

# NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



GREAT WAR 100

# WESTENDER

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## FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Our picture for the cover of this issue shows a very idyllic scene in the middle of the High Street in West End!

No problems with traffic congestion then and just a dirt road. Our picture shows Mr Parkers Motor Meet. Charlie Parker ran the Garage that stood where present day Viking Garage is, he lived just across the road on the corner of High Street and Upper New Road in a detached red brick property. It would appear that this "meet" was well attended given the size of West End at the time, with nine (very collectable today) motor cars. They are outside the old West End Brewery building which stood right on the edge of the road, the site of today's pub car park (they rebuilt the present pub behind the old one). If you have any similar pictures of Charlie Parkers Motor Meets (this one is from a postcard) please let us borrow them to copy for the archives. Ed.

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## WOT NO DINNER?

### A Unique Celebration of Queen Victoria's Coronation at West End by Sue Ballard PhD

One hundred and eighty years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1838, Queen Victoria was crowned at Westminster Abbey amid much pomp, with the longest coronation procession since that of Charles II in 1660 and attracting a crowd of about 400,000. Celebrations took place across the country. Towns and villages throughout Hampshire were also keen to show their patriotism and enjoy a holiday. Committees were set up weeks in advance to ensure that appropriate arrangements were made which would "ensure the interest of all classes". Everyone from the poorest urchin to the most dignified town official let their hair down and enjoyed the day. Or did they?



#### THE NEWLY CROWNED QUEEN WAS CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

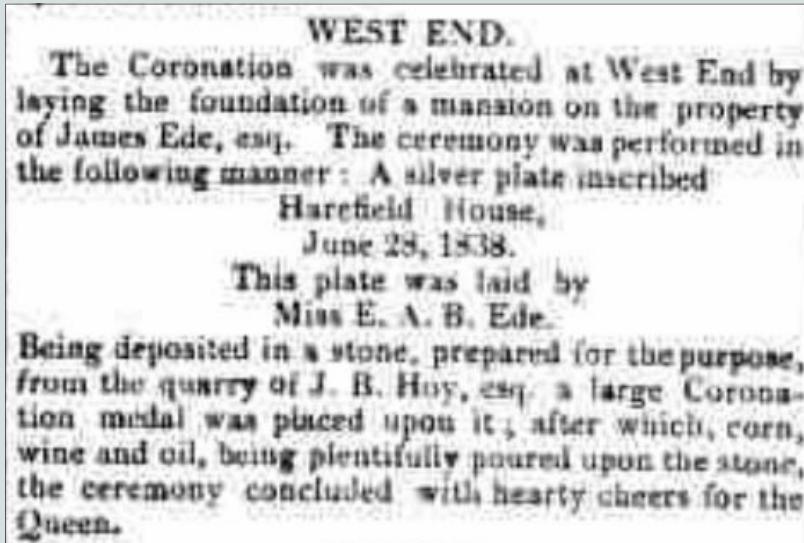
Southampton Town Committee, despite leaving the arrangements to the last minute and facing apathy and even "severe rebuffs" from some members, provided funds for the firing of guns, ringing of bells, fireworks, bands, horse and pony races, rowing competitions and treating the school children. The day began as early as 3 a.m. with a royal salute from a battery of six-pound guns at Houndsditch, followed by the bells of Holy Rood church at 6 a.m. The town's traders spent their very early morning decorating the streets with flags, garlands of flowers and evergreens. All the shops were closed and the churches opened. Truss & Turtle's Band played the national anthem after the first salute and paraded through the town throughout the day. School children processed through the town with banners and sang the national anthem at the Platform, before being treated to dinners of roast and boiled meats, pies and plum puddings. We are told that even the "meanest courts and alleys" saw some kind of celebration, with a dinner and dance provided by their wealthier neighbours. Abel Rous Dottin esquire of Bugle Hall, MP for Southampton, provided meat and drink for those incarcerated in the debtor's prison and commissioned Reverend Shapcott to fit his playground up with tables and benches to provide dinner for 400 poor men and women and 500 National School children amid an arch of evergreens, with local tradesmen acting as carvers and servers. In the afternoon the Common became the centre for sports, with tents and booths set up. There were horse races for prizes of 10 sovereigns and 7 sovereigns and foot races for purses of 2 sovereigns. Rowing competitions took place off the Platform, including a women's match for fishermen's wives and daughters with prizes ranging from 5 shillings to 30 shillings. The Mayor and burgesses rounded off the day with a public dinner in the Council Chamber accompanied by numerous toasts.

