



WESTENDER

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for your future....*

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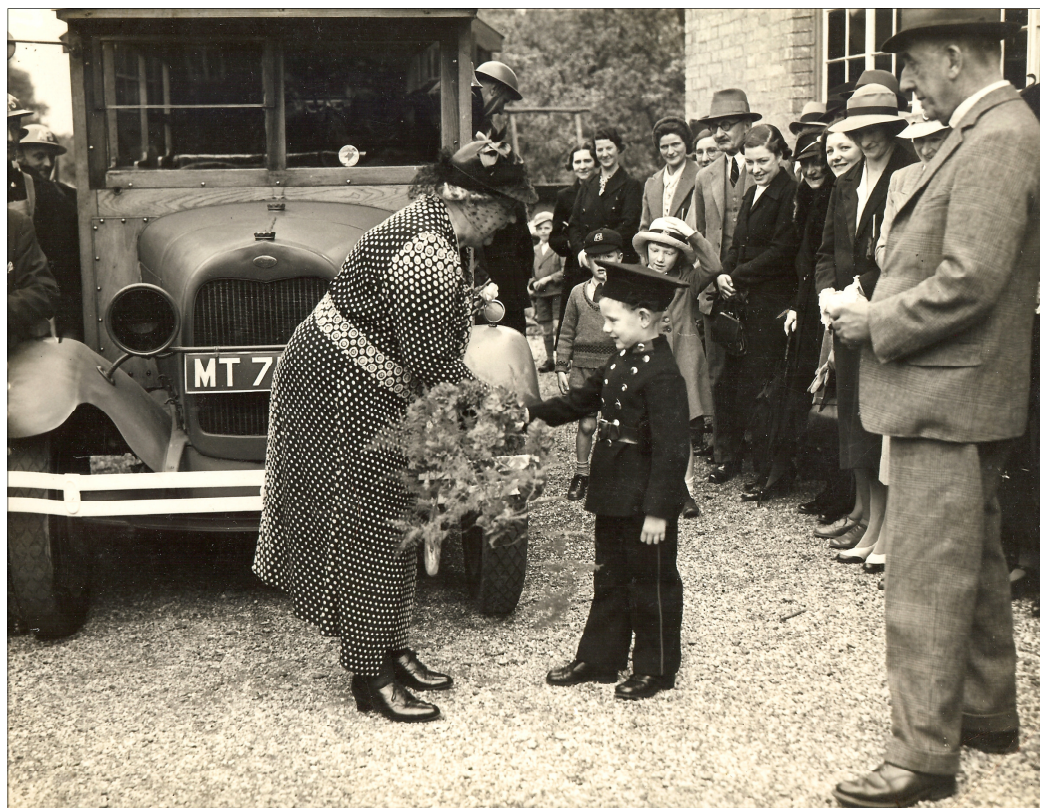
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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



A very young Rodney Whale in a specially obtained fireman's uniform presenting a bouquet of flowers to local dignitary Mrs Pearson, on the occasion of the opening of the new fire station in West End (now our West End Local History Museum & Heritage Centre). The photograph now in our archives was taken in 1940 outside the Parish Hall (originally the old National School) and the vehicle behind Mrs Pearson was the lorry converted to take seating and ladders to act as an auxiliary fire tender along with a towed two wheeled pump. Mrs Pearson cut the ribbon and declared the new Fire Station open.

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LIVES INTERRUPTED - 10 Officers in the Great War

A Review by Roy Andrews

Even though a hundred years have passed since the events of 'The War to end all Wars', strong emotions can be generated by the telling of stories and events from those days when men and boys from ordinary backgrounds were prepared to do extraordinary things and their willingness to go voluntarily into dangers, the like of which we later generations cannot comprehend. As we now know, millions died in the conflict and with the passing of time and the departing of their surviving loved ones, it needs someone like



Dr. Frances Hurd, our speaker at the October meeting, to remind us that all of the casualties and survivors of the conflict were real people each with their own history.

She told us how this talk had come about as the result of her being 'laid-up' through sickness and how one day, being bored, she bought online a battered box full of old photos. Among the many, she found one in good condition (attached) taken at the Sandhurst Military Academy and titled 'E Company Hockey Team 1915'. Given their names, she resolved to find out more about each named cadet in the photo.

