

Summer - 2018



THE BYZANT

The Shaftesbury & District
Historical Society

Gold Hill Museum, Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JW



The current membership year expires at the end of August and you are invited to renew your membership for another year 2018-2019.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a separate renewal form for those of you who are not life members. Members who joined after last Christmas will have their membership extended to next year. Also with this newsletter is a program card listing the talks to be given throughout the winter season which you will find are of the same high quality you have come to expect.

The Trustees look forward to welcoming you again for another year.

Trustee Reporting

Management

The Trustees hold monthly committee meetings when they deliver reports on their respective responsibilities. Sub-groups led by Trustees meet as necessary to deal with matters such as Collections, Education, Exhibitions and Community involvement.

Museum shop and garden - Monks, books and lots of gift ideas – Elaine Barratt

The Tashi Lhunpo monks, Tibetan Buddhists in exile in India, visited the museum for the first time in 2016 and we learned from that experience that we would need extra stewards over the Shaftesbury Fringe weekend to cope with the enormous numbers flocking in to see the amazing sand mandala that they had constructed during the lead-up week. It's actually a misnomer because the 'sand' is ground and dyed marble but it has to be seen first-hand to be appreciated. We had over 1500 visitors over the three days, 798 on Sunday alone, and had to operate a one-way system to accommodate them. Most of the donations these visitors make are to the monks but as a public relations exercise it couldn't be better; the number of people who said as they left, "I've lived in Shaftesbury for however many years (the longest was seventy) and this is the first time that I've been in the museum". I'm hopeful that the monks (and the visitors) will come again but another lesson learned was that we need to publicise the fact that Monday's destruction ceremony (it's all about non-permanence) is ticket only. The stewards had to cope with a fair amount of very un-Buddhist-like aggression from those who couldn't get into the rather limited space in our Garden Room.

We are stocking more Dorset Button products in the shop as well as some beautifully hand-knitted items. We only stock locally-published books and sales tend to be modest but sales of Roger Guttridge's book, *Shaftesbury through Time*, written in collaboration with two of our trustees and published in March, have been unprecedented: over 100 copies so far, helped by the launch in the Garden Room at the end of March which was very well attended. The publishers have given us a good deal so we were even able to undercut *Amazon* however I've just checked and they've now undercut us by 2p. Hmm, I need to think about that! If you live reasonably locally do pop in to the shop for gift ideas; we pride ourselves on being an outlet for local products, some of which are exclusive to us.

The garden continues to attract appreciative comments from visitors and is a strong selling point to individuals interested in using the Anna McDowell Garden Room. It continues to be managed on wildlife-friendly principles.

The Collection – Sheena Commons

So far as accreditation is concerned, we have not yet been informed when we need to go through the process again and although we are due to renew sometime in 2018, this is looking unlikely now and it will probably be pushed back to 2019. ACE is looking at its procedures, the expectations it has of museums and the criteria it will set. In the meantime we are working on our own policies and procedures, our documentation and other requirements such as monitoring light and temperature levels and pest control so that we meet the accreditation standard and will be as ready as possible when we are given a date.

During the winter the Collection care team worked on a new permanent display in the Byzant Room, removing the wedding dress exhibition and replacing it with a 'twenties'

theme. The wedding dress had been on display for a number of years and needed to be put away and 'rested' for a time. We are quite short of complete costumes and certainly ones that are in good enough condition to put on display.

A model farmhouse with animals and a tractor has been added to the displays in the farming room and is proving very popular with the children.

We continue to receive a variety of donations including two dolls houses with their contents and they will be part of our displays for 2019.

We are still working on catching up on recording and documentation and this will be an on-going job for some years.

Temporary Display

There are two new temporary displays for 2018. One is the story of a small dairy farm in the Blackmore Vale and contains some interesting facts and information. It also has a model farm.

The other is a 'Found Underground' exhibition with visitor participation activities. It linked up with 'A morning with Ciorstaidh Trevarthen' the Finds Liaison Officer for Dorset and Somerset who came into the museum on 14th July to look at objects people had dug up.

The Lecture and Events Programme – Ian Kellett

The new lecture programme will begin again on 9th October when the Teulon Porter lecture will be '*The History of the Shepherd's Hut*' given by David Morris, Curator of Naval Aircraft at the Fleet Air Arm Museum. A new programme is enclosed with this publication.

The Buildings

The previously reported problems with water ingress appear to have been resolved, for the time being anyway. Issues with sticking external doors have also been resolved as much as is possible without actually replacing them.

A quinquennial report was commissioned in November; it has identified a number of issues including a few areas of the roof in need of repair.

During the closed season two of the trustees repainted the museum floor from reception through to Room 1, a long overdue task, saving considerably on labour costs.

The Garden Room was used by the Education team for school visits and all-age activities and by various other groups and individuals including a Shaftesbury Fringe performer. The Camera Club used it again for their annual exhibition and have already booked it for 2019. Probably the most popular event in the Garden Room so far has been the visit of the Tibetan monks who made their beautiful mandala. They also brought various items to sell. They were frequently seen out and about in the town and joined in the Gold Hill Fair parade through the town.

Marketing and Communications – Ian Kellett

Pages on the Gold Hill Museum website convey information about facilities available to Visitors, the season's temporary exhibitions, the winter Lecture Programme of The S&DHS, and educational activities run jointly with the Abbey Museum and Gardens. Care is taken that there is no seriously outdated material on these and other pages, which promote inter alia the Library, Collection, Membership, Volunteering, Garden and availability of the Anna McDowell Garden Room. A topical News Blog maintained on the Home Page features photographs and stories about the Society and unusual artefacts and images. These blogs

are sent automatically to Facebook and Twitter. On average, there are at least 25 visitors per day to the website with double this number at weekends and Bank Holidays.

Gold Hill Museum News is sent to and appears every month in Shaftesbury Matters published by Blackmore Vale Magazine, and most months in the Shaftesbury and Gillingham edition of Valley News. Gold Hill Museum is publicised in a tourist leaflet published jointly with the Abbey Museum and Gardens and in a Museums Trail leaflet featuring several North Dorset museums. This year, for the first time, the trustees agreed to pay for advertising space on the 2017-18 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Tourist Map.

One of our members, a professional journalist and travel writer, volunteered his services and has been very successful in getting articles published in local, free publications as well as podcasts on social media.

The S&DHS Committee has decided to publish just three issues of the Byzant per year, one of which will be purely for AGM information, due to the lack of suitable articles not forthcoming to include in it.

Education - Claire Ryley

Learning and all age events report for 2018. The story so far ...

In January the learning team met to discuss the programme for 2018, and we decided to offer more independent activities in galleries during holidays, so that more people get a chance to enjoy them. We put in place some archaeological trays in Janet Swiss's Found Underground exhibition room, which have been used daily.

Half-term saw good numbers for the Snowdrop Dragon pottery session.

Our next big event is a Viking Day at the Abbey on September 2nd. Please bring your friends and families for an action packed time!

Ann Symons and I have been arranging monthly reminiscence sessions at Shaftesbury Library and have really enjoyed hearing people's memories of Shaftesbury and elsewhere. Other outreach activities have included talks to local groups, including at the Trinity Centre.

Abbey School Year 3 has had three sessions, covering the Iron Age, the Romans and finally a Saxon walk around the town. Next year the walk will be even better (!), as we incorporate the information and interpretation gained during the SAVED project's research and surveys. Sixty pupils from Shaftesbury Primary School enjoyed a Victorian Day in June, and the Town Hall very kindly lent us their ground floor and also showed the children the mayoral regalia and Mayor's Chamber.

Penny-Jane Swift has agreed to share responsibility with me for the learning and events programme, which is very welcome, as I am not getting any younger!

A morning with Ciorstaidh Trevarthen - Finds Liaison Officer for Dorset and Somerset.

On Saturday July 14th I spent a fascinating morning with Ciorstaidh (and her family), looking at mystery objects from our collections, and other objects brought in by members of the public. The morning linked in with Janet Swiss's Found Underground exhibition, and several interesting objects were examined.

With her wealth of knowledge and experience, Ciorstaidh was able to shed light on garden finds including pottery, metal and glass objects, and a ring which was definitely not from a Christmas cracker!

She also identified 15th century buckles and knife end, a medieval thimble and a small piece of multi-coloured Roman glass.

For me however, the most exciting comments came at the end of the morning when Ciorstaidh looked at our archaeology cases. We have a hand-axe, currently labelled as our oldest artefact, a 200,000 year old Acheulean axe. However it turns out to be considerably older, with a date range of 500,000 to



250,000 BC, and was made and used and used by a species of human predating homo sapiens. Ciorstaidh also added that it was a particularly good example, finely made. It was found on Castle Hill, so we have evidence from the Lower Palaeolithic right on our doorstep. A very good morning's work!

Summer Outing- Ian Kellett

Eighteen members of The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society enjoyed their summer outing on 05 June to the Somerset City of Wells. An expert guided tour by Cathedral volunteer Anne Smith highlighted the sculpture-laden West Front, the secular stories (frequently featuring toothache) carved in the capitals of internal pillars, and the unusual Scissor Arches inserted to strengthen the Crossing under the weight of a central Tower. The tour was timed to include the noon striking of the fourteenth century clock, with its rotating jousting knights and quarter-jack Jack Blandiver. Welcomed to the nearby Wells and Mendip Museum by Trustee Andrew Fawcett, members were able to examine plaster casts of the four capitals telling the story of a grape thief and his salutary punishment, and walk through an impressive reconstruction of a Great War trench. The afternoon concluded with a privilege visit to the City of Wells Almshouses, courtesy of the residents, with a tour of terraces dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, and tea and home-made cake in the Guild Room. This was the meeting place of Wells Council until the eighteenth century saw the building of the Town Hall, which plays the part of Warleggan Bank in the latest series of Poldark.

BIMPORT

The following article was written for the Society and given at a past *Tea & Talks* afternoon by Jo Rutter sadly it was not published before his death last year. In tribute to Jo we present it here exactly as he wrote it.

The North side of the street called Bimport, in Shaftesbury

by

Jo Rutter

ABSTRACT:

Bimport is the oldest street in the town of Shaftesbury, although it is far from clear historically where this town was.

This paper aims to show the changing ownership, and use, of the properties along the North side of Bimport.

In a document of 1475, there is a reference to 'Via Regia in Bymport', and this appears to refer to the eastern end of what we now call Bimport, which ran from the High Street 'down to St Mary's Cross that stood at Mr. Grove's gate'.

Near this point, it is thought, the parish Church of St Mary's stood, as the area was known as St Mary's Green. This parish was united to St John's in 1348, and St John's was united to St James in 1446; so a part of the top of the hill is in St James' parish.

The road, from its junction with Magdalen Lane to the western end was, in 1475, known as St Mary's Lane. The Pembroke surveys of 1549/74 mention several houses and gardens in Bymport.

It seems that Bimport is the oldest street in the town, but it is far from clear where this town was. The early settlement may well have been on the lower slopes to the south, which would have been warmer and with a good supply of water – with the top of the hill being used only as a place to retreat to, in times of danger.

It has been suggested that the castle on the promontory was a fortified farm, and the fact that there was very little development in the area west of Magdalen Lane appears to support this view.

The only references to a town, in Saxon times, are from Asser – a contemporary of King Alfred, and his biographer – and from a carved stone described by William of Malmesbury circa 1143, and by Leyland in 1539.

The sources I have used comprise the Pembroke survey, Willis' map of 1615, Upjohn's map of 1799, the Roseberry map and survey of 1817, the tithe maps for St James 1848, and Holy Trinity 1845, and the Sale catalogue and map of 1919.

The area west of Langford's Lane was never a part of the Roseberry and Westminster estates, so we have little information concerning that part. The burial ground at the top of St John's hill, which still exists, was the site of the Church. The foundations of a nave and chancel were visible in 1805, according to a report – no doubt an investigation today would find them as the site has not been disturbed.

The parish is believed to have been established in 1272, and was part of the Liberty of Alcester, so named after the Abbey in Warwickshire founded in 1140 by Ralph Boteler - Steward to Robert Beauchamp, Earl of Leicester – who gave as an endowment most of the parish of St James, subject to the payment of £5:0 to the Abbey of Bec in Normandy.

The land next to this plot, on which is now St Edward's Chantry, is shown on the 1848 tithe map as a house and buildings. This house must have been built after 1799 as it is not shown on Upjohn's map. The Alcester census of 1841 records that it was occupied by Henry Bennett, a surgeon, aged 35, together with one male, and two female, servants. It was called St John's Cottage; and it should be noted that the description 'Cottage' was used for any house that belonged to upper-class owners.

In the Pembroke Survey there is a detailed description of the land which is now Edwardstowe, and the Allotments. The northern boundary is described as the paddocks occupied by George Twynehoo: there is no mention of a building. It would appear, therefore, that Edwardstowe was built between 1574 and 1615.

The area now known as Castle Meadows was, in 1848, part of Castle Hill, a field which went down to Breach Lane and consisted of pasture and rick-yards, and an 'antient cold bath'. This 'bath' is a spring called Redwell, and is one of the boundary points of Gillingham Forest. It was leased from the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury by the Marquis of Westminster, and occupied by Charles Martin. Castle Field extended under the hill all the way to Tout Hill – the parish and borough boundary ran along the hedge of the house plots in Enmore Green.

The next two houses (number 71 and 69) were, in 1848, described as one house and garden - void, and included in the site of The Beacon - owned by Richard Downs, a builder who might have built two new houses, or converted one house into two dwellings. This house is now called Beacon Cottage (number 67), reviving that former fashion of the 1800s, for the description 'Cottage'.

Alcester House (number 65) was in 1848 described as a house, garden and etc., owned by George Arnold and occupied by James Munday, a yeoman, with his wife Hester and five children – there is no mention as to where his farm was.

Alcester Cottage (number 63) appears to have been built after 1800. In 1845 it was owned by George Thomas, a man of property; and by 1841 it was occupied by the Reverend Peter Rideout, with his wife Margaret, and five adult children. In the sale catalogue of 1919 it was described as a detached 4-bedroom dwelling house, with a brick and slated coach-

house attached, and a detached stable for two horses, a harness room, and a coalhouse. Its selling price, on the third and final day of the sale, was £770.

We now enter the parish of Holy Trinity.

The terrace known as Gas Cottages was built after 1845, when the area contained three houses and gardens, and one garden. Two of the occupiers were masons in 1841, and one was a labourer. The area was owned by the Marquis.

Next came two gardens occupied by Thomas Higgins, and owned by the Trustees of Holy Trinity. They became the Gas House, and the Gas Manager's house – now the Ambulance Station. The plot containing number 37 was not included in the Shaftesbury sale, as it was not owned by the Marquis: it became the Gas Company's showroom.

In 1475 the lane leading to Enmore Green was named Boywell Lane, but by 1817 the house on the eastern corner was lived in by Mary Highman, in 1845 it was occupied by George Highman – now those are numbers 33 and 35.

The next house is the Ox House, which was the residence of John Boys Tucker in 1817, but by 1845 it had become the Ox Inn, with a landlord named William Ingram. This house was known in ancient times as Mr. Grove's Place, when it included a malthouse and outbuildings. The oldest part dates from the Tudor period, and it seems likely that this is the same property mentioned in a document of 1476 as belonging to Lord Thomas Beauchamp. It was on St Mary's Green, and at that time probably extended to the top of St John's Hill.

Castle Hill House was built by Edmund Ogden in 1743, perhaps on the site of an older property, and probably part of the Arundell House gardens. It has been occupied by several Doctors, and clergy, for instance in 1841 by the Reverend Saunderson Robbins, Rector of Holy Trinity, his wife, five children, and four female servants. At the western side of the house was a schoolroom. Later there were stables for the horses of Isaac Bell, when he was the Master of the South and West Wilts Hunt. Later still, it became a Medical Centre; then a maternity hospital, and finally the Nursing Home it is today – 1-6 Vale View. In the Shaftesbury sale, it was described as having 'two and three-quarter acres of delightful ground, with a private access to Castle Hill'. It was bought in at £2,100

In the road beside this house is an area opposite Weighbridge House, marked 'market tolls' on the 1845 map, which was rented from the Corporation, by Henry Gatehouse. The markets in Shaftesbury are familiarly identified as in the Commons, and on Gold Hill – but there were also markets in St James, and in Bimport. There is a copy of a notice issued by the Corporation in 1823, establishing a market in Bimport, for fat cattle, to be held fortnightly on Saturdays.

The next three properties were, in 1817, owned by the Corporation, and each was described as 'house, shop and garden'; but by 1845 there were two houses occupied by Henry (of the market) and Rachael Gatehouse, their two children and one servant; the other was lived in by Thomas Dowding, described as 'independent' aged 70 – his house became a corn merchant's premises; and on its demolition, became the Savoy Cinema, and now Savoy Court.

Bimport House, next door, was described in 1817 as a 'capital messuage' occupied by George Wilkins. The Marquis has built a new house, which was occupied by John Farley Rutter for a short time; but in 1845 James Lush Buckland, a medical practitioner, was living there with his son, a daughter, and three servants. In the 1919 Shaftesbury sale, it was described as a 'very attractive residence with grounds of two and a half acres, in excellent condition'. It was sold to the Misses Bennett, for £1,675. It later became the home of Dr Arnott, one of Shaftesbury's GPs.

All the property from the lane leading up to the High Street, from the back of Bimport House, was owned by Richard Dowding, a builder, and consisted of a house, a workshop, and garden. In the Census, the household comprised himself, his wife Mary Anne, four daughters aged 20 years, and one son. Attached to his house on one corner was a house occupied by Edward Buckland. In the large garden, number 7 and number 5 were built – one

as Holy Trinity Rectory, and one which became the Shaftesbury RDC offices. The same Richard Dowding owned three properties at the top of Tout Hill, in 1845 – the Registry Office (later a Job Centre and Antique Shop), a house occupied by John Highman, and a stable and yard registered by Charles Blandford.

There are new dwellings (numbers 27, 25, and 23) in the paddocks behind Castle Hill House, and Savoy Court. There are further new dwellings behind number 7, and in Toby's Court.

The flat known as Swallows' Nest has an ancient stone fireplace which may well be a remnant of Arundell House, which was built by Thomas in about 1540, using materials from the demolished Abbey.

