

Winter 2018-19



THE BYZANT

The Shaftesbury & District
Historical Society





Chairman's Chat - Elaine Barratt

The Society has experienced some turmoil in the last year, starting with the sad demise of our President, Jo Rutter, who has yet to be replaced, followed by the resignation of our chairman for whom I am the somewhat reluctant replacement. It's not that I don't want to be the Chair of our splendid society and delightful museum, just that with all my other duties - Volunteer Coordinator, Shop Manager, Buildings Manager and Cleaner - finding the time to do an adequate, never mind good, job is not easy and I'm still open to offers for any of the afore-mentioned roles. Hold the press - we may have found a buildings manager! I'm really grateful to Gordon for stepping up as Administrator, following my appeal at the AGM. We have yet to get the role fully underway and I appreciate Gordon's forbearance as we struggle to combine the coordination of the various tasks involved in this completely new role including setting up a new payment method with my now regular grandma duties as well as other volunteer roles.

By the time you receive this we will have held our second book launch of the year: Sir John Stuttard's biography of John Rutter (1796-1851): *The Turbulent Quaker of Shaftesbury*. The first one in March was a roaring success and, although sales have slowed, *Shaftesbury through Time* was still selling well at the end of the season.

In this issue Claire Ryley writes about our oldest artefact although, shortly after Ciorstaidh Trevarthen's update, a visitor told me that it was all a load of rubbish as, according to "the Old Testament which is the only credible authority", the world has only been around for 5,000 years. She had obviously come into the museum on a mission and she hooked me and then wound me in but it's one of the aspects of stewarding that I love and I, of course, remained polite and kept a reasonably straight face throughout the encounter!

Those of you who attended the AGM will remember Tony Hawkins' entertaining discourse on the subject of shoe-scrappers; I'm delighted that he took up my suggestion of submitting it for inclusion in this newsletter. It would be lovely to receive more such articles: feel free to share your particular interest or passion with the rest of us. (Email to library@goldhillmuseum.org.uk)

There are loads of jobs to be done during our closed season; we've only been closed for a month but I know from experience that April will be upon us all too soon and I'm hoping to get a lot more volunteers involved in the behind-the-scenes work this winter. Many of our stewards are more than willing so I'd better get coordinating and if any members are interested in helping in any aspect of the society's work please do get in touch with chairman@goldhillmuseum.org.uk.

S&DHS President

It is with great pleasure we announce that Sir John Stuttard has accepted the role of President of the Shaftesbury & District Historical Society. The position of President has been vacant since the death of Jo Rutter.

Sir John lives in Shaftesbury and is a member of the Society. His latest book, *The Turbulent Quaker of Shaftesbury*, a biography of John Rutter, was launch at the Museum in early December, report on page 22.

Sir John will make an excellent President and we wish him well in this role.

Lectures/Talks - Ian Kellett

"A good lecture should inform, inspire and entertain." I subscribe to the Alan Carter school of thought (this was written by Alan in the September 2015 Byzant, still available on the Gold Hill Museum website) and try to preview as many of our potential speakers as possible. This autumn, for example, I went to four Historical Association lectures, three in Bournemouth and one in Bath, knowing in advance that these were university educators who receive repeated invitations on the HA circuit precisely because they are good at what they do. Just because I like what I hear doesn't of course mean that their topics are appropriate for The S&DHS or that they will succumb to my shameless sales patter. However, a couple have so far agreed to feature in next season's programme, and may be

taking us further afield than Dorset and Wiltshire.

For this season I stayed closer to home, using in part the Dorset Museums Association network, and trusting that the speakers' passion for their subjects would make them good communicators. I had seen our Teulon Porter Lecturer, Dave Morris, talk at the Friends of the Glastonbury Rural Life Museum, and liked his blend of academic references and hands-on practical experience. He really deserved a much bigger audience for his History of the Shepherd's Hut, with its Shaftesbury Farris and Thomas Hardy connections. Eric Jones filled the Garden Room with his quaintly named Small Earthquake in Wiltshire; once people realised that this was really about the 1655 Penruddock Rising, Oliver Cromwell, and the English Civil War then they turned up in numbers. He had a book to sell and there are still copies in the Gold Hill Museum shop - with an interesting photograph on page 51.