Dr. Hurd found that five of the cadets died as a result of injuries sustained but five survived to go on with their lives after the war. She did not tell us of the hours of research she must have put into revealing the background of each cadet but the many letters and official documents she displayed, with photos of battle sites, and even photos she took on visits to the locations of where some died, displayed her devotion to the task.

Sandhurst College had for two hundred years been training officers for the army, each course lasting two years, but with the high casualty rate amongst officers at the front, the course was reduced to five months to provide quicker replacements. The cadets in letters home complained they were required to be on the go from before daylight until after dark for six days a week with up to six changes of clothes a day.

And so Dr. Hurd began the story of each cadet, with details of their home and education background and details of their battleground experiences:-

CARL DAVIES

A Welshman who had studied medicine, he died some when between the 1-3 October 1915 but was not officially declared dead until 1920. As Dr. Hurd explained, in the early days, soldiers only wore one dog tag made of cardboard which did not last long in the mud of the battlefield or, if removed by a

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colleague to prove death to HQ, it left no identity on the body. It was not until 1916 that two metal dog tags were issued to each combatant.

ISAAC USHER

From Dublin, he also studied medicine and at The Somme he died on 4th July 1915. There were several reports of how he died but they reveal the confusion in battle as they variously said Isaac was shot in the back, shot in the chest, shot through his head, killed by machine gun fire.

TOM WILMOT

From Herefordshire, one of 12 children his father being a vicar. Tom excelled at all sports. He survived battles at Ypres and The Somme. On 23rd August 1916 he wrote home that he was all right but exhausted. He was killed on 24th August.

STANLIE LAYARD

Born in Sri Lanka where several generations of his family had lived. He came to live in this country for schooling and when he was 19 became engaged to Eileen. His body was not found so for many years his fiancée wrote letters in an attempt to find out what happened and in 1920 she received a letter telling where his body lay.

JAMES FOULIE

From Scotland, he was top in school for everything. He joined the Highland Light Infantry and quickly rose to be Intelligence Officer for his whole Brigade. He was killed at the battle of Arras near to where Stanlie Layard died.

NORMAN KELLEY

He came from a well to do Lancashire family with a carpet manufacturing background. There is reason to believe he was bullied at Sandhurst and was drinking heavily starting with brandy for breakfast. He had a very short time in the army before spending two and a half years in hospital after an epileptic fit during which time he became more dependent on alcohol. In 1937, he was arrested for being drunk and incapable. While drunk in 1946, he was knocked down by a car but managed to walk home where he died of a brain haemorrhage.

IVOR COCHRANE

From South Wales where his father was a colliery doctor, Ivor was no academic but good at sports. In 1915 he was sent to Gallipoli where, three weeks later, while demonstrating a homemade grenade, he blew his right hand off and so was sent home. He suffered ill health but was called up in 1940 and ran a PoW Camp in France. In 1940 while home on leave he died.

TREVOR SOUTHGATE

His family background was in Brazil and he only remained in the army for a short time. He joined the RFC on 1st July 1916 just missing the battle of the Somme when his old regiment the Essex's suffered huge casualties. In mid 1917, he joined the Indian Army and moved to India for the rest of the war. He later lived in Rhodesia and Nigeria before returning to this country in the 1930's where he worked at various golf clubs as secretary. He died in Eastbourne in 1967.

DOUGLAS WIMBERLY

He was born in India but grew up in Inverness and at the age of 13 he was sent to Wellington College where, he later wrote in his autobiography, he had a difficult time. He came top of his group at Sandhurst and then joined the Cameron Highlanders and volunteered to work with machine guns. He survived the war although wounded and by 1941 had reached the rank of Major General in North Africa. In 1943 he became Commandant of Sandhurst College and died in 1983. He was the only one of the group of ten to have had children and of three others who married two were divorced.

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At the end of her talk Dr. Hurd was visibly moved by the telling of the experiences of, as she referred to them, 'her boys'. We should all be grateful to the likes of Dr Hurd who through diligent research keep alive the stories of otherwise forgotten brave souls.

