



GREAT WAR 100

WESTENDER

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WEST END'S FIRE FIGHTERS AT NETLEY HOSPITAL



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley on fire in 1956 and Westends Water-tender in the centre of the picture with its rear end facing camera registration number 762AHO.

As published in 'Stop Message', the magazine of Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service Past Members Association.

Photo forwarded to us by WELHS member Colin Mockett who was a fire fighter based at West End Fire Station.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
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COUNCIL**



MEMORIES OF MOORHILL, THORNHILL AND WEST END

1949 - 1958 (Part 2)

By Bruce Bagley

I come now to Bungalow Town and Donkey Common. We too played on the swinging tree. At the watery site of the former Thornhill Park House we caught fantail and common newts. One day, my brother was down a brick culvert when from above I saw an adder slither out of a horizontal pipe. Quickly hauling him up we were relieved. We knew the zig zag back was the difference between an adder and a grass snake. No doubt there was food down that pipe. Bamboo was in abundance in this watery paradise. How ignorant we were in thinking a newt could live at home in a jam jar, with a bit of weed and a water snail and kept in our outside loo.

St James Church, West End opened a newly built church hall in Cowper Road, in the early fifties. Apart from Sunday evensong services, Sunday School was held in the morning. Miss Wilderspin, who initially led the school, would arrive on her new BSA Bantam motorbike. I disliked Sunday School but liked singing, and so joined the St James Church choir. More of that later. Our cub group, the 19th Itchen was held every Friday. St Georges Day was the big annual parade for cubs and scouts. The parade was held in the ruins of Netley Abbey. I cannot remember a wet year and so cannot remember a year spoilt. For the past few decades the roads of bungalow town and everywhere else in Thornhill, have been tarred. How many of us today can remember nearly every road being of unmade gravel ?

Donkey Common was the furthest we would venture on foot or by bike. The early fifties was the time when test pilots like Neville Duke and Peter Twiss were breaking the sound barrier or air speed records. They were celebrities in their day. Donkey common was wide open scrub and poor pasture. The odd 'old nag' would be kept there, tethered by a rope. I have the clearest memory of seeing and hearing at about half a mile distant, a man driving a metal stake into the ground before tethering the said 'old nag'. The sharp clank of driving the stake into the ground had a discernible time lapse before I heard it, and yet I saw the sledge hammer come down a moment before. This demonstrated time lapse and the speed of sound in the clearest way. What a unique classroom setting.

My West End schooldays started in September 1949. Born on August 20th, my schooling was affected by being the youngest in the class. I entered Miss Stutchberry's class. She wasn't fearsome to me but kept on calling me Bruce Belfridge after the wartime BBC newsreader. My favourite lesson was painting with powder paint. Pop Harris the headmaster was in his final year before retirement. He was succeeded by Mr Hodgkin who seemed to be of a sterner disposition. Playtime was the best part of the day. Good size conkers were to be had from the trees along the playground/cemetery boundary. On the black wall in the boy's loo we would see if we could pee higher than Kilroy. Marbles had it's annual season. With my brother we made a marble board and sat along the wall with the board between our legs, inviting boys to roll them up and get a good return if a marble passed through one of the archways. Of course the narrowest arch gave the biggest return. How our marble collections grew. Finely veined glassy's were most prized. Being born in the wartime baby boom, the school had to open a two class annexe in the old church hall beside St James Church. Mrs Robins (wife of the grocer at the top of Hinkler Road) was nice, and pupils responded well to her style of teaching. Nearing Christmas she brought in sample packets, such as custard powder and badges of food products. Trex, similar to lard was one that stands out. Oh, and Bisto. She certainly had us all on her side. The next year it was to be Mr Beasley. He also took over running the 19th Itchen, Thornhill Cubs, to which I belonged. Whilst at the church hall annexe there was a sad event. There was a boy who lived at the top of Telegraph Road, we called Tyrone Power after the popular matinee idol. One of his real names was either Tyrone or Power, but I don't think both. With his brother, they dug a tunnel which collapsed onto his brother who suffocated. I think they were tunnelling in light sandy soil. This was to be my first experience of shock and grief. Another boy called Nigel Whale stood at least a head taller than me. One day after school at the church hall, he ragged me so much that I socked him. The next

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morning at Kanes Hill roundabout waiting for the school bus, Nigel came with his mother. He was sporting a black eye and a swollen face. His mother tore me off a strip, talking something about violence. Mrs Whale frightened me so much I wet my trousers. Nigel and I went on to be good friends until schooling parted us.

On returning to the main school for my final year, there was an outing to Whipsnade Zoo. Coliseum Coaches, run by the Pitter family, provided the most spectacular coach to take us. Brand new luxury. They set the new standard. My eyes popped out. All other coaches were dull by comparison. Glider Coaches of Fareham ran old buckets from the 1930's. Today they would turn heads for their quaintness. Colin Pitter was a contemporary of mine at school has no doubt had a life of coaches and transport. Is he around West End these days?

Football at school in my last year was played at Hatch Grange. By 1954 the 'must have' kit was the new continental style of boot, that seemingly gave little protection to the ankles. I had a pair regardless. Footballs remained the old heavy leather, lace up with inflatable bladder. In a copse area at Hatch Grange there were a number of gravestones of horses that once belonged to the owners of the Hatch Grange Estate. All had the animals age at death, mostly in their twenties. It is odd what one remembers, and important stuff annoyingly vaporises.

