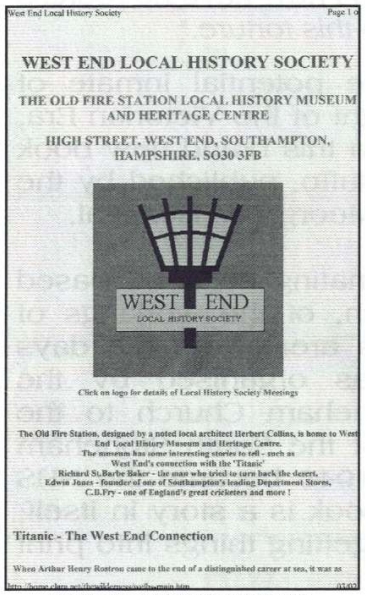
THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 9 DECEMBER 2000 / JANUARY 2001

OUR SOCIETY GETS ITS OWN WEBSITE!


West End Local History Society Page 1 o

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE OLD FIRE STATION LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE

HIGH STREET, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE, SO30 3FB

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Click on logo for details of Local History Society Meetings

The Old Fire Station, designed by a noted local architect Herbert Collins, is home to West End Local History Museum and Heritage Centre.
The museum has some interesting stories to tell - such as
West End's connection with the 'Titanic'
Richard St.Barbe Baker - the man who tried to turn back the desert,
Edwin Jones - founder of one of Southampton's leading Department Stores,
C.B.Fry - one of England's great cricketers and more !

Titanic - The West End Connection

When Arthur Henry Rostron came to the end of a distinguished career at sea, it was as

FIRST PAGE OF NEW WELHS WEBSITE

Thanks to the good offices of member Paula Downer, our Society now has its own up-datable website. Paula who recently undertook an IT course, developed the website as part of that course. She hopes to integrate more information and pictures in due course in an "all singing, all dancing" version which she is now working on. The committee would like to thank Paula for her hard work, it is nice that we now have this facility available to promote the Society. Up until now we have appeared on other organisations sites, notably HantsWeb and also the prestigious Encyclopaedia Titanica!

For those of you with a PC who would like to look up our website it is: *http://home.clara.net/thewilderness*

More members are getting involved now with the running and development of the Society, this is good and will enable a wider range of work to be undertaken. We hope to set up an "Oral History" section shortly and as heating is to be improved at the Museum soon, hopefully Paulines roster of volunteers will grow accordingly.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP

Good news for the Museum bookshop - with the increase in product turnover we are pleased to announce that members Maureen and Brian Cook have very kindly taken over the stock control to help us improve our service to the public. We have lots of small jobs available, so if any members want to help us "take the strain", please contact the committee.

EASTLEIGH AWARDS NEW GRANT TO SOCIETY

As some of you will have noticed in the "Daily Echo" the other day, your Society has been awarded a £250 grant by Eastleigh BC specifically for us to pay for advertising and towards the purchase of our own slide projection equipment. Thank you once again to Eastleigh for their continued support. Ed.

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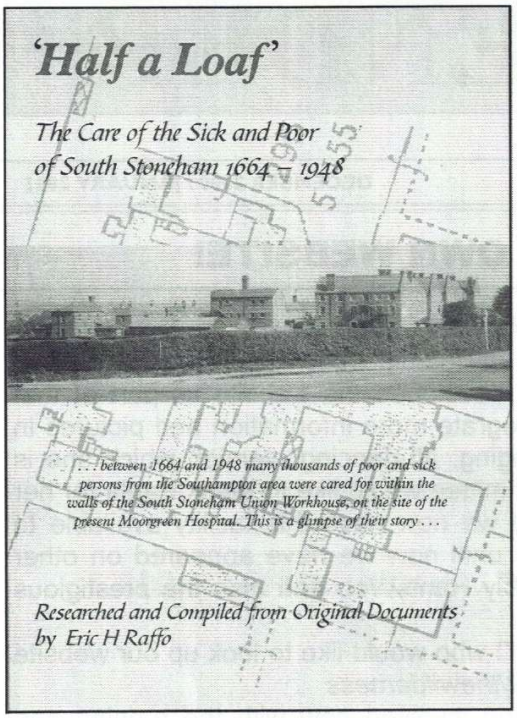
West End Local History Society is sponsored by

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ERIC RAFFO'S MOORGREEN BOOK IN PRINT

Derek Amey



FRONT COVER OF ERIC'S NEW BOOK

"The Guardians offer me the Workhouse, which I have reasons to reject.....I know there is a law to protect dumb animals from cruelty but as a human creature when my innocent children are subjected to the most grossest cruelty namely to starve,(and myself) to work with a broken spine or to associate with my greatest enemies. I have been a ratepayer in the parish 15 years and I now have no redress but to submit myself to this torture."

The response of one potential inmate of Moorgreen at the height of the Victorian Era. Read the full details in this brand new book by local author Eric Raffo, published by the League of Friends at Moorgreen Hospital.

Eric gives us a fascinating account, based on extensive research, of the workings of the Poor Law in this area, from the days when everything was organised by the Vestry at South Stoneham Church to the eventual setting up of the South Stoneham Union Workhouse at Moorgreen (which of course in 1948 became the NHS hospital we know today). How he came to write the book is a story in itself, and your Society is pleased to have played its part in getting things into print (yet another saga!).
Copies of this book are on sale in the Museum, at our monthly meetings at the Parish Centre or directly from the Friends at Moorgreen Hospital.

"Half a Loaf - The Care of the Sick and Poor of South Stoneham 1664-1948"
Soft cover, large format, 187pp, illustrated. £9.50

"Move along there, please....."

Derek Amey

Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Sunday 14th January, with just a touch of 'zero tolerance' in operation! I went along to that Tourism Fair you may recall, mentioned in a previous Newsletter, which is where the said 'incident' occurred! Very well presented actually, and well patronised too. Our Museum's gatefold leaflets (designed and produced by Doreen Niblett) were displayed, along with those of other attractions in this area, on the stand staffed by Eastleigh Tourism, who were in period costume along with some helpers from a local amateur dramatic society. Of course, they did their best to circulate as they handed out publicity material and that was when they were asked to 'move on' as they were considered to be trespassing on other people's pitches! Their material included the 2001 editions of the Mini-Guide and Visitors Guide for 'Hamble and Itchen Valley', with our Museum featured in both. Hope to have some copies available for you to pass on to friends and relations! Interestingly, the displays worked in both directions, as there were lots of ideas for possible outings for our Society - we really should get out more!

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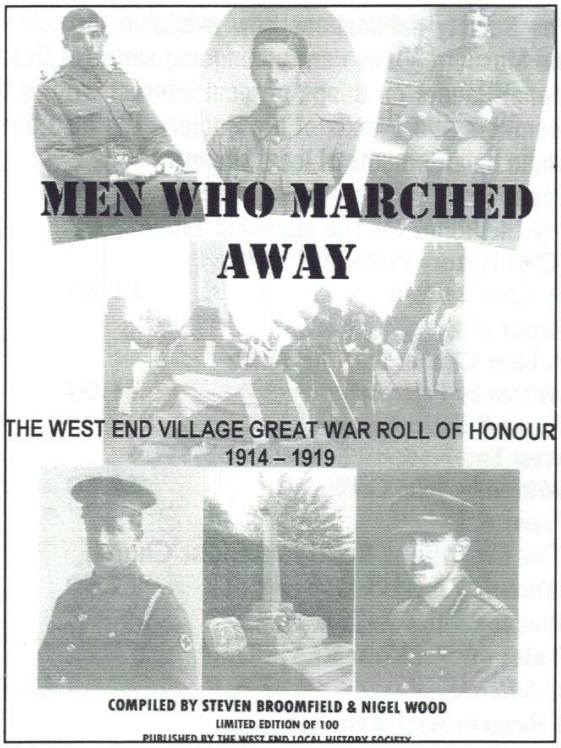
ALL THE BEST PLACES! Derek Amey



COVER OF "MEN WHO MARCHED AWAY"

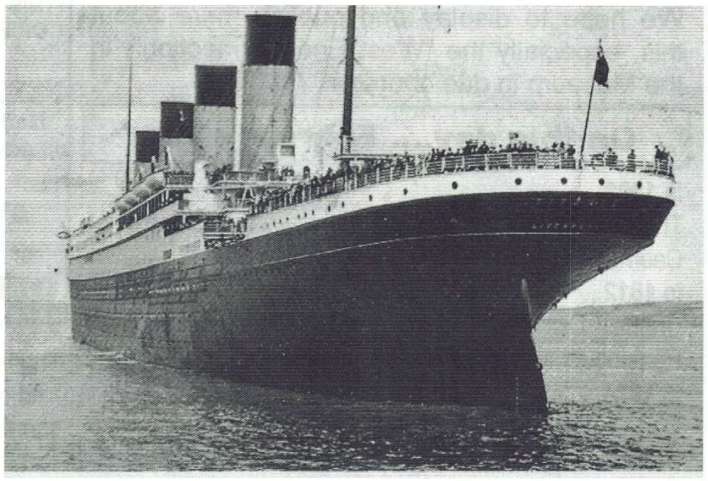
Thought you would like to know that the publication of "Men Who Marched Away" has been a great success, with a second edition already being considered. We have recently delivered 10 copies to Southampton Libraries for their branches around Southampton, and a further 13 copies to Hampshire County Libraries Headquarters at Winchester for distribution around the county. With the League of Friends at Moorgreen similarly distributing their "Half a Loaf" history, readers in this part of the country are going to have plenty of interesting stuff to read this year!.

Footnote from the authors:

We are indeed working on a second revised and much enlarged edition. As a result of all the interest in the book, and the resulting new photographs coming to light as well as additional biographical information on the men themselves we hope to have a new unlimited edition ready towards the end of 2001. Keep the photo's and information coming in - and thank you to all those who have helped so far.

ANOTHER TITANIC SURVIVOR DIES Nigel Wood (B.T.S member)

Reading through the "Daily Echo" today (1st.February) I noticed that one of the last remaining survivors of the sinking of the "Titanic" has just died. **Michel Navratil**, aged 92, lost his parents in the disaster and with his brother were dubbed the 'Orphans of the Titanic'. Born in Nice, France, Michel was three years old when with his brother Edmond they were orphaned. There are now only four survivors living; two in America, and two in England, including our very own Millvina Dean, who lives locally in the New Forest. West End was the retirement home of the rescue ship Carpathia's captain, Arthur Rostron and home of Titanic crewman James Jukes (who lost his life when the ship sank) and who came from Moorgreen - West End also was the home of Alderman Fred Woolley (twice Mayor of Southampton) who lived at "Woodleigh" (now SGB House at the bottom of Chalk Hill), he was Secretary of the Titanic Relief Fund for the Southampton area, responsible for allocating money from the fund to families of the victims of the disaster.



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I guess it's a bit like presents in a way, you choose the ones you would like yourself, but here are just a few ideas (I have some leaflets if you would like to know more):

Milestones *- the new Living History Museum at Basingstoke / Guided Tours of Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals / Themed Guided Walks around Bournemouth / New Exhibitions in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard including "Explosions" (combined with a visit to Gosport Saturday Market? / A Victorian Christmas in the Historic Dockyard / Station "X" at Bletchley Park, home of the wartime codebreakers and one of the first computers / and lots more.*

They all target Groups and would welcome us with open arms! (which brings us back home, as Eastleigh Tourism are organising a day out for local Group Organisers and will include West End Local History Museum on the itinery if there is sufficient demand!)

'Eight and a quarter acres of land purchased for £3,362'

The cost of land needed for the brand new Swaythling Housing Society to build thirty two dwellings at Mansbridge, as recorded in their Annual Report on 26th.April 1926, presented by the Management Committee chaired by Councillor Fred Woolley and including both Herbert Collins and his father.

We now have a copy in the Museum Library of an excellent booklet published to commemorate their 75th.Anniversary - well worth reading!

We hope to display and publish more about this, especially the "West End Connection", in the Museum in due course.)

On this day.... February 7th.

In **1301**....

The first Prince of Wales was created - Edward of Caernarvon, who later became King Edward II.

In **1812**...

Charles Dickens, English novelist, born at Landport, Portsmouth, the son of a clerk in the Navy pay office.

In **1924**...

Dora Bryan, English comedy actress, born as Dora Broadbent.

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

DISPLAY CASES FOR MUSEUM

Thanks are due to Southampton Museums for their kind offer of two glass topped display cases which will shortly be moved into our Museum, with the new revamp we should soon have lots more display space.