THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

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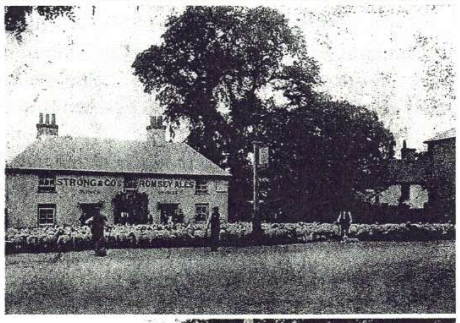
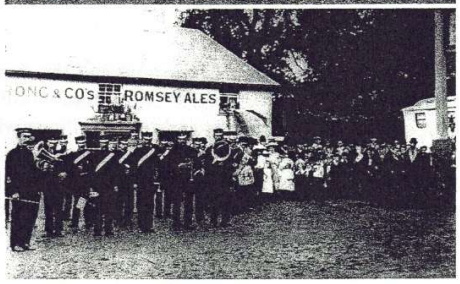
WEST END TO LOSE TWO OF ITS PUBS

It has been quite a month, we understand almost half the Public Houses in West End are to close, both the "Lamp and Mantle" (previously known as the "New Inn") and "The Sportsman" are to be demolished to make way for more housing!

Since the late 1800's a public house has stood on the "Lamp and Mantle" site, the original building being demolished to be replaced by Strong & Co's mock Tudor building we have today. "The Sportsman" likewise went through a rebuild with the new pub being built behind, hence the large front car park.

West End will be left with the "Master Builder" (previously the "Crown and Thistle"), "West End Brewery" in the High Street and "Southampton Arms" in Moorgreen Road, although as we claim Mansbridge for West End, we could count in "The White Swan" (or Mucky Duck as we used to call it). One could be led to believe that West End could become a Temperance village if this trend continues! We wonder what building will next fall victim of the "developers" in their never ending crusade to "make money".





Masonic group & Band (above) and (top) sheep outside the "New Inn"



The "New Inn" when owned by Strong & Co. in the 1950's

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West End Local History Society is sponsored by

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THE FUTURE CARE OF OUR CEMETERIES

John Avery

John Avery reports on a visit to the Southampton Common Old Cemetery.....

The government has set up a consultative panel to review the future care of cemeteries. The panel will prepare a report and make recommendations. Subjects being considered are health and safety, wildlife conservation, religious and ethnic concerns, the future of cemeteries attached to churches now closed such as urban redevelopment or declining number of worshippers and the ever increasing problem of vandalism.

Various groups of people have formed themselves into *Friends of Cemeteries*, there is even an offshoot called *Friends of War Memorials* and they come under the umbrella of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends.

Currently Southampton City Council is consulting with local interested people on the care of the cemetery on Southampton Common. Historically due to large outbreaks of cholera and other diseases the conventional churchyard cemeteries became seriously overcrowded and in 1852/3 the government passed an act to close many dozens around the country. Southampton was one of the first municipally owned gravesites to be set up in this country.

The Cemetery has been sadly neglected and because of its remoteness the target of vandals, motorcycling and skateboarding. For several years the council has adopted a policy of allowing the site to revert to nature.

I feel that there has to be a balance. With so many graves connected with social and medical history, nautical (such as the hurricane disaster of a Royal Mail steamer, about 30 Titanic graves (many in a dreadful state), P&O graves), First World War graves and local heroes such as General Gordon and Dr Cooper who tirelessly treated cholera victims only to fall to such a death himself.

The review is still ongoing and the current thinking is to consider an application for a lottery grant. I have joined the consultative panel; our interests vary from wildlife, protecting the Common and its surrounds, the practicalities of trying to cope with encroaching brambles and tree seedlings without the use of chemicals, old Southampton and its history and a site manager (the Council) strapped for cash. Unusual perhaps was that on our tour of the cemetery a manager from Transco joined us. The H & S Executive have made an enforcement order that the old cast iron mains have to have plastic tubing of a smaller diameter fed into the existing pipes. Some of the gas supplies to adjoining houses have pipes under the Common and the footpaths of the Cemetery. Transco wanted to reassure the panel that the work will be carried out carefully and sensitively.

