



Guide Lines

The *Occasional* Newsletter
of the
Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association

Issue of December 2017

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

**and very best wishes to you all for a healthy
and peaceful 2018 with lots of good guiding**

Clare

Item: 1	Title: Tyrell & Green
Date: 6 Nov 2017	Contributor: Sue Coles

Further to Colin's question in the Guidelines, my notes for a High Street tour read: Nos. 55 and 56 High Street were 2 properties until 1912 when both were purchased by Shomberg and Company. They were pulled down and turned into a cinema in 1913. This new building was designed by Greenwood of Southampton. For many years it was the only cinema in the High Street' and was called the Picture House. During the 2nd World War, it was used by Tyrell and Green from Southampton. I don't know the source of this information. Regards, Sue Coles

Item: 2	Title: London Links
Date: 7 Nov 2017	Contributor: Vanessa Silcock

As you know, I am often busy guiding in London. Recently I came across two links to my Winchester history knowledge, which I have written about below. It is a never ending source of amazement how our knowledge goes round in linking circles!

Sir William Waller

He is famous to Winchester guides for the Civil War and the Battle of Cheriton. He died on 19th September 1668 and was buried in the New (or Broadway) Chapel at Westminster. This was an overflow burial ground for St Margaret's Church, Westminster (next to the Abbey). After the ravages of the plague of 1665, more space was needed for burials at St Margaret's. But, the only trace of the burial area now is the open space at the corner of Victoria Street and Broadway. I had always wondered why this had not been built on! So, Sir William Waller now has no memorial or marker. His daughter Jane has a monument in Bath Abbey.

Sir Francis Fox (From an article at St Paul's Cathedral)

St Pauls was shut on Christmas Eve 1924, when the Dean and Chapter were served with a 'Dangerous Structure Notice'! Can you imagine the chaos of shutting just as the Christmas services were to start! 'The chief architect Mervyn MacCartney became the Surveyor to the Fabrick. Sir Francis Fox, an architect with experience of stabilising historic buildings, most notably Winchester Cathedral, re plumbed the Dome in 1913 and found it to be 5¾ inches out of perpendicular.' After 5 years strengthening the pillars, on which the Dome sits, and putting an extra tie chain round the Dome itself, all was well.

In World War II, when a bomb dropped into the North Transept it was said by an onlooker that the Dome lifted on impact. No doubt the work in the 1920s saved the day! Imagine what Winston Churchill would have said had St Paul's fallen. He had stated that St Paul's must be saved at all cost!

By the way, the mediaeval St Paul's Cathedral was 585ft long and as a place of worship it was a wonder of the mediaeval world. After the Reformation it began a decline into a state of disrepair, exacerbated by Parliament troops keeping horses in it. I wonder if Winchester was the same as St Paul's, which had inside: tooth pulling, prostitutes, bowls, shooting of birds in the nave and people driving sheep through it! If it was, then it is no wonder that Bishop Curle was asked to tidy things up and make a through route for the public into the Cloisters!

Item: 3	Title: Winchester Souvenirs
Date: 10 Nov 2017	Contributor: Clare Dixon

Thanks to everyone who responded to my article in the last edition of Guide Lines asking where my sister-in-law's mother, Peggy, might have bought some wooden souvenirs of Winchester in the 1950s.

Peggy’s recollections are a bit varied (‘under an arch’, ‘up some steps’ and ‘at the bottom of the hill’ have all been mentioned), but I think the most likely answer has come from WATGA Hon Member Barbara Hall, who also knew Winchester in the 1950s. She suggests that the items were bought from James Laverty, the woodworker, who had a showroom under Kingsgate Arch. I have a Warren’s Directory for Winchester in 1953/4 which confirms the position of the showroom and adds that the Laverty workshop was in St Swithun Street. The Laverty family, of course, did a lot of wood carving work around Winchester (including the black swan on the corner of Southgate St I seem to remember?) and inside the cathedral.

Annette Lodge kindly asked the Winchester College archivist where College souvenirs were sold before the advent of Cornflowers, since many of the items have the College motto on them. The answer seems to be the many shops in town which dealt in ‘fancy goods’. The archivist adds that the building we know as Cornflowers ‘used to be a school shop, selling groceries/food downstairs and then upstairs was a dining room where boys could sit down and have a meal’.

I also mentioned a wooden jewellery box from Charles H Spicer in the High Street. My 1923 Warren’s Directory lists his shop, and advertises him as being ‘Watchmaker to the Admiralty’. By 1953/4 (my only other Directory) his shop has gone, so the jewellery box must have been bought before that – earlier than the family had thought. Next stop one day is HRO to discover exactly when it closed. All fascinating stuff – thanks for your help.

