THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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WESTENDER

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SOCIETY VISIT TO THE BURSLEDON BRICKWORKS



Members on the brickworks tour near the kiln

A group of members of the WELHS met at the Bursledon Brickworks on the evening of 6th June – this was a follow-on from a very interesting talk by member Bill White concerning the history of brick making in Hampshire.

I for one was not sure what we were going to find at the Brickworks, I had previously heard very good reports from others that had visited but I was in for a very pleasant surprise.

Our guide for the evening gave us an excellent background talk about the work of the Bursledon Brickworks Trust and the history of the area complete with slides. This was followed by a comprehensive tour of all the areas of the brickworks from kiln to drying sheds to museum style display areas. What an excellent job they are doing to help preserve the last steam driven brickworks in the country! Founded in 1897, Bursledon Brickworks developed a Victorian "high tech" approach to brick making, whilst most brickworks were still a rural, seasonal craft.

The works finally closed in 1974, but in 1990 the derelict site and buildings were acquired by a charitable trust. Restoration has been an ongoing process since then, mostly by a group of volunteers, working against the odds during their spare time. It certainly shows what can be done and **should** be done to preserve aspects of this nations heritage for future generations to enjoy and learn from – good luck to the Trust in the future. All our members who made the effort to join this fascinating tour really enjoyed themselves. *Ed.*



W.E.L.H.S members enjoy one of many explanatory displays

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WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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NEW LOOK TO NEWSLETTER....

Some of our regular readers will have noticed the absence of a separate June issue, this was in part due to the workload involved in getting the "Flash Backs" exhibition up and running. However, with the help of our sponsors and YOU the members I would like to perhaps publish every two months but with a bigger and hopefully better content, see what you make of this edition and let me know what you think! Its ultimately your newsletter and relies on your active support AND articles, so please send in more articles however short for publication.

Ed.

"BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW" By Derek Amey

I don't know whether, when you were young, you were familiar with some great children's books featuring a wacky, inventor type person called Professor Brainstawm? Well, I have to hand a diagram which looks just as if it had been drawn by the good professor. It shows a way of making bricks on a sort of production line system. But what is even stranger is that these bricks are different. Never mind the biblical "without straw" thing, these are made without clay!

Bill White's excellent and very informative talk to the Society in May will have told you a lot about making bricks the 'traditional' way, and you will have learnt even more if you were able to visit the actual brickworks at Bursledon in June. However, you have yet another angle on these essential building blocks if you look closer to home, in the shape of the pre-war houses in Orchards Way. These were designed by Herbert Collins using a 'formula' which saw the bricks used being manufactured out of a mixture based on lime plus sand, or crushed siliceous or flint stone, or a mixture of those, with just water added. They are not 'fired' but 'steamed'! Because 'quality control' is good, and the whole process highly mechanised, and because they don't change shape when hardened, they are consistently strong and regular in shape. And they come in all colours! And they are available at short notice!

So, when Herbert Collins used them in the construction of the cottage type dwellings in Orchards Way back there at the end of the 1930's, was he simply making use of the latest building trade technology, or was he merely working to a brief which specified that what was essentially 'social housing' should be built as cheaply as possible, or perhaps both? Although they are rendered over, the 'Midhurst Whites' which form the walls of these 'cottages' have given over 60 years service, and have survived to be cavity insulated and double glazed, luxuries unknown to their first occupants!

And still on the subject of bricks.....

You may remember that we were suitably amazed by Bill's 'revelation' of the number of bricks used in lining a tunnel? So, as a fan of both history and railways (and railway history!) I was very interested to read an article on the magnificent listed structure of St Pancras Station in London. Prepare to be amazed at the number of bricks *that* contains! (Have a guess, the answer is on page 6)

THE HISTORICAL BOYS DO WELL IN CARNIVAL QUIZ

Monday 19th June once again saw the Annual Carnival Pub Quiz, as usual held at the "Master Builder" pub in the Swaythling Road, West End. Once again your Society fielded TWO teams, the ladies team "THE HISTERICAL GIRLS", consisted of Vera Dickinson, Lin Dowdell, Pauline Berry and Wendy McCulloch, whilst the mens team "THE HISTORICAL BOYS", consisting of Neville Dickinson, Dave Riseborough, Nigel Wood and Stuart McCulloch managed to gain third place and win a bottle of white wine and certificate. The competition was stiff and so were the questions – no easy ride here! There were about a dozen teams competing and a lot of fun was had by all concerned. This is the third year we have sent in teams to compete – last year we came second and third, almost beating the all time holders of the title, whilst the previous year we came third. Perhaps we will come first next year!!! *Ed.*

"FLASH BACKS" EXHIBITION A TOTAL SUCCESS



A THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN – *Neville Dickinson*

Didn't they do well!!

Flash Backs – the special exhibition of local pictorial history of the nine parishes in the Borough of Eastleigh was doubled in content and size by Committee Members of the society when we hosted this celebratory presentation on the 9th and 10th of June in the West End Parish Hall.

All the effort and hard work was evident on the two days when the quantity and diversity of West End history, collected together by Pauline, Derek, Nigel, Ray, Rose and Bill with a little help from a few nameless others, was professionally prepared for display by Nigel. The time and commitment put in by these Society members was amply rewarded by the response and enthusiasm of the many hundreds of visitors who visited the exhibition, some on more than one day.

Those of you unable to spare an hour or two to reminisce at the recent to long distant past really did miss the ideal opportunity to learn about hill forts, signal stations, shops, people and many other things which go together to make up the West End of today, yesterday and perhaps tomorrow. Whilst the Borough part of the exhibition was returned for later display at Hedge End, Hamble and Hound (all of whom have to prepare their own historical section), our own material will be displayed in sections in the Museum over the coming months.

A successful and beneficial weekend for the Society and the village in general, but for the people mentioned earlier, I am so pleased to see that their hard work was justly rewarded. Thanks to Bobbie Smith and the Parish Council for the use of the Hall, the Millennium Festival Fund and Eastleigh Museum Services for support and to Nigel who put it all together to make it the success everyone agreed it was. No wonder Lin let him have a LARGE mixed grill for his dinner on the Friday – he needed it! Well done everyone.

CARNIVAL SUCCESS IN SPITE OF WEATHER



A busy time at our stand - with the sales team working hard.

Saturday 24th June arrived, it was the Annual Carnival Day once more, the culmination of a week of celebrations in the village of West End. The weather forecast was "iffy" - it did in fact rain for a short time when we were setting up the stall – but in spite of the overcast weather interspersed with sunny periods, the day was a complete success! As usual the WELHS had a bric a brac stall and ran a Treasure Hunt map competition – first prize £10, runner up won a bottle of white wine with a bottle stand. Business was brisk and this year we almost sold out. We took £186.82 gross – which is our best year yet. Thank you must go to the many members who came along



Eastleigh's new Mayor visits the West End Local History Society bric a brac stall at this years West End Carnival on Hatch Grange.



to help man the stall and set it up and take it down.

Thanks to Pauline for running her highly successful Treasure Hunt, thanks also to Lin, Sally & Lorna who made a splendid sales team. Thanks to Bill, Neville, Derek & Pat and everyone else who helped and "looked in" during the day.

The Carnival Parade was again a very colourful affair and well supported. The crowds making their way to Hatch Grange afterwards for the Fete appeared much larger than we remembered in previous years – a good sign!

Thanks should also go to the Carnival Committee and helpers who do such an excellent job of organising this annual event – but who rarely get the recognition they deserve. This years Carnival was a little special as it was the first of the new Millennium and the support and enthusiasm and community spirit exhibited bodes well for the future of our ever expanding village. **Ed.**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEETINGS)

July 5th **EASTLEIGH MUSEUM**
(Behind the scenes – slide show)
Sue Tapliss

Sept 6th **OLD SOUTHAMPTON – Part 1**
Slide show & talk
David Hill

Oct 4th **BOTLEY & HAMBLE RIVER**
David Chun



OUR TREASURER DEREK TRYING TO "LEG IT" WITH THE DONATION BOX AFTER "FLASH BACKS" .

SUBSCRIPTION RATES – Prices Held!!!!

The good news is that our subscription rates for the coming year are the same as last year. The bad news is that they are now due! Renew your membership now and it will take you through to 30th June 2001.

Rates as before – MEMBER £6, FAMILY MEMBERSHIP £10, SENIOR CITIZEN £4, SENIOR FAMILY £6.

WANTED

The Museum would like photographs of any of the following: HARRIET HASELFOOT; MOORHILL HOUSE (the original one); THE LODGE (Moorhill Road) ***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

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON PAGE 2:
60 million bricks

Do YOU know what happened on 5th July....

In....**1810,** *Phineas Taylor Barnum*, an American showman extraordinary was born at Bethel in Connecticut, USA.

In....**1817,** Sovereigns were first issued as coins of the realm in Britain.

In....**1826,** *Sir Stamford Raffles*, British colonial administrator and founder of Singapore in 1819, died in London.

In....**1865,** the world's first speed limit was imposed in Britain, under the Locomotives and Highways Act, which became known as the 'Red Flag Act'.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM "CHAMBERS DICTIONARY OF DATES"