



GREAT WAR 100

WESTENDER

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*WELHS... preserving our past
for your future....*

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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



LOYER HIGH ST. WEST END.

FRAY'S STORES IN THE HIGH STREET

Our picture this edition, taken from our archives, shows Fray's Stores in the High Street. Situated on the site of present day Rosemount Court and Tesco's shop, the original building was built and run by G.E. May in the late 1800's and continued until Reuben Fray took over the shop.

Our picture is taken from a postcard and is postmarked 1930. It shows the shop with the house next door which was originally named "Rosemount", the name used for the block of apartments on the site today. The site eventually was redeveloped and a smaller single storey building built there, which became at various times a Freezer Store, Spar Grocers, One Stop convenience store and more recently Tesco's.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



WELHS 2015 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

A review by Roy Andrews



The Christmas get together, in December, was somewhat different to previous years in that there was no formal entertainment. This allowed the members to spend much more time to mingle and socialise, some saying this made for an even more enjoyable evening than previously. The enjoyment was enhanced by the abundance of food and drink provided by the members.

There were some written quizzes, thanks to Vera Dickinson and Enid Plowman, where each table became a team enabling much swapping of answers and rivalry. The one quiz for individuals was devised by Paula Downer, an original idea where photos of the blue plaques on the outside of buildings had the name of the historical resident airbrushed out leaving the members to guess to whom they related. The winner surpassing all others with the highest score showed the depth of his local historical knowledge and quick brain to be able to identify the individuals – and I enjoyed the prize!

20 YEARS AGO

By Colin Mockett

At midday on 17th January 1996 Westend Fire Station was closed after 57 years of service.

The crew at the time of closing the station were all local men and latterly women:-

From left to right front row.

Sub Officer	P Glasspool
LFF	P Abraham
LFF	C L Mockett
FF	A Moody
FF	M Smith
FF	S Mabey
FF	T Turner
FF	R Glasspool
FF	C Brewster
FF	L Thornley

From left to right back row.

FF	C J Mockett
FF	D Watts
FF	J Harvey



20 years ago WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY was formed and subsequently moved into the old appliance bay of the fire station that was purchased by the Parish Council.

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL
INVITES ALL RESIDENTS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS
TO
A PUBLIC MEETING
ON
FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 1995
AT
7.30 P.M.
IN
THE PARISH CENTRE,
CHAPEL ROAD, WEST END.
TO
DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF
THE WEST END FIRE STATION

SAVE WEST END'S
FIRE STATION

ALL STATIONS COPIES TO DIV AUTO, WORKSHOPS,
TRAINING SCHOOL, HQ NOTICE BOARD AND STORES

FROM: SUBO GLASSPOOL AND CHEN AT COO

WITH THE CLOSURE OF WEST END FIRE STATION AT 12.00 HRS TODAY,
WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY OUR FINAL GOODBYE TO OUR FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES OF WEST, THANKING YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE
PAST 57 YEARS.

FOR THE STATION STAFF AND ALL THE STATION STAFF AT WEST END WE WOULD
LIKE TO SAY.

NOTE: STATION STAFF.

ILLUSTRATION

HERBERT CHARLES BOULCOTT of "UPCROSS"

By Paula Downer

Herbert Charles Boulcott was born in 1840 in Clapham, Surrey. He was the son of John Almon and Emmeline Boulcott. His brother John William had been born the previous year. Herbert's father John Almon Boulcott was in a partnership with other members of the Boulcott family as a ship biscuit maker at Wapping Wall on the bank of the River Thames. Unfortunately, the business failed and was dissolved in 1842. After this, John Almon Boulcott joined the 1st Regiment Royal Surrey Militia, by 1852 he was promoted to Captain.

By 1861 the Boulcott family were living in Carisbrooke on the Isle of Wight. Herbert had recently become an Ensign, by purchase, in the 86th Regiment of Foot. His brother John William had enlisted with the same regiment a year earlier. Two years later, Herbert joined the 19th Regiment of Foot. In July 1864 Herbert Boulcott, as part of the 19th Regiment, left Gravesend for Karachi in India (now Pakistan) on board the Blackwall frigate 'Agamemnon'. Little did he know then that the 19th Regiment would be in India for fourteen years.

