

Lion Pride



There have been many fruitless searches for a portrait of William Price. In spite of ambition and energy, none has been successful and so, for the time being, it must be assumed there is no such image of the man whose benefaction left an important legacy to the Town.

The essence of that legacy has also disappeared from view with the demolition of the Park Lane buildings and so, we are left with the images only of the Price's School and College late Headmasters and Principals, in appreciation for their oversight of William Price's legacy.



Stephen Bradly



George Ashton




Eric Poyner



Peter Watkins

Chapter 23 A Portrait of William Price

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Lion Pride | Chapter 23 |  |
| | A Portrait of William Price | |



?

A search for a W.P. portrait has defeated the most recent and vigorous of endeavours. So, it has to be accepted that there isn't one. A pity. The image here is of a man of W.P.'s time and this will have to do, in spite of all else we might uncover for the man.

Of his times he was thoughtful and considerate, willing and able to use his accruing work proceeds in a cause that was popular then – creating a charitable benefit for poorer people.

The life and times of W.P. as evidenced by scarce detail, unearthed painstakingly by Paul Gover in Chapter 7 *The Charity School and the Family Price*, and set into context there by Mike Duffy's opening, contextual Essay, gives us an intellectual concept of the man

The bare bones of Paul and Mike's academic research have added to them by some interesting and fascinating research also by **Charles Evans** who has added to his own academic study of the School's and the College's **Examination Performance** with some imaginative pieces of his own, that follow in their own Performance Chapter. A short piece on the School's foundation leads onto the tale of "Jack the Lad" developing a theme of how the poor of the time were able to eke out the family income. Charles applies imagination then to become the ghost of W.P. who, from time to time revisits his *alma mater* to view and assess the application of his foundation to the requirements of his Will – a sort of OFSTED Inspection before its time. Unable to avoid being the mathematician he is, and a statistician to boot, Charles' parting gesture, as W.P.'s spirit wings-away to his heavenly comforts, is the award a grade for conformity to the inaugural criteria, i.e. a % evaluation, although in his haste, he overlooks the need to set his evaluation into the context of sample size, mean and standard devaluation of his sampling, and to issue a set of improvement targets.

N.B. It is also doubtful that this itinerant ghost bothered even to check that the criteria against which the measure was made, would fit the School into the same class as other such Schools! Must do better, next time - The Rise and Fall of Price's School!

The search for a portrait of WP led Charles into a studious quest in the hostelries of the Town before his search glass was empty. Nevertheless he did not leave empty-handed, but with some interesting picture studies of the Town's past. The image here, also of an 18th century man, will have to be all we have to go on – imagination.

The search for a portrait of William Price

Charles Evans, Honorary Vice President Ghost

On Friday July 2, 1971 to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of Price's School the Fareham edition of the Evening News carried a full page feature under the title "The School that Mr Price built". At that time the Park Lane School was thriving under the third and final headmaster Mr E A B Poyner. The article included the following paragraph:

No one knows what Mr William Price, the founder of Price's School, looked like. There are no portraits of him in existence, as far as the managers and the staff of the school know.

For 2008, the Society of Old Priceans celebrated the centenary of the opening of Price's School in Park Lane Fareham. At an earlier Annual General Meeting it was remarked that there was no known portrait of William Price.

At this point several Old Priceans who lived in the area declared that there used to be a portrait of William Price in Wetherspoons public house - The Lord Arthur Lee, 100-108 West Street, Fareham.

The picture together with others, featuring historical information and images of important people with connections to the area such as William Shakespeare, Lord Arthur Lee himself, Henry Cort and William Makepeace Thackeray had been displayed on the walls. However, following an unfortunate incident which resulted in its closure for some months, the likeness of William Price had never been replaced.

The incident, to which they referred, took place on 2 September 2003 when a drinker, one Stephen Lewry, 36, who had been evicted from the pub, took revenge by reversing his Vauxhall Cavalier through the front doors and driving around inside the bar, destroying tables, chairs and glasses and causing £300,000 worth of damage. He had been thrown out the night before for begging for drinks from other customers. Earlier he had broken 12 of the buildings windows with a large weightlifter's dumbbell.

A witness said "It was terrifying, he was driving around the pub for what seemed like 5 minutes, pulling three point turns and taking out pillars. If the pub had been busier he would have killed someone. It happened half an hour after opening, and only four customers were in the pub. None of them was injured." The culprit received 3 years probation, a sentence which did not please the Wetherspoons staff or its customers.

The late David Williams, who was the main organiser of the 2008 celebrations, was convinced that he had seen the picture of William Price displayed at Wetherspoons and decided to contact them to see if he could obtain a copy for the Society. In an email to me dated 15 February 2011 David wrote

I was aware that when Wetherspoons opened The Lord Arthur Lee in Fareham there were a series of panels depicting famous people connected with the town. They were designed by an architect. One of them was of Price's School founded by William Price. I remembered it as having an image of William Price with a narrative about the foundation of the school. It was my aim to see if I could borrow the panel for the Exhibition. However I discovered it had been

damaged when a car owner drove his car through the entrance of the pub. It was not reproduced following the extensive repair and no one at Fareham or their property department knew what happened to the panel. I was given a lead to the architect who very kindly examined his files and finally discovered his design work. However it was minus an image and instead there was a blank space. He searched to see if he had managed to locate an image but only found that he had delivered his design to Wetherspoons as it was. This left them to complete it. As you will now realise I have since been making a number of enquiries to perhaps locate an image with no luck so far. I have some further opportunities to perhaps discover it but it does take time. I had hoped The News' discovery was it but clearly they feel it is not because they published the piece about William Price with a just an image of The Lion!

Unfortunately all his enquiries were unsuccessful. Wetherspoons apparently could not find William Price.

It was at this point that I and others became involved and decided to use the internet to try to locate the image. After much effort, David did obtain a picture of a rather impressive William Price but it was clearly not an eighteenth century portrait and it turned out to be of a nineteenth century American with the same name.



For the 2021 event, I resolved to make yet another attempt to obtain a likeness of the founder of Price's School. I had thoughts of appealing to members of the public who may have taken photographs in Wetherspoons in the hope that one might have caught the missing image.

Before doing this however, I made another effort with the internet and although unsuccessful I did discover that Wetherspoons had a second pub - the Crown Inn at 40 West Street, Fareham.

Moreover, I discovered that this pub had the set of pictures that were displayed in the Lord Arthur Lee and indeed these do give a fairly comprehensive idea of Fareham and significant historical figures from the past. However there is no portrait or indeed mention of William Price. There are eleven pictures in this collection; we must presume that there may have been twelve in the Lord Arthur Lee.

From the David Williams email we can deduce that the picture relating to Price's School was delivered to Wetherspoons without a picture of William Price. Wetherspoons obtained a picture they believed to be of William Price; possibly *The News* supplied them with one. However this picture is unlikely to have been the founder of Price's School because when an article was published, the picture which accompanied it was not of William Price but simply Price's Lion.

Reluctantly therefore we must conclude that no Old Priceans saw a genuine picture of the founder of Price's School in Wetherspoons. George Ashton and Eric Poyner were almost certainly correct; there is not and never has been a portrait of William Price. It would be a revelation if ever one was discovered.

The eleven pictures displayed in The Crown Inn follow:





The earlier version of Carnarvon House was one of Parliament's grandest mansions. The original version, however, was destroyed by architectural changes. By the time of the Civil War, in the mid-17th century, the house had 15 fireplaces and was home to the Russell family.

In 1770 a new neoclassical style mansion was designed by Joseph Lanyon. In 1771, Carnarvon House was bought by Peter Daines, second great uncle, the wife, Lady Elizabeth Howard, had her portrait painted by Joshua Reynolds, one of the leading artists of the 18th



century had commenced with the Tories, until the last member of the family died in 1888. The estate then had several gardens and eventually had nine acreage. However, it has since been renovated and is now home to a golf course and a leisure park.

