



# WESTENDER

JULY—AUGUST 2006

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6

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Website:

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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](mailto:woodng@aol.com)

## LOCAL LEGENDS (5)

### COUNCILLOR HARRY HAINES



COUNCILLOR HARRY HAINES IN 1915

Harry Haines (1858-1938) was one of several family members who joined the building business built up in West End by his uncle Daniel and father Henry. The Haines family had moved south from Warminster to the village to find work in the 1840's. This they did with great success and Harry became an apprentice carpenter. His father died and as Uncle Daniel grew older and unable to run the firm, Harry and his brothers George Henry and Walter took over and "Haines Bros" was born.

The Haines buildings, whether cottage, shop or middle-class 'villa' soon earned a reputation for being solid and well-built. Following his uncle's death in 1899, Harry took over the reins

and ran the business in his place. He supervised the construction of St. James School in Botley Road in 1903, amongst many other projects. His enterprise and skill were devoted not only to business but also to public affairs. He served on West End Parish Council for over 40 years and was chairman on 17 occasions. During this time he instigated the installation of electric lights in the

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## WESTEND BOYS BRIGADE

More memories from Joe Molloy

The 1<sup>st</sup> Westend Boys Brigade was formed in about 1925, and based at the Swaythling Road Methodist Church. It will be seen in Marjorie Bodman's history of the Church that it was Arthur Houghton and his family who were responsible for bringing this about by requesting a Westend group be formed.

As a result Captain "Tim" Smith, who lived at Bitterne, came to set it up. He was an excellent leader and took his job very seriously. He made us aware that in addition to all the sporting fun and games we enjoyed, that being in the BB (*Boys Brigade*) required us to be capable of doing many more useful activities.

We were lucky to have the full support of Mr Collins at "The Wilderness" where we played all our football, cricket and other various outdoor sports. We had games against other Boys Brigade companies at Bitterne and St. Denys. Mr Stuart, the Wilderness groundsman and gardener, was always helpful giving us tips on how to hold a "straight bat".

On the serious side all were encouraged to carry out the best objectives of the Boys Brigade by qualifying for the various badges. Tim Smith was quite strict and they were not obtained easily. First Aid was essential, and then for the Fireman's badge. In about 1927, several of us were taken to Southampton's Chief Fireman's house in Argyle Road, to be examined by Mr Hayward himself – I can't see that happening now! It was Mr Hayward's son who followed his father and was Chief Fire Officer in Southampton during World War Two. Swimming was also a must – most of us at this end of the village had learned to swim in the Itchen in the fields at the rear of Gaters Mill. Now it was going to the Inner Swimming Baths (*Southampton Lido*) in Western Esplanade, Southampton. There apart from swimming followed life saving. However, whilst there on many occasions we were able to see the Southampton Water Polo matches which interested us more. The tackling was very rough, almost as good as football!

In the early days a bugle, fife and drum band was formed and was there for the occasional Church Parade. At the weekly meetings there was always drill, P.T. and boxing, plus a variety of other interests. The Captain made sure there was a story with a moral – like Dr. Jeckyll and Mr Hyde to make us aware of the "good" and "bad" in us, but we weren't as bad as that! Opposite our Church was the Baker's Shop of Mr Emmans and his son Bob, who seemed to do most of the baking. He was very helpful because beneath the shop was a cellar and bench which we were able to use for any carpentry or similar work – very convenient in winter!

Christmas time, to help funds, we went carol singing. We carried a small collapsible pedal organ which was set up and played by Mrs Houghton. I remember one evening we were singing at the Hollingsworth's house on the Midlands Estate. Mrs Hollingsworth came to the door and asked what denomination we were. Of course these were rather class conscious times but Mrs Houghton, very quickly replied, "*We're inter-denominational*". It may have been wise not to say we were from the Chapel! Mrs Hollingsworth then held up her hand showing us a half-crown. We certainly then sang her an extra carol.

Times were difficult in the mid-twenties with the General Strike in 1926, but full credit must be given to Capt. Tim Smith for it was in this year that he started the Summer Camps. The first was at Bramshaw in the New Forest, and at our age to be suddenly sleeping in a sleeping bag on a groundsheet with our feet to the pole was a bit of a shock. The daily necessary jobs we were all given certainly toughened us up. However, the freedom of roaming in the forest and the evening songs and stories round the camp fire was a lot of fun.

