THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

# WESTENDER

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WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## MOORGREEN HOUSE



As mentioned in the last issue of *Westender*, Moorgreen House that stood for so many years in Moorgreen Road is no more. Demolished while in an extreme state of dereliction, we find we have few photographs or indeed very little information on this once grand building. Luckily for us Evelyn Gouldsmith very kindly recently lent us the photograph above for our archive, this shows the house from a different angle just before the Motorway was put through. If anyone out there has photographs, drawings, newspaper articles, plans or indeed just about anything to do with Moorgreen House, please allow us to copy them for our archive and display – we would like to keep the memory of the old house alive. ***Ed.***

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**West End Local History Society is sponsored by**

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# THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE EXHIBITION



As many of you will realise, this year 2002 marks the Golden Jubilee of our reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. To mark this occasion the Parish Council are planning to run a number of events to celebrate. Your Local History Society are at the forefront of these plans, we intend to organise an exhibition of photographs, memorabilia, and artefacts relating to the first 10 years of Elizabeth's reign, including the Coronation. If you have any photographs available, particularly of local events at the time of the Coronation we would be pleased to have the opportunity to copy them (they would of course be returned to you in good order). Likewise nearer the time we will be looking for artefacts to display including those of a local nature, so go up into the loft and search out those little gems that you "put away in a safe place". We are assured that there will be lockable glazed display cases available for fragile items. Above is a photo from our archive showing the Annual Carnival procession for 1950-51 getting ready outside Fray's and the New Inn (now the "Lamp and Mantle"), and at the right the High Street (much quieter then in 1950) with the big tree's outside the front of the Old Parish Hall (previously the Old National School) – sadly long since demolished to make way for "modern" buildings of considerably less charm! These are the type of photo's we are looking for, please help us to make the exhibition a success, thank you. ***Ed***




# HISTORY CATS

If, like me, you acquire fridge magnets (what are we like?!) then you may already have the one that reads *'People who don't like cats were probably mice in an earlier life'.* Apologies if you fall into that ***cat***egory, (editors italics) but if not you will also enjoy reading a delightful article in that same issue of "Local History" (see page 4) about the various feline members of staff who have graced the magazine's offices and kept their occupants on the right road for many years now – sadly, with only one current survivor. Perhaps we could get their (the humans that is) permission to reproduce the article at some stage. ***D.A.***

# 1901 CENSUS – Get On Line

Finally, we should all also take note of their comments about the availability of such information on your PC (or at the local library or Internet Café, whatever). 'As never before, but there is a cost attached' is the message. If you don't put some method into what you are looking for, the 'meter' could run up quite a total they say. Libraries have more information, of course. ***D.A.***

***Those of you who look up the Society website at*** www.telbin.demon.co.uk/westendlhs ***can see a special article about the 1901 Census which gives details and rates of charging for those wishing to research the Census. Another big 'thank you' is due to our Webmaster Ray for all his hard work – why not check out the latest images he has put on the site, well worth a visit! Ed***

# LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS

## The Story of a West End Family – Part 2

SUSAN MONCRIEFF

***This is the concluding part of the story, part one of which appeared in the last edition of "Westender". Ed***

Unfortunately the names of both my great-uncles are missing from the memorial in the church. Perhaps they were overlooked because by the end of the war their stepmother had died and there was at the time no member of the family living in the area. I feel sorry that, as far as I have been able to find out, their names do not appear on any war memorial.

Whilst these two brothers were still alive, their stepmother, twice widowed, suffered the loss of her home. Harefield House fell victim to a disastrous fire on Sunday 6th May 1917. Despite the valiant efforts of fire-fighters, all that remained of what the Southern Daily Echo described as *'one of the finest country homes in Southern Hampshire'* were the exterior walls. Readers will be able to estimate, better than I can, how many homes are now sited on what was once the Harefield estate.

At the time of the fire my grandfather was serving in Salonika so he and my grandmother had left their possessions in storage at Harefield. Many of the family records and photographs which were not destroyed on that occasion were subsequently lost in the bombing of Southampton in the Second World War.

The Harefield estate, including the derelict house, was subsequently sold and Mrs Thomas lived in Midanbury Lane until her death on 12th March 1918 at the age of 69. Her funeral service was held on 14th March and she too lies in the Old Burial Ground. On our visit there I also noticed the graves of Edwin Jones and Sir Henry Milner-White, who I believe was a cousin of Fanny Louisa Thomas.

For our next, and final, recorded connections with St. James we move forward to the 1930's and celebrate two events. My aunt, **Barbara Mary Buist Martin**, who was born on 17th August 1906 in Singapore, was married on 23rd April 1930 to **Major Duncan Westlake Pailthorpe, MC**, an RAMC officer with a distinguished war record. The following year another happy occasion saw the baptism of their son **Michael Westlake Pailthorpe** on 6th June.

The Martin and Pailthorpe families continued to make their home in the area until the 1940's, when they moved to Somerset and subsequently to Devon, where my grandfather's forebears had been established for many generations.

I was so pleased to be able to renew the family link with West End by making a visit to St.James and the Old Burial Ground and I am most grateful to the Vicar, the Reverend Brian Pickett, and to Mr Derek Amey for their help. It was very special for me to have a glimpse into the lives of these members of my family, some of whom, though now in the next world, are close to me still.

***We would like to thank Susan Moncrieff for sharing this information and memories of old West End with us – we hope that more people who read this newsletter will do likewise and share their information so that we can make it available to all, that after all is what local history is all about! Ed.***

***Errata – "Looking Back 100 years"***

*A small correction to the first part of this story as printed in the November/December issue. In the last paragraph, should read "Major Henry Evan Thomas, the* ***elder*** *of the brothers by just ten months……(not "leader")*

**FOOTNOTE**

The author of the article "Looking Back 100 Years" would also very much like to hear from anyone who remembers any of the family members mentioned in the article, or places, or in fact has anything 'sparked off' by her story. Ring the Treasurer (WELHS) on 023 8057 5244 for contact details. We have already been able to put one of our friends from Bitterne Local History Society in touch with Mrs Moncrieff concerning Harefield Estate.

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the usual venue this year, the Parish Centre main hall at 7.30pm on March 6th. Although not everyone's idea of a fun meeting it is important that as many members as possible attend, its your Society and your chance to have a say in what goes on, so make it a New Years resolution – attend the AGM and get involved!** ***Ed.***

## BOOK REVIEWS – Derek Amey

## "KING CHOLERA" & "THE MACKAY-BENNETT the funeral ship at the Titanic Disaster"

The subject of a book presented to the Society recently, a book which deals with the devastating impact this terrible disease had on this country and indeed around the World. The author is a local man, John Avery, who for many years was a uniformed Customs Officer in Southampton and other South Coast ports. John is a West Countryman, but his extensive review of *"The Cholera Years"* takes him beyond that area to the likes of Southampton, Portsmouth and London. We may smile at some of the remedies employed, but until the true nature of the affliction was finally understood (i.e. that it was waterborne) these were all anyone had to even attempt to ward off its deadly effects. And, like all the best history, this one has its connection with another event, in this case one with which our Society and this area are very familiar. One of those 'remedies' was the wearing of a tight cloth belt (they were known as 'mummies') as a preventative measure – so how come, as our friend Brian Ticehurst the *"Titanic"* historian asks, some of the bodies recovered from the wreck were found to be wearing such an item, long after the true nature of cholera was known?

***The Cholera Years, an account of the cholera outbreaks in our ports, towns and villages*** *by John G. Avery. Published by Beech Books, 2001 (no ISBN number)* We hope to stock copies of this book at price £6.00 available from the Museum and also at meetings.

And talking of *Titanic*, we have another book, also by John, to add to the seemingly inexhaustible library of writings on that subject (with the 90th anniversary of the sinking falling this year). John has written this pocket sized history of a forgotten ship on the fringes of the rescue operation, the *Mackay-Bennett,* a cable ship which took on the grim task of carrying the coffins of the doomed passengers to the port of Halifax. John once visited the ship in the course of his Customs duties and was very interested in what the Purser had to tell and show him on the ship's role on that fateful day. She even has her *'Titanic'* ghost, but you will have to read the book to find out more!

***The Mackay-Bennett, the Funeral Ship at the Titanic Disaster,*** *by John G.Avery. Published by Beech Books at £1.50.* This book will also we hope be available at meetings and also at the Museum bookshop. The sale of both books would provide a profit for your Museum (John is now a member of our Society).

## THE FIRST INCREASE FOR MANY YEARS! Derek Amey (Treasurer)

How many times have you heard that 'line' to justify yet another price increase? But it really is all we can say in drawing your attention to the fact that it will probably be necessary at this year's AGM to ask you to approve an increase in subscriptions to make up for the fact that we are beginning to fall behind the annual increases in the cost of hiring the Parish Centre Main Hall for our meetings. Not finalised at the time of writing, but I will be suggesting to your committee that an all round increase of £1 on each class of membership would be one course of action. Alternatively, another slightly 'tongue-in-check' proposal would be that everyone simply pays £5 from now on. A simpler approach, and one that is easy to 'sell' ("Join the Society for a fiver!" say) On the other hand, that would be quite an increase for Senior Citizen couples.

**Present Rates are: £10.00 Family, £6.00 Single, £6.00 Senior Family, £4.00 Single (Senior)**

## HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST

One of the items on the accounts to be presented at that AGM will be the expenditure of all of £5 on our corporate subscription to this Trust, which really stands as a kind of 'interface' (who says we are not up with all the latest jargon!) between Hampshire Records Office and its customers. The Autumn issue of the Trust's Newsletter is in the Museum for you to read, as always well worth doing so.

## LOCAL HISTORY MAGAZINE

Equally well worth reading is the latest issue of this very informative and interesting publication, to which we have a trial subscription. Might sound like a geometry lesson, but why not come in and read all about polygons (you will know what I mean if I say 'just like the one in Southampton').

# SOME MEMORIES OF MOORGREEN'S WORKHOUSE

Pauline Berry







PICTURES FROM THE W.E.L.H.S. MUSEUMS ARCHIVES

Homeless people or vagrants still form a sad sight in some inner cities, but in its past, West End has certainly seen a fair number of them. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the dreaded Workhouse or rather South Stoneham Union Workhouse (now Moorgreen Hospital) was the magnet of the hungry and homeless in the area.. They knew they would probably be able to find a free meal and nights lodging in exchange for some kind of physical task on the site.

Many locals such as Margaret Rayburn (nee Turner) of Langholme Farm, Burnett's Lane (now Shergold's) refers to her early memories, after World War 1, of these sad poorly clad people, men, women and children, heading down Moorgreen Road towards the Workhouse in her reminiscences entitled "Pigs, Poetry & Politics" (copy in the Museum).

The sight of these unfortunate drifters, the majority being men, has also lodged in the memory of Joe Molloy. He recalls how, as a child, from 1919 on, he would leave his studies at West End School (now Hilldene Community Centre) at 4pm and frequently see a small group of men crouched down against the shelter of hedges opposite in Botley Road (no pavements in those days). These drifters or 'casuals' as the Workhouse referred to them, were quietly waiting for the magic hour of 4 o'clock when the doors would open to allow them in for their free meal and night's bed in the 'casual ward' at the front of the building.

Joe's sharp memory still recalls the blue enamel billycans clutched in the hands of these roughly dressed vagrants who attracted his sympathy. These included many ex-servicemen, out of work and homeless after the Great War, who had joined many others who drifted around the countryside, from workhouse to workhouse, some always on the lookout for odd jobs available on farms etc.. To earn a little money. Memories flood back to Joe, remembering how he accompanied his mother, Mrs Patrick Molloy, during WW1 to collect her allocation of Ration Books at South Stoneham Union. Like WW2 they were issued to help overcome national food shortages. A Mr Everard Willis, he recalls was the issuing officer of these Ration Books.

Does anyone else remember him? For the definitive reference book on the care of the sick and poor at South Stoneham Union you could do no better than to purchase Eric Raffo's *"Half a Loaf"* from our Museum bookshop (Price £9.50). In this book it states that in 1919 the newly introduced midday-meal for 'casuals' was bread and cheese. A cup of tea with breakfast was not added until 1928. The 'casuals' were always kept separately from and not allowed to mix with the 'inmates' or exercise in the grounds of the Workhouse. In 1930 seventy-two beds were available for 'casuals'. The demand for nightly accommodation rose steadily after the Great War until the early 1930's reflecting the years of the Depression and unemployment.

Thank goodness these harsh days are now dim memories. No wonder *The Workhouse* (Moorgreen was one of the better ones) was feared generally. Do you have any personal memories you can share with us?

## On this day (February 6th) in.....

**1783 Lancelot Brown known as "Capability Brown, English landscape gardener, noted especially for the gardens at Blenheim and Kew, died.**

**1840 The Treaty of Waitangi was concluded by Captain Hobson, between Britain and the Maori chiefs of New Zealand – proclaiming British sovereignty and protection.**

**1911 Ronald Reagan, American Republican statesman and 40th President, born at Tampico in Illinois.**

**1924 Billy Wright, English footballer and international with 105 caps, born at Ironbridge in Shropshire.**

**1952 Death of King George VI at Sandringham aged 56 – accession of his daughter as Elizabeth II.**

**1958 Manchester United lost 8 of their players when the aircraft bringing the team home from Belgrade crashed on take-off at Munich airport – also killed were 3 club officials and 8 sporting journalists.**

## THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

**March 6**
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**April 3**
**THE HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRES DEER**
***Peter Carne & Stan Kemish***

**May 1**
**PEOPLE OF 16th & 17th CENTURY SOUTHAMPTON**
***Elizabeth Rothery***

**June 5**
**MARY BEALE & ALLBROOK FARM**
***Cheryl Butler***

**July 3**
**DISCOVERING TIMBER FRAMED HOUSES**
***Stan Waight***

**NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

## 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**