As previously mentioned, I did not like Sunday School but liked singing. So I joined St James Church choir at about 1953. Here I caught up with past school headmasters of mine, Pop Harris the first choirmaster and later succeeded in about 1956/7 by Mr Hodgkin. After choir practice the church graveyard was a great race track on our bikes. It stopped when Mr Moger the Sexton caught us.

We had the good fortune to have an assistant curate called John Hamilton Wilson. Howard V Green was the vicar. John Wilson took four of us choirboys on visits to the Farnborough Air-show (twice), Salisbury Cathedral and Old Sarum, Bristol and St Mary Redcliffe, also the Clifton Suspension Bridge. An earsplitting experience was being in the bell tower of Downton Church whilst bell ringing practice was in progress. How we loved that. John Wilson was a dead straight guy with a lovely wife and son. He hoped to become vicar of Downton, but ended up spending many years in Bristol. Keith Upson was a good friend of mine, both in the choir and at school. I would like to meet him now and compare our lives since we last met. He acted as a linesman when we had a successful choir football team. We had full seasons fixtures due to the hard work of John Wilson and Maurice Hall who refereed the matches. I haven't stayed Holy but it was a good character building time in 1950's West End Church Choir.

It was before my family moved to Shawford near Winchester in 1958, either in summer 1957 or 1958 when skiffle was all the rage. We would linger by The Sportsman pub. In the car park playing on washboard, tea chest base and banjo was a skiffle group. It was all for free and a great atmosphere. Now I learn, the Sportsman is itself just a memory.

By the time we moved away in 1958 we had seen the rapid expansion of Southampton Borough and our rural playground had become largely urbanised. In Upper Northam Road, just below Kanes Hill Roundabout was the four milestone marker from Southampton. A chunky obelisk in stone, planted in the middle of a wide verge. Today, the milestone has vamoosed and West End, Hedge End, Eastleigh are all part of one conurbation.

My career took me to Sussex, and now in later life I reside in the rural idyl of New Zealand. I could do with that boyhood over again!

These memories and experiences make me realise how in an age of rationing lasting until 1954, we gained a good set of values, we learnt self reliance, ingenuity, and developed nous. We had fun, improvising all the time and there was no time for boredom. They were fine days indeed.

PS. If anyone can put me in touch with Keith Upson, please advise Westender Magazine.

CAN YOU HELP?



These two 1960's images were bought in by member Margaret Lewis. Although the resolution is not good one can just about make out Burnetts Lane Methodist Church on the wall behind the figures in the photograph. What we don't know is who are they and what was the occasion? If anyone can help please contact the editor (details on front cover). Many thanks.

CONGRATULATIONS! 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Surprise! Surprise!, well the picture above shows they certainly were!!! Ray and Kay Upson recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, 50 years of heavenly bliss (that was how Ray described it, in his thank you speech to his children for organising it).

Family and friends from all their varied interests over the years were gathered together at the Holiday Inn, Eastleigh on Saturday 16th April to mark this splendid occasion.

Congratulations Ray and Kay. Many members will know that both Ray and Kay were members of West End Little Theatre group and are both truly West Enders.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF THE HATCH GRANGE BEACON

By Pauline Berry



A selection of pictures from the Queen's 90th Birthday lighting of the beacon on Hatch Grange

Looking back to that pleasant evening of July 19th 1988, there was much merry-making on the elevated part of Hatch Grange, behind the Parish Centre. It was all to celebrate the first lighting of the new beacon, presented by Eastleigh Borough Council, as an alternative site to the original ancient ones that comprised open bonfires in what is now a heavily wooded part of Telegraph Wood. It was part of a chain of similar beacons which could communicate by their fires across Southern England to London.

The purpose of the newly erected beacon from EBC, was to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the sighting of the Spanish Armada which was sailing boldly up the English Channel. Thankfully, this simple signalling system allowed the English fleet to tackle, rout and disperse the Spanish fleet and ultimately save our country from invasion in 1588.

Returning to that balmy evening in July 1988, entertainment was enjoyed by a big crowd of Westenders. There were displays by 'Hampshire Garland' including actors, dressed in the costumes of Good Queen Bess, Sir Francis Drake (plus bowls) and the King of Spain. Performances by the West End Boys and Girls Brigade Band added to the atmosphere. At the fall of dusk and (I'm told) at a given signal from London, the beacon was lit at 10.15 pm approximately.

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NATHANIEL MIDDLETON

Lord of the Manor of Townhill otherwise Shamblehurst

By Paula Downer

Nathaniel Middleton is best known for his involvement with the impeachment of Warren Hastings, the Governor-General in India 1774-1785, a trial which lasted 7 years. Nathaniel Middleton had returned from India a wealthy man. After setting up home in London, he bought property and land in South Stoneham, in the County of Hampshire, thus creating the beginnings of Townhill Park as we know it today.



