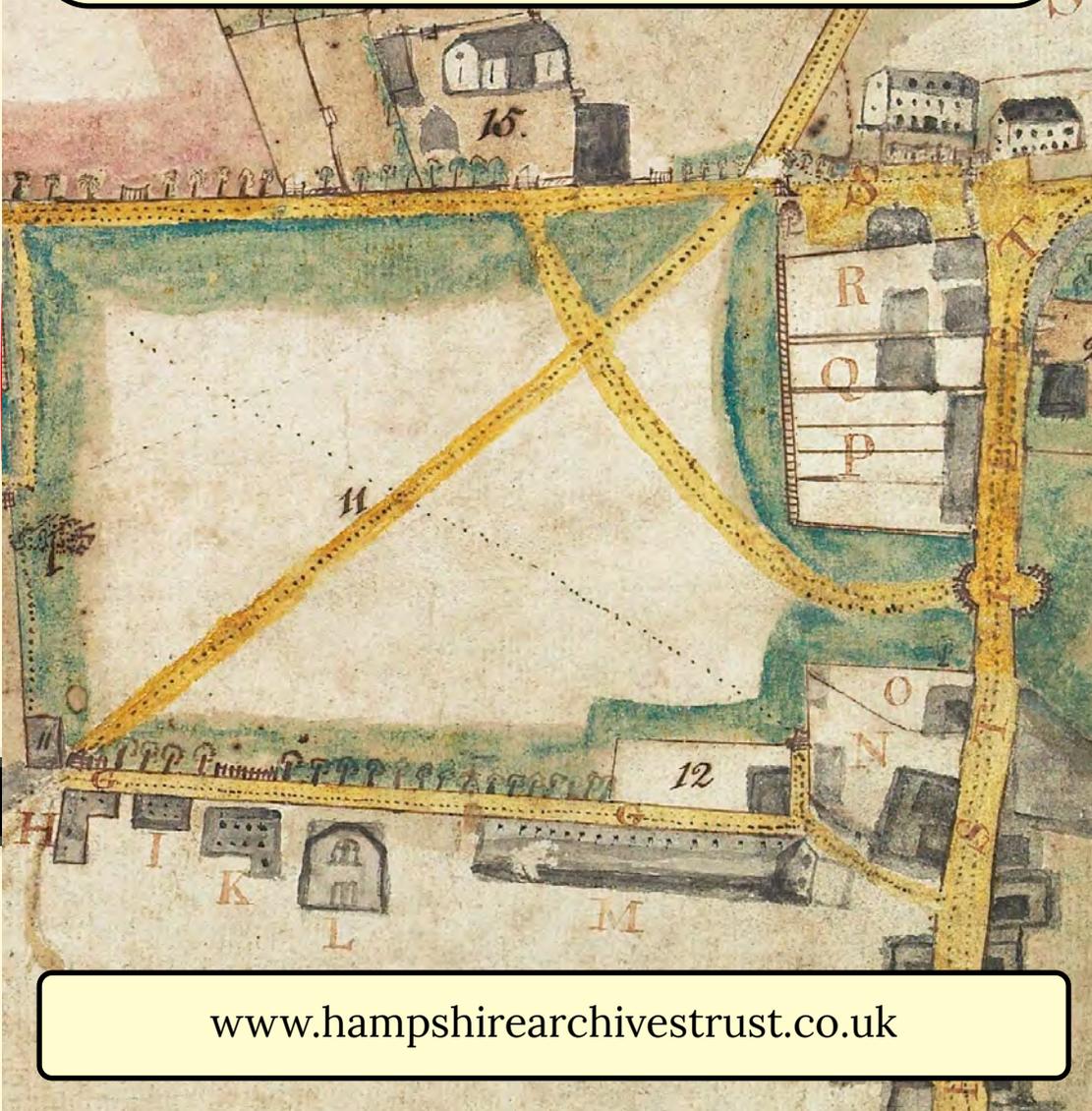




HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST

Newsletter No. 74 AUTUMN 2023

Preserving memories for the future



Above: troublesome U-Matic tapes often respond well to a combination of heat treatment and cleaning (photograph: C Fairall; see page 28).

Below: photograph of crew on board the Ella, launched 1881, from the Attwood collection (Southampton Archives: see page 49).



www.hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk



Hampshire Archives Trust is a member-led charity that works to support and promote Hampshire's rich archival heritage by giving grants, through education and events and developing local history networks.

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023 No. 74

Membership Secretary:
Charlotte Bailey

We welcome contributions for the Winter e-Newsletter HAT Chat or the Spring Newsletter, by Friday 24th November and 12th January respectively. Please contact us if you would like to reproduce any part of the Newsletter.

*Hampshire Archives Trust
Hampshire Record Office
Sussex Street
Winchester SO23 8TH
Tel 01962 846154
<https://hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk>*

*General enquiries: hat@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk
Newsletter: newsletter@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk
Social media: socialmedia@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk
For other specific email addresses, please see end of newsletter.*

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Cover: map of the farm and lands of John Willis of Ringwood, surveyed by Thomas Bishop, 1769 (HRO: 22M84/PZ1): detail centred on The Furlong.

Email addresses of some contributors are included in this edition; the editor will be happy to forward letters on behalf of readers who do not use email.

Annual General Meeting 2023

Sue Woolgar, Trust Secretary

The 2023 AGM will be held on Saturday 28th October, between 2pm and 4.30pm, in the Kincaid Room at the Royal Green Jackets Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester SO23 8TS (*below*).

There are two flights of stairs to the first floor of the Museum where the Kincaid Gallery is situated (13 steps and 9 steps). There is a stair lift (Stannah-style) for use if needed. Tea and a tour of the Museum will follow the business meeting.

Parking is available either via the Park and Ride from the South car parks or in Tower Street multi-storey car park.

More details will be circulated by email, or will be included in this mailing if we do not have an email address for you.

We hope to see as many members as possible there.



Membership renewal

Charlotte Bailey, Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has renewed so far. If you have not already done so, here are the ways in which you can renew your subscription.

Individual membership £25 Group Membership £35
Corporate/Business Membership £50

Online: at <https://hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk/membership/hat-membership-types/> . In subsequent years you will receive an automatic reminder to renew online.

Electronic Transfer: Reference: Hampshire Archives Trust at Lloyds Bank, account no 00361865, sort code 30-99-71, subject line Membership.

Standing Order: if you wish to set up a new Standing Order, please see the bank details above and, when done, please email mem.sec@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk .

Cheque: please make payable to Hampshire Archives Trust and send to HAT Membership Secretary, 4 Grove Road, Shawford, Winchester SO21 2DD with your contact details.

If you have any questions, do contact me. You can reach me on 01962 713392 or at mem.sec@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk .

We are sorry...

...that some of you will have received a copy of the spring *Newsletter* with most of the illustrations printed rather pale. Unfortunately, as the problem only affected part of the print run, it was not spotted until after the mailing had gone out, and the cost of re-sending it would have been prohibitive. We do have a few spare copies that were correctly printed; if you would like one, you can pick one up at the AGM, or if you contact the Editor or the Membership Secretary we will be happy to post one to you. We also plan to add it soon to the website, where you will be able to enjoy the illustrations in colour. DR.

Visit reports

Sue Chopping

Southampton Archives and City Art Gallery

This first visit for the 2023 season, on 6th April, was very well attended by 20 members who were able to enjoy a very well presented display and talk by Jo Smith and her assistant in the Archives that are in a room below the Civic Centre in the centre of Southampton.

It is a confined space but Jo gave a talk which illustrated just how many records of historical interest are held by them. The Bargate at the top of the modern High Street was the main entrance to the original walled city built by the Normans, with Henry V using the Westgate for his soldiers to embark for France and ultimately the Battle of Agincourt.



*The Southampton Archives search room
(courtesy of Joanne Smith, Southampton Archives).*

It was also a major port for the export of wool, the Wool House being where wool was stored for export to Italy in the 13th-14th centuries and still being used in the 21st century, at the top of Bugle Street. Later Southampton was the supply stop for the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell* before their journey to the New World, the docks used being now part of reclaimed land that extends west beyond the old town walls, and illustrated on maps and pictures held in the Archives.

It was also briefly a spa town from the 1740s to the time of Jane Austen, and of course, its recent history and prominence came with the arrival of the great liners in the mid 1800s and the subsequent development of its commercial port; this made it a prime target in both the First and Second World Wars, but its role continues to this day.

Records of all these events are held in the Archives, with a superb collection of photographic evidence of the city as it was before the bombing. For the author, two pieces of information described by Jo were the most illuminating: one was the Central Index Register of Merchant Seamen, a card collection of over one and a quarter million records of people serving on British registered ships between 1918 and 1941, a family historian's dream; and the second was quite by chance: Jo had displayed a parish register for All Saints' Church in the High Street which was destroyed by German bombing in 1941, and the register was opened showing the marriage of two of the author's ancestors!

After a sandwich lunch provided by the Titanic Museum, we went round to the Art Gallery, also situated in the Civic Centre. Here we divided into two groups and whilst one was able to view the Gallery at leisure the other was treated to a fascinating tour and talk by the Conservator in the stores below the Gallery.

Here we heard how paintings are stored, chosen for display and if necessary restored, all made possible by the original bequest from Robert Chipperfield, a pharmacist, in 1911, and another by Frederick Smith, a Southampton Councillor. Since then the collection has been enhanced by other bequests; it now has a diverse collection of fine art, notably the Perseus Collection by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, on permanent display.

The visit was felt to be a fine example of being able to view places the public can easily visit but from a different perspective.

The National Archives, Kew

Although it is now possible to apply for a 'Behind the Scenes' tour of The National Archives at Kew, they are very highly sought after and strictly number and date-limited. So we were very fortunate to obtain a date for our group, on 26th April, especially as it is not an easy place to access by public transport, and well done to the guest who did come by train and Shanks' pony, especially as there was a major road incident which was threatening to detain the author; thankfully another guest knew the back roads and we were able to arrive in time.

Eleven of us were then treated to a tour by a volunteer, with strict security from National Archives employees, of the records that have been accumulating for over a thousand years. The scale of the holdings is breathtaking. We were taken into one of the store rooms; all are temperature and humidity-controlled. To realise that there are many more store rooms exactly the same, containing documents, maps, photographs, etc, was a revelation, as was being shown the system used when documents are ordered by researchers and similarly processed on return.

Periodically, because of space constraints, documents considered less likely to be consulted by the public are sent to salt-mine storage in Cheshire. This, as was recognised in the Second World War, is again an ideal environment for the storage of precious records, and if there is a request for a document stored there it can be accessed within 48 hours, i.e. driven to The National Archives for the researcher to view in the Reading Room.

A small exhibition was put on display for us to view, which included a letter from Pope Clement V to King Edward II ordering the dissolution of the Knights Templar in England on threat of excommunication if not complied with. This was so clear and legible it could have been written yesterday!

The author's favourite document, however, was a beautifully drawn and coloured record of the markings used on swans' beaks in Lincolnshire to denote ownership by the various manorial families; how they got the swans to stay still long enough to have the patterns engraved on their beaks is a mystery lost to time!

At the end of the tour and the gift of a goody bag, an unexpected bonus, we were able to stay in the public areas for personal research or view the exhibitions and very comprehensive shop. The visit, though short, was a revelation at how tightly organised and what a vast organisation it is and how lucky we are as a country to have such a resource and free at the point of use.

Bisterne Manor

On the sunny afternoon of 24th May, 17 of us gathered at the front of Bisterne Manor and were warmly welcomed by Lal and Hallam Mills, the owners. It was immediately obvious that they have a deep love for the Manor and estate and are both knowledgeable and proud of their inheritance.

A manor has been on or near this site since 1066 and the chain of owners since 1349 with only four families in total owning it. The Mills family have been here since 1792 and it is a family home and working estate with the accumulation of artefacts that such a continuous occupation will attract. We were very privileged that Lal and Hallam were prepared to share them with us.

From the front of the building which was covered with stucco from the 1830s, the colouration of which can still be seen in places, is a flight of 13 steps to the original front door where you enter the hall with an oak staircase leading up to the drawing room. Firstly though we went through into the dining room where Hallam had an exhibition laid out of some of his copious family papers, and specifically those of the campaign in Gallipoli which his ancestor took part in; Hallam is collating and editing these. Then across into the library. We learnt that the house is built so that no heating is needed in the winter to stop the books getting damp, the rooms that are not used by the family just being shut up and reopened in the spring without any detriment to the contents.

