



GREAT WAR 100

WESTENDER

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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



PREPARING FOR AN OUTING IN THE EARLY YEARS OF 20th CENTURY

Our picture this issue shows preparations for a charabanc outing from West End in the early years of the twentieth century. The location is outside the original West End Brewery in the High Street, which was at one time run by the Winchester Brewery and still exhibited their signage.

Also on view in this lovely picture are the row of old cottages (on the left), now long gone, which filled in the gap between the Old National School (later the Parish Hall) on the corner of Chapel Road and the West End Brewery on the corner of Lower New Road. The pub was later rebuilt and set back from the High Street with the present car-park the site of the original building.

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**WEST END
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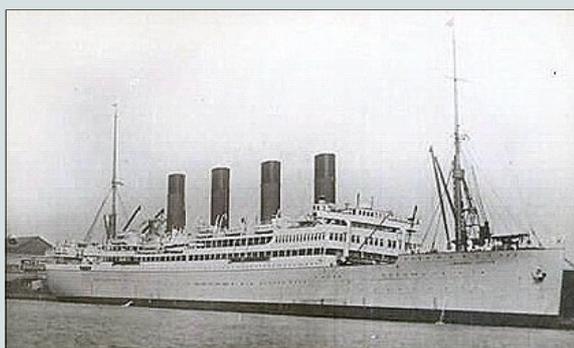
**EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

.....ON THEIR FLYING MACHINES (Part 2)

By Pauline Berry

This concludes Part 1 in the previous issue of Westender...

There was an appeal by the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1942 for aircrew reinforcements to replace the heavy losses during WW2. Since the worst of the bombing raids were believed to be over in the Southampton area, members of the Police Force were allowed to volunteer as pilots or observers in the RAFVR (Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve). Having always been an enthusiast about flying, PC Joseph (Joe) Patrick Molloy, a former resident of West End, applied and joined on the 22nd June 1942 and in 1943 he was posted to Burnaston, Derby, where he was selected for pilot training. After a short stay in Heaton Park, Manchester, Joe found himself in Greenock, on the Clyde, boarding the 'Arundel Castle' bound for South Africa.



Joe believed they were in the first convoy to pass through the Mediterranean in dangerous times. An American ship in their convoy was hit amidships during an enemy attack by JU88's (Junkers). They were attacked again near Malta but were protected by our Malta based fighters who appeared to shoot down one of the German aircraft.

On arriving safely in Durban, South Africa, they continued on to the Littleton Transit Camp in the Transvaal to No.7 Air School, in the Orange Free State, for basic flying training lasting 10 months, in Tiger Moths ("so easy to fly") and later in Swordfish. It was there that his South African instructor, was showing off in his plane to an RAF instructor. The plane skidded in the dust but managed to take-off again, despite the wing being damaged and the two instructors were grounded pending a court martial.



Tiger Moth



Airspeed Oxford

In May 1944 Joe was posted for further 'bomber' training at Kimberley on Airspeed Oxfords, No.21 Air School. On the same course were several ex-operational RAF pilot officers, one or two having been 'Dam Busters' on the Mohne Dam Raid. Here, Joe enjoyed playing football in his spare time and played in several RAF teams, sometimes travelling in a Junkers 52!

Later he passed out as Flying Officer J.P.Molloy with a commission, which cheered Joe who had sometimes encountered class distinction amongst his peers. So he 'acquired a University education' in order to create a level playing field because "I was as good as them".

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Joe's next move was to Cairo, Egypt, where by chance he met his sister Marion who was a nurse in the QARANC (Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps) at the 15th Scottish Military Hospital. She was living in a houseboat on the Nile, and showed her brother around, both enjoying their meeting. He was posted to Palestine in December 1944 for 120 hours experience on Wellington twin-engined bombers. Designed by Barnes Wallis (of bouncing bomb fame), they were long range, economical, one of the RAF's mainstream bombers. *"They were food planes to fly"*, even with a wing span of 80 feet. Then he went back to Egypt to train on the American Liberators, a 4 engine B-24 with a crew of eight. They were heavy bombers, of which the 2nd Division had seen much action over France, Holland, Germany etc.. The 98th Group were busy over Egypt, Libya etc.. in 1942-3. Joe gained 200 flying hours on these but he did report a close shave later in Italy, due to taking-off in cross winds. The Liberator, however, *"won through with plenty of power and speed"*.