Nathaniel Middleton enjoyed collecting Persian manuscripts

Nathaniel Middleton was born in 1750, the son of the Reverend Samuel and Mary Middleton. The Reverend Middleton was then the incumbent at the Chapel of Whitmore, Staffordshire. Little is recorded of Nathaniel Middleton's early life except that in 1769 he followed his brother to India as a Writer (Clerk) with the East India Company. By 1773 Nathaniel Middleton had been promoted to Civil Officer at the Court of Oudh in Lucknow, liaising between the Nawab of Oudh and the East India Company. The Nawab owed money. Warren Hastings, then the Governor-General, pressurized Nathaniel Middleton to make the Nawab pay up. Nathaniel Middleton managed to exhort some of the debts from the Nawab's family but Nathaniel Middleton was not happy, he feared for his own family's safety. Nathaniel Middleton was dismissed, he returned to England.

To cut a long story short, India had become a political issue, the British were questioning the behaviour of British Officials and Traders in India. The House of Commons voted to impeach Warren Hastings, the incidents which had involved Nathaniel Middleton were brought to Court as part of the 22 charges against Warren Hastings. Nathaniel Middleton had to endure 5 days of questioning. The trial took 145 days over 7 years. Warren Hastings was eventually acquitted in 1795.

While in India, Nathaniel Middleton met and married Anne Frances Morse, her father John Morse was a very wealthy planter and merchant in Jamaica, her mother Elizabeth Augier was a free Mulatto woman with elevated status in Jamaican society. Nathaniel Middleton already had children by his Indian lady (bibi) (this was an acceptable practice during the early years of the East India Company). With Anne, Nathaniel Middleton had 10 children, some were born in India, some in the London area, and the last 3 - Henry Johnson (1790), Charles John (1791), Louisa Anne (1796) - were born in the parish of South Stoneham.

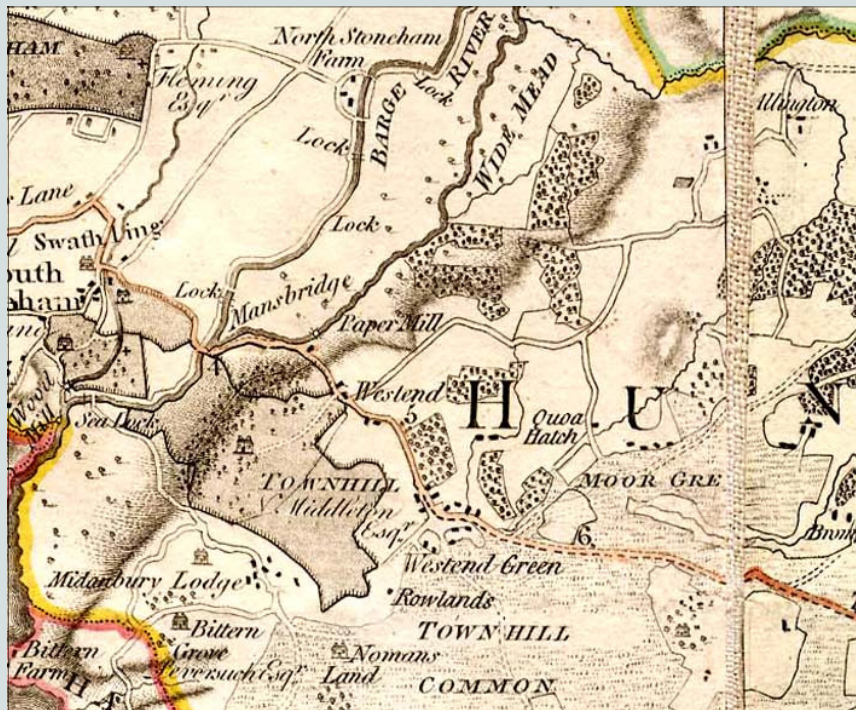
In 1787 Nathaniel Middleton bought land with a farmhouse at Townhill from John White and adjacent lands from Hans Sloane of South Stoneham and William Gater of West End. He also owned a lot of land in and around the Manors of Allington and Hatch. Nathaniel Middleton enlarged the farmhouse at Townhill which, in 1792, burnt down. Nathaniel Middleton replaced it with a mansion on the site of Townhill Park House which we see today. It was situated on the rise of a hill so that Nathaniel Middleton, the Lord of the

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Manors of Townhill and Allington, could gaze over his land. No expense was spared. According to Baker's Guide to Southampton, it was a spacious, superb mansion set on an elevated position enjoying grand and extensive views.

Nathaniel Middleton was a man of culture, he was an enthusiastic collector of oriental paintings and manuscripts. While in India, he had built up an extensive collection of Mughal Indian miniature paintings and richly illustrated Persian manuscripts sprinkled with gold. Did Nathaniel Middleton keep these manuscripts in his library at Townhill ? in the book case, behind the mahogany doors ? perhaps the house was adorned with other fabulous oriental effects ? Nathaniel Middleton was also a business man, while in India he had been in partnership with his brother as a chintz dealer.



Extract of 1791 map showing N. Middleton Esq at Townhill

Nathaniel Middleton enjoyed outdoor pursuits, he was invited to join the exclusive Royal Southampton Archers. Archery had become fashionable, clad in the obligatory green uniform, they shot for medals ending the day with a fabulous feast. Nathaniel Middleton was also qualified as a Deputy Lieutenant of the Hampshire Militia allowing the Voluntary Regiment of Horse to exercise in the grounds of Townhill Park. In 1800 Nathaniel Middleton became Sheriff of Hampshire. But it seems that Nathaniel Middleton was living beyond his means, in the early 1800's he was forced to sell his Manors of Townhill and Allington.

In 1803 a Conveyance in Trust is in place to sell Townhill/Allington Manors and Rowlands Farm. During this time Nathaniel Middleton and his family appear to be living at their London home with Nathaniel Middleton having to resort to leasing some of his land to release funds. In 1806 Nathaniel Middleton agreed to a 99 year lease with Richard Harrison Pearson of 'Moorlands' Cottage, Bitterne for a parcel of wasteland adjacent to the cottage. In May 1807, Nathaniel Middleton signed a 14 year counterpart lease of Hatch farm with John Owton.

It was unfortunate that in November of that year, at his London home, Nathaniel Middleton died of a 'cold which fixed on his lungs'. It was thought that Nathaniel Middleton had died intestate; his will was found some years later !

In May 1808 the Manors of Townhill and Allington were up for sale by Auction. The 'Morning Chronicle' described Townhill Park house as a spacious, modern family home seated in a fine park of some 400 acres commanding a delightful view of a richly wooded, pastoral vale intersected with streams. The grounds featured a kitchen garden contained by lofty fruit walls, a conservatory/greenhouse, a pleasure ground, hot

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houses, a brick built icehouse and a farmyard with offices. The estate also boasted a navigable canal from Swathland (Swaythling) to Winchester. An engine house, 700 yards away, fed from the River Itchen, provided water for a number of water closets in the house; even the servants had the luxury of a water closet ! The next advert in that morning's paper were for some 'Effects', for example, a large Turkish rug, handsome chintz beds and excellent bedding - did these belong to Nathaniel Middleton ?

It was William Hallett who bought Townhill Park from the executors in 1809 and further records show Nathaniel Middleton's son Hastings Nathaniel Middleton surrendering some land in the Manor of Allington the following year. The Middleton family still owned land on the east side of the River Itchen. In 1812 Anne Middleton is listed as one of the main landowners applying for an Enclosure Act to absorb the common lands of Weston and Sholing in the parish of St. Mary's Extra. This was awarded in 1814. Midanbury was owned by the Middleton family for many years with the property often occupied by tenants.

Anne Frances Middleton ended her days in London, unfortunately, she became mentally ill, dying in 1823 having been 'bad for several years, incapable of being removed from her bed'. Her Will and Codicil became a case for Chancery challenged by her son Hastings Nathaniel Middleton. He won his case. The remains of Nathaniel and Anne Frances Middleton have been placed in a family vault in St. Mary's Church, Battersea.

Footnotes :-

Today, it is thought that nothing remains of Nathaniel Middleton's mansion, it has since been re-built and extended over the years.

The 'White Swan' in Mansbridge, Swaythling was known as the 'Middleton Arms' Inn in the early 1800's; it was changed to 'Swan Inn' in 1830.

Middleton Road, off Wakefield Road in Townhill Park is named after the Middleton family.

Oriental items once belonging to Nathaniel Middleton have turned up at Islamic Art auctions such as Bonham and Sotheby's. They sell for a great deal of money.

and lastly,

I do not know if the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton is related to this family of Middletons – Nathaniel Middleton's ancestors need further research - do you fancy having a go ?

THE APRIL MEETING - A Review

By Roy Andrews

It was that time of year again and 55 Society members attended the meeting that started with the AGM. We were told that it is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the society and the 19th year from the opening of the Museum and just for good measure 17 years of this newsletter being produced, thanks to editor Nigel Wood. There are 70 paid up members and those at the meeting duly re-elected all of the current committee.

After the excitement of the AGM, we all settled to listen to a talk by Cheryl Butler on *Historic Ships of Southampton*. She explained that it was a random selection of ships which interested her. From medieval times, Southampton was a popular port because of its double tide and good anchorage which many ships preferred to the difficult River Thames access to London.

In 1415 the *Henry Grace Dieu* was launched at Southampton town quay. Built by William Sopper for King Henry V, it was then the largest ship ever built and remained so until the 18th century. Scared by its size, the crew rarely put to sea and the ship spent most of its life moored in the Hamble River. Cheryl said it never took part in any battles but I recall from an earlier talk that we were told after the *Mary Rose* sank, the *Grace Dieu* took over leading the British fleet against the French! However we do know that after 60 years the ship was abandoned on the bank of the upper Hamble River where a fire, started by a lightning strike, burnt her down to the water line and she remains in the mud to this day. The remains of other

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ships including the Holy Ghost also built by William Sopper are thought to lie under the mud nearby.

From medieval time until the 16th century Italian/Venetian Galleys and Carracks were regular visitors to Southampton, population 1800. With crews of 360, they would stay for up to three months trading with the local merchants and making Southampton wealthy. However the last galley visited in 1632 after which Southampton began a slow decline.

Ships from the port as early as 1490 were travelling to Newfoundland to fish, and pirate ships used the port including one commanded by Walter Raleigh's half brother Humphrey Gilbert. One of the fire ships used against the Spanish Armada was from the port and for which Queen Elizabeth 1 paid the town £450 compensation.

