

WESTENDER

Newsletter of the West End Local History Society
Autumn 2023



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Liquid Amber tree on Hatch Grange

Photo courtesy Nigel Wood

Articles for Westender

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Closing Date for contributions to Winter Issue: 15th Nov 2023.

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St. James's Church Memorials - 1
Major Reginald Edwin Bond of the 4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs
By Sue Ballard, PhD

Bond, Reginald E. is listed on the World War One Roll of Honour in the church of St. James at West End. The church also bears a personal memorial plaque to Major Reginald Edwin Bond of the 4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs, which states that he was killed in action near Ahwaz in Persia on 3rd March 1915. Major Bond features in "The Men Who Marched Away" by Nigel Wood & Steve Broomfield (Second Edition 2014), which details all the men of the village who fought in World War One. The plaque states that it was placed there by his wife, but neither is found at West End in censuses or surviving directories – so what was Major Bond's connection to West End?



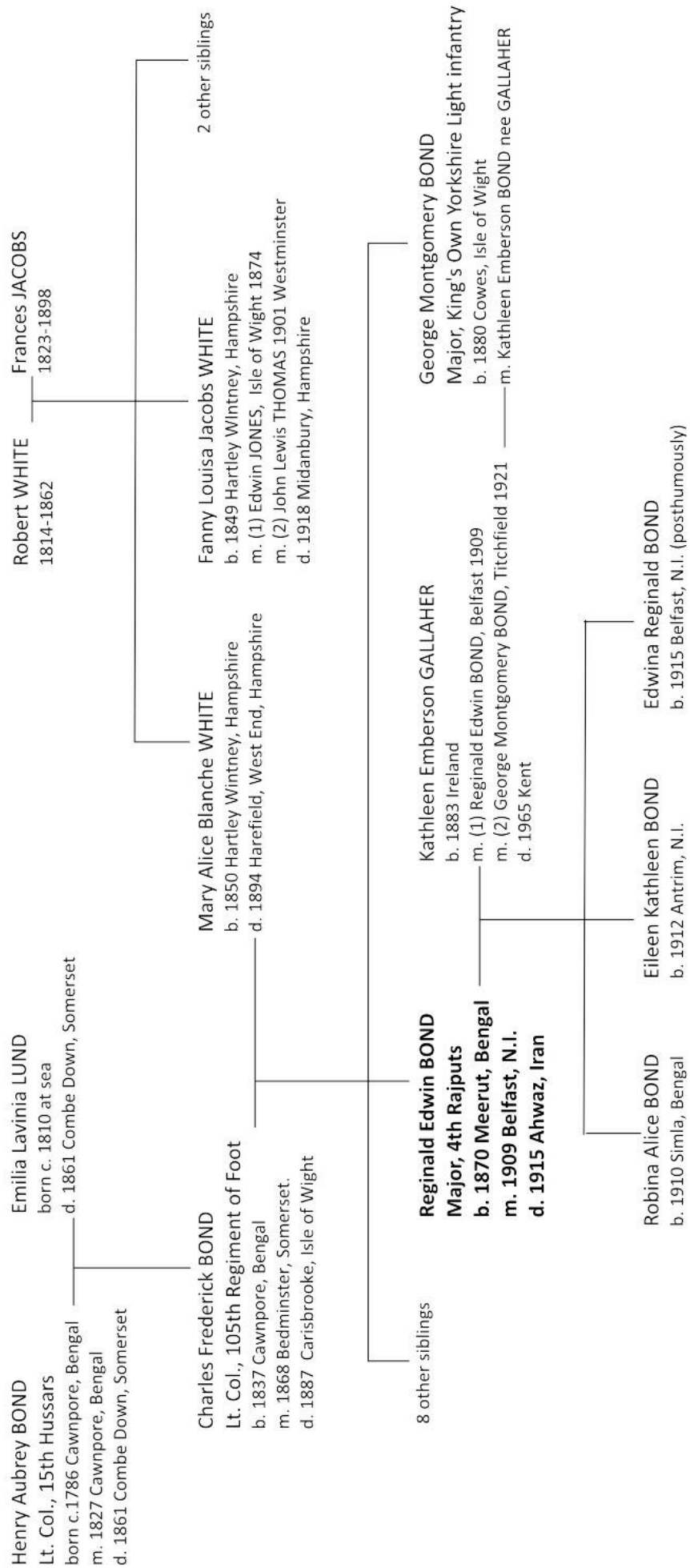
Memorial to Major Reginald Edwin Bond in the church of St. James, West End
Photo courtesy Nigel Wood

