

PORTCHESTER MATTERS

Issue 14

The Newsletter of the Portchester Civic Society (Founded 2000)

Winter 2016

‘Portchester - A Community History’

by Bryan Jerrard

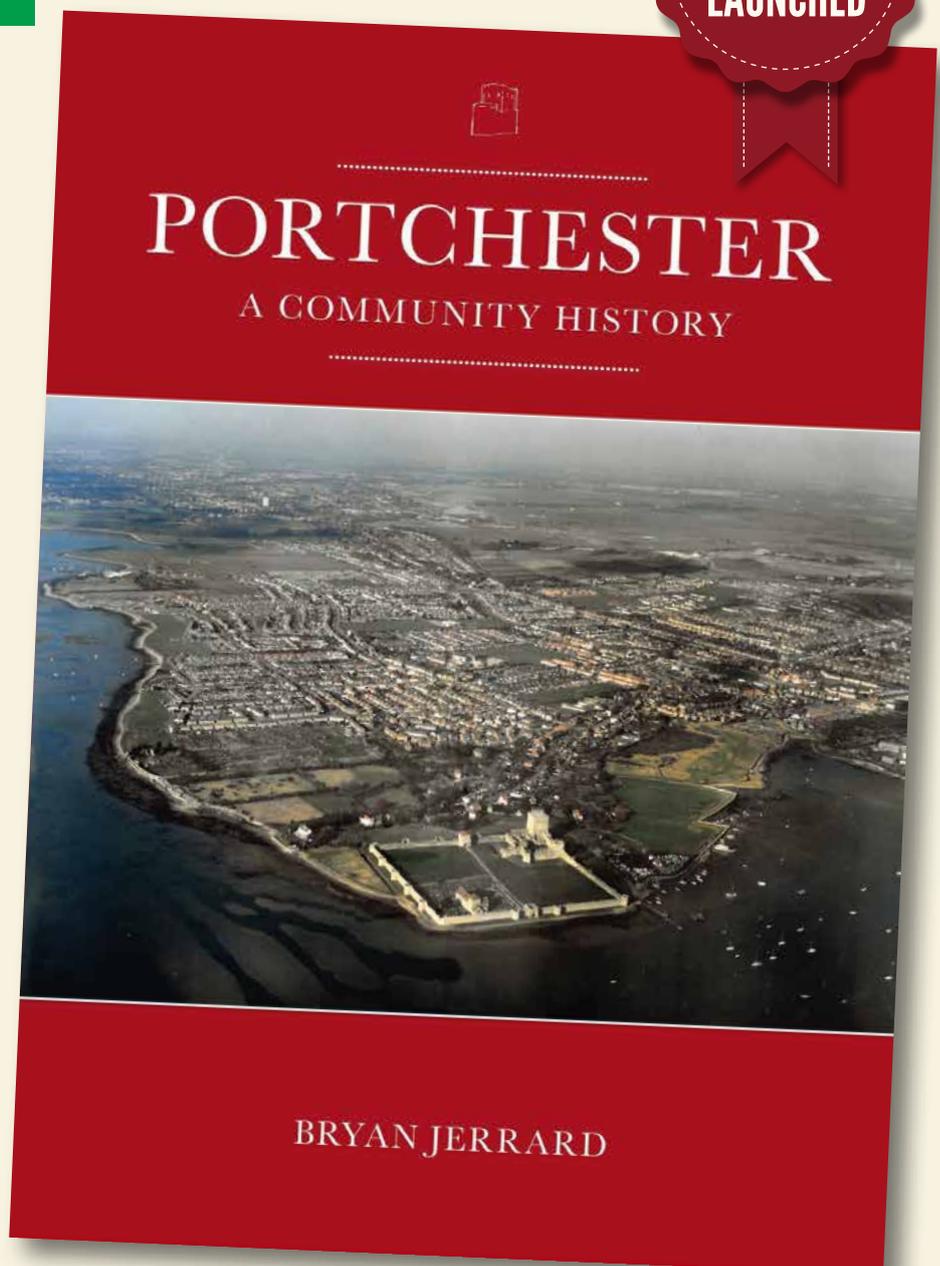
by Paul Woodman

After several years of research Bryan Jerrard launched his new book, ‘Portchester – a Community History’, at the recent ‘Memories of Portchester’ exhibition in the Parish Hall. With over 50 contributors, 108 pages and around 120 illustrations, this has been a mammoth task to edit and produce, especially as Bryan has self funded the publication. Financial support has come from Hampshire County Council, with the Portchester Civic Society contributing £500. Hazel and I held an Open Garden weekend where we raised a further £350.

Much has been written over the years about Portchester but usually with an emphasis on the Castle. Lieut. Colonel Cooke’s 1928 ‘Portchester Castle – Its Romance in Tradition and History’ provided a glimpse of village life but again, as the title suggests, concentrates on the Castle. In 1982 local photographer, George Crouch, wrote a great little book, ‘The Story of Portchester’ and in 1984 Alan Montgomery, with research assistance from his daughter Julie,

