

# THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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*18 North Pallant, a sensitive and well managed restoration, won a heritage award in 2017*

*Photo: Cedric Mitchell*

## WHY CONSERVATION AREAS?

Visitors to Chichester may hear from city guides about the wonderful cathedral and historic areas such as the Pallants. These visitors will admire the handsome Georgian houses, mostly privately owned. Why are they so handsome and admired? Mostly because they are listed buildings, protected in law, and changes where necessary or desirable, will be scrutinised by the Conservation officer to ensure works are in keeping with the original building. This does not mean that a listed building cannot be touched, only that the integrity, proportions, and historic fabric is not lost or destroyed. New buildings like Pallant Gallery extension can be added to the street scene without destroying the overall impression. Indeed, it is important that buildings are allowed to evolve as they have over succeeding centuries. Prior to the 18th century many of the buildings in the Pallants would have looked very different, most being medieval buildings with steep roof pitches.

Beyond the city walls there are areas with buildings typical of their era. Although more modest than the Pallants the same principle applies. Here the overwhelming consideration is the conservation of the street scene. There are many important features which people feel are irrelevant today. Most questionable are extensions which don't respect scale, proportion or materials of existing buildings, front garden car parking and use of unsustainable materials such as UPVC windows.

In 2018 Article 4 directions were introduced which remove permitted development rights in Chichester Conservation Area. This requires planning approval for all alterations facing on to the street. Hopefully garden walls will be left in peace and the use of unsustainable UPVC joinery will lead to a resurgence of quality timberwork. Conservation and Article 4 directions are good for the city and also good for tourism.

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.....

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# NOW AND THEN

## Richard Childs begins at 81 North Street

81 North Street was once occupied by Charlie Howard, Chichester’s most famous butcher. The old photograph below was taken in 1913. Charlie’s father, George, founded the butcher around 1861 in premises that were originally a parsonage to St Olave’s Church next door. The shop is a Grade II listed building and though its frontage is 19<sup>th</sup> century the rest is earlier, probably 17<sup>th</sup> century. By 1896 Charlie was in charge and customers included the Bishop of Chichester and the Duke of Richmond. The ultimate accolade came in 1910 when he was awarded a royal warrant by Edward VII. Charlie sold his shop in 1928 but it wasn’t until 1950 when its name changed to H. Cosens. This closed in 1965 to become the Swallow Bakery. Today, 81 North Street is occupied by Kokoro, a Korean/Japanese takeaway franchise: how greatly has retail changed in Chichester!

### THEN



Charlie Howard, Chichester’s well-known butcher in 1913. Note the Royal warrant above the shop frontage

Source: Richard Childs

### NOW



81 North Street opened in 2021 as Kokoro, an expanding nationwide chain with Korean/Japanese sushi and other dishes. St Olav’s church, built around 1050 is next door; it’s now a bookshop

# SOUTHERN WATER

Vincent Porter updates readers on the company disposing wastewater in the Chichester area

Readers of the first 2022 issue of *Private Eye* will have read with eye-watering amazement one of the first decisions of Macquarie Asset Management, which now owns Southern Water, to spend £12.8 million on a TV, radio and press campaign to help Southern out in saving water.

According to Megan Wynes, head of brand and content at Southern Water, “We are ramping up our marketing activity because we face a number of challenges in our region in terms of water scarcity, blockages and pollution. There is a lot we can’t do on our own, so we need our customers to participate too. In the South East we are looking at a 50% supply deficit by 2030 unless we all change the way we use water. It is almost a scarcity emergency.”

So far, the company has provided no evidence as to which of its consumers it is targeting, domestic or industrial, or on what basis it has concluded that Southern will be looking at a 50% supply deficit in eight years’ time. Nevertheless, Southern Water plans to boost consumer messaging around water scarcity. The company is looking at five areas: TV and film, radio, press and print and strategic communications. Most of the work will be devoted to a £6m campaign. This will begin with a campaign across radio in water-stressed areas, including Southampton, Brighton, north Sussex and the Isle of Wight to remind people about reducing water use and helping the environment.

Southern’s consumers in Chichester, who receive their water from Portsmouth Water, but who pay Southern to dispose of their waste, may well start to receive Southern’s new advertisements in March. Whether these will focus on simple domestic solutions such as taking a shower rather than a bath, washing your car less frequently, or ceasing to use a sprinkler in order to keep your lawn in mint condition, remains to be seen.

## TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAING

David Laing, Vice Chairman of the Chichester Society from 2007-2009 and a member of the executive committee from 2005 to 2010, died on 9 June 2021. As a member of the Friends of Bishop’s Palace Garden he also played an active part in the re-design and implementation of the project to beautify the Garden. He described this in two articles for our newsletters: *A new look for the Bishop’s Palace Garden* in March 2009 and *Bishop’s Palace Garden reopens* in September 2010. He wrote other articles including *Priory Park- keep it rural, Informal and colourful* (March 2006.) In these articles David showed his love of the city and for the enhancement of its unique open spaces for the enjoyment of all.

Read earlier editions at [www.chichestersociety.org.uk/past-newsletters/](http://www.chichestersociety.org.uk/past-newsletters/)

# GATEWAY STATUS TO THE DOWNS UNDER THREAT

John Templeton thinks we should all be worried

Most towns outside the South Downs National Park boundary proudly claim that they are a ‘gateway to the National Park.’ Indeed, the National Park Authority consider Chichester to be the major gateway to the National Park from the coastal plain. This is because, first, Centurion Way will soon be extended from West Dean to Cocking Hill to meet the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne; and second, because Chichester’s bus and rail stations allow visitors to easily transfer from train to bus and continue on one of the three bus services to Petersfield, Midhurst or Petworth. Proposals to improve access to the South Downs Way from both Winchester and Eastbourne are under discussion. But Chichester’s access to the Downs may be worsened if Centurion Way is diverted to allow for the Whitehouse Farm phase 2 development and by proposals to close the bus station. Residents and the District Council need to be aware of these threats.



