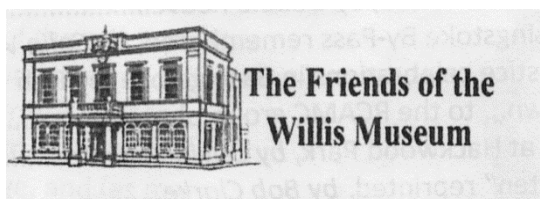


Friends of the Willis Museum Newsletter, May 2026



The first shop was in Winchester Street. Now they are in over 40 countries. See *Thomas Burberry remembered*.

'The Friends' was founded in 1978 to "promote, support and improve the Willis Museum." Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month for ten months of the year, and other events are arranged from time to time. *Registered Charity no 280406.*

Annual subscription £15. Visitor for one meeting £3

Your committee: Derek Anthony (Chairman), David Wickens (Deputy Chairman and Programme Secretary); Ian Scott (Treasurer); Steve Crudge (Publicity and Minutes); John Hollands (Publicity and Newsletter); Barbara Johnson (Membership Secretary); Lynn Martin; Stuart Parker (Assistant programme secretary); Sophie McClean (General Manager, ex officio).

This issue compiled and edited by John Hollands, proof read and distributed by Derek Anthony

Contact us via the museum or on enquiries@friendsofthewillis.org.uk

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From the Chairman, Derek Anthony

Welcome to the May issue of our Newsletter. I do hope that you had an opportunity to get out and enjoy the fine weather in April.

Before anything else I would like to pay tribute to our member, Alison Stone. Ali died in February after a short illness having been a very supportive member of The Friends for very many years. Our deepest sympathy goes to David and the rest of Ali's family.

It will soon be time for everyone to renew their membership. When you receive the renewal form (sometime in June) please do read through the section on Gift Aid. These days many more people are having to pay income tax for the first time which, in a strange way, is good news for registered charities like The Friends. If you do pay income tax please think about signing up for Gift Aid. By doing so your contribution increases by 25% at no extra cost to yourself.

Your committee is working on a Summer Outing for an afternoon in early August. This year our chosen venue is Lasham airfield and the Museum of Gliding, a follow-up to the subject of our May monthly meeting, "The History of Lasham Airfield".

Finally, I thoroughly recommend the current exhibition (two exhibitions really) on the subject of "Bees" to be found in both the Museum's Sainsbury Gallery and Community Gallery. Beekeeping has a local connection which features in this exhibition. Charles Butler, sometimes called "the father of English beekeeping", was the Vicar of Wootton St. Lawrence from 1600 to 1647.

From the General Manager, Sophie McClean

Dear Friends,

It has been another very busy few months at the Willis Museum & Sainsbury Gallery. Our "Bees!" Exhibition opened in March and feedback from visitors has been extremely positive. It is great to have such a bright and engaging exhibition as we move into spring/summer. If you haven't had a chance to visit, it is well worth looking at, and the exhibition is on until the end of June

We have had several bee-themed activities so far including an informative talk by Chris Park. However, there is more to come! As well as bee-themed family activities we are also hosting our first event with a honey sommelier on June 14 where participants will take a deep dive into the world of honey through tasting different varieties and learning more from the Honey Guild of the United Kingdom. Please check our website for more information.

Page 3 I'm also very pleased to tell you all that alongside several new volunteers who have joined us recently we have a new member of staff. Lily Screen will be with us two days a week front of house, starting mid-May. We are very pleased to have a bit more support, and I'm sure Lily will meet some of you shortly.

As always, a massive thank you from me for your on-going support for the Willis Museum and the team. It's been nearly ten months since I started here and time has flown! I've enjoyed getting to know the venue and it's wonderful to have such a supportive Friends' group.

I hope you will all have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you all at a Friends' talk soon.

Best wishes,

Sophie

Edwin Lutyens and the Daneshill Brickworks, by *Bill Fergie*



In May 2025, the Hampshire Field Club organised a visit to New Place at Shirrell Heath, near Southampton. New Place is a grand, but rather unusual, country house designed by the architect Edwin Lutyens in the early years of the 20th century. The house is unusual in that the lady who commissioned it, a Mrs Franklyn, had inherited a fine 17th century merchant's house in Bristol and wanted some of the fine interiors of that house incorporated into the new one. When she commissioned Lutyens, the Bristol house was a shadow of its former self and in use as a tobacco warehouse. Not only had it clearly seen better days but it was due to be demolished.

Left: New Place from the South-East. It is a Grade 1 listed building.

However, despite the warehouse use the interiors of many of the rooms retained their original

features and Mrs Franklyn determined that they should be preserved, together with a finely carved staircase. It is not recorded what Edwin Lutyens thought of this rather unusual commission, but he made a pretty good job of it. The house is now a hotel and conference venue, and although it has been greatly extended to fulfil that role the Lutyens house has been conserved together with the 17th century interiors. They are of a very high quality, as can be seen from the photographs in this article. It is easy to see why Mrs Franklyn wanted them incorporated into her new house.

Right: The Bristol Room at New Place with its fine carved stone fireplace and overmantel and strapwork ceiling with pendants.

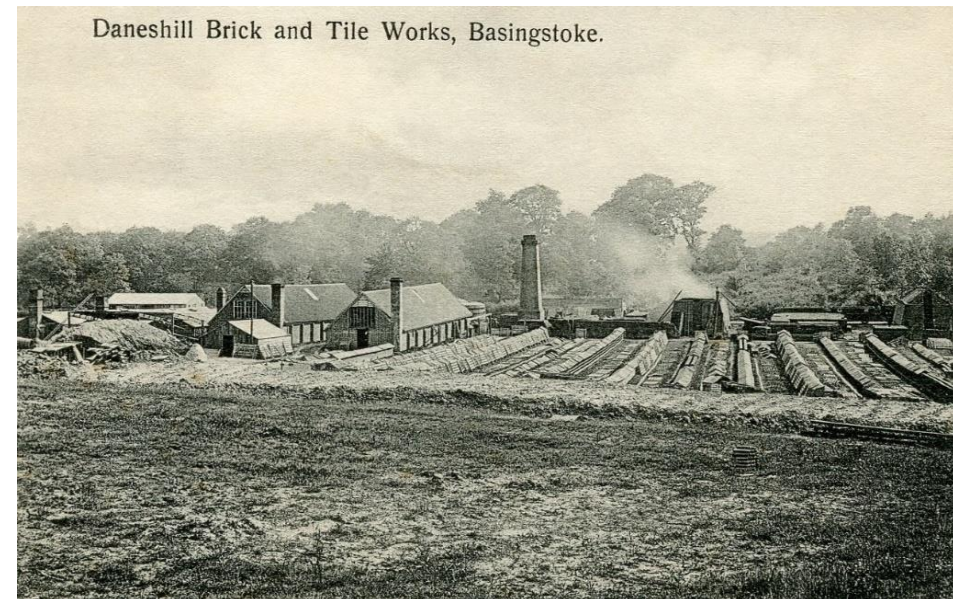


Far left: The grand mahogany door case in the Bristol Room with mother-of-pearl inlay in the lower sections of the Corinthian columns.

Left The fine oak staircase with heraldic beasts decorating the newel posts.



Daneshill Brick and Tile Works, Basingstoke.



Above left: The brickworks on an old picture postcard, courtesy Alastair Blair; right: the surviving Lutyens designed "sample house", a grade 2 listed building.

Research into New Place before the Field Club visit revealed that it, in common with many of Lutyens' early country houses, was built with bricks from the Daneshill Brickworks. The story of how that came about is an interesting one. Sometime around 1900 Walter Hoare, banker and director of a major London brewery, was discussing a new house he wished Lutyens to design for him on an imposing site at Daneshill in Basingstoke. During one of their meetings the pair took a walk around the nearby village of Basing (later Old Basing), and Lutyens was very taken with the Tudor bricks from which the properties in the village were largely built - many of the bricks originating from the devastated Basing House after the Civil War, when Parliament authorised their re-use by the villagers as a means of ensuring even further ruination. The architect persuaded his client that he should locate a source for the clay that produced such beautiful bricks so that he could use them for the new house. Walter Hoare duly obliged and the Daneshill Brickworks opened in 1903, a short distance from his new home, Daneshill House, which was finished in the same year.

Page 5 It continued in business as a commercial brickworks until 1957 and at its peak, with a branch line connection to the nearby Basingstoke/Reading railway line, was producing 700,000 bricks a year. Much of its output comprised the narrow two inch 'Tudor' bricks which had so impressed Lutyens in the village of Old Basing, and which he subsequently employed in a large number of his houses. The various clay products of the brickworks were not just used by Edwin Lutyens but for many building projects across the south of England. Brickworks are not generally notable for the quality of their architecture, but many Victorian and Edwardian works built "samples houses", both as a means of advertising their wares and of providing the small amount of office space that a brickworks needed. We are fortunate that although the Daneshill works disappeared soon after its closure its samples house survived and is now a Grade 2 listed building. It can be found hiding in the middle of the Bilton Trading Estate, as the photograph shows, and where it still provides office space.

