



# WESTENDER

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## MEN WHO MARCHED AWAY (6)



No. 367 Driver Patrick Molloy - Royal Field Artillery

A pre-war soldier, Driver Patrick Molloy was mobilised on 5th August 1914. Sent to Gallipoli with the Royal Field Artillery in 1915, after Gallipoli was evacuated he was sent to France and the Somme. Badly wounded on 3rd August 1917 he spent several months in No. 53 General Hospital at Boulogne recuperating. Driver Molloy luckily survived the war.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**



## THE OCTOBER MEETING

A review by Stan Waight



Plan to show the area of main Roman settlement, and the grave of the only Roman inhabitant that has been found - Found in 1958, a woman in her 40s was buried on the top of the outer ramp

Dr Andy Russel of the Southampton Archaeological Unit did not have the best of luck when he came to address the meeting. He was supposed to give a talk entitled *The Southampton Sugar and Slave Trade*, and I was particularly looking forward to it (I had always connected Southampton with wine from France but Bristol with sugar and slaves). But the Southampton Council's computer would not talk to the projector and the talk was delayed for 20 minutes while Peter Wallace went to fetch his laptop. This did work, but then Andy could not find the relevant presentation and there was a last-minute switch of subject.

The revised talk was on *Roman Southampton* and nevertheless proved to be very interesting - and Andy is an excellent, off-the-cuff speaker..

It seems that the earliest archaeology to be found in Southampton was in Shirley, where an Iron Age enclosure had been replaced by a Roman field system. This indicated a change from pastoral to arable farming to meet the needs of the incoming invaders.

The main urban finds have been at Bitterne Manor. Here, Clausentum as we know it was essentially a military settlement and Rome's major port on the South Coast. It was said to be on the road from Chichester to Winchester, but the route was clearly a diversion to cope with the massive import and export trade that developed in the port. The remains of wooden piles in the River Itchen are evidence of the structure of the port, which was protected by massive inner and outer ditches and ramparts that can still be traced today. Post holes similar to others found on the Continent are also evidence of the existence of a great warehouse or granary; artefacts included a multitude of shards of Samian pottery and two military axes that were thrown out by a WW2 bomb.

The final site was the small-scale excavation in St Denys, where there were the post holes of timber buildings and a heap of iron slag; Andy suggests that lots of the iron required by the Classis (the Roman navy), was produced here. There was also lead, in ingot form, inscribed with governmental lettering and showing that it originated in the Mendips and dropped on its way for export. There was also pottery associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legion.

Andy finished off with details of other finds and their relevance to the history of the period.

## MEMORIES

As recounted to Pauline Berry

One of our members, Alan Budd, spent much of his childhood in West End before the Second World War arrived. His first home was in Railway Cottages, near the hump-back railway bridge in Allington Lane, and his second was in Briar Cottage in the High Street.

He recalls his time at St. James' Primary School during the 1930's, now occupied by the Hilldene Centre. When there was a funeral and burial in the cemetery (Old Burial Ground) immediately next to the school, playtime outdoors was cancelled out of respect. So it was a quick dash to the outside toilets and back indoors!

Alan, and also his brother at a later date, became newspaper delivery boys for Stubbs Newsagents during the war, for three shillings per week. Although they had moved to West End Road by then, they delivered the Southern Daily Echo and the Sunday papers around the West End area.

He recalls his hasty entry, alongside other local residents, into the public air-raid shelter at the Botley Road end of Moorgreen Road when the air-raid siren sounded. It held a lot of people, he said, and they would often join in a sing-song to lighten their spirits, whilst the ground sometimes moved around them during a raid by enemy aircraft.

Having moved to West End Road, near Bitterne, with his family, he was transported by a coach from the Glider Coach Company to his Hedge End Senior School. Being over three miles away. All this happening during the war!

NOTE: We always welcome memories of your early days in West End. Please let us know.

## THE LADY OF THE HOUSE (HATCH GRANGE)

By Pauline Berry

Frances Mara Lovekin became the mistress of the Hatch Grange Estate (277 acres) when she married the well-bred Ralph Warneford Cresswell Fletcher in 1872. Born in 1852, she was the only child of the Reverend and Mrs A.F. Lovekin of Regents Park, London and the grand-daughter of the highly esteemed Major General James Grant, CB. He saw action with the 18th Hussars under the Duke of Wellington in the Battle of Waterloo (1815), and was well respected.