The 19th Regiment was based at a cantonment in the Peshawar district, North-West India. The local tribes on the banks of the Indus were at war with each other, the 19th Regiment was there to keep the peace. By 1867, Herbert Boulcott had been promoted to Lieutenant.

One day, the 19th Regiment heard that a police post at Aghi had been attacked by the Black Mountain tribes. Troops from the Indian continent were called in to join forces and retaliate, some had walked over 400 miles. The Hazara Field Force was formed, consisting of First, Second Brigades and Divisional Troops/Reserve (Royal Artillery/Cavalry/Gurkha regiments). The Royal Artillery's guns were hauled up the mountainside by elephants. The 19th Regiment of Foot was part of the First Brigade led by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Onesiphorus Bright. They also had the 20th Punjab Native Infantry with them.

The First Field Force was ordered to advance up the Black Mountain to do battle. The Pathan Warriors had a fearsome reputation but they were up against trained mountain troops. In the ensuing battles a large number of tribesmen were killed, only two army men were killed and twelve Native Infantry men wounded. Peace was declared, the troops retired from the mountain.

In recognition of their success, the Hazara Field Force paraded before the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab at the Durbar (ceremony). The 19th Regiment of Foot had the honour of acting as the guard. The battle became known as the Hazara Campaign or Black Mountain Expedition of 1868. After this, the Hazara Field Force was disbanded and the 19th Regiment of Foot returned to their cantonment. Queen Victoria granted an Indian General Service medal, clasped 'North-West Frontier', to all those who took part. Herbert C. Boulcott is listed in 'The Hazara Roll 1868'.



Shako cap badge of the 19th Regiment of Foot

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Herbert Charles Boulcott was awarded an Indian General Service medal

In May 1870 Herbert Boulcott retired from the army and returned to England. Herbert was one of the lucky ones, out of a thousand men who went out to India in 1857 only ninety-six re-embarked to return to England in 1871.

Herbert Boulcott went into partnership with Charles Rowland Brown as Railway Guide publishers. The firm C.R. Brown & Co. had premises in Sun Street, London. They would have been in direct competition with the already well established Bradshaw's Railway Companion. The business was not a success and in 1879 Herbert Boulcott faced bankruptcy.

Probably fed up and disheartened, Herbert Boulcott headed north, to Northumberland. In January 1880, he married Mary Grace Colvin. Mary and her younger sister Maria were Teachers of Music. Herbert Boulcott turned Publican, running the 'Foxhunters' Inn in Preston.

By 1891, Herbert and Mary Boulcott were back in London living in the parish of Lewisham. Herbert was now retired, the 1891 census describing Herbert as a 'Retired Army Officer in Her Majesty's Army'.

Around 1897 Herbert and Mary Boulcott moved south of England to 'The Pines' in Thornhill Road, Bitterne, Southampton (now Upper Deacon Road). A few years later, they moved again, to 'Upcross' in West End Road, West End. The 1901 census shows Herbert Boulcott as a 'Retired Army Officer' at home that night with his mother-in-law Elizabeth Colvin. Herbert's wife Mary was in London visiting her cousin at the time. At 'Upcross' the Boulcotts employed a coachman and a domestic servant.



'Upcross' House

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Herbert Charles Boulcott died at 'Upcross' 18th February 1909. His grave is in the Old Burial Ground in West End. His wife Mary lived at 'Upcross' until about 1912.



The grave of Herbert Charles Boulcott

footnotes :-

The 19th Regiment of Foot became known as 'The Green Howards'.

'The Pines' no longer exists, it is now a residential area.

SACRIFICE OF THREE OF THE FEW

By Pauline Berry

Whilst browsing through the book "Southampton, the English Gateway" (by Bernard Knowles 1950), I came upon an extraordinary World War 2 story which I realised was part of a bigger picture. It was originally told by Pilot Officer Roy Lane, whose parents, Southampton Councillor Sidney and Mrs Lane, lived in Firgrove House (now part of Grosvenor Gardens), Moorhill Road, West End in 1944.

Roy's squadron was instructed to take off in August 1940 from an RAF aerodrome somewhere in the South, to intercept German raiders coming over here, near Portsmouth. Soon after climbing to the given height, they sighted two formations of 30 Heinkel bombers, each protected by roughly 50 Me109 Messerschmitt fighter planes. Having been ordered to tackle them head on, the enemy planes did not break formation as expected, and it was Roy's squadron which had to scatter everywhere.

He reported that he continued his attack in his Hurricane too long, dropped briefly below the bombers but '*I came out at the other end - amongst the German fighters*'. As Roy climbed up successfully to get a better position to attack the bombers, he noticed that one bomber formation had turned to head back to France. He decided to open fire when he heard two colossal bangs and knew that he had been hit badly. Soon after

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pushing back the cockpit cover, he passed out, aware of a ‘*dim red glow*’ before him. When he came round, he realised his Hurricane was on fire and diving fast - upside down! He was hanging on, held only by his straps, which try as he could, he could not pull their quick release pin so that he could fall out of his aircraft and use his parachute.



Above
Hurricane aircraft similar to Roy Lane's
aircraft



Above:
Taukkyan War Cemetery, Burma where Roy is buried.

As the flames grew hotter, Roy became so tired with his hopeless position that he was about ‘*to give up the ghost*’. But suddenly the cool air made him open his eyes, only to realise that he was out of the plane and falling fast. ‘*Not waiting to admire the scenery*’ Roy tugged hard on his parachutes ripcord and fortunately it opened with Roy upside down and suspended by his ankles! Owing to painful burns to his right hand and leg, he was unable to get himself upright. He realised that he would probably land in a newly ploughed field, and as it came closer and closer, he wrapped his arms around his head to protect it, curled his body so as to land on his shoulders.

Miraculously he landed safely and managed to collapse his parachute and release it with some difficulty. Wondering why a nearby man and woman did not come over to help him, Roy suddenly saw a group of about British soldiers with fixed bayonets, charging towards him! “*My swearing must have convinced them that I was British, for their faces became friendly and a corporal came up and asked if I was hurt*”. They saw his burns and limp and he was eventually taken to the Squadron's hospital where he met three other crew members who had been shot down in the same fight. Thankfully, all recovered, but not for long.

It was a bittersweet story which had a poignant ending. Roy continued his flying career and as a Squadron Leader, aged 24 years old, he was again shot down and killed in 1944. He was buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery (Burma) in April 1944.

To add to this tragedy, his parents Cllr and Mrs S. Lane had to deal with the additional loss of Roy's two younger brothers, Richard (19) a midshipman in the Fleet Air Arm in September 1940 and Flight Sgt. Peter (21) in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died only a month after that of his brother Roy. Such a huge sacrifice that the Lane family made is hard to imagine, but must have been repeated elsewhere during those dark war years.

BISHOPS, BUILDINGS AND BONES

A review by Roy Andrews



King Arthur's Round Table in the Great Hall at Winchester

Andrew Negus returned to the January meeting to continue, with his usual quick fire presentation, his excellent history of Winchester, part one having been enjoyed by the society at an earlier meeting. This talk would cover the years 1200 – 1700, with part three to follow later.

By 1200 Winchester was a thriving, rich capital with a population of 8000. It had the Royal Mint, woollen industry, 12 day St. Giles Fair and was the burial place of Saints, Saxon and Viking Kings. Henry III, or perhaps his son Edward I, built the round table and had it placed in the Great Hall to show their connection to King Arthur, the Great Hall having the largest single span roof in Europe at the time. Simon de Montfort during his rebellion attacked Winchester via Kingsgate.



Overview of the City of Winchester

By 1300, London had become the Capital and Winchester began a slow decline exacerbated in 1338 by the French burning of Southampton thereby destroying the woollen trade. In 1348, the Black Death arrived and wiped out half the population of Winchester. The city became a filthy place to live and the mayor John de Tytinge tried hard to clean it up.

By 1380, the population was down to 3000 when William of Wickham became Bishop and one of the richest and most powerful men in the country. He founded Winchester College for 70 poor pupils known as 'scholars'; as its success grew, rich families sent their children on payment who were known as 'commoners'. At the age of 18, the pupils could attend New College, Oxford also founded by William. The tradition of 'scholars' and 'commoners' continues to this day.

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By the 1400's, English had become the common language and the Cathedral architecture was being modernised with small windows replaced by large ones. This required the moving of St. Swithin's bones for the third time.

