THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

SEPTEMBER 2001 – OCTOBER 2001 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

WEST END'S NEW WEBSITE!



Thanks to the efforts of our new Webmaster, Ray Niblett, the Society has a wonderful new exciting website. You can access this at:

www.telbin.demon.co.uk/westendlhs

We are still adding new features and have much more planned for the near future. At present amongst the Resource's section you have access to the 1845 Tithe map for the area within West End's Parish boundaries with full index listings, which should prove very useful to researchers, in addition to full listings of books, publications, maps, research papers and archive image files, as well as a full listing of items for sale in the Museum shop. There is a "potted" history of the museum and the society there as well. And all future copies of this newsletter "Westender" will appear starting from the July/August 2001 edition – it is hoped in future all internet newsletters will be in full colour!

The images above show the front introduction page and a sample page from the 1845 Tithe Map resource. Watch this space for future news of a planned Virtual Tour of old and new West End to appear on our Website in due course. If you the readers have any ideas for other or similar projects that you think would suit our website please contact us either by e-mail or letter or in person at the monthly meetings. *Ed.*

THE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year the Society will have three designs to choose from, sold either singly at 75p.or in packs of five at £3.50, all including envelopes. We hope to have them available at the November meeting. The cards will feature scenes specially painted for us by artist Doreen Niblett.

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WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

PHYLLIS THOMPSON



21st September 1991 – Sir Robin Buchanan, Professor Howells, Mrs Glynn and Phyllis Thompson being presented with their Regional Awards at Sir Robin Buchanan's home at Bath



WESSEX REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

REGIONAL AWARD SCHEME

The Chairman and members of the Wessex Regional Health Authority place on permanent record their appreciation and thanks to

Phyllis Thompson

in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the National Health Service

Signed this 21st Day of September 1991

Rob Buchanan

Regional Chairman
Wessex Regional Health Authority

When I started work at Moorgreen in April 1961, the wards of the Psychiatric Unit (or "C" Block as it was then called) were being upgraded, so we worked in noisy, dusty conditions. In those days our patients were kept in beds – horrid black cots – and were there for reasons that would not hold up today. I remember one lady in particular who had been admitted because she was epileptic and had "gammy legs" - her expression – and because there was no one to care for her. In fact she was rehabilitated and ended her days at Allington House.

Because we did not then have the benefit of the later tranquillising drugs, our disturbed patients were noisy, very restless and sometimes aggressive.

We worked long hours too – 8am to 8pm for full time, 8am to 1.30pm or 2.30pm to 8pm for part time staff. Our Sister Meany (now Mrs Kennedy) tried to arrange our duties so that we worked with the same members of staff – not always possible of course! We were short of staff in those days too and many times I took my small son back to Moorgreen when I was asked to work overtime. He spent the whole session in Sisters' Office and I feel sure he must have disrupted her routine somewhat, but he remembers those occasions as being a *"different sort of playtime!"*.
I remember my first contract was for $27^1/_2$ hours at 4s.1d. an hour – in old money! Although we worked hard, we enjoyed our job and were happy to know that we were contributing to the well-being of our elderly patients at the end of their lives, none of our residents walked out of Moorgreen in those days.

In the mid 60's we saw some drastic changes when former nursing colleagues were initiated into the doubtful art of occupational therapy! We could not see at that time that our patients could benefit from that activity – how wrong we were! By that time of course we had day rooms and our patients were encouraged to take an active interest in day to day living. We had televisions and record players – mostly donated by grateful relatives, or interested local firms. I used to take in some of my long playing records on Sunday mornings and one lady in particular would put her hands together, as if in prayer and rock to and fro to the music, saying *"my father, my father"* - the joy on her face had to be seen to be believed! The music obviously struck a chord in her troubled mind.

It was in 1965 that we Nursing Assistants were allowed to be entered on the Roll of Nursing through experience gained – 2 years full time or 4 years part time – so of course from then on our work became more satisfying and interesting, as we were permitted more responsibility, giving drugs and injections when necessary, as well as learning to apply aseptic dressings!

In 1968 Thornhill House (now Linden Ward) was opened as an acute ward and though the majority of our intake was the overflow from the Geriatric Hospital, we did have some very depressed patients who were successfully treated with ECT. I remember escorting several people to the special unit at the RSH Hospital for treatment in the early days but now of course an extensive progamme is carried out each week on Linden Ward.