Wellington bomber



B-24 Liberator

On completion, the crew was posted to Italy, but by the time he joined No.40 Squadron it was early May 1945 and the war was ending, Joe's bombing training was not now needed. His flying was now limited to transporting fuel and supplies to our troops in Northern Italy and Yugoslavia. He and his crew then brought ex-POW's back home to Sussex and Oxfordshire, who had to endure the discomfort of sitting on wooden boards in the bomb bay during the flights!

In September 1945, Flying Officer J.P.Molloy was released from duties, returning to England to be demobbed in Staffordshire. He soon rejoined the Southampton Police Force and married Peggy in 1946, enjoying over 60 years of marriage before her death. Joe rose through the ranks to Inspector before deciding to retire in 1967, at the time of the amalgamation of the Southampton Police Force with Portsmouth, Isle of Wight forces etc.. to become the new Hampshire Police Authority.

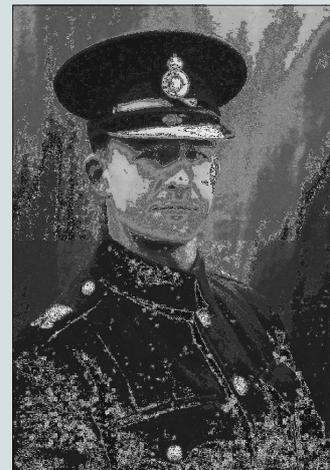


LEFT

Flying Officer JOE MOLLOY and sister
MOLLY in Egypt 1944

RIGHT

No.55 PC JOE MOLLOY 1939-40
Southampton Police



The last twelve years of his working life were spent in the relatively quiet Library and Records Offices of the Hampshire County Architects Department. Joe's retirement after his very long and interesting life were spent in his home off Northlands Road, Southampton. His lucid and sharp memory assisted me in recording his many stories, came to an end on 2nd January 2013, when he died shortly before his 99th birthday. This youthful and modest man is much missed.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MARY JANE?

By Sue Ballard, PhD.

We all are all familiar with the school exhibit in the museum that details the sad plight of little Mary Jane White, who was sent home from school because she was “too dirty to be allowed to remain”. But what happened to her?

Mary Jane had attended school for only 9 weeks and 3 days (minus a week’s holiday for Whitsun) before being excluded. Schools were used to dealing with nits and fleas and many of the poorer children would have been less than clean in this period; to be so dirty that she was sent home permanently, poor Mary Jane must have been so unclean that she smelled. One can only imagine the taunts and torments meted out by the other children and the shame she felt upon being told not to come back. Who was she and why was she so dirty? Was she cleaned up and sent back? Did she remain uneducated? What did she grow up to be?

The entry in the St. James’s School Register for her admission on Tuesday 19th April 1864 records that Mary Jane, in common with many of the other children, had previously been instructed at home, but this appears to have been simply a standard way of recording that a child had not previously attended any other school, rather than an indication that the parents had attempted to teach a child to read or write. Like those other children, Mary Jane was only able to mark the register with a cross when asked to write her name, suggesting that she had not actually had any instruction, unsurprising in a period before compulsory education when the majority of the working population was illiterate and the parents were in no position to teach the children even their alphabet. The reason for Mary Jane’s withdrawal on Monday 6th June 1864 was given as “too dirty to be allowed to remain” with a note “has no mother” written in the remarks column. She was still unable to write her name. Judging by the remarks in the school log book, the educational standard of the children generally was considered to be poor, both by the head teacher and the Reverend James Hatherell, a frequent visitor to the school. It would appear that Mary Jane learned nothing except perhaps some simple sewing taught by the vicar’s wife and daughter. Her exceedingly short time at the National School seems to have been a period of torment with little or no educational benefit. Perhaps her shame on being excluded was mingled with a large portion of relief!

Eliza Jane Sudd	223	April 15 th	2	9	School House	Schoolmistress	Home
Ellen Hinden	224	April 18 th	5	—	Spotsman's Arms	Ann Kuper	Dam's School
Mary Jane White	225	April 19 th	5	6	Merry Orchard	Labourer	Home
George Spencer	226	May 2 nd	4	0	Near the Mill	Labourer	Home
Edwin Miltshier	227	May 9 th	3	6	Near the School	Labourer	Home

St. James’s National School Admissions Register showing the admission of Mary Jane White on 19th April

Eliza Jane Sudd	223	April 15 th	2	9	School House	Schoolmistress	Home	X
Ellen Hinden	224	April 18 th	5	—	Spotsman's Arms	Ann Kuper	Dam's School	X
Mary Jane White	225	April 19 th	5	6	Merry Orchard	Labourer	Home	X
George Spencer	226	May 2 nd	4	0	Near the Mill	Labourer	Home	X
Edwin Miltshier	227	May 9 th	3	6	Near the School	Labourer	Home	X