Being only twenty years old or a 'minor' or 'infant' (as in one document) her father made sure that his daughter had a cast-iron Marriage Settlement before she married Ralph W. Fletcher at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, London on 23rd July 1872. In this Marriage Settlement, as Mrs Fletcher, she would become entitled to 'pin' money of £200 annually, conferred upon her by her husband (This amount would be worth £13,000 today). This was understandable, at a time when married women had few financial rights, if any.

Mrs Fletcher soon took charge of the running of her large house, Hatch Grange, situated at the top of the avenue of lime trees. Mrs W. Dumbleton (nee Cattle), who was a cook in the 1920's, recalled her visiting the kitchen daily to check on the menu's. The larder was always well stocked with produce from the nearby Hatch Farm plus luxury items like salmon from Scotland. Her employer was justly proud of her large herb garden, rockeries and shrubs. Milk was supplied by their dairy cows and in times of unemployment and shortages, she made certain that local people had access to the milk at one (old) penny per pint.

When the parlour maid, Bella Thompson, contracted T.B., circa 1912, the generous Mrs Fletcher ensured that she and Mr Fletcher paid for all the necessary medical treatment until Bella recovered

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The Fletcher Family plot in the Old Burial Ground with railings above and today with no railings.



A young Mrs Francis Fletcher with her daughters Hilda (left) and Esme taken about 1886

and eventually returned to work at Hatch Grange.

The six children of the Sillence family who lived in a tied cottage, Fir Tree Cottage (now a public garden), on the edge of the estate, facing the High Street, were encouraged by the Fletchers to play on the grassy slopes of Hatch Grange, behind their home. The children were allowed to pick wild flowers, hold picnics and sail boats on the pond. Their father, Charles Sillence (Snr.) was permitted to gather firewood on the parkland. They remembered the dignified Mrs Fletcher joining in the blackberry picking and getting her hairnet caught in the brambles!

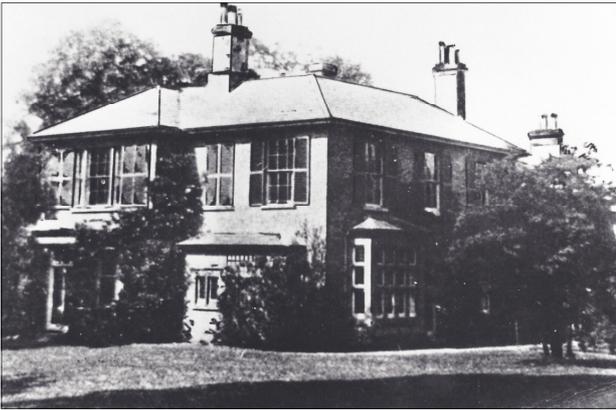
Regular Red Cross classes were held in the servants' hall in the big house by Mrs Fletcher, who was in charge of the 138 Hampshire Red Cross (South Stoneham) Division. Local girls, including Doris Moody, Hilda Sharp (later Asst. Matron at the Southampton General Hospital), Ruby Parker, May and Ann Sillence, would run up the long avenue of lime trees on dark nights, in some fear, and arrive panting at Hatch Grange house, ready for their studies.

The annual village or cottagers' fete was frequently held in the summer on Hatch Grange parkland and Mrs Fletcher would present the prizes for the best floral display, needlework, laundry, fruit and vegetables etc.. to the enthusiastic participants.

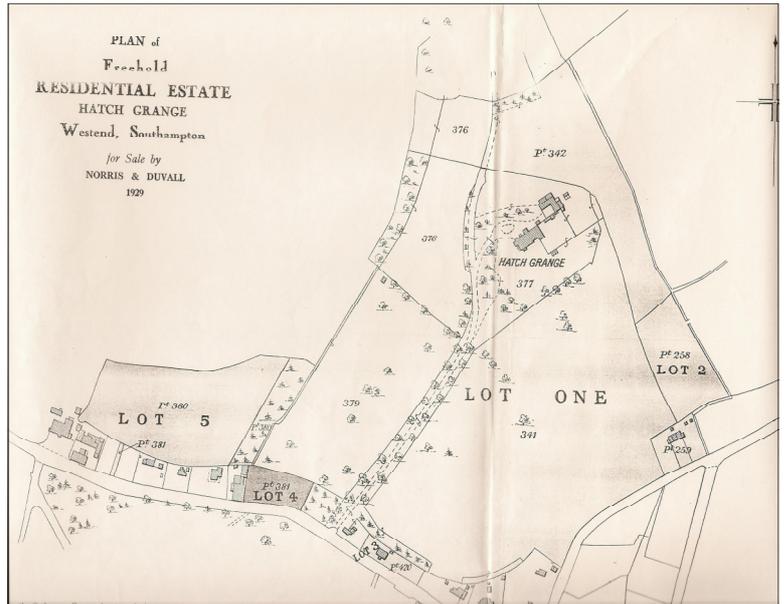
In their younger days, Mr and Mrs Fletcher used to socialise and entertain a great deal at their fine home and Mrs Fletcher was the charming hostess to many parties of friends who would arrive by horse and carriage. They had three daughters, Dorothy, Esme and Hilda in the 1880's, but unfortunately Dorothy died as a baby. Their surviving daughters grew up to play an active part in West End village. As they grew older, the Fletchers lived a quieter life and only held occasional dinner parties, according to the late Mrs Dumbleton, a cook at the house. They usually had a simple supper on a tray, at 7pm, each evening and she confirmed that Mr and Mrs Fletcher were good employers who treated her well, *"it was a hard life but I enjoyed it on the whole"*.

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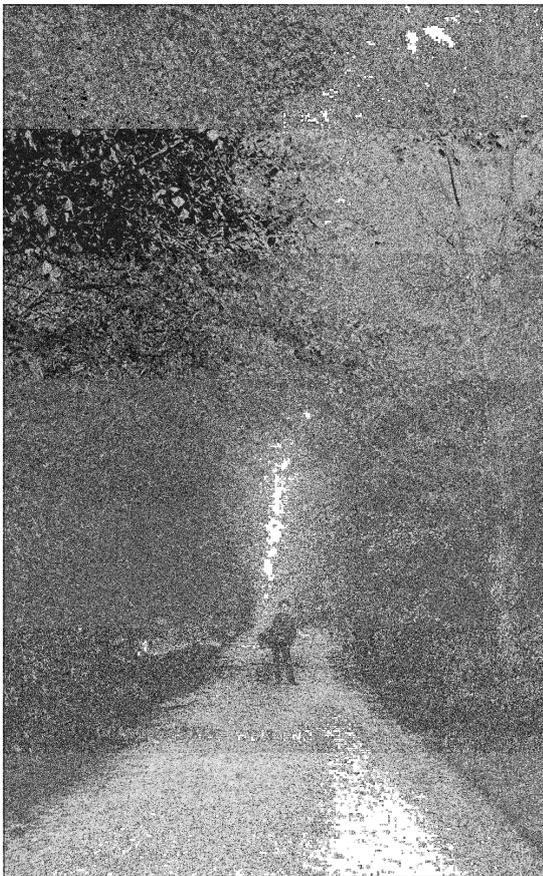
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Hatch Grange House



Hatch Grange Estate in 1929 from the sale catalogue



The Lime tree drive to the house



The Fletcher Family Coat of Arms



Mrs Fletcher in later life

Mrs Frances Fletcher, who was the mistress of Hatch Grange for 56 years, died aged 76, just a few months after her husband, in 1928. They were buried in the family plot, alongside Mrs Fletcher's parents and daughters, in the Old Burial Ground. The site, originally surrounded by ornate railings, is just a few yards left of the main path, if you walk in a little way.

NOTE:

If you would like to read more about Hatch Grange, there are still a few copies of Pauline's excellent and very comprehensive book available either from the author or from the Museum bookshop price £5.00 plus post and packing. Ed.

## CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE WORKHOUSE ...

Taken from "West End Community Newsletter" February 1985



VIEWS OF SOUTH STONEHAM UNION WORKHOUSE, WEST END c. 1900

### 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 given 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 have 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 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, So'ton, Mrs Carey, Miss Hellyar, Botleigh Grange, "Uncle Tidy" of the Ray of Sunshine Fund, Miss Cooper, Townhill Park, the Reverend 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



## THE MEN WHO MARCHED AWAY DISPLAY'S



To mark the Centenary of the start of the Great War of 1914 and to highlight the sacrifice and service of the men of West End, West End Local History Society produced a display featuring this subject. The first venue was St. James' Church (see pictures above) for their excellent three day event of commemoration from 31st October to 2nd November 2014 (which was advertised in the last edition of Westender). The event featured wartime songs, music, poetry as well as the display and a hand knitted carpet of poppies, as well as the re-consecration of the refurbished Great War plaque in the church.

On Monday 3rd November until Saturday 8th November the display (see pictures below) was available to view in the Parish Centre, after which it moved to the Hildene Community Centre for Remembrance Day. If you managed to miss any of these, a slightly shorter version is now on display in the museum until further notice.





## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight

Nigel Wood is to be congratulated, not only for the splendid talk he gave on *Men who Marched Away*, but also for the immense amount of research he must have put into, and continues to put into, the subject. He and Peter Wallace had laid on the same presentation at St James Church the previous weekend, at which a slightly shorter version of the talk had been given.

The occasion, of course, had been the commemoration of the commencement of the First World War, 100 years on; the presentation dealt with the contribution made by West End men, 269 of whom had gone to fight and 47 had made the ultimate sacrifice. The campaign in Gallipoli and the sinking of the Royal Edward had accounted for most of the dead.

After a general introduction, the talk concentrated on the men who had, indeed, marched away. Readers of the *Westender* will know that the principal contributions in the last five issues have been devoted to Nigel's individual mini-biographies of West End men who served in the War. Justice could not be given to his talk without repeating the detail from those contributions, but there seems to be little reason for doing so. I believe that Nigel proposes to continue his mini-biographies at least for the time being.

It was an absorbing talk and a fitting tribute to those who had served.

## LOOKING BACK - THE PARISH HALL ...

Taken from "West End Community Newsletter" October 1982

"In 1899 the Council was reconsidering the advisability and practicability, (presumed the clerk meant 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 as a new one had been built. An offer of £300 has 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 schools.

During the election, the Parish Council candidates were subjected to many questions re: 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.

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## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN WEST END



THE PROCESSION FROM St. JAMES' CHURCH



LAYING THE WREATHS - 16 IN ALL



THE WREATHS ON THE NEWLY REFURBISHED GENOTAPH



REFRESHMENTS & VIEWING DISPLAY AT HILLDENE AFTER



POSSIBLY THE LARGEST TURNOUT EVER IN WEST END TO MARK REMEMBRANCE AT THE GENOTAPH

St. James' Church was full to overflowing for the Centenary Remembrance Service conducted by Rev. Thomas Wharton. After the service we all processed from the church along West End Road (Cemetery Road) to the Cenotaph for the wreath laying. As you can see from the above picture, the event was very well attended and later we all carried on to Hilldene Community Centre (the old St. James' School) for excellent refreshments laid on free by the Parish and Hilldene. The display "Men Who Marched Away" which had previously been on show at the three day event at the church and later at the Parish Centre was available for people to view. It is now on view in the Museum. During the refreshments, free copies of the new book about West End men in the Great War were distributed, courtesy of West End Parish Council and a grant from County Councillor Bruce Tennant which provided the funding. If you missed your copy there are still some available at St. James' Church, West End Parish Centre office and West End Local History Museum whilst stocks last. Remembrance Day also enabled us to see the excellent job the Parish have done on remodelling our War Memorial, opening up the area with railings and a path all the way around, so now you will be able to see the donors inscription on the back of the memorial. Well Done West End! Ed.



## CHRISTMAS 1914 AT THE FRONT - THE TRUCE an artists impression



### PLEASE NOTE

We urgently need articles for the next issue of Westender which is due out early February 2015  
Over the Christmas break give it a thought and put pen to paper - your memories of old West End.

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By 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. 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.”

## LOOKING BACK - THE MANOR OF HATCH ...

Taken from “West End Community Newsletter” 1983

*Mr C.W. Silience noted local historian wrote....*

“I am greatly indebted to Mrs Reuben Fray and her daughter-in-law, Mrs D. Fray, for the loan of some old Deeds which the late Mr. R. Fray appears to have acquired, probably when the Gater family sold Black House. Some of them were very faded and difficult to read but I have managed to pick out quite a lot of past history of Hatch, Allington and Townhill.

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The Manor of Hatch, as it was called in 1724, was owned by Edwin or Edmund Dummer, who lived at Swaythling.

The tenant of Hatch Farm was one Jeremiah Outon (Owton) who must have passed on the tenancy to his son, as it is also recorded that when Nathaniel Middleton died and the Manors of Townhill, Hatch and Allington were sold, John Owton was renting Hatch Farm, with an acreage of 198 acres, 2 roods, 22 perches.

During the 18th Century £5 of the income from Hatch had to be used annually towards the upkeep of a Schoolmaster but it is not mentioned where or to whom.

Later, when Mr Caleb Gater bought the Manor of Hatch, 40 shillings of its income had to be donated to the welfare of South Stoneham's poor.

The Manor of Hatch was the land within the boundaries of Chapel Road, Quob Lane, Allington Lane junction with Quob, along to the junction of Swaythling Road and up through the High Street where it meets Chapel Road. Included was Hatch Farm, The Coppice and Lands of Bardensland (Barnsland). It is interesting to note that the coppice, which measured 8 acres, must be what we knew as Dummers Copse and certain lands, buildings and coppices at Shamblehurst sometimes known as Shamble Street, which must have been an old name for Shamblehurst Lane.

These must have been what is now Berrywood Farm. Over the doorway of the farmhouse is a stone tablet with the initials "R.W.F. 1903", indicating that Ralph Warneford Fletcher had owned and built the house during his ownership of the Manor."

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



**Well, its almost that time of year again. Christmas will be upon us before we know it. I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to Westender throughout the year, both Peter and Margaret in the production, Lin for proof reading and all our members and others who have supplied articles and pictures etc.. without this support Westender could not continue, although we still need more articles, from just a couple of lines to large articles that could be serialised. If we don't get this type of support we cannot continue which would be a shame after 15 years of continuous publication. Lastly, but by no means least let me thank all our readers for your support and often kind comments. Finally let me wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year for 2015.**

**Nigel**

## WEST END HONEY FOR SALE

Once again as last year our thanks to WELHS members Peter and Kathryn Hatton who live in West End and keep bees and have honey for sale. The honey is actually produced here in West End and sells for £3.50 per jar for 227g (8oz in real weight). They have very generously offered again to donate 50p from the sale of each jar to WELHS funds - so by buying the honey you will have something nice to consume and also benefit the society. Peter and Kathryn can be contacted on 02380 474789 and are happy to deliver to your door here in West End whilst on their travels. They will also bring a quantity to the meetings for sale, so bring your money! Ed

## THE 2015 PROGRAMME



**January 7**  
**TALES FROM THE INN - the story of the**  
**Dolphin of Southampton**  
*Dr Cheryl Butler*

**February 4**  
**LYNDHURST - a brief history**  
*Peter Roberts*

**March 4**  
**THE NOOKS & CRANNIES OF ROMSEY**  
*Phoebe Merrick*

**April 1**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Plus*  
**A TALK ON "BEE-KEEPING"**

**May 6**  
**QUAKERS AT WAR**  
*Dr Frances Hurd*

**June 3**  
**WINCHESTER - Bishops, Buildings and Bones**  
*Andrew Negus*

**July 1**  
**QUEEN VICTORIA'S LAST JOURNEY**  
*Peter Keat*

**August 5**  
**SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM**  
(including raffle and free refreshments)  
**ALL WELCOME**

**September 2**  
**VICTORIAN SOUTHAMPTON: the Age of Steam and Expansion**  
*Jake Simpkin*

**October 7**  
**AIRFIELDS OF THE NEW FOREST**  
*John Levesley*

**November 4**  
**MEMORIES OF THE GREAT WAR**  
*Geoff Watts*

**December 2**  
**SOCIAL EVENING**  
**CHRISTMAS BUFFET,**  
**ENTERTAINMENT & RAFFLE**



## ON THIS DAY.....

**On this day (December 3rd.) in.....**

**1154** Nicholas Breakspear became the only English Pope - as Adrian IV.

**1791** 'The Observer', the oldest Sunday newspaper in the United Kingdom, was first published.

**1865** Edith Cavell, English nurse and patriot, born the daughter of the Rector of Swardeston in Norfolk.

**1892** General Franco, Spanish dictator and Head of State, born at El Ferrol.

**1965** Gemini 7 was launched, with Frank Borman and James Lovell.

**1976** Benjamin Britten, English composer, died at Aldeburgh in Suffolk.