THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6 NOVEMBER 1999

WEST END
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NONE"

Not far from the War Memorial to another key structure in West End's past (and present, and future, at least as far as we can see). I joined Pat Jullien who is the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Moorgreen Hospital recently, to see if we as a Society could further the publication of a history of that institution written by Eric Raffo, who many of you will remember gave us a talk on the subject a year or so ago.

Thanks to the kind offices of Hampshire Record Office at Winchester we now have his entire typewritten manuscript (200 pages of A4) on two small floppy disks. Hope we can print them out, and can then look further into getting a grant to publish. The Society feel that this would make an excellent subject for a Millennium Grant, again not least because it not only makes available a great deal of fascinating research to a wider public, but highlights a unique place which plays a very important part in our community.

Derek Amey

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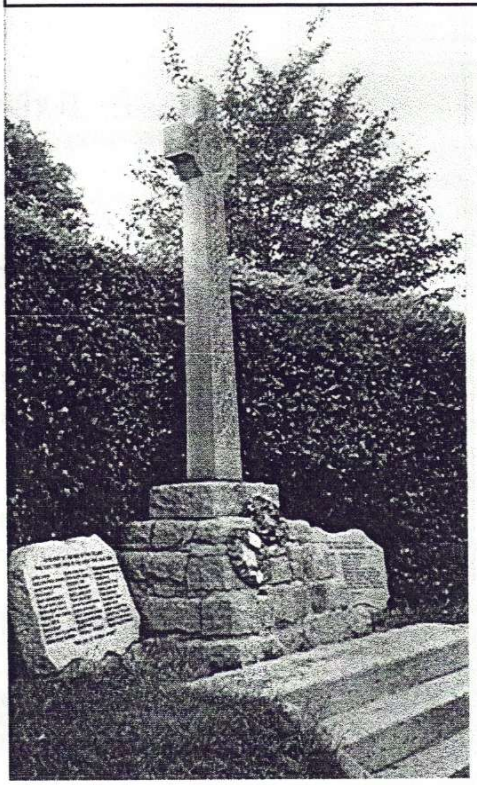
LEST WE FORGET

BY DEREK AMEY



A visitor to the Museum one Saturday morning recently proved to be a history teacher from Toynbee School. He said that he happened to be cycling through the Village that morning and noticed the board advertising the Museum, so in he came!

Some of his girls are doing research on World War One, and he wondered if we had anything that would help them throw more light on the names on the Village War Memorial (pictured on the left).

Naturally, he was welcomed with open arms, as two of our members are not only very much interested in military history, but are engaged in developing just that theme, in other words trying, in due course, to tell us all a lot more about what might otherwise be seen as merely a list. Just who were these men? What can we discover about their family histories? Were those families long established here? How old were they when they went off to fight for 'King & Country'? And so on.

An invitation was extended to him to bring his pupils along to this month's talk, or to in any event make contact with Nigel Wood. We will also arrange a visit to the Museum one afternoon after school. Perhaps it was inevitable that in recent years there has been a tendency to wonder if all this is now fading from the collective memory in view of the fact that there are now so few survivors of the Great War left, but it is good to see that some of the younger generation are becoming interested in what after all was in many respects one of the seminal events of the century that is now closing.

THE WEST END ROLL OF HONOUR FOR THE GREAT WAR

The book mentioned above is well under way and we hope to have it completed either before or just after Christmas – however, as inevitably more information becomes available we will endeavour to update and produce reprints as required.

Ed

THE MUSEUM SHOP

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

The first Society publications are now available for sale in the Museum – these are an ongoing series of Occasional Papers on things of local interest written by members and friends of the Society. We also have Christmas/Millennium cards and photo enlargements of local scenes.

Paper # 1
My Memories Of The Harefield Estate
(Oral History Project)
By Chris Boulton £1.50

Paper # 2
A New Church For The Parish
Written by Peter Baker £1.00

NEW ITEM
Paper # 3
West End National School 1863-1904
Written by John Collins £2.50

Specially produced WELHS Christmas/Millennium greetings cards complete with envelopes. *Pack of 5* £3.00

Various photo enlargements suitable for framing of village scenes taken from postcards.
£2.50 per print

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another interesting and successful presentation on October 6th saw Dave Riseborough giving the Society membership who attended in strength, a well researched and caring insight into all forms of architecture in general and how this fitted or fits into the Hampshire area especially West End in particular. Our sincere thanks once again are extended to Dave for entertaining us on the evening.

From this presentation we can see the need to continue the research, rescue and copying policy the Society Officers have been undertaking these last couple of years. But, to be successful the Society, to paraphrase an old advertisement, which no doubt we shall hear more of at our November meeting, NEEDS YOU!!

Needs you to look at your old photograph albums, needs you to turn out all that old rubbish you have been storing in the attic for the last umpteen years with the promise to get it down "when I have a few spare hours", needs you to record the memories you have of the village in years gone by. Then allow the Museum Volunteers to photocopy any photograph or paperwork that they feel relevant to West End or persuade you to give or loan any artefact you find in the attic for display in the Museum. Regrettably the village is much changed but with your help we should be able to archive the past, put this into the Parish history and then with a little more arm-twisting make this "past" into a slide or video presentation which can be used to publicise West End.

If you have any photo's of properties no longer standing or that have been physically changed, roads before they were tarred, people who no longer live in the village, old maps and the like just let me or Pauline Berry or Nigel Wood know. As the saying goes – one man's rubbish is another man's antique.

Look forward to welcoming you to the presentation on November 3rd when our very own Nigel Wood will talk on "Aspects of the Great War". World War One I presume – sounds good.

Neville Dickinson

Note:
We are also looking for volunteers to help with this increasingly fascinating work – contact us if you are interested. Ed.

NEWSLETTER GOES INTO COLOUR

We are planning to produce a specially extended version of the WESTENDER in full colour for the January 2000 edition to celebrate the Millennium. The Editor needs interesting articles which can be illustrated. We are going to increase the size to four sides from the usual two – we hope people will enjoy this little souvenir from their Local History Society.

Deadline for articles for this special edition is the beginning of December 1999. So lets make it special, with your help we can!

Any articles and/or illustrations you have for this edition please send to or deliver to the Editorial address on the front of the Newsletter or hand into the Museum marked for me.

HERE'S LOOKING TOWARDS 2000 ..... Ed.