PARTICULARS OF TOWNHILL ESTATE

Seat of the Late Nathaniel Middleton Esquire, June 23rd 1808

By Paula Downer

I recently obtained a copy of the Sales Particulars of the Manors, Mansion and Estate for Townhill Park, the seat of the late Nathaniel Middleton Esquire for an Auction held by Mr Christie of London on Thursday June 23rd 1808. It contains a wealth of information which I had not seen before. Upon perusal of the particulars, the details can be summarised as follows :-

Townhill Park is described as a richly wooded vale enclosed by substantial oak paling (fencing). Shady rides and leisurely walks could be had. The Park could be approached from Southampton (via Itchen Ferry village) through a gothic arch between two octagonal towers. One of the towers was inhabited by the Porter. From the village of West End one arrived at wrought iron gates supported by Portland Piers; elegant brick Lodges stood by.

The front of the house faced South-East. It was built in 1792 of white Malmstock bricks (i.e. of chalk and clay). A semi-circular flight of steps led to the elegant Portland stone Portico which was enclosed by six tall Doric columns. A domed structure or Cupola could be seen at the rear of the house. The architect was Thomas Leverton (1743-1824) ref. www.historicengland.org.uk.

It is a great pity there were no plans or sketches enclosed so my husband and I have studied the particulars and this is our interpretation - see plan on page opposite.

The interior of the house appears to have been influenced by the Italian style, according to the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner, Thomas Leverton's interiors *"have a style, decidedly their own, different from Adam's, Chambers's or Hollands's" their character coming out most clearly in the central staircase hallway, "profusely but very delicately decorated with plaster à la antique"*.

Entrance Hall – 15' 10" high ceiling, Portland and black marble diamonded flooring, enclosed by fluted Doric columns. Marble chimney piece.

Drawing Room – Highly enriched cornice, gilt moldings to walls, elegant marble chimney piece, Florentine sculpture.

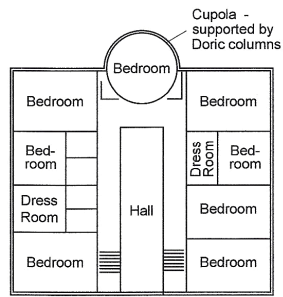
Library – Highly enriched ceiling and walls. Mahogany bookcases receding into North and South Walls. Large, elegant, Italian marble chimney piece. The library was normally the domain of the Gentleman.

Lady's Drawing Room – Domed ceiling rising to a height of 14' 4". Beautiful marble chimney piece, inlaid with Verde Antique (serpentine).

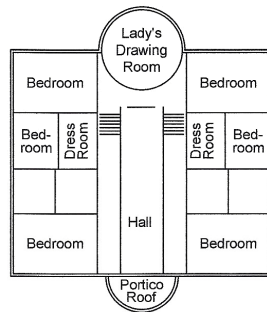
Dining and Music rooms - elegant marble chimney piece in each room. Mrs Nathaniel Middleton's (née Anne Francis Morse) passion for music is captured in a painting by Johann Zoffany. Anne Middleton is seated with her sister Sarah Cator at a harpsicord, Sarah's husband Robert is playing a cello. The painting is part of the Aberdeen Art Gallery Collection - <http://www.aagm.co.uk/theCollections/objects/object/The-Morse-and-Cator-Family>.

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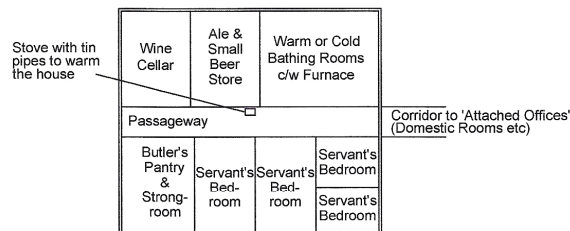
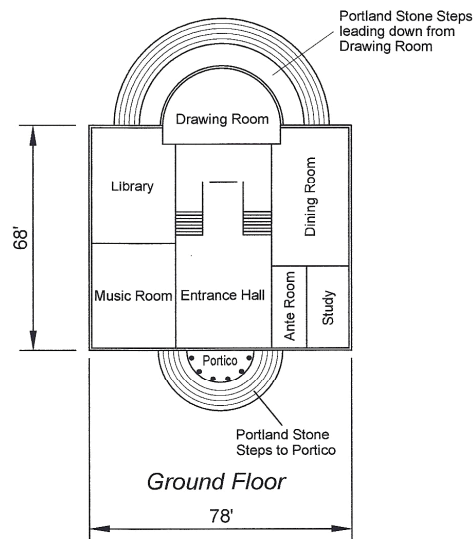
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Attic Floor