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Similar festivities on a more modest scale were enjoyed in the smaller towns and villages. Winchester held horse races and a procession consisting of the band, the Mayor and Corporation, clergy, girls of the asylum, children from the National School and various parishes, children of the workhouse and the boys of Christ's Hospital. There was Divine Service in the cathedral and a Conservative Coronation Dinner with a royal salute of seven guns. At Lymington the coastguard processed through the town, while at Poole they rang the bells, fired the cannon and followed the brass band in procession to the quay, where prizes for the regatta were handed out, which was followed by a public tea. Bells were rung and flags hung out at Fareham, where the children had a feast of roast beef and plum pudding. The children at Titchfield, who also had roast beef and plum pudding, were even given a glass of wine to drink the health of Her Majesty, while there was also a substantial dinner for the gentlemen of the town. On the Isle of Wight, Newport celebrated with bells accompanying a grand procession of the children and a marquee was erected on the cricket field where children could enjoy mutton, veal, lamb and plum pudding, while the school children at Freshwater were entertained on the lawn of Afton House and the poor of the parish were treated to "an excellent dinner and most liberal supply of ale."

We see a common theme here: processions and public dinners for officials, with parades and hot dinners for children and the poor. How did West End celebrate the coronation? The Hampshire Advertiser tells us "The coronation was celebrated at West End by the laying of the foundation stone of a mansion on the property of James Ede, esq. The ceremony was performed in the following manner: A silver plate was inscribed 'Harefield House June 28 1838. This plate was laid by Miss E.A.B. Ede'. Being deposited in a stone, prepared for the purpose, from the quarry of J.B. Hoy, esq. a large Coronation medal was placed upon it, after which corn, wine and oil, being plentifully poured upon the stone, the ceremony concluded with hearty cheers for the Queen." Miss E.A.B. Ede was James's youngest daughter, Emmeline Anny Bradley Ede, who was just approaching her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, so at least one child was involved in the coronation celebrations!



#### HAMPSHIRE ADVERTISER 30th JUNE 1838 - West End's Coronation Celebrations

It does seem rather an odd celebration to choose for a coronation, with the Queen almost as an afterthought. Where were the bells and the bands, the games and the feasting? There is no mention of any refreshments or even drinking the health of Her Majesty. Unusually for reports of social events in this period, there is no list of the local elites who attended – one imagines a rather subdued affair with James standing alone with little Emmeline and perhaps a workman or two. Of course, there could not have been church bells rung in West End as the church was still being built in 1838 (although the first stone had been laid on 18th April 1836, the church was not consecrated until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1838). Similarly, the National School had not yet opened, so there would have been no neatly organised groups of school children or Sunday

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school children to entertain. The ecclesiastical parish of St. James, West End had been created in 1834, but the civil parish of West End would not be created until 1894. Perhaps there was not yet any sense of community identity. The population was very small, only a little over 1500 in 1841, so perhaps there was no band, either. We might have expected to hear of a special dinner at the workhouse, but there were few local gentry at this time to contribute to such an event or organise it. West End was little more than a hamlet and scattered farms, with the population made up largely of labourers. Of those who were likely to have a modest degree of wealth, besides one or two yeoman farmers, the 1841 census shows only a navy half-pay officer Augustus Bowen at Sussex Lodge. Most of the “big houses” were yet to be built, with the exception of Townhill, occupied by the elderly Edward Gater, who lived alone apart from his servants, and independent ladies Susan Keane at Netley Firs, Sarah Ely at Fir Grove and Amelia Liptrap at Moorhill House. The former MP for Southampton, James Barlow Hoy, who normally resided at Midanbury, had taken his wife to live in Naples for her health the previous year – their only child was born there in 1838 – and rumour had it that the real reason for his move was that he was financially embarrassed. The national celebrations appear to have passed by West End, with the laying of the foundation stone of Harefield House being the only newsworthy item to report.



**HAREFIELD HOUSE BEFORE THE FIRE OF 1917**

Harefield House is, of course, best known for being the home of Edwin Jones from about 1890 until his death in 1896. Bitterne Local History Society has traced its history back to c.1846 when it was occupied by Sir Edward Butler, Chairman of the Southampton & Salisbury Railway Company, who has long been credited with its construction. The report of the coronation celebration is therefore significant for giving us the actual date of foundation and identifying the original owner and builder beyond doubt. It would appear that Harefield House was built as an investment, as there is no evidence that either James Ede or his widow ever lived in it, so they apparently rented it out. Harefield House was sold in 1847, some six years after James's death, owing to chancery court claims. Perhaps this is when Sir Edward Butler bought it.

But who was James Ede and why was he so important that his new house became the focus of the coronation festivities, such as they were? The earliest record we have of him locally is his marriage at the age of 25 to Catherine Wright at St. Mary Extra on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1817. At this time he was already living at Ridgeway Castle, Peartree and James & Catherine continued to live there until around 1840, after which they moved to Sydney House on the southern edge of Freemantle Common, shortly before James's death – this was their address on the 1841 census. Ridgeway Castle remained in his possession but was leased to the Rev. W.S. Fowler.