St. James’s National School Admissions Register showing the withdrawal of Mary Jane White on 6th June

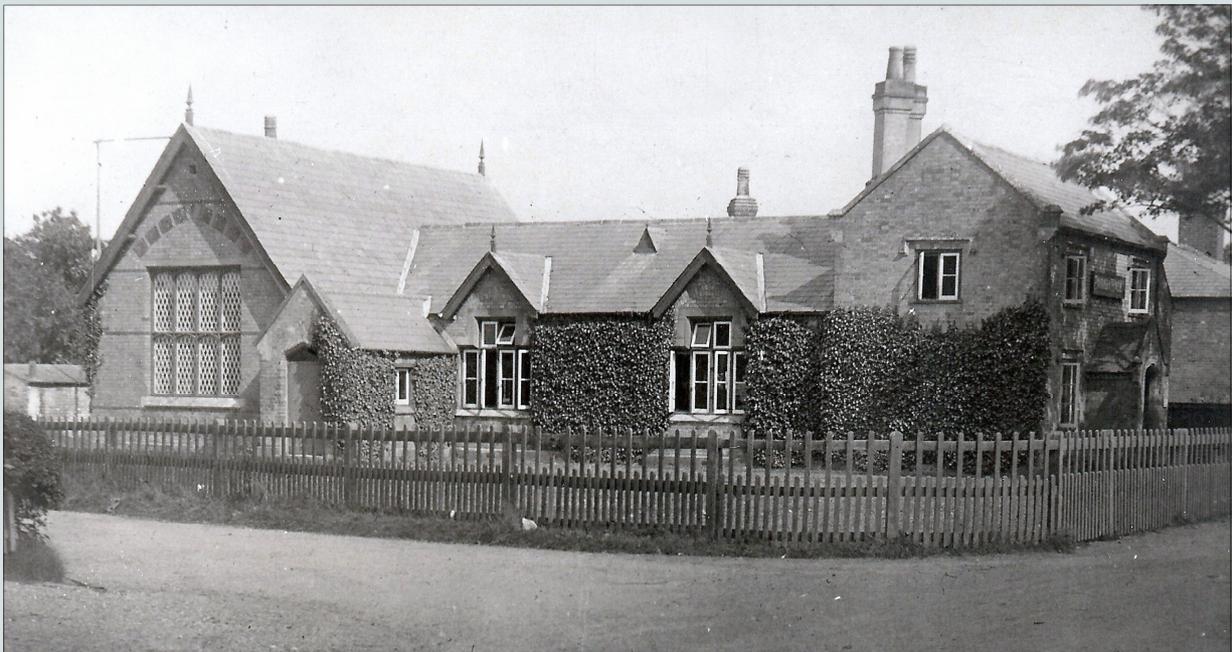
The admissions register entry records her age as 5 years 6 months on 19th April 1864, which suggests that Mary Jane was born early to mid-October 1858. The record for her withdrawal on 6th June 1864 gives her age as 5 years 7 months, with her time in school as 1 month – rather less than the actual period of 9 weeks & 3 days. An age of 5 years 7 months in June would give a birth date of early November 1858. As the two ages do not tally with the actual period she spent in school, it is not possible to determine which recorded age is correct, if either is. Perhaps her father was unclear of her exact age when he enrolled her. However,

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an approximate date of birth is enough with which to trace Mary Jane and her family through cross-referencing census records and birth, marriage & death records to build up a picture of her life.

Mary Jane White was born in Bishopstoke in the summer of 1858. She was the fourth child of Charles White, a farm labourer and carter, and his wife Beatrice Hall. Beatrice was born in Twyford and her family seems to have moved around a lot within the mid-Hampshire area as her father was an itinerant repairer of chairs – her baptism record shows her to have been the daughter of Anne & John Hall, “Chairbottom Mender travels in his trade thro' the country, belongs to Ropley”. Like Mary Jane, her father Charles was born in Bishopstoke. He appears to have been illegitimate and nothing is known about his early life except that his mother’s name was Mary Anne. As a farm labourer and carter he had to go wherever he could find work and the baptisms of Mary Jane’s siblings show that the family moved from Twyford to Colden Common to Bishopstoke. In 1861 the family were living in a farm cottage at Boyatt Lincolns Farm, Otterbourne. Some time between 1861 and 1864 they moved to Merry Orchard, West End, where Charles & Beatrice’s fifth child was born.



St. James’s National School, West End - the building still in use as the Parish Hall in 1915

The period during which Mary Jane was at school, short though it is, was a crucial one for her. Mary Jane’s brother John was baptised on 11th April 1864, just one week prior to Mary Jane’s admission to school. Her mother Beatrice was buried on 17th May, suggesting that she died of infection following childbirth. Women died of childbed infection in even the cleanest of homes; it was not until the late 19th century that it was realised that infection was spread through bacteria and James Lister advocated sterilising surgical instruments in 1867. Puerperal fever (infection of the uterus) accounted for almost half of all childbirth-related deaths, taking up to a week to appear and lasting as long as four weeks from the first symptoms. As the infection spread it could lead to peritonitis (infection of the abdomen) or septicaemia (blood poisoning). Peritonitis in particular was agonising due to the extreme bloating of the abdomen; it was reported that even the touch of the sheets was often too much to bear.

The conditions in which Mary Jane was living at this time would have been grim. Her mother lay ill and dying in a room which would have smelled appallingly due to the nature of the infection. Her father and brothers, 10 year old Thomas & 8 year old Charles, had to keep working to ensure the family were fed and housed, as farm labourers on casual hire earned a pittance. In 1864 the average adult farm labourer’s wage

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was 11s per week – less in the South of England, where they were the lowest paid workers in the country. Every penny would count; Thomas had been working as a cow boy since he was 7 years old. It appears that no relatives lived nearby to help as Beatrice's parents were long dead and her sisters disappeared from the records. Perhaps a neighbour dropped in now and then to care for Beatrice and the baby, but Mary Jane's 12 year old sister Emily would have been left with the bulk of the family's care: feeding & changing the baby, fetching water, tending the fire, preparing meals and perhaps caring for the vegetable patch and any chickens if they were lucky enough to have any. Living at subsistence level meant that earning the rent and food production must take precedence over everything else. No-one would have had time to spare to clean the house, wash the children or do any laundry – if they could afford the soap. Being the youngest apart from the new baby, Mary Jane would have been sent to school to keep her out of the way as much as to educate her.

At this time St. James's was still a National School, founded by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education as a charitable institution to educate the children of the poor, so there was no obligation on the school to keep Mary Jane. The note in the school admissions register "has no mother" must have been added after Mary Jane's admission, soon after her mother died in early May – perhaps as an explanation of her dirty condition or to signify a need for kinder treatment and allowances to be made for her, which suggests some sympathy on the part of the staff. Despite this, Mary Jane's condition had deteriorated to the point where, however reluctantly, the decision was made to expel her. Oddly, though, neither any mention of concern over Mary Jane's condition nor the decision to exclude her are included in the school log book, even though other children are named individually in relation to much less serious concerns such as broken windows or playing truant. She never returned to St. James's National School.

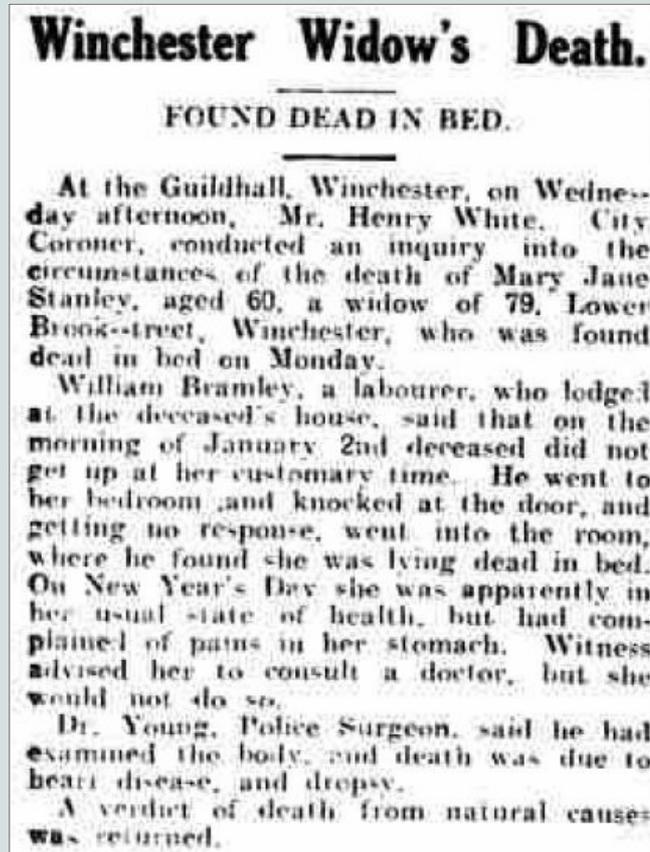
The 1871 census shows the family living near the railway station in Sholing. Mary Jane's elder siblings had gone, leaving just Mary Jane (now calling herself simply Jane) and her little brother John – the baby of 1864, who had remarkably survived despite the high infant mortality rate, the death of his mother and the dirty living conditions. They lived with their father and a stepmother named Ellen. No marriage has been found for Charles & Ellen, so it was not possible to trace her origins or to know how long she had been with the family. She must have had a strong will or a large capacity for sympathy to take on Charles and his children, but she appears to have cleaned them up. Ellen was a laundress and taught Mary Jane her skills. Both Mary Jane & John are shown on census as scholars, suggesting that they were now attending school. The Elementary Education Act of 1870 had made attendance at school compulsory for children aged between 5 and 13. But which school did Mary Jane attend? In Sholing, the National School for Girls and Infants was just being built in 1871. Cox's Directory of Southampton for 1871 shows that there were two dame schools in Woolston, one run by a Mrs Jefferies of West View, Obelisk Road and the other by a Mrs Rashleigh of Milton Road (now St. Anne's Road). There was also a dame school in Bitterne, run by a Miss Wilkinson at Bitterne House. Mrs Rashleigh's would have been the nearest to Mary Jane's home, but it is likely that she was sent to the cheapest. Dame schools were private schools run by untrained ladies in their own homes for a handful of pupils, for a small fee. The standard of education was often poor and the provision of local authority education with trained teachers and a system of inspection under the Elementary Education Acts of 1870, 1876 & 1880 resulted in the eventual closure of most dame schools. Wherever she attended, Jane was now aged 13, so would leave school at the end of the summer term. We do not know what Mary Jane did in the years after leaving school, but it is likely that she either went into service or helped her stepmother with her laundry work.

At the age of 20 Mary Jane married John Stanley, a builder's labourer, and they moved to the Bar End area of Winchester, later settling in Lower Brook Street. They had no children of their own, but in 1891 Mary Jane went to stay with her elder brother Thomas in Southampton to help his wife Annie with her children after the birth of their youngest child. Fortunately, in this case both mother and child survived, but it must have revived unwelcome memories for Mary Jane of her mother's death and her own situation as a child in

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1864. We can imagine she kept Thomas & Annie's children scrupulously clean. Just like her stepmother, Mary Jane worked as a laundress throughout her married life. When she was 61 years old her husband John died, after which she took in lodgers to supplement her income. On 2nd January 1922 Mary Jane was found dead in bed by her lodger. She had died of heart disease and dropsy. Her only memorial is a record of a dirty child on display in the museum.



Hampshire Advertiser 7th January 1922 inquest report on Mary Jane White. Note that her age at death is given as 60, when in fact she was 64. Age at death is often reported incorrectly because it relies on the knowledge or memory of the person reporting the death, who may never have been certain of the deceased's age to begin with.

THE VANISHING PUBS OF WEST END

By Nigel Wood

One could be forgiven for thinking that in recent years West End (or to give it its old spelling Westend) is going tee-total. Since the 1950's the community has lost four of its relatively small number of public houses.

The "Lamp & Mantle" formerly known as "The New Inn" was demolished in March 2004 to make way for a block of apartments now known as Rosemount Court. The pub, constructed in mock Tudor style was built by Strong & Co. of Romsey in the late 1920's and has an identical twin at Eastleigh, known as "The Leigh" in Leigh Road. The building previously occupying this site dated back to at least 1834 and formed what was once the centre of the village of West End, complete with a village green in front. However, since that time the centre of the village has moved gradually up the High Street towards its present position centred around another pub the "West End Brewery".

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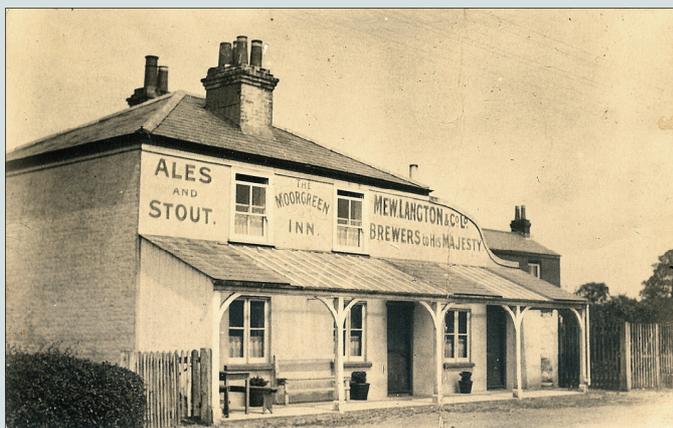


THE NEW INN c.1919



THE REPLACEMENT LAMP & MANTLE

Another prominent public house to have disappeared recently as 2003 is “The Sportsman” at the top end of the village on the corner of Telegraph Road and High Street. Originally it was a small building situated right on the corner and was known as “The Sportsman’s Arms”, it later had the indignity of having a new replacement built on ground behind in the 1930’s just prior to World War Two. During the war the original pub was kept going whilst the new one was temporarily used as a Home Guard HQ on the right hand side with training trenches dug in front. A wartime “British Restaurant” (providing good wholesome food at low cost) occupied the left hand side of the building. After the war the old pub was knocked down and the area it occupied became the large front car park for the “new” pub. Over the years the name of the pub changed to “The Collared Dove”, but this only lasted a short time before the name returned to the slightly different “The Sportsman”. In 2002 the pub was closed and the site sold to developers who demolished the building in 2003 and built the McCarthy & Stone retirement complex now known as “Fielders Court”, so named because of its close proximity to The Rose Bowl, home of Hampshire Cricket.



THE MOORGREEN INN c.1930's

Moorgreen once boasted two pubs, the “Southampton Arms” (still in existence) and “The Moorgreen Inn”, run latterly by Mr and Mrs Goodeve. Long since demolished the site today is occupied by housing.

Another well known and much loved local pub dating back to the 1870’s, the “Blacksmith’s Arms” in the High Street, still stands today, but is now a private home, its days as a public house long gone. The front of the pub is no longer of “checkerboard” brickwork construction and curved window tops, for many years ago in the mid 20th century a vehicle driving down the road lost control and crashed into the front of the

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building, which had to be completely re-built in a more conventional style.



THE BLACKSMITHS ARMS c.1900

Other public houses that still exist in West End comprise “The Master Builder”, formerly “The Crown & Thistle” on the Swaythling Road, the present building although very old replaced a much earlier one that jutted out into the road. The “West End Brewery” in the High Street again is a newer building replacing one that stood on the site of the present car park in front. This pub at one time exhibited a sign stating “The Winchester Brewery”. The “Southampton Arms” in Moorgreen Road, is the only old pub not to have been re-built in Westend and today still looks very much as it did in the 1930’s, and “The Two Brothers” in Townhill Way a more recent modern pub which is still going strong. On the border of West End and Mansbridge is the “White Swan”, a very old public house dating back to 1834 or before, once a Hotel it was originally known just as “The Swan”. Although much extended today and set back from the busy main road, in more genteel Edwardian times it boasted out-door refreshment booths overlooking the garden and river and punts for hire. You can almost taste the cucumber sandwiches and pot of tea, how times have changed!



THE SWAN or WHITE SWAN AT MANSBRIDGE c.1911

SALISBURY - a tale of two cities

A review by Roy Andrews

The September talk by Andrew Negus was part two of his Salisbury trilogy; in part one, we heard how Salisbury was born at the end of an alleged arrow flight from Old Sarum. Andrew reiterated how Salisbury was located where five rivers meet and, at the behest of the Bishop who owned all the land, only had within it three parishes; Winchester had fifty seven.

We were first taken on a guided tour of the cathedral and its contents such as the Bumping Stone (why so called nobody knows), the Cope Chest from the thirteenth century and the oldest working clock in the world ticking away since 1386. Some of the tomb effigies were explained, such as that of William Longspey, the first person to be buried in the cathedral and allegedly poisoned by his wife. We saw the so-called "small" effigy known as the Boy Bishop because of its size or only small because perhaps the heart of the bishop is buried here and his body elsewhere.

We were shown a large brass depicting Bishop Whitecliff who wanted to reclaim his land at Sherbourne, but the owner refused to sell so the Bishop challenged him to a duel. The Bishop appeared to be a man after my own heart as he had no intention of duelling himself but intended to use a Champion; however when Edward III heard of the intention, he stopped the duel.

St. Osmond, who had built the original cathedral at Sarum and died in 1099, was re-interred in the new cathedral in 1457 and we were told of the seven feet tall Sir John Cheney, who died in 1509, and his effigy of alabaster.

Outside, the cathedral grounds were enclosed by a large protective wall using stone from the demolished Sarum church and contained four gates; The Bishops, St. Ann's, Town and Harnham Gate. The city had only an earth bank wall to protect it but still it prospered, having the regional market. It was the Woollen capital, it had cutlery and tannery industries and the Clarendon Royal Palace.

The Parish of St. Thomas church contained the market place. Markets were held, from 1227, on Tuesdays and from 1325, Saturdays as well. Four crosses were in the parish where the trades of poultry, wool, beef and cheese were carried on. Bridge Street contained the Work House and the Avon Bridge is still the original. The church itself is of the unique to England Perpendicular design and inside has a very well preserved Doom painting.

The Parish of St. Martin has, unusually, the church situated outside of the town wall and is where the Joiners Guildhall is. Trinity Hospital was built in 1702 and the original was funded by Agnes Bottenham in 1379 who had made her money as a 'Madam' in the city.

The Parish church of St. Edmund's was somehow rebuilt in Cromwell's time when the Puritans were not allowing church building.

And so the city which had a population of two hundred in 1200 and four thousand by 1400 had dropped back to eight hundred by 1500 and there it stagnated. Why? We have to wait for part three to find out.



THE VERY REVEREND FAMILY OF DAVID LANCE

By Paula Downer

The family of David Lance of Chessel House in Bitterne has witnessed long serving ordained ministers of the Church of England. David Lance's brother William Lance was a rector for 56 years, from 1792 to 1829 as rector of Facombe with Tangle, near Andover. In 1817 David Lance's youngest son John Edwin Lance became curate in the same parish. Before David Lance died in 1820, he had purchased an advowson with Glebe lands in the parish of Facombe with Tangle for John Edwin. At this time the landed gentry could use the purchase of an advowson as a way of securing a living for a younger son who would not be gaining from the family inheritance, which was normally left to the eldest son. The advowson was a valuable asset, it allowed a person to be nominated as an ordained minister of the Church. This meant a guaranteed income and a home. Additional income could be gained from ecclesiastical (Glebe) land, the tithes being paid to him by the tenants of the Manor (his parishioners).

The Lance family still had connections with the East India Company, in 1822 the Reverend John Edwin Lance married Madelina Louisa Porcher. Her father, Josias Du Prè Porcher, had been an agent for the East India Company, a ship 'Henry Porcher' was named after her brother. In 1844, at the recommendation of the Reverend John Edwin Lance, the eldest son William Henry Lance joined the East India Company Army, he was posted to Bengal, India to serve with the 74th Regiment Native Infantry. By 1857 Lieutenant William Henry Lance had retired from the East India Company Army and returned to England. He went to King's College, London in preparation for his vocation in the church (in 1846 King's College had established a Theological Department to train Anglian clergymen).



In 1830 the Reverend John Edwin Lance became rector of the church of Buckland St. Mary in Somerset

The Reverend John Edwin Lance's mother, Mary, had moved to Paris after his father David Lance died. Mary died in 1835, her daughter (another Mary) was still living with her mother. After her mother's death, Mary returned to England. In July 1837, at the age of 47, Mary Lance married the Reverend William Henry Turner, rector of Trent. His church was not far from Buckland St. Mary.



Trent Church, Somerset

The two rectors appear to have kept close ties, the Reverend William Henry Turner occasionally acted as officiating minister in place of the Reverend John Edwin Lance. The old church of Buckland St. Mary was badly in need of costly repairs so it was decided to pull down the old church in two stages and build a new

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church in its place. The foundation stone was laid in 1853. When work began, only part of the church was pulled down so that the congregation could continue with church services. When the new part was rebuilt, the congregation changed places then the rest of the old church was pulled down and rebuilt ! The Reverend John Edwin Lance and his brother-in-law Henry Porcher contributed 'munificiently' to the building of the new church. The Reverend William Henry Turner donated the church organ, his wife Mary donated the East Window. Mary Turner was proving to be a stalwart member of the community of Trent, contributing towards the building of Almshouses and a National School.

When the Reverend John Edwin Lance died in May 1885, aged 91, his son, the Reverend William Henry Lance took over as rector of Buckland St.Mary. He served until 1904 (aged 81) then his son the Reverend Arthur Porcher Lance stepped into his father's shoes. He was rector until 1926.



The Reverend William Henry Lance
Image courtesy of National Portrait Gallery, London



Past rectors are listed in the porch of Buckland St.Mary Church

In the church of Buckland St.Mary today, are many interesting stained glass windows and memorials dedicated to both the Lance and Porcher families as well as a memorial to the Reverend John Edwin Lance's devoted servant and faithful friend of 40 years, Ann Goswell.



In the North Chapel of Trent Church lies an effigy of the Reverend William Henry Turner, which he had made in 1853 and stored until his death in 1875 !

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NEW OCCASIONAL FEATURE

RECIPE CORNER - "SNICKERDOODLES" by Sue Ballard

Having spread from New England & Pennsylvania at the turn of the last century, this cinnamon cookie is now found all over the United States and is believed to have been taken to the U.S. by German immigrants. Research has shown that the oldest surviving recipe in America dates from 1889 – there may of course have been older recipes that have not survived or were not written down. There are two theories as to how the name came about: either it is a corruption of the German Schneckennudel (snail noodles) because of their shape, or it is named after the hero of a series of tales in the early 1900s. That seems much less likely, given that the earliest known recipe dates from 1889. In fact, in Germany there are many recipes for Schneckennudeln, especially from the Swabia region, which suggests that is where they originated, but German Schneckennudeln are more of a cinnamon roll than a cookie.

Early versions of the cookies (cookies are soft, biscuits are crisp) were made with a combination of lard and butter, but now they tend to be made with all butter. The standard recipe simply rolls the unflavoured dough in cinnamon sugar, but a few years ago I came across this version flavoured with a chai spice mix. Chai spice is a combination of spices used in sweet spiced tea (chai) in India. Snickerdoodles are almost unknown in Britain, except at the American Museum at Claverton Manor, near Bath where they are served in the tea room. First served in West End at the WELHS Social Evening 2017!

For the cookie dough:

½ cup (113g / 4oz) butter, softened
 1 cup (225g / 8oz)caster sugar
 ¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda
 ¼ tsp cream of tartar
 1 egg
 1½ cups (187g / 6 ½ oz) plain flour

For the chai spice mixture:

1½ tsp ground cinnamon
 ½ tsp ground cardamom*
 ½ tsp ground ginger
 ¼ tsp ground cloves

2 Tbsp caster sugar

1. Preheat the oven to Gas 5 /375F / 190C / 170 fan.
2. Line two baking trays with baking paper – do not grease the trays as it will make the cookies too greasy.
3. Mix together the cinnamon, cardamom, ginger and cloves.
4. In small bowl mix together the 2 Tablespoons of sugar with 1 teaspoon of the chai spice mixture and put aside for coating the cookies.
5. In a medium bowl, beat the butter, sugar and egg until smooth and creamy.
6. Sift together the dry ingredients: flour, bicarb of soda, cream of tartar & the remaining chai spice mixture.
7. Beat the dry ingredients into the butter mix until well combined.
8. Roll the dough into 1 inch balls and toss them in the chai-spiced sugar mixture until the entire ball is coated.
9. Place the balls 2 inches apart on the baking trays as they spread while cooking.
10. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Leave on the tray for 1 minute to firm up before handling, then cool on a wire rack.

This recipe by Steve Cylka <http://www.theblackpeppercorn.com>

The cookies should be crisp on the outside and soft in the middle. They store well in an airtight tin. You may like to make a double batch and freeze the unbaked dough balls – do not thaw, but bake from frozen just adding a couple of minutes to the baking time.

*Ground cardamom is hard to find in supermarkets. Wilton Wholefoods include it in their range of herbs and spices sold in sachets at markets and in farm shops. If you cannot find it, you may like to use the original recipe: simply roll the unflavoured dough in 2 Tablespoons caster sugar mixed with 2 teaspoons cinnamon.

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Mary Turner (née Lance) died in 1866, her memorial plaque reads 'To the memory of Mary Turner the beloved wife of the Reverend W.H.Turner'. Outside both churches, various tombstones can be seen.



**Some of the Lance family lie in the grounds of Buckland St.Mary Church
(Reverend John Edwin Lance on far right)**



Reverend William Henry and Mary Turner lie next to each other in the grounds of Trent Church



**The Almshouses were built under the patronage and endowment of Mary Turner
Image courtesy of 'Google Earth'**

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE.....

October 4

FORGOTTEN WRECKS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Jacqueline Arnold (Maritime Archaeology Trust)

November 1

THE KINGS LAWYER - Sir Richard Lyster

Dr. Cheryl Butler

December 6

SOCIAL EVENING, CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ AND RAFFLE