



GREAT WAR 100

WESTENDER

MAY - JUNE 2018

(PUBLISHED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1999)

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 5

CHAIRMAN

Neville Dickinson

VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER

Kevin Alford

SECRETARY

Lin Dowdell

MINUTES SECRETARY

Vera Dickinson

WEBMASTER

Peter Wallace

MUSEUM CURATOR

Nigel Wood

PRESS & PUBLICITY

Ray Upson

Carole Smethurst

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Delphine Kinley

RESEARCHERS

Pauline Berry

Paula Downer

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Website:

www.westendlhs.co.uk

E-mail address:

westendlhs@aol.com

EDITOR

Nigel G. Wood

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION
ADDRESS

40 Hatch Mead

West End

Southampton, Hants

SO30 3NE

Telephone: 023 8047 1886

E-mail: woodng@aol.com

FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Our picture in this edition shows an idyllic view of South Road, West End and was taken around 1907.

Prior to the Great War the present Chalk Hill was known as South Road and when our picture was taken the road surface was still dirt, not being tarmac surfaced until the 1950's.

In the middle of the picture you will see the thatched wheelwrights cottage that still exists today although it has been extended somewhat now. It dates from the 17th century and is one of a very few thatched cottages left in West End.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



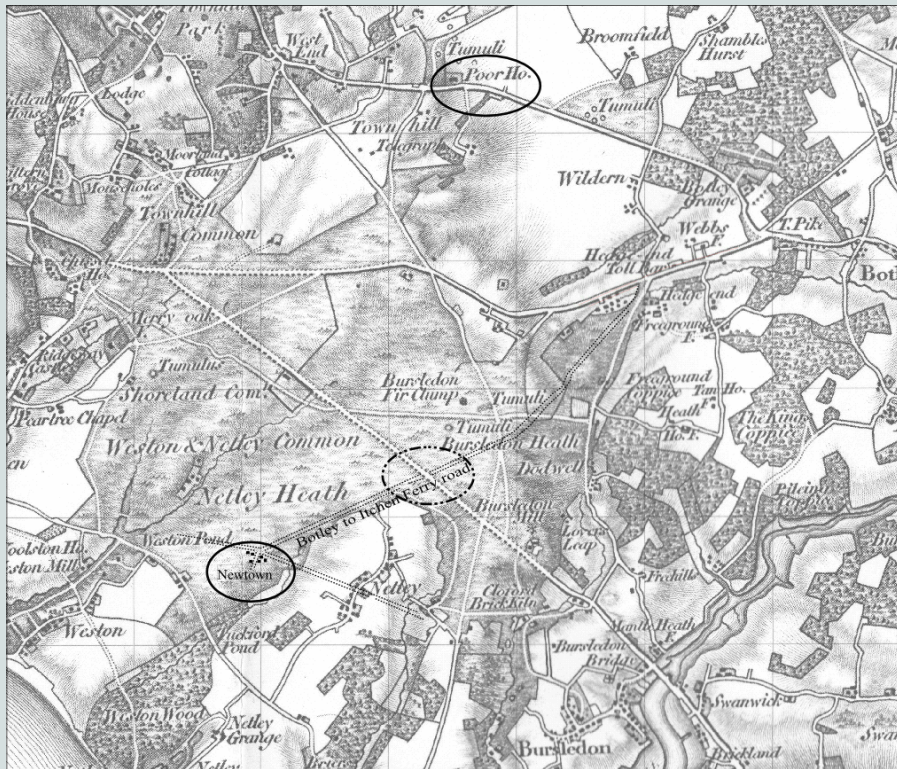
**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



THE NAMELESS RIDDLE

By Sue Ballard, PhD.

On 23rd June 1841 farmer Isaac Othen of Lake Farm at Wildern found the body of a child at Netley Common, within 200 yards of where Bursledon Road crossed the newly constructed road between Botley and Itchen Ferry. The body of a naked baby boy in a state of advanced decomposition was being gnawed by dogs and had been dragged some yards from the burial spot. The surgeon who examined the baby's body stated "Certain parts had been gnawed away and the left arm also, probably by the dog which was found gnawing it by a passer by. The body had not the appearance of having been attended to as corpses usually are, but the limbs were very much distorted. There was extravasation (leakage of white blood cells into the surrounding tissue) which might have resulted from a blow, but the blow might have been given after death." Cause of death was undetermined. The baby's clothes were later found in the hole where he had been buried and were identified by two or three witnesses, leading to the baby's mother being identified as Selina Riddle, who had given birth at the South Stoneham Union Workhouse at West End.



THE SITE OF THE BURIAL AT THE CROSSROADS ON SELINA'S ROUTE HOME FROM SOUTH STONEHAM UNION

Selina Riddle was baptised at Jesus Chapel, Peartree on 18th May 1823 and was the daughter of James Riddle, a labourer and his wife Maria. Selina was one of at least ten children, though not all of them survived childhood. Her mother had died in 1838, when Selina was 15 years old, leaving her with her father and surviving younger brothers and sisters, her elder siblings having moved on. In 1841 Selina was living at Newtown with her father and her brothers Henry and George, while her 9 year old sister Maria was living with an uncle and aunt at the Woolston Inn. The youngest sister, Ellen, had died at the age of six, just one month before. It must have been a difficult time for their father, James, who later moved away – though remaining within the general area, where he was known and could find work. His mother, the widow Martha Riddle, was living at West End at this time where she owned her own cottage and garden next to the New Inn. Some years later James also moved to West End. In 1861 he was living in lodgings at the home of a gardener, George Reeves and his family, at Botley Road, West End where James also worked as a gardener. James Riddle died at West End at the age of 77 and was buried in St. James's churchyard on 4th April 1866.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>South Stoneham Union</i>										
Registrar's District <i>South Stoneham</i>										
1841. BIRTHS in the District of <i>South Stoneham</i> in the County of <i>Southampton</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
302	<i>Twenty-fifth of January 1841 at the Prison Work House</i>		<i>Boy</i>		<i>Selina Riddle</i>		<i>John Bates Friend of Governor of the Prison Work House</i>	<i>February 1841</i>	<i>John Anthony Registrar</i>	

BIRTH CERTIFICATE - THE NAMELESS RIDDLE

Selina was brought before the County Bench at Southampton on Thursday 8th July 1841, when the court was "crowded to excess". Infanticide was more emotive than other forms of murder, not just because the victims were helpless babies, but because social attitudes toward women were based upon preconceived ideals of women's maternal instinct; those who killed a child of their own were therefore considered unnatural. The court being packed at Selina's hearing reflects the crowd's salacious desire to see this "unnatural creature" in the same way that they would have paid to enjoy a freak show. They would have been disappointed. Far from a monster or a femme fatale, they were faced with a shy and frightened 18 year old, "rather plain and down-looking" who "stole furtive glances from under her bonnet". Called to give testimony, the police officer who investigated the case described how he had taken Selina from her father's house in Newtown, when "she trembled very much and seemed very frightened", to the place where the body was found, but she could not at first identify the spot where she had buried him, although she admitted that she had given birth at South Stoneham Workhouse and made away with the child on her way home from there. She had told him that her father and brothers did not know anything about the baby's death. She had been "keeping company with" Arthur Knowles, who was the father of the child. The master of the workhouse, John Bates, confirmed that the prisoner had delivered a male child on 25th January and had left the Workhouse on 4th June, taking the baby with her. Witness Catherine Newlyn of Botley, a young mother who had been in the workhouse with Selina, said that when she had been taken out of The Cage at Botley a few days ago she had seen Selina and had asked her about the accusation, to which she replied that she did not know why she had done it, but she had done it and was sorry for it. The case was adjourned until the next day pending further evidence, but it was noted that Selina Riddle had been of good character until having the child and that her mother had died and her father was a working man who could not watch her at home; she had formed an illicit union with Arthur Knowles, a mariner. On the evidence presented, the magistrates at the County Bench ruled that there was a case to be answered for murder and committed Selina for trial at the Lent Assizes.