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Gordon Utting, Winner of The Duke of Gloucester Award with Master of The Worshipful Company of Stonemasons, Martin Low



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# THE QUEEN'S VISITS TO CHICHESTER

In the year of the Queen's platinum jubilee Richard Childs looks back at her visits to Chichester

The Queen's first official visit to the city was on **30 July 1956** when she inspected the Royal Sussex Regiment's military guard of honour in Priory Park and was given a guided tour of the Guildhall. She then visited the Cathedral where she dedicated the Sailors' Chapel commemorating those lost at sea during the Second World War. This was followed by a visit to St Mary's Hospital in St Martin's Square. The Queen also officially opened the Lancastrian County Secondary School for Boys.



*The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit the Guildhall in Priory Park, 30 July 1956  
Photo: Richard Childs*



*On the 31 July 1962 the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk attended a gala performance at Chichester Festival Theatre.*

*Photo: Chichester Festival Theatre*



*The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive at Priory Park on 30 July 1956. They are greeted by the Mayor of Chichester Leslie Evershed Martin and the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex.  
Photo: Richard Childs*

On **31 July 1962**, the Queen attended a charity performance of Chekhov's Uncle Vanya at the Festival Theatre. The performance, which starred director Sir Laurence Olivier, Michael Redgrave, and Joan Plowright was in aid of the St John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society.

On **27 March 1986**, the Queen attended the Maundy Thursday Service at Chichester Cathedral. Her Majesty distributed 120 sets of maundy coins (one for each year of her age) to 60 men and 60 women from Chichester diocese who were chosen by the clergy for their work in the community. Chichester Cathedral's 300-year-old organ, which had recently been restored at a cost of £250,000, graced the service with Handel's anthem Zadok the Priest, as television cameras made the first live outside broadcast of the maundy ceremony.

In her role as Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of the Royal Military Police, (RMP), the Queen has visited the Roussillon Barracks three times, in 1978, 1982, and **1990**. During her visit in March 1978 to celebrate the Centenary of the RMP the Queen inspected the barracks and was then invited to lunch. When the Queen departed, she was escorted by a mounted troop.

The Queen most recently visited the city in **2017** which included a stop at Chichester Festival Theatre where she unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. She then took lunch in the restaurant at the Minerva Theatre.



*The Queen during her visit to Chichester on 27 March 1986 for the Maundy Thursday service at the Cathedral  
Photo: West Sussex Record Office and West Sussex Gazette*



*The Queen inspected members of the Royal Military Police at Roussillon Barracks on 24 March 1990  
Photo West Sussex Lieutenancy*



*The Queen unveils a plaque marking her visit to Chichester Festival Theatre on 30 November 2017*

*Photo: Sam Stephenson*



# CHICHESTER CANAL IS CELEBRATING ITS BICENTENARY

The Canal Trust is organising several joyful events to commemorate the Canal’s opening in April 1822. Andrew Berriman tells the story

For precisely two hundred years Chichester’s canal has provided a waterway from the sea right into the heart of the city. It was a branch of the overall Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation, the route of which had been surveyed in 1815 by the eminent Scottish civil engineer John Rennie. Unfortunately, after his death in 1821 construction henceforth was in the hands of the somewhat less than eminent Resident Engineer, James Hollinsworth. The Chichester branch was wider and deeper than the rest of the canal, so that it could cope with 100-ton sea-going vessels, and the cast-iron swing bridges enabled the easy passage of tall-masted vessels. By 1822 this section of the canal from the Salterns Lock at Birdham to the Southgate Basin at Chichester was ready for its official opening, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. There was great excitement – bands, cannon-fire, cheering crowds with high hopes for its future success. The longer section of the canal, from Hunston Junction to Ford, wasn’t ready for its official opening until May 1823, and was part of the scheme to transport goods from Portsmouth Harbour to London by an inland route.

## The Canal Basin

The canal had a significant impact on the city. It could be argued that it brought Chichester into the modern age. For all its Norman Cathedral, Tudor Market Cross, and elegant Georgian townhouses, Chichester by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was in danger of becoming a somewhat stagnant backwater, hemmed in by its Roman walls. But the coming of the canal changed things. Large cargoes of heavy goods could now reach the city rather than having to be transferred from ship to road at Dell Quay, two miles distant. The large Canal Basin had been dug out in 1819, and filled with water in December 1821. The water came from natural springs, and a diversion in the course of the river Lavant. A private road, Canal Road, was built from the Basin to the South Gate at the Fountain Inn and was meant purely for canal business.



