



# Guide Lines

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

Issue of Summer 2019

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Item: 1	Title: <b>The Royal Hotel Tapestry</b>
Date: June 2019	Contributor: <b>Colin Cook</b>

## THE ROYAL HOTEL TAPESTRY

In the January 2018 issue of *Guidelines* I asked if anyone had any idea of the provenance of the tapestry that hangs in the stair well leading to the Darials Room in the Royal Hotel. WATGA members may be interested to know that I have found out a little more about its likely provenance.



Ross Turle, Curator of Social and Industrial History Hampshire Cultural Trust showed the photograph. Here is his contribution –

Coats of arms is not my strong point. A quick google on the Latin reveals that it says ‘Glory to the father’ presumably a contraction of father, son and holy ghost but I guess not necessarily. The diagonal quartering reminds me a bit of the St. Andrew’s flag as does the blue colouring. I attended a study day at the British Museum on Wednesday and one of the attendees was a herald from the College of Arms so I forwarded the image onto him. His answer reads as follows: -

‘This banner shows (with one small error) the arms of John Arthur Dewar, of The Homestall in Sussex, chairman of Dewars the distillers, who died in 1954, or his uncle Lord Dewar who lived at the same place and died in 1930. If it was the uncle’s, though, it should predate 1902 as there are none of the signs of him being anything other than an ordinary gentleman, and in 1902 he was knighted (subsequently becoming a lord in 1919). So it’s either pre-1902 or post-1930. Lord Dewar in particular had a strong association with racing which I suppose may have carried across into Hampshire; and perhaps the son had some similar association. But I can’t see any strong link with Winchester, I’m afraid.’

However, despite further enquiry of the current hotel management, I have been unable to establish how it has finished up in its present location.

Undaunted, I googled John Arthur Dewar and Homestall and this led me to some fascinating facts about a historic house in Ashdown Forest and about Dewar, who inherited his uncle’s whisky and horse stud business in 1930. Originating as a hunting lodge for John of Gaunt The Homestall was renamed “Dutton Homestall” following extensive additions made in the 1930’s by the wealthy socialite wife John Dewar acquired in 1932 just after his uncle’s death. She had bought a Tudor mansion in Cheshire, and feeling Dewar’s country property was too small for a couple of their social status, she had Dutton Hall dismantled and re-erected Tudor brick by Tudor brick and timber by timber reinstalled alongside the original 14th century house.

Not only was Dewar bequeathed a whisky fortune but both winning racehorses and greyhounds. After his marriage to Kathleen McNeill they spent Monday to Friday in their permanent suite at Claridges and entertained at Dutton-Homestall during the weekends in ‘Gosford Park’ style.

There is enough material on line about Dewar and the house to provide an illustrated lecture but it is the house’s later history which may provide a clue to whether the tapestry was commissioned by the untitled but social aspiring childless couple to hang above the oak panelling in the John of Gaunt room, their ‘baronial’ hall at Dutton-Homestall.

From 1939 the house contributed to the war effort as “Dutton-Hall Convalescent Hospital” (for members of the “Guinea Pig Club” – military personnel recovering from skin grafts at the nearby Queen Victoria Hospital) and, from 1955, became “the Stoke Brunswick School”, which closed in 2009. In 2010, it was sold and all the contents auctioned off. Is it possible that the former owner of the Royal Hotel attended the auction and acquired the tapestry then? Or could it have reached Winchester by an altogether different route and with a different story? The mystery remains!

Item: 2	Title: <b>King Alfred's Statue</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Johanna Cruickshank</b>

## King Alfred's Statue

We are all used to seeing King Alfred in the Broadway. Now a new exhibition in Frome offers a view of Hamo Thornycroft's Alfred prior to his installation in Winchester.

The foundry J. W. Singer & Sons produced a large number of important public monuments, employing 700 people in its heyday. The Victorians were enthusiasts of photography, still a relatively new phenomenon, and so a photographic record was made of various sculptures in the workshop before these were sent out into the world. The photographs were made using large plate glass negatives, no doubt bulky to store so the 1970s saw them tossed in to a skip. Fortunately, they were rescued, and an exhibition has been organised of prints made from these original negatives.



Apart from several recognisable London sculptures, Winchester's King Alfred, standing among others in the foundry workshop, appears as a familiar friend to us. His later fame and iconic status are still to come. A nearby workman lends a sense of scale and size as Alfred is standing on the workshop floor, not yet elevated onto the granite plinth.

Image courtesy of Frome Museum.

The 20ft (6m) statue of King Alfred at J. W. Singer and Sons Foundry, Frome.

More details can be found on this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-48638336>

N.B. I suspect could be some further research into the theme of items retrieved from skips --- I'm thinking also of the plans and drawings of the Peninsula Square buildings which were rescued by Huw Thomas.

Item: 3	Title: <b>Medieval Gate Apertures</b>
Date: 22 Feb 2019	Contributor: <b>Michael Fielding</b>

In September, Sarah and I were invited to go on a tour of Winchester College by a neighbour. Not only is she a guide there but she is also a Blue Badge Guide but not one here in Winchester.

One of the things we were shown was the round aperture in the right-hand door of the Middle Gate. The suggestion was that it was to take rolled up scrolls in medieval times. I took this up with the College archivist who said that she had only heard this story from their Guides and has found no evidence elsewhere to support it. She did wonder if the opening was to allow the handing out of tips to those delivering letters.

Her counterpart at the sister foundation of New College said that their gates were probably not the originals. She wondered if the Winchester College aperture was to hand out charitable doles in times of unrest or sickness when the College was unwilling to open its gates. This strikes a chord with me although a College counter-argument is that why, in such times, would the College open the outer gates to allow access to the Middle Gate.

As I passed into the Close one morning early in 2019, I spotted, for the first time, the 3 apertures in the Prior’s Gate. I wonder how many times over the years have I passed through the archway and not noticed them. To my mind, the suggestion by the New College archivist rings true. If any member of WATGA has some thoughts on this matter then please would they let me know. Karen Dagwell has kindly asked in the Cathedral but has drawn a blank. The accompanying photos show the apertures in question.



Winchester College Middle Gate



Priors Gate Winchester Cathedral Close

Item: 4	Title: <b>Wickham – Enough to Kill 240 Men</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Elizabeth Newport</b>

In September 1892 a news story went viral, appearing in the Derby Daily Telegraph, the Dundee Courier, the Tamworth Herald and the Nottingham Evening Post.

ENOUGH TO KILL 240 MEN. On Tuesday an inquest was held at Wickham, Hampshire, on the body of James Cave, who had been a coachman in the employ of Miss Harvey, of Wickham Lodge, for 24 years. He had in his care a quantity of a patent ‘weed killer’, in which arsenic and carbolic acid are the principal ingredients. The deceased had placed some of the mixture in a bottle, intending to give it to another coachman to try it, and there was no doubt he had swallowed a quantity in a gulp in mistake. A medical man stated that deceased had taken enough to kill 240 men. The jury returned a verdict of misadventure, and expressed an opinion that more stringent precautions should be taken in the wholesale sale of poison.

A bit of research established that the newspapers had, in fact, all got his name wrong! The victim was James Cane, aged 45, and he lived with his wife Emma and 12 year old daughter at Wickham Lodge in the household of Frances Emily Harvey, a woman living on her own means. Nine years after the accident, Emma was still working as a cook for Miss Harvey.

Inquests were often held in public houses and I told the sad story of James Cave outside a pub in Wickham.

Item: 5	Title: <b>Dr William Stephens, Dean of Winchester</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Karen Dagwell</b>

In 1895 the Dean of Winchester, (who is named in the list of Winchester Deans for that year as Dr William Stephens) had been invited to have dinner with one of the judges and he had rather too much claret. The upshot was that the Dean signed over the lease of the building, now known as The Judges Lodgings, 4, The Close, to the County Council to be used as accommodation by the judges when they were in town. But the Dean made a mistake by signing over the leasehold for 999 years instead of 99 years and for a peppercorn rent of £500. Given that the rent of some of the houses in The Close today are in the region of £80-90,000 it would not be surprising that the Cathedral rues the day that the Dean had rather too much to drink!

(I cannot remember where I got this from so I should be grateful if any one can enlighten me. KD).

Dr Stephens himself died a most unfortunate death. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 1902 a mayoral banquet took place in the Guildhall with 134 guests in attendance, where he consumed some of the oysters. Unfortunately the beds in Emsworth, Hampshire where the oysters were sourced had

been contaminated with raw sewage. Consequently many of the guests including Stephens contracted typhoid fever as a result of eating contaminated oysters and some died. Stephens died about 6 weeks later after the poisoning, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1902, and his death was attributed to the oysters. In total there were four deaths due to the oysters eaten that night.

The resulting investigation following the poisonings was impressive. Dr H Timbrell Bulstrode, a senior medical inspector, pioneered the use of a questionnaire to investigate this food borne disease outbreak by collecting data on all the guests. He sent a copy of the menu to each of the guests and they indicated which items of food they consumed. He then tabulated the results and concluded that out of the 63 people who became ill, 61 of them had eaten the oysters. Bulstrode published his detailed analysis and a modern analysis fully confirms his findings. His report was entitled ‘Dr H Timbrell Bulstrode’s Report to the Local Government Board upon alleged Oyster-borne Enteric Fever and other Illnesses following the Mayoral Banquets at Winchester and Southampton, and upon Enteric Fever occurring simultaneously elsewhere, and also ascribed to Oysters’.

An article in the British Medical Journal in 2004 goes on to say that ‘The detail of the detective investigation aiming to prove beyond doubt that oysters were the culprits illustrates the creativity and imagination of public health inspectors around 1900.’

Item: 6	Title: <b>Some Worthy villages connections with Winchester</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Erica Wheeler</b>

I recently researched a talk for the Worthy Local History Group on ‘Worthy Women’, along the lines of our Victorian Women tour, but obviously focusing on the Worthy Villages (Abbots Worthy, Martyr Worthy, Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy). I found a few Worthy connections with Winchester, through certain characters, that guides may be interested in.

Charles Benny was an entrepreneur, a grocer and tea merchant by trade, and born in Chichester. However, he had a big connection with Winchester. By 1823 he was a Pavement Commissioner and Freeman of the City. He became Mayor three times and set up the West Hill Cemetery (the city’s graveyards bursting at the seams at the time), the strong railings and entrance lodge perhaps a result of the grave robbing incident he suffered when his sister in law died. He also set up the gas lighting of the city and the Water works just off Romsey Road. He was so well respected that all the shops closed on the afternoon of his funeral, which was in his own cemetery, West Hill. He also lived in his (semi) retirement for 18 years in Kings Worthy in a house called ‘The Cottage’. This is on the corner of Church Lane and London Road. He also owned other properties in the village, including Kings Worthy Grove, and in Winchester, including the Royal Hotel, St. Peter’s Street. He brought gas lighting to Kings Worthy and was one of the driving forces behind the church restoration.

Mrs. Caroline Slessor. She was the second wife of Reverend Slessor, Rector of Headbourne Worthy in the late 1800s. He achieved many things in the village including restoring and saving the ancient St. Swithun's church and starting the school. She however, was one of Mary Sumner's best friends and was the Diocesan Secretary for Mothers Union. She joined in around 1886 and retired in 1905, at exactly the time there was the great expansion in membership. She started many new groups and advised on many others. Her retirement 'tea party' was covered by the Hampshire Chronicle and Mary Sumner speaks about Mrs. Slessor's passion and zeal. She lived at Headbourne Worthy Rectory (now HW Grange) on School Lane.

Matilda Bishop was the daughter of the Rector of Martyr Worthy, Alfred Bishop, in the mid 1800s. In Winchester Anna Bramston and Aimee Leroy were just setting up Winchester High School for Girls (later St. Swithuns) and providing an academic secondary education for girls in many subjects including sciences and sports, allowing them for the first time to take University entrance exams. Matilda Bishop was also one of these education pioneers. Her father ran a small boarding school and she was educated presumably with her father's pupil: like Charlotte Younge and Florence Nightingale her father provided her with an unorthodox but strict and academic education). She went on to become headmistress of first Chelsea High School and then Oxford High School, two more of these new high schools for girls. She then became first Principal of Royal Holloway College, where she again set high academic standards and encouraged the female students to take the Oxford University degree examinations (although no degrees could be awarded). She died in 1913 and there is a brass in Martyr Worthy church commemorating her.

Lord and Lady Eversley moved to Abbots Worthy in 1896, to the large Abbotsworthy House and were some of its most illustrious residents at the time. However, then they were George and Constance Shaw Lefevre. He was a successful Liberal MP, and a friend of Liberal PM Gladstone (as was Josephine Butler) whose highest post was Postmaster General. She was the daughter of the Earl of Ducie and an aristocratic philanthropist. He was raised to the peerage in 1906 and took the title Lord Eversley, which was a revival of his uncle's title Viscount Eversley. I had mistakenly believed that the foundation stone of the Guildhall was laid in 1871 by the Kings Worthy Lord Eversley, but in fact it is too early for that and it was his uncle. Lord Eversley was interested in preserving urban green spaces and was instrumental in creating the large park in Kings Worthy, Eversley Park (named after him of course). Lady Eversley seems rather overshadowed by her husband but she set up an Orphanage in Kings Worthy (now a private house visible from the A33) taking 6 girls from the poorest areas of the East End. They died in 1928 (he) and 1929 (she) and are buried in St. Mary's churchyard in Kings Worthy (south side under a large yew).



**The Orphanage**

Noah Vincent. The old Post Office in Kings Worthy (now a private house on the London Road/Worthy Lane, painted pink) was one of the first, possibly the first, Post Office in the country, and opened in 1845. Noah Vincent was in charge. He had a wife and children, but it seems was also involved with another woman in Winchester. In 1847 he was found dead in the Spread Eagle, in Winchester where he was co-habiting with his mistress, Elizabeth Houghton. She was accused of poisoning him, and it came to trial, but she was found not guilty. It is still a mystery, but seems it may have been an accidental death of arsenic poisoning. His gravestone reads:

Noah Vincent, who died January 25<sup>th</sup> 1847, aged 34 years. Watch and Pray that you Enter not into Temptation

His wife married again, to the manservant of Charles Benny, John Holdaway, and continued to run the Post Office. Generations of the Holdaways continued to run the Post Office until 1966.



Miss Emma Turnor. Kings Worthy House was a large Victorian house on the corner of the turning from London Road to the A33, next to the Cart and Horses, now demolished. Her brother Richard Turnor had been a generous benefactor to the village and founded the Reading Room, Almshouses and a new organ for the church. But he was an invalid and died young in 1889. Emma, continued to live in the house until her death 1916. It seems she was quite a character, possibly not always likable (according to oral history) and she was a great horsewoman. Her obituary says:

“The deceased lady was a splendid horsewoman, and for several years hunted four or five days a week with the Blackmoor Vale Hounds, and was frequently out with the H.H. and the Hursley. On the death of her mother, however, she gave up hunting and then used her fine horses for driving, going for driving tours all over the country. She was a magnificent whip, and was considered one of the best in this part of England – experienced judges were wont to speak of her beautiful and sensitive hands as being, as it were, shaped by nature for the purpose.” Hampshire Chronicle 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916

She also went to church in Winchester every week to Holy Trinity Church, which is the Anglo-Catholic Church in Winchester. She, like Charlotte Younge, and those involved in the Oxford Movement, believed the Church of England should incorporate and encourage more of the Catholic doctrine. Perhaps she even knew Charlotte Younge, although I have found no evidence of this. Her two interests were notable in her funeral arrangements when she had two services, one at Holy Trinity Church and then after processing back to Kings Worthy, one in St. Mary’s and then interment in the graveyard. She especially asked for her two horses to follow her coffin on both stages of the procession, to Winchester and back.

Open the map below to find the locations of properties mentioned above.



1909 OS of KW.docx

I’m sure more connections will arise as I research more. But here are a few to get you started.

Item: 7	Title: <b>Parish Boundary Markers</b>
Date: 2018	Contributor: <b>Steve Heath</b>

I have a terrible weakness for “rabbit holes”; minor things that irritate if you don’t know the answer. Clare Dixon suffers from a similar (but I think less serious) affliction. Certain recipe for trouble then when we walked past the Parish Boundary marker on the rear of No 3 The Square, which is Gieves & Hawkes and wondered, in passing, what the M stood for. Just as an aside I also learned, through questioning the staff in G&H about the wall art, that their landlord is the City Council. I didn’t know that.



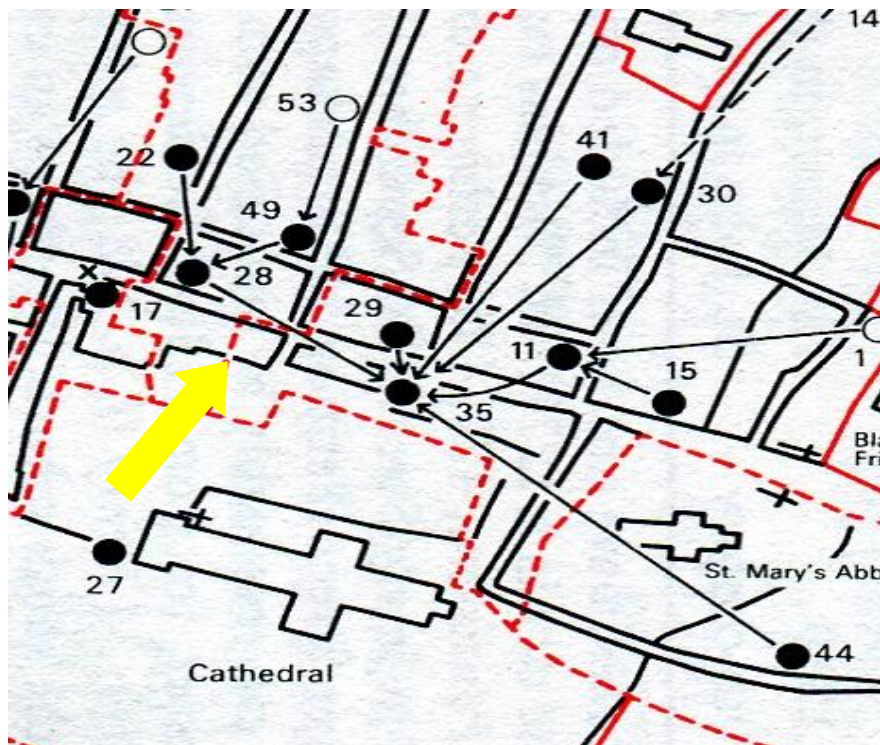
Parish Boundary Marker on Back Wall of #3 The Square

The MK was we assumed Mary Kalendar, and the SM would be St Maurice, but what was the M?

I borrowed a copy of the Survey of Medieval Winchester by Derek Keene, and rootled through the section on Parishes and their boundaries. Thank you to Karen. As well as a hugely informative map, there is a table of all of the known Parishes and their fate – and this is what it tells me:

- it confirmed that MK is indeed St Mary Kalendar (#28 on the map)
- it further confirms that SM is St Maurice (#35 on the map)
- and finally it would suggest that the M refers to St Mary in the Cemetery (#27 on the map)

marvellous query answered, job done ..... except



St Mary Kalendar was absorbed by St Maurice 1682, and subsequently St Maurice was itself absorbed by St Lawrence (#17 on the map) in 1957. Furthermore St Mary in the Cemetery disappeared in the C16th during the Dissolution.

So by 1772, the only relevant boundary would be that between St Maurice and St Lawrence. But then the 1772 seems to be St Maurice and an R(?) which makes no sense to me, or could it be an M over a K?

Should we assume that in the C19<sup>th</sup> they were “reminiscing” with the boundary marker, but if so what is the significance of 1812, 1834, 1851 and 1864?

I’ve not given up yet and would ask you to treat this as a cry for help from a troubled soul, or a call to arms for our collective knowledge. Anyone who has any ideas I’d really appreciate any steers which are available. Thank you

Editor’s note:

Steve, my initial thoughts on the discrepancy between the dates is the distinction between Ecclesiastical and Civil Parishes, and the answer may lie in that distinction. Urban Civil Parishes took over some of the administrative rolls from the church, during the 19th century, especially with regard to the Poor Laws, but by the end of the century this administration was centralised.

Item: 8	Title: <b>Musicians Imprisoned at the Westgate</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Patrick Craze</b>



From time to time the Westgate resonates with the sounds of 16<sup>th</sup> century music kindly played by Martin and Anita Felton of Coutlye Musick. However, I recently discovered, in the Westgate guide of 1905, that they were not the first Tudor musicians to spend some time at the Westgate and in 1598 three musicians were there in less happier circumstances.

Extract from *The Ancient Westgate, Winchester* by Alderman W H Jacob 1905

There are amongst the fragmentary papers of the Elizabethan age the deposition of three men examined by Mr. John White, who were committed to the Westgate for an evident desire to turn their musical talents to some profitable account, a statute of some sort or other notwithstanding. Their depositions are quaint and amusing, and we can almost fancy we see the harp, base violl and violett (violin) coming across the ancient bridge from, the Soke to. discourse sweet music, arid their owners being carried away to durance vile by the constables by order of the Maior, John Purdue, senior, The intencion of Noble to marry a lass at Stockbridge is amusing. But here are the depositions :—

The indorsement of the document is as follows:—

The examination of Robt. ffurnesse, Thos. Monday, Willm. Noble > Musicians. Taken in Winchestre and Committed to the Westgate by Mr. John White, one of the Justices of the city where they remained 2 days and then enlarged by the Maior and the said John White 2\ffeb. 1598.

23 fiebruary 1598—The examination of Robert ffurness of Tichfield Taylor he also pfesseth to be a musician upon a harpe and saith that on friday last he came to Bisshops Waltham and lodged at the house of Richard. Dyer and accompanied Thomas Monday there who is skilful upon the base violl and William Noble of Portsmouth mett they there who playeth upon the violett and there they continued from friday last until Wednesday last and they came to the Soke of . Winchester and there lodged and had no oLher errand there but to use their minstrelsy and make merry and get somewhat for their use. But said that they played not in Winchester with their instruments only at their Lodgings. The morning they tuned their instruments" ai.d soe they brought them upp into the cittie intending to plav amongst their friends but did not play for he says they were apprehended before it. He saith he was acquainted with Thomas Monday these XX years past and with Noble, about one month past.

The examination of Thomas Monday, of Bisshops Waltham Shoemaker he saith he hath skill to play on a Base Violl and come in company with Robert Ffurnesse and William Noble to Winchester on Wednesday night last and lodged at William Warrens in the Soke but saith • they played not on their instruments either in the Soke or in the town. They came this time to see their friends and to gett somewhat for their charges..

The examination of William Noble Sailor.. He also saith that he is a musician lately from the sea and fell aquainted with . . . Turks of Stockbridge who - he intendeth to take to his wife and -is purposed to go to. sea again as soon as the Rose Lion-can be made ready. He came oh Wednesday night last to Winchester in. the company of Ffurnesse and Monday who also are musicians and they brought their instruments with them intending to gett some money by their minstrelsy to help bear their charges but this disponent saith that they did not use or exercise their instruments in this city or any place because they were apprehended before by the officers. He pretendeth that he was at sea when the statute on this behalf was made and being now advertised thereof he promises that henceforth he will not offend against the same.

Item: 9	Title: <b>Heritage Website</b>
Date: Jun 2019	Contributor: <b>Johanna Cruikshank</b>

Johanna has kindly sent a link to the heritage website Heritagedaily which includes street maps of Roman Britain as well as many other heritage related features and articles.

Ctrl + Click on the link below to start exploring the website.

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2019/01/roman-britain-street-map/118249>

### Guide Lines Dates

- Summer Issue
  - submit copy by 20 June 2019
  - publish 30 June 2019
- Autumn Issue
  - submit copy by 20 September 2019
  - publish 30 September 2019
- Winter Issue
  - submit copy by 20 December 2019
  - publish 31 December 2019

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

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