Of course Cheryl could not overlook the story of the Mayflower and Speedwell which took the Puritans off to a new life in America from Southampton. But because of the Speedwell's poor condition, the ships put into Plymouth, the said town claiming all of the glory ever since.

HMS Elephant was built on the Hamble River and was commanded by Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen. At the Battle of Trafalgar she was commanded by Jane Austen's brother Frank.

We were told of the *Amazon* a 19th century paddle steamer that caught fire and of the *Stella* sinking and the stewardess Mary Ann Rogers who died having given her life jacket to a passenger. Then we heard of the *Mignonette* fitted out in Southampton and sinking on her way to Australia and of Richard Parker being eaten by the other three crew survivors and the subsequent court case. An interesting addition to this story was that Cheryl herself had family connections to Richard Parker.

The large yachts built for the wealthy such as the J Class were talked of and Cheryl managed to squeeze in a brief mention of the *Titanic*, of course, as well as the *Habana* bringing the Basque refugees, the *Windrush* from the West Indies and Red Funnels paddle steamer *Gracie Fields* sunk at Dunkirk.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF THE HATCH GRANGE BEACON

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Since then, the beacon has been lit several times on special occasions, including the commemoration of VE Day, the sad death of Diana, Princess of Wales and of course, the turn of the Millennium which was well attended at midnight and well lubricated, courtesy of West End Parish Council, owners and carers of Hatch Grange, a public open space.

All these memories came flooding back to me recently when we enjoyed celebrating our Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday by lighting the beacon yet again with the accompaniment of a Silver Band.

Another memory jogged my mind, which not many people may know about. Did you know that the present beacon is roughly a metre shorter than the one erected in 1988? The reason being that some despicable person with a chainsaw, decided to cut down the original wooden post of the first modern beacon one dark night months later. The fallen beacon was a sad sight lying on the ground with a short length left still standing in the ground. Although it was investigated by the Police, the culprit was never found and EBC kindly decided to replace it later, but with a tall steel tube as the upright pole this time. Someone forgot, however, to add the metre of pole left sticking out of the grassy mound, when it was re-measured and so the present beacon is a metre shorter in height! Nevertheless it is strong and sturdy, and should stand the test of time for many years to come.

A BUMPER EDITION

As you will have noticed this is a larger than usual bumper edition - our thanks to all the contributors both old and new for making this edition such an interesting read. Please keep the articles coming in. Thank you

Ed.

SOLENT TIDE MILLS

A Review by Roy Andrews



The evening started well - the sky was clear blue, it was much milder than of late and 57 members turned up to listen to the presentation and with a large screen set up on the stage they could anticipate seeing some interesting pictures too. Once our Chairman had sorted out a problem with the microphone, a flat battery he claimed, he handed it to our speaker for the evening, David Plunket. David informed us he had been involved with tide mills since 1976. These mills had been in use certainly since the 14th century and may go back as far as the Domesday Book. He assured us he had some lovely pictures of mills and their workings and this he repeated a couple of times during the rest of the evening. Alas we could only take his word for it as not a picture did we see because as soon as he attempted to show the first of his pictures his state of the art all singing all dancing projecting system, I assume, refused to work although he assured us it had been working perfectly earlier in the day when he had tried it twice. So after two lengthy attempts to get it going, with help from others who apparently understand these things, the system refused to play. I thought of offering help from my very limited knowledge of all things modern that refuse to work i.e.(1) call it very bad names, (2) kick it, (3) hit it with a hammer - but I decided against it.

And so with no pictures David could only work through the script that should have gone with them. He started on the Isle of Wight, there were mills at Bembridge, Wootten, two at Newport, Yarmouth and Freshwater, all now gone. He attempted to describe their locations in relation to the modern landscape and what if anything is left.

Onto the mainland, he started at Emsworth which had three mills and where the tide ponds are still easily identifiable. Portsmouth had a mill where Gunwharf Quay now stands.

Fareham had three mills, Cams Mill was where the Delme roundabout is, another at Fareham Quay where some of the buildings still exist and on the A32 at the Hoeford Inn, the mill pond now being under HMS Collingwood.

Gosport had a mill with a half mile long pond alongside HMS ST. Vincent now under a college grounds.

Southampton had mills at Chapel just north of the Itchen Bridge and at Gods House Tower where the old town moat was used as a holding pond. Ashlet Creek on the edge of the New Forest was built in 1618 and was in use until 1929.

Beaulieu was 80% destroyed in an arson attack in 2006 but has now been rebuilt and restored and is used as offices. Lyminster Mill, built in 1661, went out of use in 1840 and is now a housing estate.

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Finally he spoke about Eling Mill which was opened to the public in 1980 and is currently undergoing more restoration. When working it can run for 6 hours on every tide but has managed 8 – 9 hours (see Guinness book of records). The mill has been producing 10 tons of flour a year but it is hoped to treble that when it reopens next year.

Much detail was given on the restoration work being carried out on the inner workings but in the absence of pictures which are said to be worth a thousand words, perhaps we should go and see the Mill when it re-opens.

JAMES WILLIAMS HATHERELL: West End's first vicar

By Sue Ballard, PhD.