Canal barge *The Fanny* near Hunston Junction c. 1900    Source: Andrew Berriman



*Chichester Canal* by Walter Noah Malby 1884    Source: Novium Museum

## Gas, gas!

What is often forgotten is that the early arrival of gas lighting in Chichester owes everything to the canal. Chichester was one of the first towns in England in 1823, to be lit by gas. The gasworks, with its large chimney and gasholder, was built on the north side of the Basin at the not inconsiderable cost of £6,000. Its essential requirement, coal, could be brought in cheaply by sea and canal. Very few houses were nearby, except those lived in by Canal Company employees, so little offence was caused by the unavoidable odours involved in the production of coal gas. By April 1823 lamp-posts were in place; by September the streets, and some shops, were illuminated. John Marsh, the noted Chichester diarist, recorded, *This evening I first saw Chichester lighted by gas, the appearance of which was strikingly brilliant.*

## Business premises

In addition to the Chichester Gas Company’s Gas Works many other businesses had their premises and wharfs around the Basin. There was James Biffin, a timber merchant. Stephen Purchase was at first the Company’s wharfinger, the Collector of Dues. He lived at ‘The Basin Without’, a splendid address. Within a few years he became a coal merchant, his brick wharfs, with stone copings, protruding into the Basin to receive incoming loads of coal. By 1830 he had a hotel in Southgate, and imported his wines on the coal barges. Clearly the canal advanced his business interests.

As it also did for John Cover, a timber merchant, whose yard was next to the Gas Works, and who lived on the south side of the Basin. Cover’s, of course, still trades in Chichester. At the head of the Basin was the Richmond Arms, also still trading. It was named after the Duke of Richmond. The stables next door, still standing, belonged to the Canal Company. Smaller businesses developed around the Basin, such as that of George Mills, a carrier, taking unloaded goods to customers. Essential infrastructure was built at the Basin: warehouses on the east bank for storage, a second crane in 1831, and even two lime-kilns owned by the Canal Company with its end-product, lime mortar, used in the construction trade.



*Chichester Canal Basin from the Padwick Bridge in 1910. Note the gasometer and Cathedral spire in the background.*  
Source: Alan Green Collection

## Events

The Basin became a venue for events. In July 1828 Ned Neal and Whiteheaded Bob staged a boxing match at the Richmond Arms’ Large Room, with two performances on the same day. Highly secretive were the ‘bullion runs’, bars of gold and silver, plus ‘specie’ (coins), taken from Portsmouth to the Bank of England. The barges were given an armed guard of four ‘redcoats’, who slept on board. The public, however, were more than welcome in 1861 at the Basin for a demonstration by the Selsey crew of their first self-righting lifeboat; the crowd numbered over 2,300. In later years the annual washing in the Basin of the visiting circus elephants always proved a great attraction, captured on many early cameras.

## From work to pleasure

Gradually, fewer and fewer working barges unloaded their goods at the Basin, in 1881 just 21 of them, out of the 471 barges which entered Chichester Harbour. Three years later in 1884 Walter Noah Malby’s superbly evocative oil painting shows the Basin, the gasworks, the warehouses. On the water are two craft; granted, one indeed is a working vessel, but the other is a rowing boat. In 1892 Chichester Rowing Club leased a boathouse there. The Basin was becoming more for leisure than

commerce. In 1906 shingle was brought from the Harbour by sailing barge; this was the last recorded cargo. But today, over a century later, the canal looks great. Most of the unsightly green weed and algae is gone, and the gravel bed of the canal is visible through almost clear water. A sight to behold. Do walk its towpath, and rejoice in the canal’s survival. No need to dwell on the minor detail that, to be honest, right from the start the working canal was an engineering and financial disaster which never paid a dividend.

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*Andrew Berriman is a local historian and member of the Chichester Canal Trust*



*The Canal Basin today: a place of relaxation rather than commerce*  
Photo: Nicola Holden



# CHICHESTER, A CITY WHOSE HISTORY INCLUDES TREES

## Paula Chatfield begins this two-part article by reviewing our arboreal heritage

How often do we notice the trees around us? The everyday trees that punctuate our urban spaces as we go out and about? Even a short-lived tree should live for decades, others for centuries – their type, form and location offering tantalising clues as to why they are there. In this two-part series, we look first at our arboreal heritage and in June, we’ll examine what trees do for us today and how we can secure their benefits for our future.

### Ancient trees and hedgerow

Chichester still retains remnants of ancient woodland. These are areas considered to have been wooded continuously since at least 1600 and are recognised as irreplaceable habitat, important for wildlife, soils, recreation and their cultural, historical and landscape value. They retain a natural native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although may have been managed by coppicing, or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. On the official record we have Lower and Upper Rouse Copse, both at Whitehouse Farm, or Minerva Heights as this neighbourhood is now called; while nearby are Brandy Hole Copse and Summersdale Copse. These were managed for wood products, mainly sweet chestnut and oak – look for multiple trunks which give the impression of young trees. Periodic cutting greatly extends the life of most trees, so their bases, or *stools*, may be hundreds of years old.

Look too for remnant rural hedgerows. A fine example can be seen in east Chichester between the new Lidl store and the Swanfield estate where the hedge bank is the old Westhampnett parish boundary. It has remained undisturbed by gravel extraction, landfill or the construction of a housing estate. Chichester Tree Wardens recorded an ancient ash tree at this boundary with a girth of over 7m (23’). Its shape shows it to have been a coppiced tree – periodically cut and used by locals for firewood, agricultural management or possibly household goods.

Old maps are our resource to identify historic hedgerow trees and the historic map layer on Chichester District Council’s website (see <https://mydistrict.chichester.gov.uk>) makes it easy to see how homes have been built around the old field boundary lines. Think of the double row of



The coppiced stool of a sweet chestnut, which greatly extends the life of a tree, this one in ancient woodland at Lower Rouse Copse.

Photo: Paula Chatfield



A Victorian plaque (c1880s) affixed to the City Wall overlooking Jubilee Gardens

Photo: Brian Henham

oaks marching through East Broyle and behind homes in Norwich Road/Little Breach (where Wellington Road continued on to East Broyle Farmhouse), or behind homes in Peacock Close/Barnfield Drive area. Many of these trees have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), although this is less likely in the Council-developed estates – not because trees of appropriate importance don’t exist, but because the Council was considered a responsible landowner and TPO protection was not required.