Numerous newspaper reports offer some insight into his life in Hampshire. James was a county magistrate and as such was appointed as a surveyor of highways for Sholing and Woolston. He was twice made an  
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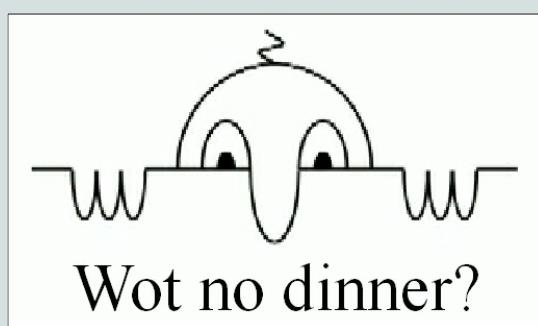
honorary burgess of Southampton Corporation. In addition to his official duties he was also active in the community socially, mingling with the higher echelons of society: as an active member of the Hampshire Branch Horticultural Society, hunting, attending balls (as a Venetian Courtier at Mrs Fleming's Fancy Dress Ball in 1829) and sitting on the Southampton Regatta Committee. James & Catherine gave to local good causes and were sponsors of Southampton's Theatre Royal. An entry in the Hampshire Advertiser on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1838 states that Mr & Mrs James Ede and family had arrived at Ridgeway Castle from Cheltenham for the winter, suggesting that they had spent the Season at the spa. It is unclear whether James owned his own yacht but he was often listed among the arrivals in Joyce's Arrivals Book published in the Royal Yacht Club Gazette, sometimes alongside James Barlow Hoy.



RIDGEWAY CASTLE

James Ede appears to have known James Barlow Hoy quite well as not only did he buy the stone for Harefield House from Hoy's quarry, but they often attended the same social events. The Hampshire Advertiser 20<sup>th</sup> November 1841 shows that both James Ede and James Barlow Hoy had entered horses in the 1842 Southampton Stakes; James Ede did not live to see his horse's performance as he died within a month of the list being published. Both Ede and Hoy served as Justices of the Peace and sat as magistrates in the assizes; in this role they also served together as official asylum visitors at Grove Place, Nursling. It is possible that the two families remained close as in 1844 James Ede's daughter Catherine, who married the son of the Earl of Shannon, died in Naples, where the Hoy family spent so much time.

Looking at James's social appointments, we can see that they were all focused upon Southampton rather than Bitterne & West End, which were more local to him. Of course, that is where the elite gathered at that time, people whose status reflected well upon him, enhancing his own standing, or who could offer opportunities for his own advancement. That is not to say that he was self-centred; it was simply how society worked and we have already seen that there was no real community focus at West End at that time. However, we do not find him mixing with the great and good at the Southampton coronation celebrations as we might expect, but holding his own private celebration at West End – although it apparently did not occur to him to contribute a coronation dinner to the local workhouse.



In April 1840, about eighteen months before his death, he leased out Newland's Farm, Bitterne (a short  
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walk from the new St. James's Church, West End) and sold off the furniture and the farm stock and equipment, including Alderney cows, eight cart horses, four ploughs, a 2HP corn mill, several carts and wagons and brick making equipment. The disposal of James Ede's estate after his death shows that in addition to Ridgeway Castle with its 23 acres of land, he owned a brickyard, kiln cottage & 12 acres of land in St. Mary Extra as well as Sydney House at Freemantle, Harefield House with two attached farms and Oak Cottage in West End. His household goods included guns, 100 lots of furniture, 1,000 books, china, glass, 2,500 ounces of valuable plate and a cellar of superior wines.



#### **LAND WITHIN SOUTH STONEHAM OWNED BY JAMES EDE'S EXECUTORS AFTER HIS DEATH, MOSTLY PLANTATION**

All this tells us that James Ede was wealthy and was at ease mixing with the local gentry, but gives us no clue to his origins. He only appears on one census as he died on 11th December 1841 and was buried at St. Mary Extra on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The census indicates only that he was of independent wealth and was not born in Hampshire. Directory entries list him only as Esquire, with no indication of a trade or profession, suggesting that he was either a member of the gentry or the nouveau-riche. Burke's History of the Landed Gentry has no entry for James Ede, but that he was wealthy cannot be doubted. At this period there were limited possibilities for accumulating wealth if one was not gentry. We have seen that he already owned Ridgeway Castle when he married in 1817, before the industrial revolution enabled the creation of wealthy industrialists.

