

WESTENDER

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2009

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HOW IT WAS (3)

G.E. MAY'S STORE, HIGH STREET



MR GEORGE MAY OUTSIDE HIS SHOP WITH DELIVERY PONY & TRAP

Today the site of the picture above is occupied by Tesco Express but in 1901 when this photograph was taken the original shop was owned and run by George Edward May, a Grocer, Baker and Provision Merchant. In the photograph he is seen with his three sons, George, Herbert and Leonard (the youngest) with a pony trap full of loaves of bread ready for delivery. George May's business was founded in 1840 and probably started in the area of Hatch Bottom in West End.

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West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Review by Stan Waight



Forty odd members ('forty odd', not 'odd members') braved the bitter cold for what has become a tradition within the Society. Our annual pre-Christmas party was, as usual, a great success.

Nigel started the evening off with a remarkable show of photographs from the archive, with running commentary to match - who would ever have believed that there could be so many.

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Then we got down to the quizzes. There are no prizes for guessing who the question-master was, and he, and Lin, allowed no argument from the floor - black may be a primary colour, but we still say green is not! Hearty congratulations go to the winning table for, despite Nigel's assertion that the questions were 'easy', that simply wasn't the case.

(N.B. The team known as 'Stan's Babes' - Est. 2003 - had been shattered by attempts to split them up because of past successes. With morale at its lowest ebb, they only managed joint third place this year.)

Then there was the food - plus the wine and soft drinks provided by the Committee! It never ceases to amaze that the members themselves can provide such a wonderful selection!

Our thanks go to Neville and his Committee not only for arranging such a pleasant evening but also for serving us so well during the past year.

We have had some excellent speakers and events in 2008. So, on a personal note, may I say that I hope my reports have been of interest to those who couldn't attend meetings and of some small value to those who could. May I also extend my Best Wishes for 2009 to all our members

WEST END GETS LIT UP



Picture from West End Life Community website - <http://www.westendlife.co.uk/>

The turning on of the Christmas Lights by the Mayor of Eastleigh, Councillor Derek Pretty, proved to be another successful evening. The carol singing in the Parish Centre was again led by Eastleigh Salvation Army and is always warmly received by the parishioners who attend this event. The Christmas Quiz was won by the current Carnival Queen. During the evening mulled wine and mince pies were served to add to the Christmas atmosphere.

Continued from front page

TEL. 197.
ESTABLISHED 1840.

G. E. MAY & CO.

**Bakers, Grocers,
Drapers,
Westend and Bitterne,
Near SOUTHAMPTON.**

Makers of the
Celebrated
"Rose Mount,"
C. B. Fry's
Wholemeal and
Hovis
BREAD

Bermaline,
and Vienna
BREAD
Supplied
To Order.

ALL ORDERS
PROMPTLY
ATTENDED TO
As Stocks allow.

Household and "Rose Mount" Pastry Flour.

YOUR KIND
PATRONAGE
SOLICITED.

HIGH-CLASS HOME MADE PRESERVES.
From Home Grown Fruit. At Food Control Prices.
.....
**Gooseberry, Red Plum, Strawberry, Raspberry,
Black Currant, Mixed Fruit, Marmalade.**

A Large Assortment of Confectionery.

Grocery and Provision Department.

**Drapery, Hosiery,
Boots and Shoes,**
Etc., Etc. of every Description.

GOODS NOT IN STOCK
OBTAINED AT SHORTEST NOTICE

All Goods of First-Class Quality
and Lowest Town Prices.

We hold a Large Stock of
Earthenware Goods.

BRUSHES OF ALL KINDS.

The shop in the picture was built by Haines Bros, builders of West End, in 1886-7. By 1904-5 an extension to the shop had been added on the left hand side next to the 'New Inn', and the stock now included Drapery, Boots and Shoes, Preserves, Brushes etc..

George Edward May played a prominent part in local activities and became a successful businessman. In 1910 he announced in his adverts that he had taken over the old established Bakery and Confectionery business of Mr W. Cane of Chapel Street in Bitterne and it was 'business as usual' under Mr Cox, the Manager there.

One of the last advertisements for G.E. May which appeared in St. James' Church magazine is shown at the left. George died in November 1920 and for a short time his widow and sons carried on the business. In 1923 the business was sold to Reuben Forrest Fray, son of Albert Fray of Hatch Farm, West End, and a new era started for the shop.

Thanks to George's grandson Brian Harding we now have a wonderful collection of archive pictures relating both to the May and Harding families and to George Edward May's business.

ABOVE LEFT

G.E. MAY ADVERT FROM 1920
CHURCH MAGAZINE

LEFT

GEORGE MAY WITH HIS FAMILY
c.1913



AN OLD GEM IS REPOLISHED

By Pauline Berry



'THE GATEHOUSE' COTTAGE c.1947



'THE GATEHOUSE' COTTAGE 1990

One of the few remaining old 'gems' of West End is the cottage named 'The Gatehouse' in Swaythling Road. This detached dwelling, almost opposite 'The Master Builder' (formerly the 'Crown & Thistle') public house, originally one pair of semi-detached cottages built in the late 18th century or early 19th century. Unfortunately it does not appear in any old postcards or photographs because of its position set back and slightly hidden from the main road which it faces.

This white, tiled cottage is a Grade 2 listed building whose history I have tried to follow. English Heritage describe it as 'plaster painted render, partly reported as 'timber framed, part red brick ... with a central gable porch. Hipped roof with tall central ridge stack'. Whether it ever had a thatched roof is debatable although the pitch of the roof and height of the chimneys suggest that it may have been possible at one time.

The present owners, Mr and Mrs W. Bennett (Bill and Pam) have kindly allowed our museum archives to have a copy of an old indenture (a deed or contract) dated 1826 in which the owners of the plot of land in which the cottage stood (just over a quarter of an acre) were William and Edward Houghton (papermakers) and John Crouch. These names and also that of William Hallett of Townhill House owned land of varying sizes at that time. The document also states that Stephen Cantle and John Sampson were tenants of the pair of cottages.

Research of the cottages and land, with no special name, shows that they belonged to William Houghton and were occupied by tenants Daniel and Jane Smith 'and another' on the South Stoneham Tithe Map (1840). The map clearly shows this area around Swaythling Road and the bottom of Chalk Hill (South Road) as being the centre and hub of West End village.

Daniel Smith is recorded as a gardener in the next few censuses until Jane Smith became a widow in the 1881 census. Her lodgers then were George Clarke (dairyman) and his wife Lydia. After this my trail went cold because no name was given to the cottage in the censuses and Jane Smith must have died..

'The Gatehouse' was purchased by Joseph and Ellen Bennett, the parents of Bill, about 1946-7 in a run-down state. At the time the cottage was still divided into two homes and had been occupied by a Mr J. West and Mr Sharp. It then became a single detached dwelling with a side extension added in 1949. Following his parents' death Bill and Pam Bennett took it over in 1986 and having made enquiries at the planning department at Eastleigh Borough Council, interest was aroused and the property promptly listed (Grade 2).

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THE ROYAL SOUTH HANTS HOSPITAL CHAPEL 'St. Pauls'

John Avery reports on its current state



In May 2007 a consultative study was undertaken with various local groups to discuss a possible future use of the church. We as a civic conservation society were not directly approached for our views. Various interested parties included Osteoporosis and Arthritis support groups, the hospital League of Friends, Chinese Association, Highfield Church Tea Club, SCC Community Liaison Officer, a trustee of the Inner City Mosque and Newtown Youth Centre. The preliminary report of the findings was published in 2008.

Our own interest is that primarily it is a Grade II listed building and being located in the curtilage of a NHS hospital there are both pressures from expansion needs and the obvious lack of funding being diverted to maintain or conserve it.

There were three main recommendations for its future use [four if we include its present state of inertia as a storeroom]: [1] educational resource [2] community resource [3] a place of quiet reflection for religious groups and for those not necessarily engaged in a religious following that would enjoy its peaceful ambiance.

The educational aspect suggestions included a museum possibly on NHS development, an internet café, a health education centre or an art display centre.



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Community usages included a social venue for hospital staff, a counselling resource, base for charitable organisations and support groups, youth club, 'half way' house for persons recovering from illness or self harm and a surgery for MP's /councillors. Another suggestion was a crèche for parents visiting the outpatients or calling for check ups etc.

Those suggesting continuing to use it as a religious base quoted multi faith chapels at international airports where passers-by could call in for peace and reflection. Others wanted Sunday services to be held within.

General comments included a wish for a glass walkway to link the chapel to the main hospital building.

A RSH Chapel group has been formed which will consult with the Southampton City Primary Care Trust [the owners of the chapel] on the future use. Further details are available on the RSH website <http://www.royalsouthhantshospital.nhs.uk/news/rsh-chapel-feedback>

The hospital was founded as the Royal South Hampshire Infirmary in 1835 and moved to its present site in 1844. Doctors Joseph and William Bullar funded additional wards in 1851 and the St Paul's Chapel was built and consecrated in 1857. The chapel fell out of public use in 1992 and it is believed that it is used as a store.

In 1865 Dr Joseph Bullar wrote a thesis on the use of hot mustard baths for the treatment of cholera victims that he used at the infirmary. The following year he described administering chloroform to ease severe pain during the deaths of four patients in Southampton.

Various additions were added to the hospital over the years, in 1868 the Eyre Crabbe wing and in 1896 another wing was added. In 1970 a psychiatry block was created.

Photographs © Will Temple

PICTURE OF THE MONTH FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Taken around 1900 the picture shows Mary Jane May (sister of George Edward May whose shop once stood next to the 'New Inn') outside her Grocery shop in Chapel Road (Hatch Bottom).

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All exterior work to the cottage is strictly regulated and the colour of the walls must remain white in colour. Permission must be sought for changing the colour of the front door! Bill obtained useful information from the conservation officer including that the ancient oak timbers may well have been 'recycled' from old ships during the cottage's construction. Due to their age many were in a bad state and rotting and apart from one, had to be replaced.

The roof was greatly affected by the big storm of 1987 and many of the old 'peg tiles' on the roof were lost. Bill managed to source more old tiles and timbers to repair the roof and 'The Gatehouse' is now in an immaculate state due to his efforts. The future of the cottage is now secure too, due to the official 'listing'.

Was the cottage ever a gatehouse to the Townhill Estate? It was very close to Ivy Lane which once led to Townhill Farm on the estate, but not directly to the big house, as does Cutbush Lane. The property is sited too far back from Swaythling Road to have been a toll-house. Or do you know better? Please let us know if you have further information about this fascinating part of West End's heritage.

St Julien's Church, Winkle Street, Southampton - the French Connection

By John Avery (of Huguenot descent)

Tucked away in Winkle Street near the God's House Tower just yards from the busy Red Funnel ferry marshalling yard and the Town Quay stands the well preserved church of St Julien.

Originally on the site was a church established at the end of the 12th century [known as Domus Dei]. Elizabeth 1st in the 16th century granted powers to allow the Walloon refugees fleeing from the Low Countries a right of worship in Southampton and transferred the site to the Walloons. At the end of the 17th century there was an influx of Huguenots who centred by the church and then began to spread to Alverstoke, Winchester and onto London.

St Julien's Church was built in the Norman style of architecture and later the Victorians restored it. Often the Victorians over indulged their efforts in restoring places of worship but thankfully the plain, simplicity of the original building still dominates.

Pilgrims by tradition travelled from France to journey onto Winchester to join the Pilgrim's Way and took the long trail to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Thomas Beckett. Often on their arrival from various parts of the continent they were without food or support and ill equipped to continue and a wealthy merchant endowed alms houses which still adjoin the church as a rectangular feature. These alms houses initially with God's House Tower supplied shelter to pilgrims but then were used to accommodate local residents in need. The church and adjoining areas such as Oxford Street, Bugle Street and Latimer Street were acquired by Queen's College Oxford and the leases and rents continue to support the university. The alms houses are dedicated to those with connections to the university and they enjoy rent free accommodation including fuel and the annual traditional payment – a soap allowance.

During WWII the church was used for baptisms and weddings for the Anglican community as other churches suffered bomb damage. Traditionally each year a service is held in French and this attracts many visitors.

About 10 to 15 years ago the building used to be open on Sundays for both visitors and short services [in English] conducted by the clergy from nearby St Michael the Archangel in nearby Bugle Street but a certain amount of controversy developed. Groups of men and women of what we term the "gay community" began to see the services as a means of expressing their faith and this influx upset traditional members of the faith and behind the scenes discussions could not resolve the conflict. The services discontinued and for some years after the church only opened for special occasions including the French service. I understand that the agent is now applying for approval to hold weddings there and I am sure that it will become a popular venue.

In September 2008 it was opened for one day as part of the Civic Trust/ English Heritage "Heritage Weekend".

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LEFT

The High Street (then known as English Street) was the dividing line between the two communities. French Street still retains that title today.

RIGHT

St. JULIEN'S CHURCH



I was one of the volunteer stewards. We had 107 visitors and many people came to me subsequently to offer apologies for not visiting as the event clashed with other arrangements. I decided to write to the agent for the College and have gained permission to open the church on three Sundays in 2009. These are 28th June, 26th July and 30th August. WELHS members will be welcome to drop in – it is quite plain inside and not a lot to see but an interesting experience. If anyone would care to join the volunteer stewards for an hour or so I would be grateful if you would either telephone me on 023 80638650 or e mail john@avery7710.freeserve.co.uk

THE STONEHAM WAR MEMORIAL

by John Avery

War shrines from WW1 were at the time of the war a relatively common occurrence in villages and hamlets in the country areas. They were placed as a spontaneous gesture by families and friends, perhaps the modern equivalent being the placing of floral tributes on lamp posts etc at the roadside following a fatal accident.

The shrines varied from temporary piles of stone to wooden crosses to more formal professionally constructed memorials. These were either funded by local subscription or a landowner or squire having lost sons erected it on behalf of the community. By the 1920's the Imperial [later Commonwealth] War Graves Commission had been formed and took the task of erecting memorials as did local councils and communities. In many cases they replaced the War Shrines and today the shrines are relatively rarer.

The shrine at North Stoneham Park in the borough of Eastleigh was erected in 1917 at Cricketers' Hill by John Willis Fleming. The historic park was landscaped by 'Capability' Brown in the eighteenth century and was no doubt a focal point of the local families who lost loved ones in the war. The shrine had an identical twin erected on land owned by the family on the IOW.

Both the IOW shrine and the Stoneham shrines have completely been wrecked by vandals. Young men just a few years older than today's yobs and vandals lost their lives often in appalling conditions and would no doubt be shocked at the attitude of their successors.

The Willis Fleming restored the Havenstreet IOW shrine a couple of years ago. At the Remembrance Service 2008, the restoration project was launched for the Stoneham shrine with the aim that it

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THE RESTORATION OF STONEHAM WAR SHRINE

November 2008 – November 2009



Information, Events, &
exploring North Stoneham Park



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

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WILLIS FLEMING
HISTORICAL TRUST

HAMPSHIRE
HARDERS
TRUST

Hampshire
County Council

Continued from page 9



LEFT

**The service of remembrance 2008
[Note the roof and supporting walls
demolished by vandals]**

should be completed for next year's commemoration.

Whilst the initial damage in the quiet wooden area commenced with bored teenagers the scale of the demolition suggests than roof tilers and scrap metal collectors added to the destruction so it will virtually be a rebuild.

The Restoration project is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Willis Fleming Historical Trust, Eastleigh Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Gardens Trust and has the support of various organisations including the British Legion.

An interesting programme of events will be held in 2009 to support the project.

See the detail about the events on the website. The events include walks in Avenue Park, a talk on the War Shrines in March at North Stoneham Church and a display at Eastleigh Library in April.

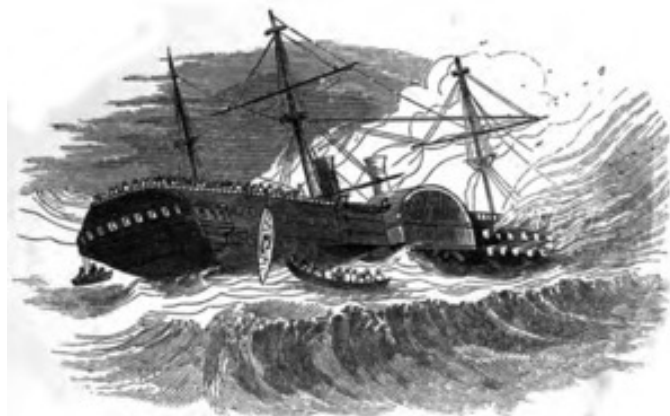
Details from www.northstoneham.org.uk or telephone 023 80637882

SOUTHAMPTON'S MEMORIAL AT St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH TO THE LOSS OF S.S. 'AMAZON'

John Avery recalls the tragic fire at sea

The Royal Mail Packet Company took delivery of their new paddle mail steamer on 28th June 1851 and the ship was placed into service on the Southampton – West Indies route. The ship was to survive only a part of her maiden voyage as a severe fire broke out in her engine room and the engine room crew were forced to vacate and the bridge officers no longer had any control of the propulsion of the ship.

Under the command of Captain William Symons the ship headed down channel and about 110 miles off the Scillies, a major fire broke out at 12-45 am on January 4th 1852. As they approached the Bay of Biscay



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with its choppy waters the majority of the passengers had retired to their berths. It is not certain as to what caused the fire but bearings in the ship's engines had earlier in the voyage overheated and she had hove-to for 4 hours whilst sea water was run over them to cool down. The deck crew joined with the engineers to fight the fire but all the men were forced out by the intense heat and flames. The captain ordered the hay stored to feed the livestock to be thrown overboard with the chickens, cows and a goat but still the fire spread through the holds.

The crew attempted to launch the lifeboats but the iron cranes [cradles] had probably reacted to the intense heat and only three and a dingy were successfully launched. The first lifeboat with about 25 people on board was swamped as it reached the water and the occupants were thrown into the rough sea and drowned. The ship of course was still heading at a speed of 9 knots and launching of lifeboats is normally undertaken when the ship has hove-to. A second boat with 21 occupants was successfully launched. They tried hailing a third boat over the noise of the howling wind but lost sight of each other in the spray. With the paddles still churning the stricken ship headed off in the dark a blaze of flames. At 5 am flames had reached the ship's magazine and soon after the explosion the ship sank with a total loss of those still on board.

The explosives and 500 bottles of mercury being carried were destined for the mining industry in Mexico and many of the passengers were heading for the mines.

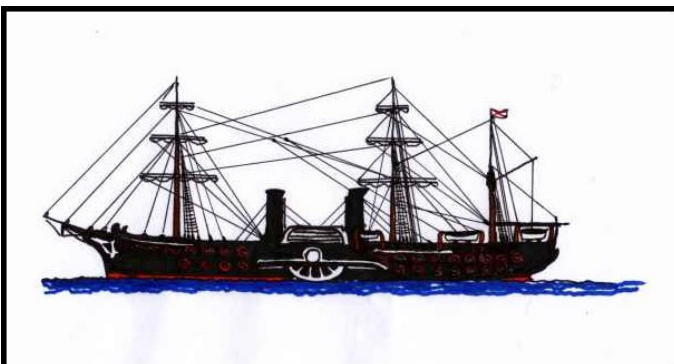
Also on the cargo manifest there was £20,300 of specie and the total cargo was valued at £100,000. At the time of the incident the ship was thought to be the largest wooden ship built. Her voyage was calculated to last 16 days and she would devour 2 tons of coal per hour in her 26 furnaces. The incident resulted in a loss of 115 souls.

The Dutch vessel *Gertruda* picked up some of the survivors and headed to Brest and the remainder were picked up by the brig *Marsden* [Captain Evans]. The *Marsden* was carrying iron for railway tracks from Cardiff to South Carolina. The *Marsden* headed to Falmouth and then to Plymouth to discharge the survivors. The survivors were housed in a seamen's mission and at the Globe Hotel.

The Company held its own inquiry as did the Board of Trade and although the overheating of the bearings was a real possibility no conclusion was reached as to the cause of the fire. The ship was not insured and compensation to relatives and the owners of the cargo came from Company funds. At that time mail on ships came under the control of the Admiralty rather than the General Post Office and contracts were only awarded to wooden hull ships as iron ships were still regarded as "untested". As a result of this incident future contracts were given to iron hulled ships.

Royal Mail Packet Company paid for a bronze memorial to be mounted on the inside wall of St Michael's Church. The Purser's Assistant Thomas Shapcott one of the crew lost was the son of a retired clergyman who had serviced that church so this was a fitting venue. The memorial is on the National Maritime Museum list of maritime memorials. The Friends of St Michael's Church made and presented a series of prayer kneelers and fittingly there is one to the Amazon.

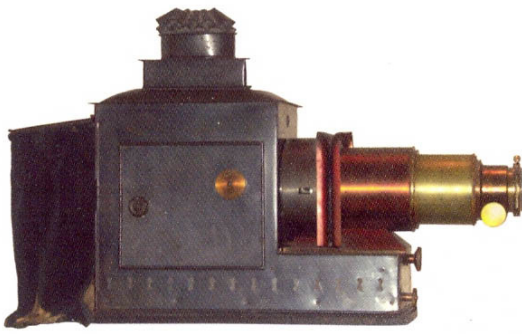
[Article reproduced courtesy City of Southampton Society *Review*]



above: S.S. 'AMAZON' centre: AMAZON PRAYER KNEELER
right: VIEW OF St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

AN ILLUMINATING EXPERIENCE

A Review by Nigel Wood



LEFT: A typical Victorian 'Magic Lantern' CENTRE: Magic Lantern Slide, RIGHT: A mechanically animated Magic Lantern slide

Our meeting on January 7th featured Stan Roberts who gave us a 'Victorian Magic Lantern Show'. Stan and his assistant both arrived attired in Victorian formal dress complete with cravats and proceeded to set up masses of equipment. It was an extremely cold evening outside and we were heartened by the attendance of in excess of 40 members and visitors. Not knowing what to expect and with my trusty reviewer Stan Waight incapacitated with the dreaded 'bug', I wondered how the evening would be received. I need not have worried, everyone totally enjoyed the performance. Stan Roberts is a very accomplished member of the Magic Lantern Society, a 'Lanternist' of great experience. He recounted a history of the art, explaining how the equipment worked and the different types of lantern and treated us to numerous slides both animated and still - he had a special 'gizmo' which produced special effect sounds to accompany the shows. At one point in the evening it developed a life of its own and started a series of sounds all by itself, much to the amusement of the audience! All in all it was an excellent evening, totally enjoyed by all.

EXTRACT FROM WEST END NEWS



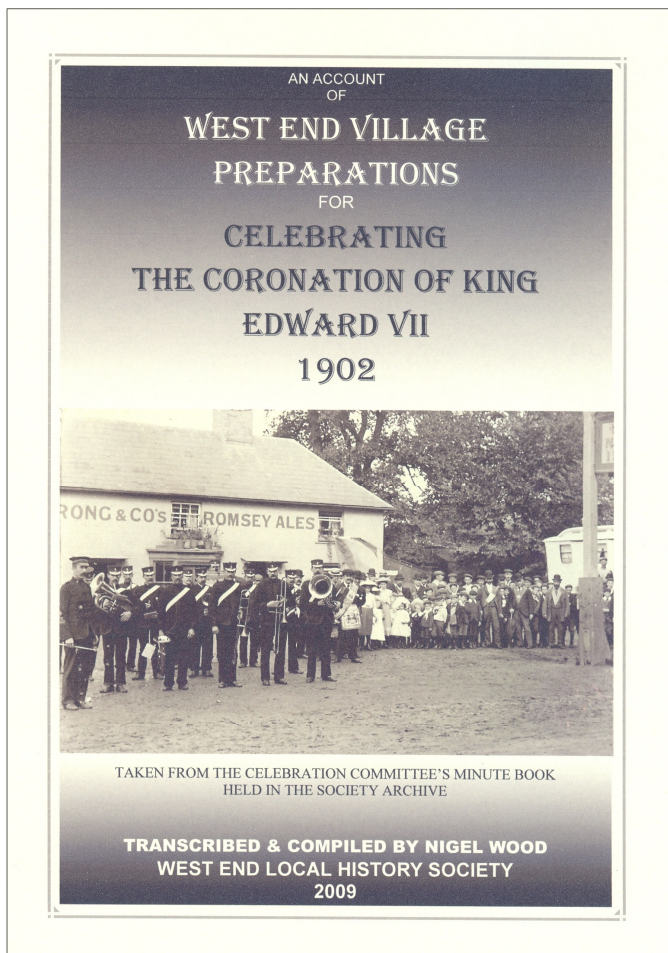
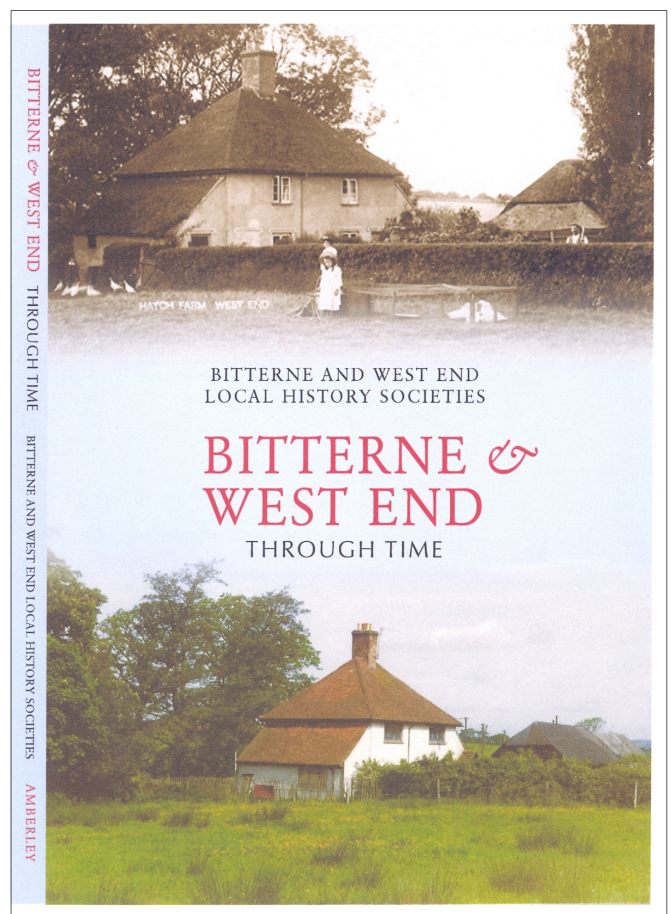
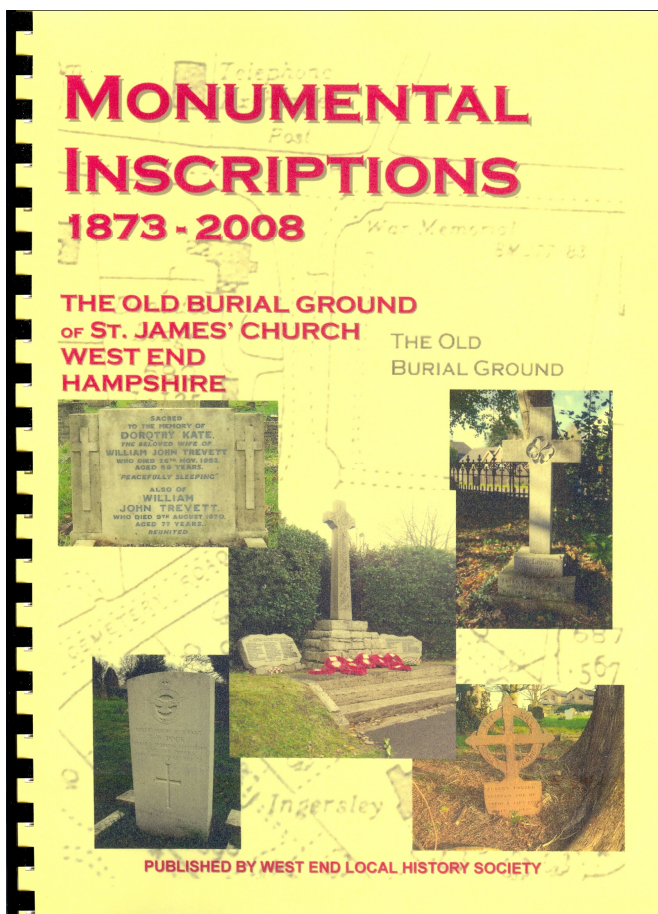
PHOTO OF THE "NEW INN" FROM A POSTCARD DATED 1919

Extract taken from West End News from November/December 1983.....

...."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 safer. Barnesland 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

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



Monumental Inscriptions 1873-2008 - the Old Burial Ground of St. James Church, West End. Compiled by Peter Wallace: Price £6.00

Four years of hard work by Peter has resulted in an excellent resource both for family historians and local historians alike. Included is a fully detailed large plan of the Cemetery, the text of the book generously interspersed with many photographs of the people listed.

Bitterne & West End through time. Published by Amberley - to be launched at the Local History Fair at Townhill Park House on 28th March 2009: Price £12.99

A lavishly illustrated book of 'then and now' images in high resolution sepia and colour, from the archives of Bitterne Local History Society and West End Local History Society and published by Amberley.

An Account of West End Village Preparations for Celebrating the Coronation of King Edward VII 1902. Compiled and transcribed by Nigel Wood: Price £1.50

This is the latest occasional paper from WELHS. It comprises a fascinating transcript from the Minute Book of the 1902 Coronation Committee complete with images of many of the members.

On this day (4th February) in.....

- 1881** The first stretch of Liverpool's Overhead Railway - from Alexandra Dock to the Herculaneum Dock - was opened by Lord Salisbury.
- 1902** Charles Lindbergh, American aviator, noted for his historic solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927, born at Detroit in Michigan.
- 1918** Ida Lupino, English film actress, born in London.
- 1920** Norman Wisdom, English comedy actor, born as Norman Wisden.
- 1945** The Yalta Conference in the Crimea between Allied leaders Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, began.
- 1948** Ceylon became a self-governing dominion within the Commonwealth, having been a British Crown Colony since 1802.
- 1953** Sweet rationing ended in Britain.
- 1962** The 'Sunday Times' became the first British newspaper to issue a colour supplement.

LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

Bitterne Local History Society will be holding their first Local History Fair at Gregg School, Townhill Park House on Saturday 28th March 2009. They intend the event to open at 10am and close at 5pm, with exhibits, speakers on various subjects as well as tours of the gardens designed by the famous Gertrude Jekyll. Tickets are £2.00 available from BLHS. The new joint venture book 'Bitterne & West End Through Time' will be launched at this event. Published by Amberley it will be available at £12.99 at the Fair.

If you would like to book a stall or require more information please contact Mary Abraham - e-mail maryabraham_22@yahoo.co.uk
or write to: BLHS, c/o 2 Eynham Close, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 5JZ

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**THE NEXT MEETINGS & EVENTS****March 4****HISTORY OF THE CROWN JEWELS***Norman Jackson***LOCAL HISTORY FAIR AT TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE (Gregg School)****Organised by Bitterne Local History Society***Saturday 28th March 2009***April 1****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***Plus Images from our Archive***May 6****SHAKERS OF THE NEW FOREST***Philip Hoare***June 3****THE STORY OF THE SCHNEIDER AIR RACES***Colin van Geffen*