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NEW
BOOK
LAUNCHED



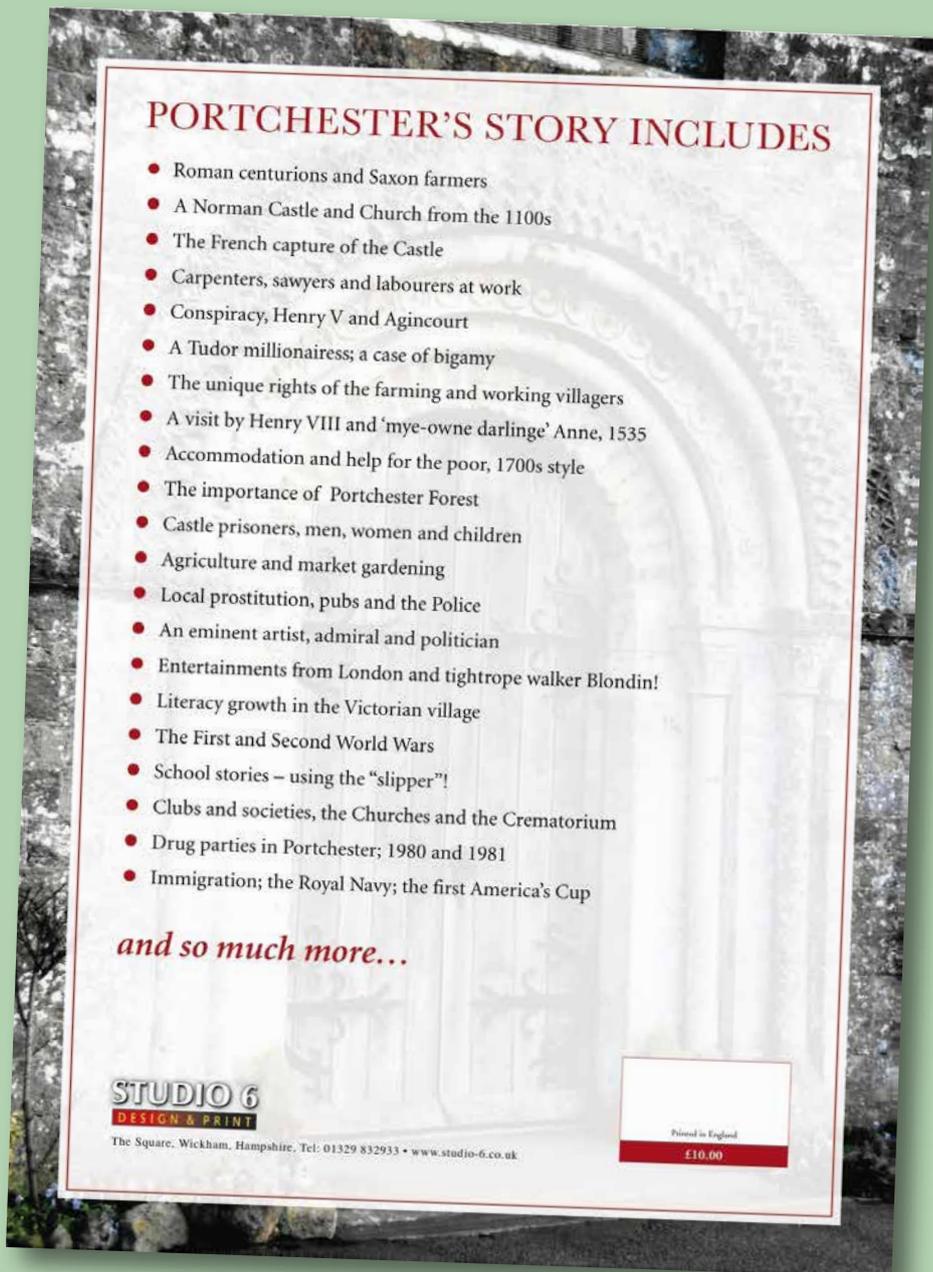
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produced 'My Goodness! My Portchester!' a fascinating collection of real-life stories of the village from 1850 to 1940.

Bryan's book is a comprehensive study of Portchester from Prehistoric to modern times and I thoroughly recommend it to all with an interest in our 'village'. The book is being sold at the Tea Room in St Mary's Church at Portchester Castle, Noon's Estate Agent in West Street and The Cormorant in Castle Street. Any enquiries about the book to Bryan on 01329 236274.

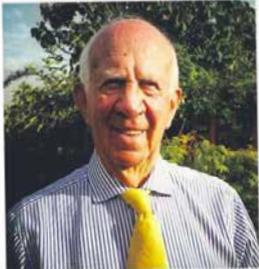
To provide you with a taster of Bryan's fascinating story of our village here is a taster of 'Portchester - A Community History':

'Some breakdowns in local society – including bigamy. Portchester should not though be thought of as a haven of tranquillity. Beneath the surface it was open to the in-fighting which is to be found in any community. These disputes were usually settled without recourse to the church or civil courts, but there are a number of incidents that became very public. Some women went to court to protect their good name (and the legitimacy of their offspring). In 1709 Mary Hatch won her case against Thomas Bird who declared that he had had sex with her 40 times before she was married. Equally problematic was the case of Agnes Blunt. In



May 1533 she had married Richard Chamber and in September 1533 she had married Richard Pareman. Not surprisingly both husbands objected to this state of affairs when they found out. Both marriages had taken place

by a simple declaration in front of witnesses and the exchange of a coin or ring and it was instances like this that led to the Church's demand that it conduct all marriage services. There were also some serious arguments about who should be allowed to sit in which pew in the parish church, but on the whole there were relatively few disputes. Portchester seems to have been a community that was at ease with itself. All the people living there benefited from the customs of the manor and these forced them to co-operate whereas in other less favoured communities conflict might have been the result.'



BRYAN JERRARD has lived in the community of Portchester for 17 years and is a retired teacher and senior lecturer in History, Politics and Economics to degree students. He graduated from Bristol and Birmingham Universities as well as the London School of Economics. Bryan has had a long and active interest in Local History, starting in the early 1970s when he gave lectures for Bristol University in and around Gloucestershire. His M Litt on Police and Crime in Gloucestershire won him a national award. Bryan is an honorary Professor of Education – totally undeserved he says! – from New York State University.

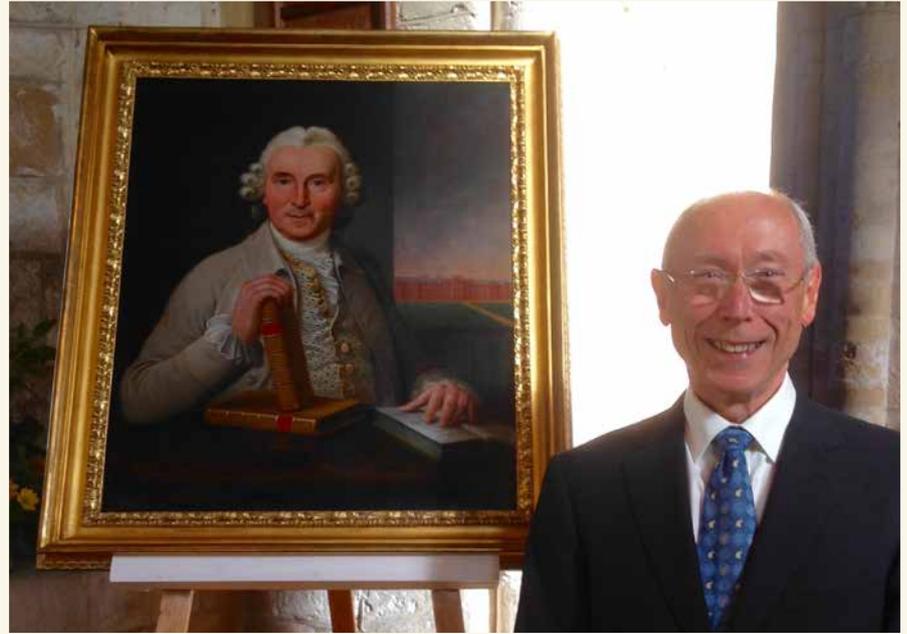
James Lind Tercentenary

by Paul Woodman

A remarkable man is honoured by a plaque in St Mary's Church, within Portchester Castle.

Dr James Lind is often recognised as 'The Father of Nautical Medicine' and is believed to be buried in the Church. A commemoration service was held in St Mary's on Sunday 2nd October to celebrate his Tercentenary; 300 years since his birth on the 4th October 1716.

The packed congregation included fifteen descendants of James Lind and their families, representatives of the Institute of Naval Medicine, the Royal Navy and the local community. On display was a large painting of Lind, especially brought over to England by the owners from South Africa. Local resident, Professor Ken Shaw, read a short biography of Dr Lind telling us



Professor Ken Shaw with the portrait of Dr James Lind

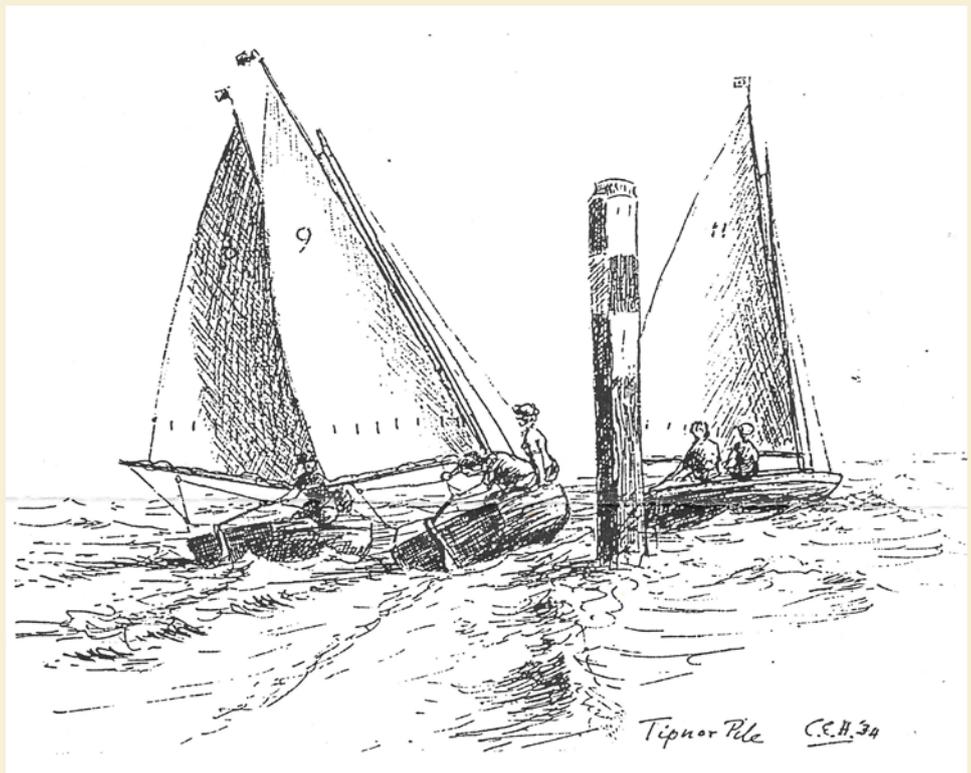
of his Royal Naval service as a ship's surgeon in the 1700s and the research he did on the cause and treatment of scurvy. In a full career, Lind went on to become Physician of the Royal Hospital at Haslar for twenty-five years.