Amongst this goodwill we have the seeds to form a *Friends* group and hopefully in a month or so I will be able to give you more information on this and the progress of the council in considering the future of the site.

Below is part of a "dummy leaflet I prepared giving some of the reasons that the cemetery was set up in the early 1850's. I was able to distribute copies to other interested members of the panel and hopefully influence that a balance of interests including our social heritage is needed.

As the pressures mounted on the existing church graveyards and private cemeteries there were major concerns about the overcrowding and there were instances whereby bodies were buried almost on the surface. After a major cholera epidemic in 1848-9 when bodies had by law to be buried within 24 hours a crisis developed and often the bodies were buried in communal "plague pits". In 1852 Parliament passed a law setting up Burial Boards which had the power to close many of the overcrowded cemeteries and also gave powers that towns could use ratepayers' money to buy suitable land and to develop cemeteries. In 1853, following another major cholera outbreak the Central Board of Health took full control and passed the Act to close dozens of cemeteries.

Hampshire had 1245 cholera deaths in 1848-9 of which 240 were in Southampton and 568 in Portsmouth.

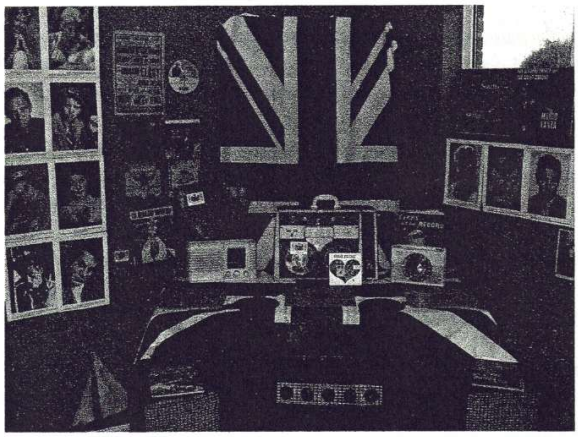
There are many cholera graves in the Old Cemetery and apart from family and local historians wishing to visit a suggested "Friends" group would be able to produce leaflets and give talks to interested parties for example part of Southampton University is a medical faculty training doctors etc..

Similarly for other groups Titanic graves could be identified, one grave now badly in need of attention has a steam locomotive on it. The grave of a young 18 year old killed at the Battle of Ypres is desperately in need of repair.

If you would like to be notified of the possible formation of a Friends of Southampton Cemetery group in the future please contact John Avery on 023 8063 8650

WEST END CELEBRATES THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

As this copy of "Westender" is being put to bed, we are in the middle of celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee, or to be correct the 50th Anniversary of her Accession to the Throne - the Coronation occurred the following year in 1953. West End Local History Society have produced, in conjunction with the Parish Council and with the help of members and friends a 4 day exhibition showing life in the 50's in West End as well as much more besides. Images of the first couple of days are displayed below. A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped make this event the success it is. Ed.









DOCTOR LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME? Derek Amey

Well, that was the problem really, no-one could be sure at this point. The British Government, not to mention the Royal Geographical Society, suspected some kind of 'scam'. Now, we are not talking here about the famous meeting between Stanley and the good Doctor, but events following Livingstone's death deep inside Africa, and the astonishing journey subsequently undertaken to bring his swathed corpse to the coast, from where he could be shipped back to Britain.

The story was told to us at a University of Southampton Seminar recently at which the speaker described the impact of the explorer's travels on the British public and his consequent treatment as a 'hero of his time'. So when the corpse eventually reached Southampton, it was to an atmosphere in which there was still no governmental or official recognition of what he had done, certainly no approval of a national monument, perhaps even a place in Westminster Abbey. After all, no one could be certain just who it was inside those bandages!

One local personage was in no doubt however – our very own Edwin Jones! In his capacity as Mayor, he was the first to lead a welcoming party up the gangway and pay homage to the great man. Subsequent examination proved that this was indeed the (mortally wounded) body of Livingstone, who went on to be given all the honours his public thought proper. Nice to have in mind the picture of a local dignitary 'bounding' enthusiastically up that gangway – if those 'bigwigs' in London were not going to do what was right and proper, then he would!

