THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

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CARNIVAL DAY WAS A SCORCHER!!!



And what a hot day it was, perfect weather for the Carnival that nearly didn't happen because of the "Foot & Mouth" epidemic (Hatch Grange is also used to graze the Parish cattle as well as recreational purposes) but just in time the closure was lifted. This year the WELHS pitch was at a different part of the Grange near the entrance and thanks to member Bill White we had our own white gazebo as you can see from the picture, we really needed this to shield the helpers from the very hot sun. As usual Pauline ran a very successful Treasure Trail map, and Lin, Rose, Sally and Lorna sorted out the bric-a-brac and books for sale – very successfully I may say. Pauline had her new book out on sale and we also had various books for sale from the Museum stock, kindly administered by Brian and Maureen Cook. Everyone worked really hard and we had a very successful day – albeit exhausting! Although this year we had less bric-a-brac for sale because of the lateness of the decision to hold the Fete, we nevertheless took around £160 all told, which will help to swell our Society funds. The day finished with a nice firework display later in the evening, after various other Carnival activities. Ed.



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WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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MEMBERS PRICE UP THE BRIC-A-BRAC



A boozy looking lot!...no, just members of your Society meeting at the Editor's home on a sunny afternoon to "price up" the bric-a-brac ready for the Carnival stall run each year by the Society.

As you can see the weather was hot and we thoroughly enjoyed the job, making some extra money for the Society funds.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the stall – next year we want even more and we hope to enter some people in the "walking parade" for the Carnival as well!

A set of photo's of the Carnival are available for you to see in the Museum archive collection.

NEW FACELIFT FOR THE MUSEUM IN TIME FOR THE CARNIVAL

Full marks to the Parish for giving the Old Fire Station a new paint job, with the timely addition of flower baskets, the Museum looked resplendant in time for the West End Carnival in June.

What with our parking the newly refurbished and repainted tradesman's bike outside (heavily padlocked!) on Saturdays when the Museum is open and the nice brightly painted building, it is hoped that even more people will take the trouble to "come inside" and take a look at our new look museum. We still need volunteers for the rota to man the museum on Saturdays so please see Pauline our Secretary and put your name down.



"A GOOD ALL-ROUNDER" Pauline Berry

It seems particularly apt, though not necessarily popular with everyone, that the Hampshire County Cricket Club is now based in West End because C.B.Fry, a former captain of the England cricket team, once lived here for about ten years or so. Charles Burgess Fry, M.A., F.R.G.S., was not only very handsome but renowned as the star sportsman of his generation. Born in 1872, he played soccer for both Southampton and England. As captain of the England Cricket Team, he scored six centuries in successive innings. He was the ultimate all-round sportsman, also playing first-class rugby and a successful athlete, equalling the World Long-Jump record.

His popularity was such that his own publication *"Fry's Magazine"* was published in 1904 until the war. He represented India at the League of Nations after World War 1 and his fame led to him being offered the Throne of Albania, an offer which he turned down! C.B.Fry may well have assisted his wife Beatrice on the Training Ship "Mercury" on the Hamble River, preparing young would-be sailors for the sea.



CHARLES BURGESS "C.B." FRY

He lived with his wife, after their marriage in 1898, at "Glenbourne House" (now Bourne House) by the Beacon Road crossroads with West End Road, for about ten years (see Kelly's Street Directory 1907 in the museum). It had roughly $1^1/_2$ acres or so of land with Glenbourne Cottages, its former stabling block adjoining. C.B. Fry's immediate neighbour was the St. Barbe Baker family in "The Firs" (How fortunate all these houses still exist today).

This famous sportsman died in 1956 and is buried at Repton Church, Derby. There seems to be much truth in the oft quoted description of C.B.Fry by John Arlott as *"perhaps the most variously gifted Englishman of any age"*.

