, the late Mary Huggins family have donated a very considerable number of books, including twenty volumes of Kelly's Street Directories which are invaluable for research purposes.

Among the enquiries we have recently received we have been asked about the World War II bombing of a house in Chatsworth Road, for information about a property in Milton Road (St Annes Road) Woolston and the history of 80 Commercial Street. We were also asked whether Bitterne did anything special to mark the Festival of Britain in 1951. We have had no success yet except for the fact that the local Girl Guides held a rally at Hatley Road Sports Ground and there was a carnival at Woolston. Does anyone remember any events in Bitterne?

We are once again running our writing competition for the Lion Cup, do give it some thought. Could you write an article? See further details on page 7 of this magazine.

In closing I would like to mention quite a number of readers have said how much they enjoyed George Pettys memories in our last issue, thanks to our editor Steve for his work in reproducing it. Incidentally, my grandfather Wesley Brown, was working for Boyes Bakery in Bitterne Road, delivering bread in Midanbury at the same time George was on the milk round and I know that they would give each other the nod if someone new moved into the area.

May I thank you for your continued support, do keep safe and well and I look forward to the time when we can meet together once again.

Jan



BLHS APRIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL

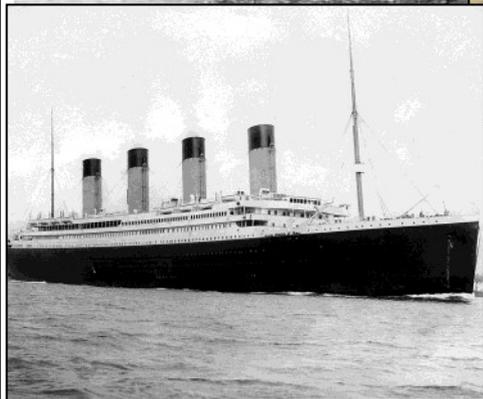
Although you will see from our website that the April meeting has been cancelled we are offering it as a virtual talk on Zoom. If you wish to take part then you will need to email **blhseditor@gmail.com** to receive a passcode to attend. Places will be limited.

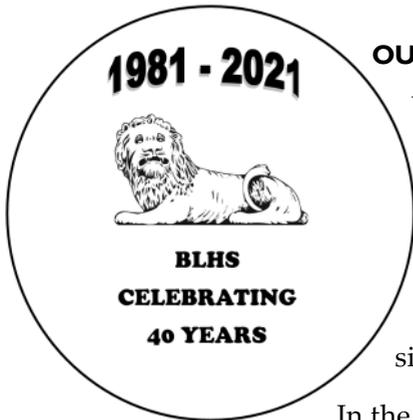
The talk will still be by Dr Cheryl Butler titled *Ships of Southampton* and will take place on Saturday, 10 April at 7.00 pm.

The *Grace Dieu*, *The Mayflower* and *The Titanic* are all iconic ships associated with Southampton. Just as significant were the *Mignonette*, *The Shamrock*, the *Habana*, and all the liners, warships, ferries and yachts.

This talk will be free but if you wish to make a donation to cover our costs then you can do so via Virgin Giving on the front page of our website.

PLEASE REMEMBER: YOU MUST BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE





OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY — Mary Abraham

Your committee is putting ideas together to celebrate our 40th Anniversary year.

It is a wonderful achievement that the Society has managed to save, display, store, research and promote an interest in, local history 'East of the River Itchen' since 1981.

In the early days we were able to join in with local carnivals, open days, exhibitions and so much more. Our grateful thanks for ALL who have helped along the way. Our History Fairs were a great success in 2009 and again in 2011 for our 30th Anniversary.

This year we hope to hold a Silent Auction with items to offer to our members and friends. We are encouraging donations to help with this and ask that they are in good condition. We need you to list, photograph, and give us a guide to a reasonable reserve price; we will then list and catalogue the items, if you feel you can help, please do get in touch. As it is so difficult to arrange events at present, we hope to be able to do the majority online, but lists and prices will be available when organised.

We would also like to include a few talks and a concert. Please keep watching the website for further developments.

Please help us to keep our museum open and resources growing, Don't forget to save your crisp packets and save your five pence pieces in the glass bottles, they do mount up quickly, with the loose change.

With Many Thanks.

For any questions please get in touch with Ian or Jill Abrahams 02380 431067 or Mary Abraham (no relation!) 02380 394930.



THE LION CUP 2021

Once again the BLHS is running its Lion Cup Competition to encourage research into the area of Southampton East of the River Itchen. Entries can be in the form of essays, poems or photographs but must be based on research, personal stories of events or buildings, etc.