Editors note: *Edwin Jones, who founded the once famous local department store is buried in the Old Burial Ground at West End. He lived for a time at Harefield House, which is now the Harefield housing estate. For further information about the man and his store see the exhibit and archive books in our Museum (open 10am-4pm Saturdays)*

Peter Andrews writes.....
WEST END or WASTE END! Will we ever know?

William Cobbett, he of the "Rural Rides", wrote in his book "Cottage Economy", that when he lived at Botley he was concerned about the labouring classes with their low standard of living. He proposed to the Bishop of Winchester who was lord of the manors thereabouts, to grant ownership to plots of waste ground of an acre in size to the said labourers to give them a better standard of living by growing their own food and having a cow and or pigs. He pointed out that Lord Winchelsea and Lord Stanhope helped their workers in this way.

The Bishop of Winchester was in favour of this scheme, but the farmers and landowners in this area were not. On an old map I've seen there is a piece of land marked as waste land, this was situated on the corner of Moorgreen and Botley Roads and formed a roughly triangular shape and was of much larger area. The present houses being built on the isosceles of the triangle, which as everybody knows is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides. Many years after leaving school |I met my old schoolmaster in Sainsburys at Bitterne and repeated this formula to him. I think the shock of learning something at all under his tuition was too much for him and not long after I went to his funeral. I was the only pre-war ex-pupil there and perhaps the oldest mourner. One chap looked at me and said,"It's hardly worth you going home!". A remark I treated with disdain. But I digress.

As you can see there's still a large area of grass on the site and as I presume it's still waste ground, anyone can graze their cows there. If anyone reading all this nonsense happens to have a herd of cows, perhaps they could take one up there and try it out. Would be of interest to see that happens. If things turn out for the worst, I'd be quite willing to be a witness for the defence in court.

To continue. Reading a copy of the 1980 West End Community Association News I came across an article by Charlie Sillence which brings up, even then the long debated subject of West End or Waste End. He refers to maps going back to 1759 with no mention of Waste End being a place name. Surrounding the area was a Southend, Northend and Eastley or lea. West End was west of Shamblehurst. Hedge End was then called Botley Common, West End being west of there and was never called Waste End. There's a thing to mull over, where was the hedge, how long and which end is meant by Hedge End?

MORE HISTORIC BUILDINGS UNDER THREAT IN WEST END



Moorgreen Hospital in the 1950's



Moorgreen Hospital today

On the afternoon of Monday 15th April, our Chairman Neville and I were passing Moorland's Farm field which is next to the main Botley Road between Dawson Lodge and the M27 Motorway when we noticed several people looking official with clip boards appearing to survey the field! On enquiring if "something was going on" at this site (given all the redevelopment happening locally) we understand that it is possible the Hospital Trust are indeed looking at this parcel of land with a view to building a brand new hospital on it – a modern hospital for modern needs! I believe the existing building would possibly be sold off to developers to offset the costs of building the new hospital, which undoubtedly would mean demolition of the historically important "South Stoneham Union", the old Workhouse dating back to the mid 1800's. This would mean we lose yet **another** historic building and yet another parcel of greenbelt land will be built over (although very close to a noisy motorway, which doesn't make a lot of sense!!). We also understand that Scaffolding House at the bottom of Chalk Hill is also under threat. We have heard that SGB want to clear the land, demolish the old house, which at present acts as their offices, and sell the whole package for re-development! Some of you will know that the house is quite old, one of the very few we have in the village and dates back certainly to the mid 1800's, once the home of Fred Woolley, the house was then known as "Woodleigh". Fred Woolley, twice Mayor of Southampton, Secretary of the Titanic Relief Fund and owner of several Farms in West End as well as the Brick Fields between "Woodleigh" and Ivy Lane, had business interests in Southampton and is remembered now for the Fred Woolley Convalescent Home that was situated at Chilworth. We hope that neither of these old historic locally important buildings are demolished – haven't we already lost more than enough of our heritage here in West End?

DID YOU WONDER WHERE THE GATES AND RAILINGS WENT?



THE OLD BURIAL GROUND ENTRANCE PHOTOGRAPHED RECENTLY

Just in case you noticed that the railings and gates to the Old Burial Ground are no longer there, let me put your mind at ease. As part of a refurbishment package, we understand from reliable sources that the brick pillars and walls have become a little unstable with the old mortar joints etc disintegrating. The plan is to carefully take them apart brick by brick and rebuild them exactly as they were originally, the removal of the ironwork is a first step (hopefully they will be treated to stop rust and painted). Just in case though, we have taken a series of photographs of the gates , walls and pillars so that when the work is completed we will be able to check and see that the work has been carried out correctly.