The library overlooks the gardens where tea was laid out later in the afternoon. Firstly though we went upstairs to the south-facing drawing room with beautiful portraits, furniture and ornaments, but still with the atmosphere of a comfortable, welcoming room and not a museum piece, a difficult balance with so many beautiful pieces to care for, but one that Lal and Hallam have achieved beautifully.

Most of these pieces were collected by Francis Mills on his Grand Tour of 1834: he is one of the 32 occupiers since 1349, all listed on a beautifully-executed calligraphic list displayed in the hall. It was in the late Victorian era that – along with extensions to the rear of the house – indoor sanitation was installed, the facilities offered for our use being a prime, unusual and interesting example! and also electric lighting and central heating. Lal and Hallam are steeped in the history of the house, estate and pieces that they generously shared with us – even those that are not on general display – and we are very grateful for their generosity.

In the garden over tea, guests were able to visit the walled garden, looked after by the Stable Family Home Trust which is based on the estate, and also to imagine, in the distance, the site of Bisterne Airfield which served during the War but became too wet to use in that bad summer of 1944, so the 371st Fighter Group and their P47D Thunderbolts had to move away for a period and then return. We also learned about the Bisterne Dragon, now immortalised by Dragon Field on the estate. Dragon Lane refers to a pub that was closed and a number of pubs in the area refer to a dragon of some sort. It was supposed to have been slain by Sir Maurice Berkeley in the late 15th century as the manor was then part of the Berkeley Castle holdings, and was probably a large rabid boar but who really knows...?



After our visit, those who wished were able to visit the Parish Church, St Paul's (*opposite*, from Lowe's Collection, HRO 147M87/1/250), which lies on the road between the Manor and the village.

Hallam had arranged for it to be opened for us, and all the fees from our visit were donated towards its upkeep. It is a fine example of a Victorian church, built in 1842 and still retaining its Victorian features. The land was donated by the Mills Family and the church built as a chapel of ease for the convenience of estate workers, as previously they would have had to walk to the Parish Church in Ringwood. It is now part of the Ringwood Benefice, as their designated rural church.

Recent HAT visits and the last one of the year

Due to the indisposition of both Sue and Dick as organisers of the visit to Cheriton, and the very sad illness and passing of Edward Roberts who had been due to lead the afternoon for us and was one of the finest local historians in Hampshire, this visit had to be cancelled.

This also seemed to have a detrimental effect on our next two visits – a Guided Walk around Old Portsmouth and a World War 2 Walk around Bishops Waltham, as due to no interest they also had to be cancelled. However if any member is interested in purchasing the booklet – *Around Bishop's Waltham in the Second World War* – which was to be given to guests on the walk as part of their fee, do please get in touch with trish.simpson-davis@outlook.com or me at suec.treglown@gmail.com and we will arrange to send or deliver it to you. The cost is £5.00 for hand delivery if local to Bishops Waltham or £7.00 by post.

Our last visit this season, to the Army Air Museum at Middle Wallop, took place on September 12th, and we hope to include a report in the next edition.

Not only will this be the last visit of the season for HAT Events but it will also be the last visit organised by us, Sue Chopping and Dick Treglown. We have decided to step down but would like to say a BIG THANKYOU to all those who have joined us on our visits over the years we have been organising them and hope you have as many happy memories as we have – it has been a pleasure to have your company.

End of an Era, Start of a New

Charlotte Bailey

Over the years many of you will have enjoyed going on one of our varied HAT visits to places of interest. We are sorry to say that after 15 years Sue and Dick Treglown have decided to take a step back from organising these events due to ill health. We would like to thank them, and before that John and Anne Isherwood and Janet Hurrell, for all their years of finding such interesting and informative places and people for us to discover. Not only that but their attention to detail has meant everything has run smoothly, and Sue's cakes are legendary!

We hope to thank them in person at our AGM in the afternoon of 28th October.

The Trustees at HAT are keen to keep offering these visits as part of our programme and are now seeking a new Trustee to lead on this. If you would be interested in that role or being one of a group supporting the new trustee to continue Sue and Dick's work, please let me know. Trustees meet four times a year, at the AGM and have working groups at other times. Most meetings are on Zoom. As lead or supporter you would need to talk to prospective venue owners and visit yourself to ensure their suitability.

Are you interested? Do you want to help us to continue to promote the preservation of archives for the benefit of the public. Do you want to organise visits for like minded people? If so do contact us for a discussion. You can reach me at mem.sec@hampshirearchivetrust.co.uk or on 01962 713392.

Would you like to share news of any recent discoveries, research projects or other initiatives, on an individual basis or as a group?

We welcome contributions for the Winter e-Newsletter *HAT Chat* or the Spring *Newsletter*; please send them to the Editor, David Rymill via newsletter@hampshirearchivetrust.co.uk or at Hampshire Record Office (see page 1), by Friday **24th November** and **12th January**.

Grants news

Sue Woolgar, Trust Secretary

HAT's grants programme is aimed at creating, preserving and promoting Hampshire archives. For more detail and, for other grants, please see www.hampshirearchivetrust.co.uk/grants. The grants that can be applied for fall into three categories: small (under £500), main (£500-£10,000) and emergency.

At their meeting on 18th July, Trustees approved three small grants:

Gosport Museum of the Sea was awarded £385 towards their project to create a digital archive of the many non-military connections that Gosport has with the sea, providing access to that archive online and at exhibitions.

Bevois Mount History was awarded £340 to assist with the cost of publishing their booklet celebrating 300 years of Bevois Mount, Southampton. This group aims to raise the profile of the area by improving awareness of the rich history not only for long-term residents but also for more transitory residents such as the student population.



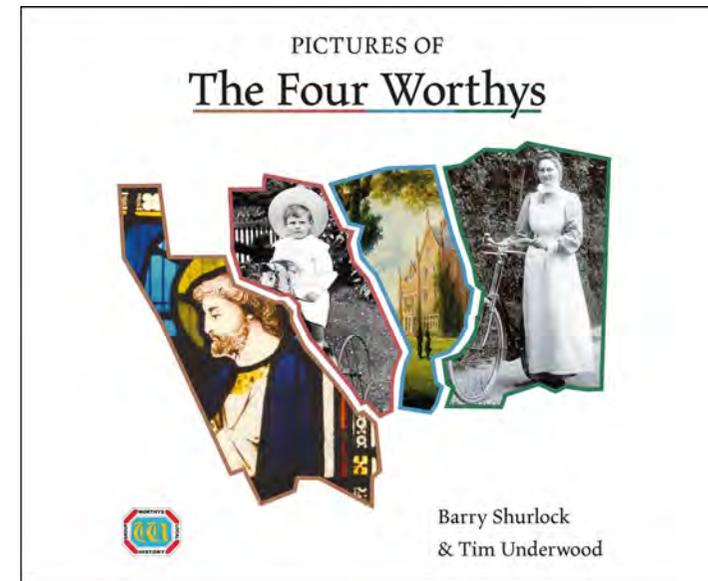
Hampshire Cultural Trust was awarded a grant to digitise their manuscript accession registers. These registers are the key record of what was given to the museums, when, depositor information and

description of the items. These digital copies will be used as a working copy by staff and volunteers and will allow the preservation of the original registers in secure and appropriate storage. Up to £500 was awarded (noting that costs might be lower, in which case HAT would pay the lesser amount).

Three main grants were awarded.

Worthys Local History Group (WLHG) has been awarded a HAT grant of £2,310 towards the cost of publishing a book drawing extensively from its photographic collection. It is called *The Four Worthys: Pictures from the Archives*, and has been written by Barry Shurlock and Tim Underwood; it is due to appear in September.

The Archive which has been developed over many years by WLHG is a superb historical document and the group would like to make much of its content accessible to the current inhabitants of the four Worthy Villages and wider afield. Currently the archive is stored on a hard drive and kept up to date by the group's records officer. It is available to members who are undertaking private research projects and to provide information for people who are researching family background.



The book features selected pictures from the WLHG archives and other sources; it illustrates the history of Worthys with views of the villages, their people, buildings and a wide range of interesting events. There are about 300-400 pictures, chosen with the help of WLHG members, each with an informative caption.

For the first time, the book provides a window into the huge numbers of documents and images collected for the WLHG archives over the past 40 years and now stored digitally (see also page 20).

A project 'Unlocking Hampshire's Musical Heritage' from **Royal Holloway music department, University of London** with support from Hampshire Record Office has been awarded £4,399. This exciting project will unlock the musical heritage held by Hampshire Record Office through digitisation of eight music manuscripts (to ensure preservation of the fragile originals while boosting public access), detailed cataloguing, and outreach events in local schools. This range of vernacular music in Hampshire in c.1800 includes songs, dance tunes, and parish church music (also known as West Gallery music). Royal Holloway provides the musical expertise to catalogue, including the ability to read historical music handwriting and to code the opening melodies in machine-readable form.

Swanmore Parish Council is to relocate its community archive from various sites to a designated archive space within the Parish Council office, and provide access to the material by researchers there. £1,421 was awarded for equipment for the new space.

This equipment will provide equipment for the new space, including a metal racking system for the archive boxes, a cabinet to store the many maps and drawings, a PC and external hard drive to ensure that indexing can be done correctly and files scanned and saved electronically, with a view to eventually making the archives fully accessible online.

The archive includes details of families who have been in the village for centuries, records and photographs of various village events and societies, records from Swanmore's schools and churches and information about the brickmaking industry which started in the village in the mid-19th century.



A Swanmore Parish Council display.

One emergency grant of £199 was agreed for the successful purchase by **Hampshire Record Office** of photographs relating to the First World War Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital in 4 The Close, Winchester, 1915-19. They include photographs of soldiers who were patients, and nursing staff, at the hospital, with some photographs apparently showing patients visiting Preshaw House, Exton.

Most of the patients and staff are identified at least by surname, and it is believed that the album was compiled by the Baxendale family of Preshaw House, given that it contains several photographs showing women, seen both in nursing uniform and in civilian dress, identified only by initials as DB and MB, perhaps Dorothy Baxendale and her sister-in-law Margaret. It is now in Hampshire Record Office with the accession number 63A23.



New History Competition for Hampshire schools

Alistair Dougall, HAT Trustee

In September 2022, the Trust launched a new History competition for schools in Hampshire. It was designed to help students to develop their research, presentation, and other transferable skills, and to encourage them to learn more about aspects of their local history and about the nature and value of all manner of archives.

Either working in groups or as individuals, students were invited to work on a history project relating to an aspect of history in Hampshire. We made a conscious decision not to stipulate what the nature of the projects should be other than that they had to be related to the history of Hampshire in some way and that they needed to demonstrate the use of archives. So, they could, for example, be on things like the history of their school, town or village, or on aspects of their family history or a Hampshire building, personality or event.

There were group and individual prizes to be won in three categories: Years 7-9, Years 10-11 (GCSE level) and Sixth Form. Group winners could win £300 towards their school's resources plus a winner's trophy. Individual winners could win £100 and a winner's certificate. Highly commended certificates would be awarded to other groups or individuals who produced a good project. Entries had to be made during the Spring Term.

We were impressed with the calibre and range of projects submitted. As we had hoped, we had a real mix in the nature of the projects submitted: essays, posters, PowerPoints, films and blogs. One of the winners – the History Club at Moyles Court School – even created their own website about their school's history: <https://mcs-website--greenengine.repl.co/>. Not only was this impressive in the scope of website in terms of the amount of historical information presented and the range of archives used, but it was also the GCSE students themselves who did the coding necessary to create the website.

Students also chose a range of topics. These included projects on the history of their school, Jane Austen's life in Hampshire, the *Titanic*, the history of ethnic diversity in Hampshire, Fanny Adams and crime and punishment in 19th-century Hampshire, and the life and works of

Charlotte Yonge. One group chose to create their own archive by filming a blog of them talking about their experiences during the recent pandemic and lockdowns, which was a great idea.

The judging panel was also impressed by the fact that many of the entries used different types of archives in their research and presentation. For example, the History Club of Henry Beaufort School in Winchester, which won the group prize in the Years 7-9 category, used a range of archives including photographs, school records and documents and an interview with the current Head.

We were not only impressed by the quality of many of the entries but were also particularly thrilled to get so much positive feedback from the schools that took part. Their teachers told us that the students thoroughly enjoyed their projects and embraced them with enthusiasm. The enthusiasm has proved infectious too: the teacher leading the History Club at Toynbee School told us that membership of the History Club has more than doubled as a direct result of the competition and they are really looking forward to taking part again this year.



Alistair with the prize-winning History Club at Moyles Court School.

I had the pleasure of attending prize-giving assemblies at Moyles Court School, Henry Beaufort School and Toynbee School to present the winning groups and individuals with their prizes. I was particularly pleased to hear from the students themselves about how much they had enjoyed taking part in the competition and to hear that the teachers were keen for their students to be involved again in the new academic year.

HAT's Digital Engagement Programme

Dr Daniella Marie Gonzalez, Social Media Fellow

HAT's digital engagement initiatives continue to grow and I have been busy over the last few months gathering content for you to enjoy.

I regularly update our blog; recent posts have covered:

- 'Charlotte M Yonge as a Hampshire poet: identifying and setting Yonge's hymns and poetry to music' by Dr Ruth Carlyle and Dr David Barton
- 'Born Digital?' by Heather Needham
- 'Bevois Mount' by Alysson Hayes
- 'Hampshire's LGBT History' by Dr Clifford Williams

We also produced several blog posts celebrating the King's coronation:

- 'Charles I, Charles II, Charles III and their Six Coronations' by Dr Amy Saunders
- 'Bringing Monarchy Back: The Role of Mary I's Legacy in Challenging Oliver Cromwell and Restoring the Monarchy' by Dr Johanna Strong
- 'Winchester Masque' by Dr Michael Pearce

You can also find the HAT podcast, Hampshire's Heritage Revealed, on Spotify and Podbean. Season 2 launched in June 2023, beginning with 'Uncovering House History' with Mel Backe-Hansen, and you will be able to listen to the newest episode on the last Friday of each month. Webinars will be making a comeback in September: watch out for updates on our website soon!

Would you be interested in contributing to one of these initiatives? Please get in touch: socialmedia@hampshirearchivestrust.co.uk. You can read the latest HAT news on Facebook: Hampshire Archives Trust ; Instagram: [@harchivestrust](https://www.instagram.com/harchivestrust) ; and Twitter: [@HArchivesTrust](https://twitter.com/HArchivesTrust) .

Glimpses of Hampshire manors in the Wimborne St Giles Archive

Mark Forrest

Wimborne St Giles, home of the Ashley and later Ashley-Cooper families since the 15th century sits just south of the A354, between Blandford and Salisbury, close to the Dorset border with Hampshire and Wiltshire. Visitors to the village may be familiar with the parish church, almost entirely rebuilt in 1732, and the fine row of ten almshouses, built in 1624, facing the village green. St Giles House and grounds, home of the 12th Earl of Shaftesbury, is not generally open to the public except for charitable events.

The house is home not only to the Earl and his family, but also to a family and estate archive accumulated during their occupancy of the manor for over 500 years.

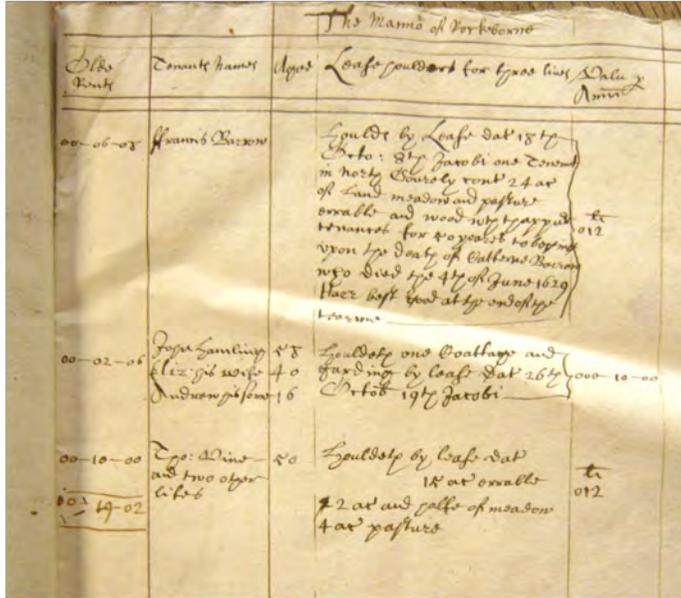
Sir Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 1st baronet, of Wimborne St Giles inherited the estates of his mother's family, the Ashleys, and his father's family the Coopers. The Ashley family were based in Wimborne St Giles; from the Coopers came lands in Hampshire, most notably the recently-purchased manors of Damerham Parva, Martin and Rockbourne.

For Rockbourne, which was briefly the family home of the Coopers, the archive contains manorial court rolls, minutes and presentments dating from 1609 to 1907, there are half a dozen medieval deeds and leases and dozens more dating from after the Coopers' acquisition at the end of the 16th century (*see inside back cover for an illustration*).

These are complemented by surveys, rentals, rent rolls and terriers starting at the end of the 17th century and continuing into the 19th century, documents relating to tithes and enclosures, and file after file of 17th-century legal papers relating to the descent of the manor. The documents cover all aspects of life on the manor: copyhold tenancies and leases, rents, customary rights and obligations, through the centuries to the establishment of the school in 1903.

An example of a document in the archive will give an impression of the subjects covered by many of the manorial and estate management records.

The survey of Rockbourne dated 1631 begins by listing the demesnes: the manor house with orchards, gardens, and dovecot, 227 acres of pasture and 335 acres of arable, 26 of meadow and 350 of sheep down leased to Henry Carrant for seven years at £200 a year;



two smaller parts of the demesne leased to Thomas Capine for £24 and Gilbert Poope for £2 10s, 70 acres of coppice worth £20 year and a warren called Blacke Warrine leased to Nicholas Randal for £45 a year. Next are listed 37 copyholds with the names and ages of the copyholders, the rent payable and the annual value, which was used to determine the entry fine payable when a new name was added to the copy or the tenement was surrendered and a new tenant admitted. Finally there were 26 leaseholds, unusually also leased for terms of lives rather than years, with their rents and annual values.

Although this is a private family archive Lord Shaftesbury tries to be accommodating to researchers. There is limited space to view documents in the house and where access is granted a charge is made to cover the cost of the archivist's time in producing and supervising the documents. Copies may be made of most documents, again with a charge to cover the archivist's time, but documents less than 100 years old are always closed.

Enquiries relating to the collection should be made to Dr Mark Forrest, WSGarchivist@gmail.com .

Making a book of pictures

Barry Shurlock: barryshurlock@gmail.com

Virtually every archive, including those held by local history groups, includes a large number of pictures, mainly photographs – and with the advent of ‘one click’ digital photography the number will surely increase ‘exponentially’. In any given collection some photos will have captions and dates, others will not. Some can be ‘worked out’ and given some sort of date – perhaps by the style of dress or the presence or otherwise of telephone poles and the like – whereas others cannot. However, taken together they generally tell a fascinating story of the subject in question. And, of course, since the earliest photos may be from about 1850 – albeit few in number – it may be possible to create a pictorial record of 150 years or more.

In some ways, pictures tell a better story than words – they often contain a vast amount of information that would take more than the proverbial ‘1,000 words’ to convey in detail. So, they can provide a quick and sensorial impression of a place or an event, without the inevitable editorial overlay associated with any written description (though words can outperform pictures – each has its virtues!). Hence, any reasonable archive ‘has a book of pictures in it’, and so it was with the holdings of the Worthys Local History Group (WLHG), which was founded in 1982. Since then, it has acquired a huge number of images from many sources the vast majority of which have been digitized in a scheme started some years ago by one of their members, Michael Edwards. It was a great help that it had been arranged under such headings as: ‘churches and chapels’, ‘schools’, public buildings’, ‘mills, ‘people – families’, ‘events and unusual occurrences’ etc.

As its name suggests, WLHG covers the four villages strung out along the upper Itchen valley above Winchester, i.e. Martyr Worthy, Abbots Worthy, Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy. It is a surprisingly varied area that is essentially agricultural, but with a proximity to Winchester and other factors that have given it much more than many other rural communities. Thus, it has Worthy Down, the site of Winchester Racecourse for at least 300 years, and then a military airfield and most recently the HQ of the Royal Logistics Corps. The Worthys have long been a vital corridor of communication, with a Roman road, then in 1760 a turnpike and in the 19th century three different

railways, meeting at Winchester Junction on Woodhams Farm in Kings Worthy. A network of old footpaths is today used by a host of long-distance routes – The Itchen Way, St Swithun’s Way, Three Castles Way and most recently The Watercross Way which in part runs along the old track of the Mid-Hants Railway.

A small industrial estate on the London Road was once home to Vulcan Iron Works, which made hydraulic rams – a clever device that uses flowing water to propel water uphill – and sold them around the world. Then there was Conder International, the brainchild of Robin Cole who pioneered steel-framed buildings.

With all this there was clearly no shortage of subjects to fill a book of pictures, but how to do it? Fortunately, a few years ago I met up with Tim Underwood, who was looking for a project for an MA in Book Design in the Department of Typography and Graphic Communication at the University of Reading. The Worthys fitted the bill and helped him to complete the course. His design project has now been put into action and in September WHLG published *The Four Worthys*, a book with hundreds of pictures and informative captions. The book has been put together with the help of four other WLHG members, each with specific knowledge, namely, Tony Dowland, Robin Greenwood, David Fry and Alix Hickman. It has been facilitated by a generous grant from HAT and advance sales to subscribers.

Billy Blake with ‘Blue Tit’, the plane he built with his brother and flew himself in 1931 from Woodhams Farm, Springvale, Kings Worthy.



Scrolling through the archive, the form of the book gradually came together: about half of it would cover the River Itchen and each of the villages, showing some of their main features. The rest would cover the common elements that had shaped the villages – there were many ways of approaching this, but we finally settled on sections on farms and farming, faith, roads and railways, the next generation (schools and more), sports and leisure, business and commerce, and finally a section on the Worthys at war. This arrangement is in no way definitive, and no doubt each archive would lend itself to its own pattern.

The next stage was to select the pictures, arrange them in some fashion and write captions. Discovering just what was in the archive and making a suitable selection was a lengthy exercise. The archive had been arranged to some extent, but ideally it would have been good to have had an index searchable by place, subject, date, event etc. Curiously, because the images were all digital, unlike paper prints they could not be laid out ‘on the desk’ and shuffled into some kind of order. This presented problems, which we decided to tackle by first writing a summary text (about 500 words) telling the story for each section. Together with a ‘cover picture’ chosen for exceptional quality, these summaries front up each of the 13 main sections in the book.

Without doubt, writing the ‘short story’ helped to identify those subjects which had to be shown. We then made lists of possible pictures for each section, giving each one a unique finding number. Of course, some subjects had no photograph at all, or the only image was not really good enough to use (Tim reported on the digital quality of each one).

Eventually we had a list of the pictures to be used and then had to write the captions. This may sound like a simple exercise – and for some pictures it was extremely easy – but for others a lot of detective work was required, which took time. The extent of the material from even this limited area can be gauged from the fact that the index for the book, confined to personal names only, has more than 200 entries.

Eventually the section introductions had been written and a range of possible pictures had been selected. Tim had made his design judgments and laid out the pages, cropping some pictures, either to fit the layout or focus on the essence of a subject. The proofs had been read and re-read and all was ready to send the text file to the printers. The cover



Ernest Ferry of Northleigh, Kings Worthy, and his river-keeper, Sam Locke, at Fulling Mills, across the fields from Abbots Worthy.

See back cover for another illustration.

was then designed, with a blurb and bar-code on the back and spine copy set to the correct width. We and WLHG chose a conventional print route, but Amazon and others offer print-on-demand options.

What had we learnt in the process? The first thing is the importance of deciding what ‘the main story’ is and to structure the book accordingly. Then, to accept that some compromises must be made as there will not be suitable pictures for all subjects. Captions should be carefully written – not just making an obvious statement about the picture, but trying to weave in some background, and make a little story. In this way, a lot of detail that would be out of place in the 500-word summaries can be included. We also decided to provide a page of Further Reading – mainly the publications of the WLHG over the years – and compile an index. Other features are a schematic map of the area, a timeline of major events, and a list of subscribers.

Overall, it has been a much more time-consuming project than could have been imagined: making decisions about pictures is frequently difficult and some captions take an inordinately long time to write, even though they may only end up as 10 or 20 words. But we hope that the exercise has drawn together the story of the Worthys in a new way that will open avenues for future research.

The Four Worthys is available from the Worthys Local History Group, price £15 (with P & P if relevant): wlhg.chair@gmail.com .

A Review of Charlotte Mary Yonge Day at Otterbourne and Hursley

Roger Ottewill

As planned, on Saturday 24th June 2023 approximately 50 members of the Hampshire Field Club, Hampshire Archives Trust, Charlotte Mary Yonge (CMY) Fellowship and their guests celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Hampshire’s prolific, but frequently overlooked, Victorian novelist. In some respects, it can be said to have drawn inspiration from Jane Austen Day at Steventon, which was held as long ago as 21st July 1948 and involved collaboration between the Field Club and the Jane Austen Society.

The base for the morning of CMY Day was the Chamberlayne suite at Otterbourne Village Hall. The proceedings began with an inspirational contribution from The Madding Crowd (*below*).



Charlotte Bailey and her husband Mike produced a wonderful programme of ‘music from the Village Bands and Quires of the 18th and 19th Centuries, Hymns and Psalms, Carols and Anthems, Songs, Dances and Marches, collected from old village manuscripts, and Old Books “printed for the use of Country Choirs”, illustrated with contemporary Readings, Poems and Quotations; performed in Costume of about 1820’. Many of the readings etc. were taken from the writings of CMY, in particular *Old Times at Otterbourne* and *John Keble’s Parishes*.

The Madding Crowd's performance was followed by an informative talk by Bill Fergie, Chair of the Historic Buildings Section of the Field Club, about the historic buildings of Otterbourne and Hursley that CMY would have known. These included the churches of St Matthew's, Otterbourne, and All Saints', Hursley; Otterbourne House, where CMY was born and lived for the first half of her life; and Rose Cottage owned by CMY and home to her gardener, Charles Ray and his wife Anne.

Finally, there was a presentation inspired by the *Antiques Roadshow*. Led, by Celia Lowthion, Otterbourne's Archivist and a specialist in antiques, and assisted by Alys Blakeway and Roger Ottewill, a variety of artefacts connected with CMY were displayed and explained. Of particular note were a lovely 19th-century Aesthetic ink well and various pens; a portable writing slope (the Victorian equivalent of a laptop or tablet); objects associated with the taking of tea – a bone china teacup, saucer/dish, and a tea plate all made by Mintons, a silver plated teapot and a deeply decorated circular tray; plus a little 19th-century doll - a treasured family possession.

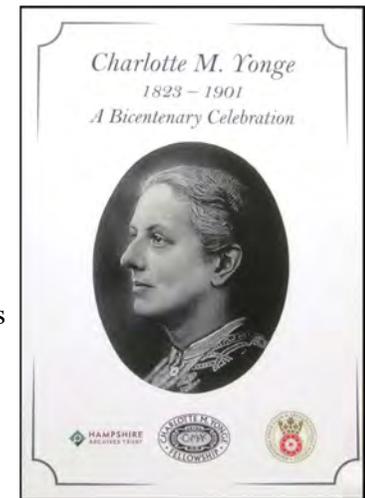
After a lunch break when there was an opportunity to visit various locations within walking distance of Otterbourne Village Hall, attendees travelled to and reconvened at the majestic Hursley Park/House, now the headquarters of IBM. For much of the 19th century it was owned by Sir William Heathcote, a great friend and mentor of CMY.

Here two talks were given in what is now known as the Heathcote Room situated in that part of Hursley House which was added during the Edwardian era by the Cooper family. The first talk by David Key, volunteer historian, introduced the audience to Hursley Park/House, its construction in the 18th century and as it would have been in the 19th century when CMY was a frequent visitor. The second, by Albert Gallon, independent historian, focussed on the Heathcote Family, in particular Sir William, who assisted CMY in the writing of her novels with advice on matters with which he was familiar, such as the law, and suggestions for plot development.

After these engaging talks there was an opportunity for a guided tour round Hursley House led by David Key. Attendees then made their way to Hursley Village Hall, adapted from the old village school buildings, for afternoon tea and cake. In a much-appreciated addition to the

planned programme, Eleanor Bell, a Hursley councillor and resident, kindly offered to lead a party round the village, and a number of the party took advantage of this.

All those attending CMY Day were given a copy of a 30 plus page commemorative booklet, the production of which was funded by a much-appreciated HAT grant. This contains some memorable quotations from CMY; summaries of a selection of her works; and an evaluation of her contribution to a particular genre of English literature, namely publications infused with a strong moral and religious message. That said, her interests were wide ranging and extended to local history, folklore, dialect and natural history.



The booklet also serves as the basis for visiting and engaging with locations in Otterbourne and Hursley particularly associated with CMY, many of which still exist. In addition, it includes brief accounts of the two villages, as CMY would have known them, with references to some of the residents, buildings, 'villagescapes' and items from local newspapers; together with maps and photographs from the 19th and early 20th centuries and the similar scene today.

These have been labelled as CMY trails. There are no set routes so readers can decide where to go and in which order in the time available. It is hoped that some of those attending CMY Day and others will feel moved to visit Otterbourne and Hursley on some future date and literally follow in the footsteps of CMY. The booklet ends with an assessment of her legacy.

If you were not able to be with us and would like a free copy of the booklet please contact me at rogerottewill@btinternet.com and I shall be pleased to send you one.

Video recordings preserved and shared

David Rymill

In Wessex Film and Sound Archive at Hampshire Record Office there are thousands of videotapes. Until recently these seemed such a part of everyday life that they may not have appeared particularly vulnerable and in need of the care with which we would treat, say, a fragile paper document that had been retrieved from a damp basement. Yet magnetic recording media have their own vulnerability, especially so in the case of videotapes: if the cassette structure has been damaged, they can be harder to deal with than older open-reel tapes and films. The replay machines are also ageing and parts are harder to source.

Many of the videotapes held in WFSA had already been copied, but thousands more had not, so we were delighted to have the chance to participate in a national project, Heritage 2022 coordinated by the British Film Institute (BFI) and funded by external grants, which has digitised over 100,000 videotapes held by the BFI and the film archives of the UK regions and nations, such as WFSA.

Through the project, we have been able to digitise about 2,000 videotapes. Preserving the recordings for future generations to enjoy was a key aim, but in parallel with this the project sought to make available a selection of recordings for viewing in public libraries. Many libraries around the UK have registered to provide access to the on-demand streaming service, called BFI Replay, including all Hampshire County Council's libraries. At any participating library you will have free access to recordings from both WFSA and most of the other film archives involved in the project, using a library terminal (for copyright reasons, downloading is not available). For more information, including details of participating libraries, please visit www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-replay.

Altogether about 300 tapes from WFSA are due to be included in BFI Replay with nearly 230 currently available, from a wide range of sources. Natural history is represented by Ron Eastman's films of butterflies and moths, made in the Whitchurch area. The Portsea Living History Project videos focus on memories of the Blitz and D-Day. Tapes made with the support of City Eye give insights into community life and issues in multi-cultural Southampton, and environmental concerns and projects. Videos from The Royal Green Jackets regimental archive give insights into the

lives of riflemen, while *The Price of Progress: Basingstoke Then and Now* and *The Town We Lost* show that the videotape era coincided with the transformation of Basingstoke. Many 1970s-80s local ITV programmes made by Southern Television and TVS are also included, on subjects ranging from yachting and gardening to drama and interviews.

We were glad to be able to include some videos filmed by Portsmouth College of Art and Design students in the 1970s-80s, which are on one of the few tape formats we are unable to digitise in-house, EIAJ. They include interviews with community leaders and 'vox-pops' filmed in Portsmouth streets in the late 1970s, and some material directly related to the College, such as footage filmed within a walk-through (or crawl-through) maze constructed by first-year design students in 1979.

Most of the videotapes could be digitised by contractors using standard processes. But what of those items where the tape, or the cassette housing it, had already deteriorated? Read on to find out more...

Back from the brink: rescuing video tape recordings

Charles Fairall FCMI MIET, Videotape and Engineering Advisor
BFI National Archive

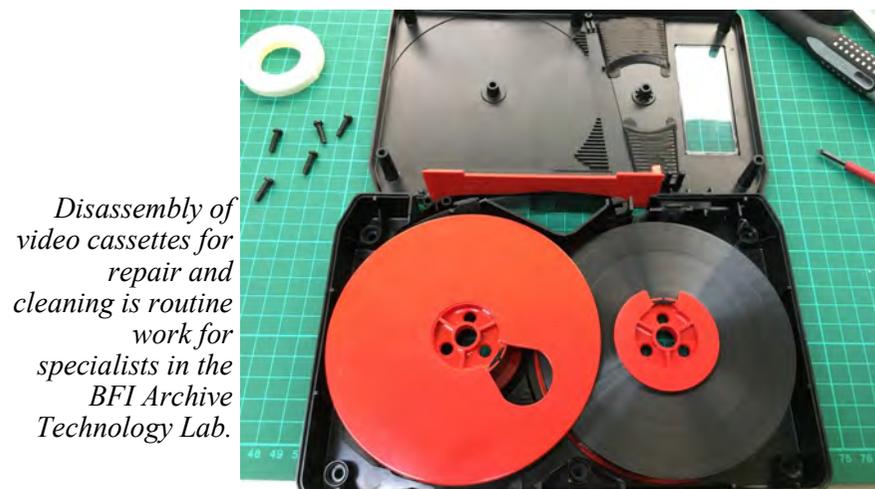
For the BFI's Video Digitisation Project, one of the UK's largest mass digitisation programmes designed to preserve UK moving image archives video tape collections most at risk from technical obsolescence, each of the 100,000 titles chosen for long term preservation was through curatorial selection, from a potential pool of more than 1 million items. It was therefore considered essential that there be no 'rejects' as such resulting from what was to turn out to be an unprecedented large-scale/high efficiency digitisation effort.

After much soul-searching, consultation and consideration, the term 'exceptions' was coined for tapes which might not flow freely through the technical and economic processes necessary for commercial digitisation of a very diverse range of high cultural value legacy video formats. Due to the sheer volume of video items in the mix, exception tapes would need to be easily identifiable through simple criteria to maximise efficiency from both archival and service provider perspectives.

Any tape deemed to be an exception (and we estimated this may run into some thousands) would be diverted into an alternative and more specialised workflow within the BFI's own Archive Technology Group (ATG) laboratory at the Conservation Centre in Berkhamsted. With a large and diverse collection of legacy machinery, spare parts and service manuals to hand, collected over many decades, BFI specialists have the means to closely examine and analyse the many and varied problems which present when recordings have been compromised for one reason or another, therefore rendering them unfit for the economic model essential for high volume digitisation.

Within the laboratory environment, bespoke treatments can be devised to recover valuable programme material from exceptions tapes on a case by case basis. As it is usually necessary to operate replay machinery for exceptions tapes with outer covers removed and occasionally with internal electrical and mechanical interventions being made in real time, emphasis is placed on safe working practices to protect specialists, unique collections' artefacts and increasingly rare machinery from hazards.

From a conservation perspective, focused encounter with such a large number of problematic video tape recordings presents a golden opportunity for archive technologists to examine carefully and understand the causes of problems as well as find practical solutions to enable their replay and digitisation for long term preservation.



Disassembly of video cassettes for repair and cleaning is routine work for specialists in the BFI Archive Technology Lab.

From a learning and knowledge sharing point of view, findings from the exceptions workflow provide a useful resource which contribute for example to a series of internal BFI seminars known collectively as the 'Anatomy of Videotape'.

Day-to-day work within the ATG exceptions lab embraces a host of challenges associated with physical changes that have taken place to tapes and cassette shells since a recording was first created. Repair of broken tapes and housings along with the careful cleaning of tapes compromised through either contamination or decomposition requires specialist equipment and a high degree of dexterity. Another common activity involves the intentional misalignment of precision tape transports to enable non-standard magnetic track layouts to be recovered.

Processes incorporating heat treatment are sometimes helpful in driving out excessive moisture which can accumulate within the complex molecular makeup of video tapes and hinder their movement through complex tape transports. The careful application of heat can also help also 'free up' lubrication compounds within magnetic coatings, which have a tendency to solidify when tapes have been inactive for long periods, again resulting in transportation issues and head clogging.

Through the BFI's Video Digitisation project a small number of video tapes from WFSAs have required attention as exceptions through the BFI ATG lab. These spanned a range of legacy analogue and digital formats, including: U-Matic; VHS; Hi8; Betacam SP and Digital Betacam. Among the processes required to obtain satisfactory replay and digitisation from this collection, it has been necessary to dismantle cassette housings and clean internal components, repair detached leader-to-tape splices and run tapes through special tape cleaning machines.

As has been found with many collections from regional film archives, some of the WFSAs U-Matic tapes have been found to suffer from a condition where, over time, particular tape stock types exhibit a loss of magnetic strength compared to others from the same period. If replayed in a *standard* machine, the picture quality can be seriously compromised through unwanted noise and other disruptions. However, using specially modified playback machinery in the ATG lab it is usually possible to boost weaker signals and yield much better results than would otherwise be possible.

As well as working with the many physical vagaries associated with legacy video tapes to make them viable for replay, keeping aged equipment operational poses perhaps an even greater challenge for archive technologists. The methods deployed for even the earliest magnetic video recording and replaying processes were founded on complex leading-edge technology, demanding high magnetic and mechanical precision to produce almost miraculous results from the technologies of the time. With no technical support or spare parts whatsoever now available from the original manufacturers, it falls to the competences and determination of a diminishing number of technicians and engineers, drawing on the finite stocks of already hard driven machinery, to maintain a useful throughput for digitisation.

Video head performance (just to pick one of many examples) is essential to success. These microscopically precision engineered devices, provide the high speed interface between the magnetic domain of recorded tracks and electronic circuitry which interpret into pictures and are subject to enormous stresses and strains when in use.

Precision adjustments and modifications to the complex workings of obsolete machinery are sometimes necessary for the successful replay of legacy video tapes.



Even under normal circumstances, head life can only be expected to extend to a few thousand hours of run time. Add in the grim reality of having to plough through contaminated or decomposing tape compounds to get to the wanted signal and this can be reduced to as little as 50 hours. Worse still, suffer a major tape pile-up and a head can be completely destroyed in an instant.

As alluded to earlier, it is sometimes found that poor replay of tapes at the digitisation stage is not as a consequence of the rigours of time or poor storage conditions, but actually stems from machine faults or misalignments which occurred during the original recording process. Archive Technologists must take great care not to compromise increasingly rare archive machinery required for the longer term, so while it is possible to *tweak* things in an endeavour to temporarily modify or adjust parameters of the mechanical and electronic paths to compensate for rogue recordings, one has to be mindful that any damage caused while doing so might render the machine ineffective for preserving tapes further down the line.

See inside front cover for another photograph.

How did you spend the Coronation weekend this spring? If you have any photographs, videos or papers about Hampshire events marking this Coronation, from street parties to local volunteering events – or indeed items relating to previous coronations – do contact Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (items about the Portsmouth or Southampton areas should be offered to the relevant city archive service).

They hope that images and information captured by residents in 2023 will be a lasting historic record, so that future generations will be able to look back and see how this occasion was celebrated across Hampshire. Items received so far include photographs of celebrations in Brown Candover and Chilton Candover, a montage of children's drawings from Micheldever Station, and copies of photographs and leaflets for Coronation celebrations in Oakland Road, Whitchurch in both 1953 and 2023.

If there is any material you can offer, please contact HALS at archives.enquiries@hants.gov.uk to let them know the details (for other contact methods see page 1).

Hampshire Record Office news: Hampshire Archives and Local Studies and Wessex Film and Sound Archive

Adrienne Allen, Sarah Farley, Heather Needham, David Rymill and Zoë Viney

Record Office news

The public service continues its opening hours of Tuesdays to Thursdays, 9.30am-4.00pm and document ordering available 9.30am-12 and 1-3pm each day (5 documents at a time). You can also order up to 10 documents 24 hours in advance of a visit. We are also open on Saturday 14th October with the same service arrangements as for weekdays. Please check our website for the latest information: www.hants.gov.uk/archives.

Parish records up to 1921 and probate records up to 1858 are now available on Ancestry. A few additional parish registers which were digitised at a slightly later stage than the main group, including those for Christchurch and Wonston, will be uploaded in the autumn to relevant sections, and at the same time there will be some updates to the probate collection. Bishops' transcripts and Methodist registers will be available in 2024. For the latest information and also how to get free access in libraries and HRO, see www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/services/online-sources.

Our programme of events into the autumn is online at www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/events, so if you are looking for something to do as the evenings draw in, book now for Behind the Scenes Tours (9 Oct, 2pm, 13 Nov, 6pm or 11 Dec, 2pm), and an online talk about starting local history research (26 Oct, 6pm).

In our foyer from 5th September to 25th October, during opening times, you can see the free exhibition *Post Holes, Purlins, Pillow Mounds and Parish Records, the story of Hampshire Field Club*.

For more news and snippets about our work, follow us on social media – you can find the links at the foot of our web pages at www.hants.gov.uk/archives.

Wessex Film and Sound Archive Activities

Student placements

Our next cohort of student placements will be recruited in September. We're looking forward to welcoming them between September and December, when they will learn all about the many processes and activities that keep WFSA going.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

After a great day screening film at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens for Hampshire Day 2023 in July, we have been invited back as part of their lecture lunch series on 8th November. To find out more about this event, which includes a screening, coffee and lunch, please visit / www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens/whatson/Lecture-8Nov23.

Depositor Questionnaire

We have previously provided updates on the optional questionnaire for depositors to complete when they deposit film with us. The aim of the questionnaire is to capture structured information about the person or persons who were involved in the production of the films, and as a result potentially make the work of underrepresented groups more visible. We have now started testing the questionnaire on existing depositors, with some fantastic results so far! We have significantly boosted the information we hold on all of the filmmakers we have so far asked about.

BFI Funding

We are delighted to have been awarded funding by the British Film Institute, awarding funds from the National Lottery. We applied for support from its Resilience Fund to develop a sustainable operating model for WFSA, drawing on governance arrangements in other archive organisations. In addition, this funding will support collections development work assessing priorities for digitising at-risk items, and diversifying collections by working with under-represented groups, including on cataloguing. This programme is underway and will run for three years.

We also successfully bid for funding from the BFI's Project Fund, which will support four strands of community engagement, focusing on work with BME and LGBT+ groups, addressing rural isolation, and capturing recent history in housing estates in north-east Hampshire. This programme will start in December and run for 12 months.

Women in Focus

Our collaboration with the University of East Anglia's Women in Focus research project has provided some interesting findings. As a result of our joint work, we have a range of information that we are able to add to our cataloguing about films produced by the High Wycombe Film Society. You can read more about UEA's project at www.uea.ac.uk/web/groups-and-centres/projects/women-in-focus.



Heritage Open Day, Saturday 16th September

As part of Heritage Open Day activities, we were on site at Hampshire Record Office for a day of history-based fun! The mobile cinema tent was screening local archive film, including some newly digitised animation.



Winchester on Film Goes Online

Later this autumn, by popular demand, we are pleased to be able to bring you Winchester On Film – Online! Last year's onsite screening was a sell-out success and we are now excited to be able to make this available to online audiences via our new Vimeo channel. A date is planned, possibly Monday evening 27th November, but details will be advertised via www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/events once this is confirmed.

Hands on History Festival, Southampton Film Week – University of Southampton

We are hoping to work with the University of Southampton and City Eye to put on a day of hands-on film related activities as part of the 'Being Human' national festival of the humanities in November. The collaborative event, which will be hosted at Avenue Campus in Southampton, will be part of Southampton Film Week. Dates will be advertised via our usual channels.

Some recent additions to the archives – Hampshire Archives and Local Studies

Once again we can report on a varied series of new additions to the archives, each one giving insights into the life of Hampshire people, whether centuries ago or in recent years. Here is a selection of them.

Personal, family and estate records

Jerome of Andover, Second World War Rescue Service papers: personal papers of the late Owen A C Jerome of Andover, relating to his work with Andover Rescue Service, 1940s, including information and guidance issued to attendees of Andover Rescue and Decontamination School, Standing Orders and lists of personnel for ARS; Andover ARP membership card; ARS group photographs; newscuttings; copy of central Government ARP training manual (71A22)

Cron dall map: plan of Robert Benham's estate in the parish of Cron dall, including Swanthorpe homestead, 1847 (91A22)

Whiting family of Portchester: bound typescript entitled *Whiting of Porchester, Volume 3: Selected Family Papers*, compiled by Richard Whiting (c1980s); publication entitled *The Whitings of Porchester, Vol II*, 2020, by Richard Whiting; Whiting family tree, from 1440, including extant emigrations to USA and Australia integral to the above family history volumes; edited and illustrated diary of Marian Muriel Whiting (1881-1978), a lifelong volunteer at Kew Gardens, amateur botanist and plant-hunter, concerning her travels in China, 1919-21 (94A22)

Aldershot area photographs and documents: photographs of the military area of Aldershot, including barracks, Prince Consort Library, Cambridge Military Hospital, troops including an early Aldershot group of NCOs and the first Aldershot Commander, General Sir William Knollys, c1860s-1920s; also churches in Aldershot, the May family, and photographs of Farnborough including Farnborough Abbey and churches; newspapers including *Aldershot Military Gazette*, 8 Jun 1900; papers, photographs and correspondence of Major William James May, 1906-20s; drafts of a history of Aldershot; menus and programmes, including some for masonic lodges, c1918-20s; abstract of title to 43 and 45 High Street, Aldershot, 1907; minute books of The Camberley and Yorktown Laundry Co Ltd, 1898-1900, and The Farnborough and District Steam Laundry Company Limited, 1911-48 (107A22, part listed)

Blackman of Gosport: family papers: papers relating to the Blackman family, in particular Mrs Dorothy Rose Blackman (died 1979, wife of Leslie Blackman), a member of the organising committee for the Mayor of Gosport's Second World War victory celebrations. Includes cuttings, captioned photographs of the Gosport carnival, 1946, and related group photographs of Alverstoke Primary School, the Youth and Women's Fellowship Guilds at Christ Church, Stoke Road, Gosport, late 1940s, St Mary's Alverstoke church choir, 1950, Alverstoke Ladies' Bowling Club, c1950, and Gosport Red Cross detachment, 1952. Also includes photographs and papers about Mrs Blackman's son, David, especially his career as a scientist and Government adviser on the movement of radioactive waste, working at AWRE, Aldermaston, Berks. (112A22, awaiting cataloguing)

Ray of Otterbourne: exercise book of Bessie Ray containing a copy of the poem *Marmion*, copied in by the author Charlotte Yonge, c1900; photograph of staff at Elderfield, Otterbourne, c1915. This had been the home of Charlotte Yonge from 1862 until her death in 1901 (71A23).

The photograph (*right*) shows Vic Cooper, chauffeur, and Bill Hoskins, gardener at Elderfield, c1915 (71A23/2). It was taken in the side garden and behind is the long conservatory forming the main entrance, extended by the Norsworthy family in the early 20th century.

The photograph states that both men were gardeners, but information since provided indicates that Victor Cooper was a chauffeur. He died in 1919 from meningitis returning from the First World War. William (Bill) Hoskins was born in Otterbourne in 1897 and died there in 1972.



Houseman, Rohan and Benner, solicitors: deeds, legal documents and related papers concerning **Heathcote family of Hursley Park**, including conditions of sale and letting agreements for farms and properties on the Tylney Hall estate, c1892-1916, and papers concerning the sale of Tylney Hall in 1916; copy will of Sir William Heathcote of Hursley Park, Bt, 13 Oct 1881, and related legal papers, c1912-53; papers concerning the trust funds comprised in the marriage settlement of Sir William and Lady Heathcote, and the will of Sir William Heathcote, 1885-1902; miscellaneous papers concerning family trusts, 1889-1958; probate of the will and codicil of Mrs Clara Rosalie Heathcote, 1896, with related papers (76A02, awaiting cataloguing)

Parsons of Bursledon: agreement for valuing timber at Durley purchased by George Parsons from William Peachey, 8 Oct 1799; probate copy of the will of George Parsons of Bursledon, shipbuilder, 1812; photocopy of two postcards of memorial to George Parsons in Bursledon Church, one annotated by his grandson John Denham Parsons (64A23)

Alfred Curtis of Winchester, astronomer: photographs and papers relating to Alfred Curtis and his observatory and telescope at his home, The Nath, 14 Stoney Lane, Weeke, Winchester, mid 20th century.