His baptism record shows that James Ede was baptised at Fort William in Bengal, India on 8th Feb 1791: "James Ede born 22nd November last, the son of James Ede & Mary his wife". We know that James had a younger brother George, owner of Merry Oak, who died in 1821 at the age of 29 and for whom James was

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executor; George's baptism in Bengal shows that he was born 14<sup>th</sup> June 1792. The parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Madras in the British India Office Ecclesiastical Returns show that a James Ede, captain of the ship Dolphin married Mary Vander Waart at Vepery, Madras on 28th March 1789. The New East India Kalender 1801 lists James Ede as an agent in Calcutta, West Bengal. The last will and testament of "James Ede of Calcutta in Bengal in the East Indies", after a number of bequests, left the residue of his estate to "my two beloved sons, James Ede and George Ede now in Great Britain". The connection is confirmed when we look at the baptism for James & Catherine's eldest daughter, who they named Mary Ann Cleopatra Catherine Guillard Ede – the will of James Ede of Calcutta refers to a Jean Guillard of Calcutta, merchant. It would appear, then, that James's wealth was inherited and profits from the East India Company had financed the building of four of our local gentry houses: Ridgeway Castle, Sydney House, Merry Oak – and Harefield House.

## **BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT - Garret & Haysom**

**A Review by Roy Andrews**

Unlike every other talk I have had the pleasure of listening to at our monthly meetings, the title of this one offered no clues as to the subject of Geoff Watts' talk at the February meeting. However, on the night he did paraphrase his talk with the sub-title: 'The story of a Southampton Business' which gave a bit more of a clue.

In 1806, one George Garret set himself up as a general builder but quite quickly became more of a stone



**GARRET & HAYSON EAST STREET PREMISES IN 1910**

mason and in 1822 he was joined by his two sons. 1823 saw George take on the lease of the site of the East Gate, demolished in 1775, in the old city walls on the corner of East Street and Back of the Walls. This would remain the firm's premises until its closure in 1963 and some of the buildings built by the firm remain to this day fronting onto East Street.

One of George's sons died in 1827 but the other, Henry, continued with his father and took over running the business in 1867 when his father, who died two years later, retired with an uncle Jonathan.

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Jonathan died in 1877 and in the same year John Haysom, who had a similar business on the Isle of Purbeck, joined the firm and added his name to the firm's title. The last member of the Garret family died in 1881; thereafter various Haysoms were involved in the thriving business until its closure in 1963 when it was bought out by stone mason David Banks.

The firm's first Royal Warrant was issued by direct order of Queen Victoria in 1900 who was so impressed by the work done at Osborne House. George V in 1928 granted the second Royal Warrant for work carried out at Carisbrooke Castle by Lucas Haysom.

In his talk, Geoff ran through a multitude of stone memorials created by the firm, many of which are still standing in the Southampton area, not least the Old 'Eastern' Docks, opened in 1842 the building of which required vast amounts of dressed stone. The open docks enabled the firm not only to export all over the world but to provide marble to P & O for fitting out their new ships.

In 1846, the then new 'Old Cemetery' opened, on part of Southampton Common, an 'Open Air Showroom' for the firm which erected the first headstone and thereafter many more and also monuments.

- 1877 Queen Victoria fountain in Shirley precinct
- 1885 the General Gordon monument in Queens Park
- 1889 the Clock Tower, now at Bitterne Park Triangle
- 1913 Pilgrim Fathers' Memorial at the Royal Pier

There was a memorial to the Titanic, Jane Austen, WW1 Belgian soldiers and many, many more - were there no other Masons in Southampton?

Some memorials various Haysoms paid for themselves, such as a plaque to General Gordon in Rockstone Place, a vases and pedestals monument in The Avenue and, by no means least, the setting up of a home for poor/orphan children in Shirley. And so a firm which did much to enhance the appearance of Southampton has disappeared from memory but oh, how Southampton could do with a similar firm enhancing it today!

**NOTE:** As it happens West End's War Memorial was built by Garret & Haysom and unveiled in 1920, we have their original artists pencil sketch to show what the memorial would look like in the archives. Ed.

## JANE AUSTEN'S LETTERS

By Peter Sillence

Jane Austen was much in the news in 2017, it being 200 yrs since her death in Winchester. As far as we know Miss Austen never visited West End. She was briefly at school in Southampton (she caught Typhus!) and visited her cousins there as a young lady. Later she lived with her brother Frank's family in Southampton from October 1806 until July 1809. She probably got no nearer to West End than Bitterne. She certainly visited Chessel House, the home of The Lance family who were friends of the Austens and who gave the name to Lances Hill. She also took boat trips on the Itchen and may have rowed up to Woodmill.