Closing date is 31 July and entries will need to be accompanied by an Entry Form which is available on our website along with the rules, or may be collected from our shop when it re-opens.

The winner in 2020 was Beryl Varilone (right, with the Cup) whose entry was reproduced in the Autumn 2020 edition of *Bygone Bitterne* and titled *Itchen Brewery*. Unfortunately due to the virus restrictions she couldn't have the normal presentation of the Cup and Prize but she did receive it in her garden at a later date.



SHOP VOLUNTEERS

As you will have read in Ian's letter, we hope our Charity Shop is soon to reopen but is currently closed by government restrictions. Recently we have only been open four and a half days each week but when we reopen we would love it to be at least five full weekdays and Saturday mornings too. If you know of anyone who may wish to volunteer then please let any member of the Committee know.



JAMES OSCROFT WILKES: AN OBITUARY — Peter Richards

Sadly, one of Bitterne Local History Society's overseas members, Emeritus Professor James Oscroft Wilkes, died on 6 December 2020 in Michigan, USA, due to complications following heart surgery. He was 88. His wife, Mary Ann, survives him.

James Wilkes was an extraordinary man: a Professor of Chemical Engineering; a prolific author, writing numerous books on computer programming, numerical methods and fluid mechanics; an inspirational teacher, who taught as many as 5,000 chemical engineering students during his career and was honoured in 1987



James pictured with his wife Mary Ann

with the University of Michigan's highest award for classroom teaching; he was also an accomplished organist, receiving his organ performance diploma, Associate of the Trinity College of Music (London), in 1951.

I had the honour of meeting 'Jim', as he was affectionately known, at the BLHS Heritage Centre in Peartree Avenue on several occasions when he visited the UK in recent years and there is no-one to whom the expression 'a gentleman and a scholar' is more aptly suited. He was a very polite, kind and gracious man who offered much support to our Society. In 2015 he provided 50 copies of his newly published edition of his grandfather's material on *Place Names in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* for us to sell to raise money for the society and in 2020 he contributed £750 to our campaign to raise funds to purchase digital storage hardware to preserve our large collection of photographs. He will always be remembered for his kind generosity.

James Oscroft Wilkes was born in Southampton, England on 24 January 1932, he 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. He received his BA in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge in 1955. After graduating he received a King George VI Memorial Fellowship to the University of Michigan, USA, where he received his master's degree in 1956 and PhD in 1963. He met Mary Ann soon after arriving in Michigan in 1955 and they were married in 1956. Jim served on the University of Cambridge's faculty from 1957 – 60 before returning to Michigan in 1960. He became Assistant Professor in 1963, Associate Professor in 1966 and Professor in 1970. Jim was Department Chairman from 1971 – 1977 and Assistant Dean for Admissions from 1990 – 1994. After a 40 year career at the University of Michigan he retired in 2000. Readers of *Bygone Bitterne* may recall that in the 2020 autumn edition there was a piece about Jim, which noted that he "had a special connection with 231 Peartree Avenue." Look up the article to find out more.

It is heart-warming to recall Jim saying recently how much he admired the significant historical work done by the BLHS. He will be missed by all who knew him.



The article on the following pages was submitted before Jim Oscroft's passing, and was written jointly with Mavis Bird.

This photo was taken in September 2018 of Jim and Mavis Bird, of Mon Crescent, both BLHS members. Both their fathers were teachers at Bitterne Park School and were evacuated to New Milton with their children. This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mavis' father's passing.





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



BLHS, AND A WWI I LETTER, UNITES BITTERNE FAMILIES AFTER EIGHTY YEARS — *Mavis Bird and Jim Wilkes*

The story begins with the detailed records that Mavis's father, Eric Wyeth Gadd, made and retained of his position during WWII when he was in charge of boy evacuees who had been sent to New Milton from Bitterne Park Senior Boys School. In looking through these records, Mavis found a file marked "Problems". These difficulties could relate to billeting, health, or bad behaviour. Among this was a hand-written letter from a colleague teacher called Colin Wilkes (see the Appendix for a copy of the letter). Mavis and her sister Wendy remembered Mr Wilkes well—a very nice, gentle man. As you can read in the attached letter, these lads needed to be dealt with and Eric had to sort it out!

Mavis discovered that Mr Wilkes's son, Jim, was a member of the Bitterne Local History Society, and had lived with his parents at 94 Athelstan Road for much of the first 20 years of his life. But since 1960 Jim has lived with his wife Mary Ann in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA where he was a professor of chemical engineering for 40 years at the University of Michigan. Jim had edited and typeset his grandfather's monumental work *Place-Names of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and had given 50 copies of the hardcover book to the BLHS for them to sell and keep the profits.