Includes photocopies of astronomical observations by Alfred Curtis; typescript paper by him titled *The Southampton Astronomical Society 40th (Jubilee) Anniversary 1924-1964*; photographs of British Astronomical Association weekend courses in Winchester, with related papers; typescript observations for *The Night Sky*, mid 20th century (87A22)



Alfred Curtis and The Nath Observatory.

West Tytherley lease: lease of house and land by Richard Whithed to William Ireland, 1660 (61A23)

Councillor Allan Mitchell: papers of Winchester City Councillor Allan Mitchell, including photographs, *Liberal Democrat Focus* newsletters, election leaflets and publicity for Councillor Mitchell, newspapers and newscuttings, c1970s-2000s (58A23).

Parish records

Harbridge: baptism register, 1907-2019 (149M82)

Dogmersfield: baptism register, 1912-2023 (59M72)

Elvetham: register of burials and of interments of cremated ashes at St Mary's, Elvetham, and All Souls', Hartford Bridge, 1902-2013 (94M82).

Nonconformist records

East Boldre Baptist Church: registers of births, 1823-59, and burials, 1837-94; Church meeting minutes and membership lists, 1817-60; Church Meeting minutes, 1860-1977; and 2000-19 (100A22).

Societies and organisations

Colden Common Youth Football Club: weekly newsletters, 1995-7; yearbook, 2009-10; Colden Common Summer Soccer Festival programme, 2009; club history (83A22)

Old Gosportians Dramatic Society: theatre programmes and performance photographs, 1930s; Junior Imperial League Dramatic Society Five Short Plays programme, Alverstoke, 1930 (84A22)

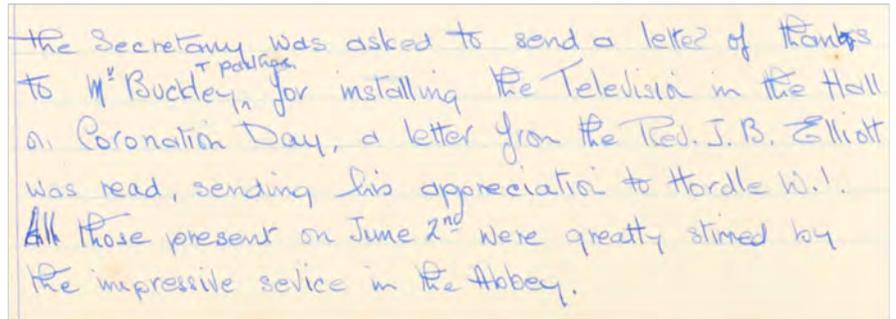
North East Hants Agricultural Association: minute books, 1840-1988 (12 vols); AGM minutes, 1976-2016; account books 1957-92 (9 vols); President's reports, 1966-74; programmes and schedules for shows including horse shows and ploughing matches, c1916-2014; reports and accounts, 1928-2016; annual dinner menus, 1936-7; programmes, leaflets and posters, c1940s-2000s; photographs taken at shows, c2000s (90A22)

Basingstoke Inner Wheel Club: minutes, 1955-2019 (incomplete); scrapbooks/photograph albums, 1960-2015 (9 vols); account book, 1955-71 (55A23, awaiting cataloguing)

Cliddesden Village Newsletter, 1976-2014 (96A22)

Houghton Women's Institute: committee meeting minutes, monthly meeting minutes, programme cards and newsletters, 2011-20; meeting minutes and reports, 2012-20; letters and cuttings, 1978-2006; photograph albums, 1988-2018; booklet *A Centenary Celebration, 1918-2018* (74A12)

Hordle Women's Institute: committee minutes, 1947-2015; monthly meeting record books and minutes, 1935-2016 (40A23).



Hordle W I minute about the installation of a television for Coronation Day, 1953 (40A23/B5).

Photographs and postcards

Edith Howard of Andover photograph collection: hard drive containing digitised glass negative plates (2463) taken by Edith Howard, photographer of Andover in 1930s (41A23, awaiting cataloguing)

Andover photographs and slides: black and white photographs including VE-Day celebrations, parade on Bridge Street, Edith Payne and fellow teachers, London Road swimming pool, Andover Secondary School, c1945-60s; 28 colour slides of floats etc at Andover Carnival, 1977; 11 colour slides of Andover town centre, c1978 (52A23)

Winchester hospital and Preshaw House, Exton: First World War photographs showing soldiers who were patients, and nursing staff, at the Red Cross auxiliary hospital in 4 The Close, Winchester, with some apparently showing patients visiting Preshaw House, Exton; this purchase was generously funded by HAT (63A23; see page 14)

Walhampton School, Lymington: caravan trek photographs: black and white, and colour photographs showing staff and pupils of Walhampton School, Lymington, during caravan treks into the New Forest, c1966, and featuring the caravans (53A23)

Eastleigh Temperance Brass Band: two large, black and white mounted group photographs, one fully captioned, c1913 (54A23; see inside back cover).

Parish Council and Petty Sessions

Medstead Parish Council: Parish Council minutes, 1974-2015; Parish Assembly minute book, 1970-98; committee minutes, 1995-2017 (60M99)

Liss Parish Council: Parish Council minute books, 1910-99 (later volumes include committee minutes); annual parish meeting minute book, 1962-2010; papers about the A3 by-pass, c1975-90, including a 1985 inquiry (28A02)

Kingsclere Petty Sessions: Magistrates' court register, sitting at Kingsclere, Whitchurch, Whitway and East Woodhay, 1904-08 (44A23).

School and university records

University of Winchester: photographs, magazines, etc given to the University by alumni, c1935-2020 (47M91W, awaiting cataloguing)

Knowles of Farnborough: *The Ferneberga*, magazine of Farnborough Junior Technical School, 1922-5 and Farnborough Secondary School, 1935; *AL-FA*, magazines of Farnborough Grammar School, 1946 and 1948-1950, and Annual Record, 1968; magazines of Aldershot County School/County High School, 1921-2, 1926-9 and 1936 (92A22).

Business records

Hayter and Sons of Portchester, cartmakers: account books including customer ledger, 1884-1928; day book, 1893-1902; cash book, 1939-46; and notebooks recording wages, partners' salaries, estimates, rents for advertising signs, and accounts with J Herbert Pyle of Fareham, confectioner, and William Lusby of Fareham, provision merchant; etc; sale particulars, 1920s-30s; correspondence, billheads and drawings, early-mid 20th century (70A23, awaiting cataloguing)

Wessex Water: Hampshire Rivers Board of Conservators Register of Assessments, c1941; Fordingbridge Sewerage, record of junctions, 1949-54; Ringwood sewerage extensions, contract and plans, 1963-5; Blashford Lakes scheme documents, 1986-2008; Wessex Water leaflets about Ringwood and Fordingbridge sewage treatment works, 1993; Wessex Water publications about the River Avon and the decline of migratory salmonids, 1980s (57A23, awaiting cataloguing).

Miscellaneous records

Hampshire Old Time Ball programmes for balls and dances at Eastleigh, 1954-6, Laverstoke, 1979, Petersfield, 1955, Sarisbury Green, 1952, Southampton, 1957, and Winchester, 1951-60 (62A23)

Liss area miscellanea: Liss school log books (4 vols, various schools), 1873-1966; Liss Parochial Church Council minutes, 1990s, churchwardens' papers, including papers about new Church Hall project, c1990s-2000, and parish magazines, 1962-2012; published *Liss Parish Recipe Book*, 1976; Meon Valley railway photographs, c1957-8. (50A23, awaiting cataloguing; access restricted to school records under 100 years old)

Burghclere collected material including: parish magazines, 2019-22; personal papers of Charles Legard MC (Rector of Burghclere for 21 years, c1930s-50s); Burghclere and Newtown Horticultural Society Show programmes, c1920-2020; scripts, lyrics, staging notes and related papers relating to Mummers' plays performed in Burghclere at periods between 1908 and 2017; notes on Newbury District Junior Football League (dates back to 1909); scrapbook of Burghclere cuttings compiled by Bernard Wait from local newspapers, 1951-2; list of names of Burghclere Girl Guides, c1943; advert for bonfire on Beacon Hill to celebrate the Royal Wedding, 1981; further leaflets, notes etc about Burghclere history, c1980s-2020s (29A00, awaiting cataloguing).

Wessex Film and Sound Archive's recent accessions include the following:

(please note that some WFSA items are still awaiting processing)

Berkshire films: VHS tapes (12): St Peter's Church, Drayton, by Bob Winter, 1987; two episodes of *Challenge Anneka*, 1989; *Live Work and*

Play the Bracknell Forest Way, late 1980s; excavations for new heating system at St Nicolas, Newbury, 1992; St Mary's Church, Shaw cum Donnington 150th anniversary pageant, 1992; *Parish of Compton*, 1994; Brightwell cum Sotwell 50th anniversary, 1995; video of last County Council meeting, Thames Valley Television, 1998; *Celebrating Warfield in Year 2000*; *My School Days* production for White House Preparatory School, 2000; The Reading Water Voles, 2001; *The Reading Cattle Market Past and Present*, 2001 (AV768)

Wallbank films: DVDs compiled by Alan Wallbank: *The Great Performer*, 2019; *Fredericks Legacy*, 2022; *Time to Say Goodbye*, 2022; *The Crowning Glory*, 2022; *Cecil Gordon Vokes*, 2022, with notes about Cecil Vokes (AV258)

Emsworth Museum: BDR (Bluray): Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust: activities for 2022 (AV637)

Ringwood: VHS tape of the 1989 Ringwood Pedal Car Grand Prix against Ringwood's twin town Pont-Audemer (AV1677)

Berkshire Record Office: two cinefilms (16mm) about Bracknell New Town, *The Construction of the West Link Road underline Railway Bridges, part 1 and 2, A New Town Bracknell*; 5 cinefilms from Reading St Giles parish, 1952-1966; 36 films from Bullbrook School, Bracknell, 1960s-80s (AV768)

Ponting of Andover: cinefilms owned and taken by John Ponting of Andover, 1930s-50s (AV1671)

Coronation of King Charles III (digital): footage of Coronation street party in Odiham, 7 May 2023 (AV1675)

Lines of Chandlers Ford: Cinefilms taken by Graham Lines, believed to be of Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford, 1962-82, still under assessment (AV1676)

High Wycombe Show: VHS tape of the show, 5 Sep 1987 (AV1678)

Eton College: 28 cinefilms, c1928-62, including material from the College's Film Unit, from E W Gladstone of Eton Corps Camp, 1950s-60s, films of Eton College rowing 1920s-30s; and films from A W Brooks, 1930s-40s (AV1596).

National Motor Museum, Beaulieu:

Sarah Wyatt, Senior Curator: Archives & Trading,
National Motor Museum Trust

Our new exhibition looks at future visions of the motor car, seen through the lens of the past. The exhibition title is inspired by the term coined in 1959 by British architect Geoffrey Alan Jellicoe to describe a place where vehicles and humans co-exist in harmony. Much earlier at the turn of the 20th century another visionary, John Scott Montagu, was predicting fast roads connecting cities. He commissioned the artist Ferdinand Fizzi to sketch out visions of high-rise roads with housing beneath. These concepts are on display in the exhibition.

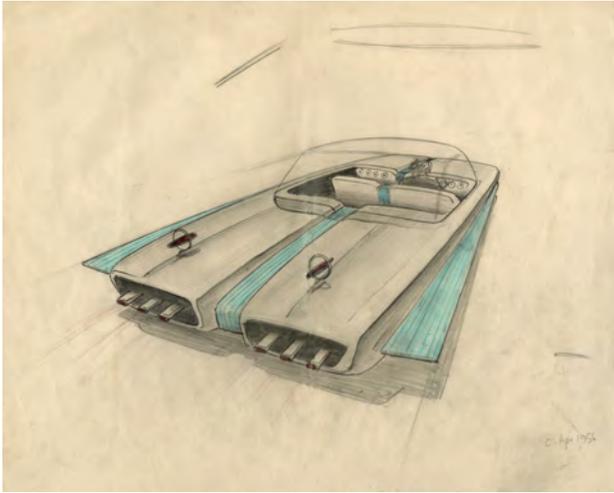
Motopia? features material from all parts of the collection, including vehicles, photographs, film, and publications. We have also worked with the Shell Heritage Art Collection, which is hosted at the National Motor Museum, with their artwork forming part of the display.