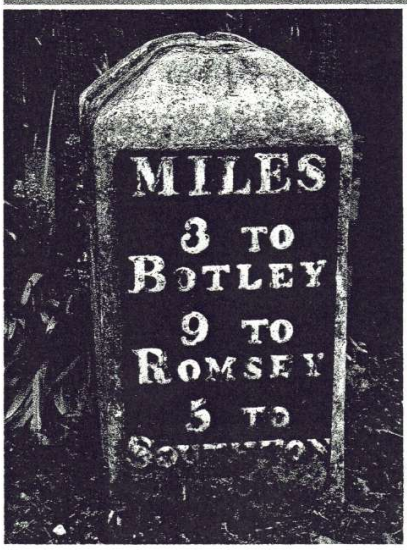
"TITANIC 90" Derek Amey

Our annual practice of laying flowers on Captain Rostron's grave in the Old Burial Ground took on added significance this year, to the extent that your Society was able to arrange for a short Service of Commemoration to take place at 12 noon on Sunday 14th April, the actual date on which *Titanic* struck the iceberg which was to spell her doom. The Priest-in-Charge at St. James', West End (Rev. Brian Pickett, MA) officiated, a special Floral Tribute in the shape of an anchor was laid on the grave, and those present joined in singing 'Eternal Father, strong to save'. Margaret Howman, Captain Rostron's daughter, was unable to attend, but sent her thanks and good wishes. We also learnt that a Channel 4 film crew were coming to West End the following day to film the grave as part of a programme they are making on shipwrecks, which will include *Carpathia*. Pauline Berry (our Secretary) was fortunate to be at the Burial Ground the following day just as they arrived and was able to 'fill them in' on our interest in the subject.



Rev. Brian Pickett, MA officiating at the Service of Commemoration

AN HISTORIC WEST END MILESTONE Nigel Wood



Passing through West End each day I wonder just how many people realise that the insignificant little milestone set into the ground on the pavement in front of the Old Lodge to Hatch Grange is as unusual as it is!

Look carefully and you will see that the milestone has an iron plate set on the front and embossed with the legend *"MILES 3 To Botley 9 To Romsey 5 To Southton"*, look carefully again and right at the bottom obscured by rust and dirt is the date – **1828**!

The stone has at some time in the past split from top to bottom and has been carefully cemented together again. This is no ordinary milestone, but the only remaining one which marked the Botley Turnpike which passed through West End.

It is one of those little historic gems which usually go unnoticed due to their size and position. It would be a good project for the Parish Council to refurbish this for future generations.

On this day (June 5th) in.....

1878 "Pancho" Villa, Mexican guerilla leader and revolutionary, born at San Juan del Rio as Doroteo Arango.

1916 Lord Kitchener, British general and conqueror of the Sudan, was lost at sea when HMS Hampshire struck a mine off Orkney, en route to Russia.

1947 Marshall Aid by America was inaugurated, for European post-war recovery.

1964 Britain made its first flight into space, with "Blue Streak" rocket, launched from Woomera in Australia.

1968 Robert Kennedy, American Senator and younger brother of the late President, was shot in the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles by a Jordanian-Arab, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan – died the following day.

1975 British citizens voted in a Referendum on the entry into the European Community – result 17,378,581 **YES** and 8,470,073 **NO**.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

June 5
MARY BEALE & ALLBROOK FARM
Cheryl Butler

July 3
DISCOVERING TIMBER FRAMED HOUSES
Stan Waight

NO MEETING IN AUGUST
(A Society outing to be arranged)

September 4
SOUTH COAST SMUGGLING
Derek Amey

October 2
AGRICULTURE AND THE SWING RIOTS IN HAMPSHIRE
Hampshire Record Office

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**

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

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

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

****** NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE ******

"The Mackay-Bennett...the Funeral Ship at the Titanic Disaster". *By John G.Avery* **£1.50**

"The Cholera Years...an Account of the Cholera Outbreaks in our ports,towns and villages".
By John G.Avery **£6.00**

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP