

## *The Perfect English Village*

In 1990, the television presenter Nigel Farrell set out, in an old Morris Minor, to look for the "Perfect English Village". His first port of call was Bosham...



**Nigel:** Good morning.

**Tom:** Good morning. Don't leave your car here. It's not a wise thing to do.

**Nigel:** Really?

**Tom:** Yes. Just mark my words.

**Nigel:** But there are other cars parked here.

**Tom:** No—I am sorry, but don't.



**Nigel:** I spotted the chap again a little later. He turned out to be the Vicar of Bosham, no less—Tom Inman. Although quite what he was up to this morning wasn't immediately obvious.

**Tom:** Catherine?

**Catherine:** Going through.

**Tom:** Fine—OK.



**Tom:** Blessed be the first sight of land, and the mountains emerging from the clouds.

The sight of Bosham Church and the safe voyage end.



**Nigel:** I don't wish to sound too discourteous, but after some thought I have decided that Bosham perhaps isn't for me. I am a landlubber, and it's a bit too damp. But thank you for your hospitality.

**Tom:** I am sorry to hear that—we like it here! But if you want the perfect English village, I suggest you visit Lacock.

**Nigel:** Lacock—now where's that?

**Tom:** Lacock—it's in Wiltshire, about 100 miles to the west.

**Nigel:** 100 miles to the west.

**Tom:** That's it.

**Nigel:** Thank you very much.

**Tom:** OK!

*"The Perfect English Village" is available on DVD from Amazon.com*



## *Bosham on TV*



From time to time, Bosham has appeared in television programmes. Page 20 of the January 2010 issue of *Bosham Life* featured *'The Perfect English Village'*. Here are three more...

### *'Treasure Hunt'*

Series 6, Episode 4

'West Sussex'

10th March 1988

The helicopter landed Anneka Rice on Quay Meadow ('where Canute got his feet wet!'). The quaymaster took her on a boat ride to the cruiser 'All Hands', where she received a clue from Michael Bentine. The clue took her on to the Market Cross in Chichester.



### *'Poirot'*

Season 5, Episode 5

'The Adventure of the Italian Nobleman'

14th February 1993

Poirot, Hastings and Inspector Japp drive down to 'Chichester' (ie Bosham!). Hastings pursues the 'baddie' in a mad multi-car chase around the quay, High Street and Shore Road, ending with Hastings wrecking his brand new sports car. Remarkably, the tide is high at the quay, and low along Shore Road!

### *'Midsomer Murders'*

Series 1, Episode 2

'Written in Blood'

22nd March 1998

Barnaby and Troy travel to 'the seaside', where the body of a missing writer has been discovered. They wander around the quay discussing the case, which Troy manages to get completely wrong. It all turns out to be rather unpleasant!





## *Bosham on TV*



We have previously described four television programmes which have featured Bosham—



The Perfect English Village (*Bosham Life*, January 2010, page 20), Treasure Hunt, Poirot and Midsomer Murders (*Bosham Life*, February 2012, page 16). We can now add another programme to the list. About two years ago, David Dimbleby visited Bosham in his wooden sailing boat ‘Rocket’, for episode two of the four-part BBC1 series ‘Britain and the Sea’. It was screened on 17th November 2013. He visited the quay and the church, and talked about the Romans, the Vikings and King Harold. Joan Langhorne co-ordinated his visit, and was acknowledged in the credits.

## *Bosham on TV*



Bosham was the venue for a black-and-white episode of ‘The Saint’ entitled ‘The Gentle Ladies’, originally broadcast on 5th March 1964. Bosham Lane is named ‘South Street’, the pub, known as ‘The Anchor’, appears to be the ‘Anchor Bleu’ on the outside, but somewhere totally different on the inside, and the Millstream Hotel is in Smugglers Lane! Several other TV programmes over the years have featured Bosham—some of them are listed in *Bosham Life*, January 2014, page 14.

Thanks to Jeremy Bridges for lending me a DVD of the programme, and to several other people in the village for offering to lend me copies, following my request last month.

*Mike Whittle*

## *Bosham on the Silver Screen*



In the past, *Bosham Life* has featured several appearances of Bosham on television, namely: *The Perfect English Village* (January 2010, page 20), *Treasure Hunt*, *Poirot* and *Midsomer Murders* (February 2012, page 16) and *Britain and the Sea* (January 2014, page 14).

Bosham has also been a film location. This is a clip from a 'B' movie entitled 'Marriage of Convenience', released in November 1960 as one of a series of 'Edgar Wallace Mysteries'. Bosham was renamed St Gerrard, and gained a rather nice ruined fort! The film starred Harry H Corbett (aka Harold Steptoe), and included an extremely phoney French onion seller! Part of the action took place around Mariners Cottage, on the Trippet.

*Thanks to Jonathan Light for telling me about the film, and lending me the DVD. If you know of other appearances of Bosham on the screen, I would be happy to hear from you!*

***Mike Whittle***

## *Bosham on TV*

From time to time, Bosham appears in television programmes, both documentary and fiction. This is a still from 'A History of Britain by Simon Schama', Episode 2, 'Conquest!'. The programme describes the Battle of Hastings, including the events leading up to it and its aftermath.