In 1927 the camp was at Fort Gomer at the eastern end of Stokes Bay. The Browndown Military Firing Ranges were between it and Lee-on-Solent. It was an old fort, no longer in military use, but circular in

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**MEMBERS OF THE WEST END BOYS BRIGADE COMPANY**

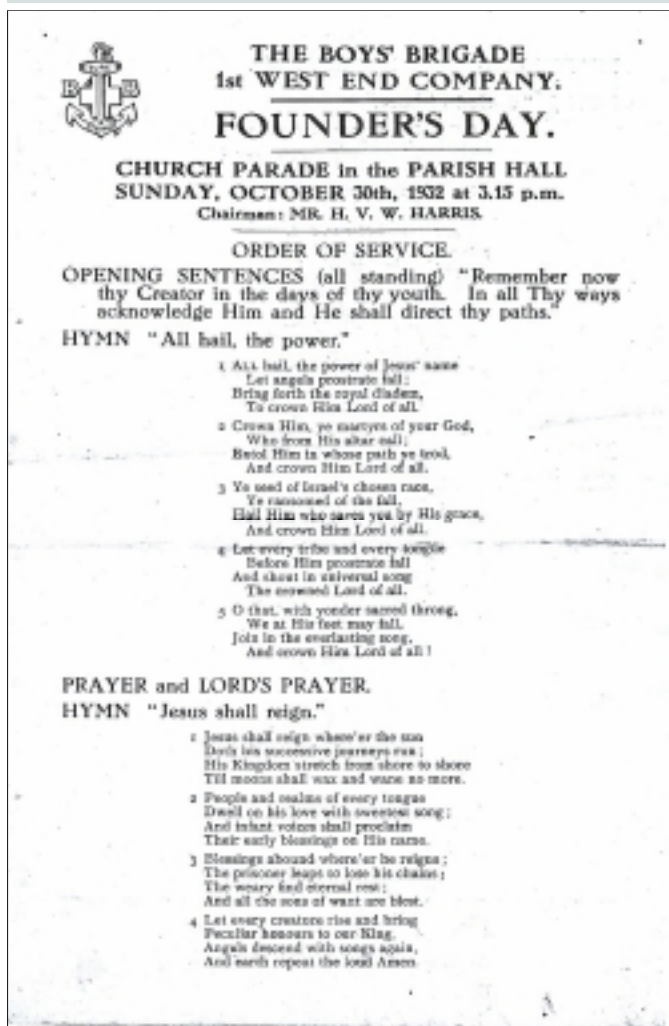
construction with a moat around it which was full of weed and eels. Our tents were on ground just outside the moat but there was a bridge and we were free to amuse ourselves on the old gun positions and fortifications. Mr Phillips, an ex-soldier, was the caretaker and lived with his family within. At night we often saw a searchlight of the Portsmouth defences sweep across the surface of the Solent and Spithead. A day was set aside for sports competitions and on another we had a trip to Hayling Island. Also during the week Royal Air Force biplane fighter aircraft were engaged in air to ground firing on the Browdown Ranges. It was quite exciting to watch them because they were flying almost down to ground level. Our camp was just beyond the end of their run where they suddenly shot up in a near vertical climb. They were probably "Bristol Bulldog" fighters which came out that year. We were only a very short distance from the sea so had plenty of time during the week for swimming.

The next year, 1928, we camped at Langton Matravers – a small village between Corfe Castle and Swanage, and a local bus made it easy for us to travel. On the Purbeck Hills opposite were a number of stone quarries – these particular ones were tunnelled shafts going down to better seams of stone which was then winched up on small flat platformed trucks. We were frequently there watching the stone masons shaping the blocks. It was amusing to see them using the big circular headed wooden mallets on the steel chisels and keeping to a rhythm as they serrated the edges. When we laughed they promptly stopped and said – "*You have a go then!*" and handed us the mallet – we certainly got caught out! Our nearest place to the sea was about a mile away called "Dancing Ledge". It was an extensive flat ledge of rock which had a big pool in it which appeared to have been formed naturally – it was just right for swimming. Being close to sea level it was always kept full when the tide was up. During the week Capt. Smith took us to Swanage where we boarded one of the paddle steamers for a trip to Weymouth. The sea was very rough when rounding St. Albans Head and some were sea-sick including Capt. Smith who looked really ill. Others who weren't affected were inclined to laugh but were soon put in their place. However, it was a good day after landing at Weymouth and the return journey was calm. On another day we walked to Durlston Castle to see the huge Purbeck stone "Globe of the World" and then down to the "Tilly Whim" caves, which today are not open to the public.