<i>Joseph Bolton</i>	<i>Imp</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Maly cutting, with</i>
<i>William Jordan</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Manslaughter.</i>
<i>Selina Riddle</i>	<i>Imp</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Murder.</i>
<i>George Barnes</i>	<i>Imp</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Rape.</i>

HAMPSHIRE ASSIZES 1842 "SELINA RIDDLE. IMPERFECT"

Since the "Act to Prevent the Destroying and Murthering of Bastard Children" of 1624, concealing the death of an infant carried an automatic death sentence. That is, the mother was automatically presumed

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

guilty of murder unless there was at least one witness to prove that the baby was stillborn. There was no requirement under the law to prove that the baby had actually been murdered. Despite this, infanticide was by no means uncommon, making up ten per cent of all murder trials at the Old Bailey between the 1624 Act and its repeal by Lord Ellenborough's Act of 1803. Of these, only 11 prosecutions were brought against men, all of whom were acquitted. Of course, the cases at the Old Bailey represent only those in London and that were brought to trial and we have no means of knowing how representative these proportions are of the country as a whole. In her article "Sin of the Age: Infanticide and Illegitimacy in Victorian London," Ann R. Higginbotham states that Edwin Lankester, the coroner for Central Middlesex during the 1860s, claimed that around 12,000 mothers in London had murdered their infants without detection. However, Lankester does not appear to have qualified this statement by saying what time period his figures represent – or, indeed, how he came by this estimate if the murders were undetected. Nonetheless, the mere fact of his making such a statement illustrates the severity of the problem and the need for the law to deal with it. The Act of 1803 laid out different legal requirements from that of 1624 but still carried the death sentence for those found guilty of the murder of an illegitimate child. There were different provisions under the law for mothers who murdered a legitimate child, the moral outrage at those bearing an illegitimate child having compounded their guilt in the eyes of the law, incurring more severe punishment.

The social stigma attached to illegitimacy placed the blame squarely on the shoulders of the young women, who were often desperate to hide their shame, but there were also practical reasons to hide an unwanted birth. There was a general feeling that paying poor relief to mothers of illegitimate children not only encouraged depravity and offended against the sanctity of marriage, but also wasted the resources of the parish, which should be spent on the deserving poor – the sick or those too old to work. Statute 18 Elizabeth cap 3 of the Elizabethan Poor Laws, better known as the Bastardy Act of 1576, authorised churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to carry out Bastardy Examinations to identify the fathers of illegitimate children and compel either the mother or the father to provide for their maintenance. The 1733 Poor Law upheld these powers, reiterating the father's responsibility for the maintenance of an illegitimate child. Parishes had the power to force the father of an illegitimate child to marry the mother. Where the father was not free to marry, pressure would be put on him to sign a Bastardy Bond agreeing to pay for the maintenance of the child. Arrest warrants were issued for fathers who defaulted on maintenance payments, who were imprisoned until they agreed to pay. Nonetheless, in 1833, The Commission Report on Bastardy undertaken as part of the Poor Law Report found that the current poor laws "encouraged licentiousness" as parishes made poor relief available to unwed mothers where the father was unknown or had absconded without paying maintenance as required by law. The New Poor Law of 1834 clamped down on this by incorporating a Bastardy Clause making the mothers of illegitimate children liable for supporting their children until their 16th birthday. With the removal of all sanctions against the fathers of illegitimate children, men were legally freed of all responsibility for their offspring for the first time in history. With no maintenance payments, no husband and no poor relief, this placed a great financial burden on the women, who if they could not support themselves or their children, were forced into the workhouse. In this period there were very few respectable employment opportunities for young women and even less if they were poorly educated as Selina was; her trial record classes her education as "imp." – that is, she could read and write only imperfectly. With the added disadvantage of an illegitimate child such a young woman would have no hope of finding work to support herself and her child, as the disgrace attached to an unmarried mother would also mar the reputation of anyone employing her. With the harsh poor laws, many unmarried mothers, desperate to keep their jobs, felt compelled to kill their babies. This concern with loss of earnings was not a question of greed, but one of survival in families like the Riddles, living at subsistence level, where every halfpenny was needed for rent and food. But Selina's motive does not appear to have been mercenary.

Selina had given birth on 25th January 1841 and left the workhouse with her son on 4th June, when he was 130 days old (4 months and 10 days). She had killed him and buried him on her way home from South

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Stoneham Union Workhouse, travelling up Telegraph Hill and across Netley Common to Newtown. She would have been around two thirds of the way home as she killed her baby near the crossroads. Post-natal depression was not understood or recognised as a medical condition at this time, so the question did not arise either at the County Bench hearing or her later trial. However, several factors make it likely that she was suffering from this crippling mental illness. First, the baby was not planned and, given her circumstances, not wanted. While in the workhouse, she would have faced scorn and abuse from the workhouse staff. Her baby would have been taken from her and kept with the other children, being brought to her only for feeding, which she would associate with the hostile attitude of the staff, increasing her sense of degradation. She would not have had a chance to bond with him. He would have become for her a symbol of her shame. Now she was faced with taking him home to her father and brothers, on whom she and the baby would be a burden, living with her shame on a daily basis and caring for him without any help. Such factors would be common to any unmarried mother giving birth in the workhouse, but would certainly have accentuated any symptoms of post-natal depression. But there is also some evidence apart from her circumstances that she was suffering mental distress. At the time of her arrest, despite readily admitting to the killing, she had appeared confused over the exact spot where she had buried him, which would be consistent with her being too preoccupied with her situation at the time of the killing to have been fully aware of her surroundings. She had later told her fellow inmate that she did not know why she did it, but as she had admitted to the killing, there was no reason to conceal her motive unless she really did not understand why she had done it. Her confused state of mind seems most apparent, though, in the pointless and illogical act of undressing him but then burying his clothes beneath his body – not actions associated with a cool, well-planned murder. Selina never said how she had killed her son and the post-mortem examination proved unenlightening, but suffocation is most likely. Having come straight from the workhouse, she was unlikely to have had a weapon. Suffocation or strangulation were the most common methods used to kill unwanted babies. Suffocation may have been considered gentler as it did not entail the shedding of blood and did not require any strength, but it is unlikely that Selina put that much thought into it. Her illogical actions and her confusion afterward point to it being an impulsive act by someone who was perhaps not very intelligent and that she had been reacting to circumstances rather than planning ahead or thinking through the consequences. Rather than deliberate violence, the single bruise and distorted limbs may be the result of rough handling when Selina undressed him if she had little experience of handling babies – or was fumbling in a panic. Perhaps the most compelling evidence supporting the argument that she was suffering from postnatal depression is that Selina's son was never baptised in a period when almost all babies were christened due to the belief that unbaptised babies could not ascend into heaven – an issue still debated among Christians today, both Catholic and Anglican. In fact, some children were baptised twice, having a "private baptism" at the time of birth, to ensure burial in consecrated ground if they were weak and thought unlikely to survive, and a full baptism at church when they were older, to fully welcome them into the Christian community. Some midwives are licensed to baptise at the time of birth for this reason. The birth of Selina's baby was registered by the workhouse master in accordance with usual practice, but Selina had not provided a name; he was registered only as a nameless boy, which together with his lack of baptism suggests that she had not accepted his birth as a reality – at least until faced with the prospect of taking him home. This was the first time that she would have been alone with her baby and had sole responsibility for him and I suspect she panicked as the realisation of her situation