The 18th The south front of Carnarvon. Above Carnarvon House the north, c. 1840. Right: Lady Elizabeth Howard and her children, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1771

In the Grand Manner





Lord Arthur Lee

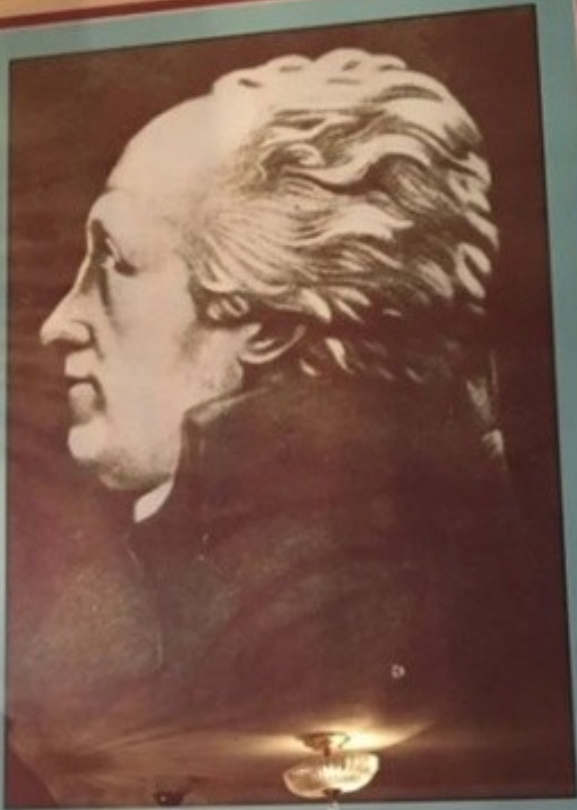
J.D. Wetherpoon's other farmhouse in Farnham is also situated on West Street. It bears the name of the man who was once MP for the town and gave his country house - Chequers - to the nation as the official country retreat of British prime ministers.

Born in Brixport, Dorset, in 1866, Arthur Lee's father died when he was a child and he was sent to various boarding schools. Lee later became a diplomat and married the daughter of a wealthy American banker.

During the First World War he served in the coalition government headed by Lloyd George. In 1922 he was elevated to the House of Lords as Viscount Lee of Farnham. With Samuel Courtauld he founded the Courtauld Institute of Art, which included several works collected by Lee himself.

Above left: Arthur Lee in Canada, 1895
Above right: Civil Lord of the Admiralty, 1903-5
Right: The south front of Chequers





Fareham's Man of Iron

Henry Cort - "Fareham's 18th Century Man of Iron" - altered the course of history. His new processes for "rolling" and "puddling" iron played a vital part in the Industrial Revolution and also helped England win the Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century.

Born in Lancaster, in 1746, Cort took over the large forge at Fontley, in Hampshire, in 1778. His new processes for producing iron were a great success. However, his financial backer, Adam Jellicoe, had "borrowed" the money from the Navy Pay Office.

Cort was ruined. He and his large family moved to London, where he was later granted a government pension. He is remembered in Fareham by the "Henry Cort Sculpture Park", situated in the pedestrianised area of West Street.

Top right: Henry Cort
Top left and above: A bill hammer, viewed romantically and photographically
Right: The forge at Fontley where Cort experimented with his iron puddling process





Titchfield

Located alongside the River Meon, Titchfield became part of Fareham Urban District (now Fareham Borough Council) in 1933. The ancient Church of Saint Peter dates back to the late seventh century - pre-dating Titchfield Abbey by more than 300 years.

The Abbey dominated the area until it was "dissolved" in 1537, by King Henry VIII. It was given to Thomas Woodhouse, who converted it into Place House and took the title Earl of Southampton.

Henry, the Barmy 2nd Earl, built a star-shaped hall in Titchfield, in the early 17th century. He was also the patron of William Shakespeare and imprisoned in the Tower of London for plotting against Elizabeth I. He was later released by James I and died, with his eldest son, while fighting in Holland.

To: right: Henry Woodhouse imprisoned in the Tower To: left: The Chamber Portrait of Shakespeare, the most probable likeness that we have. Clockwise: Elizabeth I, Southampton's wife. Above: Titchfield Abbey, 1731. Above right: Place House with the Arden bridge in the background, c.1830. Right: Place House c.1930.