Item: 4	Title: That Which We Call Winchester
Date: 23 Nov 2017	Contributor: Steve Heath

Winchester Measure

Wikipedia tells me that the Winchester Measure is a set of legal standards of volume instituted in 1495 by Henry VII and still in use, with some modifications. It consists of the Winchester bushel and its dependent quantities, the peck, (dry) gallon and (dry) quart. They would later become known as the Winchester Standards, named because the examples were kept in the city of Winchester. (*Displayed in the Westgate Museum*). It goes on to say that the Winchester Measure may also refer to

- the systems of weights and measures used in the Kingdom of Wessex during the Anglo-Saxon period, later adopted as the national standards of England, as well as the physical standards (prototypes) associated with these systems of units
- a set of avoirdupois weight standards dating to the mid-14th century, in particular, the 56-pound standard commissioned by King Edward III, which served as the prototype for Queen Elizabeth I's reform of the avoirdupois weight system in 1588

Winchester Bushel

There is a site on the Web called sizes.com which will quite possibly provoke nervous collapse and the entry at https://sizes.com/units/gallon_winchester.htm contains the rather wonderful confirmation that:

“Every Round Bushel with a plain and even Bottom, being made Eighteen Inches and a half wide throughout, and Eight Inches Deep, should be esteem'd a Legal Winchester Bushel, according to the Standard in his Majesty's Exchequer.”

or so saith John Ward in The Young Mathematician's Guide of 1724and if you've ever wondered why Metric Standards caught on, he continues:

Now a Vessel being thus made will contain 2150.42 Cubick Inches, consequently the Corn Gallon doth contain but 268 4/5 Cubical Inches.

Cub. Inches

268.8 = 1 Gallon

537.6 = 2 Gallon = 1 Peck

2150.4 = 8 Gallon = 4 Peck = 1 Bushel

17203.2 = 64 Gallon = 32 Peck = 8 Bushel = 1 Quarter

{Note, 4 Bushels = a Comb. 10 Quarters = a Wey, and 12 Weys = a Last of Corn}.

Winchester Distillery

The Winchester Distillery (tag line “In fine spirits since 2014”) is based in Old Alresford, at the western end of the South Downs Way and surrounded by rolling countryside and meandering chalk streams outside Winchester. The Distillery seeks to enrich this heritage by crafting small-batch, premium spirits using traditional methods and local botanicals sourced from the surrounding landscape. All products are made by hand in small batches using closely-guarded recipes as a guide and the master distiller's twisted nose to fine-tune each batch to perfection.



Winchester Gin

A brand new gin was launched on World Gin Day 2017 at Winchester Great Hall. It uses 25 mediaeval botanicals commonly used in food and medicine in the period; one for each Knight seated at the table with King Arthur himself on the throne at the head of the table represented by Juniper.

The purveyors describe it as a rich and complex gin with great depth of flavour and subtle herbal nuances from the wide list of (secret) medieval botanicals.

Hampshire Gin

The company also creates Hampshire Gin, with varieties which include Sloe, Spring Meadow, Summer Garden, Autumn Hedgerow, and the somewhat intriguingly named Winter Wassail and Gunpowder Gins

Twisted Nose

This is a further Brand Name used by the Distillery. Winchester is at the heart of an area that has been cultivating Watercress since the 18th century - the local chalky earth and pristine, crystal-clear streams create the ideal environment for this incredible herb to thrive. The Romans knew watercress as Nasturtium, meaning 'twisted nose', from which our range of unique spirits take their name.

Winchester Gin and Twisted Nose Watercress Gin are believe it or not, sold in your friendly TIC.

The Tally

Winchester	Maybe/Perhaps	NOT Winchester
Bell Pull	Tie Knot [1]	Rifle
Cathedral Song		Disk Drive
Bushel & Gallon		Bottle
Gin		

[1] More evidence needed to decide if it exists and why it is called a Winchester.

That’s it for now, but if anyone has any further suggestions let me know please, and I’ll have a little dig.

Item: 5	Title: A Melancholy Accident at the Rising Sun
Date: 23 Nov 2017	Contributor: Mike Craze

Mike has been engaged in some heavy duty Family History research, and has had an article published on Page 37 of the Hampshire Chronicle of November 23rd. A slightly fuller version of his findings is below – fantastic anecdote and links for any walks at the East of the City.

Dr Henry Corbin Surgeon of Southampton (1766-1831) by Mike Craze

It's fascinating the things that delving into family history can throw up. As a result of research into my 5 Greats Grandfather John Corbin, a shipwright based at East Street, Southampton I discovered the story of a terrible coach crash at Winchester which occurred one cold winters morning on 25th November 1804. In the 1803 edition of Cunningham's Trade Directory I found that there was another Corbin living in Southampton at the same time as John, a certain Henry Corbin surgeon of Gloucester Sq at the bottom of the High St close to the Watergate.

Corbin, Henry, surgeon, Gloucester square
Corbin, John, shipwright, east street

Cunningham's Trade Directory 1803 (SR Office)

I wondered if they might be related in some way and decided to research 'Dr Henry'. I have since discovered that he appears to have led quite a remarkable and eventful life. Working back from his burial record, he was born around 1766 probably at Muccleshell (nr Holdenhurst, Hants) where his father was from. As a surgeon and city coroner in fashionable Regency Southampton he must have been a respected member of the community, a respect which could only have grown as during his career he managed to resuscitate at least three people after they were believed to have drowned including Danish skipper Capt. Riga Oct 1794 and local man James Parker, Mariner Feb 1799 who was 'restored to an almost inconsolable wife and three children depending on his life for their support'



He had already received high praise and a medal in 1790 from the Royal Humane Society, of which he was a member, for saving the life of one John Green.

Henry Corbin's Royal Humane Society Medal
(Photo Carmel Dundon)

His was certainly a busy life as, alongside his duties as a surgeon and overseeing numerous inquests as coroner, he was also an Apothecary or chemist in partnership with Mr Weaver at 134 High St. Southampton. He was also on the committee of The Southampton and Salisbury Canal group, a generous donor to boot. In 1799 it was announced in the paper that he had been returned safely on a 'neutral' ship having been detained for five weeks after the packet ship Harmony he was on had been captured by the French.

Unfortunately things were about to change dramatically for Henry on 25th Nov 1804 when, at around 5 o'clock on a dark, winters morning, he was involved in a terrible accident aboard the Mail Coach as it was entering Winchester on the 'New Road' by the Rising Sun pub at the bottom of St Giles' Hill in Bridge St. The driver lost control of the horses as they turned the sharp corner and Henry who had been sitting in the box seat next to the driver was thrown from the carriage

with the Salisbury & Winchester Journal reporting that the mail coach then ‘fell on its side and was dragged by the horses over Mr Corbin.’ He suffered dreadful life threatening injuries with many of his bones broken and according to the London Courier and Evening Gazette ‘a contusion over his eye, that if he should recover, not the least hopes are entertained of his sight’ The passengers inside the coach miraculously survived with just minor bruises although the driver’s leg was broken.

Yesterday morning as the mail coach was coming down the new road into this city, at a very great rate, the horses became unmanageable, and in turning the corner ran violently against a building lately used as a military hospital, by which the coach was overturned and dashed against a wall opposite. Mr. Corbin, surgeon, of Southampton, was on the box with the coachman, and was so much hurt, having both his legs and one arm broken, and his hip put out of joint, that it is thought he cannot survive. The coachman's leg was broken. Some inside passengers and the guard escaped with slight bruises. Mrs. Corbin and Mr. Corbin's brother arrived here yesterday.

26 Nov 1804 Hampshire Chronicle

Saturday morning a melancholy accident happened about half-past five o'clock; as the Poole mail coach was returning from London, coming down the New Road, near the Rising Sun public house, near Winchester, owing to the great negligence of the driver, in not checking the impetuosity of the horses, then in full speed, in turning the corner of the road, the coach unfortunately overturned, by which accident Mr. Corbin, surgeon of Southampton, an outside passenger, was so dreadfully bruised, that his life is in imminent danger, having one leg, one thigh, and one arm broken, with a dreadful contusion over his eye, that if he should recover, not the least hopes are entertained of his sight. The driver has one of his legs broken, and otherwise much bruised.

28 Nov 1804 London Courier and Evening Gazette



Rising Sun Corner 12 Nov 2017 Photo Mike Craze

Henry was taken initially to the house of a Mr Earle and then later to the County Hospital in Parchment St where incredibly he survived through 'the skill and attention of his surgeons Mr Lyford and Mr Wickham' The former, being Dr Giles King Lyford later to be Jane Austen's physician. Interestingly, Dr Lyford felt it his 'duty to contradict...a malicious report' circulating at the time that Mr Earle had been less than welcoming when Mr Corbin was brought to his house after the accident, writing a letter to the 'printer' of The Hampshire Chronicle to dispel such rumours.

WINCHESTER,
SATURDAY, *December 1.*

To the Printer of the Hampshire Chronicle.
WINCHESTER, 29th November, 1804.

SIR,

A most malicious Report having been industriously circulated here and in the neighbourhood tending to traduce the Character of Mr. Earle, of this City, and to hold him forth to the Public as a man devoid of the common feelings of Humanity, by its being represented that he refused any assistance or succour to Mr. Corbin, of Southampton, who was so unfortunately injured by the overturning of the Mail Coach in coming into Winchester on Friday last.

I feel it a duty I owe to Mr. Earle's Character to contradict such a Report in the most unequivocal manner, and to assert that I was called on to give my professional assistance to the unfortunate Gentleman; that I attended him to Mr. Earle's house, who got out of his Bed at five o'clock in the Morning to receive him; that every Comfort and Attention was shewn him there, and that he was not removed from Mr. Earle's house till a proper lodging was provided for him.

GILES KING LYFORD, Surgeon.

Dr Giles King Lyford Letter 1 Dec 1804 Hampshire Chronicle

As a result of the accident though, poor Henry Corbin was forced to give up his practice and eventually retired to Seaton, Devon although he was still in correspondence with his colleagues at Southampton even requesting in a letter of 1809 that his friend John Dewey send him ‘some cow pox matter on a bit of glass, small ivory or quill’!

Finally, Henry moved to Bath where he died and was buried in 1831 aged 65.

His son Robert followed as a surgeon having a distinguished career at the County Hospital, Winchester where Henry’s brother Robert Reeks Corbin was the city coroner.

Oh and just for the record, further research revealed that he was, if somewhat distantly, related to my ancestor John Corbin Shipwright in that they were both descended from John and Jane Corbin who died in 1698 and 1700 respectively.

Acknowledgements:

- Southampton Record Office <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/arts-heritage/southampton-archives>
- Hampshire Record Office, Winchester <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives.htm>
- Ancestry UK www.ancestry.co.uk
- British Newspaper Archive www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- Southampton City Library (Local Studies and Maritime Library)
- <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/arts-heritage/history-southampton/maritime-history.aspx>

Item: 6	Title: Attractions Meeting
Date: 27 Nov 2017	Contributor: Clare Dixon

A few notes which may be of general interest from the November meeting of the Attractions Partnership. WATGA is kindly invited to the meetings by WCC, and I find them very useful for keeping up with news from all those running tourist attractions in this area.

Tourism South East report that the nature of group travel (coach party travel) is changing. Research shows that the groups in general are

- more active
- include more men
- are getting bigger (the groups, not the people!)
- are willing to travel further, and therefore often include an overnight stay
- are happy to use email and websites when booking
- are richer and expect higher standards

Chawton House Library is losing the support of its major funder, Sandy Lerner.

Fort Nelson will be displaying the Weeping Window poppies from the Tower of London exhibition from 13th April to 24th June 2018.

Marwell Zoo will be opening a new Tropical House at Easter with the same roof style as the Eden Project.

Great Hall is hosting a Santa’s Grotto this Christmas. Next year the BBC History Weekend will be held in Winchester again on the first weekend in October.

Work on **Winchester City Mill** starts in January. A patrons' café will be introduced with exhibition space and, possibly, a second-hand bookshop. Meeting rooms and office space will be made available downstairs. The Mill will re-open fully at Easter, but efforts will be made to create a viewing platform so that visitors can watch the work taking place.

Winchester Science Centre has a science-based grotto with Father Christmas present at workshops. They are also screening Christmas films in the planetarium. Next year the ground floor will be redeveloped with a 'space' theme.

Cathedral scaffolding will be coming down in the spring to reveal the roof bosses. The new exhibition in the South Transept should be ready by the end of next year. A Flower Festival is being held 5th to 9th September.

Item: 7	Title: Diary Dates
Date: 30 Nov 2017	Contributor: Clare Dixon

WATGA Dates for the diary

- Tuesday 9th January 2018, WATGA New Year Lunch, Masonic Centre, Alresford Road, Winchester

Guide Lines Dates

- January Issue
 - submit copy by weekend 30/31 Dec 2017
 - publish over weekend 6/7 Jan 2018
- February Issue
 - submit copy by weekend 27/28 Jan 2018
 - publish over weekend 3/4 Feb 2018

WATGA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this Newsletter. Please contact individual contributors with any queries.

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