



Guide Lines

The Occasional Newsletter
of the
Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association

Issue of January 2018

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Message from the Chairman

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

A piece of cheering news to start the new year, if you haven't heard already, is that Sarah Harfield, TIC Manager, has had her baby. Chloe arrived on Sunday 17 December, weighing in at 7lb 10oz, and both mother and baby are doing fine.

At the end of December we said goodbye to an even longer serving member of the TIC team, Julie Berry. Many of you signed her leaving card, and I received this note of thanks from Julie:

I was so touched to receive your card with so many guides' signatures, especially some of those from the old days when I first started at the TIC. Barbara Hall took me on my first guided tour! The picture is brilliant, it made me laugh. I am feeling rather overwhelmed as the girls here have been so kind and Sarah has popped in with baby Chloe. What a wonderful send off! Please pass on my thanks to anyone you may see and I hope to thank you all personally at the New Year's lunch.

Another au revoir at the end of December was to Judy Simmons, who has retired as an active WATGA member after many years of sterling service. I hope to have an opportunity to say a more formal thank you to Judy and Julie at our New Year Lunch, where I hope also to see many of you.

Item: 1	Title: Cathedral Works
Date: 4 Dec 2017	Contributor: Elizabeth Newport & Colin Cook

Elizabeth sets out that the scaffolding in the Cathedral Presbytery will start to come down at the beginning of January. Just as when the bird cage was erected, scaffolding will need to be put up in the Presbytery to facilitate the work. This means that the whole of the Presbytery will be out of bounds for a number of weeks. There is expected to be access to a small area at the West end of the Quire via the wooden screen, so that visitors can still see the Quire stalls, and the work in progress. As the scaffolding comes down the Great Screen will be cleaned.

Obviously, there can be no services in the Quire while this is happening, so it will not be possible to remove the chairs from the Nave in January this year.

Colin confirms that with the impending removal of the scaffolding/false ceiling in the Quire the usual January chair removal in the Nave will be deferred while regular services need to be conducted there. The Open Evening is still scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30 January.

Item: 2	Title: The Royal Hotel – Plans and History
Date: 14 Dec 2017	Contributor: Colin Cook

Members may not be aware that the owners of the Royal Hotel have submitted a planning application for the addition of 9 bedrooms in what was once the warehouse (and briefly, silk mill). Sections 3 & 4 of the attached Heritage Statement, which is part of this application, provides a wealth of material about the building, its history and the location of historic architectural features, some of which will become more visible if these plans are approved.



One item however that might be at risk of disappearing as happened during the last alterations to the Shenton family references by the reception desk. This is the interesting tapestry which hangs in the stairwell leading up to the Darials Room. The presence of a red cockerel, top centre, suggests a French connection, and reference to the Hotel’s own website history (see attached pdf) does provide a number of intriguing and possible links with France.

Can anyone throw any further light on this tapestry? It is certainly something that forms part of the building’s history which we would not want to lose.



HERITAGE_STATEME
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The History of the Royal Hotel

The Royal Hotel today consists of the main building dating back to the 16th century, once the home of a titled Lady, and much older buildings from the 13- and 1400s. One of these buildings was a cook house where meat was prepared, possibly for the Royal Palace or the great town houses belonging to the nobility and important clerics, who attended the King's Court in the city.

The building that now contains the Winton and Darials rooms has had many uses over the centuries, including that of a Silk "Manufactory." In 1992 there was a small fire in one of the hotel's buildings (to the right of the archway on St Peter Street) which attracted the attention of the inspectors of the Threatened Building Section of the Royal Commission on Historic Buildings.

From this we learnt that the property was owned by St John's Hospital and was leased as three separate cottages between 1395-6 and 1437-1459. In addition to its use as a cook house there is evidence also of use by a string maker, hat maker, a shoemaker and a butcher. In the 12th century this part of the city was a favoured residential area. Many of the nobles and clerics had their town houses here.

We learn from the Winchester Records that in 1583 and again in 1884 complaints were made, both to the Bishop and the Mayor that "an assembly was determined to meet and hear Mass." A search was instigated and whilst no priest was found, they did find "divers new and old papistical books, a chestful of vestments and many other Popish stuff and relics." Lady West must have been well connected as she was never punished for her beliefs, and she carried on as before and died of old age.

Lady West's House

Our story really gets going in the days of Elizabeth I, when the house was owned by Lady West. She was related by family to Thomas Baron De La Warr, famous as the "Founding Father" of Virginia in the USA, who is credited with saving the colony from extinction and has an abiding place in American history. Lady Mary West is famous, especially in Catholic circles, for providing, at great risk to herself, a meeting place for those of the "Old Faith" who could not conform to Queen Elizabeth's religious rule. Hunted priests found refuge here and Mass was said in a secret chapel.

Fleshmonger Street (Now known as St Peter Street)

Fleshmonger Street next came into prominence during the reign of Charles II. The "Merry Monarch" brought his Queen, court and mistresses to Winchester to escape a plague-stricken London. The beautiful and intriguing Duchess of Portsmouth, Charlotte De Queraille, who was the mistress of both King Charles and Louis XIV of France, occupied a building across the street from Lady West's house. Another figure from Charles' circle was Roger Corham who owned Lady West's house, either by purchase or inheritance; we are not sure which. Corham – a Royalist and staunch Catholic - was related on his grandmother's side to the Marquis of Winchester. He fought at the siege of Basing and was captured but later exchanged. He went into exile with King Charles, and later returned with him to England.

The Bishop's House

There were great plans to turn the Bishop's House into a college for the education of priests, as the seminaries on the continent were forced to close by the events taking place in France. Doctor Milner, the priest in charge of St Peter's from 1779 to 1803, wrote long letters to the Bishop of London extolling the virtues of Winchester, the "healthiness of the situation" and the lower cost of living there. In 1794 his plans were abruptly changed by the arrival of a congregation of Benedictine Nuns, driven from Brussels by the

French Revolution. This congregation had been one of the first to be founded after the Suppression of the Religious Houses by Henry VIII. Dr Milner installed the nuns in the Bishop’s House, and supervised the construction of a chapel that exists today (bedroom suites Milner and Sheldon) on the second floor of the hotel. The sisters soon started a school for English girls from good families, and amongst their pupils was an Irish girl, Jane Hanlon, paid for by the Duke of Wellington and it seems the result of an alliance with a beautiful young Irish woman during his younger days in Ireland.

In 1792 a silk “manufactory” was established by a Mr Shenton, in an adjacent building which now houses the hotel’s function rooms. It only lasted a few years as it was necessary for the drums to be turned by hand. Finding this a great inconvenience Mr Shenton had erected a new silk mill on the River Itchen, below the Abbey Mill, where his business prospered and brought much needed work to the poor. A branch of the Shenton family went to Australia and was amongst the founders of the Swan River Colony, now Perth in Western Australia.

The Convent of the Glorious Assumption

The sisters kept strictly to the Rule of St Benedict, but only wore their habits in the early morning when no-one could see them. They changed into secular dress for the rest of the day; nuns were still a novelty in Winchester at the time. In 1810 the sisters purchased the building from the London District and renamed it The Convent of the Glorious Assumption. When Dr Milner was consecrated Bishop in 1803 in his own chapel (now the Milner Hall, across the street from the hotel) the ceremony was followed by a Synod of all the Catholic Bishops of England, held in the convent.

The Benedictine Nuns remained in Winchester for 63 years, until they departed in 1857. It was said that their privacy had been disturbed by young soldiers sitting on the wall watching them and their young pupils. It is more likely that the building of numbers 7, 8 and 9 St Peter Street was a greater threat because the windows from the upper stories looked right into the convent gardens. The sisters slipped quietly away one night (by special train) to their newly purchased home, Old Hall at East Bergholt in Suffolk.

As of 1857 the building has operated as the Winchester Royal Hotel.

Item: 3	Title: Aymer de Valence – A Bad Bishop
Date: 4 Jan 2018	Contributor: Clare Dixon

I spent a pleasant but very blustery Christmas in Pembrokeshire where we visited the splendid remains of Pembroke Castle. A name on one of the Information Boards there caught my eye – Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. Wait a minute, Aymer de Valence is the name of one of the bishops buried in Winchester Cathedral. Surely not the same chap? Not quite as it turns out, but it set me off on another bit of research which I thought I might share with you about the links between Winchester and places I have visited

So, the Earldom of Pembroke was created by King Stephen for Gilbert de Clare (must have been a good sort with a name like that!) but has been recreated no less than nine times since. Some of the families holding the title were short-lived because of lack of a male heir, and at other times the Earls came to stickier ends eg William de la Pole who was executed in 1450, and Anne Boleyn who was made Marquess of Pembroke just before marrying Henry VIII. The Herberts, the current Earls, have held the title since 1551

After the de Clares the Earldom passed to the celebrated Sir William Marshal, regent to the young Henry III and ‘held by many to be the greatest knight in Christendom’ through his marriage to Isabel de Clare. The

de Valences come in after the Marshal family had died out, when the Earldom was recreated for the third time in 1247 for William de Valence, half brother to Henry III, and was then inherited by his son Aymer. An interesting footnote is that Aymer's wife founded Pembroke College, Cambridge.

'Our' Aymer in Winchester is the uncle of the Earl of the same name, and was Bishop of Winchester 1250 – 1261. And of all the unsatisfactory Bishops we have had, he seems to have been one of the worst! Having come over from France with his brother William, he achieved his appointment solely through the influence of Henry III and against the wishes of the monks of Winchester. As Wikipedia puts it: 'The appointment was in every way unsuitable. Aymer was illiterate, ignorant of the English language and wholly secular in his mode of life'.

The Dictionary of National Biography continues: 'Aymer made the monks of Winchester bitterly repent their compliance with the king's order to elect him, for he greatly oppressed them, keeping them shut up in the church for three days without food. They fled from his violence, and took shelter in other monasteries. He dispossessed the prior, and filled the convent with men of a baser sort, whom he made monks of his house. Even the king disapproved of his violence.'

Indeed, the de Valence brothers became thoroughly unpopular throughout the country, confirming everyone's worst fears about foreign favourites at court, and were eventually exiled to France. The monks of Winchester took advantage of his absence to elect another Bishop in 1259, but that didn't stop the Pope from consecrating Aymer as Bishop in Rome in 1260. To everyone's relief, Aymer died in Paris on his way back to England. His body was buried at Fontevrault in France (with Henry II and Richard I), but his heart was sent back for burial to Winchester cathedral and his memorial is now just outside the Guardian Angels Chapel. My notes say that the upper part of the memorial was lost for many years but rediscovered during William Walker's work in 1912. It is of interest to historians as having the oldest coat of arms in the cathedral.

And a final local connection with Pembroke? The current Earls of Pembroke no longer have any links to Pembroke Castle, their 'seat' now being Wilton House near Salisbury.

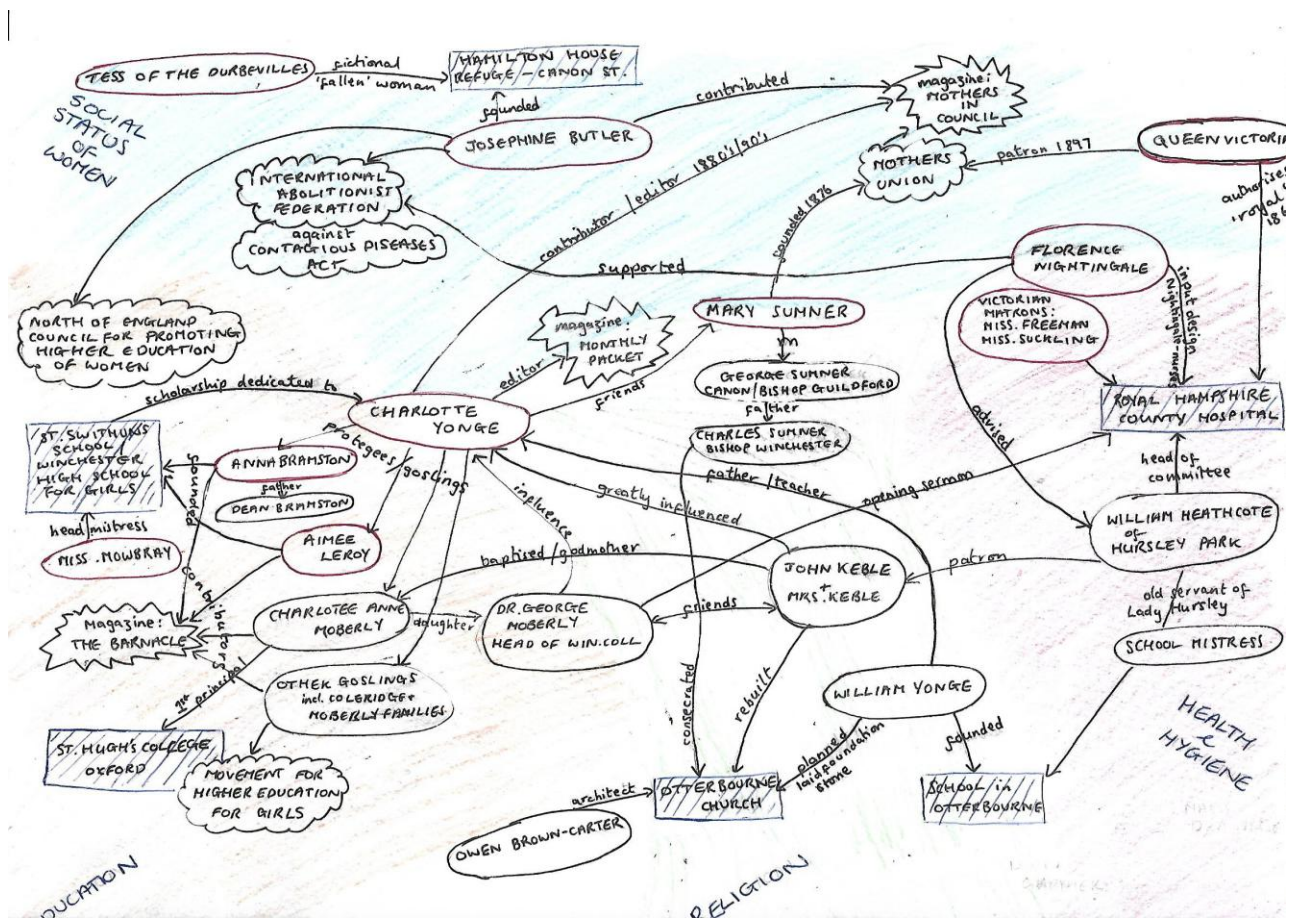


Aymer's memorial in Winchester Cathedral

Item: 4	Title: Mind Map for Victorian Winchester
Date: 5 Jan 2018	Contributor: Erica Wheeler

The mind map included is one I put together in the process of researching the Remarkable Victorian Women tour (all credit to Vanessa, whose notes I have used extensively). I seek to show all the connections between a certain group of people, movers, shakers and thinkers in Victorian Winchester, biased towards women but not exclusively.

It may be of interest, either for the content, or if you are unfamiliar with the technique. I am somewhat embarrassed as it hasn't turned out as readable, tidy or professional as I had hoped – but the value is in the way that the information is handled – and the way that links can be made which are not obvious within textual documents. Anyway, having made it I thought I would send it on, as it has already helped me clear my thoughts about the tour just by making it.



Item: 5	Title: Water Close Garden - Update
Date: 6 Jan 2018	Contributor: Colin Cook

Colin has very kindly provided (at very short notice) a brief summary of the meeting on Thursday 4 Jan.



Hampshire Gardens Trust



**Meeting convened by Hampshire Gardens Trust and Winchester City Trust
about the Water Close Garden, Colebrook Street
St Lawrence Parish Hall, Colebrook Street, Thursday 4 January, 6.30 – 8.00
AGENDA**

1. Chairman's welcome and introductions

Attendees included: Steve Tilbury (WCC), John Standing, Jackie Porter and Dominic Hiscock (WCC & HCC Counsellors), Ian Patten (WCT), Michael Carden (WCT), Sally Miller (HGT), Janet Hurrell (HGT), John Holder (Friends of Dean Garnier Garden Trustee), Russell Gordon-Smith (Landscape Architect and author of 'Gardens of Winchester'), Alison Davidson (Heritage Consultant), Colin Cook, Elizabeth Newport & Judy Simmons (WATGA), Elizabeth & Anthony Proudman (CWT)

2. Questions of fact or clarification arising from the two position papers (previously circulated)

Steve Tilbury (WCC) went through the options available to the Council – (a) Purchase, (b) Regulatory protection – and confirmed that officers in the relevant departments were actively reviewing its status and ways to increase protection. There were however legislative constraints.

Alison Davidson (formerly WCC Heritage now independent consultant) advised that from her research at the HRO when the garden was sold in October 1967 a covenant was put in place in a document entered into by WDC (prior to WCC being formed in 1974) and Vendor (Sir Peter Smithers) restricting building development and requiring its retention as a garden. She also stated that the land was included in the listing of Colebrook House in 1950 and would remain protected. She advised WCC to immediately issue a Building Preservation Notice to ensure that nothing could be done to alter walls etc for 6 months. This would enable all the other initiatives proposed to be set in train.

Sally Miller reviewed Water Garden's eligibility for Heritage England listing status as "Asset of Community Value" to ensure it remained as a garden and accessible to the public.

John Standing advised that owner Lady Calcutt died in 2015 and her executors QC Sir Christopher Wilson-Smith who inherited No.27 Colebrook Street and garden. It is he who is selling it.

John Beveridge visited Belgarum and learnt that an offer had been accepted and was led to understand that the purchaser was not intending to change the character of the garden.

3. General discussion on the current position and options

4. Agreement on course of action

Decided to form Steering Group. Immediate action to contact Hampshire Chronicle and prepare media release. Mindful that purchaser may be benign and that precipitate action could alienate/ **Elizabeth**

Newport suggested letter be sent via Agents to purchaser seeking his/her intentions regarding gardens. Pursue protective listings and WCC officers to research 1967 restrictive covenant.

5. Pledges of practical help invited

A number provided and will be followed up

6. Future meeting to be scheduled if the position materially changes

At a date to be arranged once progress on above able to be reported.

7. AOB



Item: 6	Title: Diary Dates
Date: 2018	Contributor: Clare Dixon

WATGA Dates for the diary

- Tuesday 9th January 2018, WATGA New Year Lunch, Masonic Centre, Alresford Road, Winchester
- Tuesday 20th February 2018, February General Meeting at 2pm in the Undercroft of the Cathedral Education Centre. Our speaker will be Annabelle Boyes, Receiver General, who will bring us up to date with progress on the Cathedral works. Immediately before the meeting we hope to organise some CPD on newly-revealed parts of the Cathedral, including the Lady Chapel and perhaps the ceiling bosses in the Quire. Details to follow.

Guide Lines Dates

- February Issue
 - submit copy by weekend 27/28 Jan 2018
 - publish over weekend 3/4 Feb 2018
- March Issue
 - submit copy by weekend 24/25 Feb 2018
 - publish over weekend 3/4 Mar 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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