OLD DELIVERY BIKE RENOVATED

Another one caught in the act! First, it was your Treasurer caught on camera trying to abscond with the takings. Now we have photographic evidence of another blatant attempt at making off with the Society's assets. This time it's your Chairman taking that well known piece of advice "on your bike!" too literally.

He claims that he was only trying to prove that he still can ride one, but we know that he was really trying to sneak off with our newly acquired 'Open All Hours' two wheeler, a gift which has been refurbished by Bill White as a display piece to advertise the Museum's attractions of a Saturday.



OUR CHAIRMAN ON HIS WAY INTO THE MUSEUM!



THE RESTORED BIKE NOW ADVERTISING THE MUSEUM

By the way, if anyone has, or knows of a suitable wicker basket to sit in the front holder of said bike (to put flowers in), let us know. The red box is just a temporary (and we do realise that watering flowers could cause problems; they'll probably be silk. Any offers?!) ***D.A.***

FAIROAK BRANCH OF HGS VISIT OUR MUSEUM

We were pleased to welcome some two dozen or more guests from Fair Oak branch of the Hampshire Genealogy Society to the Museum one evening in July (Tuesday 10th July). Members of your Committee were on hand to show them first of all around the Old Burial Ground, especially focussing on the graves and stories of Sir Arthur Rostron, Edwin Jones and Kate Oram; and afterwards taking them along to the Museum itself.

Suitably fortified with beverages and biscuits they were able to look at all that has been done and were very complimentary about what they saw! Their kind donation to our funds was most welcome! ***D.A.***



FAIR OAK HGS AT THE OLD BURIAL GROUND AND IN THE MUSEUM

" GET THEM YOUNG! "

Rather than someone coming to us, member ***Stan Waight*** was able recently to take the Museum to others, in the shape of a talk to children at St. James' School. He tells us that this went down very well; Stan's efforts in not only writing the script but undertaking the preparation of supporting illustrations in the form of 'overhead projection' slides (computer generated – all good technical stuff!) are very much appreciated. Makes a nice change from wearing his Auditor's hat and trying to keep your Treasurer in order!

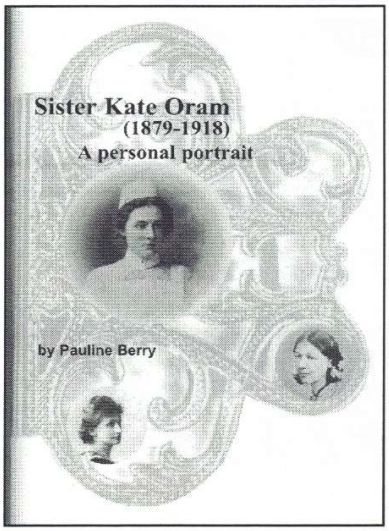
D.A.



STOP PRESS – CHAIRMAN HAS OPERATION

For those of you who are acquainted with Neville Dickinson, our Chairman, you will be pleased to know that he is recuperating well after a rather nasty operation to his shoulder that took place on Friday 17th August. We all wish him a very speedy recovery now. Ed.

PAULINE'S NEW BOOK RELEASED AT THE CARNIVAL



Pauline Berry's long awaited book on Nurse Kate Oram was finally released at the Carnival. A really good buy at £4.99 – available at the museum bookshop or direct from Pauline. This fascinating book records the life of a little known nurse who is buried here in West End, but who was responsible for nursing two of our best known personalities, Florence Nightingale and Lady Constance Lytton (the well known Suffragette). The book is a labour of love, profusely illustrated with many hitherto unseen pictures from family sources, and a credit to Pauline. Fellow WELHS member Doreen Niblett was responsible for the excellent layout and design of the book, no doubt we shall be seeing more of Doreen's work in the near future as she is very kindly designing the Society's Christmas cards which feature original paintings of old West End scenes by Doreen .