The overall organisation of The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society is controlled by a council representing the various interest groups within its membership. There are four different groupings based on archaeology, local history, landscape, and historic buildings. Each group has its own committee which organises events, but these are available to the whole membership, regardless of an individual's particular field of interest. Someone with a particular interest in archaeology can therefore elect to participate in an event organised by the historic buildings committee if they so wish. Events normally comprise talks or visits to places of interest or a combination of the two. www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk

The Death and Resurrection of the Third Duke of Bolton *by Bob Clarke*

On 15 January 1733, the *Daily Courant* reported that "his Grace the Duke of Bolton is dangerously ill, and given over by his Physicians". In view of the above, readers of the *Daily Journal* and most other newspapers would not have been surprised to learn a few days later that "On Tuesday Morning last [16 January] died at his Seat at Hackwood in Hampshire, his Grace Charles Paulet, Duke of Bolton, Marquis of Winchester ...[etc.]". On 20 January, the *Craftsman* added, "He has left no Issue, so that the Title and Estate falls to his brother the Lord Harry Paulet".

Tough luck, Harry. You're gonna have to wait. Because three days later, the Duke rose from the dead. On 23 January, the *London Evening-Post* announced that "On Sunday his Grace the Duke of Bolton, who was reported to be dead, came to Town in good Health, from his Seat at Hackwood in Hampshire". Despite the efforts of the newspapers, he stayed alive for another 21 years until 1754.

It was quite common for newspapers to report the premature deaths of prominent people. As the *Grub-street Journal* explained on 19 December 1734, "There is no privilege in which the authors of our daily and weekly papers may more justly glory than that of the power of life and death. Whom they will, they send to the grave, and whom they will, they restore to life again. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who, God be thanked, is still living, has often with pleasure and surprise read in those papers the account of his own death".

Your attention is drawn... to Dinky Toy cars, *by the Editor*

Our founder, George Willis thought it appropriate for local items in a local museum to be backed up with items that are not local but help to tell the local story. Certainly, such items may evoke strong personal memories as does the twin tub washing machine in the walk through kitchen that Jenny Stevens wrote about for the January 2025 issue, whilst for some Friends the toys in the adjacent display case may also be a case in point.

On the upper shelf you see some Dinky Toy cars, made by Meccano Ltd. Dinky Toys were much sought after by boys and not a few girls from their introduction in the 1930s until their demise in 1979. Six models of popular cars of their day are on display here. (The dates that these models were in production have been

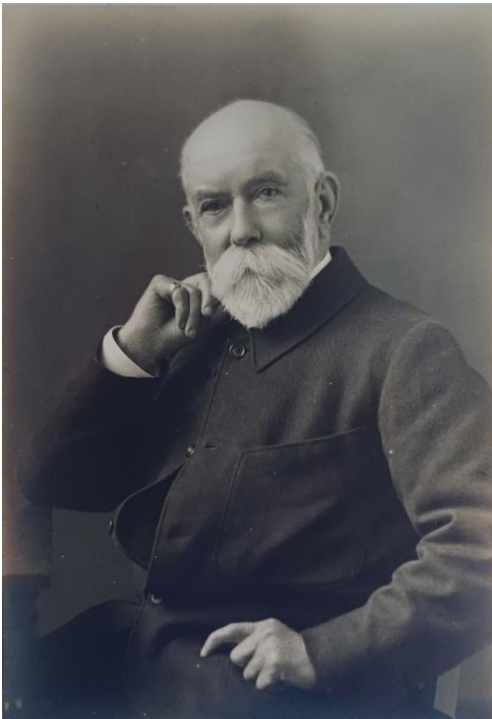


added in brackets.) From left to right in front are a Rover 75 (1951-58), a Morris Oxford (1950-60), and a Ford Zephyr (1956-60), and behind from left to right an Austin A105 Cambridge (1958-63), an Austin Somerset (1954-60), and a Hillman Minx (1958-61). Perhaps unfortunately from a museum viewpoint these models are not in their original condition as they have been repainted, albeit very skilfully, by a previous owner, but if you have ever owned any of these Dinky Toys you will recognise them instantly. Look carefully at the Austin Cambridge and you will see that it alone of the six it has transparent plastic windows. It was the first Dinky Toy saloon car to have them, a reaction to a serious new competitor, Corgi Toy model cars introduced in 1956 that had them

from the outset. A pity the Willis has no specimen of one particular Dinky Toy model, that of the “Mighty Antar” a reminder of Thornycrofts as well as of Meccano Ltd.

Do you have memories of Dinky Toys? Did you ride in any of the cars that these are models of? Please tell the Editor about your memories for an article in a future issue. (ifho241@outlook.com) More items from this display case will feature in a future article in this series.

Remembering Thomas Burberry 1835-1926, by John Hollands



Last year we celebrated a Jane Austen anniversary. This year we have a special reason to remember Thomas Burberry another local figure whose name is known world-wide: it is that he died a century ago on April 4th April 1926.

The son of a farmer, Thomas Burberry was born on August 27, 1835, in the village of Brockham Green, near Dorking, Surrey, and educated at the local elementary school. His country upbringing was to have a major influence on his whole life, giving him a passionate interest in agriculture, horses and country sports. It also underpinned his business career. Burberrys became famous for its garments of many kinds for *outdoor* wear in all kinds of weather.

His upbringing was Christian: he said that he had learned two things from his mother’s knee: “The first was to love God and his Book; the second was to love his neighbour and seek to do him good.” Throughout his life he both practised and preached his religion. As an employer he was kind and considerate, rewarding faithful service and relieving distress among his employees, and each day’s work in his factories began with a prayer meeting.

Having been apprenticed to a country draper Thomas set up in business on his own in 1856 at the age of 21 when he opened a shop at 20 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, An 1859 Basingstoke directory lists him as one of six “linen and woollen drapers” in the town. He is listed as a “linen draper” again in 1867.

As a location for business Basingstoke suited him well. It was a thriving market town with good communications, and the premises were capable of considerable expansion. As pictured on this issue’s front cover shortly before the 1905 fire they had a frontage of nearly 100 feet. Rebuilt on the same site they are now shared between a Turkish restaurant and a Nepalese grocery store. He also opened a china shop

Page 7 across the road; in 1868 he set up a small factory in New Street, and in the 1880s he was joined in the rapidly growing business by his two sons, Thomas Newman Burberry and Arthur Michael Burberry, after which the business traded as “Thomas Burberry and Sons”. His first wife Catherine died in 1896 and he married again. His second wife, Mary, was his junior by 19 years.



Above left: The Mount, shortly before demolition in the 1970s. Right: Crossways, now the site of Hook’s village car park.

Thomas’s first home in Basingstoke was over the shop. Then he moved to The Mount in Bounty Road. The Willis has a directory which lists him as a private resident there in 1875. Around the turn of the century he moved to Crossways a large double gabled house in Hook from where he would ride into Basingstoke on horseback until he was well over 70 and had a fall into a ditch. It’s on record that tramps were often seen going to the side door at Crossways where they were always given food and drink. There was said to be a sign by the entrance which told them that they would be welcomed.



A thoroughly honest businessman he was interested in both the making and selling of garments and in textile technology itself. Whilst still a young man a discussion with his doctor led him on to his most important invention. Was it healthier to get “wet through” or to be kept dry inside the old type of cloak which would in time become saturated with damp? The doctor suggested that the ideal waterproof garment would be resistant to wind and rain but would also allow air to reach the body. As a farmer’s son, Thomas noticed that shepherds’ smocks went much of the way towards fulfilling these requirements: their close weave plus contact with lanolin, the oily substance in sheep’s wool kept water droplets standing on the surface of the material by surface tension. The loose style of the garments also helped to make them warm in winter and cool in summer.

Left: former factory entrance in Hackwood Road. “BYP” stands for “Burberry Yarn Proof”

Over time Burberry worked on ways to make an improved version of this material and in collaboration with a cotton mill owner, he developed an impossible to tear fabric made from long staple Egyptian cotton, proofed both in the yarn and in the finished fabric. He called this basic material for all his famous outdoor garments “Gabardine” (a spelling variation on “Gaberdine” a name used by Shakespeare for a particular type of cloak) registering the trademark in 1879 and patenting it in 1900. The incorporation of this versatile and highly successful material in a wide range of garments was of course the key to his company’s success.

Page 8 “Gabardine” is one of the handful of trade names to be given a definition in the Oxford English Dictionary, followed later by “Burberry”, a name popularised by King Edward VII who was in the habit of saying “Give me my Burberry”, referencing his enthusiasm for his waterproof gabardine overcoat made by this company.



In 1891 he opened a shop at 30 Haymarket, London followed by a wholesale concern in Golden Square in 1900. The shop moved to 18-22 Haymarket in 1912 and still trades at this address. A first overseas shop was opened in Paris in 1910.

Left: an illustration by George Roller.

Thomas Burberry well knew the importance to his business of publicity, and in this sphere he owed much to an artist friend he had made through a shared love of horses, George Roller (1856-1941), whose home was in Tadley at “The Wilderness”, now Tadley Court School, and then “The Cottage”, now “Rollers”. From the early 1900s, Roller was to illustrate Burberry advertisements for almost 40 years. As a Company Sergeant-Major in the Old Middlesex Company Yeomanry he had served with distinction in the Boer War riding a horse that he named “Gabardine”. After the war he became a business partner and the manager of the London shop.

It was George Roller’s suggestion that Burberrys should have a registered trademark. An open competition was staged for a suitable design, and a horse is depicted in the winning design that Thomas Burberry had registered in 1909. The horse is charging into battle carrying an armed knight with couched lance. The knight symbolises chivalry and honest dealing. His armour stands for the protection afforded by gabardine, whilst the charge suggests a constant quest for innovation and improvement. “Prorsum” translates as “Forwards”.



In Basingstoke Thomas Burberry set up a second office and shop in London Street in 1892, and behind this a mill and factory on a site between Mark Lane and Hackwood Road. Three hundred workers were employed here. His entry in an 1897 Kelly’s Directory for Basingstoke reads;

Burberry, T & Sons, Lim, drapers, Winchester Street

Burberrys, experts in sporting tailoring & specialists in weatherproof kits, London Street, TA [= telegram address] “Gabardine”.