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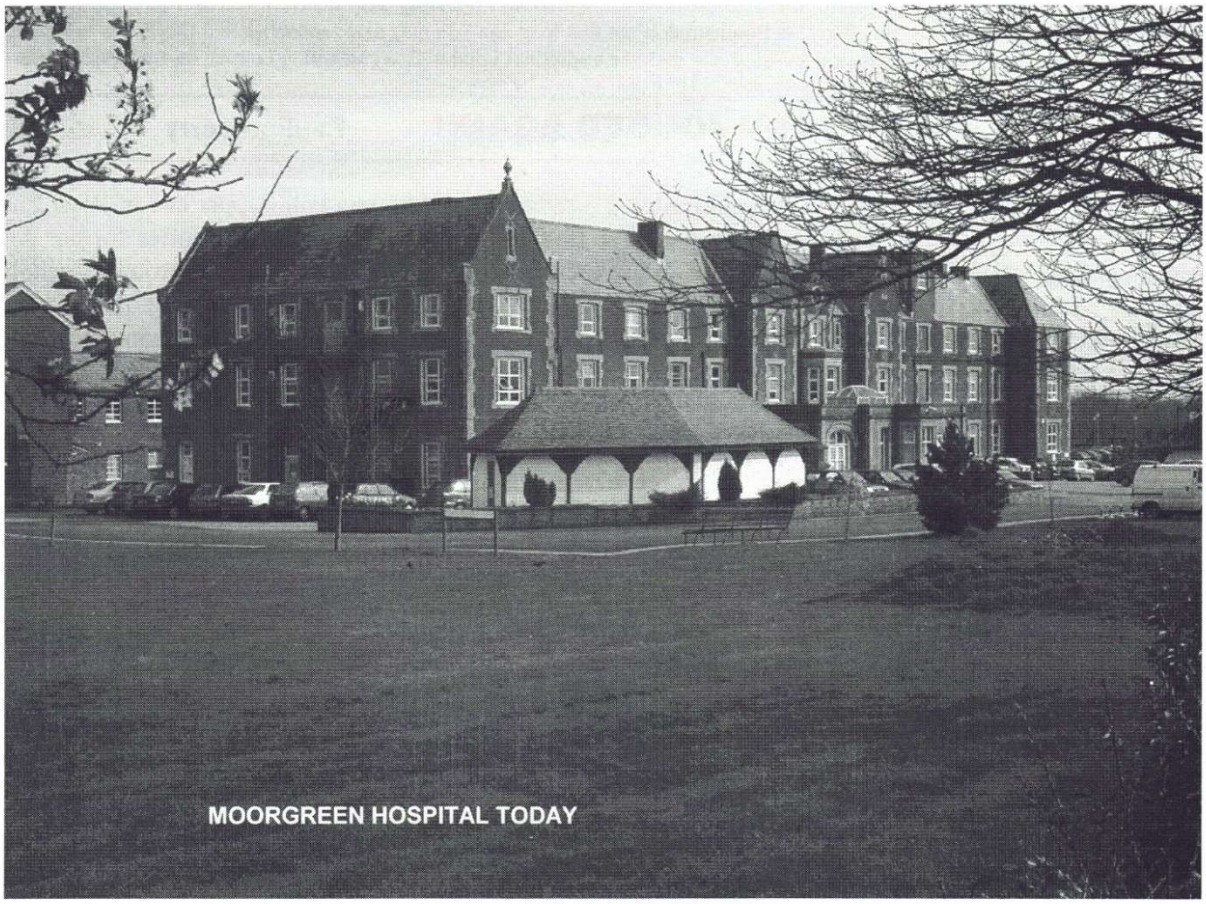
Then in 1973, Dr Godber joined our staff and brought many new ideas to Moorgreen, not least the introduction of respite care to relieve the burdens of the carers. That programme has gone from strength to strength, the appointment of Dr Rosenvinge and Dr Wilkinson meant that our catchment area could be extended and divided into three areas. With the opening of Harefield Day Hospital and the inauguration of the Inroads service on a day to day basis, means that we offer a superb after care service – each area very well served by Community Psychiatric Nurses.



MOORGREEN HOSPITAL TODAY

I have made many friends over the past 30 years and feel proud to have been part of that service. I hope I can continue to serve Moorgreen in a voluntary capacity for some time yet.

Editor's note

This article originally appeared in the Moorgreen News of June 1991 – Phyllis Thompson worked as an Enrolled Nurse at Moorgreen, she joined as a Nursing Auxiliary in 1961 and became a State Enrolled Nurse in 1965. During her 30 years of service she witnessed a dramatic change in the way we care for elderly mentally ill people, this article in her own words reflects some of her memories.

WHEN DID YOU LAST CATCH A TRAM?

(The Southampton Connection)

Derek Amey

Probably a long time ago, but are they a thing of the past? Well, more of that in a moment, but lets concentrate on the talk to be given in November by a good friend of the Society in the shape of Ashley Watt. You'll recall that he has told us on two previous occasions all about the great liners that operated out of Southampton Docks in past years. This time round he will be talking about a very different form of transport in the shape of the trams that once operated the extensive LCC network (London County Council, another set of initials consigned to history!). Of course, Southampton itself once had quite a network of tram routes, but surely the two were never connected? Not physically, but there was a connection in the shape of six London trams bought by Southampton Corporation Transport. Whether you ever rode on those or not, many of you will have strong memories of the Southampton routes. I certainly do, we always came across them first at Four Post Hill when coming up from Bournemouth. The trams in Birmingham are also a fond memory for me. Sir Adrian Cadbury (yes, those Cadbury's)

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quotes a poem by Louis Macneice on the latter …..