The church of St. James was built in 1838 to serve the newly formed ecclesiastical parish of West End. Its first incumbent was the Reverend James Williams Hatherell, D.D. (c.1801-1876). Research has shown that James was more than simply the humble vicar of a small community.



Rev. J.W.Hatherell (1801-1876)
First Vicar of West End 1843—1876

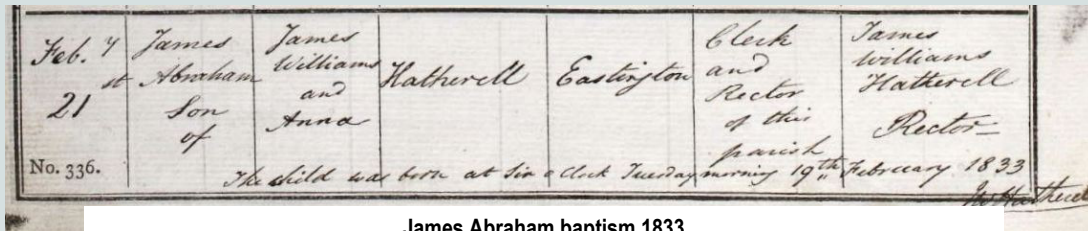
James Williams Hatherell was baptised in Ewell, Surrey on 25th November 1801, the only son of Anna Maria Williams & Abraham Hatherell. James was educated at Rugby School and later at Brasenose College, Oxford, appearing in the Brasenose College Register for 1820. He graduated from Brasenose with his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1823 and gained his Master of Arts in 1826. His attendance at Rugby and Oxford is the first suggestion we have that James came from a wealthy family. His first stipendiary was as the Rector of Eastington, Gloucestershire, in which position he served from 1831 until 1837.

Almost immediately upon graduating, James married his first wife, Ann Baker, daughter of Robert Baker, at St Andrew's Church, Pershore in Worcestershire on 9th January 1823 when he was not yet 22 years old. Such an early marriage would not have been considered wise for a young man fresh from Oxford and without a benefice, suggesting Ann may have been a love match. Ann & James had three children: Lucy Anna Hatherell was born in 1827 and went on to become a nun.

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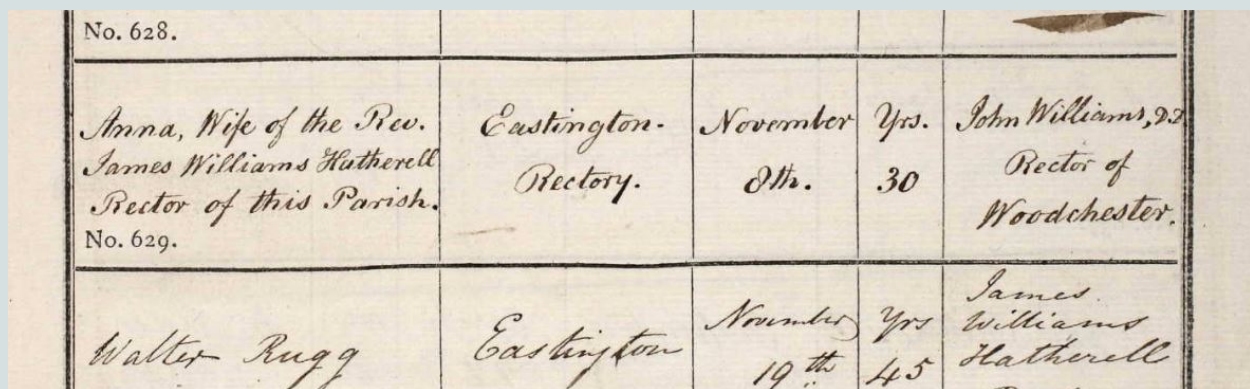
Mary Hatherell was born in 1829 and in 1853 married Rev. Edgar Norris Dumbleton, Prebendary of Exeter. James Abraham Hatherell was born in 1833, went to Eton and became a Lieutenant-Colonel with the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers.



James Abraham baptism 1833

James could not resist adding detail to the register when he officiated at the baptism of his own son.

James officiated as minister at the baptisms of all his children. In 1834, nine months after the birth of James Abraham, Ann died at the age of 30 and was buried on 8th November. James was spared officiating at the funeral of his own wife, the service being held by Rev. John Williams, the Rector of Woodchester.



Anna's burial 1834

James was spared officiating at his beloved Anna's funeral. He married Rev. William's daughter 6 months later to provide his children with a mother

James was now a widower with two small children and a baby, so he needed a wife. The following May, James married Rev. Williams's daughter Eliza Cooke Williams. Their marriage was announced in *The Analyst*, a Monthly Journal of Science, Literature & the Fine Arts Vol.2. 1835. This may seem an odd choice for a public wedding announcement, but the journal had a page dedicated to "Preferments, Marriages & C.," for the scientific and literary communities and this choice tells us that James perceived himself as part of the intelligentsia. It is at this time that the first of James's publications appeared. In 1835 John Hatchard & Son of Piccadilly published "Nine Sermons on the Church Catechism preached in the parish of Eastington, near Stroud, Gloucestershire in August 1834 principally for the benefit of those who offered themselves as candidates for the rite of confirmation" by the Reverend J.W. HATHERELL, M.A. Rector of Eastington. This book is still in print, having been republished in 2009 and again in 2010.

In 1839 James became Rector of Charmouth in Dorset, in which post he remained until 1843. During this period, James qualified as Doctor of Divinity, a higher doctorate degree. The list of Oxford graduates was published in most of the regional newspapers and in 1841 the only Doctor of Divinity was "Rev. James Williams Hatherell, grand compounder". Grand compounder is an Oxford term for a degree candidate who was required to pay a higher fee because he had a higher income. The benefice of a tiny parish like Charmouth (which had less than 500 souls) would not be high – again, suggesting that James came from a wealthy background with a private income. If further proof were needed, we find an entry for James, his father and grandfather in Burke's Family Records, a publication detailing the genealogies of around 300 of Britain's "junior nobility". James's father Abraham was a member of the minor nobility in Gloucestershire with a house and estate at Keynsham, Cheltenham.

In September 1841, James took his family to Malta, where he preached at Valetta. Eliza fell into "a decline", which we can interpret to mean some form of wasting disease, and died at the age of 33 on 14th

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January 1842 in Valetta, where she was buried. Her death was announced in most of the regional newspapers, alongside that of James's father, Abraham Hatherell, who died a week later, 21st January, at his home Keynsham House, Cheltenham. This was a triple blow for James, as his mother had died only a few months before.

Jan. 14, at Valetta, Malta, in the 34th year of her age, of a decline, Eliza, wife of the Rev. J. W. Hatherell, D.D. Rector of Charmouth, Devon; also, Jan. 21, at Keynsham House, Cheltenham, of apoplexy, his father, A. Hatherell, Esq.

Eliza & Abraham's deaths 1842

A triple blow for James - the deaths of his wife and father one week apart a few months after that of his mother.

In 1843 James was appointed to the parish of St James, West End, where he describes himself in the 1851 census as "Perpetual Curate of St James." While a Curate was an assistant to the Rector or Vicar, a Perpetual Curate had no Rector or Vicar above him and was nominated to the post by a lay owner of the benefice and was licensed by the Bishop. The Perpetual Curate was so-called because he could only be removed by withdrawal of the licence. The post of Perpetual Curate was abolished in 1868 and all were made Vicars, but after 1845 James simply describes himself as Incumbent and never claims the title Vicar. Incumbent is defined by Church of England law as any minister charged with the cure of souls in a parish, and lacks any implication of rank or status. This suggests that James was more interested in preaching and the health of the souls in his charge and did not feel the need for the trappings of rank. However, he always used the initials D.D. after his name, lending authority to his published works.

Further evidence of James's scholarly leanings includes his 1841 membership of a subscription library of "scarce and valuable works ... maintaining and inculcating the Doctrines and Disciplines of the Anglican Branch of the Catholic and Apostolic Church." Another example is a series of letters which he wrote to the Wolverhampton Chronicle and Staffordshire Advertiser in 1863 carrying on a correspondence concerning the likely meaning of an obscure inscription on the third bell of Brewood Church. These letters were signed at Vichy, a town in central France; no doubt James had gone there to preach as he had in Malta. Above all, however, proof of his academic approach can be found in his numerous publications, principally sermons and lectures. Small adverts for James's publications appeared in national and regional newspapers on a regular basis.

Will be ready on Monday, April 14th, price 3d.
MAYNOOTH, ITS ADOPTION BY THE
STATE CONSIDERED. A Letter addressed to the House of
Lords, by—
JAMES WILLIAMS HATHERELL, D.D.
 Perpetual Curate of St. James, West End, near Southampton.
 Also, Just Published, by the same Author,—
AUTHORITATIVE CENSURE OF TRACT 90.
 A letter addressed to all the Protestant Members in the Oxford Convocation.
 London: Hatchard and Son, Piccadilly; and Best and Snowden, Southampton.

Maynooth 1845

James was not averse to taking up the cudgel for a cause in which he believed

In the midst of these, two works stand out. In 1845 James published "Maynooth: its adoption by the State considered. A letter addressed to the House of Lords." Unlike his other publications, this was not a sermon, but an argument put forward into what was then an extremely sensitive political debate.

The British Prime Minister, Robert Peel, was seeking to improve relations with Ireland by increasing the financial grant that the British Government made to St. Patrick's College at Maynooth, a Roman Catholic Seminary founded by the British Government in Ireland in 1795. Peel's suggestion was to grant a lump sum of £30,000 for repairs and to raise its annual grant from £8,000 to £26,000. This was highly

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contentious both politically and religiously at the time as many believed that a Protestant state should not be supporting a Roman Catholic college. An Anti-Maynooth Conference was held in London with over 1,000 delegates and a petition of 1 million signatures was collected to oppose the grant. However, Peel's proposal was carried by an almost two-thirds majority and although it weakened his government it paved the way for grants to Catholic schools in Britain. We do not know for certain what arguments James Williams Hatherell's paper put forth, but in 1860 he published "A City wholly given to Idolatry. A sermon preached at Zion Chapel, Southampton and at St. James's Church, West End, in aid of the Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics." It is safe to assume from the fact that this sermon was preached in aid of the Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics that James supported Peel's Maynooth Bill.

