THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3 JULY 1999 (Free to Members)

AUTUMN FAIR FOR WEST END

Although still in the planning stages, pencil in Saturday 30th October 1999 in your diaries, for we intend to hold a Collectors/Craft & Bric-a-Brac Fair at the Parish Centre. It is planned to operate this in partnership with the Blue Cross. There will be refreshments available and a good mix of stalls providing a wide range of interests – so watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

ARTICLES WANTED

Anyone who would like to submit a short article or item of news relating to West End local history or our Local History Society – please feel free!
Contact names shown below.

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WEST END CARNIVAL A SUCCESS



The West End Carnival is over for another year and it appears to have been even more successful than last years event – more people and more floats and walking entries in the procession. The weather was kind to us, in fact if it hadn't been for quite a breeze, the heat would have been quite exhausting. Your society decided this year to have a small stand to sell second-hand books and bric-a-brac, as well as publications from the Museum's stock. We had a very successful day and proceeds will help swell the Museum's funds.

A big "Thank You" is due to all those members and friends who donated items for the stall, to those who helped man the stall, selling the goods and to those who manned the Museum on the day.

We hope to have a presence each year from now on at the Carnival Fete on Hatch Grange with perhaps a small display next year showing something about the Society. As usual a lot of leaflets were handed out, so we hope they will generate interest and more new members.

MORE HELP FROM EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

A "Thank You" is due to Eastleigh Borough Council for helping to support your Museum project again this year, with a grant for £100. The grant in line with the economic situation is down on the £200 received last year but we aim to fund raise to make up the deficit and further increase our funding.

EBC who kindly donated the Marley-Haley display boards which are a very welcome addition and are now in use in the Museum,have been very supportive right from the start and we look forward to continue strengthening these links with them.

BOOKSTALL

Some of the publications available from the Museum shop:

Tales of Old West End *C Sillence*	**£3.50**
I Remember,I Remember *Bob Moody*	**£4.00**
Hatch Grange..a stroll back in time *Pauline Berry*	**£6.95**
Townhill Park House *Ralph Coney & Jim Brown*	**£3.00**

CARNIVAL PUB QUIZ SUCCESS

At this years Carnival Pub Quiz at the "Master Builder" pub in the village, your society fielded the now usual two teams. Last year the "History Lasses" came second and "History Lads" came third. This year the "History Lads" team finished in second place (only 6 points away from the winners "Beauty & The Beast"),whilst the ladies team came seventh. Next year we hope to do even better and also raise another team to enter three in the competition – anyone interested contact Steven Broomfield or Nigel Wood at the meetings or at the Museum.

THEATRE PROGRAMMES ACQUIRED

BY BILL WHITE

A recent donation to the Museum was a collection of theatre programmes from well known local venues including the **Grand Theatre** and the **Gaumont** now know as the **Mayflower** in Southampton.

This time we will tell of the Grand Theatre which opened as the **New Grand Theatre** on 21st November 1898. It seated 1,800 people and was advertised as *'this magnificent theatre situated on the West Marlands and three minutes from the station'*, if you ran!

It was damaged in the 1940 Blitz and reopened on 27th December 1950 but finally closed down in October 1959.

Many famous people like **Henry Irving** *'trod the boards'* there as well as many on the bottom rung of the Theatrical ladder. The **Denville Players** were a repertory company in the 1930's and many of us remember the plays by the **Barry O'Brien** group. One show had Robertson Hare in; **Norman Bowler** later on in his career running "Home Farm" in Emmerdale was bottom of this list.

Talking about these programmes, **Pat Caine (one of our members)** told us of how she played "The Grand" in a production of "Jane Eyre" playing the part of Lady Ingram. This programme is in the collection and the play was presented in December 1958.

There were the Pantomimes, Band Shows on Sundays, Variety Shows and in its final days, the Nudes and Girlie Shows.

Many of us enjoyed our evenings there; Agatha Christie, Bill Maynard, Eve Boswell, the Archers production and memories flood back to see the red or blue cover of "The Grand" programme with the advert for the Chine Hotel on the front cover, indeed Happy Days!

This will be continued with an article about the Gaumont Theatre programmes in the next issue of the Newsletter.

PAGES FROM "THE GRAND" THEATRE PROGRAMME FEATURING PAT CAINE WHICH IS IN THE COLLECTION DONATED TO THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE.



PROGRAMME

Week commencing MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1958

BARRY O'BRIEN

presents

JANE EYRE

by

HELEN JEROME

Characters in order of appearance

Jane Eyre	ALINE WAITES
Mr. Rochester	DAVID KERR
Mrs. Fairfax	DIANA FAWCETT
The Maniac	BRENDA WOOD
Grace Poole	GRACE NEWCOMBE
Adele Varens	GRETEL MELBOURN
Lord Ingram	MICHAEL ENDICOTT
Lady Ingram	PATRICIA CAINE
Blanche Ingram	ANNE STEVENSON
Briggs	PETER DREW
Reverend Wood	GERALD BALL
Richard Mason	MICHAEL BEHR
Diana Rivers	ANNE STEVENSON
St. John Rivers	MICHAEL LEES
Leah	SALLY TRAVIS
Hannah	GRETEL MELBOURN

Directed by IAN CUNNINGHAM

Decor by JOAN E. ROWELL

Director of Productions: MICHAEL HAMILTON

Time to have one in our fully licensed Bars.
Kia-Ora soft drinks and Lyons Ices on sale in the auditorium