First Floor



Basement

PLAN OF THE ORIGINAL TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE (Paula's interpretation drawing)

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Water closets - First and Attic floors - 'Bramah' type fed from a lead cistern above the Attic Floor. *'The water being forced up by the engine'*. The invention of a piped water supply to lavatories was then in its infancy so only the wealthy could afford this luxury.

Roof - substantial, well framed leaded roof which must have cost *'a very considerable sum'*.

'Offices abundantly supplied with fine river water, thrown up by a powerful stream, and replete with every Conveniences and Luxury that Wealth, Ingenuity and liberal Expense could command.'

A corridor from the Basement led to the 'Attached Offices' under the house. This area contained a large well lit Kitchen, Sugar Closet, Still Room, large Servants' Hall, Housekeeper's Room, Cook's Bedroom, Servants' Bedroom, Staircase with closets under. A pump in the Scullery raised spring water to the lead cistern which supplied the Kitchen. The floors above housed a large Billiard's Room, Music Room, Gentleman's Dressing Rooms and Bedrooms. Steps led down to the Shrubbery.

Nearby, stood an attractive brick built quadrangle of stabling and offices with its Cupola and Turret clock adjoining the hipped roof. One entered the stable block through an archway. In the courtyard, five carriages could stand. There was enough stabling for fifteen horses. Staircases from the stables led to the haylofts and servants rooms. The Brew House and Laundry Room were nearby.

The stables led to the Kitchen Garden which was enclosed by *lofty* fruit walls. The garden contained a large Hot House, Fruit House with furnaces, Tool Shed and a 96 foot long Peach and Grape House.

From the 'Attached Offices', a long arched passage led to the Pleasure Ground, shielded by shrubbery. Here, a 31 foot stucco-ed building stood, overlooking a *transparent* lake. (*does anyone know what a 'transparent' lake is ?*) Inside this building, marble steps led to a polished marble lined cold bath lit by the Cupola above, a Dressing Room with a fireplace was provided in an adjoining room. A large lead cistern above supplied water to the bath and adjacent stabling/offices. The water for the cistern was piped from the brick engine house situated by *'a long and spacious sheet of water'* 700 yards away, on the edge of the River Itchen water meadows. A large 14 foot diameter undershot wheel powered the three cylinder engine.

Away from the house, screened by plantations, stood the farmyard. Here was a Dairy House, Brew House, Stable for eight cart horses, Piggery, timber built Granary on stone staddles, Pigeon House and a Pump House. In the grounds, a brick built and thatched Icehouse provided ice for the kitchen.

Enhancing the roof of their house with a hemispherical dome seemed to be a penchant of the East India Company men, did this remind them of the India that they had left behind, a reminder of how their fortune was made ? For Thomas Leverton, this may have been another speciality of his as he refitted a mansion, in 1803, with a dome at Scampston Hall in Yorkshire. Other examples can be found in Gloucestershire at Sezincote and Daylesford, the home of Warren Hastings.

While surfing the net I chanced upon Middleton Estate in Wales. The Palladian style house is no longer there but the Regency garden is currently being restored. In the late 18th century, a water park was created, interconnecting lakes were fed from the local spring which then pumped water up to a large cistern on the mansion roof. This in turn fed the water closets. A William Paxton bought Middleton Hall in 1789. He was an agent for the East India Company, he had dealt with Nathaniel Middleton. Is it possible that Nathaniel Middleton of Townhill is related to the Middleton family of Middleton Hall ?

Footnote :-

Nathaniel Middleton's mansion at Townhill Park was pulled down not long after its sale in 1808. I will explain this further in my next article !

CHRISTMAS PAST....

This extract from "West End News" was found by our researcher Pauline Berry it appeared in the Hampshire Advertiser & County Paper of January 1904.

..."Although the Master and Matron of the South Stoneham Union, West End, had been ill, they recovered sufficiently to provide a happy and enjoyable Xmas for 330 inmates. The Board of Guardians provided extra fare of £20, Mr W.S. Summers generously contributed £5. School Mistress Miss Hutchinson and Schoolmaster Mr Humphreys, helped by the children, decorated the Dining Hall, classrooms and wards. A service was held by the Chaplain, Rev. F. Davidson; the Master, Mr Brown, hopes to have a Chapel built before he retires.

Nurse Mason, the Misses Lane, Hussell and Parson were busy supplying needs to the sick. All who were capable assembled for a big dinner at 1 pm of Roast beef, pork, mutton, boiled salt beef, hams and vegetables of the season, the joints carved by the Master and Matron. Dinner lasted until 2.30pm., the plum pudding was excellent. All the men who were left received clay pipes and tobacco, the women with tea and sugar, and soon they were brewing "the cup that cheers", boys and girls had nuts, oranges and sweets.

Only one Guardian made an appearance, Mr William Henry Gater (of Winslowe House), who for many years has visited for Xmas. Before he left he commented in the visitors book, *"Christmas 1903, I have visited the house and have been pleased with everything I have seen with regard to care and attention which are being given by the Master, Matron, Nurses and Staff to the comfort and happiness of the inmates. I was especially gratified to find 10 old boys visiting, including 2 brothers Robertson, one on HMS Pembroke and the other of the Hants Regiment, another being now assistant master under local government, these are a fair example of boys brought up here and have done well"*.

In the evening boys and girls and a number of women mustered in the dining hall and were again regaled with bon-bons, fruit and nuts. The school Master and Mistress, with the choir, went around the wards singing carols and songs.

Dr Pern, M.O., attended the sick; the Master received a letter from an old boy in the Navy who had just been promoted to Warrant Officer. Mrs Coote, widow of Admiral Coote a former Guardian, sent shawls knitted by herself, Mrs Franklin with her grandsons, visited Xmas Eve with presents and toys, clay pipes, tea and sugar.

Sir Arthur Aylmer, "Donadea Lodge" (opposite the Old Burial Ground), Messrs May and Wade, So'ton, Mrs Carey, Miss Hellyar, Botleigh Grange, "Uncle Tidy" of the Ray of Sunshine Fund, Miss Cooper, Townhill Park, the Rev. Studholme Wilson, Chairman of the Guardians, Mrs Westlake, Miss McCalmont, Mrs Corse-Scott, Admiral Rowley, JP and Mrs Cutting of Hickley all contributed toys, money, tobacco, tea and bon-bons to make the occasion a happy one."

Some Workhouses weren't all bad."



Written by the late C.M. Sillence



GIFTS FOR THE TROOPS 1914-1918

By Pauline Berry

Despite the enemy's blast of shells and the whiff of death continually hanging over the British trenches on the Western Front, Christmas still made its presence known. The good old tradition of the Christmas Spirit, the time of sentimental celebration made our soldiers and sailors in France and the Middle East look forward to the festival with great anticipation and some heartache, no doubt. Even the shops in the French villages within the range of the enemy's guns, still managed to hang bits of holly and tinsel amongst their sparse wares.

The cross-channel ships, returning soldiers on leave to their muddy trenches and billets, carried thousands of packages and gifts from loving families and well-wishers. They contained hand-knitted items (scarves, gloves etc..) cigarettes, tobacco, sweets, cake and even a small string-tied Christmas tree, made it through to their delighted recipients.

The British prisoners-of-war, whether in enemy or a neutral country, were not forgotten by the Central Prisoners of War Committee (comprising the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John) which did its best to prevent duplication, uneven distribution, incorrect addresses, wastage and bad packaging. Some parcel's had been packed in damp sawdust which caused mildew to its contents, others leaking sugar, rice etc.. With the work of this committee vast improvements were made to its deliveries.

It is well known that Princess Mary, the daughter of King George and Queen Mary, had given her approval to a public fund to pay for thousands of special brass tins (still collectable today) to be sent to the troops in 1914. Their variable contents included tobacco, cigarettes, 'bullet pencils', sweets, a photo or greeting card from the Princess. This Princess Mary Gift Fund was intended 'for every sailor afloat and soldier at the Front'. Many survive, with or without contents, even today.



Each Christmas during the war, the British newspapers; The Daily Telegraph and The Daily News, worked in association to raise funds for rations of half-pound portions of plum pudding to be supplied to the troops. This was referred to as The Shilling Fund and many willing donors on the Home Front contributed generously to pay for half a million such plum puddings in 1914.

In 1915, £26,000 was raised to provide one and a half million and sufficient funds for three million portions were accounted for in 1916. This fund was successful throughout the war and it was believed that no soldier went without at his Christmas meal.

West End village joined in the spirit of generosity and collected fresh eggs regularly, averaging 40-50 per month, throughout the year for the Red Cross and Netley Hospital treating the war casualties. Fruit and vegetables were also collected during 1915 for the Fleet and Military Hospitals. The 1916 Parish Newsletter informed West End residents that Commdr. Millar had gathered clothes for sea patrols and mine-sweepers. St. James' Church organised money envelopes in 1916 for Lord Robert's workshops for the disabled.

A group of local ladies met regularly at Hatch Grange House and eventually produced 797 handmade articles to be sent to Netley Hospital in 1916. Mrs Blakiston of The Wilderness, ran a working party making Christmas gifts for the war-wounded. Further funds were reported to have been raised in 1918, with a dance, games and sales of work in West End, to purchase cigarettes for the soldiers. As a final gesture, a generous home-coming meal for our soldiers was organised on 11th November 1919.

Thankfully, peace was finally declared and West End showed its gratitude with a memorial window in St. James' Church, a carved oak tablet from Mr. W.H.Gater of Winslowe House, a stone War Memorial and tablet and several church services giving thanks for the end of hostilities.

THE FATE OF NATHANIEL MIDDLETON'S HOUSE AT TOWNHILL PARK

By Paula Downer

After Nathaniel Middleton esquire died in 1807, the 'Manors, Mansion and Estate of Townhill, Hants' were put up for Sale by Auction by Mr Christie of London on June 23rd 1808. William Hallett esquire bought the estate but there was something amiss with the deeds of the house. According to William Hallett's Will *'in consequence of a defective title a part of the house was pulled down and the property except what I now enjoy was sold in lots (above 130)'* which seems a very drastic measure considering this 'spacious modern family mansion' (ref. Mr Christie's Sales Particulars) was less than 20 years old !

William Hallett even sold off the building materials! An Auction was held at Townhill House beginning Tuesday May 15th 1810 by Auctioneer George Hookey, the materials being sold in 'Lots' over several days. The Bailiff John Ling was employed to show customers around the premises.

The Catalogue of the Building Materials give details of the various materials being sold which included :-

A vast amount of Timber and Portland Stone

Portland Stone Portico, Entrablature, Parapet and Plinth

Six Doric fluted Columns

Eight Ionic Columns

From the Entrance Hall - Two handsome Ionic fluted Columns, 13' 6" high

Roof of Dome and Skylight, an oval metal Skylight

Roofing Timber/Ironwork

All manner of steps/stairs - in Portland Stone or Wood complete with Hand Rail, Iron Balustrades

Beams, Joists, Moulded Skirting

Doors, Window Frames with Oak Sashes and Shutters

Venetian Portland Stone Window Frame, opening 9' 9" wide, 11' 0" high and Blinds

Twenty-eight Chimney Pots

Bramah's Water Closets complete with a mahogany or painted deal seat

All the Bells and Pulls in and about the House

White Malmstock bricks to be taken down to Plinth

Pavements in either Purbeck or Portland Stone

From the Laundry/Wash House - Drying machine with engine, jack, pulleys and ropes, Copper

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Boilers, Washing Trays, Ironing Table (note - the Kitchen Ranges/Ovens were not listed so William Hallett must have kept those)

The complete contents of the Brew House was up for sale, including a Pocket of Farnham Hops ! (we can only assume that William Hallett was not fond of a drink!)

Contents of Stables and Loft flooring

Fencing (Paling)

Brick built Peach House - *'filled with Vines and Peach Trees in full bearing. The purchaser to have the liberty of its remaining till November to take fruit'* (and the gardener to be paid five guineas for looking after it)

Even the Ice House could be bought!