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>South Northern Division</i>								
Registrar's District <i>South Northern Division</i>								
1841. DEATHS in the District of <i>South Northern Division</i> in the County of <i>Southampton</i>								
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
159	<i>Found Dead</i> <i>about 1/2</i> <i>of 1/2</i> <i>of 1/2</i> <i>of 1/2</i>	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Apparently</i> <i>1</i> <i>Month</i>		<i>Infant</i>	<i>John. H. Bodd</i> <i>Common</i> <i>Worcester</i>	<i>South Northern</i> <i>Division</i> <i>Registrar</i>

FOUND DEAD

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

overwhelmed her. All the evidence smacks of fear and desperation.

Society as a whole tended to place the blame for illegitimate births solely on the women as their guilt was “self-evident” – men, whether rightly or wrongly accused, could always deny any involvement and be given the benefit of the doubt. Few stopped to consider that unmarried mothers may have been abused by men in positions of power over them – or were simply ignorant of the facts of life and flattered by the attentions of a young man, as I suspect was the case for Selina. Lord Althorp and his 1833 Poor Law Commission’s harsh stance naively saw the answer to the moral and fiscal cost of illegitimacy as the “social and economic ostracism of fallen women”, which would be “a boon to the female population” by serving as examples to other women and thereby putting an end to illegitimate births. However, the dissenters to the New Poor Law had a more realistic outlook, including MPs John Hardy & George Richard Robinson and the moralist Dr. Paley, who pointed out that removing responsibility from “the seducers” (men) would make them more likely to “continue producing bastards without thought”. Although they could not be charged with a crime, having done nothing illegal, the men involved in such cases were often considered guilty of having put girls into a position where they felt compelled to conceal the shame of an illegitimate birth, even by murder. The Ordinary of Newgate (the chaplain of Newgate prison) regularly published Accounts of those convicted at the Old Bailey and these often described women executed for infanticide in terms which showed them as the victims of the men who had used them. As early as 1702 the Ordinary of Newgate’s Account said of one young man: “he having allur’d this poor wretched Creature into the great Sin of Whoredom, put her, as it were, under a necessity of committing a yet greater, I mean that of Murther ... he is greatly guilty before God of both these heinous Crimes.” The father of Selina Riddle’s child was Arthur Bedbrook Knowles, a mariner from Hamble. He was not much older than Selina, being 22 years old when the 18 year old Selina gave birth to their son in South Stoneham Union Workhouse. We cannot know for certain whether he was aware that he had a son or that Selina had killed him, but one can imagine that his neighbours and workmates would not hesitate to let him know, once they had read the newspaper reports. He would certainly have known she was expecting a child, as when arrested she stated that she had not seen him for about 10 months, suggesting that she saw him last in September 1840, when she would have been almost five months pregnant. As an unmarried man, under the old poor law he would have been forced to marry Selina or pay maintenance for the child, but the new poor law absolved him of such responsibilities. At the age of 36 he married a Welsh girl, Eliza Welch, some ten years his junior. They remained in Hamble all their lives but had no children of their own. Arthur Bedbrook Knowles died at the age of 86.

What happened to Selina? At the 1841 Lent Assizes she was committed for full trial. She was tried for murder at Winchester on 9th July 1842, a full year after her preliminary hearing before the magistrates. Ellenborough’s Act of 1803 still retained the death penalty for infanticide but no longer assumed guilt and now required clear evidence of murder: “the trials in England and Ireland respectively of women charged with the murder of any issue of their bodies, male or female, which being born alive would by law be bastard, shall proceed and be governed by such and the like rules of evidence and of presumption as are by law used and allowed to take place in respect to other trials for murder.” Juries were now given another option: “That it shall and may be lawful for the jury by whole verdict any prisoner charged with such murder as aforesaid shall be acquitted, to find in case it shall so appear in evidence that the prisoner was delivered of issue of her body, male or female, which, if born alive, would have been bastard, and that she did, by secret burying, or otherwise, endeavour to conceal the birth thereof, and thereupon it shall be lawful for the court before which such prisoner shall have been tried to adjudge that such prisoner shall be committed to the common goal or house of correction for any time not exceeding two years.” If there was no evidence for murder (as, for example, in the case of stillborn babies), juries could now find the mother guilty of concealing the birth, while acquitting her of murder, with a sentence of up to two years in prison. This option did not apply in Selina Riddle’s case; she could not be charged with concealing the birth as she had given birth in the workhouse, fully attended and witnessed, and the birth had been registered. She could only be charged with murder. She had admitted to the killing, both to an independent witness and to the police; she never attempted to deny it. She would be expecting to hang. At the trial, the case was

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

presented exactly as before, with testimony given by the police, the surgeon – and 57 year old John Bates, the Master of the Workhouse, whom the judge twice warned about the “careless and blundering manner” in which he answered the questions put to him. One journalist concluded “he appeared to be a very illiterate person.” The case for the prosecution having been presented, the death penalty appeared to be inevitable. No case was presented for the defence as despite Selina’s admission of guilt, Mr Justice Creswell ruled that as the surgeon had been unable to specify a cause of death, the prosecution had failed to provide material evidence of murder so there was no case to answer. He directed Selina’s acquittal.

I suspect that Selina later changed her name, for there is no record of marriage or of death in the name of Selina Riddle, yet she does not appear in any census record after that of 1841, when she was living with her father and younger brothers two days after leaving the workhouse. Did her father refuse to take her back after the trial? In destroying her baby to hide her shame, she had made her situation far worse. Any shame attached to having a baby out of wedlock was now far outweighed by the scandal resulting from her trial for murder. She was a ruined woman in every sense of the word. With respectable employment barred to her and shunned by her family, she had rendered herself both destitute and homeless. In 1846 “Selina Riddle, a prostitute” was charged with robbing an elderly man with whom she had shared a room for the night in a common lodging house in the notorious slums of Simnel Street, Southampton. That is the last we hear of her.