William Makepeace Thackeray

The 19th century novelist is best known for his satirical novel *Vanity Fair*, first published, in instalments, in 1847-48. Born in India, Thackeray's father died when he was three and his mother sent him to be educated in England.

The young Thackeray detested the boarding school he attended in Southampton. However, he loved the many happy holidays he spent in Farnham with his great-grandmother, Anna Beecher.

In adult life Thackeray returned to Farnham many times, to visit his aunt in West Street. He described the place as "a dear little old Hampshire town inhabited by the wives, widows and daughters of navy captains, admirals and lieutenants".

Top left: William Makepeace Thackeray, after a drawing by Samuel Laurence
Top right: Thackeray drawn by himself
Centre left: Engraving of Thackeray after a photograph taken in America
Above: Thackeray in the late 1830's
Left: Etching after a portrait by Samuel Laurence



West Street, c. 1905, looking towards the junction with High Street and East Street

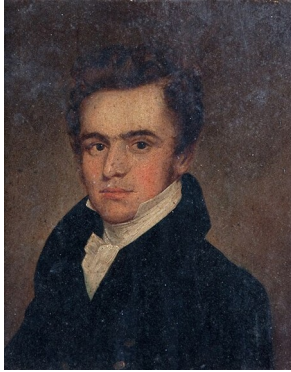




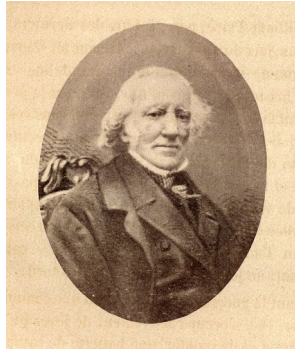


Other pictures of William Price

Using any well-known Internet search engine will return several pictures of William Price, but unfortunately not the William Price who founded Price's School in Fareham. A couple of the more notable, but incorrect, pictures are below:



Dr William Price (1800-1893) was a very colourful character, physician, Welsh nationalist and neo-Druid. His entertaining, if irrelevant to our purposes, life story is well worth reading.



William Price of Quebec (1789-1867) was at least a timber merchant, but in the wrong place and at the wrong time. This picture comes from Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec.

Chapter sequence in the Lion Pride

| Chapter No. | Title | Pages | File Size (KB) |
|-------------|--|-------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| 1 | The Cultural Life of the School | 43 | 6630 |
| 2 | Introduction | 11 | 4030 |
| 3 | Boarding and up to 1949 | 44 | 21,285 |
| 4 | The Buildings | 47 | 136,380 |
| 5 | The 50s, 60s and 70s. | 56 | 7,236 |
| 6 | Extracurricular Life of the School | 45 | 7,230 |
| 7 | The Charity School and the Family Price | 50 | 3,901 |
| 8 | The Cadet Force | 62 | 21,452 |
| 9 | Price's Sixth Form College | 82 | 55,700 |
| 10 | The Major Sports: Football, Hockey and Cricket 1 st XIs | 76 | 7,388 |
| 11 | Price's Timeline | 13 | 1,492 |
| 12 | The Price's (9 th Fareham) Scout Troop | 65 | 57,545 |
| 13 | Minor Sports | 112 | 43,857 |
| 14 | The Library | 21 | 14,578 |
| 15 | Athletics and the Steeplechase | 26 | 3,769 |
| 16 | Spirit of Adventure | 45 | 19,214 |
| 17 | Academic Performance | 66 | 12,925 |
| 18 | The Lion Magazine and Other Publications | 46 | 12,925 |
| 19 | Price's Creators | 142 | 30,009 |
| 20 | The Old Priceans | 76 | 17,703 |
| 21 | The Tercentenary Celebrations | 53 | 40,099 |
| 22 | Religion in the Life of the School. | 36 | 11,634 |
| 23 | A Portrait of William Price | 13 | 2,500 |
| 24 | Closing Thoughts | 11 | 23,214 |