Cottages, gardens and pieces of land were also up for sale including two neat freehold white brick fronted Lodges, surrounded by half acre of land, situated at the entrance to the Park, nearly opposite Mr W.H. Gater's.

How much was sold we cannot ascertain but, again, according to William Hallett's Will, some of the materials were used to build another house near Kintbury in Berkshire.

'Before I purchased Townhill I had agreed with Sir Walter James for his estate at Denford Berkshire where I took a considerable quantity of the materials of the Townhill Estate and built the present mansion of Denford house'

The Portland Stone Portico with its six columns seem to have turned up at Denford Park!



Front Elevation of Denford House in 1903



The Portico of Denford House showing the six Fluted Doric columns

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*Previous photographs are courtesy of Hungerford Historical Association
www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk*



Rear Elevation of Denford House in 2007

It is very possible that the above dome came from Townhill Park House
Photograph - courtesy of Historic Buildings Consultants Richard K Morriss and Associates

But how did the materials get to Kintbury, Hungerford ? It would have been the heyday of transportation by canal. At Townhill Park and at Kintbury, Water Carriage was available via London or Bristol to join the newly opened Kennet and Avon Canal. Or is it possible that William Hallett used the nearby Itchen Canal ?

Footnotes :-

'except what I now enjoy' - it did not become apparent what William Hallett meant by this, in his Will he mentions that he built a house named 'Candys' but it is not clear where this is.

George Hookey was an eminent Upholsterer, Cabinet Maker and Auctioneer

MEDIEVAL SOUTHAMPTON - The Italian Connection

A Review by Roy Andrews

At the November meeting Geoff Watts gave us yet again a well constructed, informative talk on the above subject. He began by explaining that, after the Norman Conquest, there was no direct trading from Italy as ships at the time were designed for sailing the Mediterranean and could not manage the rougher Atlantic. The Italians did trade with northern Europe but overland to Bruges in Belgium.

However, by 1250, there was a colony of Italians in London as the King had started using them as bankers. At much the same time, a Franciscan Priory, the order founded by Italian St. Francis of Assisi, was being created within the walls of Southampton. It was the Crusades which opened up direct shipping routes to Britain and by 1305 Southampton was mentioned as a port of destination, being easier to reach than London, and benefiting from its double tides. In 1319 the first galleys from Venice arrived in the port followed by merchants from Florence. Relations between the citizens and the sailors were not always harmonious and in 1327 King Edward III wrote to the Mayor of Southampton asking him to be nice to the

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Italians (the King was trying to keep in with his bankers).

On 4th October 1338, England having been at war with France for a year, a fleet of French and Genoese ships landed in the Town Quay area and plundered the town for three days before eventually being driven out. This resulted in the town wall being extended to encompass the whole town and incorporating some of the merchant's houses into the structure.



LEFT
The Wool House
in Southampton at
the bottom of
Bugle Street



RIGHT
The Old Weigh
House ruins in
French Street

English wool was considered to be the best in Europe and was what the Italian merchants really wanted. For many years it had to be traded through Calais but when King Richard II succeeded to the throne, in 1377, he made Southampton the primary export centre for wool. This created a great increase in the wealth of the town and resulted in the building of the Wool House and Weigh House in French Street. In return for the wool, the Italians traded in pottery, carpets, silks, spices, peppers, furniture and dyes. Being here sometimes for several months, the ship's crew offered services such as tailoring. Still wary of the Italians, by 1400 the town was requiring the crewmen to go unarmed and imposed a night time curfew. The Venetians had their own place of worship in St. Nicholas' Chapel situated behind St. Mary's Church of which nothing survives today. The Franciscan monks built a fresh water supply from Hill Lane into the town which was taken over by the town in 1420 becoming the first municipally owned water works in the country.

Many Italians took up residence in Southampton and some became very rich merchants. The most successful was Christopher Ambrose, his anglicised name, who lived in West Hall, a large house between Bugle Street and French Street and eventually became mayor of the town twice. Geoff also told us of the skulduggery that went on where some merchants were not averse to bribery and corruption..

By 1530, Sotonians were complaining that the Italians were only bringing in rubbish to trade, probably because London had been made more accessible to shipping with the creation of the Thames Pilotage in 1513. Soon all trade was by-passing Southampton for London turning the town into a down at heel back water from which it never really recovered until the arrival of the railway in 1839.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



First of all a big "Thank You" to the Parish for re-painting the Fire Stations large bi-fold doors. They are now a nice bright red instead of the rather faded pale pink that they had become. So well done to the Ground Staff for getting the painting done.