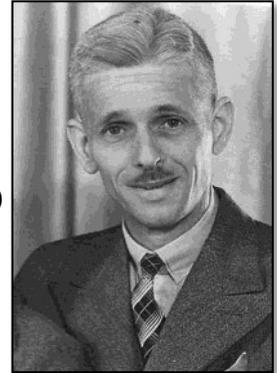
Mavis thought Jim would like to read his father's letter, and obtained his address from Peter Richards, Chair of the BLHS, and, in October 2016, sent him a copy of the letter with an explanation. Soon afterwards Jim phoned Mavis. He explained he had just returned from his annual visit to the UK but planned another visit in 2018 and he would like to meet.

Mavis had heard about Jim when she was growing up. Her dad always described him as a very clever boy, who went to both Bitterne Park and Taunton's Schools before entering the University of Cambridge. Although the Wilkes family lived in Athelstan Road and the Gadds in near-by Chessel Avenue, they had never met! Jim and Mavis exchanged Christmas cards and Jim kindly arranged for Mavis to have a copy of his grandfather's book.

In Sept 2018 Jim came to see Mavis and her son—also named Jim. Mavis baked a cake and they spent a very enjoyable couple of hours getting to know each another. Mavis's son Jim took a photo (page 9) and they said how delighted their Dads would have been to know they'd finally met in their 80s! Jim visited Mavis again in October 2019 and they had another great time together. They've become firm friends and have so much in common and a similar sense of humour. Sadly Jim passed away in December 2020.



Left: Eric Gadd (c1970)



Right: Colin Wilkes (1945)

Eric Gadd continued teaching art at Taunton's Grammar School in Southampton after the war, until his appointment as Headmaster at Northam Junior School. In 1952 he was made Headmaster of a new school, Beechwood Junior, in Glenfield Avenue. He retired, aged 62, to begin a new career as author of seven books about the history of his home town, Southampton, plus numerous articles for the *Hampshire* magazine and the *Southern Daily Echo*. He also helped Ian Abrahams to establish the Bitterne Local History Society. He was a very active member of the Civic Trust, now the Southampton Civic Society. He worked tirelessly with other enthusiasts to prevent parking on the Southampton Common. He died aged 91 in 1996, having been married to Daisy for almost 62 years.

At the end of WW II, Colin Wilkes commuted for a year from Southampton to New Milton, teaching at Ashley Secondary Modern School. He completed his teaching career in Bitterne, first at Merry Oak School and

then at Heathfield School, retiring in 1964 aged 65.

So, what a very happy reunion of the Gadd and Wilkes families, which would not have happened if it had not been for the common thread of the Bitterne Local History Society!

(Appendix: The letter from Colin Wilkes, written to the local headmaster, Mr. Barker, who obviously passed it along like a hot potato to Eric Gadd.)

Dear Mr. Barker,

I am sorry that I have to report some very serious misbehaviour on the part of three boys who, I believe, attend the Gore Road School;

Naughty Boys A, B, and C (names withheld)

This afternoon, on the beach at Barton-on-Sea, one or more of them urinated into a bottle & then made several attempts to persuade a little boy to drink the contents. When a lady intervened, they not only checked her, but began to throw stones, some of them very large. One of the stones landed in the lap of a lady who was dressing a tiny girl. The stone-throwing continued as the boys went up the cliff steps, and one stone struck an elderly man on the head.

At the top of the steps, the boys seized a perambulator & tried to push it down the steps. Fortunately, the

...ake had been left on (it was a new Marnet pram, incidentally) + the ladies were in close pursuit, so that the pram was saved.

As the boys ran on, they seized + threw down a number of bicycles that had been left at the sides of the approach to the steps. The boys then disappeared.

About five minutes later, I came along the cliff-top + was told by the ladies what had happened. I went to look for the boys, but failed to find them, so I went down to the beach, where the account was corroborated by others.

the beach + heard some boys fooling in a public lavatory on the cliff-top.

I went to investigate, + the three boys ran away. I cycled after them + caught them, when they began to put the blame for the cycles, pram etc. on one another.

I obtained the names of two of them from their gas-mask containers.

I felt insecure since the matter
in the hands of the police, as it is
impossible to ascribe such serious
misbehaviour to boyish spirits alone. Had
it been a bit of mischief only, I should
probably have handed out a spanking
to each, there & then, & have considered
the matter closed.

It is evident, however, that one or
more of these boys will develop into a
hooligan unless checked in a very
decided manner, & I decided, on second
thoughts, to report the matter to you,
as I know that such matters can often
be "adjusted to mutual (?) satisfaction"
by the schoolmaster.

and to write on so unpleasant a topic,
but, in view of the fact that neither
property nor person seems to enjoy the
respect of these boys, I felt that I
could not do otherwise. I have not
had the opportunity to ascertain
whether any of the cycles were damaged,
or whether any damage had been done
to the lavatories.

The problems of Evacuation !!



WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN THE 1950s — *Jim Brown*

I recently watched a TV programme about Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, in which she made remarks concerning how women are still regarded as inferior to men. It made me remember how policewomen were treated in the 1950s, that was something to really talk about! I think that police officers reading this article 50 years from now will find it utterly unbelievable. It is really a piece of history!



I joined what was then the Southampton County Borough Police Force in 1952, a force of nearly 500 officers, that included only twelve policewomen. Three were stationed at Shirley and Bitterne Stations, two at Portswood Station and four at Headquarters (Civic Centre) with a single woman sergeant, Doris Cole (left). She was the senior policewoman, supervising the twelve, and the idea of a higher rank, such as Inspector, was never even considered.

In fact, if anybody had ever suggested that there could be a female Superintendent the laughter would have been loud and long. A rank above that, such as Detective Chief Superintendent or even Chief Constable was absolutely ridiculous to even contemplate. A female Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police was also completely out of the question.

Policewomen did not walk beats or do night duty, only day, morning and evening shifts, and had limited duties, the most important of which was making the tea! (standard joke) They only received 90% of constable's pay and this was regarded as more than fair. Their prime duties were interviewing and taking statements from children involved in indecency offences; searching women prisoners; being present when women were interviewed by male officers but also taking part, depending on the circumstances.

However, the majority of the PW's (male officers were PC's) were experienced in many policing situations and some of them I would have happily stood shoulder to shoulder with in an aggressive crowd situation or when arresting a violent prisoner.

An example of what a minority of policewomen could be like was when I was duty uniform sergeant at Portswood Station one afternoon in the winter with some snow on the ground. Beat officers were still walking their beats so it wasn't too heavy. I found that two summonses had to be served in Bluebell Road, so I saw a PW in the station and asked her if she was busy. She said 'no' so I asked her to serve the summons.

She said "*I've never served a summons Serg*" so I explained that on the reverse of the summons were spaces for signing for either personal service on the defendant or for leaving at the premises with a named individual. All she had to do was to complete the blanks and bring the duplicate back.

I then saw her go to the reception desk and call the divisional patrol car back to the station. I immediately cancelled it and asked her what she was doing? She replied "*To serve the summons Serg*". I told her that I had asked her to do it, not the car crew, to which she replied "*But it's slippery outside*", and I said "*So walk very carefully!*". I added that if she returned saying neither address were home, I would call the car back to take me to Bluebell Road and if they were at home she would be on a charge. She then promptly burst into tears and told me I was cruel.

Needless to say, the summonses were duly served and all I had done was treat her the same as the male officers walking in the snow for an eight hour full tour of duty.

At this period four letter words were normal in almost every sentence in police stations and among police officers, but care was taken to avoid them in the presence of a PW. We respected them and I can say that I never once heard one swear.

Suffice it to say, today I see women of every possible rank, many Chief Constables, a woman Commissioner, Detective Chief Superintendents and women fitted out with full body protection in riot squads, and they all clearly carry out their policing function to the equal of any man. I admire them and wonder what life would have been like in the 1950s if they had reached those positions then.





Harris Bathrooms

AFFORDABLE LUXURY BATHROOMS
SOUTHAMPTON

AFFORDABLE LUXURY BATHROOMS

We are a bathroom showroom in Southampton, Hampshire, supplying a fine selection of bathrooms, tiles and accessories to suit every budget.

Your bathroom, the way you want it!

Harris Bathrooms,
148 West End Road,
Southampton,
SO18 6PL

Web:
harrisbathrooms.com

Tel:
02380 473299

Email:
sales@harrisbathrooms.com

We Are Open
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays 9.30am - 4.00pm



SHOLING'S LOST FEATURES — *Jim Brown*

In isolation, on a five-hour journey from a Southampton I have not seen since 2014, I recently reflected on some of the buildings that were features of the Sholing I lived in for over 60 years.



The 'Primitive Methodist Chapel' in South East Road in 1908. Built in 1876 at a cost of £820, it's where I was married in 1953. The Southern Gas Board purchased the building for £13,750 in 1968 and used it as a store. It was demolished in 1982

and replaced by terraced houses.

In the far left background is the Plymouth Brethren 'Tin Chapel' in Chapel Crescent, also since replaced by housing.

The 'Happy Shopper' in North East Road, demolished in early 2000 and also replaced by housing. Owned and run by Tom McEniry for many years, it was a good example of a small shopkeeper who was part of the community as well as providing a much-needed local service. Sadly, such small businesses are now few and far between.



The western end of South East Road, c1908, (over page) near the junction with Middle Road. The general shop on the right corner, with the Nestles Milk advert, was owned by the Misses R.E. & M. Barnes. Further down



the road, also with a Nestles Milk and Viking Milk advert, was a small shop managed by Mrs L. Bennet.

The entire terrace was later demolished and now forms part of the Sholing School playground.

The Salvation Army Hall in North East Road, opened in August 1928, had served the local community well, but was in urgent need of expensive refurbishment. It was demolished in 2002 and replaced by a modern hall with increased seating capacity and the latest electronic visual/sound systems.



Russells, South East Road, in 1998. Percy and Arthur Russell started this popular ironmongery store with their demob money in 1946, following their discharge from the army.

Originally only a small section, it eventually expanded to the extent shown. In 1989, after their death, the family sold out to the adjacent



Allday's Store, with the entire block later taken over by the Co-op.

Percy's son Robert Russell then continued as the local ironmonger and builder's merchant by moving down to the junction with Kath-

leen Road, also diversifying into garden products at the rear.

Developers found the spot appealing and by 2002 took over the site, demolishing it to build pleasant housing.



There had been a post office at the junction of North East and South East



Roads since the late 1880s, when Miss Mary Kersley was the sub-postmistress. In early 1900 it was called *The People's Supply Stores*, selling a wide range of products and an essential service for the local community, especially pensioners. The building has since been converted

into four apartments and the much-needed local service has completely disappeared

The Elephant & Castle, Bursledon Road in 2003, it was a popular public house, erected in the 1930s and extended and modernised in 1966. It was built on the site of an 1860s public house, nicknamed *The Old Black House*



because it had corrugated iron walls and a black tarpaulin roof. It was demolished in September 2005 and replaced by 15 flats and 19 terraced houses in its car park. 10 flats were also built in its garden.

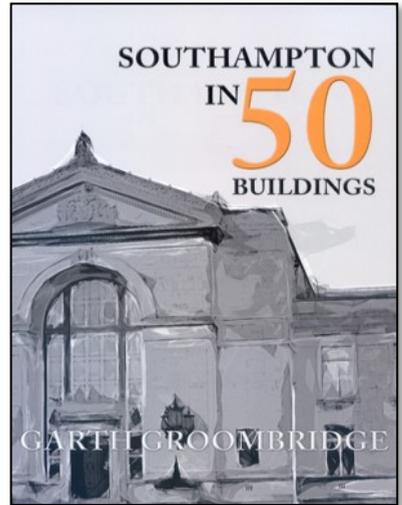


BOOK REVIEWS — *Jim Brown*

SOUTHAMPTON IN 50 BUILDINGS by Garth Groombridge

Local author Garth is renowned for his meticulous and detailed approach to local history research, especially for tracing and checking original resources as much as possible. This means you can rely on the accuracy of his work as well as the frequent joy of discovering new facts about Southampton

This book is no exception, plus the pleasure of seeing colour photos, something that the extra expense often doesn't allow. These were all taken by Garth and give the reader a fresh modern view of each building. An added feature at the outset, for the newcomer to our City, is a map pinpointing the location of the buildings he has chosen.



I found it interesting that he has not only chosen well-known local buildings of historical significance but several that are not so well known, such as the American Wharf, Old Bond Store Back of the Walls, Solent Flour Mills, and the former Shirley Library in Shirley Road. (I recall this being the temporary Shirley Police Station in 1971 when the replacement “fortress” was being constructed in Shirley High Street)

I learnt new details about many of the buildings in the book, including the Bank of England in the High Street, bringing back memories of when I carried out armed escorts to it for the gold bullion arriving from London by rail. I never saw the vault, the gold being slid down a chute direct into its depths, but I now know the size of the vault and the number of gold bars it could hold!

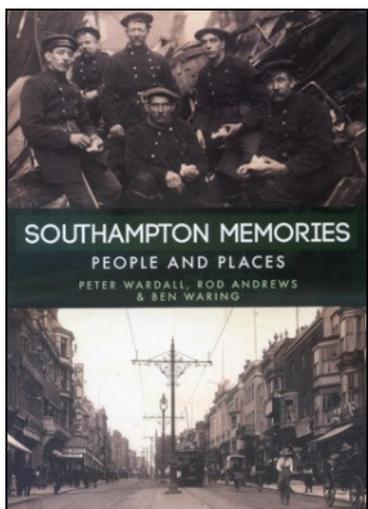
A more than worthwhile book to enjoy and pass the time during lock-down.

SOUTHAMPTON MEMORIES, PEOPLE AND PLACES by Peter Wardall, Rod Andrews & Ben Waring

I was initially wary of buying this book as the authors were unknown to me, the more so when I found it is based on a Facebook page, something I avoid. I was absolutely wrong!

All my books have either a chronological or geographical logical sequence, but this book has neither and I found the completely haphazard lack of system, unexpectedly, a joy. It meant that you have no idea what the next page will bring you and as the authors have obtained a large number of fascinating photos, all in colour or sepia, it was difficult to put the book down.

Again, rare for me, I found photos I had never seen before and fresh information. I always check for factual errors, something that creeps into



every book or article I have produced(!) and I only found one very minor mistake that needs correcting. It shows a lovely photo of the former Philharmonic Hall in Above Bar but wrongly states it was replaced by the Regent Cinema. It was, of course, replaced by the Regal Cinema, the Regent was in Shirley High Street. A mistake that can be forgiven by the wealth of interesting photos and information.

Yet another 'must' to pass the time during lockdown, a delightful book that can join the preceding two.

Both these books are available from our Shop when it reopens or directly by post from the *Bookshop* page of our website. They are £14.99 each and if bought by post the cost of sending a single book is £3.05.



DEMOLITION OF THE OLD SALVATION ARMY HALL — *Jim Brown*

Having mentioned the 1928 North East Road Salvation Army Hall on page 20 of this magazine, I thought it would be of some interest to see how it was demolished in 2002 and replaced by a new Worship & Community Centre in 2003.



The front and rear of the Hall 23 February 2002.



Interior of main Hall



Young People's Hall behind it



A bulldozer makes a start at the rear 3 April 2002



By 6 April the Young People's Hall has almost vanished



9 April and only the front remains



11 April and the front is an empty shell

(Next issue – Construction of the new building)



The Little Fryer

Traditional Fish & Chip Shop

in the Heart of Bitterne at
17, West End Road, S018 6TE

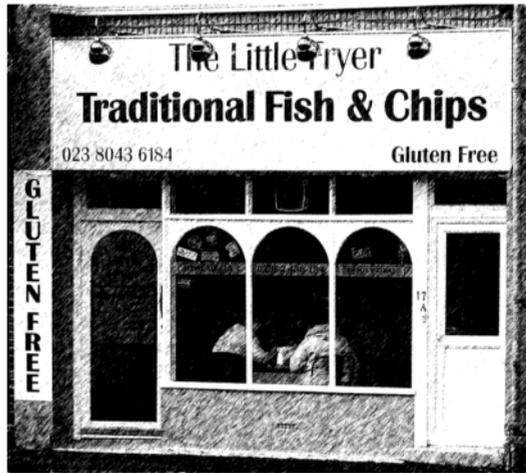
Specialising in
Gluten Free and Dairy Free

The Little Fryer has been awarded official verification
from Trading Standards for their gluten free menu

Monday to Thursday
11.30 am – 2.00 pm
4.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Friday and Saturday
11.30 am – 9.00 pm

Sunday
Closed



Tel: 023 8043 6184



Visit The Little Fryer on Facebook
for menu and delivery details





From April 1996: Bitterne Sports Fete, August 11, 1913

— Mr A.G.K. Leonard

James Thomas Eltringham, the enterprising "artist in photograph" based at Woolston, produced many postcards of scenes and events east of the Itchen from about 1903 to 1920.

He evidently had a busy time on Monday, August 11, 1913, when, as the Bitterne correspondent of the *Southampton Times* reported in its issue of August 16, "A sports fete, arranged in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, was held at Brownlow Park on Monday afternoon and attracted a large number of people. The Southampton Post Office Band was in attendance and the weather being delightfully fine, the afternoon and evening was very pleasantly spent. An interesting programme of sports was carried out, under the direction of Messrs J. Bailey, G.R. Cole, B. Wadnam and C. Shapland and the prizes were handed to the winners by Mr J.N. Campbell."

These gentlemen were evidently among the 18 members of the organising committee featured on the sepia photographic card numbered 1178 - which was also used for a card showing part of the crowd. The subjects of other Eltringham cards, numbered at least up to 1185, included participants in the 100 yards skipping and running races for girls (12 -14) and the 100 yards race for ladies - who seem to have raced wearing their everyday ground-sweeping long skirts, although these were presumably lifted somewhat (delicately) for the occasion

Further events included 100 yards for boys (12 - 14) and a "coat and boot" race for boys; there was also a Bandsmen's Race, and open handicap races of 200 yards for "veterans", quarter mile and two miles walk for all comers. The programme also involved a threading the needle race and another

climbing a greasy pole, together with a tug of war contest. Finally, "Doctors Hall and Pridham, with Mrs J.C. Bucknell and Nurse Shaw, acted as judges in the baby show" — for which there were two categories, over and under six months.



OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES

At this time most local history societies have closed down their programmes although a few are giving their talks via Zoom. As the situation changes please use these contact details to check what is taking place.

West End Local History Society

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

7 Jul PEOPLE ON PLINTHS by Tony Cross

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 booking details

15 Apr PRISONERS, PIRATES AND VOLCANOES by Paul Chamberlain

20 May MEDIEVAL TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS FOR BEGINNERS

by Penny Copeland

17 Jun HARLOTS, DUNG AND GLORY: PART 4 by Andrew Negus

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 currently

Contact: info@coass.org.uk www.coass.org.uk/

Millbrook Local History Society

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millbrook Road, SO15 0JZ 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

Romsey Local History Society

All Meetings now on Zoom but must be pre-booked due to demand

RLHS also conduct weekly Zoom workshops

Contact: romsey.history@gmail.com

www.ltvas.org.uk

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/



FROM OUR COLLECTION

Cuttings from the Hampshire Advertiser, July 1901

The first is notification that the licensee of the Ale & Stout Stores wished to extend his licence for on-premises sale of alcohol from six to seven days.

These premises were later known as the Alma Inn and were at 18, Alma Road (later Almatade Road). At this time it was a Scrase's Star Brewery property, later taken over by Strong's Romsey Brewery.

Originally opened in the 1860s, although the tenant and licensee was James Gifford it was run by his wife Rosie Gifford; their seven children also lived there. James was a Master Mariner.

TO the OVERSEERS of the POOR of the Parish of BITTERNE and to the SUPER-INTENDENT of the POLICE for the District of SOUTHAMPTON, in the County of Southampton, and to all whom it may concern.

I, JAMES GIFFARD, now residing at the Ale and Stout Stores, Alma-road, Bitterne, in the Parish of Bitterne in the County of Southampton, DO HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that it is my intention to APPLY at the GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING for the Division of SOUTHAMPTON, to be holden at the Hampshire County Buildings, Bugle-street, Southampton, on FRIDAY, the 30th day of August next, at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, or at any adjournment thereof for a CERTIFICATE authorising the grant to me of a SEVEN DAY LICENSE (instead of the Six Day License I now hold) to SELL by retail BEER to be drunk on the premises thereunto belonging, situate at the ALE AND STOUT STORES, Alma-road, Bitterne, aforesaid, of which premises Scrase's Brewery, Limited, Southampton, are the owners, and to whom I am a tenant.

Given under my hand this 17th day of July, 1901.

JAMES

Witness—B. N. O. PRETTEJOH
CANDY and CANDY,
91, High-street, Southampt
Solicitors for the A

His application was unsuccessful as it did not gain a seven day licence until 13 March 1951.



The second, from 30 March 1901, is a suggestion by Lieut. Colonel J.T. Bucknill to decimalise the currency of Great Britain. Bucknill lived at Thornfield, Upper Deacon Road, now the local headquarters of the Royal British Legion. Fortunately decimalisation did not come for another seventy years.

DECIMAL COINAGE FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

We have received the following from Lieut.-Colonel J. T. Bucknill, late R.E., of Thornfield, near Bitterne:—

The simultaneous commencement of a new currency and a new reign, affords a peculiarly suitable opportunity for the introduction of a decimal coinage for Great Britain.

A new coinage is in fact in preparation, and if the people knew how easily our existing coins can be utilised for a decimal notation, they would probably pray for its introduction. Other nations, almost without exception, have adopted systems of decimal coinage, thereby demonstrating its convenience and advantages.

It so happens that our existing coins lend themselves admirably to a decimal notation, and this I pointed out in a letter to Mr. (now Lord) Goschen, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. In reply he considered that such a change could only be carried into effect when the country asked for it.

In a degree this has since occurred, as many Chambers of Commerce throughout the country have memorialised the Government in favour of a decimal system and notation generally.

The introduction of new weights and measures would, however, be attended with grave inconvenience and much cost, but the same cannot be said of a decimal coinage, based on the sovereign as the unit of value.

At the present moment it is in fact the main stay and foundation of commercial transactions throughout the world, and the coinage of Great Britain should therefore take the pound sterling as its unit.

We already possess the tenth of a pound sterling in the form of our florin, and the farthing is so nearly equal to the hundredth part of a florin, that we might very advantageously make the face values of the new copper coinage equal to the decimals of £1, and mark them accordingly on the reverse. Thus the new penny would be marked 4 mils; the new half-penny would be marked 2 mils; and the new farthing would be marked 1 mil.

Up to a given date the present copper coins would carry their present face value of the farthing, or the one 960th part of £1. After that date they would carry the new face value of the mil, or the one 1000th part of £1.

The present silver coinage could still be used, at its present face value of the pound sterling—thus, the crown would be 250 mils; the double florin 200 mils; the half-crown 125 mils; the florin 100 mils; the shilling 50 mils; the sixpence 25 mils; three-penny-pieces should be recalled, and two new silver coins introduced—to 10 mils and 20 mils respectively.

Thus by giving a new face value to our copper coins, and by minting two new silver coins for 10 and 20 mils respectively, and recalling our three-penny-pieces, we could introduce at once a decimal coinage and notation by means of our present coins—the only important change being that our amounts would be made in pounds (sterling), florins, and mils (or new farthings), instead of in pounds (sterling), shillings, and pence.

The arrangement is more clearly shown on the following table, which, if it meet with your approval, I trust you will recommend for adoption in every way possible, and especially by publication in local papers.

£	s.	d.	OLD COINS.		£	F.	M.
1			Sovereign ...	... ..	(no change)	1	
	10		Half-Sovereign ...	... ..	"	5	00
	5		Crown ...	... ..	mark it 250 M.	2	50
	4		Double Florin ...	... ..	" 200 M.	2	00
	2	6	Half-Crown ...	... ..	" 125 M.	1	25
	2		Florin ...	... ..	" 100 M.	1	00
	1		Shilling ...	... ..	" 50 M.		50
		6	Sixpence ...	... ..	" 25 M.		25
		3	Threepenny-piece (recall them)	... ..	"	×	×
			Penny ...	... ..	" 4 M.		4
			Half-Penny ...	... ..	" 2 M.		2
			Farthing ...	... ..	" 1 M.		1
			NEW COINS.				
			SILVER.				
			20 Mil piece	... ..	mark it 20 M.		20
			10 Mil piece	... ..	" 10 M.		10



BLHS CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Hopefully the following can go ahead but check our website regularly for updates.

Apr 10 SHIPS OF SOUTHAMPTON Dr Cheryl Butler

THIS WILL NOW BE A ZOOM MEETING – see page 5

May 8 MAGIC BRUNELS: Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his father
Prof. A.J. Pointon

Jun 12 BUILDING SPITFIRES WITHOUT A FACTORY
Alan Matlock

Jul 10 NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF ROMSEY
Phoebe Merrick

**Deadline for contributions to the Summer Edition
is Saturday, 12th June**

Please send contributions to the Editor, Steve Adams
blhseditor@gmail.com
or address them to The Editor at the Heritage Centre
231, Peartree Avenue, Southampton, SO19 7RD



CHRISTIE'S CARE
Quality care, every day in every way

Member of



Hampshire Care Association

Christie's Care prides itself for the exceptional care delivered by our fully qualified staff. We offer the one-to-one support you need to ensure you continue living comfortably in your own home.

Our Services	24HR Care	Social Visits	Domestic
Personal Care	Live-in Care	Appointments	Laundry
Showering	Visiting Care	Shopping	Cleaning
Washing	Hospital Aftercare	Wellbeing Checks	Cooking
Dressing	One-to-One Care	Companionships	Feeding/Checking Pets
Medication	Respite Care	Trips Out	
Hair Care	Sleep Nights	Holidays	
Catheter Care	Wake Nights		



We create bespoke care packages for each person depending on the care requirement.



Upfront and Transparent Costs

Home care costs will vary there are no hidden fees or lengthy contracts. Visiting care is charged at an hourly rate, with the live-in care quoted on a daily or weekly rate depending on the length of care required.

Although most of our families pay for their care privately, there may be the opportunity for you to access funding from your Local Authority. In these cases, we work with the funding body to get the support you need.

Give us a call on 02381 120 020 or email administrator@christiecare.co.uk to speak to one of our friendly team for a quote that is tailored to your care needs.

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CHARITY SHOP

Monday to Friday 10 am - 4 pm
CURRENTLY CLOSED

**PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE
FOR RE-OPENING**

Check our website for updates

www.bitterne.net

231 Peartree Avenue, Bitterne,
Southampton, SO19 7RD

SHOE REPAIR CENTRE

9A West End Road

Shoe Repairs — Key Cutting — Range of Leather Goods

02380 446154

enquiries@shoerepaircentre.co.uk

Printed by:

**John
Buttler**
PRINTING

10 Holland Road · Woolston · Southampton · SO19 9FW
Tel: 023 8068 5248 · Fax: 023 8068 5248 · Email: johnbuttler@sky.com