



# WESTENDER



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**Website:**

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**E-mail address:**

[westendlhs@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:woodng@aol.com)

## LOCAL LEGENDS (7)

### ALDERMAN FRED WOOLLEY



Our subject this time, Fred Woolley, is probably best remembered for the Fred Woolley House - Home of Recovery in Chilworth, but he was a man of many parts. He ran a very successful Accountancy business in Southampton, and in 1912 was the Secretary of the Titanic Relief Fund. He was an Alderman of Southampton and twice Mayor in the 1930's. His connection with West End came about when he bought the property at the bottom of Chalk Hill (originally known as South Road). Known then at that time as "Woodleigh", Fred developed the area behind the house up to Ivy Lane as brickfields, later to be bought and run by Braziers the builders, the house contained the offices of SGB (Scaffolding Great Britain)

from the early 1930's, the site is now to be redeveloped for housing. Fred also owned and ran Hatch Farm and Quob Farm (bought in the early 1920's which he renamed "Burnmoor Farm") in West End. He specialised in Award Winning Dairy Herds, particularly at "Burnmoor". During World War 2 Fred gave up land at his farms to be used as an anti-aircraft gun site, barrage balloon and searchlight battery. Considerable damage being incurred to the farmhouse and outbuildings during the war. After Fred passed away his widow eventually sold up at "Burnmoor Farm" on 28th July 1950.

West End Local History Society is sponsored by



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# STONEYFIELD and the LIVESTOCK TRADE

## by Stan Waight and George Watts

[Members will recall that George has talked to us in the past about droving in Hampshire. The article that follows is, with his agreement, a revised version of one in which he and I collaborated for the Hampshire Field Club some years ago, when I was researching the Hampshire estates of Corpus Christi College in Oxford. Stan Waight]

**L**ivestock marketing, and the droving trade on which it depended until 1840, are neglected topics in Hampshire history. For centuries, thousands of sheep, cattle and horses were sold at the fairs and markets of Weyhill, Winchester, Stockbridge, Romsey and elsewhere. But where did all those animals go? What happened to them? We get what we believe is a significant clue from an unexpected source - an Oxford college.

In 1517 Richard Fox, bishop of Winchester, purchased two separate areas of pasture field to provide further income for his newly-founded Corpus Christi College in Oxford. Both were about three miles from the walled town of Southampton - Stoneyfield to the north-east in South Stoneham [GR SU 444156] and Peverels to the north-west in Nursling [GR SU 384152]. Attached to both fields were rights to grazing in four areas of heathland common, at Millbrook, Chilworth, Baddesley and Merton. They were purchased as a package, and Peverels is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Series 6" Ordnance Survey map as 'Mansbridge Detached', suggesting a long association between them.

Stoneyfield adjoined Mansbridge, formerly the lowest bridging point on the River Itchen and major point of access to Southampton from the east and north-east. The northern part of the field is now occupied by part of the Swaythling Housing Association's modern housing estate, and no earlier features are discernible, while the southern part is bare and, in the main, derelict and stony. A depression adjoining the road at the western side of Mansbridge is possibly the remnant of a boundary ditch (necessary to confine livestock), while the rest of the boundary is on land which slopes away sharply to natural margins - in the south to the river Itchen, and in the west to the former leet or millstream of Woodmill and the valley which leads into it. The Peverels field was adjacent to what we now know as the Bakers Drove and the Chilworth Drove, and part of it is now occupied by the Millbrook Community School.

Our interest lies mainly in Stoneyfield, because it was part of our parish of South Stoneham long before West End became a separate entity.

The two parcels of land had been in the hands of a Dorset family, the Dacombe, since 1385, and before that of the Peverels. Although not large estates - Stoneyfield was a little over 30 acres in extent - they were compact areas of pasture, and information provided by the Corpus Christi archives suggests a special historical connection with the town of Southampton, and its trade in livestock.

The College archives contain three principal series of documents that throw light on the early history of the estates, and go on to present a fairly comprehensive picture of the tenancies and tenants from 1517 until their disposal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were the Twyne Transcripts, the Langdon Maps and the Lease Books, and all three were used extensively when researching Stoneyfield and Peverels.

The creation of the Twyne Transcripts in 1627 was one of the measures taken by the College to strengthen title. These were chronologically arranged transcripts of title deeds which, in the case of Stoneyfield, dated back to the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

A similar measure was the commissioning of Thomas Langdon to map its estates, and Stoneyfield and Peverels are included in a map of great accuracy. Bishop Fox, who was devoted to the view that the countryman was the mainstay of England, built into the Statutes for his newly-founded college a prohibition on any alienation or disposal of its agricultural land. This ban had the effect of ensuring that Langdon's map was valid until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the two enclosures were still readily identifiable on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Ordnance survey 6" maps. In fact, the boundaries of Stoneyfield remain identifiable in the most recent Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map of Southampton.

The Lease Books contain transcripts of almost every lease since 1517, so we know who the lessees were from that date. The Dummer and Andrews families of Swaythling were lessees of Stoneyfield from 1651 until it was sold to the sitting tenant, Dummer Andrews, for £358, on 16 Mar 1801 under provisions for the redemption of Land Tax. The rent during the whole of this time was £1 6s 8d plus the value of a quarter of wheat and ten bushels three pecks of malt - the variable corn rent being a form of inflation-proofing.

The earliest mention of Stoneyfield in the Twyne Transcripts is in a charter of 1368, when John Dacombe granted to John le Smyth and his wife Lucy a house in Mansbridge ...

*Continued on page 6*

## YET ANOTHER WW1 HERO FROM WEST END?

Pauline Berry



Photograph copyright Imperial War Museum - reproduced by kind permission (Negative Q79501)

**D**o you recognise this well-known still from a piece of film taken, it is believed, on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme? It is the famous image of a British soldier carrying his wounded comrade along a trench to relative safety. The 90th. Anniversary of this infamous battle fell this summer and I recall this scene being shown at least four times on television.

Lieutenant Geoffrey H. Malins, OBE, the cameraman who filmed this oft-repeated drama, described doing so in his book *"How I filmed the War"*, originally published in 1920. This classic piece of film captioned "British Tommies rescuing a comrade under shell-fire" is now carefully preserved in the archives of the Imperial War Museum in London. This particular still picture (Q79501) is widely used in books, newspapers and television "to evoke the experience of trench warfare and the heroism and suffering of the ordinary soldier".

How do I know this? Following letters sent to me by Adrian and Stanley Fray, who live in Worcestershire, I learned that they have both had extensive correspondence with the Archivist, Roger Smither, of the Imperial War Museum, concerning the identity of the soldier who was carrying his dying comrade. They are firmly convinced (and I am inclined to agree) that he is none other than their father Reuben Forrest Fray, who kept Rosemount Stores and Butchers Shop (on the site of Tesco Express near the traffic lights in West End today) in the first half of the 20th century!

The likeness to his strong features, broad forehead and slightly receding hair with its damp locks is quite uncanny. Adrian also pointed out to the archivist that their father Reuben was a fully qualified butcher and was quite used to carrying sides of beef over his shoulder in the very same manner as the soldier in the film. He also established that his father, who was serving with the 12th Labour Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, was definitely at the Front line around July 1st 1916, when the film sequence was taken.

Unfortunately the Imperial War Museum was unable to confirm the true identity of this courageous soldier who had apparently been one of two volunteers repeatedly braving the enemy fire in No Man's Land in order to rescue their injured comrades. Stanley and Adrian Fray were not the only claimants to know the

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identity of the soldier concerned and “so the question remains officially open”.

As time passes there are fewer and fewer people able to name the men in this moving scene. If you visit our own museum archive and view the older photographs of the Fray family, including Reuben, who grew up on Hatch Farm, you may see for yourself the strong resemblance. You may then form your own opinion of this mystery which may never be solved.

## KENILWORTH HOUSE IS DEMOLISHED



**KENILWORTH HOUSE**

*Photo by J.D.H. Chapman*



**Above: KENILWORTH HOUSE FROM THE AIR  
Right: Karen Spake and Foreman's Site Manager with  
Peter Wallace (WELHS)**

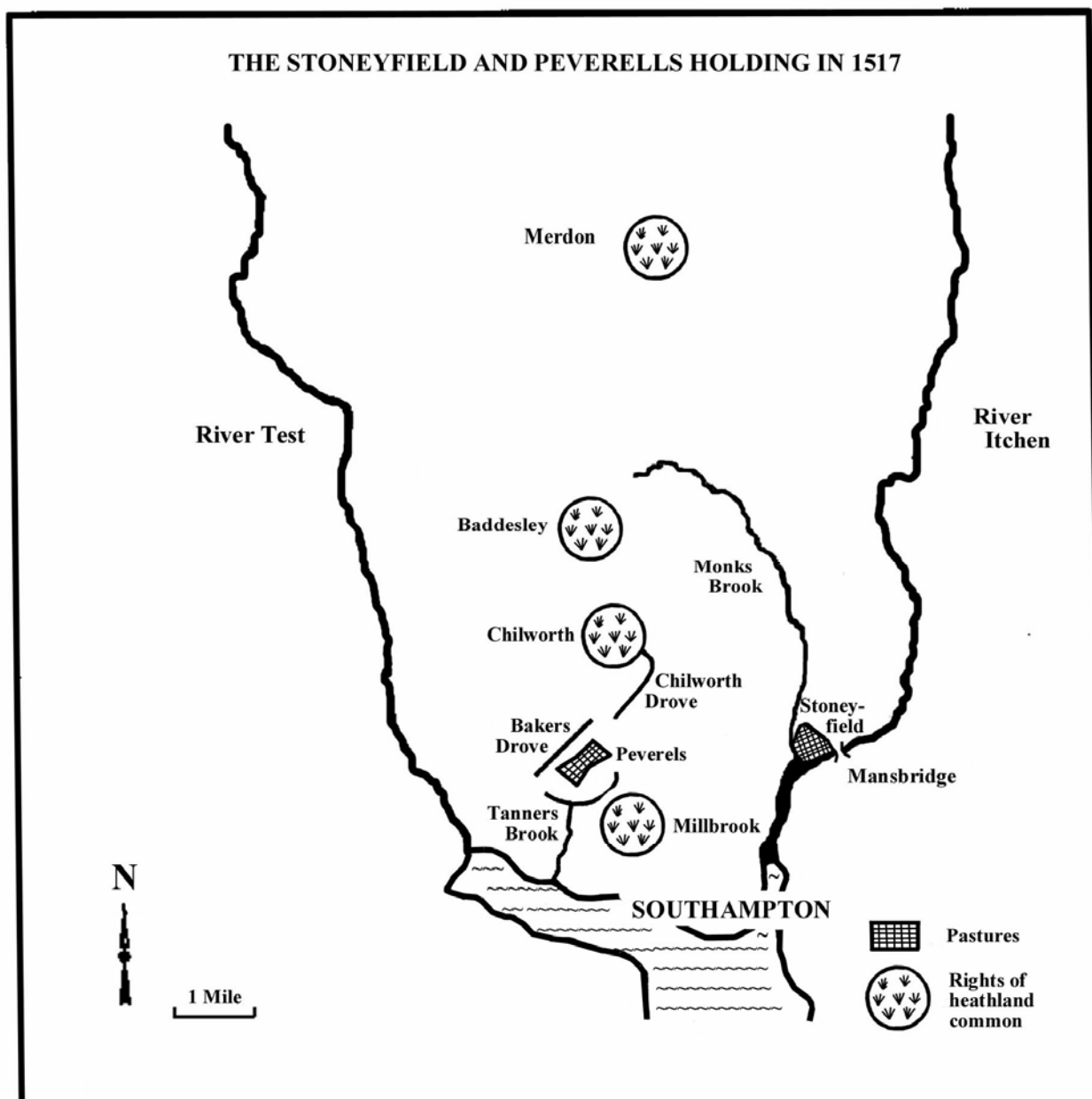
Early on Monday morning 30th. October 2006, three representatives of WELHS met with representatives of Foreman Homes who were the new owners of Kenilworth House in Telegraph Road, West End. Planning permission had been obtained for the demolition of the house and for the site to be re-developed for flats. The demolition was due to start that afternoon and we had been given permission to photograph the house and select artefacts for the museum. The house dating back to the early years of the 20th century and probably built by the local builders Haines (the extension on the left hand side was definitely built by them) was originally the home of Winifred Moody (born in 1900), one of three children the daughter of William Moody of Gravel Pit Farm and later Dog Kennel Farm situated further up Telegraph Road. Winifred Lucy Moody was a great local character, a Parish Councillor, County Councillor and Justice of the Peace. She worked tirelessly for the good of West End and its inhabitants and spent the rest of her life until her death in 1987 at the house. We have been fortunate through the good offices of Eric Reed at Eastleigh Borough Council of being put in touch with the builders Foreman Homes. They have been very sympathetic to heritage issues and supplied us with artefacts and photographs from the building, which will be the centrepiece of a display about the house in our museum in due course.



## POLICE HERITAGE DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

Our thanks go out to Alan Clack for organising the Police Heritage Display which was held at the museum on Saturday 18th November 2006. Unlike the weather for the preceding days Saturday was a beautiful sunny day, a good attendance plus refreshments being made available, thanks to Lin Dowdell and Margaret Wallace and a very interesting police display plus access to the museum made the day a success. The pictures below show some of the displays including “Cop & Dog”, suppliers of Police dogs, handlers etc. to the Film & Television industry. They have featured in such popular programmes as “The Bill”, “Silent Witness”, “Midsomer Murders”, “Daziel & Pascoe” etc.. A very successful day which we hope to repeat later on next year, many thanks to all who participated and to the Parish Council for the use of the site





*Continued from page 2*

in a field called Stonyfeld and all the lands pertaining to the same house in Stonymed on the south side of the King's highway, that had been Sir Henry Peverell's.

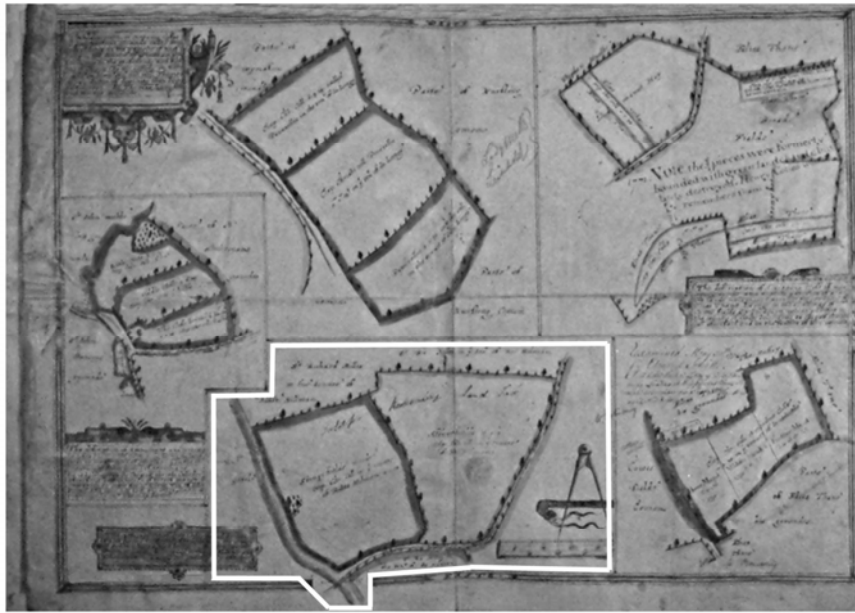
This charter indicates that a smith was living on-site, and two other 14<sup>th</sup>-century documents also reveal the presence of a resident smith. If the field was, in fact, being used to accommodate animals that had been temporarily shod for droving, a smith would have been needed to deal with their shoes. A small fenced area shown on the Langdon Map alongside the river at the southern end of Stoneyfield, could conceivably have been the site of the smithy (scanning this area with a metal-detector might have interesting results!)

Livestock products formed an essential part of the economy of Hampshire from the earliest times. The excavation of Saxon Southampton (Hamwih) has produced much important information about meat consumption and bone working in the Saxon period, and Chris Currie made some interesting suggestions on the links between Hamwih and the extensive area of common around the villages to the north. Tanning and leather working were features of medieval Southampton and its suburbs, and there were tanneries both at Swaythling near Stoneyfield and alongside Tanners Brook in Millbrook near Peverels. The Southampton Port Book for 1509-10 shows large quantities of hides and tallow being shipped out of the port.

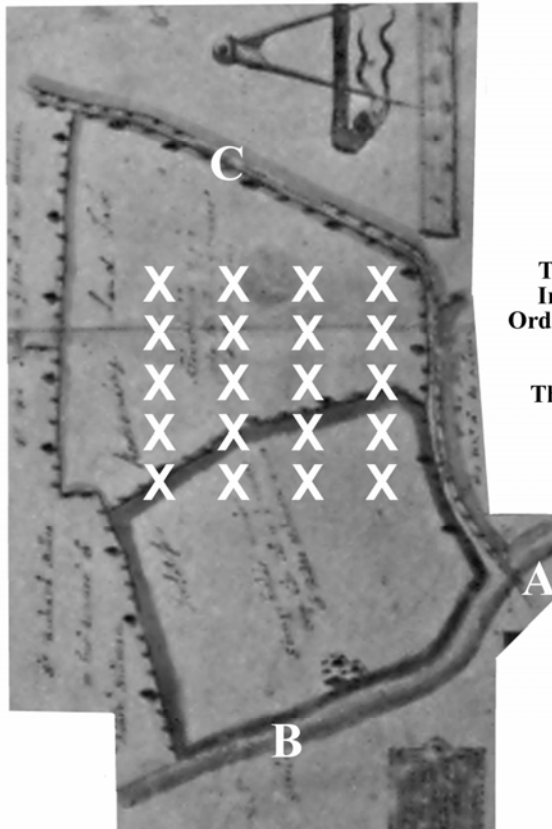
In our view, therefore, what we are seeing at Stoneyfields and Peverels is the final part of a system for driving livestock southwards through Hampshire. It is conceivable that the animals were then either rested north of the city until they were ready for disposal or that they were actually slaughtered and butchered on-site and their hides tanned in the Swaythling and Tanners Brook tanneries. We also believe that the Corpus Christi papers have given us a glimpse of the methods landlords employed to meet the needs of the Southampton markets.



Continued from page 6



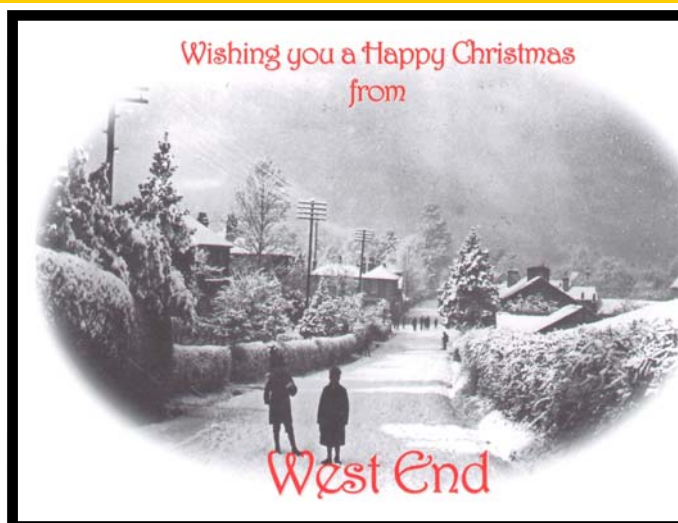
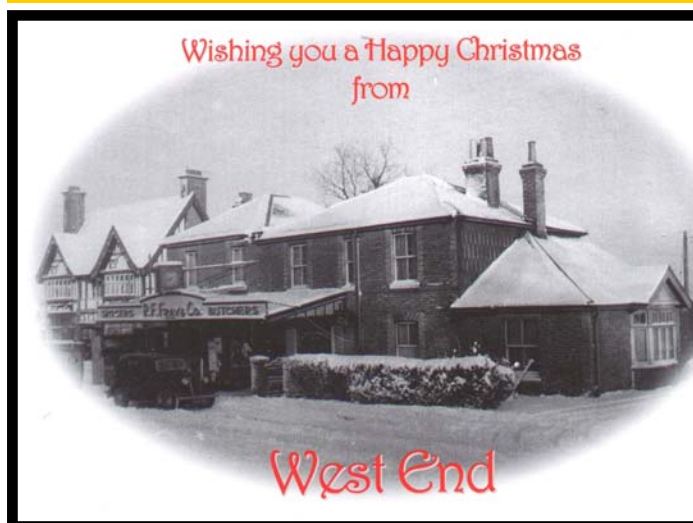
Stoneyfield as shown in Langdon's map of 1615. Peverels appears in the inset directly above it and the other insets are of land in Wiltshire. The orientation is incorrect by modern standards since north is towards the right of the page. The original map is in colour.



The Stoneyfield inset in modern orientation. In this form it can easily be identified on the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of Southampton. Mansbridge is marked 'A'. The River Itchen is marked 'B'. The Swaythling Road (hedge) is marked 'C'. and the present-day Swaythling Housing Association estate is marked with 'X's'.

DON'T FORGET WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAN THE MUSEUM ON A REGULAR BASIS - CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SIGN UP!!

## === WELHS CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE ===



Our new Christmas cards are available to purchase from the museum, priced at just £1.00 each which includes the envelope. There are two designs (see illustrations above) and all money goes towards the Society funds. The designs are Frays Stores c.1951 on the left and a view looking down Shotters Hill c.1908, both are snow scenes and are taken from pictures held in our archive. Ed.

## THE HISTORY OF SPECTACLES

A review by Stan Waight

It has often occurred to me when writing these reports that an apparently mundane subject can turn out to be very interesting. Such was the case when one of our own members, Ivan Downer, addressed our November meeting.

It came as a surprise to me that vision-enhancing devices should have been in use in China as long as 2000 years ago, and that Nero and Marco Polo were among the famous who had used them. Ivan told us how lenses were first made from gemstones or quartz - Nero had an emerald - and leather, wood and horn were employed to make the frames. Glasses, as we commonly know them, were already being widely manufactured in early 14<sup>th</sup>-century Italy, where Florence and Pisa were centres for the industry. Such aids were merely for the rich at first, of course, and the early spectacles could only correct long sight because there was no technology for the production of convex lenses.

As in other industries, however, the technology was constantly improving, and one of the most important developments was the attachment of hooked arms to the frames to stop the spectacles from falling off; pince-nez didn't last long because they left nasty red marks on the nose. Expensive gemstones and quartz were replaced by glass and, in modern times, plastic. Another surprise was that bifocal lenses first appeared in 1784 and contact lenses about 60 years later, although the latter did not take on at the time. And so we went through to the near-perfection of the present day (near-perfection because human error in prescription and making-up often results in the need to send the new glasses back!).

Perhaps the talk should have been called the History of Optics, because Ivan also spoke of other uses for lenses. Telescopes, binoculars, sextants and sunglasses were all mentioned, as was the use of prisms to complement the lenses themselves.

The subject produced quite a number of interesting questions, and Ivan had brought some printed material and spectacles from his collection for us to look at after the talk.



## THE PROGRAMME FOR 2007

It's that time of year again and time to roll out our new programme of talks for 2007 - Pauline who has carried out job this since the society was founded in 1996 has decided to stand down as programme organiser. We would like to express our sincere thanks for all her hard work and for producing another excellent programme for next year....it's going to be a hard act to follow!

Ed.

**January 3**  
**THE COUNTY ASYLUM AT KNOWLE**

*Susan Burt*

**February 7**  
**THE HISTORY OF RMS "QUEEN MARY"**

*David Main*

**March 7**  
**SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW  
SOUTHAMPTON?**

*Geoff Watts*

**April 4**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 2**  
**REACH FOR THE SKY**  
(Development of the aeronautical industry in  
the Hamble Valley)

*Jill Daniels*

**June 6**  
**THE FLYING ENTERPRISE & THE TURMOIL**  
(1952 Disaster)

*John Avery*

**July 4**  
**TOWNHILL PARK AND GARDENS**

*Rosaleen Wilkinson*

**August 1**  
**A WALK AROUND WEST END'S HERITAGE (Part 2)**  
(MEET AT PARISH CENTRE CARPARK AT 7.00pm)

**September 5**  
**THE COCKLESHELL HEROES IN  
SOUTHSEA**

*Madeleine Selby*

**October 3**  
**FOLLOW THE DRUM**  
(The 300 year history of Royal Hampshire Regiment)

*Roger Coleman*

**November 7**  
**THE SARAH SIDDONS FAN CLUB**

*Mary South*

**December 5**  
**CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ, SLIDE SHOW & RAFFLE**



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



Well, its that time of year again, and looking back over the year what a busy time its been, with a major re-furbishment of the museum, if you haven't visited it yet, you should. Many people have supplied help and assistance throughout the year and to them I would like to express the thanks of the Society and myself. In particular without Peter Wallace's construction skills we would not have such a professional look to the museum. We are sad to learn that we will lose Pauline Berry as Secretary at the AGM in April, she assures me she will remain very active in the Society, however, as she has "done the job" since 1996, I think she has earned a rest. So, we are looking for a volunteer as our new Secretary. Please give this some thought and "put something back" into the society. We are always looking for volunteers to man the museum—so make a New Years Resolution and volunteer, just once a month will make our task so much easier! So here's to 2007 and wishing all our friends and readers both at home and around the world a happy & peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Ed.

## ASPECTS OF NETLEY HOSPITAL

A Review by Stan Waight



THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL AT NETLEY

### Aspects of Netley Hospital .....

..... was the title of the talk given to the Society at our October meeting, and aspects there were in abundance. I have always considered our Curator Nigel to be a good talker and he and our equally treasured Lin surpassed themselves.

The talk was based upon the part of Lin's collection of postcards that related to the hospital (more correctly known as the Royal Victoria Hospital), and she introduced it by telling us how she began collecting. She used to go to philately fairs with Nigel, but, bored with stamps, she took to rifling through the boxes of postcards - the sight of pictures of this great local building was enough to get her going. For his part, Nigel has transferred these pictures into slides, and he began by telling us that it was the first time he had incorporated them into a talk. The research that had gone into the subject was clearly huge - Lin and Nigel never do anything by halves - and the images were varied, interesting and often unique. The combination was a great success, and what follows is a very inadequate report on the treat we were given.

The hospital was an outcome of the Crimean War (1853-1856), when more soldiers died of disease than were killed in the fighting, and the foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria herself in 1856. The 200-acre site by Southampton Water had been chosen from many because of its position and cost £15,000. The building itself, which was for many years the largest in Britain, cost £35,000, and, like many today, went over-time and over-budget. The decision to divide it into small wards - there were 138 of them - was not successful according to Nigel. Although it was state-of-the-art in its time, it had a few shortcomings, including some inadequate plumbing, but there was also the first purpose-built asylum for psychiatric patients - as time went by recreation facilities such as sports, music and handicrafts were added. The first patients arrived on completion in 1863, and wounded servicemen were brought to the hospital by sea in the

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early days. The complex included a 190-yard-long pier built in 1865 which was replaced by a branch line from Netley terminating in a station behind the hospital in 1900, and was finally demolished in 1955.

The hospital was particularly active during the Boer War (1899-1902), when it was the main reception hospital for British Army casualties, and it was during this period that a hutted extension was set up. This was followed by another hutted and tented area in 1914, funded by donations from the Red Cross and Ireland and Wales; it provided an additional 1500 beds, but the hospital was still hard-pressed to cope with the flow of casualties in the first World War.

World War Two saw the hospital in operation again, but it was handed over to the Americans from 1944 to 1945 to deal with their wounded from the D-Day operations (the story that Jeeps were driven up and down the ¼-mile-long corridors was confirmed by a member of the audience, and Nigel took some joy over the take-over from the fact that the plumbing was still inadequate!).

The main part of the hospital was closed down in 1956 and became derelict over time. A fire in 1963 prompted its demolition in 1966, when the removal of Queen Victoria's foundation-stone uncovered a time-capsule containing artefacts of the Crimean War period. All that now remains of the great set of buildings are the Chapel - a landmark to all who have crossed the Solent from Southampton, the Officers' Mess - now a block of luxury apartments, and the old asylum - now the training establishment for the Hampshire police. The site itself was taken over by the County Council in 1980, and now serves as a recreation area for local people with the old YMCA building as its Centre.

The attendance of over 50 included visitors, who will hopefully join the Society after seeing the high quality of the presentations that are arranged for us. Thanks! Lin, and Thanks! Nigel, for a really first-class evening.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT St. JAMES' CHURCH



St. James' Church held a wonderful "Christmas Tree Festival" in the church on the 24th, 25th and 26th November 2006. There were some 24 trees on display all decorated by local groups and societies and themed to various Christmas carols. Illustrated at the left is the tree decorated by West End Local History Society on the theme of "The Holly & the Ivy" carol, and our grateful thanks for a job well done go to our team consisting of Pauline Berry, Peter and Margaret Wallace and Bill White, all of whom set the tree up on Friday 24th. Well done team!

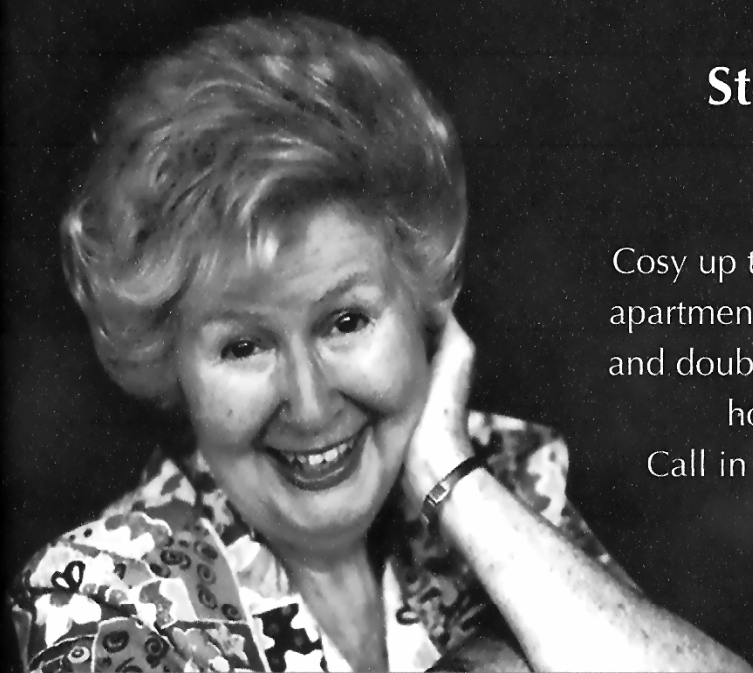
With all the trees illuminated and spaced down each side of the church, with larger trees either side at the front towards the altar and beautiful evergreen displays gracing the pew ends and pillars, topped off with a delightful evergreen archway leading to the Church Annexe, the whole effect was magical when seen towards the evening! The Church Annexe was transformed into a refreshments area along with stalls with seasonal items for sale. The Rev. Brian Pickett and his team at the Church as well as the congregation should be congratulated for putting on such an event, we hope this will be an annual event in future. However, this was only part of the celebrations, which included performances by St. James' School Choir, St. James' Brass Band as well as the Wildern School Concert and an Organ Recital held over the three days. At dusk the pathway leading to the church entrance was illuminated by a row of candle lit lanterns on either side of the path as well as lighting, a beautiful sight, in spite of the adverse weather conditions prevailing. Ed.

*Left: WELHS DECORATED TREE - Photo by Peter Wallace*

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