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**Above: WEST END BOYS BRIGADE "FOUNDERS DAY" ORDER OF SERVICE 1932.**

**Top right: BOYS BRIGADE BELT & BUCKLE.**



**Bottom right: WEST END BOYS BRIGADE MORNING PARADE AT CAMP, HOLCOMBE FARM, DEVON 1930**



1929 was the year we camped on a farm in the small village of Weston situated about midway between Branscombe and Sidmouth. We were in a lovely flat field, ideal for all the games and sports we wanted to do. There was a footpath down to the cliffs and shore for swimming, also, it was the easiest route into Sidmouth. The way back was up Salcombe Hill, a very rough and steep hill about a mile long, so not very popular! What created some interest was an observatory in grounds at the top of Salcombe Hill so there was plenty of opportunity for us at night to look at the stars. Actually today it is a well established tourist attraction. As the camp was not near any shops a small Tuck Shop was set up where we could get all the pop and sweets we needed. "American Cream Soda" was the favourite drink.

The last time I camped was in 1930 at Holcombe, a small village in South Devon between Dawlish and Teignmouth. This was the time when the full effects of the Wall Street crash and the Depression were being felt, consequently, organising any activities such as this was very difficult. However, it didn't deter our Capt. Tim Smith, it was a real success. Here again we were on a farm and able to make the best of all the activities of camping. Full credit must be given to Capt. Smith who provided us with the best of holidays we had in the Twenties. He will always be remembered.



## HOT WORK AT WEST END CARNIVAL!

Saturday 24th June this year was one of the hottest days we have had and the culmination of events for Carnival Week. West End Carnival matched the excellent weather we enjoyed, being one of the best for a number of years. There was a good attendance by the public both at the fete, held on Hatch Grange and also at the Grand Parade afterwards, which wound its way through the village. The Organisers are to be congratulated on a fine Carnival which recreated the very real feel of a cross between Mardi Gras and the Notting Hill Carnival. Full of colour, with some really beautiful costumes and floats, it was good to see some new organisations and faces taking part. Well done! to all who participated and for those that missed it, there's always next year to look forward to.

*(Photographs by Nigel Wood)*



## HEADACHES, HAEMORRHOIDS AND HERBALS

A Review by Stan Waight

Writing reports on our regular monthly meetings can sometimes be quite tricky. Not because the speaker didn't come up to scratch, or was uninteresting, but because there is just too much detail to mention. Mary South's talk at our June meeting, under the title "Headaches, Haemorrhoids and Herbals", comes into that category. Mary speaks without notes, and her talks are full of anecdote and humour, and, in giving a vote of thanks, Bill White was right to say that she had both entertained and interested us.

The talk was rather shorter than usual, but it was crammed full with slide pictures of the various herbs that were available to the medieval apothecaries and descriptions of the purposes to which they were put (some a little indelicate as the headline suggests). The 'headaches' referred to in the title were the subject of one anecdotal reference to the California-laurel, a tree that gives off headache-inducing vapours when cut or crushed, and 'herbals', often beautifully illustrated, were the apothecaries' textbooks.

It appears that the Crusaders brought home the idea of a formal herb garden, with a camomile bench that could mask body odours, primrose paths that one might be led up, and 'secret' gardens that hid the privy. The list of herbs that Mary illustrated and talked about was long, and included well-known names like Pulmonaria, Rosemary and Valerian. Not all were medicinal, Rosemary, for instance, was used as an insect repellent in times when lice were rife in clothes and bedding. The effectiveness of many of the remedies was doubtful, and Mary suggested that they induced a feeling of well-being rather than curing the ailment.

Water and honey also played a part in the making-up of potions, hence the fountains and bee-skips that were introduced into medieval gardens.

## 100 YEARS AGO.....

The following item appeared in the Southern Daily Echo on 31st March 2006 compiled by Keith Hamilton....