Other factories were set up in Winchester and Reading and a mill was acquired in Farnworth, Lancs, after which finished garments were made in Basingstoke but not the cloth itself.

Rather surprisingly a 1923 Kelly’s Directory, the last we have at the Willis to be issued in Thomas Burberry’s life time, simply reads “*Burberry’s Ltd, tailors, 27 London Street.*”

The original factory in New Street was sold to a former employee John Mares who also manufactured raincoats, in this case under the “Peltinvain” label. These were “off-the peg” as distinct from the made to measure garments in which Burberry’s specialised in. Gerrish, Ames and Simkins, located in Station Road, another local clothing manufacturer that specialised in ready-made rain ware was effectively an offshoot of

Page 9 Burberry's as well. Mr Gerrish had been in partnership with Thomas Burberry until 1878. Edgar Lanham who bought the rebuilt Winchester Street store in 1914 had also been a Burberry employee..

For a time, there was another Burberry shop in Church Street. Between them Basingstoke's Burberry shops not only sold clothing and fabrics but also china, hardware, and furniture.



Thomas Burberry also had a financial interest in the Basingstoke Mineral Water Company, he being a strict teetotaler and supporter of the Temperance Movement. This company functioned behind what is now a tattooist's shop in Church Street. He was also a director of the Old Angel Temperance Café' located where Barclays Bank now faces the Willis Museum across the Market Place. It opened in 1881 in what had formerly been the centuries-old Angel Inn that closed in 1866. **(above left)** A coffee cup from the café may be seen in our meeting room, the Archaeology Gallery **(above right)**.

Thomas Burberry was in fact a leading figure in the Total Abstinence Society, which was very active in Basingstoke, and often presided over the Society's meetings. He was also a forceful campaigner against Sunday trading. A Particular Baptist he helped to fund the building of an Ebenezer Chapel in Church Street in 1867, and as a lay preacher he travelled on horseback to preach at Whitchurch and elsewhere, whilst towards the end of his life he would climb the stairs we take to our meetings to take the chair at monthly Town Hall meetings "for the deepening of the spiritual life". Here the speakers were well-known divines of various denominations.



In Hook Mr Burberry held Sunday services in a room at Crossways. Then when numbers grew to more than this could accommodate, he purchased an ex-Boer War officers' mess hut and had this re-erected as a Mission Hall **(left)** in his garden.

After his death in 1926, his son sold Crossways and the surrounding land. A farmer, Mr Warren purchased and then re-sold much of it but kept the part on which the Mission Hall stood for the use of the village. Rebuilt in the 1950s this still serves as an evangelical church.

Next to the Mission Hall Thomas Burberry had another building erected in 1912 to serve as a village centre for cultural activities, activities that excluded drinking, dancing and any form of gambling. A Men's Club was established there, members of which were supplied with newspapers, books and light refreshments from a nearby café. (Presumably the books did not include novels as he never read these on principle himself.) Having been used as a military hospital during the First World War this was sold to the village in 1922.

Page 10 We in Basingstoke have Thomas Burberry to thank for securing War Memorial Park for the town. When the War Memorial Committee decided to buy Goldings Park as a memorial to the town's war dead of the First World War, sufficient funds were not available, so he purchased the property for the specific purpose of holding on to it until the funds could be raised. During this time he allowed council staff to begin laying it out as a public park, and when it was possible to buy the park from him, he waived a substantial part of the purchase price.

Not retiring until 1917 at the age of 82, and maintaining a strong interest in the company for the rest of his life he saw his gabardine overcoats endorsed by King Edward VII, gabardine worn on Antarctic expeditions by Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton, and how the material was used to make hundreds of thousands of Burberry "trench coats" for British army officers in the First World War. Alcock and Brown wore Burberry kit on the first trans-Atlantic flight in 1919. The Burberry partnership became a limited liability company in 1920; the famous House check first appeared in 1924 as a lining for the coats and in the same year mountaineers wore gabardine on the first organised climb of Mt Everest.

His death at the age of 90 in 1926 resulted from a short illness contracted whilst preaching at a Salvation Army meeting a fortnight earlier. He died at his home in Hook and is buried in the South View Cemetery. His son, Thomas Newman Burberry died just one year later at the Shrubbery, his Basingstoke home, and is also buried there, whilst Arthur Michael Burberry remained in charge of the London store until his retirement in 1951.

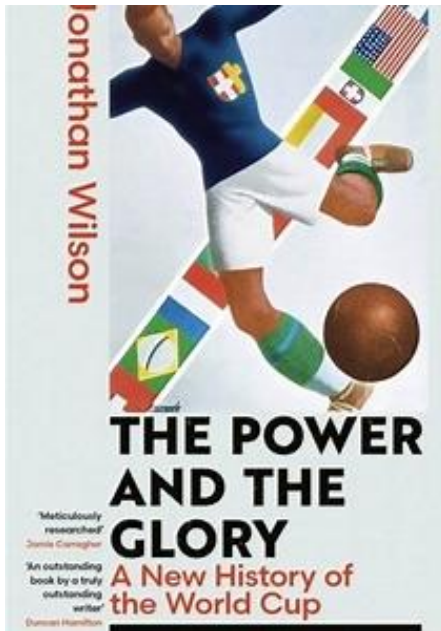
Those of us who joined one of the Friends' tours of the cemetery conducted by Debbie Reavell in 2021 will remember the memorial above the burial vault in which Thomas Burberry lies with five other family members. In the tradition of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of which he was such a staunch member it is a rough slab of granite carved with the single word "Burberry" in a style of lettering used on his company's advertisements, a subtle reminder of his manufacture of garments improved comfort and health. On the kerbstone in front are carved just his initials and the date of his death "TB, 1926" along with those of his son Thomas Newman Burberry, his first wife Catherine, his second wife Mary and his daughter Edith. Initials of other family members not buried here are carved on the kerbstones at the side. So effective in its simplicity the stone can also be taken to symbolise the character of this deeply religious, honest and principled man who learned at his mother's knee "to love his neighbour and seek to do him good".



With some breaks the Burberry shop in London Street, now the premises of Knight Frank Estate Agents, and the factory behind it functioned until 1957, thus maintaining a link between this world-famous company and its place of origin for over a century.

I am indebted to our members Paul Cluett and Debbie Reavell for their help with this article. Any errors are my own. An improved Burberry display is planned for the Willis.

Review: The Power and the Glory: a New History of the World Cup, by Jonathan Wilson, Abacus Books, reviewed by Steve Crudge.



It is 95 years since the first World Cup and the 23rd finals will be with us next year from the USA, Canada and Mexico. In time for this Jonathan Wilson has produced a new history of the event covering all 22 competitions to date and revealing its development from modest and, at times chaotic, beginnings to its place as the planet's most popular sporting event.

International football's widespread professionalism by the 1920s led to a break with the Olympic Games and its amateur ideals; Jules Rimet, FIFA president, proposed an international tournament as a stage for the world's best footballers and the first edition of the World Cup finals was held in Uruguay in 1930. Only thirteen teams competed, travel costs, among other factors, reducing the number of entrants. British teams stayed aloof. However, a dramatic win for the hosts over neighbours Argentina set the ball rolling.

Jonathan Wilson is a highly respected football writer with a track record of impressive books and articles on the game across the world. He is as well qualified as anyone to bring the story of the World Cup up to date.

It is not inaccurate to describe the book as an alternative history of the world over the last 100 years as seen from the perspective of football – it is by no means a simple inventory of matches and goals; all the critical on-field moments are here (Brazil's two ultimately disastrous home World Cups as well as their 1970 masterclass in Mexico, Hungary's shock defeat to post-war West Germany in 1954, Maradona's Argentina success in 1986 matched, less controversially, by Messi's glorious climax to his international career in 2022, plus, of course, "they think it's all over...") but so too is the economic, social and political background to all of these dramas. It is not always pretty; sportswashing, while a recent term, is by no means new – Mussolini was arguably the most significant contributor to the 1934 World Cup.

The World Cup's history has been one of ever-increasing scale, expense and, unfortunately, corruption. FIFA's history is not one of propriety and restraint. Hosts have become expected to pay huge financial costs for the prestige of the event, often being left with white elephant infrastructure (one Brazilian stadium subsequently became a bus depot!) while FIFA boosts its coffers. The consequence of this approach has been to make hosting the event unattainable except to vastly wealthy states such as Qatar which are otherwise poorly qualified to act as hosts.

Jonathan Wilson's research is typically detailed, and he always manages to approach each tournament from an interesting, and sometimes, oblique angle. Few stones are left unturned. The parallels between each country's football and its economic and cultural development are engagingly put forward. Occasionally, these connections can seem too obscure and tenuous – the link between Brazilian football and the Yoruba (a West African tribe) spirit of the hunt, for example – but they are often intriguing and frequently enlightening. For example, Britain's post-war brutalist architecture is aligned with Sir Alf Ramsey's World Cup winners.

In short, this is a fascinating, well written book and for those with a liking for football and an interest in world history over the last 100 years, little short of essential.

Page 12 Review: A history of Alton, 1650-1700, by Jane Hurst, pp 48, illus. reviewed by the Editor

For her latest publication, another in her long series of A5 sized booklets in uniform format, Jane has written about this interesting half-century in the life of Alton, drawing as always on many surviving records.