By 1430, Cardinal Henry Beaufort was Bishop of Winchester and supporting the white rose side in the War of the Roses. He also founded the Order of Noble Poverty at St. Cross for 35 men and 3 women, the original order wearing black gowns and the later red gowns. By 1485, Henry Tudor had won the War of the Roses and Beaufort was stripped of all of his lands; however when he died, he was buried next to St. Swithin.

The 1500's saw the population of the City beginning to grow and Henry VIII had the Round Table painted in his likeness. The then Bishop Gardener, with the arrival of the protestant religion, was happy to see the monasteries closed but under Edward VI, Bishop Ponet was appointed the first protestant Bishop. He survived for five years until Catholic Queen Mary took the throne when he was sacked and Bishop Gardener was reinstated. It was Gardener who married the Queen to Phillip of Spain.

John White was Bishop under Elizabeth I but was sacked and replaced by Bishop Andrew. In 1588, Alms Houses were built and in 1600 Peter Symonds, a wool merchant, also built Alms Houses.

During the 1600's, the city population grew to 5000 and in 1642 the populous sided with the Royalists at the start of the Civil War. This resulted in Cromwell laying siege to the city with cannon firing into the city from Oliver's Battery. The City surrendered and Cromwell destroyed the Castle leaving only the Great Hall. The Leper Hospital became a prisoner- of -war prison; the head of Bishop Gardener was removed for having officiated at the marriage of 'Bloody Mary' and the bones of King Alfred were removed from Hyde Abbey (this may have occurred under Henry VIII).

Charles II brought peace and, liking the good life, he also found he liked Winchester and so decided to build a palace there to rival the French palace at Versailles. Work started but the King died and the palace was never finished but it did mean that many of the gentry were attracted to the city and built houses there.

In 1662, Bishop Morley built himself a palace at Winchester but alas, half fell down and it has remained half a palace ever since. He also built Alms Houses which did not fall down and he was responsible for the Itchen Navigation being built along the River Itchen to Southampton.

The notorious Judge Jefferies in 1686 held the trial of Alice Lisle, an old lady who had offered succour to two wounded Royalists during the war at her home in the New Forest. He sentenced her to be burnt at the stake but the public outcry was so great that she was dispatched more humanly!

The start of the 1700's found Winchester as a quiet market town and regional centre with a population of 4000. Andrew drew his account to a close at this peaceful point but left us with a tantalising hint of what will be revealed in part 3.



Winchester Cathedral

OBITUARY

BRIAN FILCE 1936 - 2016

It is with much sadness that we have to report the death of long-time WELHS member Brian Filce, born and bred in West End, Brian had played football and cricket regularly for West End in his youth. He regularly attended the West End Men's Social Club at the Old Reading Rooms in the High Street to play snooker and socialise. He will be remembered taking his dog for a walk on Hatch Grange regularly.

He was born at Moorgreen House along with his brother Dennis. Brian used to enjoy our meetings especially at Christmas with the quizzes and competitions. He had suffered ill health for some time and although absent from meetings in recent times, he still retained his membership of WELHS. Brian sadly passed away whilst in a Nursing Home at Netley Abbey. His funeral will be held at St. James' Church, West End at 12.00 midday on Thursday 4th February 2016. Our sincere condolences go out to Dennis and all the family.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE.....

March 2
**SOUTHAMPTON'S SUGAR &
SLAVE TRADE**
Dr. Andy Russel

April 6
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Plus
HISTORIC SHIPS OF SOUTHAMPTON
Dr. Cheryl Butler

May 4
SOLENT TIDE MILLS
David Plunkett

ON THIS DAY.....

On this day (3rd February) in.....

- 1399** John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III and father of King Henry IV, died.
- 1809** Felix Mendelssohn, German composer and pianist, born at Hamburg, the son of a banker.
- 1919** The League of Nations held its first meeting, in Paris, with Woodrow Wilson as Chairman.
- 1924** Woodrow Wilson, American Democratic statesman and 28th President of the USA from 1913 to 1921 and Nobel Prize winner. Died and was buried in Washington Cathedral.
- 1928** Frankie Vaughan, English singer and entertainer, born in Liverpool as Frank Abelson.
- 1929** Val Doonican, Irish singer and entertainer, born at Waterford in the Republic of Ireland.
- 1966** The first 'soft' landing on the Moon was made by Russia's Luna IX, in the area of the Ocean of Storms.