The plaque on the wall inside St Mary's states 'Here lie the Remains of James

Lind M.D.' but uncertainty whether the remains are still in the Church might be addressed when the floor is taken up early next year to install the new under floor heating. The headstone was recently rediscovered below the walls of the Castle and is being restored, so as to be placed in a more prominent position in the future.

Illustration Added to our Extensive Collection

Recently added to the Portchester Civic Society's collection is a copy of this wonderful drawing of Portchester Ducks rounding the Tipnor Pile. It was drawn by Commander C.E. Hamond in 1934, who designed and built 31 Ducks for Portchester Sailing Club.



Chairman's Newsletter

Dear Members,

I do hope you all had a good summer and enjoyed our lovely weather.

Our Garden Opening weekend's weather was excellent which contributed to a very busy but enjoyable two days. It was good to welcome friends and regulars visitors but also great to welcome so many new faces. From the proceeds of the weekend Paul and I were delighted to be able to donate £350 towards the publishing of Bryan Jerrard's new book, Portchester, a Community History. As many of you know, Bryan is an enthusiastic historian and an asset to us all in Portchester. I am happy to support him with the launch of the book at our 5th November, 'Memories of Portchester' exhibition in the Parish Hall. The Mayor of Fareham, Connie Hockley and our local Member of Parliament, Suella Fernandes have promised to attend but of course the exhibition will have taken place by the time you read this. The Portchester Civic Society has donated £500 to assist with the

book's publication. Bryan is self-funding producing the book but our committee felt that supporting the book follows our constitution aims, one of which is 'to educate the public in key aspects of the area'. I must thank Bryan for leading the Heritage Open Days walks through the Castle Street Conservation area again this year. He had 26 followers, which was good considering the bad weather over the weekend.

I attended the funeral recently of John Towse, a pillar of Portchester, a diver and instrumental in finding the wreck of the Mary Rose. It was a real pleasure to work with John. When I chaired the Portchester Society John was a committee member, always there to defend Portchester and what it stands for in the history books. I was pleased that even when there was a disagreement, and the consequent split, over the demolition of the old Parish Hall and building the new one, we still remained friends. I respected John's passion for the old hall even though there were now two societies in Portchester. This of course is now history, having taken place in 1999, but unfortunately there are still a few people who still hold a grudge to this day. Having been chair of both societies I would love to see just one. Many belong to both societies, but only time will tell!

Many members of the Society have signed the petition to support the retention of the name 'Portchester' in our postal address. We want to keep our own identity.

St Mary's Church proposed new extension

I am watching closely the proposal from St Mary's Church, headed by the Rev. Ian Meredith to build an extension on the west side of the church. It appears, from the architect's drawings, to be a massive project that will need a tremendous fundraising effort, but I find it exciting. The Castle has kept up with progress over the centuries from its original four walls to becoming a Royal Palace with an imposing Keep. The church building has also evolved and I believe these plans will provide for the needs of the community in the 21st century. I am particularly interested in the proposed museum room as this has always been a passion of mine to have a permanent place to display the Society, and others, pictures and artifacts of Portchester for all to see. However I do realise that the whole project will need very careful consideration and planning, but I do look forward to the outcome.



New Lidl Store Building 7 October 2016



Catholic Church 1999



Catholic Church Site 2016

Planning

- The construction of the new Lidl store is progressing well so we should be able to do some Christmas shopping there!
- The Society objected to the access arrangements to the Merjen Engineering site and await the decision whether to build flats on the site.
- Cranleigh Road Planning Application Appeal - Persimmon Homes has appealed the Council's decision to refuse its planning application to develop land and proposal to build up to 120 homes with access from Cranleigh Road, along with public open space and a play area. The

Society has strongly objected to this application yet again.

- The former Catholic Church site in White Hart Lane has a new planning application after the previous one ran out after three years of no building work commencing. The new plan is for 8 instead of 7 houses, with even fewer parking spaces. We welcome building on this now derelict site but object to the density of houses and the parking problems that will ensue.
- We are following closely the clearing of the site at Wicor near Mordaunt Drive. If a planning application should ever be submitted then we will comment after studying the facts.

- Victory Travel coaches are causing a nuisance to residents in the Cranleigh Road area. We have contacted Fareham Borough Council and they tell us they are dealing with the problem.
- A revised application to build houses on the industrial site in Windmill Grove has been submitted. The height of the properties to the front of the site has been reduced but we still object to the raising of the land by 1.5 metres.

Regards,
Hazel

I Remember

by Violet Victoria Pratt

I remember Portchester from a very early age, being born on 27th January 1901 at Nelson Cottages, Castle Street. At that time it really was a rural village consisting of about 500 acres. There were no amenities as now, no water from the taps, only wells or pumps which were mainly outside of the houses. No gas or electricity, no drainage or salvage, no bathrooms and the streets were lit by paraffin lamps; a Mr Carter was the lamplighter. There were deep ditches for drainage each side of Castle Street and were often full of water; the paths were edged by grass verges. To go to Cosham or Fareham one usually walked both ways as money was very scarce and wages low.