What happened to Baby Riddle’s remains? No burial record has been found for the nameless Riddle baby, even in a pauper’s grave. His death was registered simply as Male Unknown (one of 707 in England & Wales that year, but the only one in South Stoneham). Apart from his body having provided evidence for a murder trial, no-one seems to have given another thought to the poor baby and he is lost to history.

PICTURES FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Left: The Old Forge long since demolished now the site of Anvil Close and houses. The picture below shows the tying plate used to make cart-wheels and the only item to have survived from the forge, now in the museum garden. **Below:** A view of the Parish Centre just after it was built, it is much different and enlarged today. Photo taken from where the five bar gated entrance once stood.



THOMAS OXLEY, RENOWNED SURGEON AND BOTANIST

- *advocate of gutta percha* -

By Paula Downer

Thomas Oxley was born 7th June 1805 in Dublin. In 1825, having obtained his medical degree at Marischal College in Aberdeen, Thomas Oxley entered the Medical Service of the East India Company in their Far East outpost of Penang. At this time, Penang was considered the fourth Presidency of India under British control along with Bengal, Bombay and Madras with a Governor in charge. Penang was a busy trading post with exports such as tin, pepper, cloves, nutmeg and opium. Thomas Oxley became interested in botany especially economic botany i.e. plants and trees cultivated for use by man. He had taken note of how well the nutmeg trees grew in the iron rich soils of the sheltered foothills.

Unfortunately Penang was seen as a burden by the East India Company, not able to sustain itself and in the wrong location to benefit from the China trade so in 1830 Penang's Presidency was abolished, its administration transferred to Singapore. The Straits Settlements (Penang, Malacca and Singapore) were now under the control of the Bengal Presidency. Dr Thomas Oxley found himself in Singapore and then in Malacca, he was not happy about this as it meant having to leave his growing investment in spices behind. In June 1834, Thomas Oxley, Assistant Surgeon, married Lucy Caroline Hayes, youngest daughter of the late W.H.Hayes esquire of the East India Company Civil Service in Bencoolen, Sumatra. In 1835 Thomas and Lucy's first child was born, a daughter named Isabella Caroline.

In 1841, Dr Thomas Oxley returned to Singapore. In those days the medical personnel had time on their hands as there were few patients to attend to. Thomas Oxley was amongst the first of the Europeans to establish nutmeg plantations, purchasing 173 acres of uncleared jungle from the East India Company. He was an enthusiastic plantsman, sending samples to Royal Botanic Gardens such as Kew and Calcutta. Thomas Oxley also had a great deal of patience as nutmeg trees took up to 15 years to reach maturity and become fully productive, by 1848 he had about 4,000 trees. His dedication paid off, his nutmeg plantation on Oxley Rise was much admired. Killiney House, the family residence, at the top of the rise was surrounded by well tended rare ornamental plants.

Meanwhile another commodity had aroused much interest in Malaya. This was gutta percha, a sap from the Sapotaceae Palaquium Gutta tree. The surgeons were most enthusiastic as it could be used to make surgical instruments and splints. Dr Thomas Oxley wrote an article in the 'Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia' extolling its virtues, he went into great length to explain where the gutta percha came from, how the sap from the tree became a very pliable substance, consolidating in a few minutes, it was also chemically inert and did not adhere. The substance could be moulded into any shape. Dr Thomas Oxley explained how it was extremely valuable for bone fracture surgery to make splints, so enthusiastic was he, that he was convinced that all other splints and bandages etc would be consigned to the grave ! The native Malays were using gutta percha to make knife handles, buckets, jugs and shoes.

A sample was taken to England where it caught the attention of Michael Faraday who thought that it could be used for electrical insulation. Little did Thomas Oxley know then that gutta percha was soon to be a major product for the Telegraph industry, it was the beginning of the age of telecommunications across the sea. The Gutta Percha Company was established, their main product being insulated core for underwater cables. It was found that gutta percha was the ideal material as it protected the cable from being attacked by marine life and lasted for several years.

Back in Singapore, in 1847, upon the retirement of Dr. Montgomerie, Dr Thomas Oxley was promoted to Senior Surgeon and Head of the Medical Department. Dr Thomas Oxley was a respected man, offering advice to invalids seeking to recuperate in Singapore as the 'nights were sufficiently cool to allow refreshing sleep'. After the Governor found the Insane Hospital for the mentally ill to be in an appalling

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

state, Dr Thomas Oxley was put in charge. A mortuary near to the newly built General Hospital was built at his request.

But it was bad news for Thomas Oxley's nutmeg plantation, world prices were starting to fall and insect born diseases such as nutmeg canker began to spread. With a heavy heart, Thomas Oxley started to sell off his land, remaining in Singapore until his retirement in January 1857. By then Thomas and Lucy Oxley had a large family.

Upon their return to England, Thomas and Lucy Oxley and their younger children appear to be staying at Kyre Park House in Worcestershire, possibly through connections with a colleague from the East India Company. Unfortunately, in 1861, at Kyre Park, Lucy Caroline Oxley died. Thomas Oxley left the area with his children to set up home in Gloucestershire.

Thomas Oxley would have kept up with the news, taking interest in the world of gutta percha, he would have learnt that (Richard) Glass, (George) Elliot and Company had been awarded a contract to manufacture transatlantic cables. In order to meet costs Glass, Elliot and Company merged with the Gutta Percha Company. The newly merged Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company Limited (Telcon) and sub-contractors produced the cable to be laid across the Atlantic from Valentia Island, off Ireland's west coast to Newfoundland in 1865. To lay the cable Isambard Kingdom Brunel's massive 22,500 ton steamship SS Great Eastern was used. Unfortunately, the cable laying did not run smoothly and after paying out 1,000 miles the cable snapped. In 1866 they were ready to have another go with a new cable, this time it was a complete success. After this, another trip was made, the end of the previous cable was found and successfully connected so there were now two cables crossing the Atlantic. In 1867 Richard Glass was knighted for his contribution. Sir Richard Glass's final place of residence was Moorlands House in Bitterne, South Stoneham. It seems that his work had taken its toll, Sir Richard Atwood Glass died in December 1873 of chronic Bright's disease aged 53.

In 1871 Thomas Oxley married again, to Harriett Williams. After the birth of their son Arthur James in 1872 they moved to Southampton, to Woodside Villa in Spring Road on Bevois Hill, then part of South Stoneham. In 1876 Thomas and Harriett Oxley were blessed with another son, William. By 1880 they had moved around the corner to Wellington Villa, Portswood Lawn (now Lawn Road), possibly to enjoy the pleasing views across the River Itchen. Thomas Oxley died in March 1886, he is buried in Southampton Old Cemetery.



The Gravestone of Thomas Oxley reads :-

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS
OXLEY M.D. M.R.C.P.
FORMERLY CHIEF OF BENGAL MEDICAL STAFF
WHO FELL ASLEEP IN JESUS MARCH 6th 1886 IN HIS
81st YEAR
HIS END WAS PERFECT PEACE

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

N.B.

Thomas Oxley recommended washing down the trunk of nutmeg trees with soap and water but some thought that this was taking maintenance a bit too far. It is interesting to note that after Thomas Oxley's retirement in 1857 all medical staff in the Straits Settlements were banned from engaging in any agricultural or commercial ventures - it was thought that they were spending too much time tending to their plantations !

Thomas Oxley had plants named after him, such as *Durio oxleyanus*, a durian fruit which was first collected and described in Penang and a palm named *Calamus Oxleyanus*.

In the 1930's gutta percha was replaced by a new material, polythene. However, gutta percha is still used for dentistry.

THE NORMANS IN WESSEX

A Review by Roy Andrews

Kay Ainsworth's talk at the April meeting began with the story of how the Normans came to be in Wessex. This allowed her to make and show many references to the Bayeux Tapestry and interpreting the story told thereon which I found interesting as I have never seen the real thing.

The Vikings, having plundered and looted their way across Europe and Russia as far as at least the Black Sea, were offered a plot of land in northern France by the French Royalty in an attempt to maintain some control in France. This became Normandy (North men's Land). Here in Falaise Castle was born William the Bastard whom we know as the Conqueror who through family connections was related to various north European Royal families as well as Edward the Confessor in this country.

The story goes that Edward had promised his crown to William but on his death bed gave it to Harold which to say the least annoyed William who promptly set about organizing an army to come and claim his crown. As we all know he did this in 1066. He landed at Pevensey where he built his first motte and bailey castle; he defeated Harold at Hastings where he built Battle Abbey.

William went on to take control of the rest of the country not without some difficulty especially in East Anglia and the lands of the Dane Law. He died in 1087 back at Caen in Normandy allegedly apologizing on his death bed to the British for what he had done to them. Thereafter followed many disputes over who should reign over England and that went on for centuries.

When they came the Normans brought with them architecture and builders of stone the like of which had not been seen in England where most buildings were built of timber. The castles they built dominated the skyline to show who now ran the country and were quickly followed by cathedrals where a large amount of power was contained. Kay took us, by my reckoning to nineteen different locations across southern Hampshire where Norman castles, palaces, leper hospitals and churches or parts thereof remain.

BIRTH OF THE ENGLISH PARISH CHURCH

A Review by Roy Andrews

Dr Frances Hurd was our speaker at the May meeting giving us the history of the Christian church from the Romans to the Normans. Even before the arrival of the Romans to this country, there were already some Christians here but as elsewhere in Europe their meetings were held in the open air. By definition a gathering of likeminded people was and is known as a church and not the name for a building.

After the Romans left, and for a while, the Christians were marginalized and were mostly found in

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

monasteries. But with the arrival of missionaries in Kent and the conversion of the King Cuthbert generally the populace followed suit although not necessarily forgoing all of their previous pagan practices and it took until 685 for the last bastion of paganism, the Isle of Wight, to be converted.

Church buildings started to appear after Pope Gregory said they should be built next to Pagan sites as they were of wood or flint with earth floors. The early buildings did not face east but towards the rising sun. However, regardless of Pope Gregory, most churches were built for the convenience of the local Lords and close to their manor houses.

The Saxons could build large as in their cathedrals but all of their buildings tended to be dark inside having very small windows as glass was expensive and they must have been uncomfortably smelly from the large numbers of animal fat candles that were burnt therein.

The general populace was expected to take communion three times a year and woe betide those who did not. Women were married outside of the church's south door after which being part of man and reborn they could enter. Babies were brought in through the south door, the door of life, for their baptisms. The land around the church became sacred and the location for burials although the north side of the church was considered unlucky and to be avoided.

After the arrival of the Normans, all of the cathedrals were demolished and rebuilt in stone and pressure from Rome required the building of many new churches. Generally the practice was that a church's location was such that its bell could be heard by the next parish; this resulted in the Normans at the same time developing a village and market to go with the church.

Today many country churches seem to be located miles from any habitation. They are known as Chapels of Ease and are located where they are as a resting place for worshipers who had very long distances to walk to reach their parish church.

In the twelfth century, for a time, it became popular for churches to have a resident Hermit. They could be anyone from a peasant to a Lord who wished to devote their life to prayer and offering advice and guidance. They would be bricked up or have built around them a small cell on the side of the church with an aperture giving the Hermit a view of the altar. He would spend the rest of his life in the cell being fed by the Parish - a burden which possibly caused the fad for Hermits to not last long.

TWO NEW ROADS NAMED



Two new roads in the old Workhouse/Hospital site at Moorgreen have recently been named to honour two well known local people - Dr Claude Bamber and Cllr. Tony Noyce. Members of both men's families were at the unveiling as was West End's chairperson Janice Assman and the new Mayor of Eastleigh Bruce Tennant among many others. (Photo's courtesy of West End Parish Council/Eastleigh Borough Council)

THE VILLAGE POUND - beasts in custody

By Peter Sillence

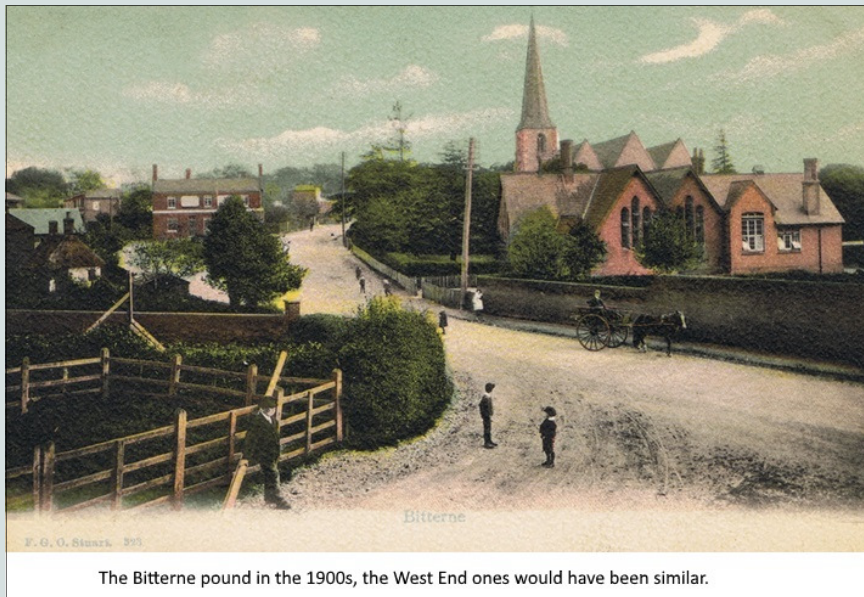
In the medieval period, before fields were enclosed with wooden fences, walls or hedges, most villages had crops in long narrow open fields and animals were grazed on surrounding common land. Livestock were meant to be supervised by a herder or shepherd but could stray and damage crops. Many villages and manors had a walled or fenced enclosure to lock up any animals which were loose and causing mischief. This was the village pound also called a pinfold, particularly in the north of the country. The straying animals would be incarcerated in the pound until the owner had been found and had paid a fine and perhaps compensation for damage. The village or manor would employ a pound keeper (sometimes called a Pinder or Hayward) to round up stray animals, keep them fed, and collect the fines.

