



WESTENDER

MARCH - APRIL 2008

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 4

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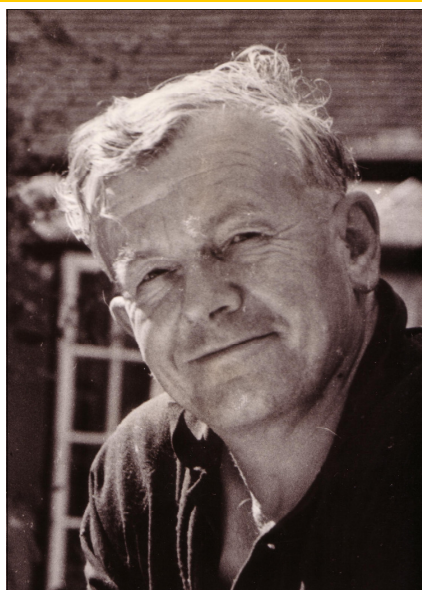
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LOCAL LEGENDS (14)

EDWIN CHARLES SPENCER TOPP

1914 - 1978



This year we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of my father, Edwin Charles Spencer Topp or to many an old West Ender, Ted Topp.

Ted was born in 1914 in Myrtle Cottage, Moorgreen Road. His father was a market gardener who had lived at the Farmers Home, Durley with a brother who ran the public house. His mother was born in Watford and had come to Moorgreen to stay with her uncle, Charles Spencer, as companion/housekeeper. Charles Spencer had been West End Parish Clerk for 31 years, having arrived in Moorgreen in 1850.

Ted's parents married in St James Church in June 1913, the marriage being performed by the Rev. F R Dawson. In March 1914 they purchased Myrtle Cottage which came with 2 acres, 3 roods & 3 perches of land for the sum of

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£420.00.

At the age of five Ted was sent to West End School and in 1926 he won a scholarship to Barton Peveril Grammar School. In 1931 he passed the School Certificate Examination, London Matriculation and had obtained a place at Southampton University, but he did not take it up as he decided to stay in agriculture.

In June 1939 Ted married Betty Rothwell from Bursledon. Then in September of that year the war began, it was then that he endeavoured to produce the maximum amount of food. He was fairly successful, never graded below 'A' by the Hants Agriculture Committee, in 1942 he grew what was officially rated the best crop of sugar beet in the South, while in 1944 it was the best apple crop in Hampshire.

Ted's war service was the Home Guard, very much like 'Dad's Army'.

It was during the 50's that Ted started to take more interest in local affairs.

In 1955 he was asked to stand for Parish Council and was elected as an Independent. This led to further involvement in village affairs. Ted was treasurer to The Hungarian Relief Fund founded in 1956. He was vice chairman of West End Cricket Club which was reformed in 1957 and secretary to The Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1963.

It was then that he started the West End News being the publicity officer and editor. This was handed over to the West End Community Association, who were raising funds for a new community hall. He was also a member of the Carnival Committee, which was revived in 1966. Both of these organizations he was actively involved with until his death.

Ted died in August 1978 and is buried in the old cemetery.

(Item written for Westender by Barry Topp)



WEST END PARISH COUNCILLORS LATE 1950's (Ted Topp centre back row)

MEMORIES OF THORNHILL - Part 3

Roy Andrews



EXTERIOR OF FRAYS STORES c.1952-3



INTERIOR OF FRAYS STORES c. 1949-50

Although living in Thornhill in the 1940's and 50's my mother still did much of her food shopping at Frays shop in West End High Street next to the New Inn Public House. I remember old Mr Fray sitting in his kiosk/desk just inside the door of the shop, to a small boy it seemed very high up. And the array of large square tins of biscuits in a row at small boy height from which some of the contents could be purchased and put into a brown paper bag. No excessive use of packaging in those days.

Mum's weekly supply of groceries which filled a not particularly large cardboard box, no convenience foods then only wholesome basics, were delivered to our house down an unmade up deeply rutted road in a little green van. White coats were always worn by the driver and as our pet dog, the most placid of animals, hated people in white coats, something to do with vets perhaps, we always had to be on hand to collect the groceries at the front gate.

Even though Mum used "Frays", we did have a good array of shops at Thornhill. There were, and still are, two rows of shops in Thornhill Park Road. On the south side is Thornhill Terrace and further along on the north side is The Broadway.

On the corner of Thornhill Avenue and the main road was Knights General Store, along from there in "The Terrace" amongst others was Streets Grocers. Mr Street lived in the next road to mine, Spencer Road, and grew some of his vegetables on two building plots in that road which he owned and used as allotments. Also living in Spencer Road around this time were two erstwhile members of West End Local History Society, Rose Voller and Peter Wallace.

Further along from Streets shop was Kimbers (later Chandlers) bakers, Edmunds Grocer, Margaret Hairdresser and Cantelo Chemists, full of dark wood glass fronted cupboards containing all sorts of mysterious things and in the window two of those large glass bottles full of unknown, coloured liquid. There was also Bailey the Watchmaker and Pennicott Boot Repairs.

In the Broadway were Hiscocks Newsagents, Sims Fishmonger, Smeed and Smeed Wine Merchants where Dad bought his six bottles of Brown Ale every Christmas. O'Dell Ironmongers and at the far end a wireless repair shop full of all sorts of radio valves and gizmo's in the window whilst inside were arrayed various strange wireless bits and pieces around a small counter. To the side of the counter was a screened area behind which the shopkeeper would disappear to carry out quick repairs. I always wished I could sneak a look at what mysteries lay there but I never did.

DISCOVERING TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

A review by Nigel Wood

It must be said, it seems strange to be reviewing a talk given by our usual reviewer, but that is the case. Stan Waight gave us a talk entitled “Discovering Timber Framed Buildings” for the February meeting. However, it could have been Friday 13th, for poor Stan had a few problems getting his laptop to “talk” to his digital projector, but in the end he managed to get images through, albeit not full screen.

These problems could have defeated many people, but Stan soldiered on and gave us an excellent and informative talk including some excellent pictures. The talk started with a “commercial” for Shire Books, featuring their book on Timber Framed Buildings. It appears one of the earliest timber framed buildings extant dates from 1486 – the dating being achieved using the dendrochronology technique. Stan went on to talk about the wonderful buildings at the Open Air Museum at Singleton, where old timber framed buildings have been rescued and re-erected. The earliest style of timber framed building was the “hall” type just one big room full height to the roof. Variations that followed were the 3, 4 and 7 bay construction types. A later addition to many old buildings was the application of cladding in the form of stucco, tile hanging, rendering etc..

Stan explained the construction and type of joints employed in these timber masterpieces, stating that green oak was the preferred choice of timber and that a framing ground was used to construct the wall sections, which were then taken apart and re-erected on site and pegged together using wooden pegs – almost an early form of “flat pack”! The timbers of early houses were not “squared off” but were left literally as the trees grew minus bark, squaring off the timbers was a later idea.

The classic “cruck” framed house was explained, as well as the way the panels between the timbers were in-filled with wattle and daub and then lime washed. Roofs were often of thatch, either straw or the more expensive and longer lasting reed.

In the earlier “hall” type of house, when more room was required upper floors were inserted and the development of the humble chimney was explained, from open hearth, to hooded hearth and finally to the brick built chimney we know today. Windows started out as just plain openings, covered by heavy water proofed curtains, later wooden shutters proved better but a little draughty and by the late 16th century glass was being used. Well off owners employed the use of extra timbers to show how wealthy they were, the use of “close studding” and “fancy patterned timberwork” were examples of this. As they say nowadays, if you’ve got it flaunt it!

The last section of Stan’s talk comprised a series of excellent pictures of timber framed buildings at Odiham, Newbury (The White Swan), Owslebury, Marwell (the 14th century part), Overton (The White Hart) etc. for each of these he gave us a “potted history” of the building and the people involved. Stan certainly knows his subject, having done a lot of research locally and including work at Corpus Christi College. His pictures were excellent, it was only a pity that they could not be seen full frame. Judging by comments and the number and variety of questions put to Stan afterwards everyone thoroughly enjoyed the talk.

Well done Stan!

PLEA FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CURATOR

We are looking for a photograph of local benefactress Harriett Haselfoot - she lived at Moorhill House on Moorhill Road having moved there from Essex. Her husband was Charles Haselfoot, a wealthy landowner and 21 years her senior, who lived at the Manor House, Boreham, Essex. Harriett died around 1900.

ONE OF THE FEW

by Pauline Berry



In West End's Old Burial Ground, behind the War Memorial are five military graves in various places. One of them, over halfway down behind a large fir tree, is that of RAF Flight Sergeant Stanley W. Pook who died on April 8th 1942. He was a wireless operator/air gunner during World War 2 and although he was only 21 years old, he had already taken part in a number of bombing raids over Germany including Hamburg and Berlin.

Ironically Stanley was resting between tours of operations when he was killed on a flight over England not Germany. He was an instructor on a training flight over the Cotswolds when there was a mid-air collision between his plane and a Spitfire and all the crew were killed. His mother Mrs May Pook of Thornhill Park Road told this sad story to the late Irene Pilson many years ago. She added that she had the consolation of knowing her son did not have to live with the terrible sights he had seen during those bombing raids.

Born about 1921, Stanley and his two sisters attended West End National School, only yards away from his final resting place. At the age of 11 he won a scholarship to Barton Peveril Grammar School. Can anyone tell us more or point out this brave young man in one of the school photo's in the museum archive?

The late Irene Pilson, who died in 2005, gave us permission before her final move to Spain, to use extracts from her two local history books "*Memories of Bitterne*" and "*More Memories of Bitterne*" from which this story came.

LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAY AT EASTLEIGH



THE W.E.L.H.S. DISPLAY IN A.H.ROGERS & SONS WINDOW AT EASTLEIGH

Once again for the second year running we have had a local history display in the window of A.H. Rogers & Sons, Funeral Directors, in Market Street, Eastleigh. (see photo's above) The display was in place for the month of March and was taken down at the end of the month. A.H. Rogers & Sons are to be applauded for providing this facility for local societies and groups to publicise their activities and our thanks go out to the Manager and staff at A.H. Rogers as well as to John Avery for initially making the arrangement.

LOOKING BACK.....

The following article about the Workhouse at Moorgreen originally appeared in the February 1985 issue of "West End News", the West End Community Association's newsletter.

Extract by courtesy of Hampshire Advertiser & County Paper - January 1904....

"Although the Master and Matron of the South Stoneham Union, West End, had been ill, they recovered sufficiently to provide a happy and enjoyable Xmas for 330 inmates. The Board of Guardians provided extra fare of £20, Mr W.S. Summers generously contributed £5. School Mistress Miss Hutchinson and Schoolmaster Mr Humphreys, helped by the children, decorated the Dining Hall, classrooms and wards. A service was held by the Chaplain, Rev. F. Davidson; the Master Mr Brown, hopes to have a Chapel built before he retires.

Nurse Mason, the Misses Lane, Hussell and Parson were busy supplying needs to the sick. All who were capable assembled for a big dinner at 1pm of Roast beef, pork, mutton, boiled salt beef, hams and vegetables of the season, the joints carved by the Master and Matron. Dinner lasted until 2.30pm, the plum pudding was excellent. All the men who were left received clay pipes and tobacco, the women with tea and sugar, and soon they were brewing "the cup that cheers", boys and girls had nuts, oranges and sweets.

Only one Guardian made an appearance, Mr William Henry Gater, who for many years has visited for Xmas. Before he left he commented in the visitors book, "Christmas 1903", I have visited the house and have been pleased with everything I have seen with regard to care and attention which are being by the Master, Matron, Nurses and Staff to the comfort and happiness of the inmates. I was especially gratified to find 10 old boys visiting, including 2 brothers Robertson, one on HMS 'Pembroke' and the other of the Hants Regiment, another being now assistant master under local government, these are a fair example of boys brought up here and done well".

"In the evening boys and girls and a number of women mustered in the dining hall and were again regaled with bon-bons, fruit and nuts. The school Master and Mistress, with the choir, went around the wards singing carols and songs.

Dr. Pern, M.O., attended the sick; the Master received a letter from an old boy in the Navy who had just

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A WOULD BE SAINT IN OUR MIDST

by Peter Wallace

Nobody could have foreseen that one day a little boy who started St. James' Church of England School at the tender age of five years and three months on the 8th January 1945 during the latter months of the Second World War would become a player for the 'Saints' Southampton Football Club. His name was John Sydenham.

John lived at 8 Kootenay Rise, Thornhill and on leaving St. James' School on the 30th July 1948 he went on to St. Mary's College, where at the age of 13 he was the boy from the school to be selected for the Hampshire XI.

John was part of the successful youth team that did so well in the F.A. Youth Cup during 1956-57, displaying, the Echo said, "*the foot craft many League players would envy*".

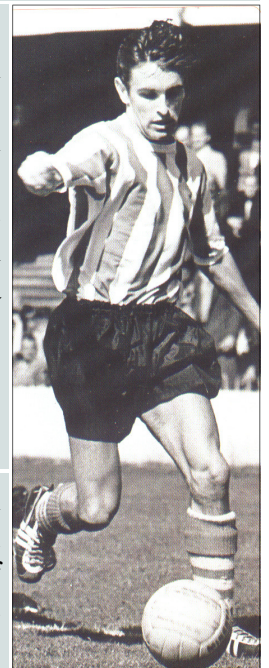


He made his debut for the first team squad on the 4th May 1957 against Newport County and played his last game on 29th November 1969 against Crystal Palace.

John's career was interrupted when he had to do his National Service in July 1960.

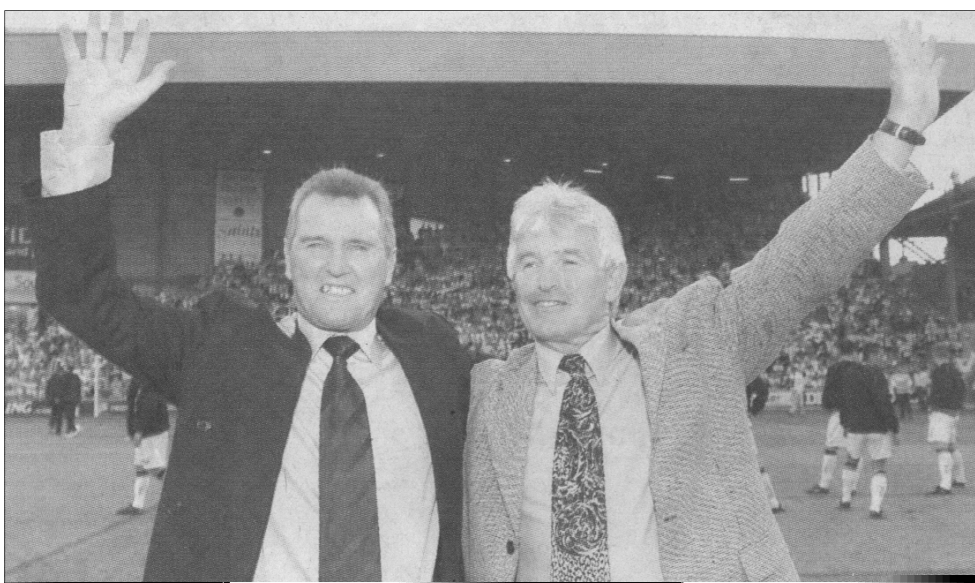
Whilst at the Dell he teamed up with the likes of Terry Paine and Ron Davies, he enjoyed a spectacular afternoon at Old Trafford when he laid on three of Ron's goals, to set up a memorable 4-1 victory over Manchester United.

With age slowing him down a little John lost much of his effectiveness in top-flight football. He saw out the rest of his league career with Aldershot.



Then in the mid-1980's he moved to Perth, Western Australia, where he set up an Insurance Consultancy. He would often return to Southampton whenever there was an occasion to celebrate, I can well remember seeing him when the Saints moved out of the Dell and into the new St. Mary's Stadium. In May 2002, he became head of the Australian Scouting network for the Saints.

During his time with Southampton Football Club he made 401 appearances and scored 40 goals. At Southampton he will always be remembered as one of the club's finest wingers.



Terry Paine and John Sydenham wave farewell to the Dell

THE MARCH MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight



Jill Daniels brought her husband Thomas and a host of stunning pictures to our March meeting. Thomas handled the projector, leaving Jill free to move around and deliver a cracking talk on Old Southampton. Her voice came over well without the aid of the microphone, and, as a Blue Badge Guide, she was able to speak knowledgeably about the old town.

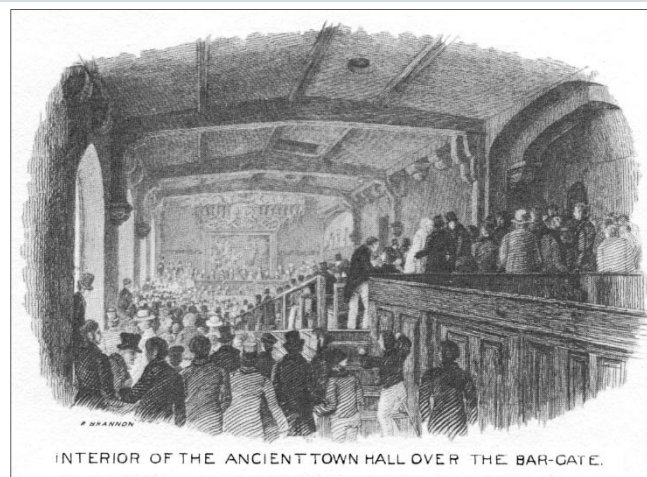
She was quite deliberate in her use of the word 'town', because Southampton did not become a city until 1964, and her talk only covered the area within the walls.

Most of Jill's subjects were well-known Southampton landmarks such as the Bargate, St Michaels, the Undercoft, Tudor House and many others, but she gave us lots of new information about them.

How many of us knew the story of Bevois and Ascupart, or that the lions by the Bargate represent the lions that guarded the imprisoned Princess Josian? Or that St Juliens, or Maison Dieu, was a hospice for pilgrims coming to England (we usually think of pilgrims going the other way)? Or that the brass cross inset in the pavement outside the ruined church of Holy Rood marks the spot of near disaster when a chunk of masonry fell from the tower to the crowded street below?

The two illustrations were actually used during the slideshow, and Jill spoke of the use of the Bargate as a Civic Centre and Court of Assize. The munificence of the gentleman who presented the gas columns and their streetlights to the town is somewhat lessened when we learn that he was chairman of the gas company (or was the gas donated as well?)

It really was a first class talk, and the large audience (there were over 67 of us) gave Jill their wrapt attention throughout.



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been promoted to Warrant Officer. Mrs Coote, widow of Admiral Coote a former Guardian, sent shawls knitted by herself, Mrs Franklin with her grandsons, visited Xmas Eve with presents and toys, clay pipes, tea and sugar.

Sir Arthur Aylmer, 'Donadea Lodge', Messrs May and Wade, Southampton, Mrs Carey, Miss Hellyer, Botleigh Grange, 'Uncle Tidy' of the Ray of Sunshine Fund, Miss Cooper, Townhill Park, the Rev. Studholme Wilson, Chairman of the Guardians, Mrs Westlake, Miss McCalmont, Mrs Corse-Scott, Admiral Rowley, J.P. and Mr Cutting of Hickley all contributed toys, money, tobacco, tea and bon-bons to make the occasion a happy one."

Some workhouses weren't all bad!

C.M. Sillence

And in the November 1982 issue the following appeared.....

SPEED LIMITS

Concern over the speed of motors through the village was first expressed in 1903. Again in 1907—1909 and also in 1911 when the County Council would not agree to implement a speed limit. The request for a speed limit is mentioned at most meetings and at a Parish meeting on 29th December 1928 Mr Haines moved a resolution that the Parish Council make a further application to the County Council. Although no speed restriction is mentioned it was stated that the average speed was over 30 m.p.h. Mr Haines gave the reasons for the request.

- 1. The amount of traffic through the village.*
- 2. Complaints received from property owners on the main road that damage is being done through the speed of lorries.*
- 3. The sick get no rest day or night.*
- 4. The number of accidents.*
- 5. The dangerous road junctions and crossroads.*
- 6. The school children.*

No speed restriction had been introduced by 1932, which is as far as the records go in the first book.

Street lighting was first mentioned in 1898 and was discussed over many years until in 1929 a special meeting was called to adopt the Lighting and Watching Act. The proposal was defeated by a large majority. A request for another meeting to consider it in 1930 was refused. However, another special meeting was called in 1931 when the cost was given as follows:- 26 Gas Lamps - £274.6s.0d., 26 Electric Lamps - £168.7s.0d.

£168 was a penny rate over three years and the running cost would equal $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rate. The proposal was again defeated. So in 1931 West End remained in the dark.

The High Street was first tar sprayed and made up with granite in 1913. Efforts to obtain a paved footpath went on for many years but the Parish were asked to pay half the cost and it was considered too expensive. Road improvements were as difficult to get done as now and it took several years to make dangerous bends at New Inn and at Barnes Land (sic) safer. Barnsland is referred to as Barnes Land until 1924. The first school warning signs were erected in 1911. In 1918 the Council objected to women and girls employed by the County for road sweeping and tar spraying.

W. Phillips

**MORE ARTICLES FROM "WEST END NEWS" ARE
AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING IN OUR ARCHIVES AT THE MUSEUM**



LATEST WEST END CARNIVAL NEWS

Hoping that the weather is going to be kind to us this year, plans are well in hand for the West End Carnival and Fete on Saturday June 21st 2008. As you may be aware the route of the parade will start at the end of Barbe Baker Avenue as usual but will end outside the Parish Centre in Chapel Road, the Parade will also start earlier at 1.00pm with the Fete on Hatch Grange following on afterwards. We are aiming to have an old fashioned Village Fete on Hatch Grange as well as additional Carnival Events - arranged so far are: **Bingo Night** - 7.30pm start at Hilddene Community Centre, Friday 16th May 2008; **Carnival Quiz Night** - 7.30pm start (teams of four) at The Master Builder, Swaythling Road, Thursday 19th June 2008; **Carnival Walk #1** - starting at the Parish Centre at 7.00pm and led by Eric Reed on Wednesday 11th June 2008; **Carnival Walk #2** - starting at the Parish Centre at 7.00pm and also led by Eric Reed on Monday 16th June 2008; These two walks have been arranged due to the very favourable feedback received after a similar walk which Eric Reed led last year. This year Eric has very kindly agreed to lead both of the **two** walks - so watch this space and Parish notice boards for more details nearer the time.

On this day (2nd. April) in.....

1725 Giovanni Casanova, Italian adventurer, born at Venice.

1801 The naval Battle of Copenhagen took place, in the course of which Nelson, aboard the 'Elephant', put the telescope to his blind eye and so 'did not see' Admiral Parker's signal to break off the fight—the Danish fleet was destroyed.

1805 Hans Christian Anderson, Danish writer of fairy tales, born at Odense, the son of a shoe-maker.

1840 Emile Zola, French novelist, born in Paris, the son of an Italian engineer.

1872 Samuel Morse, American inventor of the telegraphic Morse Code, died in New York City, aged 80.

1940 Metal strips were introduced into the Bank of England ten shilling notes, as an anti-forgery device.

1982 Argentinian forces invaded and occupied the British Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE

May 7

500 YEARS OF PORTSMOUTH ROYAL DOCKYARD

Madeleine Selby

June 4

THE RIVER TEST

Julette Cook

July 2

THE "THETIS" WIDOWS

John Avery

August 6

GUIDED VISIT TO TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE GARDENS

Rosaleen Wilkinson

(Details to be advised nearer the time)