The second work that draws attention is the published sermon "The Signs of the Second Advent of Our Blessed Lord". This stands out not for its content, but its advert. This was a much larger advert with reviews, appearing in the Hampshire Advertiser of 12th July 1862. The cost of the sermon was 5 shillings and the advert stated that the profits "are given to the Author's National Schools"; it continued "The remaining copies of this work are to be sold in liquidation of a debt contracted in the repairs and improvements effected at the National School, St. James, West End." National schools were founded by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education to provide elementary education for poor children long before state provision was introduced by the Education Act of 1870. The National School in West End was established in 1838.

Similarly, the Hampshire Advertiser of 29th November 1862 reported on two sermons preached by James at West End in aid of the Lancashire & Cheshire Distress Relief Fund, for which he raised thirty guineas – the equivalent of £2,625.00 today.

The Profits of this Work are given to the Author's National Schools.—1 vol., 12mo., price 5s.

THE SIGNS OF THE SECOND ADVENT
OF OUR BLESSED LORD: collected from the words of Jesus, and applied to our own times. In Twelve Sermons, preached during the season of Advent, in the years 1856 and 1857, in the Church of St. James, Westend, Southampton, by JAMES WILLIAMS HATHERELL, D.D., Incumbent.

"The sermons are plain, full, useful, and instructive."—*St. James's Chronicle*.

"It might be imagined, from the title of this volume of sermons, that they are printed to advocate some particular prophetic view,—this is not the case: the sermons are eminently practical, dealing in a truly devout and earnest tone on the Second Advent of the Lord; and they abound in plain, homely warnings against the special sins and dangers of these times."—*The Church Chronicle*.

"We have great pleasure in bringing this admirable volume of sermons before the notice of our readers. The sermons—twelve in number—are sound and scriptural in matter, and earnest and eloquent in style. They cannot fail to be read with profit, as the whole tone pervading them is eminently practical."—*The Christian World*.

"In these sermons the view of Christ's personal, pre-millennial advent is stated simply, soberly, and uncontroversially. The similarity between the ungodly, unbelieving inhabitants of the world in Noah's time, and the unconverted, unexpected nations of the earth at Christ's second coming, is distinctly traced."—*Dublin Christian Examiner*.

The remaining copies of this work are to be sold in liquidation of a debt contracted in the repairs and improvements effected at the National School, St. James, Westend. The author entreats his clerical brethren and the Christian Church to aid him in the attainment of the above object.

Orders received by W. SHARLAND, High-street, Southampton; and HATCHARD and CO., Piccadilly, London.

**Hampshire Advertiser
1862**

Sale of published sermons in aid of the National School, West End - a larger advert than was usual for James's publications.

James Williams Hatherell died aged 74 in Lowestoft, Suffolk, where, ironically, he had gone for his health. He was buried there. His probate record shows that he left £3,000 – the equivalent of around £252,000 today – final proof, if it were needed, that our humble rector was not so humble. His widow Constantia returned to West End and spent her last years at Heathfield Villa, Bitterne, where she died aged 90 in 1895. The Reverend James Williams Hatherell, D.D. was a member of the minor nobility and an intellectual but the evidence suggests that his faith and his desire to spread the Word were genuine. His obituary stated quite simply: "He was greatly loved and respected in this parish and neighbourhood." Perhaps more indicative of his character, however, were his charitable works and his readiness to take up an unpopular cause. He seems to have lived by his family motto of "Probitas Verus Honor".

SOMME COMMEMORATION EVENT AT NETLEY



THE LOST GENERATION OF THE SOMME

The Stories behind the Somme War Graves from the
Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

A Presentation at 2pm in the Empire Room
on Sunday 3rd July 2016 at the Royal Victoria Country Park
by **Dr. Simon Daniels.**

Followed by a Guided Tour of the Cemetery at 4pm.
With an exhibition from the Netley Hospital Heritage Group
from 10am until 3.30pm

Contact: Julie Green 02380364483
jd.green@outlook.com
Donations welcome.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE.....

July 6

LAWRENCE BEFORE AND AFTER ARABIA

Colin van Geffen

August 3

SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM (including raffle & free refreshments)

All Welcome

September 7

WINCHESTER - Bishops, Buildings & Bones Part 3

Andrew Negus

ON THIS DAY.....

On this day (1st June) in.....

1792 Kentucky, the Blue Grass State, became the 15th state of the Union.

1801 Brigham Young, American influential Mormon religious leader, born at Whittingham in Vermont.

1874 Pullman carriages were introduced in Britain, by the Midland Railway, from London to Bradford.

1907 Sir Frank Whittle, English inventor and pioneer of jet propulsion, born at Coventry.

1926 Marilyn Monroe, American film actress and sex symbol, born at Los Angeles in California as Norma Jean Baker.

1935 Driving tests in Britain were introduced by Leslie Hore Belisha, and "L" plates were made compulsory.

1939 The British naval submarine "Thetis" sank while on trials in Liverpool Bay, with the loss of 99 lives. Was later raised and put back into service as HMS Thunderbolt.

1946 The first television licences were issued in Britain, at a fee of £2.

1957 The first Premium Bond prize winners were drawn by the computer 'ERNIE' - with a first prize of £1,000.