I was one of a family of ten, which was quite usual at that time. Workers on the land earned from fifteen shillings to a pound a week and to get pocket money was unheard of. Yet my childhood was a very happy one. I had good parents whom we loved and respected. I went to school at an early age, the school still here in Castle Street. We had a very strict schoolmaster but he also taught us things of value; honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness and many, many things besides. People would go to him with their problems, and in fact he was the village lawyer. He joined in all the activities of the village, May Day celebrations etc. The children on the 1st May would assemble in the school playground with May boughs of nut or elm branches with spring flowers, the girls had hoops of staves decorated with the same. Mrs Alcot of Alcot's Farm near the school was an invalid and loved to see the children. There we were given a halfpenny each then made a tour of the various big houses and sung May songs and were given coppers. This money we would save or give to our parents.

There was one butcher's shop in the village, and often one would go to the shop for various people before school and earn a copper. Boys would go with a truck and get manure from the roads and sell it to the gentry for sixpence a truck load, or they would hold a horse's head for a driver. I think our family were the first to take the Evening News from Stanhope Road, Portsmouth. We had to be at the Railway Station at 6pm and the bundle would be thrown out by the guard. Then they were delivered at various houses. At that time they were a



Nelson Cottages

halfpenny each but not many working class people had them.

I remember meadows around cut for hay and women and children tossing and turning it with pitchforks and the harvesting of corn. Yet in spite of people being poor they all seemed happier and contented and went around singing at their work. As the families grew up the elder ones left home, the girls usually into gentlefolk's service and the boys joined the Army or Navy or worked on the land. We seemed to have more fogs in those days and on our way to school could hear the hoot of ships coming into harbour. They were coal burning ships and cinders and half-burned candles were thrown overboard to float up on the seashore. Most children went beach combing to pick up coke, candles and driftwood to help with the fires. Coal was one shilling and sixpence a hundredweight but that was almost more than one could afford. Yet home was a happy place and we were always allowed to have a friend to play. Mother made big bread puddings with raisins which we all shared. Oranges we only saw at Christmas time, but in spite of everything we were happy, no bad language or quarreling was allowed.

My eldest brother joined the Navy as a boy and was killed by the sinking of HMS Bulwark; the next one joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers and went to Scotland. He too was killed in action February 1915 in France. With the coming of the war my childhood ended and things changed, we had the sea burst through the banks and flood the village in 1916. Then wells were full of salt water and useless so water was brought by pipeline; then gas followed and electricity. We changed from a Parish Council to a District

Council and things improved so much I could write but I look back and remember Portchester was free for children to play in the meadows and sea and hill and only the clop, clop of horses' feet. Even the doctor had to visit on horseback from Fareham and one had to walk there to get the medicine. We had no chemist or nurse but mothers managed without hire purchase or debts and the welfare state.

Editors notes

I was given this story some time ago but was unable to identify the author. Through our Local Historians group, Terry Bridger came up with the answer and a considerable amount of research on the Pratt family in Portchester.

Terry tells me "The author was Violet Victoria Pratt, born 27 January 1901 – her middle name most likely chosen to pay respect to the late Queen who had died only 5 days earlier. Violet married Walter Maynard in 1924 but several tragedies befell the men in her family. Walter, a Chief Petty Officer Cook was killed in action on 14 May 1940 aboard HMS Wivern, age 42. His name appears on both the Portsmouth Memorial and one in Hook. As mentioned in the story, her two eldest brothers were also killed. William by an internal explosion on HMS Bulwark off Sheerness on 26 November 1914, aged 27. Just three months later Henry was killed on 27 February 1915, aged 23.

In light of the several tragedies that befell the men in her family, her article is remarkably upbeat. She remembers her childhood with warmth despite these privations and losses.

Violet never married again and died in the spring of 1988."

Thank you Terry.

A Boy's World. Portchester in the 1940s

by Malcolm Cooper

I first came to Portchester when the family moved here in October 1945. It was very different then to what it is now. There was a lot more open space although a lot of developments had taken place during the 1930s. Most of the roads were just gravel whilst White Hart Lane and the lower end of Castle Street still had ditches along the side of the roads.

My first recollection is of being taken to Castle Street School by my mother, only to be told that because we lived west of Neville Avenue I would have to go to school at Wicor, to which I was duly sent. Now, Castle Street School was a brick built building; Wicor School was wooden huts lined with a material akin to cardboard. This made the classrooms hot in summer and cold in the winter. The only source of heat was a black pot-bellied stove. If you were lucky enough to sit at the front of the class during the winter you managed to get some warmth. If you were unlucky and sat at the back of the class you froze!

In our free time we spent most of our time along the shore. At the bottom of Grove Avenue there was a series of small ponds. These were a great attraction for sailing model boats, home made of course. An even bigger attraction was when the ponds froze over during the winter. It's amazing how many small boys can stand on it before it gives way! On many occasions we went home wet through or covered in mud.