A wide and quite comprehensive range of topics is briefly covered, about forty in all, each with its own sub-heading, making this book easy to use for reference as well as a source of fascinating facts. To mention just a few of the topics we learn on the one hand about local fairs that continued with little change as they had done for centuries, and on the other hand that 58 deaths from the plague were recorded in 1665 (contribution by Violet Hunt) and that a national upheaval, the downfall of Richard Cromwell in 1659 leading to the end of the Commonwealth earned him the nickname "Tumbledown Dick" commemorated by the opening of an alehouse with this name in the High Street. We are told that there were several Quaker families in Alton by the late 1650s, and that 17 Quaker men were seized at a meeting in 1661 and given a very rough time en route to Winchester where they were committed to prison. However, a later section tells us that a Meeting House was built with contributions from 67 Quakers in 1672, and that this survives today

as the second oldest still in use. Many locals were involved in the cloth trade and in malting. There were four inns, and a 1686 survey of inns in Hampshire Towns established that between them they had a total of 43 spare beds and 76 standings for horses, though Basingstoke inns outdid them with 104 and 357 respectively!

As usual with Jane's books, this is well illustrated. Good use is made of a bird's eye view type map published in 1666, though a dearth of surviving pictures from this period has caused her to use well-chosen illustrations from later sources. For example, an account of a storm that severely damaged the church in 1686 is accompanied by a photo of daredevil poses by steeplejacks engaged on repairs to the steeple in 1880.

The book costs £3 (+ £1 p&p if posted) and can be obtained from Goldfinch Books, 24 High Street, Alton, or direct from Jane at 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD. janehurst1@gmail.com

What's on at the Willis

Now until Jun 28: Bees! Hampshire's Hive of History and Nature. Sainsbury Gallery

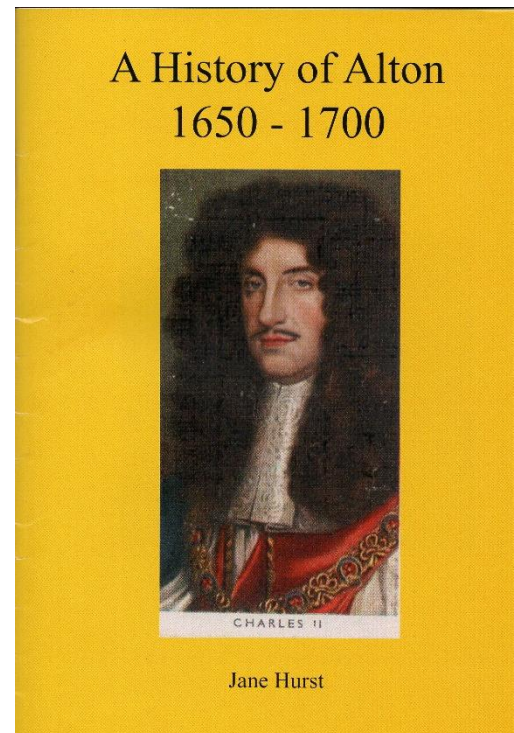
Glorious introduction to these extraordinary and to us vital creatures. Emphasis on local bee-keeping pioneer Charles Butler. Enlivened with murals and other art work

May 23-Jun 14: Nature's Tiny Miracle, an exhibition by Great Binfields Primary School. Basingstoke Gallery. *Bee-themed artwork by pupils aged 4-11 inspired by Patricia Hegarty's book of this title and by our Sainsbury Gallery Exhibition.*

May 27, 1 pm and 2.30 pm: Family make a luminary flower jar workshop: *decorate a jar with flora and fauna to create a lovely candle holder.* For ages 7+, £4 per child, accompanying adults free, duration 30-60 minutes. Book on-line or call in to book.

May 28, 10.30 am: Family water colour workshop with artist educator Veronica Williams. *An introduction to the wonders of water colour for young artists.* For ages 8-11, £14 per child who must be accompanied by an adult. Duration 2 hrs. Book online (for child only) or call in to book.

May 31, Sunday tea and talk, 2 pm: New Forest, a wildlife year, by Marcus Ward. Archaeology Gallery. *Fascinating insight into one of the UK's most diverse eco-systems.*



Page 13 If you can, please book on-line at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery. Otherwise, phone 01256 465902 or call in. Admission £7 less £1 discount for Friends. To claim your discount on-line enter FOWMTT1 in the box requiring a code. If applying in person, tell the team member that you are a Friend.

Jun 14, 2 pm – 3.30 pm: Honey tasting workshop with Helen Rogers of the Honey Guild. *Explore how bees create honey and beekeepers harvest it; why honey characteristics differ so significantly from place to place; how professional sommeliers profile varieties as you taste five distinct mono-floral honeys.* £30. Book on-line or call in to book.

Jun 18, 7.30 pm: Friends' meeting: The Woman who Gave Birth to Rabbits, by Bob Clarke. Archaeology Gallery. *In 1726 Godalming woman Mary Toft convinced eminent doctors that she had given birth to rabbits. Public mockery and uproar within the medical profession followed.*

Jun 20 – Jul 12: Inclusion School bee exhibition. Basingstoke Gallery. *Another school presents their own exhibition inspired by "Bees!" in the Sainsbury Gallery*

Jun 28, Sunday tea and talk, 2 pm: A field in Runnymede, by Alan Turton. Archaeology Gallery. *The signing of what later became known as the Magna Carta in 1215 had short-lived effects at the time, but the importance of this document has since become recognised.* Book as for May 31.

Jul 16, 7.30 pm: Friends' meeting: A history of the Army Medical Service, by David Wiggins. Archaeology Gallery. *From the early history of army medicine to today.*

Starting July, date TBC: I grew up in the 90s, Sainsbury Gallery. *A new blockbuster by Matt Fox who brought us the record breaking "Star Wars" memorabilia exhibition "May the Toys be with you" in 2018*

Jul 18-Aug 23 : Basingstoke in the 90s, Basingstoke Gallery. *Created by our Visitor Experience Assistants Alice Hatton and Chelsey Lewington to complement the Sainsbury Gallery Exhibition. With a significant input from Friends and museum volunteers.*

August, date TBC: Friends' visit to Lasham Airfield, a follow-up to our May talk. *More information soon.*

Sep 17, 7.30 pm: "Wolsey's Wife", by Nicola Turton. *Well-known local historian on how she researched and wrote her debut historical novel.* **September newsletter to be issued.**

What's on elsewhere

Curtis Museum, High Street, Alton GU34 1BA 01420 82802. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum
Open Tue-Sat 10 am – 5 pm

Until May 30: Dotty the Dodo's spring fact trail. *Family activity*

Allen Gallery object of the month: punch bowl, *by Edgar Campden*

May 23-30: Pints and pastimes: Alton's brewing history trail. *Free adult trail*

Alewife's quest, *family trail*

May 26: Make and take family pottery sessions, £6

Jun 2-27: Miniature items trail, *family activity*

Jun 19-Jul 17: Jane Austen's High Street trail, *family activity*

Jul 18-Aug 1: Time Detective Agency at the Festival of Archaeology, *art and craft activities*

School summer holiday: Thursday Club Hop Art! make and take sessions, 11 am -3 pm, £2 per child, fifth session free.

Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton. Meeting 7.30 pm at the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN (doors open 7pm). No charge for non-members but donations are welcome. Further information from Caroline Taylor, carolinetaylor@hotmail.co.uk

Sep 10: Chantry chapels in Winchester, *by Dr Cindy Wood*

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS) Meeting at Church Cottage starting at 7.30 pm. Admission free for BAHS members., £3 for non-members. No need to pre-book. Secretary Penny Martin, 01256 974212, bahsecretary@outlook.com; Website: www.bahsoc.org.uk

Jun 1: AGM followed by book launch of 'Six Notable Women', *by Roger Ottewill and Jenny Butler.*

All Friends are invited. There will not be a charge on this occasion.

Tadley and District History Society (TADS) www.tadshistory.com

Meeting on the second Monday of the month at Baughurst and Heath End Hall, Heath End Road RG26 5LU at 8.00 pm. Free to members. Non-members £3.00.

Jun 8: It takes the biscuit: a history of biscuit making in Reading, by Nigel Crompton

Jul 13: The Lady with the Lamp: the Florence Nightingale story, by Paul Whittle

Sep 14: Rover Scouts during the War, by Brian O'Neill

Tailpiece: an endorsement for Gabardine from Captain Alcock

On June 15, 1919, Vickers Test Pilot Captain Sir John Alcock and co-pilot Arthur Whitten Brown landed a modified Vickers Vimy bomber with additional fuel tanks in a bog near Clifden, Ireland at the end of a 16 hour 12-minute 1,980 flight from St John's, Newfoundland at an average speed of 110 mph.



Above: Taking off from Newfoundland.

This, the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic won them a prize of £10,000 offered by the Daily Mail. They had endured bad weather that made accurate navigation difficult, turbulence, instrument failure and ice on the wings. Helping them through these trials was their Burberry gabardine kit. Captain Alcock wrote this to Burberrys:

I am writing to tell you how very satisfactory the outfit has proved which I ordered for the Atlantic flight.

Although in continual mist, rain, or sleet, and the altitude varying from 200 to 11,000 feet causing great variations of temperature, I kept as dry, warm and comfortable as possible under such conditions.

This was a wonderful achievement even for Burberrys, especially considering that I never adopted any electrical or other artificial means of heating, and that no rubber or cement is used in your waterproofing.

The aircraft is now on display in the Science Museum, South Kensington. Sadly, Capt. Alcock had little time to enjoy his winnings. He died in an air crash later that year.