### A civic asset

It is difficult to date living trees, so it’s good to find records which mention them. As early as 1721, the City Council ordered that the north walls be repaired, that trees be planted in such places as are wanting and that the walks be new gravelled at the discretion of Mr Mayor. There was already such a raised walk in the Bishop’s Palace Garden, and a fashion for elevated spots in private gardens from which to admire both garden and views, but few of the general population would have had the leisure or inclination to promenade there. However, even here it seems trees were not a sentimental feature for in 1754 twenty-nine of the City Wall trees were marked for felling to finance the Walls’ repair. More felling and timber sale took place in 1774 and in 1779/80. (This was when the Council also decided to demolish and sell timber and stone from the City Gates). The City Walls were designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1934 which has restricted replanting, making it even more important to appreciate the decades-old trees we still enjoy there.

### Trees and health

Rural woodland management started to wane with increasing industrialisation during the Victorian era. The well-to-do were fascinated by imported trees and creating landscapes which showed off their wealth, learning and aesthetic taste whilst poorer people, increasingly concentrated in cities, experienced high mortality rates caused by poor living conditions. Chichester illustrates this at a smaller scale. Its population was 8,075 in 1866 but it was struggling with poor public health and sanitation, a London newspaper describing Chichester as ‘pre-eminent

for its beastliness’. At this time it was felt trees would make our towns and cities more attractive, bringing the accoutrements of the wealthy landowning classes into the public realm, offering welcome shade and improving public health and mood. They were also thought to purify the air, for it was not widely understood until the 1880s that cholera was a water-borne disease.

### Cathedral limes

It is thought the lime trees in front of the cathedral were planted after the spire was rebuilt in 1867, having collapsed in 1861. There were originally 16 lime trees, of which only six still exist. Seven were felled in 1951 and there were plans to fell the lot, but this proposal was met with an 11,000-strong petition to save them. Three more have succumbed to disease in the last few years. It seems remarkable to think these trees were considered an asset even before Chichester got mains drainage, which was completed in 1897.

### A leafy town

The Ordnance Survey map of Chichester, surveyed in 1875 and published in 1880, shows a wonderfully leafy town, with trees marked in too many places to mention but including the City Walls, many roadsides, private gardens, parkland, and several ‘out of town’ nurseries. The whole map is a delight. It can be viewed online, thanks to the National Library of Scotland, at <https://maps.nls.uk> (Sussex LX1). By 1896, Jubilee Park is marked out, New Road has become New Park Road and the new Recreation Ground to the east is shown fringed with trees. Enjoy some of these trees in a revised edition of the Chichester City Tree Trail, updated by volunteer Tree Warden Brian Hopkins, and published online in July 2021. Download it with original artwork, or scroll through the text accompanied by photographs, at [www.treesinchi.org/chichester-tree-trail](http://www.treesinchi.org/chichester-tree-trail). It highlights a diversity of trees and hints at their fascination for those who planted them. We will continue this story of Chichester’s trees in June.



Part of the 1880 Chichester Ordnance Survey map showing a proliferation of trees near the Cathedral, Orchard Street and Priory Park

Source: Scottish National Library

Read earlier editions at [www.chichestersociety.org.uk/past-newsletters/](http://www.chichestersociety.org.uk/past-newsletters/)



One of the Cathedral limes, as spectacular in winter as in summer

Photo: Brian Henham

Paula Chatfield lives in Chichester and is Chair of the Chichester Tree Wardens



# The first signs of Spring at West Dean

Photo: Brian Henham





# FLYING OFFICER X AT TANGMERE 80 YEARS AGO

## David Coxon tells the background to stories that HE Bates (Flying Officer X) wrote while at RAF Tangmere

Before the Second World War writer Herbert Ernest (H E) Bates had a Bloomsbury publishing sponsor and through these contacts was able to obtain a roving brief at the Air Ministry when war began. This was to talk to airmen and write short stories collected as *The Greatest People in the World* and *How Sleep the Brave*. His pseudonym for this was Flying Officer X. Herbert Bates was commissioned in the Royal Air Force in October 1941, carried out his initial training at RAF Uxbridge and was then posted to RAF Oakington near Cambridge. At Oakington he was allowed to interview a Lysander Special Operations Executive (SOE) pick-up pilot, material later used in his 1944 novel, *Fair Stood the Wind for France*.

### To Tangmere

Shortly before *The Greatest People in the World* was published Bates transferred from Oakington to RAF Tangmere in March 1942 where he spent five months based at Shopwyke House, the RAF Tangmere's Officers' Mess. Here he gained material for the second collection of Flying Officer X stories and used Shopwyke House as a Kent setting for *A Moment in Time*. Whilst at Tangmere Bates completed *In the Heart of the Country*, a love letter to the English countryside. Unlike RAF Oakington, Bates found the Officers' Mess at Tangmere unfriendly. His autobiography records 'wandering about for days in a state of lonely misery, scarcely speaking to a soul – the [mess] had a certain chill snobbery in the air'. He observes how uneasy he was in the company of the station commander who viewed Bates' invasion of a hitherto jealously guarded kingdom with a certain high suspicion. With no bed in the mess he was accommodated in an otherwise empty house some distance away.



James MacLachlan – ‘One-armed Mac’ – at Tangmere in 1941-42  
Source: Roger Darlington



HE Bates in his RAF uniform  
Source: Victoria Wicks

### Night Intruders

Bates' morale improved when he met a young squadron leader in the Mess who had lost his left hand, replaced with a metal gadget which 'looked like a complicated egg-whisk'. This was James MacLachlan, 'One-armed Mac', commanding officer of No 1 Squadron, a Hurricane night intruder squadron based at RAF Tangmere during the time Bates was there. MacLachlan had made his name in the Battle for Malta the previous year and Bates describes how 'Mac' lost his arm in *The Beginning of Things*. In his autobiography Bates tells how MacLachlan introduced him to other members of his squadron. One of these pilots was a Czechoslovakian, Flight Lieutenant Karel Kuttelwascher who had joined the RAF after a 'shattering experience escaping from his native country'. This is described in Bates' short story *The Disinherited*.

Bates found morale of No 1 Squadron to be very high: 'The squadron was good and proud and knew itself. The things it did were good,

and the news of its doings was in the papers'. In *There's Something in the Air* he writes about the night-time successes of MacLachlan and Kuttelwascher, named in his story Anderson and Auerbach. No 1 Squadron had arrived at Tangmere in July 1941 and began training for night intruder operations, flying cannon armed Hurricane fighter aircraft at night over blacked-out occupied northern France. Their purpose was to seek out and destroy enemy bombers as they took-off or landed at their airfields.

### James MacLachlan DFC

At the beginning of the war MacLachlan had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) flying the vulnerable Fairey light bomber during the Battle of France. After flying Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain he was posted to Malta, leading a formation of Hurricanes from the deck of HMS Argus to the besieged island. Here he destroyed eight enemy aircraft before being shot down and severely wounded by Luftwaffe 'ace' Oblt Joachim Müncheberg. After three days in hospital his left arm was amputated below the elbow. On returning to England, he was fitted with an artificial lower arm that matched the controls of a Hurricane. In April 1942 the squadron commenced night intruder operations and during the next three months MacLachlan destroyed five enemy aircraft and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his courage and inspirational leadership.

### Karel Kuttelwascher

Escaping from his native Czechoslovakia, Karel fought for the French Air Force in the Battle of France destroying two enemy aircraft. After reaching England he joined No 1 Squadron with whom he shot down two Bf109 German fighters in 1941. His greatest accomplishment took place during the night of 5 May 1942 when he positioned himself in the circuit of Saint André de L'Eure aerodrome and, attacking from below and behind, shot down three Heinkel bombers. He wrote, 'I must keep to the ground as much as possible to see the silhouettes of the returning airplanes above me. Sometimes I get lucky'. He was awarded two DFCs during his time at Tangmere.

In July 1942 No 1 Squadron moved from Tangmere to RAF Acklington in Northumberland for a rest, leaving Kuttelwascher behind - he was posted to a Mosquito night fighter squadron. *There's Something in the Air* ends 'All summer there had been something in the air. It was no longer now'. In the summer of 1942 Bates was posted to a public relations department in London and then served the rest of the war in India. He continued writing in later years and readers may know his most popular creation was the Larkin family in *Darling Buds of May*.



Karel Kuttelwascher in 1945, wearing Czech, French and British decorations  
Source: Roger Darlington

.....  
An exhibition on H E Bates (Flying Officer X) is on permanent display at the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum. It includes his RAF tunic presented to the Museum in 2016 by his granddaughter Victoria Wicks.

David Coxon is Director of the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum.



Hurricane Night Reapers: these are the type of planes flown from RAF Tangmere by James MacLachlan and Karel Kuttelwascher  
Painted by David Coxon, photo TMAM/Pete Pitman



# A BOUNDARY WALK AROUND CHICHESTER

David Wilson continues our guided walk following Chichester’s boundary. The first stage ended at Summersdale and this second tour explores Chichester’s western neighbourhoods. A street map is necessary to complement the diagram below. Numbered notes provide a commentary.

We start by the Chichester Inn on West Street, cross the roundabout, along *Westgate* (1) and past *Henty Gardens* (2). Continue to the junction with *Sherborne Road* and beyond to Bishop Luffa School whose entrance is on your right. Here you have a choice between the longer walk which keeps closer to Chichester’s boundary with Fishbourne, and the alternative of a shortcut up *Centurion Way*.

### Longer route

Cross the nearby footbridge over the railway and in the distance can be seen a pedestrian tunnel under the A27. Walk through, and turn right onto the *Emperor Way* footpath, signposted to Fishbourne Roman Palace (3). Leave this path where it turns left and go through a gate, crossing a field to the railway. Take care here because this rail crossing has no gates. At *Clay Lane* turn left to walk as far as the junction with *Salthill Road*, where you turn right. After 200 yards right again onto a signposted footpath that can be muddy so walking boots are advisable. Continue across fields to Salthill Lodge (4) and *Salthill Lane*. After about half a mile beyond the lodge and just before a terrace of houses, turn left onto a new footpath which leads through the Whitehouse Farm development, now marketed as Minerva Heights.

### Shorter route

After Bishop Luffa School, head up *Centurion Way* as far as the second bridge, which crosses Newlands Lane. Leave *Centurion Way* here and walk under the bridge westward to just after the terrace of houses on your right.

This where the new path leads through Whitehouse Farm aka Minerva Heights as above.

### Minerva Heights

On reaching *Old Broyle Road* – the B2178 – turn left and follow a new path alongside the road until opposite Brandy Hole Copse. Cross over (with care!) and enter this woodland where many paths lead north to a major east-west ditch and bank, the *Chichester Lines* (5). Turn right and walk along either ditch or bank, until arriving at *Centurion Way* (6). Turn left and continue until an open space with the ‘Road Gang’ art installation (7). There is a gravelled path on the right that leads to *Lavant Road* where turn right to a petrol station. There is a bus stop nearby to return to the city centre if wanted.

### Conversation pieces (as numbered)

1 **Westgate** was once the old Roman road leading to Winchester as the *Venta Bulgarum*, and is one of Chichester’s two oldest suburbs, St Pancras being the other. Many of the City’s listed properties are located here and an example is Georgian Priory at N<sup>os</sup> 1-9,

formerly Chichester Theological College from 1919 to 1994. On the same side is St Bartholomew’s Church on Mount Lane, possibly the site of a Roman temple. After Mount Lane are N<sup>os</sup> 27-39 where Charles Shippam set up his meat-paste business before moving to East Street

2 **Henty Gardens**, off Westgate to the north. The brewery which stood here was bought by the Henty family from John Dearling in 1827 who continued to brew (latterly in partnership as Henty and Constable) until 1954. The old malthouses are fake; they were rebuilt after a fire in 1979 and are now sheltered accommodation under the name of the Maltings. Just after Henty Gardens is the elegant Westgate House, that was part of Henty Brewery and now occupied by the Mercer finance company.

3 **Fishbourne Roman Palace**, to the left of Emperor Way, was one of the most notable Roman buildings north of the Alps with the largest area of mosaics in Britain. Its size suggests that it was occupied by a VIP, whether the client king Cogidubnus or another. Fragments of mosaics and masonry had turned up since 1805, but the extent was not realised until Portsmouth Water started to dig a trench across the site in 1960. The site was purchased for the Sussex Archaeological Society (who now welcome visitors there) by Ivan Margary, a wealthy businessman as well as a historian, and author of the definitive work on Roman Roads in Britain. Although the building dates from after the Roman invasion, a Roman scabbard of an earlier date was found – the presence, in today’s jargon, of a ‘military adviser’?

4 **Salthill House and Lodges** were built in 1804 for John Newland, probably on the back of high grain prices in the French wars and before the agricultural depression later in the century. What is now a hedgerow leading off at an angle from Salthill Lodges was the main drive. John Newland was Mayor in 1784 & 1797 and well connected. In 1774 he married Sarah Murray, an older sister of Vice-admiral Sir George Murray. His son William Charles Newland, also mayor in 1823 & 1839, was bequeathed Fernleigh House in North Street by Richard Murray, a younger brother of Sir George and himself mayor in 1794 & 1808. Fernleigh was built in 1807 on the site of an earlier brewhouse owned by John Dearling above.



Water colour of Salthill House in 1882.  
Image: With thanks to Artware Fineart. The original may be viewed on their website at [www.artwarefineart.com/gallery/salt-hill-house-chichester-august-1882](http://www.artwarefineart.com/gallery/salt-hill-house-chichester-august-1882)

5 **The Brandy Hole ditch and bank** – formerly called the ‘Strip’ hereabouts – are part of the Iron Age earthworks stretching from West Stoke to Slindon (see earlier walk articles). The 1909 Ordnance Survey map shows the ‘Entrance’ to a ‘Smugglers Cave’ in the ditch about 50 yards east of the edge of Brandy Hole Copse. Tank traps from WWII can still be seen, and the ditch hid 25 Canadian tanks prior to the D-day invasion.

6 **Centurion Way**, as is well known, follows the route of the former Chichester-Midhurst railway which opened in 1881, closed for passenger services in 1935 and to through goods services after a culvert was washed out in 1951. The tunnels near Singleton were used for ammunition storage in WWII, but the line was reduced to a spur running as far as the gravel workings by Hunters Race in 1972. This lasted until 1991; WSCC bought the line in 1994 and opened Centurion Way as far as Lavant in September 1995. The cycle path was created by Sustrans and now extends to West Dean. The South Downs National Park has commissioned a study into its re-opening to Midhurst

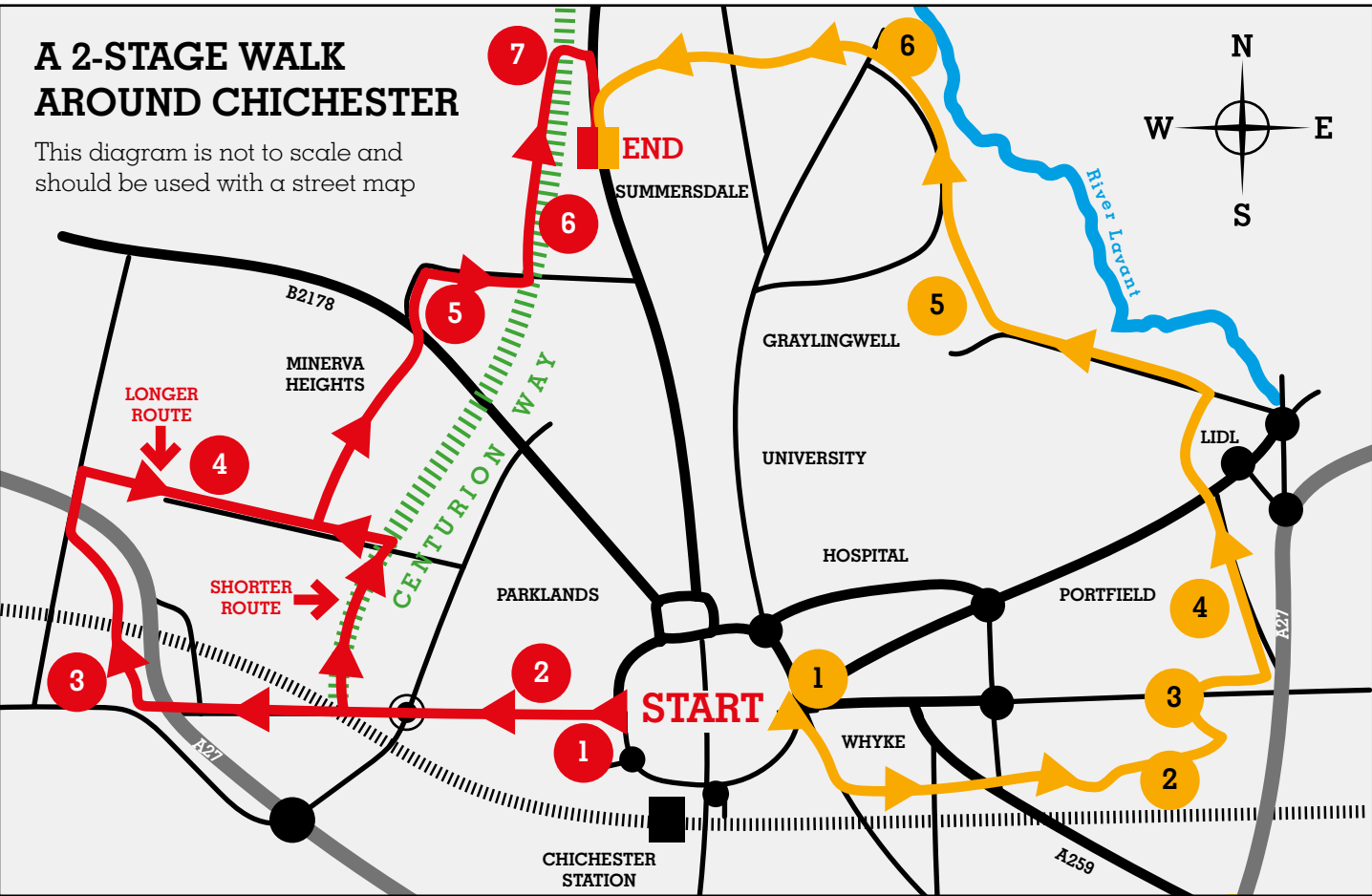
7 **The ‘Road Gang’** and related public sculptures were created by David Kemp who specialises in the witty re-use of scrap material. See <https://www.davidkemp.uk.com/works/>



Photo: David Wilson

David Wilson was a member of the Executive Committee from 2003 to 2016 and continues to contribute articles to the Newsletter

Our thanks to Colin Hicks for his commentary above on Westgate



Brandy Hole Copse with ‘dragons teeth’ tank traps from WW2  
Photo: David Wilson



# COLLECTING CHICHESTER CRESTED CHINA

China souvenirs were once universally popular and there are many examples for Chichester. Kim Leslie explains

The modern craze for collecting mass-produced souvenirs of places visited has its roots in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one of the many consequences of vast social and economic changes of the time. Leisure for the mass of the population was an entirely new concept in the Victorian period: seaside holidays, extra days off work for bank holidays, railway excursions, later the touring bicycle, the coming of the motor car and the charabanc, all meant a huge surge in recreational traffic. So what about a souvenir of new places discovered? Something to take home to remember a good time out? Here were opportunities to exploit. Enter the first mass-production souvenir trade aimed at the new holiday and tourist industry: crested china.

## William Henry Goss

The pioneer in this field was William Henry Goss who started his pottery at Stoke in Trent in 1858, to be followed by dozens of cheaper imitators. Genuine Goss ware was made from very thin and delicate ivory porcelain, quite unlike those of later rivals. Its quality gives a lustrous richness to the coats of arms displayed, quite different to those marketed by Goss’s rivals soon to come on the scene. The company had a fine product and an equally fine marketing strategy driven by Goss’s son, Adolphus. He expanded the company’s range of goods, tirelessly travelling the country appointing carefully selected agents in all major towns and cities. On his travels he stopped off at museums to choose ancient pots for copying as miniatures, onto which local coats of arms were applied.

For Chichester, W.H. Barrett, the city’s main bookseller, stationer and newsagent, was selected as Goss’s sole agent. Occupying a prime location by the Cross, Barrett’s was a popular tourist destination, especially after the shop started to publish its own postcards of the city. Adolphus’s energetic marketing encouraged agents to commission and take the commercial risk in paying for selected items. The first Chichester crested china sold by Barrett was based on copies of two archaeological finds displayed in Chichester Museum, then in South Street. These were of a jug, possibly medieval, its history and provenance unrecorded, the other, a Roman urn discovered when the new cattle market was set out in 1870-1. This little urn displays three coats of arms: of the city itself with those of the diocese of Chichester and the county arms of Sussex with its six martlets.

## Goss’s Imitators

Archaeological finds were just the beginning. An enormous range of crested china flooded into the shops as Goss and his many imitators flourished. An estimated one hundred and fifty pottery manufacturers eventually entered this burgeoning souvenir market. Barrett and Goss in Chichester faced competition from cheaper imitations sold by a variety of other shops. A rather plain looking turkey, enlivened by the city’s arms, produced as Arcadian ware, bears the mark *MADE FOR C HUNT 16 SOUTH ST CHICHESTER*. Another piece of Arcadian, a model of an old warming pan, states it was *MADE FOR E R WILLARD POST OFFICE CHICHESTER*; whilst a drum by Foley China, was *MANUFACTURED FOR H & C ARTLETT STATIONERS CHICHESTER*.



First World War militaria: ‘Tommy Atkins’, submarine and tank

Private collection



WH Goss model of a Roman urn, one of the earliest Chichester miniatures

Novium Museum, Acc No 4676

## Vast range of shapes

There were thousands of pieces in circulation around the country, far removed in style and design from the rather prosaic archaeological finds of the earliest days. A staggering range of look-alike miniature ornaments hit the market in the shape of buildings, busts of famous people, monuments, animals, birds, figures, vases, jugs, novelties of all sorts, furniture, transport and First World War militaria. Some crested china was much more practical, made for use in the home rather than just decorative for the mantelpiece. Plates, cups and saucers, salt and pepper pots, even a full-size shaving mug were adorned with civic heraldry.

The craze for collecting crested china peaked around 1914. Such was the enthusiasm that the League of Goss Collectors reported that demand exceeded supply in 1906, whilst the manufacturers of Arcadian ware (Goss’s chief rival) claimed to have over ten thousand outlets. Trade declined after the First World War and by the Second, production had ceased altogether.

## The Mystery of Chichester’s Coat of Arms



Chichester’s official coat of arms granted 1570

Chichester City Council

Close inspection of nearly 250 pieces of Chichester crested china, held by Chichester’s Novium Museum and in a privately-owned collection, reveals that every single piece has a form of arms at variance with the official grant of arms made to the city in 1570. The correct form, in layman’s – not heraldic – terms, is of a shield with a golden lion set against a red background, divided by a straight line with 14 droplets of red blood against a white background. This is the official version used today.

As seen from the crested china illustrated, Goss and his imitators confusingly used another version: the straight dividing line under the lion became mysteriously indented, the droplets of red blood bizarrely turned into black and their number in most cases was reduced to twelve, sometimes increased to fifteen. Occasionally the shield was set against a castellated background. How can all this be explained? As Goss always insisted that his armorial bearings on his shields were heraldically accurate, he believed the version used by the City Council was technically correct, but not so. This is because the City Council, for reasons unknown, had adopted its own unofficial version, decorated with its triple-towered castle gate complete with portcullis, more an artistic creation than one sanctioned by the College of Arms. This incorrect form was still being used by the City Council until 1948. The original 1570 grant of arms was discovered quite by chance when the installation of a dehumidifier was being investigated for its strongroom! Since then, the City Council has reverted to its original – officially granted – version. Thus Goss and his imitators had merely taken their lead from the City Council, perpetuating their error. Nevertheless, whatever their inaccuracy, these souvenirs from the past are a delight to search out and display in honour of our city.

With thanks to Amy Roberts and the Novium Museum for allowing an examination of their collection which is mainly made up of pieces donated in 1972 by Lancelot Mason (1905-90), former Archdeacon of Chichester; to Rodney Duggua, Town Clerk, for throwing light on the City Council’s use of its coat of arms; and to Brian Henham for taking the photographs.

Kim Leslie was for many years Education Officer at West Sussex Record Office. He is the author of a number of books on the county’s history including *A Sense of Place: West Sussex Parish Maps*; and *Sussex Tales of the Unexpected*.



Novelty guard dog inscribed ‘The Black Watch’

Private collection



Sussex pig with Sussex motto: ‘You can push or/You can shuv/But I’m hanged/If I’ll be druv’

Private collection



# PRAISE FOR ENHANCING THE CITY'S PUBLIC REALM

John Templeton and Brian Henham, in contrast to December's Chisores feature, are very pleased to praise Chilights they've seen that have brought cheer in recent months

The character of a city is not only defined by its buildings but also by its *public realm* - the spaces between buildings, its streets and precincts, its open spaces, parks and gardens which are open to all. As we emerge from the pandemic it has never been more necessary to encourage residents and visitors back to the city centre, to support its business and attractions and to enjoy the atmosphere of a city which has been here for centuries. In our December Newsletter we illustrated some of the *Chisores* - things which do precisely the opposite! We are now happy to feature some of the *Chilights* where efforts have been made to enhance the public realm. The renewed cast-iron signposts are an example where partnership working has achieved a dramatic contribution, whereas the state of the dangerous paving of the North Street precinct which we featured as a Chisore is an example of a total lack of care by the County Council (the highway authority) for its county town.



**A gift from House of Fraser:** the photographic display in the windows to the original Oliver Whitby school was a parting gift by House of Fraser when it closed three years ago.



**Museum of the Moon display in the Cathedral:** in Autumn 2021 the Cathedral hosted Luke Jerram's international touring artwork of a spherical model of the moon accurately displaying the view as seen by NASA and celebrating the night skies.



**Field of Blooms:** this artwork installation by Bruce Munro was displayed during December and January in 'Paradise', the lawn enclosed by the Cathedral and the Cloisters. It consisted of 1000 light stems which gradually changed colour - a symbol of renewal and energy.



**New cast-iron signposts:** the former cast iron signposts needed refurbishment and updating and have been restored by Chichester District Council in partnership with Chichester City Council and Chichester Business Improvement District. The City Council repainted the distinctive unique finials of the Market Cross.



**Crocuses at New Park Road:** this beautiful annual display on the Litten Field opposite Jubilee Park was planted one Saturday morning over 10 years ago by pupils of the Central CE School, now St Joseph's.

All photographs for this article are by **Brian Henham**



**New Council House floodlights:** this sensitive new lighting scheme draws attention to the architectural details of the City Council's fine Georgian building of 1731 and adds to the enjoyment of an evening stroll along North Street.



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