



WESTENDER

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LOCAL LEGENDS (8)

REV. IVOR JEFFREY-MACHIN



Dr. Machin and his wife Brenda came from Brockenhurst, he was a Schoolmaster and a non stipendary Priest. St. James' at West End was his first full time living. He was very musical and could play almost every instrument to a greater or lesser degree, an exceptionally clever man who never lorded it over his fellows. In this Parish he is best remembered for his work with young people. He extended his predecessor's Junior Church and formed the Junior Church Council, with their own Churchwardens.

Ivor Machin founded the West End Little Theatre Club, sadly now defunct. Opened in 1945 the Club ran until 2005 when it became no longer a viable operation, closing with a play appropriately entitled "*Curtain*

Call". He was Chairman of WELTC from 1945 until 1952. During the Second World War he wrote regularly to all the local men serving in the Forces whilst on Active Service and also started the Pram service to encourage young mothers to come to Church and bring their babies. He wrote several theatrical productions for the Little Theatre Club and became "*Brain of Britain*" on the Radio series of the same name following his retirement from active work. An all round asset for West End during his time at St. James Church.

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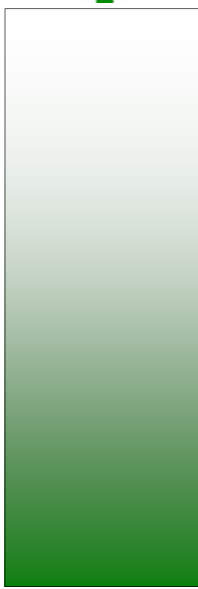
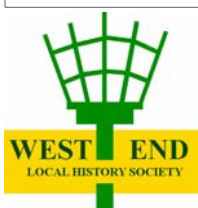


**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



CHRISTMAS MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight



Advertised as Christmas Buffet, Quiz and Slide Show, I think we were all a little surprised to find that entertainment had been laid on. In sessions before and after the buffet, Mark Ponsford sang to us and told humorous stories, and we thought he did it very well. He is no mean piano player and has a voice that is well suited to Ivor Novello melodies, so, when he sang 'songs my mother taught me', it was both nostalgic and easy on the ear. Some of the songs were funny, too, and I particularly liked the ones about young boys being taken to the opera, to the tune of Swan Lake, and 'The Gasman Came To Call'. He even sang one in Greek – at least he said it was Greek and it sounded like Greek! The long story about the Giant's garden was rather more serious and quite topical in its content. Well done, Mark, I'd like to hear you again!

The food and wine were magnificent, as always, and the buffet was as varied as anyone could wish.

Nigel and Lin put on the usual searching quiz, which was won (yet again) by the team that included Anne Littlejohns, Enid Plowman and Maureen Russell - modesty forbids that I should mention the name of the fourth member, and I wouldn't want to upset our worthy Chairman!.

WEST ENDS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



WEST END HIGH STREET SHOWING THE ILLUMINATIONS THIS YEAR *(Photo's J.D.H. Chapman)*

Congratulations to West End Parish Council, this year the Christmas illuminations have been increased and gave a real festive look to the village. The museum as usual had a special flashing Christmas illumination and new lights were installed at the In-Excess and Netto building. We look forward to next years illuminations. Ed.

NOMINATION FOR SECRETARY WANTED

As readers will have noticed, in the last edition of Westender, Pauline our Secretary is standing down at the AGM this year after filling the post since our founding in 1996. We are therefore looking for a replacement to fill the post of Secretary, if you are interested please contact one of the committee members for details and to enable your nomination to go forward at the AGM. **Don't forget, the Society doesn't run itself, we need volunteers to come forward to help us.** Ed.

GET WELL SOON

Over Christmas one of our founder members, Rose Voller, underwent major heart surgery, she had not been well for some time, but typically she soldiered on without complaint. We are pleased to report that Rose is on the mend and we look forward to seeing her again at meetings in the near future after suitable convalescence. Rose has always been a stalwart member, helping man the museum and acting as Minute Secretary for the Committee - our grateful thanks Rose and get well soon! Ed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Its thank you once again to McCarthy & Stone, who for the second year in succession have supported the production of "Westender", with a generous donation, in return for advertising. Without financial help like this and support from our other sponsors we would not be able to produce "Westender", run the Local History Museum & Heritage Centre, produce exhibitions, and have such interesting meetings and speakers, so our grateful thanks to all. Ed.

' A PERMANENT EXPENSE AND A CONSTANT SORROW'

A review by Stan Waight



VIEWS OF KNOWLE HOSPITAL

January's talk about the county asylum at Knowle hardly seemed to promise an auspicious start to our new year of meetings, but Susan Burt's lively and coherent presentation turned out to be much, much better than I expected. In fact, you could say it was masterly; or should I say 'mistressly', for Susan is a school teacher, and researched the comprehensive Knowle archive over a long period for her PhD. She covered the background legislation, the establishment of the asylum and some of the patients and families associated with it in the period 1852 to 1899. There were few illustrations, but any more would have been superfluous given Susan's academic and fluent delivery.

The point that came over loud and clear was the sympathetic and sensitive way in which the 1845 Act was couched and put into practice. It was an attempt to provide a humane way of dealing with mental illness, and every county was to have its own asylum. One of the qualifications for admission was that the patient had to be a pauper, the system being an extension to Poor Law procedures - inmates were often transferees from Union workhouses. There were strict rules as to admission, which was usually initiated by the family, and documentation from the local Doctor, Justice of the Peace, Vicar and Relieving Officer was required. It was such a committee, and not the medical staff at the asylum itself, that decided who should be admitted. A discharge procedure had to be followed if mistakes were made. Medical Superintendents were concerned only with treatment; they lived on site and two of them served continuously for periods of 20 years or more.

The Knowle estate was chosen rather than a town site so that patients would be in the country, with the fresh air and pleasant surroundings that were hoped to help with the cure. It ran to 100 acres, and included a farm that provided produce; being paupers, the inmates enjoyed a much better standard of living, including the food, than they would have had at home. The asylum took seven years to build and was opened in 1852. The structure itself was plain, with no unnecessary decoration, but it was in other respects a good example of Victorian public building; it reached its maximum extent by 1916, when it could house more than 1000 patients. There was complete segregation of the sexes, even down to the attendants, one wing of the building being devoted to females and the other to males. The ordinary staff were poorly paid, mostly untrained and worked hard and for long hours in a strict regime - little wonder that many of them only stayed for a short time. Knowle did not close until 1996.

The conditions in the asylum were supposed to be part of the therapy, and compared very favourably with life outside. Sedation and restraint were seldom administered, and patients were encouraged to work and play, with the idea that these pursuits would also aid recovery. That so few committed suicide or escaped seems a testament to the way in which they were treated.

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Some old myths were dispelled by the talk. For instance, it is not true that these institutions, the public ones at least, were treated as places to get rid of 'undesirables' such as unmarried mothers. Nor were patients kept in for ever, in fact many were discharged when they were well enough and stayed at home unless the family could again no longer cope (in many cases the family had coped for years before finally giving in, one element being the perceived disgrace of an admission to an institution for paupers). Some patients were admitted and discharged as many as ten times. Susan had particularly researched Emily and Ellen Lawford, two sisters from the New Forest, who were respectable but poor and had no history of intemperance or crime. They were each admitted and discharged many times, but in the meantime were able to go into service and marry.

LOOKING BACK extracts from past copies of "WEST END NEWS"

...from West End News of October 1982

Parish Hall

In 1899 the Council was reconsidering the advisability and practicality of providing a Hall for the use of Parishioners. A Parish meeting was called to consider building a Hall in 1900, many different views were expressed. One speaker, Dr. Acton, considered an efficient water supply and remodelling of the National Schools was more important. Another anticipated an increase in direct and indirect taxes to pay for the South African War, which would mean the Parish couldn't afford it.

Mr Haines reported that he had obtained the offer of a piece of land, adjoining the school, with 70 ft. frontage and depth of 150 ft. for £70 and the cost of the building would be £800. This meeting decided against any further action.

A Parish meeting held in February 1904 was called to consider the offer to purchase the school (the old National School built in 1838 on the corner of High Street/Chapel Road) as a new one had been built. An offer of £300 had been accepted and the Council required authority from the meeting to proceed. On a vote, by a show of hands, being taken, the result was 44 for and 44 against. Chairman refusing to use his casting vote. As there were some present who were not entitled to vote, the vote was taken again, this time checking everyone against the official register. The result being 43 for and 38 against. The names of all those voting are recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. The following annual meeting was asked to authorise the Council to borrow £450 for the purchase and modification of the school.

During the election, the Parish Council candidates were subjected to many questions regarding the purchase of the school and as there were about 200 parishioners present it seems apparent that the proposal had aroused some opposition. This became very clear as the result of the election resulted in every member of the Council being defeated with the exception of the Vicar. What is more significant is that all except one, had voted against purchasing the hall at the previous meeting. Naturally a poll was demanded and although the names recorded at subsequent meetings makes it clear that the old members were returned no details of the result of the poll is recorded. A Poll of the Parish was held to settle the question of borrowing the £450 and the result was in favour by 135 to 125.

In 1906 the School had been modified to serve as the Parish Hall and between October and March had been let 38 times for an income of £14. In 1911 much needed lavatory accommodation and a gents cloakroom was provided. A wider gate in the Parish Hall fence to give access for motor vehicles, was provided in 1917. The following year a Cab Rank was established in the Parish Hall yard. In 1924, Mr. Collins paid for a hot water heating system to be installed costing £50.

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...from West End News of November/December 1984

LOOKING BACK - 1945

With the ending of the War some things were returning to normal. The Ministry of Food agreed, in February, to release the Parish Hall but it was many months before it could be used. It was finally handed back on the 8th. September but repairs and decorating, costing £185, were carried out before it was available to the public in April 1946. The Council held the first meeting there in March, having met at the home of Mr and Mrs Brown at "Maskee", during most of the war years.

Street lighting returned. Although money was available to repair and recondition the pre-war fittings, no improvements could be made. Due to the fuel shortage the lights were switched off at midnight.

Permission to spend money on V.E. celebrations was given in May but there is no mention of the Council being involved in these celebrations and no record of any money made available for this purpose. For V.J. celebrations they paid for children, aged 5 - 14½ years to go to a Film Show at the Ritz, Bitterne. The cost £10.00 for the Cinema and £4.50 for the transport, £10.00 of which was paid by the R.D.C., although the Parish Council asked them to pay the whole cost as West End was a "large Parish"!

There must have been celebrations held in West End despite the apparently mean attitude of the Council.

Wilf Phillips

THE ANCIENT TRACK

I have stated previously in the West End News, the ancient bank and oak trees on the right-hand side of Chapel Road, coming from Moorgreen, marks the boundary between the Manors of Shamblehurst and Allington and it would be nice to think that some of the bank still exists.

The boundary is the reason why West End got its name, being the west side or end of the Shamblehurst Manor or tithing which our headmaster, Mr Shelley, of the original St. James School, explained to us but not in such detail as my son Peter and I have been able to work out. Looking at our old maps it has dawned on us just how important Chapel Road and Quob Lane must have been when the Manor of Allington was a flourishing community.

The track to the Manor, now Allington Lane, joined the main highway at the top of Gater's Hill, enabling



COTTAGES IN CHAPEL ROAD TODAY - "Yew Tree Inn" was in centre

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the tenants to travel to Southampton or Romsey and beyond.

The spur road off the lane, which is now named Quob Lane and Chapel Road, enabled the inhabitants to take a short cut to the main highway for Botley, Wickham etc.. and was probably used quite frequently for many hundreds of years taking produce and cattle to and from the Manor. There was a Beer House known as the Yew Tree Inn, which was previously a bakehouse.

The Inn was still in use during the early part of this century, according to the older villagers and the Landlord's grandson, with whom I have been in touch, has promised to give me more information when he can find an old document in his possession. The terrace of little houses (cottages) between Quob Lane and Megan Road/Chapel Road was the Inn. (see photo on previous page)

C.M. Sillence

MOORGREEN HOSPITAL

Pauline Berry

Rumours have been rife for some time as to the future of part of the Moorgreen Hospital site. Our member Derek Amey spotted the minutes of last year's meeting of the NHS Southampton Primary Care Trust on its website. The Management Team and the Head of Planning Policy and Design at Eastleigh Borough Council have recommended that the Council enter discussions with the Trust and the Strategic Health Authority about the future of the site.

The Borough Council, with Richard Baker's (Architect) able assistance, have also submitted a request to English Heritage to '*consider key buildings*' on the site for Listing, as of Architectural and Historic Interest. In order to give some protection against future development, he has researched and submitted a summarised history of the hospital, formerly South Stoneham Union Workhouse.

In 1835, the South Stoneham Poor Law Union was formed and overseen by an elected Board of Guardians. A competition was set up inviting plans and estimates for a new workhouse on the site of an old Poorhouse (built in 1802) in the Botley Road. It was won by William Henman from London who then drew up plans for the new workhouse (one of several hundred in the country) to accommodate the sick and poor homeless, of whom there were far too many.

Local Street Directories state that the original red brick building was erected in 1848, at a cost of about £7,000, in the Elizabethan style and intended for a maximum of 350 inmates. Eric Raffo, in his book "Half a Loaf" believes the building, as we know it today, was constructed in 1850-51 at a cost of £9,456 (Guardians' Minutes). Its construction was approved in 1848. The workhouse has been enlarged many times: in 1887, 1895 and in 1898 (when a new boiler house was added). In 1894 The Rural Sanitary Authority purchased about 8 acres of land and wood adjoining the Institution's grounds in order to erect a hospital for infectious diseases (known as the Foul Wards) for the whole of the Union, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act. This was eventually built about 1909 on the site of today's Tom Rudd Unit.

By 1911-12 twenty-two acres of land were added for cultivation by paupers. Amongst many other additions and alterations made over the years were the Tramp Wards for vagrants, erected around 1896. These are the two small buildings still visible at the front boundary, close to the Botley Road.

A long overdue Nurses Home was finally constructed in 1939. The long complex history of the present Moorgreen Hospital was well researched and compiled by Eric H. Raffo's book "Half a Loaf", now unfortunately out of print. There is a copy in our museum's reference library. We will, of course, keep you in touch with further developments regarding the future of this important piece of West End's heritage and health care.

MEMORIES OF KENILWORTH HOUSE

A letter from local resident Dorothy Sign in response to the article in last edition of Westender

My mother Florence Mills (nee Scadden) was a live-in Cook for Mr and Mrs W. Moody from 1919 to 1924 at Kenilworth House. She always spoke kindly of her employment with them, apart from living in the beautiful house she loved to walk round the lovely gardens, under the rose covered pergolas to the orchard where spring-time was a mass of daffodils and apple blossom destined for the markets. Opposite the house was a sunken tennis court, later changed to lawn and herbaceous borders.

Miss Winifred Moody was the same age as my mother and they reached their 21st. Birthdays a few months apart, but with a difference. Miss Winifred had an elaborate party but for my mother apart from a card from her parents, it was just another day.

Miss Moody was a remarkable lady who worked tirelessly as a Justice of the Peace also as a County and Parish Councillor. She always had the best interest of West End and the people at heart for which we were always grateful.

I like to think that Kenilworth House played a part in my existence. My mothers brother-in-law, James Baker was one of the gardeners at “Kenilworth” and lived in “Shilo Cottage” in Botley Road. Whilst on a holiday from Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury to her sister Lilian and James my mother was asked to consider the position of Cook at “Kenilworth” which she was pleased to accept. Later she was also introduced to my father Leslie Mills, a village lad, and after 3 years they married and lived in Moorgreen Road.

Mr and Mrs Moody gave them a dinner service for a wedding present and I still have four of the plates. I am sorry to see another “Gentry” house disappear along with so many others but as we are told to move with the times I say “thank goodness” for the local history society for being able to record these events.

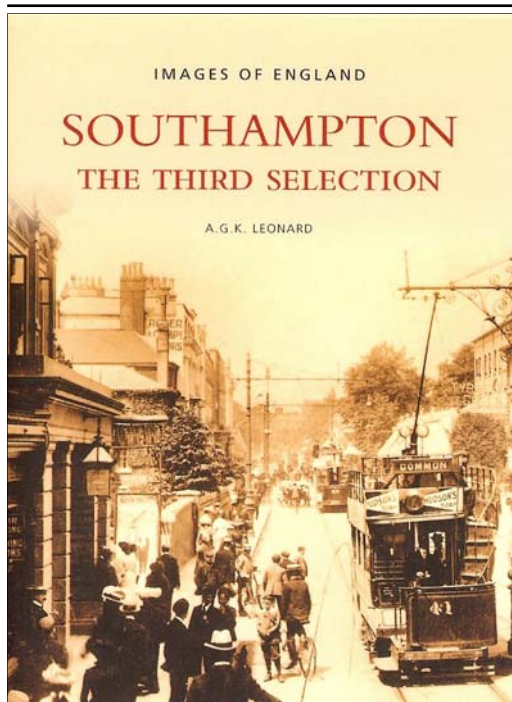
Note: Our thanks to Dorothy yet again for more of her memories of West End, any other readers who have similar memories of old West End please make contact with the editor—we would like to put your memories into print in Westender to preserve them for posterity. Ed.



Two of the many pictures held by WELHS in the Kenilworth House archive at the museum.

Left: The beautifully laid out formal garden c.1960's

Above: Daffodils in flower in the orchard at Kenilworth House c.1960's



NEW BOOK REVIEW

The latest book offering from local historian and author Alan Leonard is now available; the third selection of images of Old Southampton. The book, part of the Images of England series published by Tempus Publishing Ltd has a cover price of £12.99, but can be bought from our museum shop for £12.00. Entitled *“Southampton - the third selection”* by **A.G.K. Leonard**, the book contains 210 superb quality images with plenty of very informative text. A “good read” as well as being a very good image collection. The author, well-known for over a dozen books on local history, has annotated this selection of significant illustrations drawn from many local sources - many of them, in fact, not previously reproduced in book form.

“SOUTHAMPTON the third selection” A.G.K. Leonard

Published by Tempus Publishing Ltd Price £12.99

ISBN 0-7524-4003-9 128 pages card covers

On this day (7th February) in.....

1301 The first Prince of Wales was created - Edward of Caernarvon, who later became King Edward II.

1812 Charles Dickens, English novelist, born at Landport, Portsmouth, the son of a clerk in the Navy pay office.

1845 The Portland Vase, a 10-inch Roman dark blue cameo glass vessel, was smashed by a stone from a maniac, while on loan to the British Museum - has been skilfully restored.

1878 Pope Pius IX died after reigning for over 31½ years - was succeeded by Leo XIII (Giacchino Vincenzo Pecci).

1924 Dora Bryan, English comedy actress, born as Dora Broadbent.

1974 Grenada, in the Windward Islands of the West Indies, became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth, with Eric Gairy its first Prime Minister - having been a British colony since 1783.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE

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

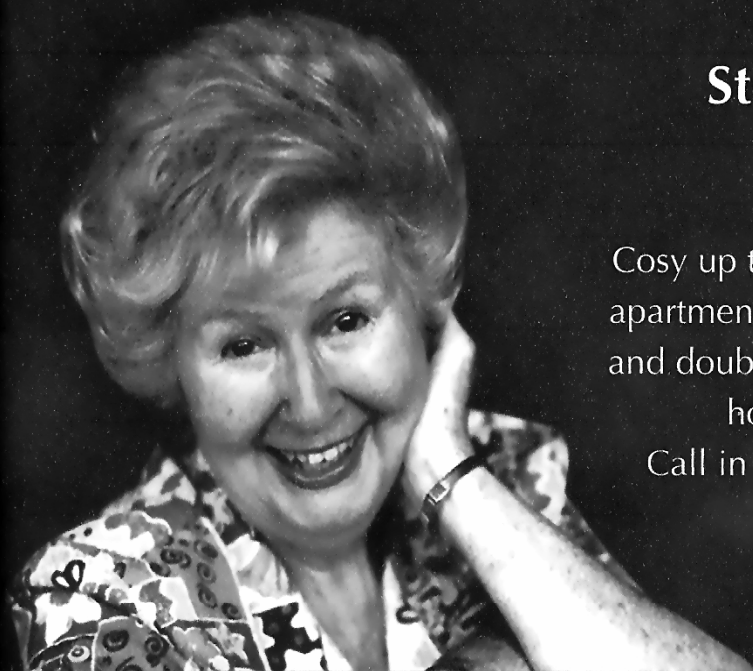
THE FLYING ENTERPRISE & THE TURMOIL (1952 Disaster)

John Avery

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