THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 11 MAY 2001 – JUNE 2001

WEST END MUSEUM GETS A REVAMP



At long last things have really begun in earnest to improve the display facilities at your Museum in the Old Fire Station in the High Street.

The picture at the left shows some of the new style display area, featuring velcro friendly display boards and two large free standing display cabinets. The display cabinets have come to us by the kind offices of Alastair Arnott at Southampton Museum Services, who has been very supportive of our efforts from the beginning.

Over the next few weeks new and improved displays will make their appearance, starting with West Ends Titanic Connection – which will be enlarged to tell the whole story, with hopefully a large scale model of RMS "Carpathia" (Captain Rostron's ship) as a focal point. There are plans also to tell the story of West Ends brick production (when research is complete), the Town Hill Telegraph station at Moorhill, West End Institute, domestic and farming aspects of the community and much more besides.

MUSEUM "MUSICAL CHAIRS" Derek Amey

We have re-arranged the interior of the Museum to make better use of the limited space we have available. The funeral bier, kindly loaned by Southampton City Museums, has gone back to their storage facility, in exchange for two display cabinets and a model of *Carpathia*. The space previously occupied by the bier now provides a new seated study area for researchers, and the space previously occupied by the rather large refectory table in the centre is now used for a more effective display area. Which meant that the large table in the middle of the Museum, which came from St. James' Church, has gone off to a new home in the Parish Centre (after refurbishment) as a centrepiece in the new Committee Room being built there.

(see next two pages for more photographs of the new look)

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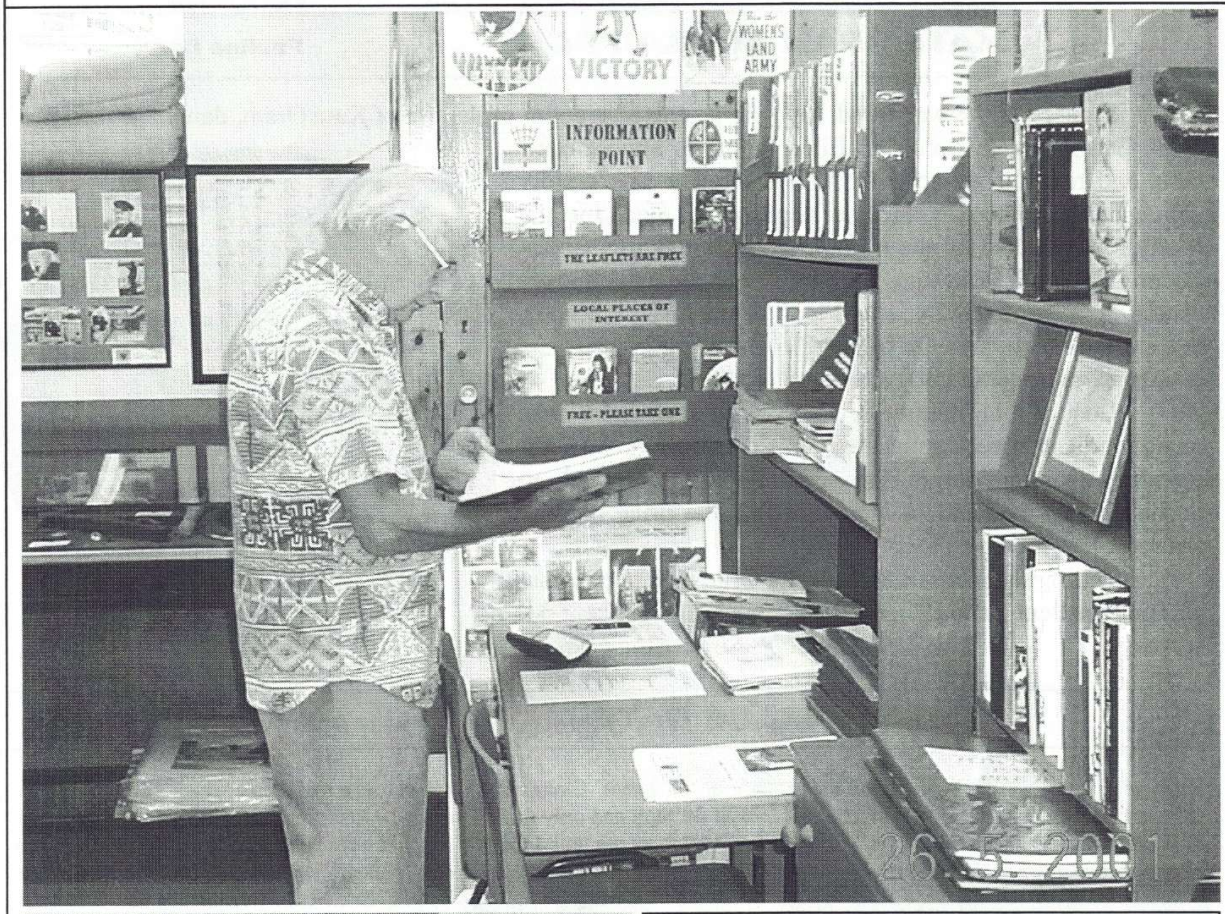
WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL


PARISH MEETING
26. 5. 2001


26. 5. 2001





HOPE FARM REPORT Derek Amey

A shining example of just what can be done with the aid of modern technology to turn a somewhat obscure but important ancient document into something much more 'accessible'. Two of our members, Ray and Doreen Niblett, have taken deeds relating to the purchase of a property in West End and transformed it into a beautifully typed and laid out A4 sized format. Let's give it its full title!

Transcript of a Mortgage deed relating to
Hope Farm, West End
and
property in Goswell Terrace, London

Fascinating stuff, and it's illustrated and indexed as well!! Our thanks to Ray and Doreen for all the work that will have gone into this.

"THE EXPERT VISITOR"

Alister Penfold from Hampshire Museums Service actually, who visited the West End Museum & Heritage Centre at our invitation on 12th March. I think he was suitably impressed, he stayed for $1^1/_2$ hours! Several suggestions, plus practical help and even (possibly) just a little finance!

(This report from Derek Amey)

KATE ORAM BOOK UPDATE

Pauline Berry

In case you've wondered, my long promised account of the life of Kate Oram, daughter of former West End residents Daniel & Ellen Oram, is almost complete and ready to go to the printers. I felt it was a story which needed to be told since her nephew and niece Joe and Molly Molloy (also former West End residents) are justifiably proud of their late Aunt. Kate trained as a nurse almost a century ago and made her small mark in history by becoming sick-nurse to first, an ailing Florence Nightingale and later to ex-suffragette Lady Constance Lytton.



One of our members, Doreen Niblett, must take much credit in speeding up the books completion, with her flair for layout and design. I hope the book will be ready to go on sale by mid/end of June and that the price may be around £4.99 a copy.

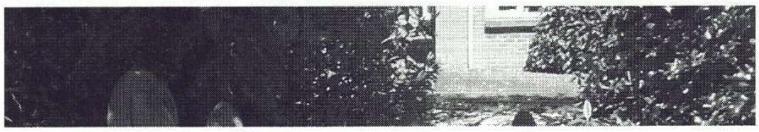
Telling the story of Sister Kate Oram has been a fascinating challenge and I hope I have done it the justice it deserves.

Right: Sister Kate Oram

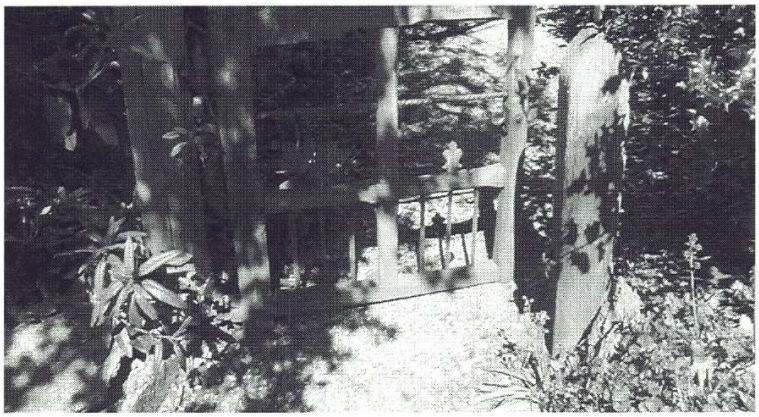
THE VICARAGE GATE

Peter Andrews

Some years ago I was looking around the grounds of St. James' Church and came across a small gate which gave the vicar a short cut from the vicarage. At first glance it looked decrepit and only fit for firewood. On closer inspection I realised it's one of West End's little gems. Whoever made it knew his job, at the time I thought it could have been constructed by a local farm cart maker, judging by its style, but the hinges, catch etc.. (technically the furniture) are not blacksmith made.



Made of solid oak they were probably built at the same time as the vicarage around 1894.



wider than the right. The top rail on the left is deeper than the right and tapers down in steps, this means less weight on the right putting less strain on the framework. (note for walkers/hikers – Farmers prefer you to climb over 5 bar gates on the hinge side for the same reason!)

The hinges are designed to open and close both ways, but at the moment will only do so one way. A clue here was solved by a block of metal low down on the right hand post, this had a half round groove in it and was chamfered on two sides, this allowed the catch to slide up and drop in the slot either way. Over the years the posts had rotted and the ground end cut off; this meant the catch block no longer served its purpose. The edges of the timber have been chamfered the same as the old farm carts, this too, saves weight without losing strength.

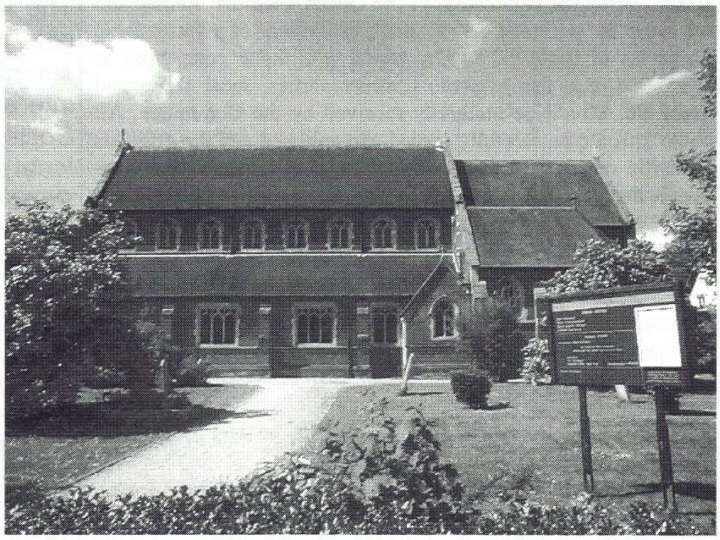
I mentioned at the time to Bob Moody that I wouldn't mind renovating it one day. Two days ago Margaret Baker stopped me in the street and asked when I could do it. As I am in about the same condition as the gate, I had to decline, but said I knew a man who would! No, not the A.A., but John Butt who has a business in Allington Lane. He took me up there and we gave it a thorough inspection. In John's opinion it's well worth saving and only needs two new posts, these are 5" square and to allow for strength in the ground, about 7 or 8 feet long. The gate itself is quite sturdy, no shake in it, a good clean up and soaking in linseed oil together with the ironwork "de-rusted" and John reckoned it would be good for another 50 years! He did mention that he did a repair job on the bell tower, making, I believe, a new wheel, this is quite large and used in conjunction with a rope to ring the bell. With luck the gate should be back by the time you read this newsletter.

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF St. JAMES' CHURCH

Derek Amey

I am not aware that your Society as such received an invitation, but as things turned out your Chairman and Treasurer plus several other members were at St.James' to welcome the new incumbent, Brian Pickett, and his wife Elizabeth, at his Licensing there on 25th April. He takes over this now extensive parish as it heads into the 21st century, with well over a century of its own history behind both church and parish.

But, of course, if you visit the Museum you can find out how the parish of West End was first to be set up on its own within the ancient parish of South Stoneham. Now *that* has a history stretching back to the 13th century and beyond (Doomsday Book has a record of a church on the same site, obviously the precursor of the present building). A lovely place, well worth a visit, with all the peace of a country church about it, even though its present day setting puts it alongside crowded University Hall of Residence and close to a main railway line and a busy road network. The long unbroken line of our history!



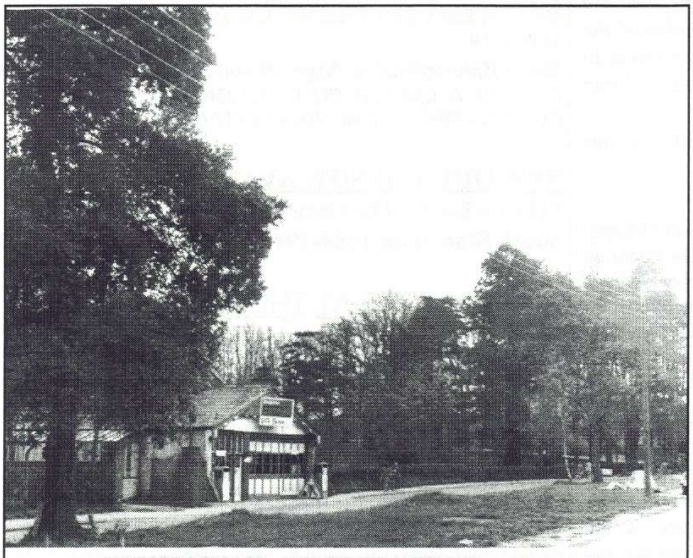
ST JAMES' CHURCH, WEST END

"HALF A LOAF" Derek Amey

Don't forget to get your copy of this fascinating history of the Moorgreen Workhouse, funded and published by the League of Friends, with all proceeds going towards patient welfare. It's the kind of book that would make a great present for anyone who knows this area, or perhaps has worked at Moorgreen … whatever!

"Half A Loaf – The Care of the Sick and Poor of South Stoneham 1664 to 1948", soft cover, large format, 187 pp, illustrated, price £9.50. (Why South Stoneham? Because at the very start of the Poor Law, things were organised from and by the Vestry at South Stoneham Church, long before the 'Union' Workhouse was built.) Can be bought at the West End Museum (open on Saturdays 10am – 4pm), at our monthly meetings, or direct from the League of Friends at Moorgreen Hospital.

THE "HARDER" PHOTO ARCHIVE Pauline Berry



DUNFORD'S GARAGE – HIGH STREET, WEST END *ex. Harder Archive*

We are very pleased to tell you that Mr Fred Harder (Charmwen Crescent) a well-known West End photographer, has donated dozens of his old photographs for the West End Museum Archives. These consist mainly of his spare photo's taken at West End Carnivals between 1966 and 1976, including baby shows (I recognised a few!), fancy dress entrants, carnival floats and carnival queens etc.. (also some location shots like that at the left). Bee-hive hair-do's, flouncy dresses and flared trousers abound!

So if you ever took part or were a spectator in our "Carnival Weeks", come along to the Museum and ask to see these photo's. Maybe you can identify some of the faces! Again thank you to Mr Harder for his kind donation.

2002–GOLDEN JUBILEE Pauline Berry

Do you have any old photographs from the 1950's? Next year, 2002, will be the celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee and we hope to put together a small exhibition of photographic memories of the 1950's. Any photo with some connection to West End, e.g. family photo's, street parties, local views and roads etc.. would be gratefully received by the Committee. All photo's would be carefully copied and enlarged and the originals promptly returned to their owners. So please search your cupboards and old albums, and let us have them soon please. History **began** yesterday!

THE ASHBY LETTERS Derek Amey

Members Doreen and Ray Niblett were able to obtain from Southampton City Archives copies of letters which give an insight into life locally early in World War 2. Perhaps I can best quote from the title page.

"Attached are copies of four letters written by Mrs L Ashby to her sister, Noel Hunnyton in London.

They give a graphic description of events that occurred during the air raids of late 1940. Mrs L Ashby, who lived at Woodlands, West End, was the wife of Claude Ashby, CBE,JP, owner of Bursledon Brick Co Ltd, which had offices at 13 Portland Terrace, Southampton.

Mrs Ashby describes not only events but also the attitudes, actions and feelings of people at the time."

This Museum document (again in A4 format) nicely complements the book of the BBC series "Finest Hour" which centres on 1940, a copy of which I happen to have just bought. The letters provide a local perspective on a national trauma!

Both these productions are now available for study in our Museum Library.

MORE ON "MIZPAH VILLAS"

In a letter from member Peter Andrews, he says....

"Regarding the forthcoming demise of "Mizpah Villas", made me wonder what it stood for. Consulting the local West End know-all (who shall be nameless), she came up with.."The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from the other". She didn't know the origin or why she remembered the saying, but we decided it sounded Jewish and can be found in Genesis, chapter 31-49 and refers to a covenant between Jacob and Laban. Here endeth the first lesson!

PS. The word MIZPAH is usually found in rings, given as a love token."

Update on the site....

It would appear that the builders and developers of the site of "Mizpah Villas" are not going to demolish the house, only the recent extension on the left hand side, so as to give access to the extensive back garden by way of a road. The back garden will then become the site of six new houses. We wait with anticipation to see what sort of job they make of it. It will also be interesting to see how well they "make-good" the side of the house where the extension was! At present little can be seen because of the entrance being boarded up! Ed.

STOP PRESS!

We need volunteers to help with the record we are compiling of graves in the Old Burial Ground. Please ask any committee members for details. We also need volunteers to man the stall at the Carnival on Hatch Grange on Saturday 23rd June 2001, please see a committee member to volunteer. Ed.

MUSEUM SHOP

The Society publications 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 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**

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

Paper # 5
The Swaythling Road Methodist Church
Written by Marjorie Bodman **£2.50**

Plus the following books:

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**

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

MEN WHO MARCHED AWAY
The West End Village Great War Roll of Honour 1914-1919
Steve Broomfield & Nigel Wood **£4.99**
(THIS IS A LIMITED PRODUCTION OF 100 NUMBERED COPIES - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED)

NEW OUT AND NOW AVAILABLE
"Half a Loaf - The Care of the Sick and Poor of South Stoneham 1664-1948" by Eric Raffo **£9.50**

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP

On this day (6th June) in....

1944 The Allied Landings on the coast of Normandy, called "Operation Overlord", took place – the start of the biggest seaborne invasion in history.

1683 The first museum in Britain, the Ashmolean Museum in Broad Street, Oxford, founded by Elias Ashmole, was opened to the public