In 1523, Master Fitzherbert's Boke of Husbandry, the first book on farming published in England, reads.....

“And if they horse break his tedure(tether) and go at large in euery man’s corne and grasse than cometh the pynder and taketh hym, and putteth hym in the pinfolde. and there he stand in prison, without any meate, unto the tyme thou haste payde his raunsome to the pynder and also made amendes to thy neighbours, for distroyenge of thyr corne”.

According to the Highway act of 1835 the pound keeper was authorised to seize and impound any stray horse, ass, sheep, swine or other beast or cattle. The owner was obliged to pay no more than a shilling fine plus the expense for keeping the beast, before 5 days had elapsed. After this time any 2 local Justices of the Peace were empowered to sell the animal, after giving notice to the owner.

There are at least 22 pound name roads, streets, hills etc in Hampshire, the 2 closest being Burseldon and Bitterne. I remember as a child visiting Bitterne with my parents to shop in Fine Fare or the newly opened Sainsburys, walking down Pound street past the still standing Bitterne pound. I believe it remained until the 1970s when a car park was built near the end of Pound street behind the Bitterne road shops.



The Bitterne pound in the 1900s, the West End ones would have been similar.

West End also had a pound, in fact it had two. One served the Allington tithing and was situated on the road side in Allington lane, a little way past the Quob lane junction. The other served the Shamblehurst tithing and was positioned on the edge of Botley road about 400m east of the south Stoneham Poorhouse (Moorgreen Hospital). Both these pounds seem to be shown on the the original large-scale Ordnance survey drawings of 1806 but they probably existed long before that.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

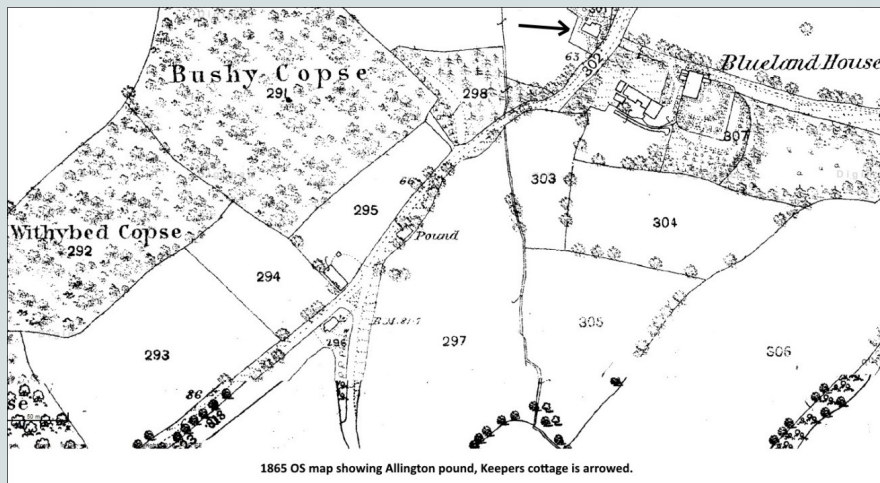


OS map 1806 showing 2 pounds and open common in Moorgreen area.

They are not shown on the 1845 Tithe map strangely, but the Allington pound is on the 1825 enclosure map and is shown best on the 1865 25inch OS map. Interestingly the old thatched cottage 100m down the road from the pound is called Keepers cottage - is this the Pound keepers cottage? I suppose it is more likely to be Gamekeepers but perhaps...

The Shamblehurst pound is shown on all the large scale OS maps up to 1910 and may have disappeared after the 1st World War. After the war barbed wire became more prevalent in fencing and stray animals were less likely.

In an 1884 meeting of the South Stoneham highways board at the Workhouse at Moorgreen, the pounds were discussed. It was alleged by an officer that Allington pound had been dismantled by a previous owner of Allington Manor and the land illegally enclosed, the matter was to be investigated more fully. It was also decided that the Bitterne and Shamblehurst pounds would be refurbished. At a later meeting the 2 pounds were reported to have been repaired, but the question of the Allington pound was still being investigated. It appears it was never rebuilt.

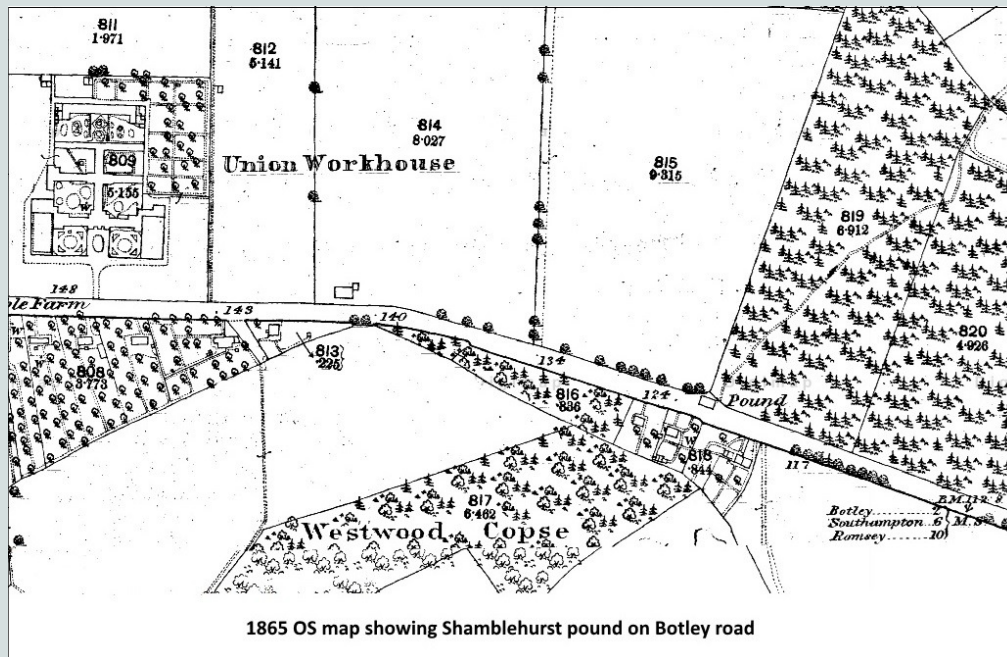


1865 OS map showing Allington pound, Keepers cottage is arrowed.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

The Bitterne pound is shown in the old postcard as a wooden railed enclosure. The West End ones were presumably constructed in the same way and from the large scale maps, seem to have been rectangular about 30x20 feet in size.



1865 OS map showing Shamblehurst pound on Botley road

The Shamblehurst pound was probably used to hold captured horses after the 'Great Stampede' of 1904. In September of that year 700 horses stampeded from a large Army encampment on Baddesley common after they had been startled by a night time pistol shot. Some galloped as far as Winchester and Southampton docks. A group took the Mansbridge road and ended up in West End. This story is recorded in more detail in my Fathers book Tales of Old West End. The Bitterne Pound was apparently last used in 1957 when cattle escaped from Townhill Farm. As far as I know there are no existing pounds in Hampshire except in the New Forest where they are still in use for holding Commoners' animals.