The Museum will be 20 years old next year on 12th April, I think you will agree its come a long way since the early days. So "Thank You" to everyone who has made it possible, from the people who have donated or loaned artefacts, photo's, documents, maps etc.. To the small band of people who help man the museum, to the Parish Council and Borough Council who continue with financial support and to other organisations who have contributed over the years. Next year will also see the 18th anniversary of "Westender", this newsletter published continuously since 1999. It just remains for me to wish all our readers



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR.

Ed.

MUSEUM WHEEL RESTORED



You may have noticed recently how bad the cart wheel was looking outside the museum. It has survived many years out in the open against all the elements, but the paintwork was beginning to flake and attention was required.

Our Treasurer Peter Wallace very kindly stepped in, and as the image at left will testify, has done a really good paint job on the wheel. The shade of green is darker than that previously used, but I think you will agree it is a great improvement and enhances the display.

The cast iron Tying plate underneath for those who aren't aware is the only surviving item from the Old Forge that once stood where Anvil Close now is, just down the road from the Museum.

The next job is to replace the information plate which has faded very badly.

MUSEUM ARCHIVE COLLECTION

Another "Big Thank You" is due to two of our members Sue Ballard and Nigel Edwards who volunteered some months ago to help me work our way through the Society archive, carefully storing items and photographs in archival standard acid free packaging to preserve them and creating a searchable database for the future. It is something of a daunting task, and my sincere thanks to them both for their unstinting help. Ed.

ON THIS DAY.....

On this day (December 7th) in.....

1732 The original Covent Garden Opera House in London, designed by Edward Shepherd, was opened.

1783 William Pitt the Younger became the youngest of Britain's Prime Minister - aged 24.

1787 Delaware, the Diamond or First State, achieved statehood.

1815 Marshal Ney, French soldier, the most famous of Napoleon's marshals, was shot in Paris for high treason.

1817 Captain Bligh, captain of the "Bounty", died in London.

1894 Ferdinand de Lesseps, French diplomat, engineer and promoter of the Suez Canal, died aged 89.

1915 Eli Wallach, American film actor, born at Brooklyn in New York.

1916 David Lloyd George became head of the wartime coalition Government.

1941 Some 360 Japanese planes attacked the US Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

1972 Apollo 17 was launched, with Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and Dr. Harrison Schmitt making the 6th Moon landing.

2017



2017

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT: www.westendlhs.co.uk

2017

January 4
PIRATES, PRIVATEERS & A WEDGE OF GOLD

Dr Cheryl Butler

February 1
**HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRE
BRIGADE**

Alan House

March 1
ANGLO SAXON ART

Kay Ainsworth

April 5
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Plus

SOUTHAMPTON'S LAMMAS LANDS

Geoff Watts

May 3
THE MILLIONTH YANK

Jake Simpkin

June 7
**FROM SILK TO SOAP : the trade and infrastructure
of medieval Southampton**
Dr Andy Russel

July 5

SALISBURY - a tale of two cities Part 1

Andrew Negus

August 2

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

ALL WELCOME

September 6

SALISBURY—a tale of two cities Part 2

Andrew Negus

October 4

**FORGOTTEN WRECKS OF THE FIRST
WORLD WAR**

Stephen Fisher

(Maritime Archaeology Trust)

November 1

THE KINGS LAWYER- Sir Richard

Lyster

Dr Cheryl Butler

December 6

**SOCIAL EVENING
CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ
& RAFFLE**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

Nigel Wood or Lin Dowdell

023 8047 1886

Monthly meetings are held at

THE PARISH CENTRE, CHAPEL ROAD, WEST END. SO30 3FE

7.30pm on the first Wednesday - Visitors welcome (£2.00 per meeting) Subscriptions £12.00 p.a.

WHY NOT VISIT OUR VILLAGE'S MUSEUM—FREE ADMISSION

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE

The Old Fire Station, Corner of Orchards Way and High Street

WEST END

OPEN ON SATURDAYS 10am - 4pm