

WESTENDER

IN OUR 20th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

MARCH - APRIL 2019

(PUBLISHED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1999)

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 10

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

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
SO30 3NE
Hants

FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Our image above shows the old Methodist Chapel that once stood along the Swaythling Road opposite the entrance to Ivy Lane. Built in 1900 it is one of the many attractive heritage buildings we have lost.

The dedication plaque is now on show in our museum on the corner of High Street and Orchards Way.

In our picture you can see the construction taking place of Lincoln Court and shortly after this photograph was taken the Methodist Chapel was demolished. We have an occasional paper written by Marjorie Bodman tracing the story of this building available for sale in the museum for those wanting to find out more.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



WESTEND CRICKET CLUB PLAYER STATISTICS

1892 - 1895

By Elizabeth Bamber

West End now has the Ageas Bowl, the home for Hampshire Cricket Club on its doorstep but what about the history of cricket within Westend village itself. Though not continuous, the history of Westend cricket club does go back over a century. The Parish Council magazines provide an insight into the ups and downs of the club at various times.

After an absence of the club for 3 years it reappears in 1892 and we have the end of season batting and bowling averages for the players. A couple of infographics have been put together to show how the players compared over the 3 years for which we have the statistics (1892, 1893 and 1895), along with quotes from the match reports.

Be warned - some of them are harsh!

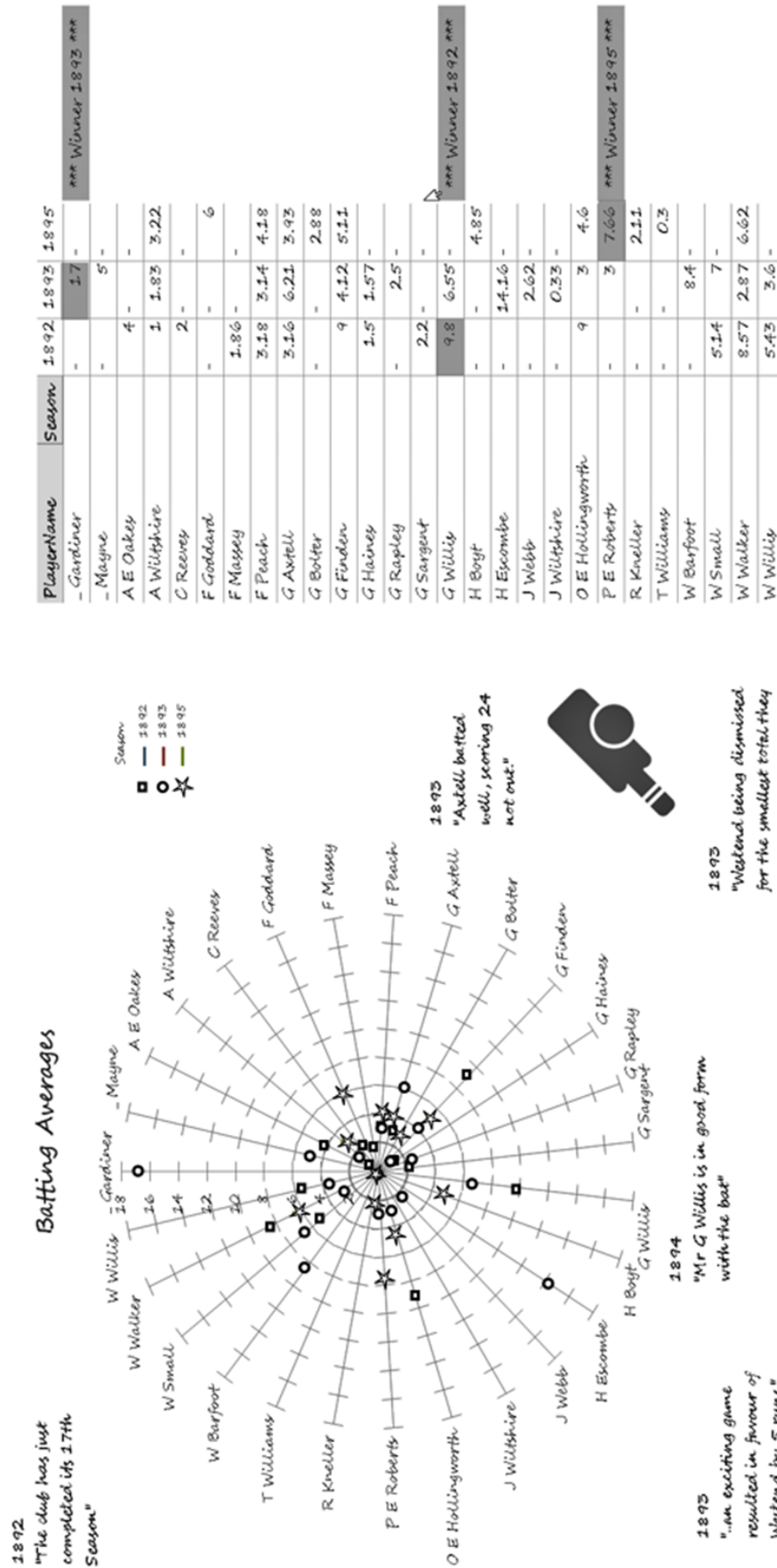
Acknowledgements: Icons made by <https://www.flaticon.com/authors/smashicons>