Although she didn't visit we do have a link of sorts. As well as writing her novels, Jane was a prolific letter writer. She is thought to have written several thousand in her lifetime, but unfortunately only 161 are thought to survive. Many were destroyed by her sister Cassandra after her death. Of the surviving, 9 written during her stay in Southampton and 3 written after she moved to Chawton, are written on paper made at Gater's Mill in West End.

As an example I have picked one of the three written in Chawton. It is now in a collection of about 50 at the Morgan Library in New York. The letter was originally of 4 pages and written to her brother Charles-

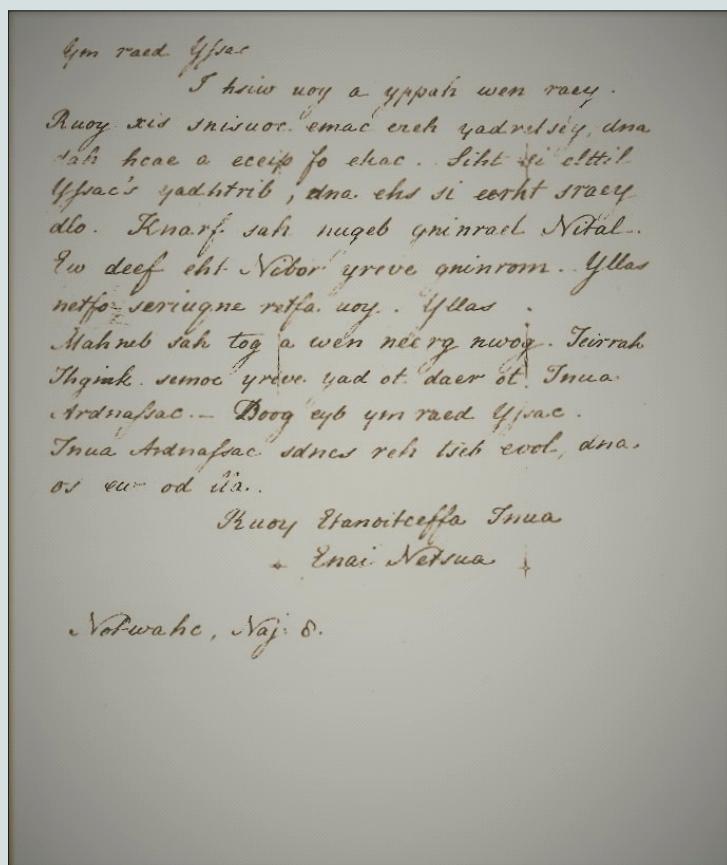
John Austen. The page that survives was an additional letter to his daughter Cassandra Esten and was penned on paper manufactured at Gater's Mill 2 years before its use by Miss Austen. The paper is a leaf of  
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quarto size, is pale cream coloured and strong wove, a type made from recycled rags and cotton. It has a watermark GATER 1815 (this is shown in the photo below).



This particular letter written at Chawton in 1817 was dated Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, postmarked Alton 9<sup>th</sup> January and sent to Keppel Street in London. Her brother was at that time a Naval Captain, later to become a Rear-Admiral. His daughter Cassandra was only 9 years old and the letter was obviously meant as an amusement for her as it was written in reverse. The page is unusual in that it only has a few lines of writing. Fine paper was prized and costly at the time and most of Jane's letters are densely covered with writing.



The 'translation' of the letter is as follows:-

*My dear Cassy*

*I wish you a happy new year. Your six cousins came here yesterday, and had a piece of cake. - This is little*

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*Cassy's birthday and she is 3 years old. Frank has begun learning latin. We feed the robin every morning. – Sally Bentham has got a new green gown. Harriet Knight comes every day to read to Aunt Cassandra. – Goodbye my dear Cassy. – Aunt Cassandra sends her best love and so do we all.*

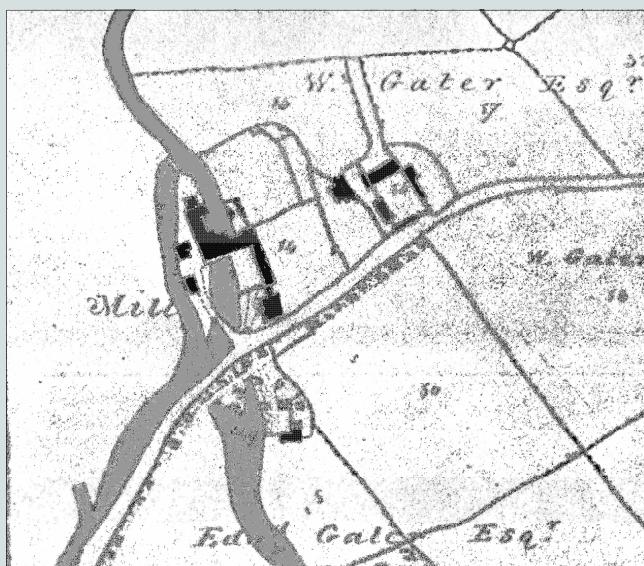
*Your affectionate aunt  
Jane Austen*

Not a great literary masterpiece, but it seems to show that she was fond of her nephews and nieces.