THE IRASCIBLE RECTOR OF BOTLEY Part 2

By Pauline Berry

Richard St. Barbe Baker and his father John who lived at "The Firs", still existing in Beacon Road, were often spoken of with great affection and respect. Richard's great-grandfather, another Richard Baker (one of a series of 'Richards' in the family), was however quite different. He was the Reverend Richard Baker, also one of several parsons, who was born in Norfolk in 1774, son of Richard Baker, Rector of Carston Parish Church. Having studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1803 he became Rector of Botley, Hampshire, travelling down from Norfolk in his family coach which stayed and eventually became a chicken coop years later! The rectory was in Brook Lane at that time.

Richard Baker's church was the original Botley Church to be found over the fields south of the main Botley High Street, part of which still remains. William Cobbett, author and would be reformer, also moved to Botley in 1805. He and the rector struck up a friendship because both shared a common interest in forming, tree planting and hare coursing. Before long these outspoken gentlemen fell out over the rector's over enthusiasm of acquiring his rights to pew rents and one-tenth of the tithes due to him from the local farmers, e.g. a pig, a cow, corn etc.. Cobbett accused his former friend over his purchase of poor quality straw and they avoided each other for ever after 1810. "*He (Baker) is a scoundrel and so I will tell him*".

Continued on page 16

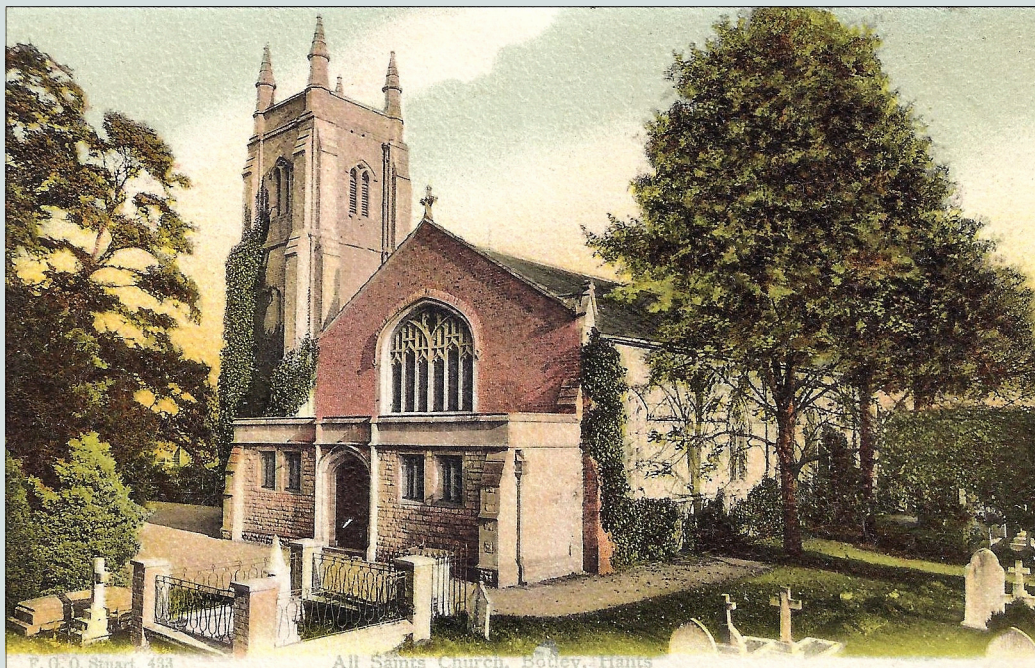
Continued from page 14

The rector fell out with several of his parishioners and was reputedly involved in an occasional fight. His great-grandson told the story of how he defended himself well against footpads (muggers) on Lances Hill and marched the two attackers into custody in Southampton, then returned to Botley, covered in blood!

Like many landowners, the rector stated that he purchased circa 1816 about 40 acres of land from William Hallett, in West End (see part one of my article) and also in Burr ridge.

He was kept very busy until the 1820's in correspondence with the Admiralty in London, concerning the presence of the Shutter Telegraph Station on his premises.

By the 1830's the burning subject in Revd. Baker's life was the demolition of the old Botley Church and the construction of the new and present one. The new church, All Saints Church, was to be built on a more convenient site in the centre of Botley village, accessible to all. Although his wife Elizabeth suffered from bad health and died in 1835, the rector spent the years 1834-6 expressing his indignant concerns over the design, plans and construction of the church in a long correspondence, mainly with John Jenkyns the chairman of the Building Committee.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BOTLEY

Although he was a member of this committee, he still managed to upset other members, by continually complaining. William Wells (churchwarden and friend of the chairman) stated that *"Mr Baker at our meeting the other night was as contrary as possible"* and wished *"he could be rid of Revd. Baker"*. Public subscriptions to cover the cost (£1720) of the building trickled in at first, but the rector did not *"acquire a farthing from members of the Clerical Society"*.

In April 1835, the chairman John Jenkyns wrote that he was awaiting the plans of the church, but *"Mr Baker is half crazy"* and a couple of days later James Warner (of Steeple Court) was begging him to *"prevent Revd. Baker from delaying the commencement of the undertaking"*. By the end of that month the rector objected to the choice of tradesmen and walked out, and William Wells said that *"Mr Baker is as difficult as ever"*, later complaining of his attitude.

The delivery of the York(shire) stone was soon being delivered and the foundations of the Church had started.

The Revd. Baker had a change of mind and offered some of his horses to transport the bricks to the site. Mr Wells informed the chairman, *"I half expected him to order them (the horses) home today ... but so far 'tis well"*. This helpfulness did not last, however, and the offer was withdrawn later, apparently because the rector stated that the plans he had approved had not been adopted and costs were rising.

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

This claim was soon disproved by Mr Jenkyns, which was hardly surprising since complaints had already been received about "*Revd. Baker shuffling out of some of the transportation*". No wonder he was referred to in more correspondence as "*the enemy*".

Complaints continued, including those to the workmen that he wouldn't "*get into the pulpit if put in the situation intended*" and it was "*too small*". Not surprisingly, he resigned from the Building Committee in July 1836, stating that he felt "*badly treated*" and "*cannot think of accepting the church as a Mother Church*". Mr Wells reported that "*he found fault with everything I do ...another month and you would find me in the madhouse!*"

Although the chairman, Mr Jenkyns, tried to settle their differences, the rector informed him that he wanted nothing to do with the consecration of the new church on August 22nd that year. Amazingly, he did actually conduct this service on the big day, which was well attended.

Sadly this gentleman was not on the subscribers list and was never paid when he died, after a lengthy illness, in 1884, after 50 years of his incumbency.

Revd, Richard Baker and his wife Elizabeth, had at least five children, including John Thomas Wright (Baker) who became chaplain of the South Stoneham Union Workhouse etc.. and especially grandfather of Richard St. Barbe Baker the "Man of the Trees", born at "The Firs" in Beacon Road, West End.

NB. Many thanks go to Dennis Stokes of Botley for information supplied and to the Hampshire Record Office.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Les Simmons sadly passed away on 24th February 2018 aged 82 years.

Les joined Westend Fire Station in 1961 (after moving to the village in 1957) and continued at Westend until retiring as Sub-Officer in charge in 1986.

As a tandem career he joined Fire Control in 1972, progressing through the ranks to become control Officer in charge of a Watch, retiring from that position in 1996.

In 1997 he took on the role of Team Leader of the newly formed Fire Service Catering Team. He performed his role until 1999 when he and his wife Linda moved to Gloucestershire.

(information kindly supplied by Colin Mockett ex. West End Fire fighter now living in Norfolk)

OBITUARY

The funeral of Pat Amey, widow of Derek Amey, the Society's first Treasurer and a founder member along with Pat of West End Local History Society, took place at Wessex Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 22nd May 2018.

Born Patricia Margaret on 23rd July 1932, Pat had moved from West End to Colchester after Derek's death to be with her family.

The Society was represented at the funeral by our Chairman and his wife.

RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

“Egerdouce”

The name egerdouce comes from the Norman French aigre-douce (sour-sweet) and is a medieval recipe for a sweet and sour sauce to be served with fish or spit-roasted meat, usually beef or boar but roast fowl was also popular. The sauce would be cooked in a covered pot in the hearth beneath the spit (here the oven is used for the convenience of the modern cook). The earliest known version dates from the 14th century. This version, from Maggie Black’s “The Medieval Cookbook”, uses rabbit joints, but chicken is equally tasty treated this way. Both would have been expensive meats in the Middle Ages when only the lord of the manor would have a rabbit warren and hens were kept for eggs until so old they were only fit to be used as boiling fowl. Ground almonds or soft white breadcrumbs are used to thicken the sauce. Both would have been expensive as almonds were imported from the Mediterranean and were labour-intensive to grind by hand in a mortar. Soft white breadcrumbs could only be made by crumbling the softest whitest bread made using the finest flour, afforded only by the elite. In fact, apart from the onions, all the ingredients were expensive: wine, dried fruits, sugar and spices – even the salt, showing that this was a high status dish used for feasting, not everyday fare even for the wealthy.

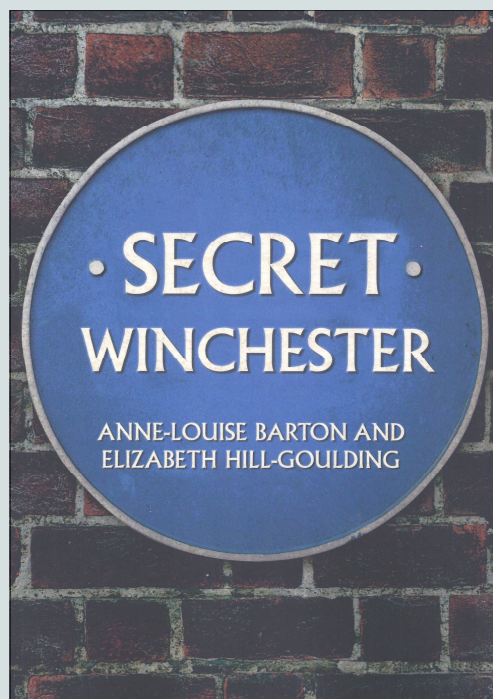
Contrary to popular belief, medieval feasts were not raucous affairs where lords ate chicken drumsticks with their hands and threw bones to dogs. Books of etiquette instructed young people in courtly table manners, which were highly developed and strictly adhered to. Blowing on food to cool it was banned, as was belching, dipping fingers too deeply into a shared dish, drinking from a cup with one’s mouth full or drinking noisily. Everyone washed their hands in scented water before eating. Forks were unknown in England before the 17th century – diners brought their own knife and spoon, but napkins were plentifully provided. Saucers were so-named because they were small dishes in which the sauce was served, shared between two diners, who scooped it up with the little finger of the right hand only and spread it over the meat, before wiping it on a napkin – they never licked the finger. All table etiquette was aimed at cleanliness and consideration for other diners.

6 joints of rabbit or chicken
 Olive oil
 2 small onions or 4 shallots, chopped
 2 oz (50g) currants
 10fl oz. (275ml) dry red wine
 1 fl oz. (25ml) red wine vinegar
 ½ oz (15g) granulated sugar
 ¼ tsp ground black pepper
 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
 ½ tsp ground ginger
 Salt to taste
 1½ Tablespoons soft white breadcrumbs

1. *Preheat oven to Gas Mark 8/450F/230C/210 Fan.*
2. *Saute onions or shallots in a little oil until soft but not brown and drain on kitchen paper.*
3. *Brush the meat with oil and brown it in the oven for around 15-20 mins until well-browned.*
4. *Mix together wine, vinegar, sugar, spices and a pinch of salt.*
5. *Remove meat from oven and drain off all fat.*
6. *Reduce oven temperature to Gas Mark 4/350F/180C/160 Fan.*
7. *Place chopped onions and currants in dish either side of meat – not on top or they will burn.*
8. *Pour over spiced wine mixture, cover with foil and return to oven for 30-40 minutes until meat cooked through, basting occasionally with wine mixture.*
9. *Thicken with breadcrumbs.*
10. *Make sure the meat is cooked right through before serving.*

“A Mallard, Smothered” is a very similar recipe from the 17th century for duck treated in this way, with dates replacing currants; it demonstrates the longevity of good recipes.

BOOK REVIEW



SECRET WINCHESTER

by
Anne-Louise Barton & Elizabeth Hill-Goulding

Visiting Winchester on a fairly regular basis I found this book a fascinating, well presented and an excellent read, full of information that I had little or no knowledge of. The many 'Did You Know' sections relating to various aspects of Winchester history were fascinating, for example - the 1895 Sewer Gas Destructor Lamp in Great Minster Street which burnt off gas accumulations from the sewers to provide gas street lighting! The fact that during her long reign as Queen and Empress, Victoria never actually visited Winchester, the nearest she got was a very brief stop at Winchester Railway Station en route to the Isle of Wight!

The contents are divided up into well thought out chapters, The City and the River, Queenly Connections, Protests and Punishment, Churches and Chapels etc. I found the chapter on Medieval Jewish Winchester of particular interest, something apart

from the street name Jewry Street that is not much known about. The practice of 'coin clipping' where silver coins had slivers shaved from their edges, these would then be melted down and would soon amount to quite a tidy sum in silver, whilst also devaluing the coinage. Included is an excellent mix of high resolution old and more recent photographs to illustrate the text and the many stories of Winchester's past. All in all a recommended read for anyone interested in local history, personally I couldn't put the book down!

PUBLISHED BY AMBERLEY PUBLISHING

ISBN 978-1-4456-7185-7

96 pages paperback 100 illustrations

Price £14.99

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 4

**THE MAYFLOWER & THE SPEEDWELL IN
SOUTHAMPTON**

Geoffrey Wheeler

August 1

SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM

(Including raffle and free refreshments)

ALL WELCOME

September 5

NELSON & HMS VICTORY : Their Lives & Times

Colin van Geffen