"Sister Kate Oram 1879-1918 – a personal portrait" by Pauline Berry. Price £4.99 (postage extra if mail order)

OUR WALK ALONG THE OLD WALLS OF SOUTHAMPTON **Nigel Wood**

The meeting was called "A WALK ALONG THE WEST WALLS OF SOUTHAMPTON" and was due to "kick-off" at the Bargate in Southampton at 7.00pm. on Wednesday 6th June. John Guilmant a local historian of note was to be our guide.

Although the weather was bright it became increasingly colder and windier as we progressed along the walk. We all thoroughly enjoyed an informative walk back into the remarkable history of Southampton, with many interesting little anecdotes to spice up the proceedings along the way. Our top picture shows the intrepid little band of West Enders

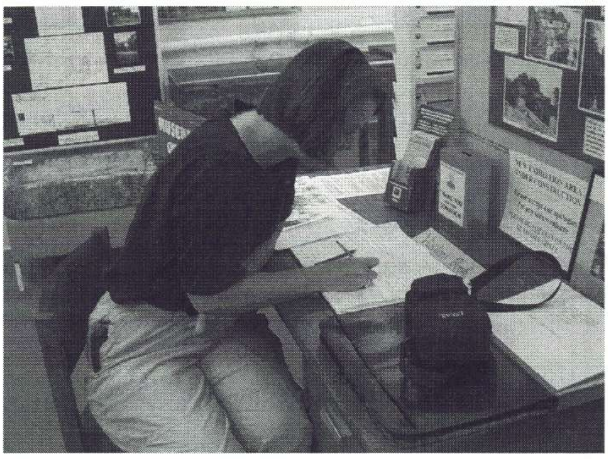




on the walls between Arundel Tower and Catchcold Tower (and some nearly did!) with John describing the finer points. The lower picture shows us further on battling the stiff breeze with John Guilmant still managing to impart stories of the past to a very interested audience. Our walk took us from the Bargate across to Arundel Tower in the north and down the western walls cutting in to the High Street just north of St. Michaels Square and finishing up where we started at the Bargate – a walk of just over an hour. We could possibly cover the lower section of walls at a later date.

Mom's
Clarke

LETTER FROM AMERICA or "I'm Here...Where are You?" Derek Amey



STEPHANIE BARCZEWSKI SIGNING OUR VISITORS BOOK

One of all our nightmares, I suppose! You are where you are, and the visitor you are supposed to be meeting is, it would seem, somewhere else!

It had all started with a letter from Clemson University in South Carolina, a letter written by a young Associate Professor of History by the name of Stephanie Barczewski to say that she was working on a research project concerning the effect the sinking of *Titanic* had had on the self-confidence of the British, following so closely as it did on the loss of Captain Scott and his colleagues on their Polar expedition. She was especially interested in any memorials to the former in this area, being the most affected as it was by the vessel's loss, and would very much like to see the memorials to Captain Rostron of the *Carpathia* and to *Titanic* CREW MEMBER James Jukes located in our Museum. Duly arranged for late in the afternoon of Carnival Day (Saturday 23rd June). So it was that we experienced what in Airline jargon is known as a "no-show"!

It turned out that technology had struck again! She had fed the Museum address into her laptop and (probably) been directed to Orchards Way in Highfield. Two VoiceMail messages and a mobile phone call later, with the kind assistance of the Parish Clerk in reopening the Old Fire Station for an extra hour, Nigel Wood, our Curator, and I had the pleasure of showing her the memorials in question and generally briefing her.

Now perhaps you are reading this but haven't yet visited that self-same Museum yourself? Shame on you....right on your own doorstep and you let yourself be beaten to it by someone from half way across the world! After all, *Titanic* is only one of many stories we have to tell... come and see!

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Nigel Wood, Steve Broomfield and myself have all been kept busy lately with a query from a Susan Moncrieff who planned to travel down from Scotland and look both at an ancestor's grave in West End and also follow up a possible 'entry' on the Village War Memorial. Unfortunately neither of the names we were given appear on the West End memorial but I can say that we were able to provide details of her grandfather's grave in the Old Burial Ground (which incidently shows you the value of local contacts – she would otherwise have relied on her own documentary evidence and headed for St James' Churchyard instead!) D.A.

LIBRARY LINKS

Via a somewhat lengthy chain-of-command, I am pleased to say that we are strengthening our ties with Hampshire Libraries, both locally and at Headquarters level at Winchester. The Local Studies Librarian there is interested in any new publications we produce, such as "Men Who Marched Away" and Kate Oram's story and will offer them to their central buying people so that all the County Librarians will be able to view and order copies. She has also kindly offered to bear us in mind when surplus stock is being cleared from their shelves. If it is of local interest, it is ours free of charge (as you know such clearance items normally have a price tag) in consideration as she puts it of a book going to a good home! Our first "freebie" from Winchester is *Each Day Is Given* , the story of Doctor Bridges and his wife, who travelled extensively as missionaries, but who, in the course of a busy life, at one time lived in Eastleigh, where Doctor Bridges practised for many years. The book had been added to the Museum Library.

D.A.

TAILPIECE

Nice to hear a BBC South announcer, when giving the results of the latest Hampshire cricket match in a recent news broadcast, say..... *"Meanwhile, at West End today....."* D.A.

Looks like we are on the "map" at last! Ed.

Obituary

GORDON HAINES

It was with deep sadness that we heard of the death on Friday 29th June of Gordon Haines, a member of West End Local History Society since its inception. Gordon, as anyone who knew him, was a quiet, gentle man who regularly attended our meetings and visited the Museum. He will also be remembered for his kindness and help in setting up our Archive, for without his generous gifts of maps, documents, old photographs, books, ledgers etc.. our archive would not have grown to the quality research tool that it is today. Gordon, whose ancestors were the local builders, Haines Brothers, and whose grandfather Harry Haines was the well known local Parish Councillor of long standing, who we have to thank for the purchase of Hatch Grange as an amenity for the parishioners. Gordon will be sadly missed by his friends at the Society and, albeit because of publication date of the newsletter this obituary is late, we nevertheless extend our sincere condolences to Gordon's daughter, Mrs Beverley Ducrow and her family on their sad loss.

Ed.

BOOK REVIEW Derek Amey

"Spike Island" the intriguing title of a recent work by a local author that explores the history of Netley Hospital. Whether you knew the hospital, or are perhaps only dimly aware that the Chapel which is all that now remains of that once impressive but flawed building is but the shadow of something larger, this account will surely leave you far wiser, and perhaps a great deal sadder, as to just what stood in that peaceful parkland on the shores of Southampton Water. Where children now play, kites are flown, dogs walked, and a miniature railway runs, the shattered survivors of an Empire's wars were nursed. Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone and visited often afterwards as the casualties of far off battles arrived by ship and train; The Crimean War, The Boer War, The Great War, D-Day and after (our American friends, who took over the Hospital in the latter stages of World War II were not impressed with what they found), they were in turn returned to their units, invalided out, or laid to rest in the hospital's cemetery. Shades of 'M.A.S.H.' perhaps, fans of that series will know what I mean. But perhaps the most poignant of all were those patients who, as is revealed in the book's description of 'D Block', the psychiatric wing, endured a world of often questionable methods of treatment and drug regimes aimed at treating 'shell shock', with its overtones of cowardice. A recommended read, but prepare to be disturbed.

"SPIKE ISLAND – The Memory of a Military Hospital" by Philip Hoare. Published by 4th Estate. ISBN 1-84115-293-5 Hardback. Price £17.99. **(A cheaper paperback edition out soon 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 (reduced price)* **£5.99**

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 – unfortunately out of print, a 2nd edition is planned)

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

NEW OUT AND NOW AVAILABLE

"Sister Kate Oram 1879-1918
A Personal Portrait. *By Pauline Berry* **£4.99**

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP