

Bishop's Waltham: A brief timeline

The first 11,000 years

Mesolithic settlers dig shallow pits near the River Hamble to find useful flints for them to shape into tools

Celtic tribes spread across Britain and the first hill forts are built as the Iron Age begins

Small farming settlements continued to farm fertile land around the Hamble river

Julius Caesar invades Britain and defeats the Britons but then returns to Gaul

The Catuvellauni attack the Atrebates and Verica, their king, asks Rome for help

Local settlers would have gone to see the huge Roman army pass by with tens of thousands of soldiers and cavalry with all their equipment

A Roman road is built 1½ miles south west of here: Winchester to Chichester

The Roman Empire in serious decline

The last Roman soldiers leave Britain

Saxons and Jutes start to migrate and settle across southern and eastern Britain

This Waltham is a Royal estate in the Kingdom of Wessex ruled by King Ine, who establishes new laws

King Alfred's son, King Edward the Elder, swaps 'old' Waltham for the Bishop of Winchester's estate at Portchester

King Harold is killed and his army defeated by King William of Normandy at the Battle of Hastings. The end of Saxon rule in England

The last Ice Age ends and as the ice sheet retreats Stone Age hunters and gatherers re-settle Britain

Local settlers/farmers build Bronze Age barrows (near Hoe Farm and Shore Lane)

In times of trouble local Celtic settlers sought safety in the huge hill fort at Winchester Hill near Exton (about 7 miles away)

The local tribe was part of the much larger Atrebates tribe who traded with Gaul and used coins

The Romans invade Britain. Vespasian's main army marches along the south coast, probably crossing the Hamble at Botley, or Durley, on its way west

The large number of 3rd and 4th century coins found and evidence of tile kilns suggests a Roman settlement near the modern town

Increasing Saxon raids on Britain

Saxons found a settlement called Wealdham (Waltham - one of 12 Saxon 'Walthams' in the south and east of Britain)

In 722 St Willibald leaves Waltham's Benedictine Monastery to travel to the Holy Land and Germany

A horde of thousands of Vikings sail up the Hamble and "burn the residence at Waltham and many nearby villages" (*Anglo Saxon Chronicles*)

10,000 BC

1300 BC

800 BC

100 BC

54 BC

42 AD

43 AD

200-300 AD

407 AD

450-550 AD

688-726 AD

904 AD

1001 AD

1066 AD

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The next 700 years



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The next 250 years

The Bishop of Winchester, George Morley, founds a charity Grammar School in Bishop's Waltham

1652

The south aisle of St Peter's church is rebuilt, using material from the ruins of the now abandoned Palace

The 17th century building that is now the Barleycorn Inn becomes the Parish Workhouse and Basingwell Street is known as Workhouse Street

1679

A large local gang 'black' their faces to poach deer on the Bishop of Winchester's land at Waltham Chase. In response Parliament enacts the draconian 'Waltham Blacks Act'. As a result, 340 offences become punishable by death

After the Battle of Trafalgar the defeated French Admiral Villeneuve and 200 French naval officers are billeted, on parole, in Bishop's Waltham

1722

1762

Revd James Ogle opens a Girl's School in the Market House in St George's Square

1805

1809

In November, Gunner's 'Bishop's Waltham & Hampshire Bank' opens for business to a peal of the Church's bells. It immediately issues its own £5 notes

The 'Swing Riots' spread across southern England. Gangs roam the countryside at night destroying threshing machines and farm buildings. In November, riots occur at Corhampton, Droxford, Durley and Upham

1816

1822

Revd James Ogle opens a Boy's National School in the SE corner of churchyard

The opening of the Botley to Bishop's Waltham railway line

1830

1841

The Market House, a two-storey building in the middle of St George's Square, is demolished. It had been a market, local lock-up and school

Bishop's Waltham becomes the first small Hampshire town to have gas street lighting

1862

1863

Sir Arthur Helps, private secretary to Queen Victoria, opens his Terra Cotta Works at Claylands

Newtown School opens to provide education for 200 children

1864

1866

Foundation stone of Sir Arthur Helps' Royal Albert Infirmary is laid by Queen Victoria's son Prince Leopold. It never operates and later becomes The Priory

Sir Arthur Helps is made bankrupt

1871

Terra Cotta Works taken over by Henry Blanchard. His Brick and Tile Works supplies bricks for Buckingham Palace, Natural History Museum, St Pancras Station and even Cairo's Grand Hotel

1884

'The Beer Riots'. The new Curate, Revd Edward Falconer, opposes alcohol and tries to close down some of the town's pubs. Plans to throw him into the Great Pond fail but his effigy is burnt and drunken rioting continues until 3.00am

The Grammar School, founded by Bishop Morley, closes after more than 200 years

1892

1894

The first civil Parish Council for Bishop's Waltham is elected

Bishop's Waltham Waterworks Company Ltd is founded to provide piped water

1896

The Free Street School (now the Library) opens to replace the National School in the churchyard

A new adult Educational Institute opens at the east end of Bank Street

1898

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The last 120 years

