



Andover History and Archaeology Society

Newsletter



2022 No. 1 January

www.andover-history.org.uk

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From the Chair

Dear Member,

As we go into 2022, we are in a better place than when I wrote my introduction to the January Newsletter twelve months ago. Then, after many months of being unable to meet, we were just embarking on delivering our programme by Zoom. That was very successful in keeping things running but it was so much better when, in the autumn, we were able to restart our regular meetings in the Guildhall.

Covid is still with us but I am hoping that, with precautions in place, we can continue to meet through 2022 and enjoy the very interesting programme we have in prospect. Our plans are under constant review and I will let you know if there are any changes, but don't forget that you can always find the latest information on our website <http://www.andover-history.org.uk>

One of the casualties of covid lockdown has been the microfilm reader in Andover Library. It was moved to a back room during lockdown and did not reappear when the Library reopened. On enquiry, we were told that its future was under review and the service might be permanently withdrawn.

You will know that, although it is not advertised anywhere, Andover Library holds microfilmed copies of the *Andover Advertiser* 1859-1987 which are available on request and viewed using the reader. Many of us use it during our research because the *Andover Advertiser* has not yet been digitised. We have made representations to HCC for its reinstatement and sought the support of the three HCC Councillors covering our area of Hampshire. I will let you know the outcome.

I do hope that, while we have been prevented from doing so many things, you have been able to do a bit of local research or jot down your local memories. If so, we are always interested to know about it no matter how small – and about any unanswered questions you may have. It all helps put together the jigsaw of our local history and flags up areas where we need to know more. Do write to me or to David Borrett who edits *Lookback*.

Data Protection does make it difficult to contact members of the Committee and to collaborate with others. If you want to get in touch with any other Society members, you can write to our main email address andoverhistory@gmail.com or to me at erica.tinsley@btinternet.com and we will pass on your letter.

Erica Tinsley

2022 Programme

- 28 Jan **Napoleon's Lost Soldiers & Seamen: French Prisoners of War in Hampshire** by Paul Chamberlain
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
- 4 March **The Cup that Cheers: Tea before Victoria** by Joy Pibworth
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
February meeting moved because of Guildhall availability
- 25 March **The Old Lady and Hurstbourne Park: The Bank of England in Wartime**
by Dr Alison Deveson + **AGM**
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
- 22 April **Dacre Lecture - Poor Law Bastille: The Andover Workhouse Scandal Reviewed** by Professor Michael Wheeler
7.30pm Weyhill Fairground Hall
- 27 May **The English Language in Hampshire** by Professor Chris Mulvey
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
- 24 June **Village Walk around Barton Stacey** details tba
- 23 Sept **A History of Bells and Bellringing** by Jane Tarrant
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
- 28 Oct **TBA**
- 25 Nov **Marmalade, Spuds and a Bag of Gold – Gift giving in Tudor Hampshire**
by Dr Cheryl Butler
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall
- 9 Dec **Members Talks**
7.30pm in Andover Guildhall

If, as we go through the year, you feel you could offer a short talk for our Members Talks evening in December, Shirley Lodge our Programme Secretary would love to hear from you. You can contact her using the email andoverhistory@gmail.com

A History of Shoes in England

The intended speaker for the Society's November meeting had contracted Covid so Erica Tinsley offered this illustrated talk. The oldest shoe found in Britain, preserved in a Somerset bog, is around 2,500 years old. Leather making skills were growing and it was used for a myriad of things. The Romans brought improved tanning techniques and a lot is known about their footwear, especially because of discoveries at the Roman fort of Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall where over 7,000 shoes have been found, thrown away by the men, women and children who lived there during the 285 years of the fort's occupation.

The Anglo-Saxon years saw the development of the turn-shoe where the sole and upper leather were sewn together and the whole thing turned 'inside out' to put the seams on the inside. Excavations at Coppergate in York showed that the Vikings used the same technique and shoes remained much the same after the Norman invasion.

The growth of towns allowed specialised crafts and craft guilds to develop. In Andover by the 1500s, the regulation of trade was done by three guilds – the Leathersellers, the Haberdashers and the Drapers Companies. The Leathersellers Company contained all the leather producing and working trades but, because there were only three companies, it also had to take in the dyers, chandlers, braziers, pewterers, white drawers, undertakers, apothecaries, maltsters, gardeners, stone masons and bodice-makers.

The 14th century saw the start of fashion in shoes and the following centuries saw not only many changes in style and decoration, but also technical advances in shoe construction which allowed them to be more durable, water resistant and repairable. By the middle years of Victoria's reign, expensive shoes were still made to measure, hand stitched and sold by the local bootmaker but for most people their shoes were made to standard sizes, assembled and stitched using machines in factories, and sold from shoe shops.

Shoes became cheaper but for most people they were still a major investment and had to last many years. The bootmaker became the shoe repairer and was still an essential part of every community. He did quality repairs but also, because poverty was widespread, kept shoes going as they were handed down through families or were bought and sold, often many times.

During WW1 Britain sent over 70 million pairs of boots and shoes to the troops overseas, nearly three-quarters made in factories in Northamptonshire. After the war, times were still hard but more second-hand machinery was available to local craftsmen to help with the stitching and finishing of repairs. But by the second half of the 20th century, everything had changed. Stitched leather shoes were replaced by cheaper shoes using new adhesives, new materials and new methods of construction. Often new shoes were the cheapest option as, for example, in ladies' shoes where the aluminium stiletto heels of the 1960s were very difficult to repair. People's standard of living was improving and they could more easily afford new shoes. The average Andoverian of 1900 would probably have owned only two pairs of shoes whereas the Andoverian of today would probably own several pairs of shoes - for work, for casual, for smart occasions, for sport, for walking, for summer, and so on.

Britain is still a world leader in the manufacture of stitched, leather shoes but today they are very expensive and only a very small part of the world's shoe production

Even More Musical Notes – and Others

Phil Farlow's *Musical Notes* have become a traditional and very enjoyable part of our December meetings and this year was no exception. As a nod to the November talk about footwear, he started with an excerpt from Petula Clark's 1954 hit *The Little Shoemaker* and then, to set the mood, followed with a 1940s big-band recording of Gershwin's *S'wonderful* sung by Buddy Clarke and Dinah Shore.

Andover is lucky in having history, music and film interest groups that go back many years. His particular memory from a few years ago was a glorious concert arranged by Andover Music Club at The Lights which was given by the Chamber Philharmonic of Europe and we heard one of the pieces on the programme, the haunting *Tango Oblivion* by 20th century Argentinian composer Astor Plazolla.

During the year, a conversation about accents had brought to mind the Andoverian accent of the late local historian Martin Loveridge, still remembered by many. We heard him speaking warmly about the town's history in an interview with the BBC's Brian Johnson for the popular *Down Your Way* programme. That was followed by an hilarious recording from 1953 when a BBC interviewer with a very interrogatory style tried to interview a reluctant Mr Crundle from Tunbridge Wells.

Pre-WW2, music festivals were important events on the classical music calendar and Andover had its own. Others in Hampshire included Romsey, Winchester and Bournemouth, and music lovers often had the opportunity to hear celebrated conductors and soloists because of the fierce competition between the festivals.

Bournemouth had its own, successful municipal orchestra, founded in 1893 under the leadership of Dan Godfrey who was knighted in 1928. He retired in 1934 and the BBC not only broadcast his farewell concert from the Bournemouth Pavilion but, unusually, they also recorded it. We heard excerpts from that recording in which Sir Dan introduces his successor, Richard Austen and the orchestra plays a new piece of music, now very familiar to us, the *Knightsbridge March* by Eric Coates.

The 'last dance' of the talk was Joyce Grenfell's humorous look at the 'Strictly Come Dancing' world of 1954. We heard her sing the *Palais Dancers* written in collaboration with composer Richard Addinsell.

A Bit More About Beech Hurst

In her Members Talk in December, Erica Tinsley spoke about two of the owners of Beech Hurst, the rather grand 9-bedroomed Victorian house set in 12 acres of grounds that was demolished in 1990 to make way for the new TVBC offices.

During the years 1884-97, it was the home of dental surgeon Horace Farebrother and his wife Katherine before they moved to Salisbury. Evocative of those years are Katherine's dresses in the Katherine Farebrother Collection at Brighton Museum.

<https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/discover/2015/02/26/katherine-farebrother-1857-1928-2/>

The next owner was Charles Alfred Swinburne, a man in his late 60s who moved to Andover from London and lived in the house until his death in 1904. He furnished the whole house with elegant walnut furniture, a drawing-room suite upholstered in green velvet and on the walls displayed his large collection of watercolours and etchings, all by significant artists.

The talk was illustrated by examples paintings from Swinburne's collection including *Rigi Lake of Lucerne*, *Early Morning* by JMW Turner which is now in a private collection, *Kusnacht from Lake Lucerne* also by JMW Turner which is now in Manchester Art Gallery, *Santa Maria della Salute in Venice* by Sir Edward Poynter which is now in the V&A, *A Moonlight Scene, Venice* also by Sir Edward Poynter and *The Breezy Morn* by H W Leader which is now in the Manchester Art Gallery.

Swinburne paid a high price for many of his pictures but it is likely that he had had only a modest financial start in life. His father was the first man in the British Army to rise through the ranks from private soldier to colonel and Charles was his youngest son. But his father's rank gave him social status and he became a very successful solicitor in the rapidly growing field of commercial and corporate law, with many of his wealthy clients becoming personal friends.

His first offices were in Manchester where his interest in art may have been nurtured by the Art Treasures of Great Britain exhibition in Manchester in 1857, which is still the largest art exhibition ever held in Britain attracting more than 1.3 million visitors. He married the daughter of a prominent Manchester banker and the couple later moved to London where he was called to the bar in 1884.

Then in 1889 came separation from his wife and the social pressures that went with that in their class of Victorian society. He does not appear on the 1891 census but it seems that he stopped his legal work, moved home and started to write. In 1890 he published *Sacred & Shakespearian Affinities, being analogies between the writings of the psalmists and of Shakespeare* and presented a copy to Queen Victoria. The book has since been reprinted several times and is often quoted in academic Shakespearean studies.

In these difficult years, Swinburne increased his involvement with the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital in Margate which was the country's leading hospital for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis except TB of the lungs and would remain so until well into the 20th century. It had been a major charity supported by his wealthy and distinguished client Sir Erasmus Wilson. When Swinburne moved to Beech Hurst in 1897, Andover's good rail links enabled him to continue that involvement and by 1901 he was a Vice-President of the hospital.

Living at Beech Hurst, Swinburne made a new life for himself. He became a Hampshire JP and continued to write. In 1900 he published a substantial descriptive and analytical catalogue of the works he owned, and the copy he sent to Queen Victoria is now in the Royal Collection. In 1902 he published *The Life and Work of J.M.W. Turner*. Both of these books have been reprinted several times because of their academic content.

He entertained and his house guests included friends from his past connections with industry in the north of England. Staying with him at Beech Hurst on Census night in 1901 was Sir Charles Hartley, a very eminent civil engineer who had been involved with large projects all over the world and was a British representative on the International Technical Commission of the Suez Canal.

In 1904 Charles Swinburne died unexpectedly on a visit to Savernake. After personal bequests, including £500 to the matron of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, all of the residue of his estate, some £45,000, went to the hospital itself where it was used to build and equip a new Swinburne Ward.

But Charles Swinburne's death in 1904 did not quite end his local links. As a memorial to him, his friends in Hampshire gave a lychgate to All Saints Church in Upper Clatford which was dedicated in 1909 by the Bishop of Winchester, but the gate carries nothing to say it is a memorial or any mention of Swinburne's name.

Events for Your Diary

- 13 Jan-22 Feb Andover Museum
The Wasp Spider and the Garden Tiger
A free exhibition drawing on the natural sciences collection of Hampshire Cultural Trust to look at the legacy of the 18th century naturalist Gilbert White and his pioneering work which is now helping the mapping of environmental change.
- 1 Jan - 26 Feb Hampshire Record Office
Census: 1961 and all that
A free exhibition originally produced by HALS for the 2011 census
- 1 Mar - 14 Apr Hampshire Record Office
The D-Day Lepe Heritage Group Exhibition
A free exhibition featuring a detailed look at the contribution made by Lepe and the surrounding areas of the New Forest to Operation Neptune, the seaborne element of Operation Overlord, the initial phase of the invasion of Normandy on D-Day 6th June 1944.
- 15 Apr- 12 May Hampshire Record Office
Victoria County History: Celebrating 120 years
A free exhibition celebrating the founding of the Victoria County History (VCH), with its first book, Hampshire Volume 1, appearing in 1900. It features a brief history of the VCH, current work, and publications of the Hampshire group. To mark the 120th anniversary, each group, including Hampshire, put together a number of small items which illustrated its county and which fitted into a box the same size as a VCH Red Book. Hampshire's objects will be on display at this exhibition