Reginald Edwin Bond was born and baptised at Meerut in the Presidency of Bengal, India in 1870. He was one of ten children and the second son of Charles Frederick Bond, Captain of the 105th Regiment of Foot and his wife Mary Alice Blanche White, the daughter of a private schoolmaster. Reginald came from a line of military officers serving in India.

His father, who had been born at Cawnpore (now Kanpur), joined the East India Company as a cadet in 1854 and worked his way up to become a Lieutenant Colonel in the 105th Regiment of Foot (Madras Light Infantry), which was originally part of the East India Company, transferring to the British Army in September 1862. Reginald's paternal grandfather Henry Bond (1786-1861) had an equally distinguished career, being a Lieutenant Colonel in the 15th Regiment of Hussars. Like Charles, he had been born in Cawnpore, which was at the time an important garrison town for the East India Company.

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Simplified Family Tree of Major Reginald Frederick BOND



The family moved to England when Reginald was a child, some time between 1871 and 1876, settling on the Isle of Wight. Reginald became a Gentleman Cadet at Sandhurst, progressing to a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Yorkshire Regiment in 1892, when he was 22 years old. He was promoted to Lieutenant in June 1895 and the following July transferred to the Indian Army with the 4th Bengal Infantry. In 1901, the regiment was renamed the 4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs and Reginald was promoted to Captain that year. He would have been with the regiment in India when they took part in the Rawalpindi Parade in 1905 to honour the visit of the Prince & Princess of Wales. In 1910, Reginald was promoted to Major.



Major Reginald Edwin Bond of the 4th Prince Albert Victor Rajputs.

Photo copyright Imperial War Museum, reproduced with permission.

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In 1909, Reginald had married Kathleen Emberson Gallaher, the daughter of Thomas Gallaher J.P., founder of the Messrs Gallaher, Ltd, tobacco manufacturers in Belfast. Reginald & Kathleen's first daughter, Robina Alice, was born in India in 1910 and in 1912, their second daughter, Eileen Kathleen, was born in County Antrim, Ulster. In July 1914, Reginald and his regiment were transferred from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to Multan in the Punjab. However, in January 1915 they were posted to Persia (now Iran) to support the 7th Rajputs protecting the Anglo-Persian oil pipeline and its associated wells, which were under threat from Turkish troops. Reginald was killed at the Battle of Ahwaz, 3rd March 1915. He was 44 years old. Major Reginald Edwin Bond of the 4th Rajputs is memorialised on the Tehran Memorial, which lists 3,580 Indian, British and New Zealand casualties from the First World War in Iran who have no known grave.

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When Reginald was killed, his wife Kathleen was pregnant with their third daughter, who was born posthumously a few weeks later and named Edwina Reginald in honour of her father. Six years later, Kathleen married Reginald's youngest brother, George Montgomery Bond, a Major in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who had received the Distinguished Service Order in June 1917. Kathleen was living in Alverstoke and George in Titchfield. So why did Kathleen have Reginald's memorial placed in the church at West End?

His mother's probate records shows that Mary Alice Blanche Bond née White had died at Harefield, West End in 1894 – nine years before Reginald's death – yet her home address was recorded as Newport, Isle of Wight. We find a clue in the 1911 census, which shows three of Reginald's sisters living at Harefield as nieces of the owner, Fanny Louisa Thomas. Mary's sister, Fanny Louisa Jacobs White had first married Edwin Jones of Harefield in 1874 and following his death had married, in 1901, their family doctor, John Lewis Thomas. Kathleen's choosing the church at West End as the site for Reginald's memorial plaque is, perhaps, indicative of the family's closeness to his aunt at Harefield. His youngest sister, Blanche Lavinia, had died at Harefield just a few weeks before Reginald was killed. Yet a more direct link is found when we look at his will, which begins "The foregoing last will and testament of Reginald Edwin Bond a Major in His Majesty's 4th (P.A.V.) Rajputs Indian army late of Deepdene Southampton in the county of Hants." Like Harefield, Deepdene was a large house on the outskirts of West End. It is situated in Midanbury Lane. Deepdene House, which was used as a pay office for Supermarine after the bombing of the factory in 1940, has been converted into maisonettes; the grounds are now a public open space.

ON THIS DAY, 6th SEPTEMBER: The first air raid warning of World War Two sounded in England in 1939, prompting questions in the House of Commons. The following day, newspapers reported that the Home Secretary was told that a number of people within half a mile of the House of Commons had slept through both the warning and the all-clear signal, which should be louder and longer. He agreed that police-whistles could be used to supplement the warning.

Digging Up West End's Past By Pauline Berry

Brickmaking was brought to Britain by the Romans, but soon declined after the end of the Roman period. The earliest post-Roman bricks dated from the 13th century, when hand-made Flemish style bricks were important, produced by Flemish immigrant craftsmen. It was not until the latter half of the 16th century that brick buildings began appearing in the south-east and eventually spread into other regions. The Great Fire of London in 1666 highlighted the danger of timber buildings and bricks became the main building material until 1784, when a brick tax came into force. The aforementioned tax was repealed in 1850.

The colour and texture of bricks depended on the mineral content of the local clay. In West End village there were several healthy deposits of clay loams, especially on the southern, higher ridge. Since the 18th century, the bricks were various shades of orange/red, depending on their position in the kilns.

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Brick wall on corner of Southern Road and Beacon Road.

The bricks each measure about 9 inches by 4 1/4 inches.

Photos ©Paula Downer

With the arrival of the railways and the demand for homes for the increasing population, the presence of much clay (and some chalk, see Chalk Hill) led to the creation of several brickworks in West End village in the 1800s. These were large and small, and generally to be found close to the actual building sites of new houses and cottages in West End. This included the construction of South Stoneham Union Workhouse (1840), the Elementary schools (old and new) and the public houses, of which there were several.

The ages of these brickyards are hard to define because when the clay deposits were worked out at one site, another would be opened and clay production would take off again. The brickyards were also conveniently close for storage of bricks after they had been removed from the wood-fired kilns. Thus, the construction of buildings was usually nearby.

An early South Stoneham Parish Births Register records the names of some of the first bricklayers who lived and worked in West End Village. These include, in the 1820s, John Damp, John Whiffer and Thomas Barnett and Richard Bishop. Names from the 1830s include Daniel Hervey, John Small and the brothers Richard & Thomas Langley. It is not known in which brickyards they worked.

The tithe map of 1845 reveals that Richard Langley owned a brickfield and kiln (Plot 622) west of Upper New Road (now Orchard Way and September Close). It was conveniently opposite a lengthy clay pit field (Plot 701), which followed the eastern side of Upper New Road. An 1868 map reveals the presence of an Old Kiln Farm and an “Old Brick Kiln” on the Orchard Way site, indicating it had probably been long worked out.

Also on the tithe map, Isaac Vare owned several plots of land on the eastern side of Telegraph Road before the wood was planted. About half-way up, “Brick Yard Kiln” (Plot 694) indicates it was owned by Vare, living in a house, with a yard and barn next to it (Plot 695), later occupied by the Woodsman.

The Clifton Gardens area and beyond, off Chalk Hill (then named South Road), was labelled West End Piece (Plot 600), arable in 1845, but not shown as a brickworks until later in the 1800s. The well-known Brickmaker’s Cottages do appear lower down Chalk Hill on the 1868 map and fortunately still stand today as cosy homes, possibly originally built for the workers at the brickworks behind them. This site must have been worked out and finished by the turn of the 20th century, according to the memories of Joe Malloy. Although shown as “brickworks” on the 1910 map, Joe recalled playing on the grass-covered heaps of sand and rubble around 1920. He could run all the way across West End Copse via this derelict stretch of land, with a herd of cows kept by Mr Ings nearby.

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Soon after most of the smaller deposits of clay were used up on the smaller sites north of the main road through the village, a memorable family named Haines arrived here in the late 1840s, seeking work. Daniel and Henry Haines were embryo builders from Warminster and were soon followed by Henry's three sons, George, Harry and Walter. They were quickly involved with the construction of homes on Church Hill and Moorhill Road, popular with the then middle classes. West End village was rapidly expanding and new cottages were also needed for the burgeoning forces of mill, workhouse, beer houses, shopkeepers and domestic workers.



Cottages at the bottom of Chalk Hill

Photo ©Paula Downer

The Haines's building business was so busy that it became well established in the village for almost a century. After the deaths of Daniel and Henry, the latter's sons George, Harry and Walter became Haines Bros., having also settled in West End. Their office and yard were on the site of the present Post Office, close to some of the many houses they built on Shotter's Hill and Lower New Road.

The brickyard they are most remembered for is the last known West End brickyard close to Swaythling Road, now part of Eden Road. Once this was worked out and unproductive, like other earlier brickworks, most were then used for housing developments, still existing today.

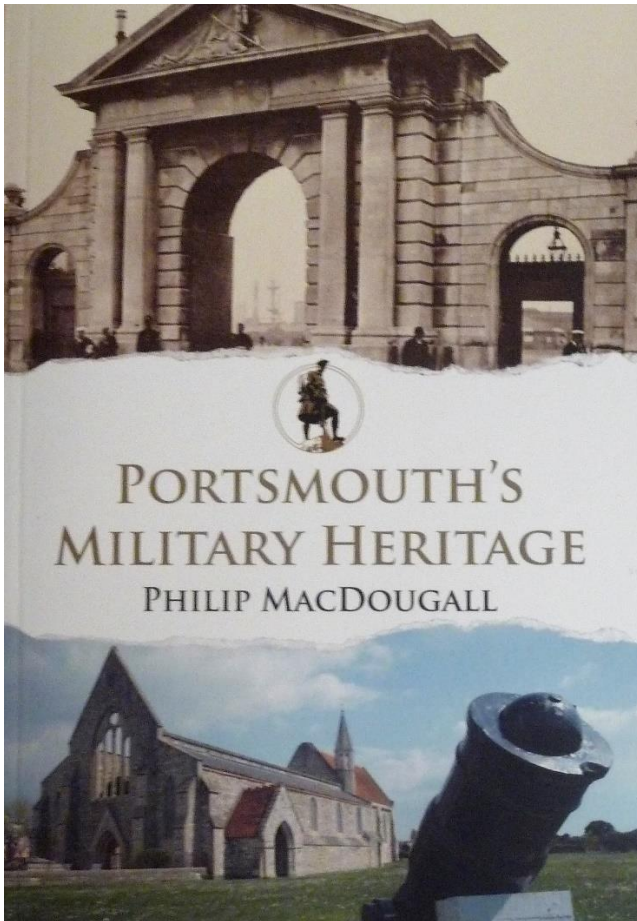
Twentieth century builders in west End were many, including the names Udall, Ives, Wordley, Ward, Bunney, Brown, Trickett, Walley and more. The sources of their bricks are widespread. Perhaps the still productive Bursledon Brickworks is deserving of a visit!

HISTORY QUOTE:

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Marcus Garvey

BOOK REVIEWS BY NIGEL WOOD



“Portsmouth’s Military Heritage” – by Philip MacDougall

This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in the military and naval aspect of Portsmouth and its history. Copiously illustrated with 120 excellent images to complement the text, there are also a number of small maps and plans to help you further.

If you only have one book of Portsmouth’s Military past in your library then this should be it. I found the information fascinating and, living fairly close to Portsmouth, I can honestly say I found the book an excellent informative read

“Portsmouth’s Military Heritage” by Philip MacDougall

ISBN 9781398112995

£15.99

Amberley Publishing

96 pages 120 illustrations

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats

“A-Z of the Isle of Wight” – by Wendy Turner

This is an unusual book covering just about every aspect of the Isle of Wight, as the title indicates – “The Isle of Wight ...places, people, history”. It is well illustrated with 100 good quality images and is well set out alphabetically by topic and easy to follow with an abundance of information and detail.

“A-Z of the Isle of Wight” by Wendy Turner

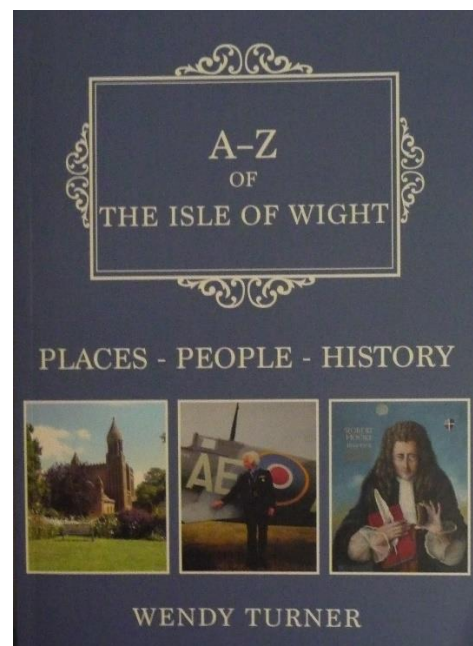
ISBN 9781398109322

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REVIEWS

We are sorry to say that our regular reviewer, Roy Andrews was unable to attend and review recent talks. All our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Roy!

In June, we were treated to a talk on “Bert Hinkler”, by Martin Radford. This talk was instructive and well illustrated. Bert Hinkler is much better-known in his native Australia than here in Southampton where he once lived for a while. We were shown a photograph of his Southampton house, “Mon Repose”, which had been transported to Australia and reconstructed with the addition of a huge balcony and is now the Hinkler Hall of Aviation in his home town of Bundaberg.

Hinkler was a pioneer aviator, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for his service in the Royal Naval Air Service during World War One. In 1928, after moving to Southampton, he became the first person to fly solo from England to Australia to claim a £10,00 prize. In 1931 he became the first to fly solo across the Southern Atlantic Ocean. He died in January 1933 while attempting another solo flight from England to Australia when he was lost in fog. In May of that year, his wrecked plane and his body were found on a mountain side in Tuscany, Italy and he was given a state funeral in Florence, where his is buried.

Our July talk was “The Arrival of the Romans ... the Changing Face of Wessex” by Kay Ainsworth, former Curator of Archaeology for Hampshire Museum Services. The talk was wide-ranging and set the arrival of the Romans in the context of preceding Iron Age, with examples of the many hillforts in the region and photographs of the displays of the Iron Age Museum in Andover. It drew on the excavations at many sites in Hampshire and West Sussex carried out under the direction of Professor Barry Cunliffe over many years.

The Romanisation of the region saw the traditional roundhouses replaced by small farms and villas, epitomised by Fishbourne Roman Palace. Paved roads replaced old tracks and drove roads, enabling the development of towns, built in stone on continental patterns. Trade and industry flourished, with imports of luxury goods including high-end pottery and glass, although locally produced pottery continued, including New Forest ware.

During the third century, when the Empire came under pressure from without, the wealthy abandoned the towns and retreated to their villas as society destabilised. Walls were built around towns and a string of forts were built around the coast, including Portchester. Eventually, the Emperor notified the Governor of Britain that Rome could no longer protect her and Roman rule in Britain came to an end.

Shared Memories - 2

The Fire Place By Frederick Harder

When I was a nipper, the hub of the house was the fireplace. Everything was centred there. Before we had a nice new black gas stove supplied to us, all cooking was done on the fire and baking in a little oven alongside the grate. It was the only heating in the house other than a paraffin heater that was normally in the kitchen or outside toilet. Most house fires in those days were caused by these heaters, people trying to top up with the wick still burning. PUFF!

Over the fireplace and mantle would normally be a big mirror with a few photos and ornaments on, alongside would be a container for fire lighters. If bought, these would be little slivers of some sort of wood or if no money the kids would have to twist old strips of newspapers and were used for lighting the gas mantles (pre electric,) cigarettes, candles, etc. There would be a little shovel a pair of tongs a little brush and a poker in a little frame normally made of brass, while if you were posh (as though anyone in Northam could be posh) you would have a box covered in a brass coating to hold the coal or coke so that you did not have to go into the back garden with a bucket and shovel. To one side there would be a fire guard which went round the fire so that embers or sparks (If wood on fire) would not fall on the floor. The guard was also used to dry washing like nappies, etc. when the weather was bad. On the side of the fire would be a whistling kettle topped up and hot for making the tea. If it was close to the fire and was quite hot the whistle would be going all the time dependent how warm the water was depended how loud the whistle was. There was always a toasting fork, normally home made with wire hanging up alongside. In winter, we would all sit round the fire and make toast. If Mum had a bit of money, we would even have crumpets; in those days butter and margarine were on ration so could not do it too often, but a piece of hot toast with butter on with a nice cup of tea was a thing to behold not so with marg, as in those days the marge tasted like axel grease.

Also, in the winter months we as kids would cycle over to West End and collect eating chestnuts which we would put into the ashes under the fire after making a little hole in them so that they did not pop, and watched them being cooked when cooked we would peel them and add a little drop of salt and hey presto a feed for kings.

I can remember Mum, after coming in after a little shopping, would remove the guard and standing with her back to the fire and lift up the back of her dress to get warm. Another little thing was in winter a couple of wall bricks would be added to the fire (we did have a couple of big pebbles that we used to use but they cracked up with the heat) in the late evening, so when the rubber hot water bottles were filled the bricks would be taken out of the fire wrapped in a piece of cloth and then wrapped in a towel to take to bed; no heating upstairs.

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WEST END IN THE NEWS – 1929

On 16th March 1929, the Hampshire Advertiser reported that no objection had been raised to the installation by Southampton Corporation of electricity posts at West End. How long was it before every house in the village had electricity?

The Fire Place by Frederick Harder continued

As the eldest of six, of us I had a job to do; in the evenings we would sit round the fire with just a candle for light and listen to the wireless - no electricity, so no TV. Sometimes we would all sit round singing; if you sat too near the fire your legs would get burnt and you could always tell by people having mottled legs.

When we had finished and were ready for bed, I had to bank up the fire for the night, this entailed raking the fire so that all the dust went under the grate; a little coal would be added to the remaining coals and it would be covered with all the dust from under the grate. This kept it going all night, just like a kiln or oven. In the morning I was normally the first one up as I had a couple of paper rounds to do; I would again rake the fire and add more coal and sometimes a bit of wood to get it going, sweep the dust and place it into an old newspaper and put it in the dustbin. Sometimes, a little too eager to get it done, there would be some red coals in among the dust which would set light to the paper and burn in the dustbin. Going out after the warmth of the fire into rain or snow to do my paper round was miserable. If the fire went out and had to be started from scratch, we would clear and tidy the grate, place old newspaper in the grate followed by sticks of wood (which we purloined from the bombed-out houses) then covered in coal.

Coal was more expensive than coke. Coke was bought from the gasworks (now the Saints football ground) and was the remains of coal baked in giant ovens to take all the gasses and other things like tar out. We would watch the red-hot coke being pushed out of the ovens and watered down to break it all up. We would buy a couple of bags and carry them home in an old pram as it was not all that heavy. You could not start a fire with just coke; you had to wait until the coal could heat it up. Right back to the fire, we would light the paper and hope it would heat the coal; sometimes when there did not seem enough draft to start the fire we would cover the chimney with old newspaper so making the chimney small and cause a better draft. Of course, sometimes the newspaper would set on fire. If you were quick, you could smother it by screwing the remaining paper into a ball. At other times, the lighted paper would go up the chimney; if you were lucky it would just be sucked up and fly out of the chimney, but if you were not too lucky it would burn just a little soot if the chimney had not been cleaned, making quite a stink, but, if you were very unlucky the whole chimney would catch fire with soot and smoke billowing out of the chimney pot; the fire brigade would have to be called out.

At the start, we had no electricity so everything had to be done on the fire or the gas stove. If it was done on the fire, it would save the cost of putting pennies in the gas meter, so things like ironing we would have two or three flat irons on the fire, you would pick up an iron with a large cloth as the handle would get very hot, turn it upside down and spit on it. If the spit stayed on the iron and just sizzled it was not hot enough, but if it flew off at a rate of knots it was ready for use and first off you would iron an old newspaper to get any dirt or smoke off before you ironed an item. No steam irons; you used a handkerchief or piece of cloth normally the tail of an old shirt. Dipped in water and spread over what you were ironing. Then there was the hair tongs, which would be pushed into the fire to get hot. To test those, you would again use old newspaper and test by making the two sides together. If it was too hot, the paper would go brown or be set alight...Then again, the newspaper or brown paper would be used to place the hair in (of the girls) in between and then the tongs would be used to curl their hair.

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Some households would have their weekly bath in front of the fire. They would bring their old tin bath in, which was normally hung up in the back yard, and top it up with water from the brick boiler in the kitchen. They would spread out old towels to soak up the water from the floor, when finished would use buckets to throw the water out of the window into the back yard.

We would have our bath in the kitchen as it was much warmer with the heat from the boiler. After the kids had had their bath, it was Mum's and Dad's turn. The bath was kept warm by more hot water from the boiler. On completion, the back door would be opened and the bath tipped out into the yard; great in the winter as it melted all the snow. During the week, my sister Yvonne and Mum would place a chair in front of the fire and place a bowl of hot soapy water and then kneel down and wash each other's hair then dry it in front of the fire.

Only very occasionally would we have a full bath during the week. If you were going somewhere special you would have a strip wash, very like a bed bath but standing up. In the kitchen, you would get a bowl of hot water and a flannel and make sure that you have locked the backyard door and the passageway door, then strip off. You would put a towel on the rush mat to keep your feet a little warm, as the floor was red wall bricks and very cold. And when it was very cold in winter, you just might have the paraffin heater on, you would wash yourself as fast as you could; even quicker if you had someone banging on the door asking if you were going to take all day as they wanted to go to the loo. Then, when you were going somewhere Very Special, like getting married, I had to go to the Central Baths to what was called the slipper baths. Just inside the doors to the left (cannot recall if they had woman's and men's, like the baths themselves), you would be given a towel, some soap and four inches of water to bathe in, with a given period to be finished.

West End News

West End Bredon Care – by Lin Dowdell

On Tuesday 30th May we hosted a visit from West End Brendon Care Social Group, who meet weekly at Hilldene Community centre.

17 visitors enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours in the museum. Chatting to Nigel Wood and Nigel Edwards, and browsing the viewing folders, whilst Lisette Edwards and myself provided them with tea and homemade cakes.

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West End Brendon Care Social Group visiting the museum



WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All events begin at 7.30 p.m.

All events take place at West End Parish Centre, Chapel Road.

- October 4** “The Trinity, The Angel and The Elizabeth” – *Dr. Cheryl Butler*
- November 1** “Iconic Memorials to The Fallen” – *Jeremy Prescott*
- December 6** SOCIAL EVENING – CHRISTMAS BUFFET & RAFFLE
plus “Fratricide ... the true story of Good King Wenceslas” – *Gordon Lewis*