Jane had been ill since early the previous year and 2 months after the letter was written she was confined to her bed. In May she was moved to Winchester to be near her doctor for treatment. She died in a house in College Street on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1817 and is buried in Winchester Cathedral.



Papermaking had been going on at Gater's Mill since at least 1685, when it was known as Up Mill and worked by the Company of White Paper Makers. In the early days many of the papermakers were French or Dutch refugees. The Gater family bought the mill in 1772 and continued making paper there until 1865. They were one of the last mills to be making paper in vats rather than by machine and were recorded as making high quality stationery.



The nearest bookseller/stationers to Jane's home in Chawton was at 30 High Street in Alton and owned by  
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a Mr George Barnfield. The shop is still there today and if you visit Boots Optician in Alton you may stand where Jane bought some of her West End paper.



The paper from the Southampton letters may have been purchased at one of three stationers trading in the town at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most established of the three was Thomas Skelton's shop at 22 High Street, where the TSB bank is now. It was only a short walk along Castle lane from Jane's house in Castle Square.

## SALISBURY, A TALE OF TWO CITIES

A Review by Roy Andrews

The presentation at the March meeting was by Andrew Negus giving part three of his trilogy, parts one and two having been reviewed in the August and October 2017 edition of 'Westender' on Salisbury and Old Sarum.

Andrew started with a quick review of his earlier talks which had taken us up to the 15th century when the population of the city had shrunk from its peak back to eight thousand. He took us on a walk out of Harnham Gate, the least used in the Cathedral Close, and showed slides of De Vaux College built in 1240 as an offshoot of Oxford University. Then onto St. Nicholas Hospital, built in 1215 or earlier and used by Anthony Trollope as the base of his book 'The Warden' and on into the attractive village of Harnham with its two bridges over the River Avon, built in 1244 to give easier access to the city from the south, their tolls increasing the wealth of the Bishops. We were shown a terrace of cob thatched cottages and then onto Harnham Mill and beyond the man-made water meadows made famous by John Constable in his painting of the cathedral. Andrew recommended this walk which he stressed was not too strenuous.

Into the cathedral we then went to look at two Chantry Chapels where bishops were buried and an unusual Elizabethan memorial to husband and wife Edward and Katherin Grey, unusual because the wife's statue was above that of her husband because she was of a higher social standing.

In 1611 Robert Cecil, under James 1st, took away the rights of the bishops to run the city and granted the citizens this right.

Over the years, various people have climbed to the top of Andrew's pet hate the cathedral steeple;

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one, having sung religious songs from the top in the presence of King Charles II, on returning to ‘terra firma’ was granted by the king the right to sing hymns from the top of any church steeple in the land - probably not the honour he had anticipated. Andrew has a way of introducing his criticism of the steeple humorously throughout his talk because a) it was added after the cathedral was built in only 38 years to a single architectural style and b) its great weight has required various architects, including Wren, to stabilize the structure, spoiling the symmetry inside the cathedral and today it is still leaning.

We were shown many of the lovely old houses that surround the cathedral including Malmesbury House built in 1690 where Handel performed at the music festival which still runs to this day.

1832 saw the gas company start production in the city and 1847 the railway arrived from Southampton, followed by the line to the west in 1856. In 1906 a major crash in the city, where a train took the downhill bend too fast, killed 28 USA/Canadian citizens.

In 1860 the canals which had run along every main street since medieval times and had become open sewers were filled in and by 1900 the city population was 17,000.

Andrew did not forget Old Sarum which had been abandoned more or less. In 1794 it was the spot chosen by William Mudge, who founded the Ordnance Survey, to begin his surveying of the country. The site was notorious as one of the many ‘Rotten Boroughs’ in the country whereby mere ownership of the site allowed the sending of two MP’s to Parliament; this was finally stopped in 1832. The British Army arrived in the area in the 1890’s with garrisons at Tidworth and Bulford and one of the earliest airfields in the country was opened during WW1. The airfield still operates and housed there is a private aircraft museum.

Bringing us almost up to date, Andrew told us that girls were finally admitted to the cathedral choir in 1991 and that the house ‘Arundells’ in the close and home of the late Prime Minister Edward Heath, incidentally my father’s army captain throughout WW2, is now a museum. Many more facts had been included in his as ever very interesting talk but to finish the population of the city today stands at 40,000.