*"100 years ago a serious fire broke out at the parish church in West End - caused probably by the overheating of one of the stoves in the chancel.*

*Unfortunately the beautifully carved oak choir stalls, reading desk and music library—containing the whole of the choir music together with the organist's extensive and valuable collection of organ music - were totally destroyed."*

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteer attendants for duty at the museum are urgently required - just a two hour shift each month will make all the difference, although you must be a member of WELHS to qualify. Contact Pauline Berry on 023 8046 2490 with dates when you are available - your support will be invaluable and worthwhile!

### *Continued from front page*

village and the purchase of Hatch Grange as a Public Open Space in 1938. He was also a prominent Methodist and the local agent for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society from the late 1880's. Remembered as a charming, well respected gentleman, he lived in "Homeleigh" (now Pearsons Estate Agents) in the High Street, until his sudden death in 1938, aged 80 years.

*Note: This article was written by Pauline Berry who is nearing completion of her latest book on the Haines family building business in West End which covered a century of construction in the area. Watch this space for more details!*



## PEDALLING TO SUCCESS

**Written by Alan Clack with help from Sheila Whitcombe**

Faith is a funny thing, and I believe things are meant to happen for a reason. We could talk for the whole of this newsletter about it. Well, faith came to me in the shape of a dear friend. He explained that West End Museum were going to do a bit of refurbishment and in the store was an old police bicycle and there was no room to display this bicycle. What was to be done with it? Was I interested in this old bicycle?

I was asked to be the new custodian of the bicycle - I was over the moon! You see I am an ex. Special Constable of Hampshire and out of the fifteen years I spent as a Special Constable, ten of them was on patrol on a bicycle. I study the history of police bicycles, the old beat patrols and the new cycle unit's. Also, I have a large collection of photo's from 1903 to present day and a collection of cycle uniforms. I am a member of the Hampshire Constabulary History Society, as well as Police Car UK, a club which preserves police cars.



Top left:  
**THE POLICE CYCLE  
AT HAYNES MOTOR  
SHOW  
April 2006**



Bottom left:  
**HAMPSHIRE POLICE  
OPEN DAY  
June 2006**



Right:  
**PC JOHN  
WHITCOMBE  
1983**

The bicycle has its own great history and with the help of West End Museum I found out most of its story, if not all. Luckily Pc John Whitcombe had signed the Visitors Book in the museum and we have the date the bicycle came into the museum in 1998, and he had kindly left his address. I asked Hampshire Police History Society if anyone had any knowledge of the officer and, yes, was the reply by e-mail, and some interesting stories came out (but that is for another newsletter).

So I sent a letter to John Whitcombe at the address in West End and by the next day I received a phone call from Sheila Whitcombe. Sadly, she told me that John had passed away in 2005. I told her my story about the cycle and Sheila was more than happy for me to look after her husband's bicycle. John was given the bicycle in 1967 by a next door neighbour, it was a Raleigh Rudge made in 1961. John used the bicycle for beat patrol from Bitterne Police Station right up to when he retired in 1983. He had spent 29 years in Police service starting in Shirley with Southampton City Police in 1954 and then with Hampshire Police after force amalgamations in 1967.

The bicycle today is not hidden away, it goes to police shows with my ex. Police bicycle, giving people a chance to see how the bicycles have changed in relation to the roles they have played in policing over the years.

***This article has been written in memory of Pc. John Whitcombe.***

## VITAL SPARKS AT THE PARISH CENTRE

### A Review by Stan Waight

To us mere mortals, the men that is, Jean Cook's ultra-feminism can be a little abrasive at times, but I thought her talk 'Vital Sparks' or 'Women in the Music Hall' was brilliant.. Forthright at times, Jean has a good delivery and is very amusing. With her saucy asides, I feel that she could well have trod the bawdy boards herself had she been born a century earlier.

Unique to Britain (for America's Vaudeville was not in the same class), Music Hall was born out of the working class for the working class and gave brief respite from the harsh reality of every-day working life. The 'Halls' originated as rooms in taverns set aside for entertainment, and reached their peak during the late-Victorian and early-Edwardian period.

Actresses had long been regarded as 'scarlet women', but in this field of theatre women artistes came into their own and they took it by storm. Nellie Wallace, for instance, began her career in serious theatre but turned to the Halls, where she used her less-than-good-looks to skilful effect. In this setting women could be as outrageous as the men and, what's more, 'Women Wags' could make a social gesture by wearing trousers, which was hitherto unknown in Victorian Britain.

Although she briefly mentioned several artistes by name, including Southampton's own Jenny Hill, who was the 'Vital Spark' of her title, Jean is clearly most fascinated in the two great women of the Music Hall. Marie Lloyd and Vesta Tilley were both darlings of the audiences, and had fabulous incomes - Marie was earning £50 a week by the age of 17, and Vesta commanded £500 at the height of her fame - but they were quite different in character. Marie was a mistress of the *double entendre*, and was able to relate to the common people; when she died it is said that 120,000 people attended her funeral. Vesta, a male impersonator, was popular on stage but earned Jean's disrespect by distancing herself from the very people who had made her famous.

There were no slides, but Jean's talk was peppered with quotes, both amusing and serious, from biographies of the Women of the Music Halls.

## CENSUS NEWS

We have just received the 1841 Census for West End/South Stoneham in printed format from member Stan Waight. This completes a full set of Census' printouts; the 1841,1851,1861,1871,1881,1891 & 1901, all nicely complete with copy Enumerator sheets and alphabetical indexes in brand new blue binders, available for visitors to view in the Research area of the Museum. A very big thank you to Stan who has worked away tirelessly in the background to achieve this result on behalf of the Society, well done and thank you from us all Stan!

Ed.

## MORE IMPORTANT SCHOOL RECORDS COME TO THE MUSEUM

Within the last week we have been very fortunate in being entrusted with the School Log Books and Managers Visiting Book (1903-1950) for St. James School in West End. The Log books in question have been handed to the Museum for safe keeping, and date from 1863 to 1994. They will be a valuable source for research along with the 1862-1952 Admission Registers which the school have previously entrusted to our safe keeping (*see Westender page 6, January-February 2006 Vol.5, Number 3*). The Log Books are very important as they record the every day life of the school, incidents, teachers names and a lot more besides. Our grateful thanks go to St. James School who very kindly made this donation to our archive through the good offices of our Chairman, Neville Dickinson.

Ed.

## A BIG THANK YOU.....

This year on Saturday 24th June we had a stall (see picture at right) at the Carnival Fete on Hatch Grange selling donated Bric a Brac and plants to augment our Society funds. I wasn't present all the time as I was Official Photographer and often had to be elsewhere. A big thank you is due to all those members and friends who helped and made the day such a success. In particular thank you to Rose and Bill, Roy and Peter who manned the Museum throughout the day. A special thanks to Peter & Margaret for donating all the plants which sold so well, to John Hewitt who got roped in to help on the stand, to Delphine and her husband Leslie who lent one of the gazebo's and tables and donated lots of the bric a brac, to Neville and Vera and lastly to Lin, what would I do without her. The total sales this year amounted to a grand total of £135.00, well done everyone!

Ed.







## DON HORNE

1922 - 2006

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the death of local man Don Horne on 14th May. Always a great supporter of heritage and local history and in particular this Society, Don is shown in the picture at left when he served as Mayor of Eastleigh in 1997. He was a long serving Parish Councillor for West End, becoming Chairman twice as well as Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Eastleigh Borough Council. He withdrew from public life at the age of 80 in 2002 due to failing health. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Maureen and family on their sad loss.

### On this day (2nd August) in.....

**1100** King William II, called Rufus, was accidentally killed by an arrow while hunting in the New Forest and was succeeded by his brother as Henry I.

**1784** The first specially constructed Royal Mail coach ran, from Bristol to London.

**1788** Thomas Gainsborough, English painter of landscapes and portraits, including "The Blue Boy", died.

**1876** (James Butler) "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot by Jack McCall while playing poker in a saloon in Deadwood in South Dakota.

**1894** Death Duties were introduced in Britain.

**1923** Warren Harding, American Republican statesman and 29th President from 1921, died in San Francisco on his return from a trip to Alaska - the remainder of his term of office was completed by Calvin Coolidge.

**1934** Paul von Hindenburg, German military and political leader and President from 1925, died aged 86.

**1936** Louis Bleriot, French aviator and first to fly across the English Channel in 1909, died.

## THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

**September 6**

**WILT WAKE AN OLD DREAMER?**

(Tubby Clayton and Toc H)

*Geoff Watts*

**October 4**

**ASPECTS OF NETLEY HOSPITAL**

*Nigel Wood and Lin Dowdell*

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