

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

No. 21

Spring 2023

VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY

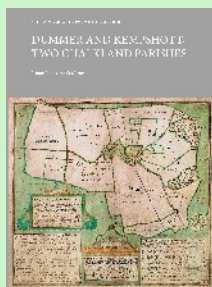


Hampshire

NEW PUBLICATION and AN AWARD

Our fifth **VCH Short** was launched in November 2022

Dummer and Kempshott, Two Chalkland Parishes
by Jennie Butler and Sue Lane



April 2023

Sue Lane, a major contributor to **VCH Hampshire**, has received the **VCH Outstanding Contributions Award**

More next time

STOP PRESS

VCH OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD 2022

We are pleased to announce the national Award to our **VCH Hampshire** Group Leader, **Jean Morrin**

The award was presented by Lady Mary Fagan at our Book Launch in November.



DUMMER LAUNCH at CLIDDESDEN



Jennie Butler, John Hare and Sue Lane



Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke, Paul and Sandra Miller, and Lady Mary Fagan joined Anna McNair Scott and Dr Jean Morrin

There was a party feeling at the launch on 26 November 2022 of *Dummer and Kempshott*, the 5th Volume in the Hampshire series of parish histories. This was the first opportunity to hold a social gathering after the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. Anna McNair Scott, Chair of **VCH Hampshire**, welcomed not only this new publication but used the occasion to re-launch the group's work.

The next three volumes will be *Basingstoke 1800 to 1925*, *Herriard*, and *Newnham, Up Nately, Nately Scures and Hook*. All this work involves what **VCH** editor, Adam Chapman, describes as 'the many volunteers, researching, writing and raising money to create what forms part of the nation's historical infrastructure'.

Dummer and Kempshott benefited from exceptionally fine records including manorial courts (1537 to 1743) and the diaries of landowner, Stephen Terry (d.1867).

Copies can be purchased for £14 at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Hampshire Record Office or by post from Dr Jean Morrin, 23 West Road, Emsworth, PO10 7JT, enclosing a cheque for £14 made out to **Hampshire Archives Trust (VCH Project)**.

► NEW INTERNET PRESENCE of VCH HAMPSHIRE ◀

We are in the process of building our own new website, and in the meantime we have posted a set of pages, with information about **VCH**, who we are, where and how we work, along with details of our activities. Please visit us on

<https://sites.google.com/view/localhistoryhampshirevch>

PUBS and BREWERIES in BASINGSTOKE

Wild Nights at the Anchor

When Emily Thorne applied to take over the licence of the *Anchor* in 1882 after her husband died, Police Superintendent Hibberd warned the magistrates, *"This lady has been known to stand in the street and throw stones through the panel of the door, and also to break six jars of brandy"*.



The magistrates granted the licence. This was a mistake. In January 1884 she was charged with permitting drunken and disorderly conduct on the premises. Superintendent Hibberd said that she took in the very worst of characters, people who were refused admittance at the lodging-house and allowed them to get drunk. She had no control over them, or even herself at times. He said that quarrels and

drunkenness were very frequent in the house and Mrs Thorne herself was far from sober.

On the night of 22 December 1883 Superintendent Hibberd went to the *Anchor* *"and found it in a most disorderly state. There were several men in the tap-room, Henry Rawlings was there very drunk, stripped to his skin, with his face covered in blood. There was beer and broken bottles all over the floor and tables. The glass panel in the door had been smashed, and the broken glass lay on the floor"*.

The licence for the *Anchor* was transferred to another tenant shortly after.

Bob Clarke

The Effects of 20C Redevelopment

The town's redevelopment in the 1960s and early 1970s caused the loss of the following 19 town centre pubs, which were offset by only two replacement pubs – the Bass House and the Goat and Barge, both of which are no longer with us.

Angel, Wote Street
 Barge, Wote Street
 Cricketers, Brook Street
 Engineers Arms, Reading Road
 Foresters, Southern Road
 Goat, Goat Lane
 Grapes, Wote Street
 Old House at Home, Reading Road
 Pear Tree, Flaxfield Road
 Railway Arms, Brook Street
 Red Lion Tap, Sydenham Place
 Rose and Crown, Church Street
 Rose, Brook Street
 Royal Exchange, Wote Street
 Self Defence, Church Street
 Station Hotel, Station Hill
 Travellers Rest, Wote Street
 Victoria, Winchester Street
 Victory, Essex Road.

Bob Clarke

(For more information see *'Gone, But Not Forgotten'* by Ken Smallbone)

The Fallen Crown

In 1908, as part of the policy of closing what were regarded as redundant licences, the Licensing Committee were considering whether to withdraw the licence of the *Crown*. They did after Police Superintendent Hale told the committee that twice in the past year he had summoned the landlord for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises and that *"during the year this house has been the resort of poachers, bad characters and loose women ... and improper conduct has taken place in the passage and the back premises"*.



Bob Clarke

The Old Angel Temperance Cafe

Situated in the Market Place, a mid-19C billhead refers to this hostelry as the *"Angel Family Hotel, Tavern and Commercial Inn"*. Dating from at least the 16C, it was the largest inn in Basingstoke, offering a wide variety of services, and was *'patronised by many MPs on their way westward'*. It ceased to be an inn in 1866 and for a number of years the premises were used as a shop and warehouse. In 1881, what were described as *'handsome and commodious premises'* reopened as an *'alcohol free'* café, run by the Old Angel Café Company, established to promote the cause of temperance which, at the time, had a high priority for not only Nonconformists, but also many Anglicans. Apart from temperance meetings, it became a venue for sporting organisations, such as the Kempshott and District Cricket League; the Basingstoke and District Junior Football League; and Basingstoke Chess Club. Moreover, catering was also provided for events elsewhere, such as Burberry's New Year Party in 1906 at the Town Hall. It is not known when the café closed. Quotations are from the *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 16 April 1881.

Roger Ottewill



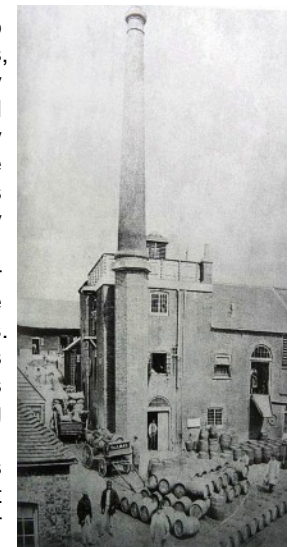
May's Brewery

May's Brewery was founded in the 18C and became the biggest brewery in Basingstoke and the surrounding district. By 1857 it owned or leased 63 pubs, 23 of which were in Basingstoke. It also supplied a further 29 free houses, the trade of which was secured by leases or agreements. Mays owned a small steam vessel which they used to transport beer along the Basingstoke Canal to outlets connected with the new military camp at Aldershot.

Mays continued to grow. For example, in 1920 it bought the Kingsclere brewery and its pubs. When the Hartley Row Brewery was put up for auction in 1921, Mays bought six of their pubs, including the *Dorchester Arms* in Hook.

In January 1947 May's Brewery was sold to Simonds of Reading. By that time John May & Co owned or leased 94 licensed premises stretching from Thatcham in the north to Winchester in the south, and from Sandhurst in the east to Andover in the west. The Brewery closed on 31 March 1950.

Bob Clarke



BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM: The Willis Museum, Basingstoke, the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and the Hampshire Record Office Winchester.



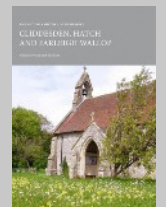
Mapledurwell



Steventon



Medieval
Basingstoke



Cliddesden, Hatch
and Farleigh
Wallop