## THE BOTLEY CONNECTION Part 1

By Pauline Berry

The Reverend Richard Baker (of Botley) was born in Norfolk in 1778, son of the Rector of Cawton Parish Church. One of a series of parsons in his family, also named Richard, he studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge. In 1803 he was appointed Rector of Botley, Hampshire, until his death in 1854. His first church in Botley was the original one situated over the fields, south of the main Botley High Street, now part of today’s Manor Farm Country Park. During his 51 years in Botley this outspoken gentleman had many fiery arguments with certain parishioners before the second and present church, All Saints Botley, was built in 1834. I will, however, return to those events another time. Like many landowners, the



THE OLD CHURCH AT BOTLEY

Rev Baker bought several pockets of land as a future investment and in 1815-16 his attention turned to

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correspondence.



#### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BOTLEY SHOWING REV. BAKERS GRAVE IN THE FOREGROUND**

This was probably the land between Moorhill Road and Western Road, bordered by Cemetery Road (West End Road) to the west and Telegraph Road to the east.

The cause of much correspondence, of which we have copies, between himself and the Admiralty in London, was the Townhill Shutter Telegraph Station which was near the centre of the Rector's land. This wood and slate construction, built circa 1806, to communicate with London during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) between the British and Allies and the French. Originally part of the Townhill Estate belonging to the late landowner Nathaniel Middleton which was put up for auction in 1808 and the next owner, William Hallett, sold the above mentioned area to the Rev. Richard Baker.

The Shutter Telegraph is believed to have been built on high ground, just west of the Beacon Road/Southern Road crossroads, and nothing remains today but old maps (1815) not always drawn to scale. Prior to its purchase by the rector, the Telegraph Station had been in the charge of Lieutenant Craske, employed by the Admiralty which rented this tall construction. This gentleman lived in the accommodation below it, and on the sale of the land Lieut. Craske correctly and hastily returned the actual telescopes by coach to London in 1816, informing the Admiralty by letter.

He did not however, vacate the Telegraph until 1818 and stated so in further correspondence with London that he had given up "*charge of the Telegraph House at Townhill with the furniture and machinery complete to the Rev. R. Baker*". He also felt it his duty to inform "*that the Telegraph was situated in the centre of a fine plantation*" and that the height of the trees would soon blot out the necessary views "*in the course of about two years or more*". Interesting to note that this site had been described as "planted" in the Townhill Estate auction of 1808.

The Rev. Baker wrote hastily to the Admiralty the next day, stating that he had "*purchased the thriving plantations as a complete preserve for (hunting) game*" and that he had erected "*a cottage ornée*" about 200 yards from the Telegraph. This would have been an attractive rustic, thatched cottage, frequently built by landowners and may have explained 'the Old Lodge' marked on the Enclosure Map of 1815.

An additional comment from him was "*that unless necessity required it (by the Admiralty). I should not wish to have strangers in the midst of my grounds*". He pointed out that the Government had refused his offer to purchase the building and that he promised to take good care of it, "*ready to go to work at any time*". It was beginning to become a problem to him.

Yet another letter written very soon after this (1818), written in the rector's usual spiky, almost undecipherable handwriting to the Navy Board at Somerset House, he submitted a list of furniture left in his charge by Lieutenant Craske, for which he promised to care. The everyday items from the Telegraph's living quarters included; 3 mattresses, 6 blankets, 3 chairs, 2 stools, 1 stove, 3 fire-irons, a ladder and water butt etc.. Rev. Baker also expressed concern as to whom would paint and repair this tall wood and slate construction which tended "*to rock in violent storms*" and shake off slates. He did not expect, he wrote, to repair the Telegraph himself but added that the Government would be free to use it at any time.

*Continued on page 14*

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Although the Government apparently replied, another of the rector's letters sent in 1821, informed it impatiently, that little work had been carried out and that the Telegraph needed "Some little (many) repairs and painting". The Navy Board did reply and requested an estimate for the work needed. Unfortunately this is the end of the correspondence in our museum's archives and judging by the lack of marking on later maps, the Telegraph Station must have slowly fallen into ruin over the following years.

As for the Revd. Baker's 40 acre grounds, they appear to have become part of James Barlow Hoy's estate in 1838, inherited from his uncle Michael Hoy, and much of it became part of Lot 2 in the 1844 auction, following his sudden death. Thereafter, it was slowly broken up for building houses, although part of it always remained in the ownership of the (St. Barbe) Baker family until 1965.

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next edition of Westender

NOTE: The Revd. Baker, Rector of Botley, was the great grandfather of Richard St.Barbe Baker (Man of the Trees)

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Our thanks to John Wakefield for the copies of the Telegraph correspondence held in the museum. Ed.

### FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Our picture shows the old Methodist Chapel in the Swaythling Road, Lincoln Court is to be seen in the background being built. The Chapel was built in 1900 and one of the brass dedication plaques can be seen in our museum. A beautiful little building, a shame it did not survive to enhance our village today! Ed.

## RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

### FIRST WORLD WAR TRENCH CAKE

This is the original recipe issued by the British Government for women on the home front to send to soldiers on the front line. Often, groups of ladies would get together to raise funds to bake batches of cakes to send to the regiments. This recipe produces a dense, plain fruit cake made without eggs that would stand up to the rigours of travel without arriving in crumbs. The chemical reaction between the vinegar and the bicarbonate of soda provides the raising agent in place of eggs. It is very plain, but quite filling and must have been a welcome relief to troops living largely on bully-beef, oatmeal, Huntley & Palmer's hard-baked ration biscuits and the despised Maconochie, a canned meat & vegetable stew. American housewives also produced cakes for their menfolk at war. The American version differed considerably, using baking powder instead of vinegar and with more than three times the amount of fruit.

**Original Recipe (modern version)**

1/2lb flour (225g plain flour)

4 oz margarine (120g margarine or butter)

1 teaspoon vinegar (such a small quantity does not affect the flavour but if worried, use cider or white wine vinegar)

1/4 pint of milk (150ml milk - at room temperature to help the cake to rise)

3 oz brown sugar (90g Demerara sugar)

3 oz cleaned currants (90g)

2 teaspoons cocoa

1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

nutmeg (1/2tsp)

ginger (1/2 tsp)

grated lemon rind (1 Tbsp)

Original Instructions: Grease a cake tin. Rub margarine into the flour in a basin. Add the dry ingredients. Mix well. Add the soda dissolved in vinegar and milk. Beat well. Turn into the tin. Bake in a moderate oven for about two hours.

Note that quantities for flavourings were not given in the original recipe. I used 1/2 teaspoon each of nutmeg and ginger, but spices were likely to be difficult to get and expensive, so many housewives would have used them more sparingly, if at all. Similarly, many were likely to have difficulty obtaining lemons, so would have left out the lemon rind. Note also that the size of cake tin and oven temperature are not specified. While some wealthier households may have had gas cookers, these did not really become popular until after the invention of the oven thermostat in 1923. Electric cookers were even slower to catch on. Most people at this time still used solid-fuel ranges, which had no temperature regulation – experienced cooks would hold their hand in the oven for a few seconds to judge the temperature. Today, a moderate oven is considered to be 350°F / 180°C / 160°C fan / gas mark 4. I used an 8" (20cm) diameter cake tin and baked it at 160°C fan for 42 minutes – certainly not the suggested 2 hours!

**Modern Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350F / 180C / GM4 [160 fan].
2. Grease an 8" (20cm) round cake tin. Line the bottom with greaseproof paper and dust the sides with flour – this helps the cake to grip the sides of the tin and rise.
3. Sift together the flour, cocoa and spices.
4. Rub the margarine or butter into the flour mix.
5. Add the sugar, currants and lemon rind and mix well.
6. Mix together the milk, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.
7. Quickly mix the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and pour into the tin – the bicarbonate of soda starts to work immediately and the cake will not rise if it is not put in the oven straight away.
8. Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
9. Allow to cool in the tin for 5-10 minutes, then remove from the tin and allow to cool completely.

## BOOK REVIEW



### SOUTHAMPTON MEMORIES

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PETER WARDALL, ROD ANDREWS  
& BEN WARING



### SOUTHAMPTON MEMORIES People and Places

by

Peter Wardall, Rod Andrews and Peter Waring

At first glance it's just another picture book about Southampton, and there have been quite a number of them in the past. However, on picking up the book and looking through the excellent collection of images it contains it offers much more. The variety and comprehensiveness of the images, quite a few of them by well-known local postcard producers such as Eltringham and Rood Brothers provide a wonderful trip down memory lane balanced with more recent past images confirming the thought that perhaps Southampton was a much nicer more interesting place than it is now.

The images are nicely set off with interesting fact filled text, that is both informative and fascinating. With 180 colour and sepia illustrations spread over 96 pages this is a must for anyone interested in the local history of Southampton and its districts.

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96 pages: paperback: 180 illustrations

Price £14.99

also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2

**THE ROMANS TO NORMANS  
The birth of the English Parish Church**

*Dr Frances Hurd*

June 6

**RADIO TIMES : Broadcasting Memories from the 1930's to 1960's**

*John Pitman*

July 4

**THE MAYFLOWER & THE SPEEDWELL IN  
SOUTHAMPTON**

*Geoffrey Wheeler*