

Looking Back...

Weekly nostalgia picture supplement
looking back at life in Petersfield and
East Hampshire



SUPPLEMENT PRODUCED BY THE PETERSFIELD POST AND BORDON POST

LOOKING BACK

Village history goes back to the Bronze and Iron Ages of early man

Welcome to our weekly eight-page supplement featuring photographs and memories from bygone times in East Hampshire

11. EAST MEON

By Post Reporter
www.petersfieldpost.co.uk
Newsdesk: 01730 232605

WITH its old cottages lining the banks of the river Meon, popular inns and ancient church, East Meon is a picturesque corner of the district which has attracted artists and photographers for generations.

Its history goes back to the Bronze and Iron Ages with the fortifications of Old Winchester Hill overlooking the village to the south.

Then it was part of a Royal Manor belonging first to King Alfred the Great. The Domesday Survey of 1086 shows that the manor then belonged to William the Conqueror – it records six mills and land for 64 ploughs.

The village church of All Saints was built soon after the Norman conquest and contains an unusual font made of black Tournai marble.

One of the most notable buildings is the old Court House, a mediaeval hall dating from the late 15th century.

At this time, and for many centuries, East Meon belonged to successive Bishops of Winchester. The Court House was its administrative centre and home to a number of monks who played host to the Bishop when he visited.

Parliamentarians camped nearby before the battle of Cheriton

During the Civil War of the 1640s, Cromwell's Parliamentarians camped near the village before the battle of Cheriton in 1644, and it is

said that they stole the lead lining from the font in order to make their bullets.

Since then, East Meon has remained a peaceful centre of a thriving rural community.

It's not certain if there is a direct link between the au-

thor of The Compleat Angler and the pub in the village which bears his name, The Izaak Walton, but the writer is buried in Winchester Cathedral and it is quite possible he fished in the Meon which rises in the downs a short distance away.

In November 2013, the other village pub, Ye Olde George, hosted the 150th anniversary of the Forbes Almshouses, which were established in 1863 by Mrs Forbes, of Berleigh House, the centre of a large estate north of the village, now owned by the Tyrwhitt-Drake family.

From 1941 to 1993, another country estate, Leydene House, was used by the Royal Navy's HMS Mercury for signalling and communications.

TELL US MORE

+ YOU CAN CALL THE POST ON 01730 232600, E-MAIL REPORTERS (SEE LETTERS PAGE FOR CONTACT DETAILS) OR SEE THE WEBSITE

www.petersfieldpost.co.uk



Riplington Farm, c. 1905

READERS' COMMENTS

'By-pass' was one of the first turnpikes

AN INTEREST in genealogy and local history led Nick Stuart to collect old postcards, which he has found either through internet sites or at fairs, such as the regular ones held at Petersfield Community Centre.

Mr Stuart, who has lived in the Petersfield area most of his life and now has a home in Sheet, says that he just keeps a look-out for local views as part of his hobby research-

ing his own family history and that of the locality.

He said that the road past the Half Moon public house, the old A3, was one of the earliest turnpike roads in England, being established in 1711.

The unsurfaced route through Sheet, by way of Village Street and Town Lane, was unusable for much of the year, causing great difficulty to travellers between

Portsmouth and London, especially those on Royal Navy business, hence the need for a maintained road, by-passing Sheet.

Mr Stuart is studying old maps of the area and says ancient tracks in the area used by drovers could have included Harrow Lane at Steep.

He is a founder member of Petersfield Archaeological Group, which started in March, 2013.

SHEET



Village green was quieter a century ago

THIS IS another view of Sheet village e-mailed to us by reader Nick Stuart, following our Looking Back supplement about the area on December 18. This postcard from his collection shows Sheet Green looking down Village Street and was taken around 1900.

LOOKING BACK



Home Guard unit believed to be at Bereleigh House 1940



Savage and Parsons delivery cart

LOOKING BACK



Fire in East Meon 1910



Farriers c. 1909

LOOKING BACK



East Meon village viewed from Park Hill 1935



Hobbs and Sons, 1905

LOOKING BACK



Reed Cottage



Parsons shop

LOOKING BACK



Brook Cottages, East Meon 1947



Morris dancers outside the New Inn, now known as the Izaak Walton, 1960s



Fife and drum band, East Meon

LOOKING BACK



Foresters day, 1906



East Meon war memorial 1903