The street has changed a great deal. In the seventeenth century there were buildings in the eastern part: perhaps three or four houses of the gentry, and a small cluster of working-class homes. By 1800, there were now four large houses, and more small homes as far along as Langford's Lane. While the 1817 survey shows that the street was a mixture of large and small residences, shops, markets, and industry, by 1919 this area was controlled by relatively few people, and was almost all in the ownership of the Marquis of Westminster. Now, Bimport is almost entirely private housing.

Jo Rutter 2017

From the Collections - Sheena Commons

In March Gordon Le Pard, a well-known Dorset historian and author of a book on Medieval sundials, came to Gold Hill Museum by appointment to look at a small sundial that we have on display. He left us with something of a mystery and a question mark over the authenticity of our sundial, although, for the present, it has been left on display. The following is his report:

'A Possible Medieval Sundial' from Shroton

In the collections of Gold Hill Museum, Shaftesbury, is a small piece of stone (Ac 104) with what appears to be a medieval sundial inscribed on it. The only details recorded in the museum register are that it was given to the museum in 1962 by Miss Humphries and described as a "Scratch Dial from Shroton".

The dial consists of ten lines, ranging in length from 7 to 33 mm roughly centred on a gnomon hole. This gnomon hole is perfectly circular, straight sided, 10mm in diameter, and passes completely through the piece of stone. There is little consistency in the angular separation of the lines, ranging from 30 to 45 degrees.

The stone is a light grey limestone, the fragment has the maximum dimensions of 85 to 70mm, and is roughly 40 mm thick.

If this is a medieval sundial one would expect it to have originally come from a church. St Mary's, Shroton, has had numerous restorations and re building's, from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries and it appears, from the large quantity of reused building stone in the churchyard walls, that old stone from the church was probably reused on site. In these circumstances it is easy to understand that a small fragment of stone from the church could be found lying about the churchyard.

However there are problems with the interpretation of this stone as a sundial. The irregular angular separation of the lines, whilst it would have rendered the dial inaccurate, are found in other certain medieval sundials. The problem lies in the gnomon hole, it is unlike any gnomon hole I have recorded and looks remarkably modern, in fact it looks as if someone has taken a 10 mm drill bit and drilled straight through the stone, and I suspect that this is exactly what has happened.

If the gnomon hole is disregarded, then the pattern of lines look remarkably similar to the star shaped graffiti found on several Dorset churches, such as Broadwey and Spetisbury (Le Pard 1997). Perhaps Miss Humphries found the stone with the graffiti on it in Shroton, considered it to be an incomplete Scratch Dial and 'improved' it with a modern drill.

Although I have doubts as to the nature of the dial, I am including it in the corpus of medieval sundials for Dorset, (Le Pard 1997, 2007 and 2013).'

Le Pard, G. F., 1997 Medieval sundials in Dorset, Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society **119** 65-86

Le Pard, G. F., 2007 Two additional medieval sundials from Dorset, Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society **128** 117-118

Le Pard, G. F., 2013 Some additional medieval sundials from Dorset, Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society **134** 98-102

Tales from the Stewards' Desk -Janet Swiss

One of the joys of being a volunteer at our Museum is the snippets of information we are given by members of the public.

One elderly gentleman asked if I had ever heard of a grass cape?

Before sacks were used as weather protection in the fields, a rectangle of waterproof material was covered with a shallow layer of silt, and sown with grass seed. The roots grew and matted thickly in the silt. The silt was then washed out, and the whole dried. The grass kept the rain off, and the root mat kept the warm in. Ingenious!

Tibetan Monks Delighted By Shaftesbury's Hospitality

A group of eight Buddhist monks has left Shaftesbury to continue on their cultural tour of the UK. And the organisers of the trip say that locals were so hospitable, the monks would like to return to the town in the future.

The men are based in the Tashi Lhunpo monastery in South India. It was established when the order left Tibet, following the failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

Over the past week, the monks have been based in Gold Hill Museum's Garden Room. Each day, they have been creating an intricate and vibrant tabletop pattern using grains of coloured, crushed marble. It's called a Mandala and symbolises a palace that the monks invite a Buddha to stay inside. When the Buddha leaves, the design is destroyed.

David Holme works with the Salisbury-based trust that fundraises for the monastery. He said that most visitors were impressed that the pattern of shapes, symbols and icons was being created without notes or plan on paper. "They were in awe of the monks' ability to memorise the text, to be able to produce this incredible design from memory. A lot of people looked at it and they could not believe that the monks can make such wonderful designs, simply from crushed marble," David said.

This morning at 11.30am, every seat in the Garden Room was occupied and spectators were standing around the walls and spilling out in the hallway as the monks prayed and chanted. Then they destroyed their design by sweeping the coloured grains into a central pile.

After the ceremony, David and a group of volunteers used teaspoons to fill small plastic pouches with the sand. "The idea is they get a little memento and some of the merit from the monks' work over these last six days, for a small donation," said David. "The money will go back to support the monks in India. People get a chance to take these grains of crushed marble away with them which enables them to share."