Photograph of members of the West End Cricket Club taken sometime in the 1890's - see also photo with names shown on page 5 - Both photo's are from the WELHS Archive.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

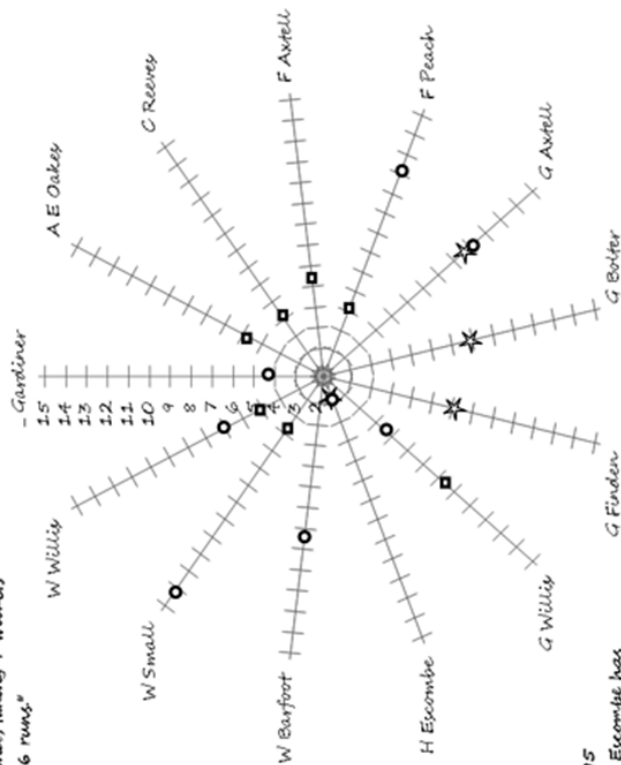


Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Bowling Averages

1893
"Gardiner bowled well for Westend, taking 7 wickets for 26 runs."



1895
"Mr Escombe has been available on 3 occasions only, on each of which he did yeoman service with the ball."

1893
"G Willis has borne the brunt of the work in bowling, having captured 57 wickets at a cost of less than 6 runs apiece."

1893
"Peach bowled well for the Visitors, securing 6 wickets for 22 runs."



1893
"Dunley brought a strong team but could do nothing against the bowling of Escombe and G Willis"

1893
"This is the worst defeat Westend has had this season. Bad fielding was responsible for this heavy score."

1892
"There are 35 names on the list of playing members"

*** Winner 1893 and 1895 ***

*** Winner 1892 ***

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4



Roberts, Swanson, W.Haines, G.Haines, G.Elliot, W.Paice, Upson, Purchase, Parker, Webb, Axtell
Axtell, Ju
Wiltshire, Morgan, Windust, Small, Willis, F. Pearl, A. Wiltshire, Thorn,
J. Wiltshire, R. Dove, C. Welch, G. Finlin.

FOR VALOUR - The Victoria Cross Story

A Review by Roy Andrews

Jeremy Prescott opened his talk at the January meeting by informing us that as a retired army officer, he did this to raise money for military charities. He would not discuss the rights and wrongs of war, only of the sacrifice and remembrance they generated. The charities look after the survivors of all wars whatever their circumstances; he mentioned that 255 died in the Falklands out of 30,000 participants but since that war more have committed suicide than were killed.

It was Queen Victoria who decided there should be a medal awarded for outstanding gallantry in the presence of the enemy as a result of the Crimea War. They were, and still are, made by Hancock's Jewellers in Great Burlington Arcade, London, from the metal of a cannon captured in the Crimea, which has since been found to have been manufactured in China. There is enough metal left to create another eighty medals, 1355 having been so far awarded, plus bars to three two times winners of the VC : these were Arthur Martin-Leake who won his first in the Boar War and second in WW1, Noel Chavasse who won both his in WW1 and Charles Upham, an Australian who won his in WW2.

Of all recipients nine are alive today. No woman as yet has been awarded a VC although an honorary one was presented to Elizabeth Harris, the wife of a commanding officer, in 1869 on the North West Frontier for her work during a cholera epidemic and amid fighting with the natives.

The first VC struck was buried in a time capsule in the foundations of Netley Hospital and when the building was demolished in 1966, the capsule was opened in a ceremony in front of dignitaries and found to be still preserved although we learned from a member in the audience that in fact workmen had opened the capsule the day before to ensure the medal was still there.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

On the 26th June 1857 in Hyde Park, 65 VCs were presented to the fighters from the Crimea. Only one Southampton resident has been awarded the VC and that was Leading Seaman Jack Mantle, a crewman on HMS Foylebank, who although fatally injured remained at, and continued to fire, his gun during enemy action.

We were told of many more of the exploits that resulted in the awarding of a medal such as climbing out on to the wing of a bomber in flight to put out an engine fire, sailing a midget sub eighty miles to successfully sink a Japanese war ship and ramming a German bomber in mid air to save Buckingham Palace.



Jeremy showed on a graph how the number of medals awarded per number of participants in a conflict has dramatically decreased over the years since the like of the Battle of Rorke's Drift when eleven medals were awarded among a total of 500 participants. He explained that the original wording of the awarding of the medal "in the face of the enemy" precluded many heroic acts such as that of members of the Bomb Disposal Squad as it is argued they do it when not in the presence of the enemy.

The George Cross awarded to mostly civilians for "great heroism" has 407 recipients; perhaps the best known is that given to the population of the island of Malta for their bravery during WW2. The George Medal, again mostly for civilians, has been awarded 2000 times. And not forgetting the animals' The Dickin Medal awarded to "animals in conflicts" which has been issued 37 times.

And finally the last word on the VC. When first issued it was decreed that the award could be, and was, rescinded for the likes of desertion and bigamy! King George V, however, said that whatever recipients did in later life could not belittle the heroism shown in the resulting award and so the decree was dropped thereafter.

HATCH FARM - extracts from Hatch Farm diary (1896)

Part 4

By Pauline Berry

It is now April 1896 in Albert Fray's diary of life on Hatch Farm, a mixed farm of 200 acres where the fields are being prepared for summer crops. The farmhouse, yard and buildings were on the present site of Larch Close and in 1891 when he took over, he rented it from Mr R.W.Fletcher who resided in Hatch Grange house with the surrounding parkland, as we know it today.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6



HATCH FARMHOUSE circa 1903

Occasional words have been added by me as an explanation.

- April 1st. Fine day. Carter finished ploughing in the dung for the cabbages ... we planted a bushel (8 dry gallons) of rose potatoes in the field.
- April 2nd. Fine day but not much sunshine Sown clover seed and I harrowed the barley ground on hill Tom has been with horse to Mr Bessemer's (Townhill Park) all day for 7/6d. Obligated to turn cows into mushroom field again as milk (production) has fallen off.
- April 3rd. Fine day but dull. Good Friday. Men worked a bit in the morning then (were) stood off Heifers have discontinued going into Fletcher's park (adjoining).
- April 4th. Fine midday. Two carters ploughing and Sid rolling (turning soil over) wheat. Davis harrowing wheat, I have sown seeds.
- April 5th. Easter Sunday. Anniversary services at the Chapel Sunday School (in Chapel Road).
- April 6th. Fine daySid rolling wheat and oats ...
- April 7th. A fine day Carter's have been dragging ground for barley, but its rather stubborn. I have done some work at the forge (opposite the Hatch Grange gates) Davis and Knight cleaning main ditches (Children) James, Mary and I have been to Mr (John St. Barbe) Baker's chapel to hear a black man give an address, Mr Johnston by name.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

- April 8th. Fine day and brighter, we have finished sowing barley I have been to Town to pay (cheques) into the bank. Mother (wife Augusta) went with me, called on Uncle George (his brother) ... I have sent cheque to Mr Fletcher for farm's rent (£111), after deducting his (dairy) account and Income Tax (introduced in 1799).
- April 9th. Fine warm day.... We have drilled (planted seeds), Barnsland with vetches (grown for fodder). Father and (brother) John came over for a drive this evening. 'Poppet' calved today.
- April 10th. Fine day with a slight shower. Carter took back (the borrowed) drill to Stoneham (his father's farm) and brought back a load of mangel (a type of beet) ...
- April 11th. Holman's (Blacksmith) milk account paid I have tied 1/4 ton oat straw for Othen (Holly House) Mr May (shopkeeper) paid for 1/2 ton of straw Received receipt for rent from Mr Fletcher Mr Chalk (farmer) paid 10 guineas for barley and oats Our cows laid (outside) in the yard for the first time this year.
- April 12th. Sunday Cold showers and very rough cold wind.
- April 13th. Fine day. Carter gone dragging (soil) by Quob Farm. Tom in the potato field ... 'Crystal' the cow has a slight chill.
- April 14th. Wet Carter fetched 3 tons of mangel from Colonel Willan's (Thornhill Park) ... Davis ditching, Brown clearing out water furrows in barley.
- April 15th. Fine day, Two Carter's ploughing for mangolds. I have been to Town, to pay bills at Dixon's, Toogoods (seed merchant's) and Tasker's. Paid Colonel Willan 2 guineas for the mangolds Parish Council meeting in the Schoolroom (corner of Chapel Road), rather a lengthy sitting till 1/2 past 10. (Albert Fray was elected onto the first West End Parish Council in 1894).
- April 16th. Damp most of the day I and Mother have been over to Stoneham Farm and paid Father £63 in settlement of account and odds on valuation, leaving £800 on same (loan) 'Queen' has foaled.
- April 17th. Fine drying day Ground worked well. Men weeding in fields.
- April 18th. Damp day ... Tom dragging potato grounds with 4 horses ... 'Crumple' had calved when we went out this morning.
- April 19th. Sunday Fine ... Mr Squire preached all day at Chapel.
- April 20th. Fine day Ploughing and chain harrowing Davis delivered 11/2 tons of straw to Bitterne Got a load of hay in for horses, began the last hay rick today.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

April 21st. Fine day with more sunshine. Carter fetched 4 tons of manure from Station and finished day ploughing ... Father drove over to arrange my using (his seed) drill. Mr R.Gillett (shopkeeper) has been here 'tattooing' today (with dogs).



THE HERD OF JAMES FRAY AT HATCH FARM, WEST END

April 22nd. A beautiful day. Carter's dragging and rolling for mangold (mangels an animal fodder) made a good job of it Sent 5 sacks of corn to (Gater's) Mill and brought home 1/4 ton of 'blues' (bluestone, a toxic copper sulphate used as a fungicide etc..)

April 23rd. Fine day but not so bright Sent for Father's drill to come from Chilworth Farm and Sid returned it to Stoneham Farm. Mrs Bromfield (Thorneydown farmer) sent money for oats, £3.5s.

April 24th. Fine day Davis delivered 1/2 ton straw to Mr Blakiston (The Wilderness). We have tidied headland (the turning point at each end of a field) by orchard ...

April 25th. Mild day with a little scud (quick shower) of rain I have laid a few bricks in cowpen. Mrs Bromfield sent 'Nott' the cow down to our bull this morning.

April 26th. Sunday Fine and mild. (Son) James and I have been to Chilworth Farm for the day, went to evening service. Father's heifer calved today.

April 27th. Fine and mild ... Davis fetched home a ton of cotton cake (£4) this afternoon (for cattle fodder).

April 28th. Carter's ploughing and dragging (fields ready for planting).

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

- April 29th. Fine ... I have been to Town, paid Jeffrey and Lewis £3. 5s. For oats. Bought swede, turnip and cabbage seed from Toogood's. Also a hoop iron to circle a barrel) for 1s. 6d.
- April 30th. Colder today with slight showers Fred fetched meal from Gater's Mill, paid 4 shillings for its grinding. Bignell (Quob Farm) paid 7s. 6d. For 3 cows to be served (by our bull).**

** (In May, Albert Fray regarded the bull as unsafe and bought a new chain for him!)

NB. Courtesy of Adrian Fray, grandson of Albert Fray, farmer.

SOME OF MY MEMORIES OF WEST END

By Elaine Clements

.....my memory of my parent's arrival at "L'etacq", 60 Telegraph Road ("L'etacq" – meaning the fisherman) at the time I was 5 years old.

My father had found out through locals that 60 Telegraph Road was for sale. Dad then took my mum and I to meet the then owner Mr. Paul – never met Mrs Paul she had died at the house, hence it being on the market – he was going back to his native Jersey from which he had fled to England when the Germans invaded the Island. He was by trade a 'shoemaker' – the bungalow was too big for him on his own – along came the time for the 'Norris' family to move in – I do remember that there was a grass track up the middle of the stoney/tarmac road. I do remember my first few nights in number 60 – I would wake up feeling that somebody was watching me – I asked mum or dad did they look into see if I was ok overnight – answer no – Dad contacted Mr. Paul as he kept up correspondence with him about what I had seen – apparently Mrs Paul had always wanted children – so when I came into the house her Spirit came to watch over me - I went to School in West End then onto Wildern Lane School – left school @ 15 – got married and moved to North Devon.

Does anybody remember our local District Nurse – Nurse White – I do - she used to cycle around the village – knew all the kids she had brought into the world – she was there at the beginning of life – also she was called in for the dying –

Another memory I have is of the tragic accident in what was the Sandpits where all the local kids played – up the road from where I lived was a family Mr & Mrs Coombs – they had three children Maureen the eldest, then Michael the middle one then my friend Mervyn – Michael/Mervyn and some of the local lads decided to dig a Cave out in the backs of the sandpits. The cave collapsed several boys got out, but Michael was buried alive – after that we were all banned from there.

Another memory is Old Dr Bamber's Surgery – held in the two front rooms of his house in the High Street. One room was his consulting room – across the waiting room was the Dispensary - no fancy appointment system – you just turned up – sat in the waiting room until it was your turn next – not like the appointment systems of now. I do remember also my mother told me some years later that when old Dr.Bamber retired his son Claude Bamber took over.

Elaine Clements - Gloucestershire

MURDER, MAYHEM, PILLAGE & PLUNDER

A Review by Roy Andrews

Law and order in late medieval Southampton was the theme of Cheryl Butler's talk at the February meeting. The common crimes were then referred to as *Frays and Bloodshed*- generally fighting, *Trespass*- which involved loss or injury or wrongful conduct, and *Breaking the Assize*- selling under weight or size beer and bread etc. The latter was the responsibility of the Mayor who was a much more important person than today and it was he who could keep the goods of people hung, which was more often strangers to the area; local residents were more likely to be fined. The Mayor also had jurisdiction over the fight against piracy - the famous Christopher Columbus being hauled before the then Mayor for attacking an Italian ship. Even inanimate objects could be fined; it was known as *Deodand* (an act of God). The Mayor tripped over a chain on one occasion, the owner of the chain was fined and the Mayor kept the money!



PORTAIT SAID TO BE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Accounting for Morality was originally dealt with by the Bishop's Court but eventually secular courts took over responsibility for any offence involving Brothels, Name Calling, Undeserving Poor, Unlawful Games and Witchcraft.

Brothels were licenced: there was one in East Street, but the Mayor could take married men to court for using them. In 1518 the owner of an unofficial brothel was fined 6/8d, a lot of money in those days.

Knave was the most popular name with which to insult somebody, followed by *Whoremonger* and *Greasy Butchers Face!*

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

Unlawful gaming included gambling, corruption by taking persons away from their work - even Bowling was considered under this heading.

Witchcraft was not considered a major offence until after the Reformation of 1599 when it became much more serious and by the 17th Century witches were being burnt.

In medieval times, most people never often travelled much beyond their own parish and if they did they required a passport to travel, so any strangers were treated with suspicion. On arrival, their passport would be checked, they had to prove they had money and any large groups were considered doubly suspicious. Travelling Players had to hold a licence and have a further licence to travel; if they were attached to a Noble Person, all the better for them. Gypsies even then were a problem and Thomas Cromwell once ordered them all out of the country; the Southampton Mayor gave them money to leave.



THE BARGATE - SOUTHAMPTON

The Court was held at the Bargate where examinations were carried out and depositions heard. The Instruments of Justice available to the court besides fining were pillories, which locked in your head, stocks which locked in your feet and the gibbet for hanging. The main gibbet was situated on the Common with one for pirates located outside of Gods House Tower overlooking the sea as a warning to passing sailors. Prisons at various times were located at the Bargate, Catchcold Tower and Gods House Tower. Money as ever spoke loudly and if you had enough you could buy your freedom from even the most serious charge as Italian Merchants did to get a crew off a murder charge.

As ever, Cheryl gave us a thoroughly researched and well delivered talk and we are especially grateful as she came at short notice.

JOHN ANDERSON OF KILMUN, ARGYLLSHIRE

By Paula Downer

In the Old Burial Ground of West End lies a granite memorial in the 'high cross' Celtic style to John Anderson of Kilmun, Argyllshire. Who was John Anderson ? The 1891 Census describes him as a 'Retired Merchant' living with his wife Mary Ellen at 'Rosehill' in West End, South Stoneham.



Extract from a historic map of West End (OS 1888-1913 series)

'Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland'

Scotsman John Anderson was born July 5th 1822 in Kilmun, Argyllshire, a village situated on the north east shore of Holy Loch. In 1858 he married Cheshire born Mary Ellen Capper in Islington, London. The 1861 Census show John and Mary Anderson living in Islington, with John described as a 'Traveller and Buyer of Silk Goods'. The railways had changed the face of Great Britain, by 1854 most of the larger towns in England were connected by rail and by the 1870's most had a draper/department store. Salesmen, armed with brochures, could now travel further afield to sell their wares. John Anderson may have travelled to the south coast on the London & South Western Railway (LSWR) to do business with department store owners such as Edwin Jones. Edwin Jones had opened his first shop in East Street, Southampton in 1860, setting up a business in Wholesale in 1880 to supply local traders as well as merchandise for his own store, by then John Anderson had become established as a 'Woollen Warehouseman', a wholesaler of cloth.

The Warehousemen needed to keep up to date with the world of textiles, a very invaluable source at the time was the 'Warehousemen & Drapers Trade Journal and Review of the Textile Fabric Manufactures'. This publication contained information from around the world with trade reports from the London markets. Articles discussed topical subjects such as the silk market, fashion in Paris, import duties on cotton yarn from India, silk worm diseases and much more, besides offering 'Trade hints to young drapers upon commencing business'. The Warehousemen used this publication to advertise when their Warehouse was open for viewing on 'Show Days' - to display their wares to retail drapers, milliners etc. contemplating a visit to the wholesale market (*sic*).

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

By 1891 John and Mary Anderson had retired to a house named 'Rosehill', on Church Hill in West End. Edwin Jones was living close by, having purchased Harefield House in 1889. Is it possible that John Anderson and Edwin Jones had become friends through their Wholesale business? The Andersons were certainly known to the Baker family who lived at 'The Firs' on the fringe of Telegraph Wood, this story is recounted in Richard St. Barbe Baker's autobiography 'My Life My Trees'. Apparently, when Richard was a small boy, Mrs Anderson happened to mention to his grandmother (Ann Purrott) that she had lost a little kitten, she could tell by the worried look on the small boy's face that he had become attached to this kitten. The kitten had wandered into the Baker's family kitchen and Richard had befriended it. Nevertheless, Mary Anderson charitably let Richard keep this little kitten, much to his relief ! The grandmother here is Ann Purrott (Richard's grandmother on his mother's side) who lived at 'Cliftonville' which was next door to the Andersons. Richard's grandfather Charles Purrott was a retired ironmonger, he was District Warden for the parish of St.James', Ann was Honorary Secretary for the West End Medical Club.

John Anderson died December 23rd 1901. Mary continued to live at 'Rosehill', the 1911 census shows Mary accompanied by a Cook and a Lady Companion, Helen Margaret Geekie who may have been a relation as her mother's maiden name was Anderson (Elizabeth, born in Tasmania c.1841). Mary Ellen Anderson died 19th February 1919, aged 85, and is buried in the Old Burial Ground with her husband, John.



The grave of John and Mary Ellen Anderson (left) lies next to Edwin Jones's family grave (right)

Continued on page 15

Continued from page14

**LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
UNTO ETERNAL LIFE'
(Jude 1.21)**

When Edwin Jones died in 1896, villagers from West End looked on as the cortege proceeded from Harefield to St. James' Church, many attended the service, read by the Reverend C.R.Patey, including family, friends, dignitaries, staff and representatives of Edwin Jones's wholesale customers (ref. Southampton Times, August 1896).

I have not found any evidence to support John Anderson's connection to Edwin Jones, but I shall keep looking !

'Kirkstyle' shown on previous map was previously 'Cliftonville'.

PORTSMOUTH: Harlots, Dung & Glory

A Review by Roy Andrews

At the March meeting, Andrew Negus presented us with another of his well researched talks complete with some humorous asides as the above title suggests. In an hour, he transported us from 1100, when Portsea Island was no more than a shingle bank overlooking Spit Head, to 1800, when the port of Portsmouth, built on the said bank, was the most important naval dockyard in the country.



PORTCHESTER CASTLE

It all started with William the Conqueror who identified Portchester Castle and the anchorage as a useful route to and from his holdings in France. Henry I increased security by building a Norman Keep within the old Roman walls of the castle. The main harbour was at The Camber, located on Portsea Island where the harbour mouth narrows opposite Gosport and protected from the open sea by a natural spit of land, creating a lagoon-like harbour. As the town grew in 1185, John de Gisor gave land for the building of a church which would eventually become the cathedral St. Thomas's- the first church so named after Thomas Beckett, a friend of Gisors'.

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15



THE GARRISON CHURCH

To raise money for his foreign travels, Richard I sold a charter making the town a borough in 1194 and by 1200, the seven road layout, still identifiable in the old town, had been laid out (some 600 years after the street grid in Southampton's Hamwic had been laid down!). In 1215, King John made the Camber a Royal Dockyard to look after ships and guard the harbour. *Domus Dei*, a monastic hospitality collection of buildings, was erected and after Henry VII, this became the Garrison Church.

In 1338, at the start of the Hundred Years War, the French attacked and looted the town twice, indicating that the castle at Portchester could not defend the town and so by 1390, Henry V had a stone (from France) Round Tower built at the harbour entrance, linked by a chain, with three feet long links to a tower at Gosport.

From 1460, the entire population of the town was excommunicated for fifty years by the then Pope because of the murder of Bishop Moylens from Chichester by some unpaid disgruntled sailors. After the allotted time, the top dignitaries from the town were required to show penitence by spending a day walking up and down, from dawn to dusk, along what is now known as Penny Street but was originally Penitence Street.

With the launch of the Royal Navy by Henry Tudor in 1500, the dock yard was moved north from The Camber and a new town, Portsea, developed. Ships were now being built and there is a claim that the third to be built here (although Southampton or The Hamble River might argue otherwise) was The Mary Rose and the first dry dock in the country was built here. A ditch and wall was built around each of the settlements of Portsmouth and Portsea, the Hot Walls were built along from the Round Tower to a new Square Tower, all now overlooking the main channel into the harbour and in 1540, Southsea Castle was built. By 1700, a Dutchman named De Gomme had been brought in to improve the fortifications and this included the building of Unicorn Gate into Portsea and Landport Gate into Portsmouth



THE UNICORN GATE

Continued on page 18

RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

“Anzac Biscuits”

Anzac Day on 25th April marks the anniversary of the first major military action of WW1 fought by Australian and New Zealand forces. In Australia, Anzac Day is a major national holiday with which Anzac biscuits have become associated as a symbol of the soldiers' solidarity. But, in fact, they originated for more prosaic reasons: all the ingredients were cheap and easily obtainable and they travelled well. Originally they were crisp, not chewy - a hard tack that could survive the voyage to the frontlines. Both Australia & New Zealand claim credit for their origin and there is a theory that Scottish immigrants devised the recipe as they were used to cooking with oats. Magazines of the time published similar recipes under a variety of names, including Rolled Oat Biscuits or Soldiers' Biscuits. They were only named Anzac biscuits following the Gallipoli Campaign (17 Feb 1915 - 9 Jan 1916), after which the recipe appeared in cookbooks from the 1920s under the names Anzac Crispies, Anzac Tiles or Anzac Wafers.

The official recipe from the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs, published by ABC Broken Hill (Australia):

1 cup plain flour
 1 cup sugar
 1 cup rolled oats
 1 cup coconut
 4 oz (125g) butter
 1 Tbsp golden syrup
 1 tsp bicarbonate soda
 2 Tbsp boiling water (add a little more water if mixture is too dry)

Grease biscuit tray and pre-heat oven to 350F / Gas 4 / 180C (160 fan).

Combine dry ingredients.

Melt together butter and golden syrup

Combine water and bicarbonate soda, and add to butter mixture.

Mix butter mixture and dry ingredients.

Drop teaspoons of mixture onto tray, allowing room for spreading.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden. Allow to cool on tray for a few minutes before transferring to cooling racks.

Adelaide Farmers Market gives an adaptation for a modern, slightly chewier version:

Makes approx. 30 cookies.

½ cup / 3 oz / 75g plain flour
 ½ cup / 3 oz / 75g self raising flour
 1 cup / 3 oz / 90g rolled oats
 ¾ Cup / 2oz / 60g desiccated coconut
 ½ cup / 3 ½ oz / 100g caster sugar
 4 ½ oz / 125g butter
 1 Tbsp golden syrup
 ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
 1 Tbsp boiling water

Pre-heat oven to Gas 3 / 325F / 170C (150C fan)

Lightly grease 2 large baking trays or line them with baking parchment.

Mix flour, oats, desiccated coconut and sugar in a large bowl.

Melt the butter with the golden syrup in a large pan over medium heat, then remove pan from heat.

Combine boiling water and bicarbonate of soda; add to butter mixture and mix well (it will froth up).

Stir into dry ingredients until combined.

Roll teaspoons of the dough into balls and space well apart on trays, allowing room for spreading.

Bake for 15 minutes until light golden brown. Allow to cool on tray for a few minutes before transferring to wire cooling racks.

Continued from page 16



SOUTHSEA CASTLE

The English Civil War saw the port supporting the King; however after Parliamentary troops seized Southsea Castle, the Governor was forced to surrender but, after threatening to blow up 50 tons of explosives thus destroying the entire island, he was allowed to sail away into exile.

As the Royal Navy grew, protecting the lengthening supply lines to the ever growing number of colonies, so the dockyards grew and by 1750 the workforce was 4000, the largest in the world.

Andrew throughout his talk kept reiterating how filthy and unhygienic the town was from its early days onwards. At the side of The Camber, there were low lying, narrow streets, open sewers plagued with rats and mice and no running fresh water, it had to be carted in. One of his stories involved women washing their dirty laundry and then the water used flowed into the brewery to make beer. All those sailors coming ashore with money in their pockets attracted certain types of ladies! who were happy to take it from them and in return bestow nasty diseases on them? He said the ladies were always very fat but he never explained how he knew that!

We were shown many slides including, when he was talking about the history of the cathedral, a huge memorial to George Villier, Duke of Buckingham, which not only contains his bowels but also the bowels of his sister who had the memorial built. Similar interesting facts hopefully we shall find out in part 2 of Andrew's talk later in the year. (Our November 6th meeting)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 1

SOUTHAMPTON LIDO

Jake Simpkin

JUNE 5

AN UNWILLING PURITAN MARTYR - the Life of Dr. John Bastwick

Dr. Frances Hurd

JULY 3

THE LIFE & TIMES OF ALFRED THE GREAT

Kay Ainsworth