One of the vehicles featured is an electric car dating from 1901, the Columbia (*right*), bought for use by Princess Alexandra in the grounds of Sandringham House. Alternative fuels, and electrically powered vehicles are certainly not a modern concept!



Our archives feature prominently, including the 1950s futuristic designs of Lotus engineer Ron Hickman (*opposite*) and film of concept cars such as Ford's X2000.

As well as the exhibition itself, there is additional content which visitors can access using the Smartify app. There is also a programme of activities for all ages.



‘Motopia? Past Future Visions’ runs until 14th April 2024, and you can find out more at www.beaulieu.co.uk/motopia-past-future-visions .



University of Portsmouth Archive

Anna Delaney, University Archivist

We received an exciting and unexpected new addition to the University Archive collection this summer in the form of a time capsule dating from the 1940s. I was fortunate to be present at its opening.

The time capsule was found during the demolition of the University of Portsmouth’s Nuffield Building in July. Formerly the Nuffield United Services’ Officers’ Club, the building had been purchased by Portsmouth Polytechnic in 1978 to be converted for administrative use. All memory of the time capsule that had been concealed behind the foundation stone on 9th May 1949 had been lost.

We didn’t know what we would find inside the unassuming sealed lead pipe and were pleasantly surprised to see not only newspapers emerge, but also various documents and a coin.

Amongst the contents was a booklet containing plans and architect’s impressions of the future club. The building was intended to provide officers of the three services (Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force) and their families with sports and recreational facilities and a place to stay. It was to be well-equipped, with a bowling alley, a card room, squash courts and even a barber’s shop.

As the booklet mentions, King James’ Gate was relocated to Burnaby Road to allow the new club building to be constructed. If it had remained in position, the gate would have been ‘in the middle of the car park’.



The coin, found contained in a small envelope, is a George VI half crown. The completed United Services Officers' Club was opened just over two years later in July 1951, by King George's daughter Princess Elizabeth shortly before she became Queen. We also discovered the Order of Proceedings for the laying of the foundation stone, a seating plan for the ceremony and a list of the United Services Officers' Ground staff with their signatures.

The items inside the capsule were all in remarkably good condition with no real signs of deterioration after 74 years, although the paper had become curled after being stored rolled in a cylinder for so long. The time capsule container itself was unlabelled and we were lucky that the contractors recognised its significance.

The collection of items chosen for inclusion in the time capsule in 1949 (*opposite*) now forms part of the University of Portsmouth Archive.

Southampton Archives

Joanne Smith, Archivist

We are still offering public access both from the Archives Reading Room and the Local Studies and Maritime Library: on Tuesdays we are based in the Reading Room and offer drop-in access with no appointments necessary. On Wednesdays we provide access for pre-booked documents over at the Local Studies and Maritime Library, which enables users to consult our complementary resources.

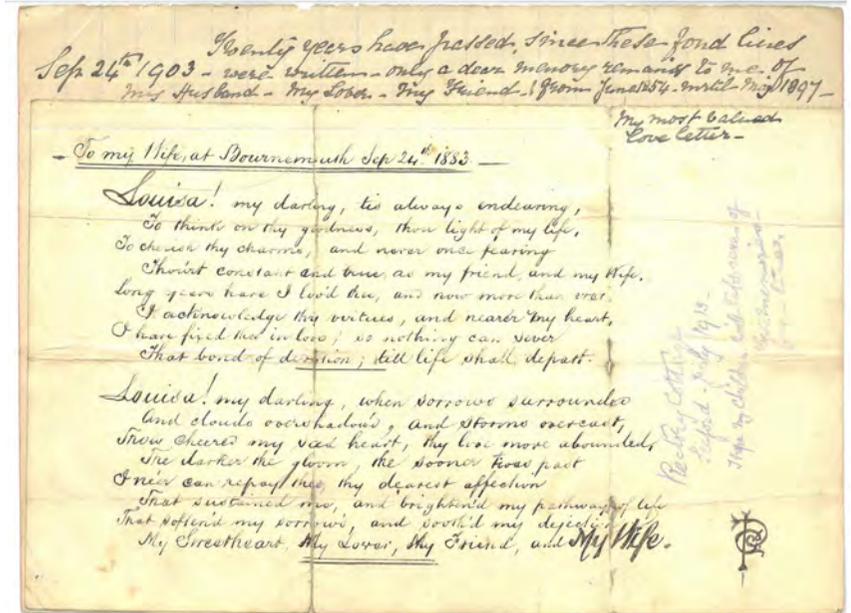
Accessions

Katy Hull, a direct descendant of Josiah and Louisa Poole who lived at Tudor House during the latter half of the 19th century, donated a lovely group of family items, some to be held by Archives and some by the Museum service. Josiah was the first Surveyor to the Local Board of Health and was appointed Borough Surveyor in 1856.

Amongst the family letters is a poem written by Josiah to his wife Louisa, whilst she was away at Bournemouth in 1883. The couple were married from 1854 until Josiah's death in 1897 and between them had 16 children.

Louisa referred to the poem (*below*) as 'My most valued love letter'.

Katy handed over the collection in August 2023, and took the opportunity to visit her ancestors' home, now Tudor House Museum, with members of her family. Amongst the party was Mrs Sheila Wood, who was able to provide us with lots of valuable information about the Poole family.



We recently received some additional material concerning the Southampton Women's Centre. The Women's Centre was formed in the 1970s with the aim to 'provide a women-only environment in which services and facilities can be offered to all women, regardless of race, class, disabilities, sexuality, age, education, marital status, religion, political affiliation or any other distinction, and to enable them to achieve their full potential. For the purposes of this Association, a woman shall be defined as a person who sees themselves as a woman and is living full-time as a woman'.

The collection catalogue can now be viewed on the National Archives Discovery catalogue at <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/919e435c-d980-4384-8a1a-c9cac7f8ecf7> . It provides a valuable

insight into local and wider political issues of the 1980s, with frequent reference to Greenham Common, abortion law and Section 28 legislation (such as a poster for the 1988 'Stop the Clause' march in London, and a ticket for a women only Halloween party, *below*).



A very recent deposit of material by Captain John Attwood promises to contain some exciting treasures. The collection was begun by his father, who was a Chief Engineer, employed on the Southampton Railway boats to the Channel Islands and France. Captain Attwood himself joined the British Rail Cargo Service to the Channel Islands from Southampton. The collection reflects their interest in passenger and cargo services, and includes plans, photographs and even staff registers (see inside front cover for an illustration).

Other news

To commemorate Merchant Navy Day at the beginning of September 2023 we ran a workshop on using sources at the Archives and Local Studies Library to trace your ancestors at sea. The session was fully booked, and attendees got the chance to have a go at searching the online resources themselves, using library tablets. One of the researchers got to see a photograph of his ancestor for the first time, in the Central Index Register of Merchant Seamen.

Archives and Special Collections, Hartley Library, University of Southampton

Karen Robson, Head of Archives

2023 is notable as being the fortieth anniversary of the arrival of the Wellington archive at Southampton on 17th March 1983. This momentous event also marked the creation of the Archives Department within the Library and the appointment of its first archivist, Christopher Woolgar.

To mark this anniversary the Archives and Special Collections have undertaken a range of activities. The social media programme included a Twitter campaign where researchers chose their favourite Wellington manuscript, and a series of blogs drawing on the Duke's name to cover a range of subjects from W for Waterloo to N for Napoleon. A Wellington 40 exhibition in the Level 4 Gallery looked at elements of curation of the collection over the four decades at Southampton. A companion exhibition, in the Special Collections Gallery, that will feature material from the Wellington archive, will also look at the development of collections over the last forty years. This will run from 16th October 2023 until 16th February 2024.

On 7th July the Archives and Special Collections ran a successful Behind the Scenes at the Archives day, that included the opportunity to view items from the collection and view aspects of the work of the Division, such as Conservation. We were also delighted to host a talk by Dr Zack White about his research on the Wellington collection.

This year's Wellington Lecture will be given on Tuesday 17th October by Professor Tony Pollard, Professor of Conflict History and Archaeology at the University of Glasgow who is a co-director of the 'Waterloo Uncovered' project, which in 2015 has brought together archaeologists, historians, injured military veterans and students in the investigation of the famous battlefield. Details of the event will be publicised by the University nearer the time.

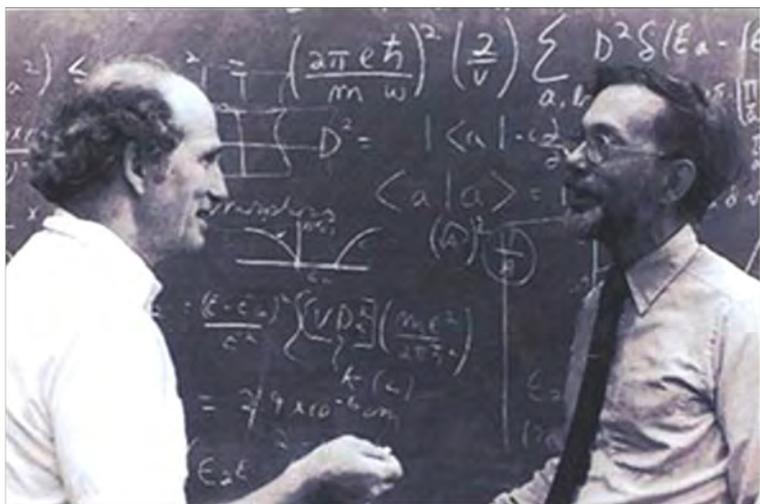
The Archives and Special Collections have been the recipients of a range of new collections over the year, adding in particular to the maritime archaeology holdings and Anglo-Jewish collections.

Label of Ben Abeles for the Kindertransport to London, 1939 - the transport was organised under the auspices of Nicholas Winton [MS464/A4382/2/1/2].



Of note amongst the Jewish archives was a collection of material of the Ben Abeles, an Austrian/Czech physicist. Ben Abeles' work with George D. Cody on alloys at the Radio Corporation of America Laboratories in Princeton in the 1960s led to the development of technology that was later be used to power space probes such as the Voyager spacecraft.

Ben Abeles was sent to Britain in 1939 on the Kindertransport to escape the rise of Nazism in Czechoslovakia. He supported himself by working as a waiter and also studying for matriculation before joining the RAF and working as a mechanic when he was 18 years old. After the war, Ben Abeles completed his education in Czechoslovakia and then Israel before moving to the USA to work.



Ben Abeles and George Cody at work [MS464/A4382/5/8/19].

His archive is made up of family photographs of the Abeles family (which survived as they were left with a Christian relative in Czechoslovakia), as well as poignant letters exchanged between the teenage Ben Abeles and his parents and material relating to his education, family life and career in the post war period. To launch this collection the Archives and Special Collections and Parkes Institute hosted an event on Tuesday 6th June.

Winchester College

Suzanne Foster, Archivist

It has been a busy year for accessions, including two collections of school reports for pupils here in the late 1920s and late 1890s, and a photograph album of yearly photographs of our Scholars and Prefects for 1954 to 1969. This album was one 'missing' from our collection and we are therefore pleased to welcome it back to the school. We have also received an extensive collection of books about the College and a smaller collection of memorabilia from two former pupils.

A more significant addition to the archives is a collection of correspondence relating to Guy Henry Bullock (1887-1956), a Scholar at Winchester from 1901 to 1906. Guy and George Mallory were contemporaries in College and both spent time walking and climbing in Snowdonia and the Alps during their school holidays. Guy continued to hike and climb when he left Winchester and Mallory remembered his skills when the 1921 Everest Expedition were looking for a replacement climber at short notice. Guy was given leave of absence from his work in the Diplomatic Service and, with Mallory and another former Winchester pupil called Henry Morshead, he spent five months exploring the area around Everest as part of the 1921 British Mount Everest reconnaissance expedition.

Guy wrote regularly to his parents and the collection includes letters written whilst he was at school, at university and then from his various foreign postings. After his marriage in 1916, Guy's wife Alice also wrote home to her in-laws. Alice was American and her letters are especially detailed; the 1921 letters are almost entirely by Alice. She stayed in Darjeeling with the other expedition wives and received regular letters from her husband. This news was relayed on to Guy's family.

There is one surviving letter from Guy to his mother dated 22nd August 1921 in which he explains that they have spent two months investigating 'more than three quarters of its [Everest] different slopes and valleys, that is practically all except a part of the Nepalese side' and that they are almost ready to 'make our attempt on the north side of the north col of Everest in a fortnight or three weeks, depending on the weather'.

Guy and Mallory reached the North Col on 24 September 1921 but severe storms prevented any further progress and they had to turn back. Alice travelled from Darjeeling to meet them and writes of her shock at his appearance, 'He looks so worn and much older... he is so glad to be back... I am so happy to have him safe again that I am not therefore disappointed over the climb'. Guy himself writes to his mother on 18th October and admits that 'I was a bit run down after our attempt on Everest ... We found that living a week over 20,000 feet told on the strength of all of us, and it seems especially difficult to recover from fatigues at great heights'.

Below: postcard written by Guy to his sister whilst climbing in the Alps in the summer of 1907.



Farnborough Hill: home of an Empress

Charlie Fraser-Fleming

Following HAT's tour of Farnborough Abbey in 2022, and a joint visit this year to Empress Eugenie's home at Farnborough Hill by Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT) and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) it was felt that a short article about Farnborough Hill itself would be appropriate.

The Farnborough Hill estate was purchased by Empress Eugenie in July 1880 (by treaty) from Thomas Longman the publisher, with the objective of building a Mausoleum for her late husband, Napoleon III, and her son Prince Louis on the adjacent hill, with its woodland known as Coombe Farm. At this time, the two hills were physically separated by Highgate Lane, and the Southampton to London railway, which thankfully had a footbridge, known today as 'Monks Bridge' that provided access across the railway, enabling the Empress to walk to the Mausoleum by way of Church Path and up Lime Walk.

In 1799, the Farnborough Hill site was known as Windmill Hill at which time several fields were identified as Windmill Plot and Windmill Field. In addition, on the 1811 enclosure map what appeared to be a stable block on Windmill Hill was recorded as being owned by the Grant family with Windmill Field being owned by V H Wilmot Esq.

The easterly panoramic view towards the Surrey border (Blackwater River), overlooking the medieval village of Farnborough Street, in its day must have been quite stunning, these days less-so due to the growth of the trees, but still very pleasing to the eye. Today the view of the Mausoleum is also no longer visible after 150 years of tree growth. The farms and their associated potteries, which can be dated back to 1275, have long disappeared.

The house itself is located in a prominent position on a hilltop, with a driveway from South Lodge, off the A325 road which curves and climbs its way around the hill, and the landscape is quite outstanding with little or no change in the past 200 years. Upon arrival, the house is spectacular, in terms of its scale and architectural beauty. It's almost impossible to capture your feelings when you see the full visual impact of this French Gothic revival building.

The architectural style is truly captivating with its flamboyant decoration (such as terracotta images of a swan, and a ship linked to a former owner); its irregular roofline is reminiscent in some respects of Minley Manor by Henry Clutton (1819-1893), who had links to the Empress whilst she was at Chislehurst.

Prior to what you see today, the site had a small country house, in the ownership of a Mrs Foreman who purchased the estate from the Grant family in 1819.



Around this time the land ownership was complicated and was facing a period of great change with the arrival of the Enclosure Act etc. which enabled Thomas Longman to reconfigure the landownership.

During the Longman ownership (1860-1880) the majority of the architectural work that we see today was by Henry E Kendall junior (1805-1885) whose father in 1834 brought together a meeting at his house, in Suffolk Street London, where they drew up a scheme for the foundation of the Institute of British Architects, now the RIBA.

Later extensions were added to the house by architect Hippolyte Destailleur (1822-1893) of Waddesdon Manor fame, under the guidance of the Empress, between 1880 and 1883. His characteristic X-frame timbers provide a clear distinction between the old and new architecture, the north wing being a good example. The extent of work was limited, with a few building additions being introduced, such as the Winter Garden with its panoramic plate glass window, and some references to the Longman family being removed.

In 1881 work began on building the Mausoleum, which was completed in 1887. In many respects it represents a period when the relationship between the science of architecture came into contact with a more personal understanding of the arts.

Upon entering the house, you arrive in the hall with its stunningly carved fireplace and where a very large Franz Xaver Winterhalter painting of Eugenie and her Ladies in Waiting was hung, sadly no longer.



A few steps take you into the grand, long and wide gallery, where immediately in front you encounter the stunningly carved wooden and ironwork staircase leading to the first floor (*above*).

On the right-hand side of the gallery are two rooms with views onto the gardens, one being from the Destailleur Winter Garden with its splendid view towards the Surrey border.



The gallery's parquet flooring captures your eye as you walk towards the cloister and dining room, with its mirror-doors and finely detailed locks and their Napoleon motifs, originally made for the Tuileries (the Empress's former home) in Paris. The rectangular shaped dining room, with its stylised clouds against a pale blue painted sky ceiling, creates a feeling of tranquillity. Beyond this point there are many additions including the large and long chapel (*opposite*) by Adrian Gilbert Scott.

Beyond the house itself, it is worth walking through the gardens and taking in the former stables and coach-houses, and the North Lodge (*above*), the architect being George Devey (1820-1886) and his chief draughtsman Arthur Castings who completed the work following Devey's death.

To fully appreciate the finer points of Farnborough Hill's architecture, a more considered reading would be required; my recommendation would be the recently-published work of Anthony Geraghty, *The Empress Eugenie in England – Art, Architecture, Collecting*; Sybil Wade's work for Rushmoor Borough Council in 2001, *St Michael's Abbey and Farnborough Hill – Historic Landscape Restoration and Management*; and Jill Allibone's 1991 book *George Devey Architect, 1820-1886*.

Charlie is Chairman of HBPT, www.hbpt.org.

Hampshire New Victoria County History Project

Jean Morrin

We are completing the text of two new books which we hope to send to our central office in the University of London in the next few months. We hope that both will be published in 2024:

- *Herriard* : this is sponsored by HAT. The text is almost complete.
- *Basingstoke 1800 to 1925: From market to industrial town*. Most of the VCH team have contributed to this. We are finishing the editing ready to send it to central office in the autumn. The book will particularly focus on the industrialisation of Basingstoke in the second half of the 19th century following the arrival of the railways.

Volunteers needed: we are also working on Old Basing, Tunworth, Ellisfield, Sherfield on Loddon, North Waltham. We welcome people to join the project: no experience is needed. If you are interested in researching the history of Hampshire please email jeanmorrin@btinternet.com.

Competition

Here is the solution to the spring mathematical puzzle, from Queenwood College's Midsummer 1862 exam papers (HRO 47M66/12/3).

1. If 14 oxen are worth 84 sheep, and 6 sheep cost £20, what must be given for 100 oxen? £2,000.
2. If 100 men can make an embankment 2 miles long in 20 days, how much overtime must 120 men work in order to finish an embankment 3 miles long in 24 days? Twelve hours is supposed to be a regular day's work. 12 hours (half an hour a day).
3. A, B and C rent a pasture for £40. A puts in 8 cattle, B, 9, and C, 11; how much should each pay for his share? £11 8s 7d, £12 17s 1d and £15 14s 4d (rounded to nearest penny).

Your next challenge is a poetical one. My thanks to Trust member Mark Phillimore who drew my attention to John Swinnerton Phillimore, born 150 years ago this year. Mark writes: 'I thought you might be interested

to see a series of poems written by John Swinnerton Phillimore which are all about Hampshire and particularly south Hampshire. These are in a book of poetry called *Things New and Old*, published by Oxford University Press in 1918. Jack was a polymath, an Alpinist who pioneered routes in the Dolomites and was Professor of Classics at Glasgow University. He grew up in Shedfield and is buried in the village.' As Mark says, the poetry vividly evokes the beauty of this part of the county, and we hope to include some extracts from these poems in the next newsletter, but your challenge this autumn is to write a poem yourself, in any style, reflecting Hampshire past, present or future.

For a chance of winning a book token, just send your contribution to the editor (postal and email addresses on page 1) by Monday 15th January.

An inn and a family: a grant update

Fran Box, Steep History Group

In 2021 I received a HAT grant on behalf of the Steep History Group towards the cost of printing the first two of our planned local history books concerning the village of Steep in East Hampshire.

The first book, *The Remarkable Ifould Family of Steep* by me, came out in 2021. The second book, also by me, came out in April 2023 and is entitled *The Dodd Family and The Harrow Inn Steep*. This inn's unique atmosphere has long been regarded fondly, by both locals and those from far and wide. The book attempts to tell some of its background and in particular the story of the Dodd family and their ancestors. It goes back to a time before they came to Steep and extends to the present; some of their story has much in common with a tale from Dickens. The history and activities of the pub are traced through more than 90 years of continuous occupation by this one remarkable family.

It is an A5 paperback of 219 pages with many photographs. Books are available from me (franboxsteep@yahoo.co.uk) for £10 plus £2.50 postage, and are also available at the Harrow Inn in Steep and at One Tree Bookshop in Petersfield. The HAT grant enabled some of the printing costs for both books, for which The Steep History Group is most grateful. The remaining price for the books goes towards the printing of further local history publications concerning Steep.

Hampshire Archives Trust (Registered Charity No 294312)

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Newsletter Editor: Mr David Rymill

Events organisers:

Vacant: can you help? Please see page 10.

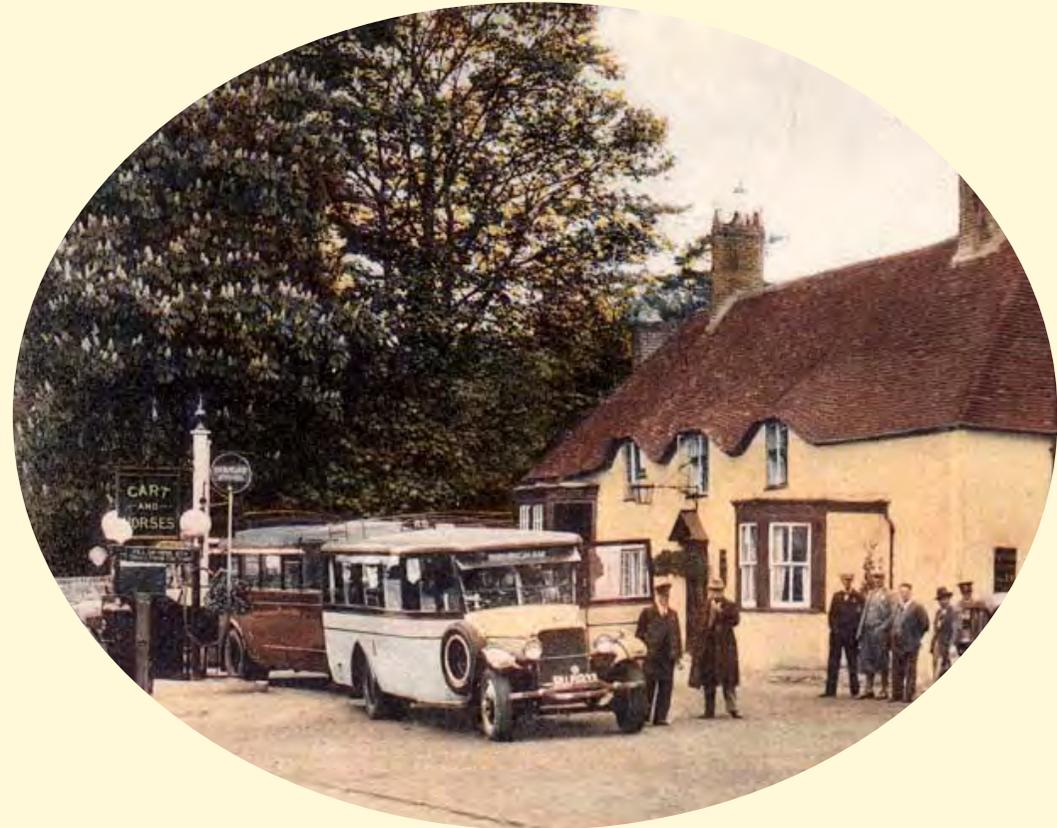
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Grants:	grants	Events:	events
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Above: Eastleigh Temperance Brass Band (HRO 54A23; see page 41).

Back cover: The Cart & Horses, Kings Worthy, a popular destination for charabancs between the wars, with its own petrol pump to the left (see page 20).



Right: a bundle of title deeds relating to Rockbourne, mostly dating from 1560 to 1620 and including items relating to the long-drawn-out acquisition by the Cooper family (Wimborne St Giles Archive: WSG, T/355; see page 18).



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