David said the monks were pleased by the level of interest in their work and culture. "I think the turnout this week has been amazing. I know, talking to the museum staff, that 1,500 visitors came in over the weekend. It's just the sheer volume of people that have returned, day after day to see the Mandala being constructed. That is so pleasing," David said.

David was delighted by the big turnout for the Mandala's destruction. "It's just lovely that this morning, with the weather, we had as many people as we could fit in. There were about 55 people watching. They had the pleasure to see the Mandala being destroyed," he said.



David says the monks have received such a warm welcome they hope to return for a third visit to Shaftesbury. "Based on the feedback from us as well, we will definitely come back. The response from two years ago was amazing but even more so this year. Word has spread and it's just lovely. We feel very comfortable in Shaftesbury. The hospitality we have been given by the Museum is just amazing."

THE PENDER TOMB



St. Andrew's Church

Those of you who may have ventured into the Donheads and found your way to St. Andrew's Church will not have failed to notice the large monument at the front of the church just inside the gate. The locals know it as the Pender Tomb or to be more accurate "chest tomb." It is a large Baroque monument built of yellow limestone. On the side are inscription cartouches with a cartouche of arms. If you read the fading inscription you will observe that the occupants are the remains of Sir James and Lady Pender. Sir James was placed inside in 1921 and Lady

Pender in 1932.

Sir James Pender was the son of Sir John Pender whose company laid the first successful trans-Atlantic telephone cable in 1866. His son, James, followed him in telecommunications and for a while was involved with politics. He was Member of Parliament for mid Northamptonshire 1895-1900. A great yachtsman, in 1902 he won the King's Cup at the Royal Yacht Squadron regatta at Cowes with his yacht *Brynhild*. He was made a Baronet in 1897.

In 1867 he married Mary Rose Gregge-Hopwood, always known as Rose, and arguably she is the more interesting of the pair. Rose can be described as a late Victorian traveller in the

true aristocratic British style and was the author of two books – *"No Telegraph; or, a trip to our unconnected colonies."* and *"A Lady's Experiences in the Wild West in 1883."* In the first, she writes of journeying around Africa accompanying her husband on a mission to obtain subsidies from the Cape, Natal, and elsewhere, with a view to the laying of a submarine telegraph cable from Aden to Natal. However it is her second book that gives us a real insight into the character of Lady Rose Pender.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the British, including the Penders, had bought heavily into American ranching. In 1883 James and Rose travelled to America to inspect their investments and to coincide with the yearly cattle round-up. They would begin, however, with a sight seeing tour of the east and then head west by train. Previous to this time the American West was still difficult to travel through but now with the coming of the railroads this would change. The railroads would traverse the best of the cattle raising country and allow migrant farmers to flood in. Fences sprung up everywhere, water rights disputed and the unhappy cattle ranch-men slowly driven off.

Arriving at New York aboard the SS *Servia* in April of 1883 the couple, after a few days sightseeing, made their way, by train to Washington and then took route to St. Louis, Texas, San Antonio, Arizona, New Mexico, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and finish at Cheyenne, with Rose always taking in the sights and sounds. She writes about the well planned and laid out streets of Washington paved with asphalt, and kept in good order and saw this as a striking feature in most large American towns. Rose spoke about, in the language of the day, of the different classes of people they encountered. She describes how they made tea by means of a spirit lamp before retiring to their cramped railroad sleeping berths. Arizona she describes as "dreary" and Texas as "fertile." On leaving San Antonio she writes "The country which we passed was in a very unsettled state, as the Apaches were on the warpath. A band of them had harried a small village, through which they were to pass, and driven off the horses and cattle. General Cook was in hot pursuit of them. All the officials of the train were fully armed, for although the Indians never have attacked a train, or thought of trying to upset one, yet there is always the possibility of their doing so."

At Yuma, on the Colorado River, Rose writes "It is 300 feet below sea level and the heat and dust were terrible." Passing into California, the couple found it enchanting with deep rivers fringed with green trees and covered with flocks of waterfowl, and orchards of orange groves. They enjoyed their stay at Los Angeles before moving on to San Francisco, which Rose writes as being greatly disappointed with "Frisco it is a big town with dirty streets." She describes the cable cars and how the Chinamen are greatly astonished by them, and cannot make it out at all. "No pullee, no pushee, go up hilly like helly."

Arriving at Salt Lake City, they found it to be equally disappointing. They did not stay long here before moving on to Cheyenne and on arrival Rose says "Thus pleasantly ended what we may call, in the light of what was to follow, our journey through the "civilised" portion of the United States." It was now that the Penders were to join the big cattle round-up in the areas in which they had invested, but they were too early and so to fill in time they explored the area about Cheyenne. One trip was to Pike's Peak which Rose elected to climb encouraged by another English couple. Initially she had no desire to climb the mountain, thinking it looked "so cold and so terribly high up." However she did climb the mountain with others and a guide. She was dressed in a short striped skirt of chintz, and a Norfolk jacket over a flannel shirt, patent leather boots a very broad-brimmed hat and thick veil and carrying an umbrella – so very British. The party set off on horses, except Rose who rode a "nice little black mule" She enjoyed the gentle ascent until the party reached the snow line at 11,500 feet when the Penders lost their enthusiasm for the venture. However, the party, and now encouraged by Rose, continued through the deep snow on foot. She declined to take of the breakfast prepared by the hotel feeling that she would require all her

breath and agility to reach the top. She wrapped up a biscuit and a piece of cheese and placed them in her pocket and secured a small flask of brandy. With sacks tied to their feet the party struggled on sometimes sinking in waist deep. Rose Pender says the sun was scorching and was grateful for her thick veil and handkerchief around her neck. Her umbrella she carried had to be closed "as it was impossible to scramble along holding it up". Rose even had to revive the guides with her brandy and food. Eventually they reached the top exhausted and nearly blind. The wonderful view of 150 miles revived their spirits. Returning to their hotel, face and neck blistered, she took a bath, and changed into fresh clothes, before taking her place at the dining room table as though she had "done nothing out of the way".

Conclusion of this story to be in the next edition of the Byzant.

MAIL CONTRACT

Are there any S&DHS members who are desirous of taking on the following? :-

NOTICE. - **Any PERSONS** desirous of entering into CONTRACT for the CONVEYANCE of Her Majesty's MAILS between SALISBURY and SHAFTESBURY, in a close covered Cart, proper for that purpose (the seat for the driver not to exceed 18 inches in width), are requested to send in Sealed Tenders, addressed to me at the *Post Office, Devonport*, stating the sum per Annum, for which they would agree to perform the service, on or before the 5th June, 1856, after which date no Tenders will be received.

PARTICULARS OF CONTRACT.

Date of Commencement, 14th August, 1856. The whole journey to be performed at the rate of Seven miles within the hour, stoppages included.

The Mail Cart to be built so that no person can ride besides the Driver.

The Driver to be not less than 21 Years of Age, and to be approved of by the Surveyor to the Post Office for the time being.

A Notice of three Months to be given the side of the Surveyor to the Post Office, or of the Contractor, in order to determine the Contract.

THE HOURS OF DESPATCH.

From Salisbury about 4 A.M.

From Shaftesbury about 6.20 P.M.

But subject to alteration at any time by order of the Surveyor to the Post Office.

The Allowance to be paid Monthly.

The Contractor to be responsible for any Assessed Taxes but may be charges on the Driver, the Mail Cart, or Horses.

G.H. Cresswell – Surveyor to the General Post Office

NEWS ROUND-UP

NEW BOOK - Some of you will know that one of our members, Sir John Stuttard, is writing a book about John Rutter, the controversial shaftesbury personality of the early nineteenth century, and to quote from the cover page – Author, Printer, Publisher, Social and Political Reformer, Public Servant, Philanthropist and Lawyer.

John Rutter is a worthy subject to bring to the public's attention, who after coming to Shaftesbury from Bristol about 1811 and eventually establishing a printing and chemist business, became involved with the politics of the borough. He was a Quaker and followed their traditions as he saw them. He made enemies of the governing body of Shaftesbury borough and also of the powerful Grosvenor family who owned most of the borough for their political purposes something which Rutter was vehemently opposed to.

It was just before Christmas of last year that Sir John approached the Society for any material that we might hold in the Museum. Indeed we did have a small amount of information/documents etc. I then became interested in the project, which would occupy me almost daily for the coming months. Fortunately I was aware that the Society possessed the Rutter archive, which many years previous had been lodged with the County Archive at Dorchester but is still in our ownership. The material, amounting to five boxes, was too great to study at Dorchester without making many trips there, so it was arranged with the Archive that we would bring it back to Shaftesbury where it could be studied and much of it digitized before returning it. This archive produced a treasure trove of interesting items without which the book could not have been written. The living members of the Rutter family also provided valuable material which they had. Archives, museums, newspaper archives, and galleries also provided material for use in the book.

The book is all but finished with just the usual tidying up to do before submitting it to a publisher after which it is hoped it will be on sale to the public before the end of the year. Sir John will generously give all profit from the book to the S&DHS. It is therefore hoped that many of you will purchase the book as well as the public at large.

Sir John has produced a magnificent work, which not only allows the reader an insight into John Rutter but also the troublesome politics of Shaftesbury at this time. I urge members to buy a copy of the book which goes under the title of "*The Turbulent Quaker of Shaftesbury*"

Ray Simpson

S&DHS Members Snap Up Signed Copies of Shaftesbury Through Time

At the official launch party held at Gold Hill Museum on 28 March, over forty members and friends of The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society were quick to snap up signed copies of Roger Guttridge's latest book. In the presence of the Mayor of Shaftesbury and Mrs Lewer, and introduced by S&DHS Librarian/Archivist Ray Simpson, Roger was keen to acknowledge the importance of historic photographs from Gold Hill Museum's Collection and the indispensable help given by Trustees Ray and Claire Ryley. Also featured in *Shaftesbury Through Time* are twenty vintage postcards loaned by Barry Cuff. The book juxtaposes Then and Now photographs, with explanatory text. While seeking the same viewpoints as earlier photographers Roger was frequently frustrated by lines of parked cars and much taller trees and shrubs.

Shaftesbury Through Time is available in the Museum shop at the discounted price of £12.50 and each sale benefits the funds of The S&DHS, a registered charity.

SHAFTESBURY ENTERTAINMENT

1784

The Annual Ceremony of the BIZANT, will be held on Monday the 17th May, when a BALL will be given by the Corporation, (at the Three Swans) who will be happy to meet their friends as usual upon that occasion.

C. PINHORN Mayor

December 1838 TOWN-HALL, SHAFTESBURY. GREAT MUSICAL ATTRACTION.

FIRST AND ONLY VISIT TO SHAFTESBURY OF
MR. BOCHSA.

MRS. H. R. BISHOP,

The celebrated and popular Vocalist, Primo Soprano of the Philharmonic and Ancient Concerts, London, and acknowledged by all musical judges to be the first English Concert Singer of the day.

MISS RIVIERE

(Sister of Mrs. H. R. Bishop), Pianist of the Nobilities' Concerts, London.

SIGNOR BRIZZI,

The distinguished Primo Tenore, from the Philharmonic Concerts, London.

SIGNOR PUZZI,

The inimitable and extraordinary French Horn performer, "Corno Solo" to her Majesty, and of the Philharmonic and Ancient Concerts; and

MR. BOCHSA.

Their first and only appearance.

MR. BOCHSA begs to announce, that, having prevailed on the above eminent Artists to join him in his "Voyage Musical," he will give a
GRAND EVENING CONCERT,

SUNDAY PROGRAMMES

July 13th Jack Buchanan in
BULLDOG SEES IT THROUGH A
Also 'On the Spot' A

JULY 20th Charles Bickford
THOU SHALT NOT KILL A
Also 'She married a Cop' U

JULY 27th Claire Trevor
DARK COMMAND A
Also 'John Smith wakes up' U

AUG. 3rd Lloyd Nolan
GANGS OF CHICAGO A
Also 'The Covered Trailer' U

Prices : Balcony Back Stalls Front
1/9, 1/6, 1/2, 8d.
(Including Tax)

Reduced Prices for Children with Adults up to 5.45 p.m. Saturdays excepted

SAVOY SHAFTESBURY

Tel. 101

JULY, 1941

CONTINUOUS FROM 5.30
SATURDAYS FROM 3 P.M.
SUNDAYS One House only 7 P.M.

THURSDAY, JULY 3rd

Charles Bickford in
QUEEN of the YUKON A
Frankie Darro **Up in the Air** A

MONDAY, JULY 7th

Bing Crosby, Basil Rathbone U
Rhythm on the River
Romantic Comedy, Musical
also Supporting Programme

THURSDAY, JULY 10th

Don Ameche in a strong War Drama
of Czechoslovakian origin A
FOUR SONS
and Supporting Programme

MONDAY, JULY 14th

Clive Brook, John Clements in the
British Prize Naval Drama A
CONVOY
with the co-operation of the Navy
and Supporting Programme

THURSDAY, JULY 17th

Ralph Byrd, Lorna Gray in U
DRUMS OF THE DESERT
Warren Hull in **Marked Men** A

MONDAY, JULY 21st

Sidney Toler in A
CharlieChans MurderCruise
William Boyd in **Hidden Gold** U

THURSDAY, JULY 24th

Henry Wilcoxon in U
Mystery Sea Raider
German methods at Sea Raiding
and Supporting Programme

MONDAY, JULY 28th

Jack Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge in U
UNDER YOUR HAT
Gene Autry **Mountain Rhythm** U

Last complete Performance commences at 7.45

Alfred The Great

WORD SEARCH



ALFRED
BATTLE OF ASHDOWN
BATTLE OF EDINGTON
DANELAW

DANES
EALHSWITH
ENEMIES
LONDON

MERCIA
SON OF EDWARD
WANTAGE
WESSEX