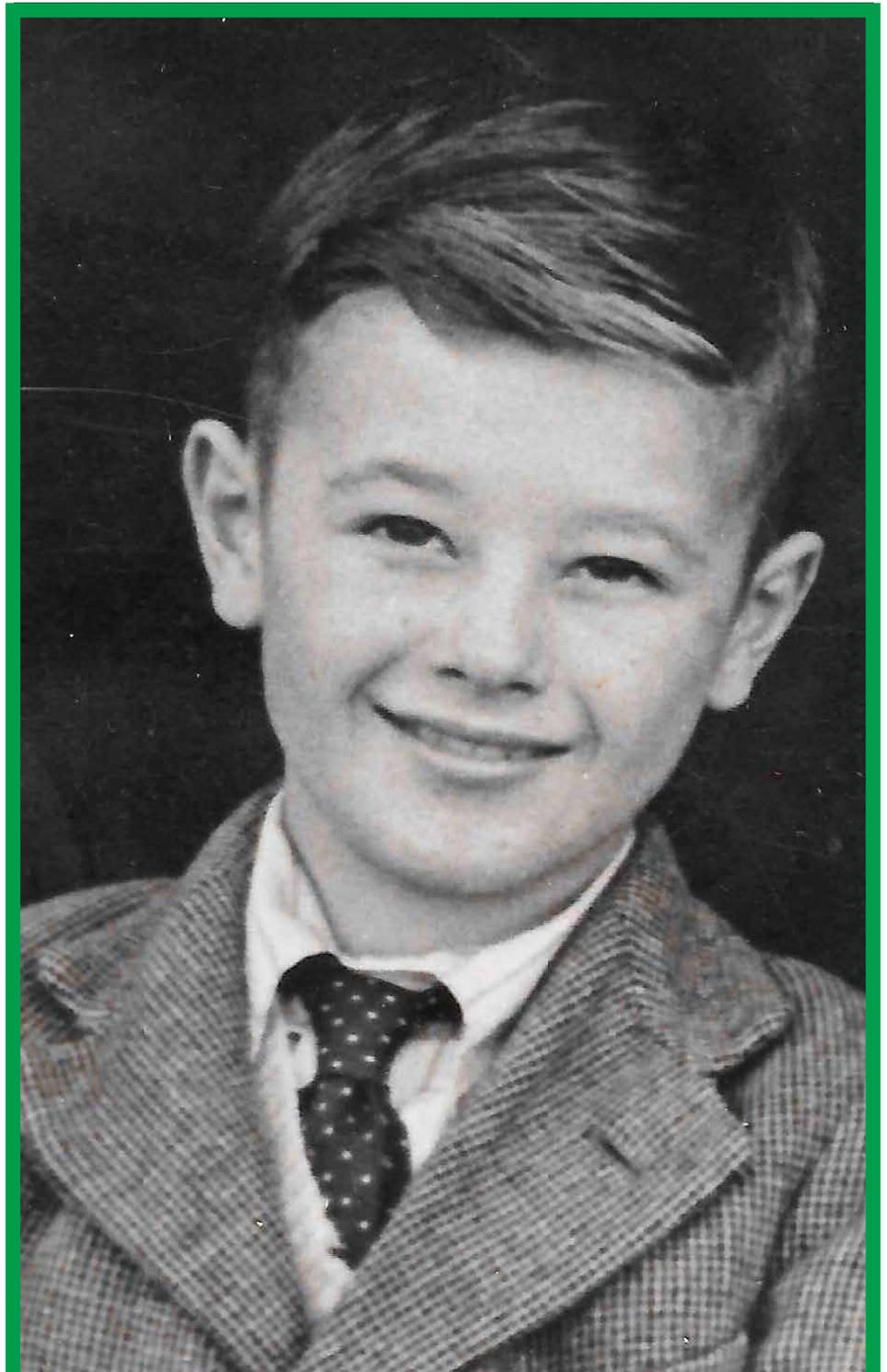
Because there was so much freedom to play and there were a fair number of boys around the same age the escapades were straight out of Mark Twain. We were all budding Huckleberry Finns. We would sometimes go out to Peewit Island at low tide, make a raft, go to the chalk pit in Hill Road, go swimming in the summer, play football and cricket, make bows, arrows, catapults and light fires to cook potatoes straight on the fire.

A great influence on us at this time was the Saturday morning cinema at the Savoy in Fareham. We saw films such as Flash Gordon, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and his famous horse, Trigger. You could tell

by watching the children coming out of the cinema the type of film they had seen. If it was make believe sword fencing it would probably been a Robin Hood film. Make believe shooting; probably cowboys. One film in particular I remember, which had a great affect on us was The Conquest of Everest. We were so impressed after being taken by the school to see this epic. It just had to be re-enacted! Duly a few of us and my younger brother made for the large chalk pit in Hill Road, and in true mountaineering

spirit had my brother hanging over the edge of the chalk pit on a length of old washing line. Oh, if mum had known! It's a wonder that any of us reached adulthood.

I could go on with a lot more anecdotes but I don't want to bore anyone. Most people of a certain age who live in Portchester and were young at the time will have some wonderful memories of growing up without all the material 'must haves' of today's generation – happy days.



Malcolm Cooper, aged 11

Jack Froggatt - One of Pompey's Finest

Contributed by David Williams

Many visitors to St. Mary's churchyard quickly become aware of the extent of the interest to be found there. None more so than to discover that the remains of Jack Froggatt, the former Portsmouth and England international footballer, are buried there in his wife's family grave. In September 2014 the remains of Winifred Irene, his wife, were buried there to join

her father Edward Thomas Rutledge – February 1946 and her mother Mary Ann – May 1956.

Jack Froggatt was one of the finest ever to have worn the Pompey royal blue. His Fratton Park career started initially as an outside left in 1945 while still in the RAF and he crowned his debut at The Dell, Southampton with a second half goal. He later became the Club's centre-half. Froggatt's robust running and sharp shooting won him England recognition and between 1949 and 1953 he won 13 full caps and had the unusual distinction of playing in three different positions.

Jack was Sheffield born and shared a talent for football with his uncle Frank, a former captain of Sheffield Wednesday and his cousin, Redfern, who also played for them. Jack's early days was spent working in his father's butcher shop. He eventually set-up home in Castle Street and during the summer

played cricket at Portchester Castle for Portchester Cricket Club.

Jack played 279 times, scoring 65 goals for Portsmouth and formed part of the club's formidable and most powerful half-back line in immediate post-war football as Pompey won consecutive First Division titles in 1948-49 and 1949-50. In 1954 he reluctantly agreed to be transferred to Leicester City and finally ended his playing career at Kettering Town in 1963. During his time at Kettering he was also their player manager until 1961.

At the end of his playing career he returned to Portsmouth and became a publican, spending 22 years in the trade. He was licensee at Manor Place then The Milton Arms and finally kept a hotel in Partridge Green, West Sussex. He died suddenly in February 1993 aged 70 and his ashes were brought back to St. Mary's.



PORTCHESTER. CRICKET CLUB

T. SPARSOTT. Mc.DONALD. H. WILSON. G. WILKINSON, SR. G. WILKINSON JUNR. W. BAILEY. R. HARRIS. T. ROBINSON
 W. PRATT. V. HANNANT. CWILSTEAD. A. DULANT
 G. DULANT. R. RIDGE F. RIDGE J. FROGGATT G. RUSSELL. Mrs. RUSSELL
 CAPT SCORER

Portchester Cricket Club in the 1950s - Jack Froggatt 3rd from right in the front row

WANTED

SPOTTED IN PORTCHESTER
- DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?



★ IF SEEN PLEASE TAKE CARE. ★
HE HAS BEEN COLLARED BEFORE!

Warings Field

Contributed by David Williams

Off Castle Street behind the vicarage there is situated a recreation area. This was originally known as Warings field. Warings,

a building contractor company, was based on part of the site now known as Castle Trading Estate and were next to Vosper's the boat builders. The field, in the late 1940s, was a bit of a meadow as it was below high tide and regularly became flooded especially at the Castle end. There used to be a ditch all along the pathway from Vosper's to near Portchester Sailing Club to help alleviate the problem. The ditch was regularly quite full. As Vosper's needed a good draft of

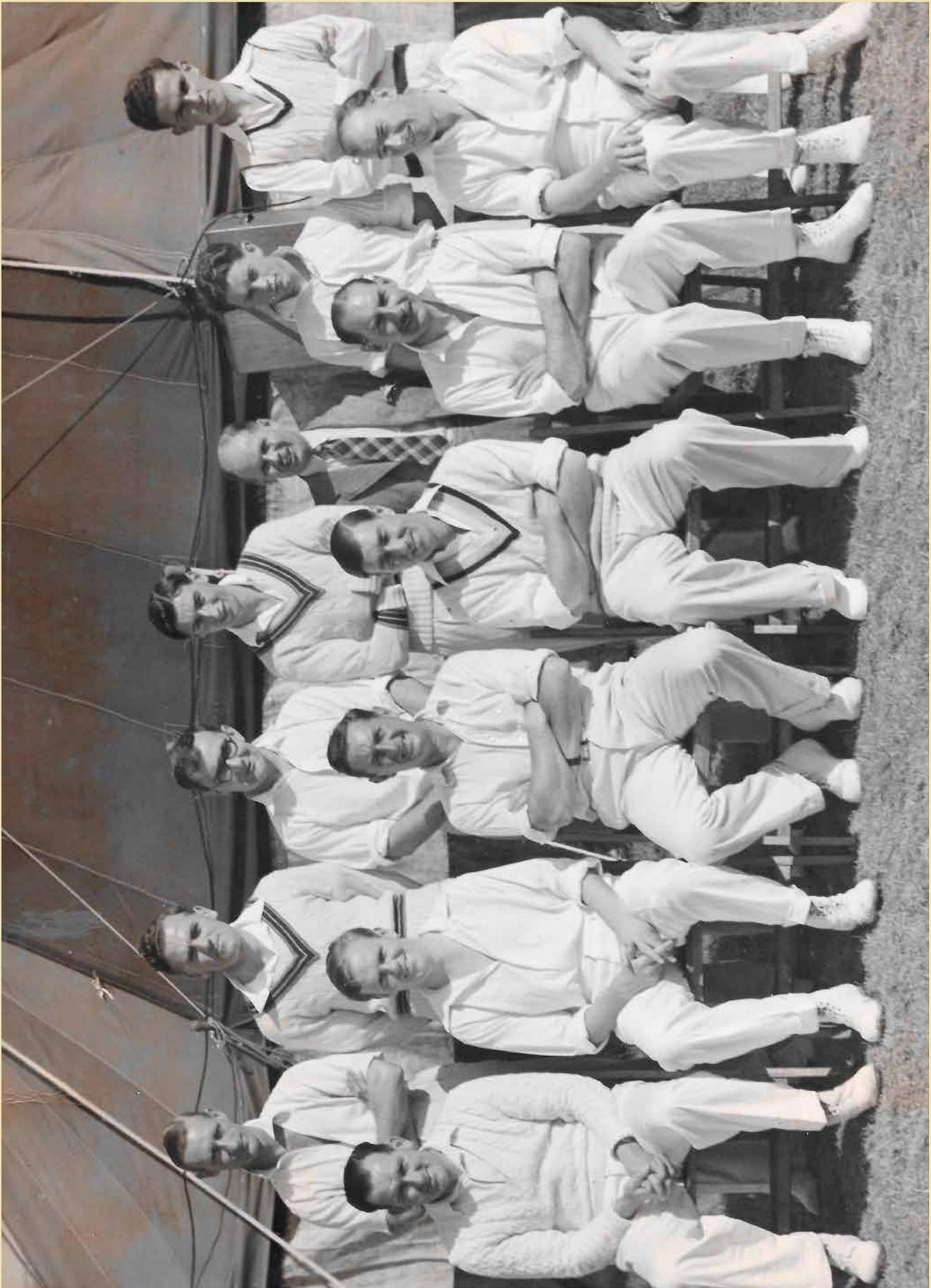
water to launch the MTBs and other craft, Portchester Creek was regularly dredged. This meant there was always a good depth of water, which enabled two or maybe three houseboats to permanently be moored alongside the field. The owners were kept on the rounds of the local traders and had power supply.

The managing director of Warings was a Yorkshire man and a keen cricketer. He thought he would install a cricket square and stage regular games in the field. One of earliest fixtures there was between a Fareham & District Select XI and a Yorkshire Nomads XI. Captain of the Nomads XI was none other than Norman Yardley, former captain of England and Yorkshire. The photograph shows Norman Yardley sitting fourth from left in the front row with the Select XI and umpire. The match ended in a draw and Norman Yardley did afterwards admit the square was rather damp and soft and the whole ground needed better drainage and protection from the high tides. In the end Warings decided not to pursue the idea of having a cricket ground there and the field was given over for community use. It is now managed by Fareham Borough Council and with the sea wall improved the field no longer is as waterlogged. The end of dredging did lead to the creek becoming silted up so there is less depth of water even at flood tides.

Portchester Ratepayers Association did use the field on one occasion for a summer fete that proved very popular. The fete was opened by Cyril Fletcher, the English comedian, actor and businessman. He was well known for his odd odes, which he always introduced with 'Pin back your lugholes'. He was also a regular panellist on the panel show 'What's My Line'. The photograph shows him posing for the writer of this piece whose father, Charles Williams, was Secretary of the Association at the time and organiser of the fete. Members may also remember in those days the Ratepayers Association put up candidates for election to the old Fareham Urban District Council and had a number of successes.



Cyril Fletcher on Warings Field - 1950s



Portchester Cricket club c1950 – Norman Yardley 4th from left in the front row

Website Update

Late last year we were advised that our website was going to have to be upgraded, so that it would work on the host's new servers. A necessary evil it seemed as technology had improved but then some older programmes would not work on the newer systems (including our website). It came at a good time though, as studies have shown that more and more people are accessing the internet via their smart phone or tablet and, from looking at our website on these devices, it was not giving a good user experience on these mediums.

It proved to be a lengthy process, (far longer than all of us envisaged) as

some of the background programmes involved were found to have "bugs" in them (this meant they would not work correctly) so it took rather longer to get updated. In June though, the new website was completed and unveiled.

Most of the content of the website has not changed much though, only the layout, which does make it look much more modern and easier to read on mobile devices and computers. The Homepage has a new layout and feel to it; the Gallery has been updated with some 'new' and bigger photographs, making it easier to see them and we have changed the layout of the Events page to make it easier to read. We hope you like it. All in all, the new website has a much more modern appearance, one which we can utilise for years to come.

As an aside, as some of you may be aware, we have been branching out into the Social Media spectrum too, getting ourselves on Facebook, Twitter and Streetlife. This (we hope) will increase our popularity for a new generation of people; helping our society to thrive in the 21st century and beyond. If you are a member of these social media websites please log in and Like or follow us to spread the word to your friends etc.

As a footnote, if you have any pictures of Portchester from the past, or old school pictures, which you would like to share, we would be happy to scan them and include in our collection.

John Morgan
Website & Social Media Editor

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2017

Tuesday 17 January

National Coast Watch Institution
by Terry Lott

Tuesday 21 February

The Life of an Iranian Housewife
by Sandra Simmons

Tuesday 21 March

Portchester Sea Defences
by Sarah Ball

Tuesday 18 April

Follies and Towers in Hampshire
by Janice Bennetts

Tuesday 16 May

What the Butler Saw
by Bob France

Tuesday 20 June

Saxons in the Meon Valley
by Guy Liardet

Tuesday 19 September

'Change and Decay' The Evolution of the English Parish Church
by Reverend Ian Meredith

Tuesday 17 October

Life after Iran
by Sandra Simmonds

Saturday 11 November

Memories of Portchester Exhibition
Parish Hall, 10am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 21 November

Gunwharf Quays
by Mike Underwood

December TBA

Christmas Party

**WE WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
AND VISITORS**

**PARISH HALL
CASTLE STREET
PORTCHESTER
PO16 9PY**

PORTCHESTER MATTERS

The Newsletter of the Portchester Civic Society

Founded 2000 | Registered Charity No. 1090509

Member of:

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England); BTCV; NCVO; Solent Protection Society; Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust; Portsmouth Harbour Conservation Group

For further information please contact our Chairman Hazel Woodman: 02392 382778

www.PortchesterCivicSociety.co.uk