If I had known that Sir John Stuttard's researches into John Rutter Turbulent Quaker of Shaftesbury, aided by our own Ray Simpson, would bear fruit so quickly in 2018, then he would have featured in the programme from the start. Ros Marshall who has completed four Pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela the hard way, without the aid of donkey, mountain bike or mini-bus, graciously stepped aside. This means that we will have to wait until February for our first female speaker, when Anne Brown will talk about the recently opened Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum in Dorchester. I have visited the cells where the Tolpuddle Martyrs and many other unfortunates were incarcerated and this is a place with a grim story to tell.

Other considerations have been the relative absences of Women's History, and Railways (OK, very much a male area of interest) from our recent programmes. Our January speaker, David Carter from Portland, told me that his favourite talk is about Dr Marie Stopes, Palaeobotanist, Doctor of Science and Doctor of Philosophy, Scientist, Academic, Poet, Author, Playwright, Family Planning Pioneer and of course, Founder, Benefactor, First Curator and member of the Portland Museum Management Committee from 1930 to 1957. I have rendered this down to The Remarkable Dr Marie Stopes for posters and I think we will hear an enthusiastic exposition of the life and times of an exceptional woman.

In March there is an opportunity to hear the story of the much-missed Somerset and Dorset Railway , and the (technically bungled) closure and rebirth of Shillingstone Station in The Station They Never Closed. At this Museum you step back into the 1960s, just prior to the fall of the Beeching Axe, courtesy of the work of dedicated volunteers like our own.

Tea and Talks in April, as ever, depend on you. If you have a pet historical project and are prepared to talk about it for ten or fifteen minutes, please get in touch. And if you are able to find a home for lecture posters, please email: enquiries@goldhillmuseum.org.uk

Temporary Exhibitions and Garden - Janet Swiss

Next year we will have two temporary exhibitions, The Sale of Shaftesbury 1919, and Water and Wells in Shaftesbury.

For the WATER AND WELLS we would like feedback from the Town. Many of the older houses in the town have wells, dry wells or cisterns. Many are not very deep. Many have been filled in.

We thought it would be interesting to collate as much information as possible on their whereabouts.

Are you An owner, builder, plumber, or gardener, and have found or seen one in an unexpected place? Or even have story of where one was? Please let us know. Do you have one in your house? When was your house built? Have you any other information about your water system?

Please would you take a photo of it, record the site, measure how wide and deep it is, and depth of water if any? Bring it along to the museum (the letterbox on the gate if we are not open) and become part of our temporary exhibition. Please include Address - Date of House - Site of Well or Cistern - Diameter of Mouth - Depth - Any Water, How Much? - Made of Brick or Stone? - Any other interesting information.

CONTACT NUMBER (we won't include name or phone)

The Garden - Janet Swiss

The hard-working garden volunteer group has kept the garden and paths neat and orderly throughout the year. It has been a delight to work with them all. Our visitors have been very complimentary.

We are reorganising the large central bed, and plan to plant it with useful herbs for cooking, dyeing, medicine, perfume and crafts, all labelled with traditional names.

Fund Raising Events - David Kerswell

It is intended to hold a quiz evening towards the end of January at the Heritage Suite in Bell Street.

In May, depending on support, we hope to organize a walking treasure hunt.

Dates and times will be notified to members in due course.

Gold Hill Museum's Oldest Object. If Stones Could Speak!

Claire Ryley

In the first cabinet in the room dedicated to archaeology, there is an inconspicuous triangle of brown stone, which despite appearances has had a long and varied history, surviving use and burial for up to half a million years and several ice ages when Britain was totally uninhabitable.

This flint hand axe was made by an early form of human, probably homo heidelbergensis, three or four hundred thousands of years before the appearance of homo sapiens or Neanderthals. Nevertheless it was produced with great skill. The original flint was selected for its potential final shape, and then struck deliberately at least 50 times with a hammer stone removing unwanted flakes to produce a triangular 'rough'. The rough was then finished with a 'soft' hammer, possibly made of shaped antler.

The hand axe was the Swiss Army knife of the Stone Age, a versatile portable tool. The pointed end could be used for piercing leather or wood, its sides for

cutting and the rounded end for scraping skins or as a hammer. Hand axes were used for butchering animals, working wood and chopping plant material. Experimental archaeology has shown these axes to be very efficient, and even modern farmers working outside frequently make crude tools from lumps of flaked flint to cut string rather than using a modern knife.

This hand axe was found on Castle Hill, Shaftesbury, and may be evidence of a very early human presence in the area. There have been several spectacular, relatively local, discoveries of evidence from the Lower Palaeolithic period (half a million years ago), including at Boxgrove in West Sussex, Kent's Cavern in Devon and Westbury-sub-Mendip in Somerset.

These people used fire and exploited the landscape for resources, shelter and food. Fauna at Boxgrove included rabbits, badgers, red squirrels, deer and hedgehogs, and some more unexpected and exotic species such as hyena, lion, a now extinct rhino, brown bear, elephant and bison. Perhaps these animals roamed around Shaftesbury and the Blackmore Vale!



The Shoe-Scrapers of Shaftesbury

Tony Hawkins

Imagine that, in the days before cars and coaches, horse drawn carriages would stop in the town on their way from London to the West. They would have followed the same route as that we do today.

Imagine those coaches rattling up The High Street up to The Commons, where they would stop outside the Grosvenor Hotel. There their passengers would dismount and the carriages would stop again at the smaller hotel at the corner with Bimport. Here perhaps less wealthy travellers would get out and enter the place now until recently called Tobys. Then they would pass what is now the office of Rutters, solicitors, and turn left into Lyon Walk, where the horses would be taken on and turn left into Church Lane. In what is now Lyon Court they would be stabled for the night. The head coachman would then enter No 8, where there stands to this day one of the many, very necessary shoe-scrapers needed to remove the ordure left behind by the horses, from the feet of people who were forced to trudge through it all. Imagine the state of the streets around here, the business and fashionable part of this county town. Indeed, it takes little imagination to do so. There must have been many more shoe-scrapers than are to be seen today. There is the obvious one beside the door to St Peter's church to which the poor rector had to make his journeys from The Rectory on Bimport, and a most interesting one on the opposite side of the road by the door to the office of the accountant's, with its 'Gorgon's' head looking down at the mess below it.

Not surprisingly there are six of them in Bimport. There is one outside Rutters (which has lost its iron insert), two outside that small hotel and two more by the entrance to the house next door. Further down Bimport, let into the churchyard wall is yet another. Now I think this one is particularly interesting, probably put there for the coaches lined up along the side of the road, awaiting their passengers after their night's rest. That too has lost its insert and I am awaiting the decision to have it replaced, by the committee of the Trinity Trust.

Further in the town there are two outside Nos 13 and 15 Salisbury Street, at least four in Bell Street, starting with No 1, the estate agents, and ending with what was Punch's. Then there is an interesting little pair, suitable only for a lady's shoe, let into the side of the door to the right on the way up Mustons Lane. Everyone who owns one shows interest in their speciality. The owner of No 8 Church Lane says that his shoe-scraper is mentioned in the deeds of the house. Nearly everyone is of a similar design, known as 'Leithbridge' with its inverted 'U' and a bar across the middle, shaped to take a shoe's instep. What has surprised me is that Brussels is the centre of Shoe-scrapers! At the University there is even a Chair, with Professor Christian Loir at its head. he calls them "decrottoirs" I dare say most Belgians call them that too

**Vacancy
August 1956**

MUSEUM - MINDED PERSON

wanted as tenant for 17th — 18th Century Inn, converted into excellent and very well-furnished cottage, 700 feet altitude, adjacent to small local History Museum. Two sitting, two double, one single, bath, etc. All electric. Centre of town, yet very quiet. Not yet open to view.

Correspond :

N. TEULON-PORTER, SHAFTESBURY MUSEUM, DORSET.

THE PENDER TOMB - cont.

In the previous Byzant we left the Penders after their ascent of Pike's Peak in 1883 America.

Returning to Cheyenne, James and Rose Pender found that the weather had deteriorated into snowy conditions, which fortunately did not last long before reverting to midsummer heat. Shortly thereafter they departed to witness the round-up whilst inspecting their ranching investments. Travelling in a buck-board they journeyed 50 miles on the first day, before stopping for lunch at a ranch in Horse Creek. This was served to them by an Indian woman and consisted of roast beef, potatoes, stewed plums and bread and butter. Journeying on, they found the roads were bad and the rivers flooded and they were advised to return to Cheyenne which Rose refused to do. Heading onwards, their destination was Fort Laramie. They stopped at another ranch for lunch of which Rose says

of it "It was such a dirty place, and I had not got used to the rough Western ways, nor had my appetite become, as it afterwards did, like a ravenous wolf's, eager to devour anything." Arriving at Fort Laramie they found good stabling and corn for the horses. The Penders managed some sightseeing and visited a hill where the coffin of Spotted Tail's daughter is buried; Spotted Tail being a great Indian chief. Leaving Fort Laramie, and after days of travelling, the Penders arrived at one of their own ranches, the Neobrara, or Running Water. They had travelled 175 miles from Fort Laramie in difficult conditions. Rose describes their ranch as the most charming spot in the world. The pair spent a few days here, which Rose spent cleaning and tidying up whilst James went into the hills to shoot wild duck and antelope.

Leaving their ranch, they headed for the Platt River in stifling heat and a strong wind, which prevented Rose from making tea in her Etna camping stove. Rose says that tea was their one luxury, but the trouble of making it and the time it took were wearisome, and sometimes a complete failure. Eventually they came across the "Round-up" which Rose describes as "a curious sight. Almost as far as eye could see were vast herds of cattle streaming along. The cattle were calculated to be twenty thousand" She says of them "The incessant bellowing sounded formidable, and the appearance of the cattle was not reassuring, for though not large their huge wide-spread horns and wild eyes made me rather glad to be in the buggy". They watched the cowboys cutting some out. Two men rode right in amongst them till they got quite close to the particular beast they wanted; they then forced him along till quite outside the rest, when they yelled and shouted like demons. The poor steers, terrified, tore off at a gallop, pursued by the cowboys.

Rose did not like the cowboys; "they impressed me as brutal and cowardly, besides being utterly devoid of manners or good feeling." This was illustrated when later upon returning to their ranch, none of the cowboys who accompanied them came forward and offered to help with the unhitching, unharnessing and tethering of the horses. They watched whilst Rose, with bucket and rope, made some ineffectual efforts to draw water.

Rose gives us a description of the land on which the cattle fed "as belonging to no one in particular; the herds are bought, not the land, excepting in Texas and Indian territory, consequently no one fences the cattle in. They roam all the winter in all weathers as much as 150 miles from their owner's ranch. It is necessary to collect them every summer to brand the calves, and also to drive them nearer home".

Many more adventures were to follow with no space here to relate them before they returned to England. Sir James became a Conservative M.P. for Mid-Nottinghamshire, he was a keen yachtsman, with Rose always supporting her husband. James was made a baronet in 1897.

The couple retired to Donhead St. Andrew c.1901 and settled at Donhead House opposite the church. The Penders took a great interest in Donhead village life and had a village hall built known as *The Institute* on Barkers Hill (now a private house but still bearing the Pender arms on the front). Lady Pender could be a fierce personality and very much the lady in her later life. Local memories recount that Lady Pender expected the village children to demonstrate respect to her when they encountered her about the village,

the boys to remove their hats and the girls to curtsy. Should they not do so then she would report them to their schoolmaster.

In 1917 the Penders celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Twenty-five years previously on their Silver Wedding Anniversary Lady Plender presented the village children of Thornby, Northamptonshire with threepenny-bits. These they promised to redeem on their Golden Wedding with half-sovereigns. The promise was fulfilled when the Golden Wedding was celebrated and the threepenny-bits were duly called in. About thirty were brought back and were redeemed. The silver coins were gilded, and put onto a long chain which Lady Pender wore with great pride.

Sir James died in 1921 and his cremated ashes placed in the tomb outside Donhead St. Andrew Church. Lady Pender, with an interest in local farming, lived on for eleven more years after her husband's death and died in 1932 aged 89. At her funeral the old servants of the family carried the coffin across the road into St. Andrew's Church. Her remains were placed with those of her husband in the Pender Tomb.

Unknown to most, Lady Rose Pender was a true British adventurer, a tough lady whose story would have been a must for a S&DHS talk if not a Hollywood film.

**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
MY ANCESTOR
ADMIRAL SIR JAMES STIRLING 1791 - 1865
THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

MY ADVENTURE IN OZ

Linda Wilton



Admiral Sir James Stirling was my ancestor, 4 x Great Uncle. He was the First Governor of Western Australia, and his ancestors can be traced back to King Robert the Bruce.

A brief Family History -----

He was born in Scotland near Glasgow into an affluent family of merchants. He was one of 16 of which 11 survived into adulthood. His younger sister, Mary Noel married my GG Grandfather, Henry William Richard Westgarth Halsey Esq of Henley Park, Guildford, Surrey.

James Stirling, joined the navy in 1803 at the age of 12 as a first class volunteer. He had many

voyages and adventures, rising quickly through the ranks to become a Captain in 1818. He was appointed Captain to the "Success" in 1826. He sailed to Sydney, Australia and then in 1827 he led an expedition to the Swan River on the Western coast to investigate if it would be a suitable site to establish a colony.

Western Australia was still known as New Holland) After navigating the Swan River (Are you aware that the majority of Swans in Australia are black!) he reported back that he was very much impressed with the land in the vicinity of the Swan River. In May 1828, after much discussion with the British Government it was decided to establish a colony there. Proclamation of the colony June 1829.

Captain James Stirling was put in charge and administered the Swan River settlement from June 1829- August 1832. He left for an extended visit to England when he received his knighthood. He returned in 1834 to continue to administer the colony and eventually after having to make many difficult decisions, none more than to liaise, negotiate in order to keep the peace with the native Aboriginals, he returned to England in 1839 to resume his naval career. He became an Admiral in 1862 and died in Guildford, Surrey in 1865.

Many of the places he names after towns in England, where he had grown up. Guildford being near Henley Park, a large estate, which the Stirling's rented from the Halsey's from 1815-1819, of which he had fond memories. Guildford in WA is now a heritage town and Henley Park an area he had been given by the British Government is now part of the Swan Valley.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CAPTAIN JAMES STIRLING MUSEUMS

Firstly, I visited the local Historical Society, The Royal Western Historical Society at Stirling House, Nedlands, Perth. They had many interesting artefacts relating to Captain James Stirling and his Expedition of the Swan Valley, including his Captains Hat and sextant.

Then I went to the Western Australian Museum in Perth, which was closed for refurbishment and holds valuable items of his. However, I was given special privilege to visit the warehouse where they are stored and meet the main Historian Curator. He showed me the silver cup which had been presented to James Stirling by the people of Perth, his signet ring and snuff box. A sword and scabbard presented to him by Queen Adelaide (a cousin of Queen Victoria) who he had saved when she nearly fell overboard. In doing so he lost his sword, so she being very grateful, presented him with a new one.

THE SWAN VALLEY

Next we, my friend Chaz and I, travelled up through the Swan Valley, following the Swan River, which James Stirling had surveyed first by canoes then on foot to Guildford and beyond, stopping where still stands the oldest church in WA, 1841. We stopped to see where he had a Cottage "ornee" built in 1831, set on a hill overlooking the Swan River, on land he had been granted by the British Government for all his hard work that he named Woodbridge (Sadly, the cottage is no longer there!)

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Branches. Try our experienced and practical cutter. A good and proper fir
warranted, with a splendid assortment of TWEED, FRIEZES, etc.

c.1870

We stopped for refreshment and some wine tasting at Henley Park Winery. The sun was shining, the wine was so good, the lunch and company excellent making it an unforgettable day.

It was truly a wonderful experience to be able to retrace my ancestor's footsteps, especially as he was the founder of Western Australia and had great visions for the settlement. He had wanted to name Perth, 'Hesperia' meaning a country looking towards the setting sun in the west, but Government officials had other ideas, wanting to name it after Perth, Scotland. However, through the Trials and Tribulations he encountered the colony eventually became a success, especially when the convicts arrived from 1850 and is now a vibrant, multicultural society, treating the Indigenous people with respect.

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News Round-up

July 1826

On Wednesday last the interesting ceremony of laying the foundation of the new Court and Market House at Shaftesbury took place. Soon after 3 o'clock, the mayor, recorder, and other members of that ancient and respectable corporation assembled at the Grosvenor Arms in their civic robes, awaiting the arrival of Earl Grosvenor, the munificent patron of the borough. His Lordship shortly made his appearance in his travelling carriage accompanied by Lady Grosvenor. The procession then moved in masonic order, preceded by the various schools and friendly societies of the town, to the site of the intended building, where every thing had been previously prepared for the accommodation of the public, and a large scaffold erected for the convenience of the numerous ladies, who graced the ceremony by their presence. After the usual form of preparing the stone, the current coin of the realm were deposited in a cavity of the rock, and closed by a brass plate with an elegant Latin inscription from the pen of the Rev. Wm. Patterson, the worthy rector of Shaftesbury. His Lordship then advanced, and lowered the massive stone into the bed prepared for it, amidst the shouts of the company assembled. The noble Earl afterwards addressed the multitude who surrounded him, and begged them to accept his sincere thanks for the uniform civility and attention, which he experienced whenever he found himself among them. This friendly feeling he trusted would continue, and he expressed a hope that a connection begun under such happy auspices might continue for many generations, and be ever productive

of that harmony and unanimity which he had the pleasure to witness this day. The ceremony concluded with a fervent and energetic prayer by the Rev. W, Patterson, imploring the blessing of the Almighty on the good work which they now begun, and entreating that the magistrates who should preside in the building might ever direct their exertions to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and the preservation of true religion and virtue. The procession then returned in inverse order, his Lordship taking the lead, surrounded by the clergy and gentlemen of the corporation, headed by the beadles bearing the ancient silver maces. On their arriving at the Grosvenor Arms, dinner was shortly announced, when a sumptuous entertainment was served up in Harris's best style. Every delicacy of the season was on the table, and the desert in particular drew forth the admiration of the company. Nearly forty gentlemen sat down to dinner, consisting of the most respectable inhabitants of the borough. The Noble Earl presided at the upper table, and Mr Chitty ably sustained the office of Vice-President. During the evening the company were enlivened by an excellent band of music, stationed in the street. Many appropriate and patriotic toasts were drunk in the course of the entertainment, and at 8 o'clock his Lordship retired amidst the enthusiastic cheers of his friends, who have on this occasion to add one to the many instances of his Lordship's liberality and munificence, nearly the whole expense of the building being defrayed from the purse of the noble Earl. The hilarity of the evening was protracted to a late hour, and the company separated, highly gratified with the manner in which the whole of the proceedings of the day had been performed. Entertainment was also provided at all the other inns for the inhabitants in general.

The elevation of the new building will be plain and neat, and it will contain several rooms adapted to the accommodation of the Corporation and inhabitants. Underneath will be the butchers and poultry markets; and, in front a space is proposed to be enclosed as a corn market.

June 1875

The new milk factory near the railway station at Semley is completed and in full operation, and promises to be a most successful speculation. The place is wonderfully cool, being almost underground, and protected by a thickly cemented roof, so that milk will keep in it five or six days without turning sour. A large quantity of the best cream is sent to the London club houses, the second skimming is made into butter, and the curd which remains goes for biscuit making.

NEW PERIODICAL. - On 29th December 1892 will be published the first of a new periodical, entitled the "SHAFTESBURY MONTHLY REVIEW AND MOTCOMBE AND DONHEAD JOURNAL," which will contain a concise record of all events of interest occurring within the above district, in addition to 24 columns of instructive and entertaining matter under a variety of headings. Price one penny per month, to be obtained of the agent who supplies the *Western Gazette*.

Letter to the Editor

Lazarus and Dives

SIR, - I returned from our board meeting at the Shaftesbury Union yesterday sick at heart, and as publicity is the only hope of such misery being alleviated, I address myself to the "Byzant." We are

constantly having a miserable state of the accommodation of the poor in the parish of Enmore Green - a portion of the borough of Shaftesbury, and is the parish of Motcombe. - brought before our Board; but this case, as our relieving officer stated, is most outrageous. He reported ten human beings crowded into one miserable sleeping room of a two roomed cottage - the husband very ill, for whom his wife applied for relief, the eldest son an idiot, who in the day wanders about the streets of Shaftesbury in the hope of picking up a few pennies; two others (15 and 16), reported "weak" - can we wonder, considering the atmosphere in which they live and sleep? - four "at school," another an infant. The wife said her mother, who lived in another two-roomed cottage (shall I call it so?) had taken four of the younger ones at night. We gave relief to the husband - four shillings and ten loaves - and at the same time directed the Clerk to write to the sanitary authority; but experience has taught me the small value of this - not through the fault of the sanitary authority.

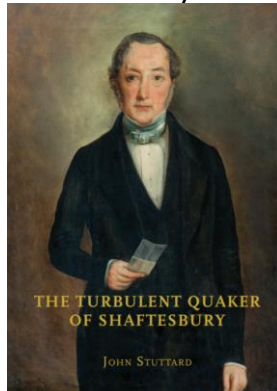
This large parish is the property of the Marchioness of Westminster. The rector is a Canon of Salisbury.. But poor Lazarus lies on his sick bed and rots within a mile of the great house, with little chance of Dives being acquainted with his misery, or of the scent of the dirt and squalor coming between the wind and the nobility there resident and reigning, unless publicity might shame those who are responsible into drawing these coverts of poverty, vice, and crime, and into turning the habitations of this wretched parish into dwellings fitted for Christian men, women and children. - I am Sir, your obedient servant

ONE OF THE GUARDIANS

Shaftesbury Union January 27th 1888.

New Book

The 4th December witnessed the launch of a book by Sir John Stuttard, the new President of the Shaftesbury & District Historical Society. Titled "The Turbulent Quaker", it is a biography of John Rutter of Shaftesbury who was a controversial personality during the first half of the 19th century. The work was researched and written over the forgoing year in collaboration with the S&DHS using material from many sources, including the Society's Rutter Archive at the Dorset History Centre and also material in the possession of the Rutter family.



The event was held in the *Anna McDowell Garden Room* of Gold Hill Museum and saw a record attendance by S&DHS members, the public, and most importantly, many of the Rutter family. The numbers soon exceeded the seating capacity, and many people had to stand. The evening began with an excellent audio-visual talk given by Sir John about the life and times of John Rutter.

After the talk, the room was cleared of chairs for wine and nibbles to be served with copies of the book available to purchase and be signed by Sir John. Colour was added to the proceedings by some members of the Rutter family taking it in turns to wear a cream coloured top hat which John Rutter is thought to have purchased at the Paris International Peace Conference.



Ray Simpson - Simon Rutter - Sir John Stuttard

For those who wish to purchase this book it is available at Gold Hill Museum Book Shop by appointment during the Museum's winter closed season, or from Rutters Solicitors, Shaftesbury T.I.C., Amazon, or through booksellers.

Summer 2019 Byzant

You are invited to submit articles for inclusion in the Byzant. They need not be Shaftesbury and District related but should be of historical interest.



Festive Word Search



R N A M W O N S Y Q I D
E C Y J N E F L U N E S
E H B E T H L E H E M T
D R A S Z O K V O M G O
N I L U H R C G E E I C
I S Y S E V A T Y S F K
E T E G H A N B R I T I
R M N B T T D A K W S N
M A H O M N Y S C L T G
M S Y W C A R O L S A O
A S O S U S X E E E R T
H G I E L S B I J W P O



- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells | 11. Manger |
| 2. Bethlehem | 12. Reindeer |
| 3. Bows | 13. Santa |
| 4. Candy | 14. Sleigh |
| 5. Carols | 15. Snowman |
| 6. Christmas | 16. Star |
| 7. Elves | 17. Stocking |
| 8. Gifts | 18. Toys |
| 9. Holly | 19. Tree |
| 10. Jesus | 20. Wisemen |