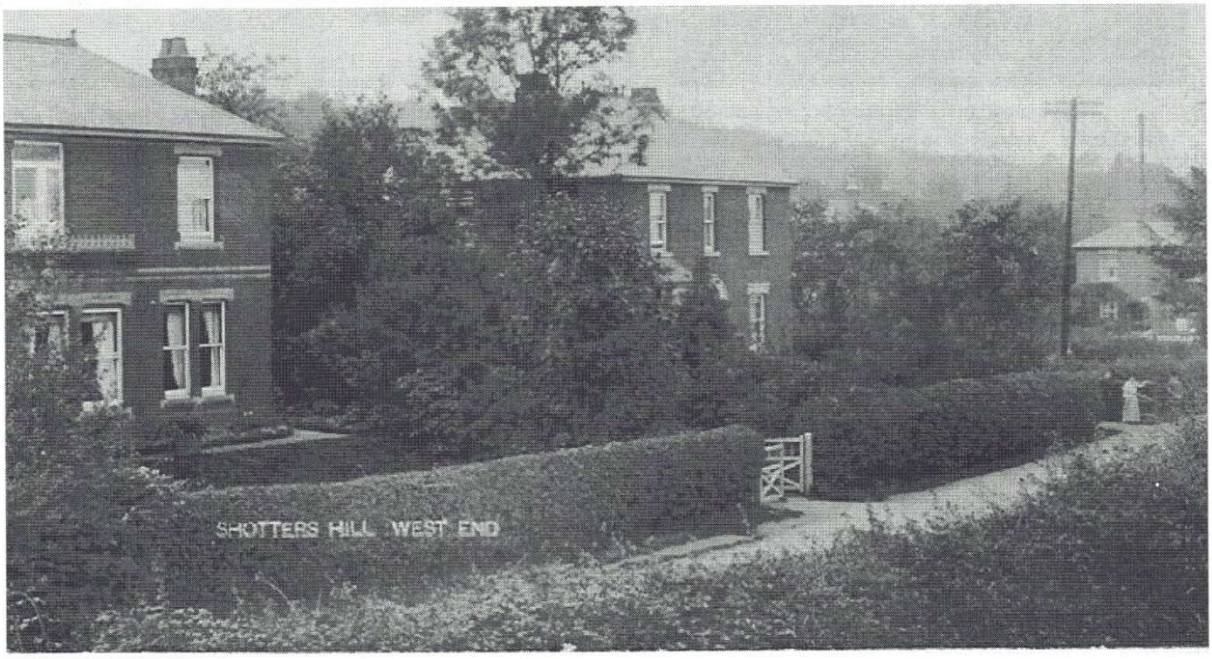
'On shining lines the trams like vast sarcophagi move'

… and goes on to write *'That was not how we saw them as children. The soothing clatter of passing trams was our background noise at home from early morning to the day's end. My bedroom looked out onto the Bristol Road, and when the trams ceased to run I missed their reassuring sound and did not sleep as well for quite a time'*. And now the trams are back in some parts of this country (Croydon, Sheffield, Manchester, with others planned), very different beasts from those of old! Oh, and if you remember the *'Bus Wars'* in Southampton not that long ago you may also remember that CityBus's 'weapons' were ex London Transport Routemaster buses, every inch the traditional London Bus and still to be seen on London streets!

JOE'S MEMORY JOGGED AGAIN! Pauline Berry

Seeing the holly bushes in this old postcard (see below) of Shotters Hill (Upper end of West End High Street, opposite the shops) taken in the early 1900's, brought back instant memories for our Joe Molloy. Joe, who lived on Chalk Hill as a child, recalled a bit of fun he had with a group of school friends back in the 1920's. A group of lads, just in their teens, including Joe and Stan Langford from the old Post Office at the crossroads (now 'Just 4 Kids' shop) were wending their way home from West End School (Hilldene). At that time you could stay on and study until the leaving age of 14 years. They were following and teasing an older friend Horace Webb who happened to be a student-teacher at their school and was trying hard to keep his dignity. Horace's home was in Upper New Road, next door to our President Bob Moody's home. Joe recalled the boyish banter about a girl friend, and as high spirits rose, a friendly tussle soon followed. During the ensuing horseplay, Stan Langford somehow ended up in one of those holly bushes you can see in the photograph. He was extricated, none the worse for wear and the lively group scuttled home eager for their tea!

N.B. *Joe told me that Horace Webb later left teaching and became a 'writer' in the Royal Navy. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, becoming Secretary to Lord Louis Mountbatten! He lived on Broadlands Estate, Romsey, when he retired and died in the 1990's. Perhaps you can help fill in the missing gaps of his life and career?*

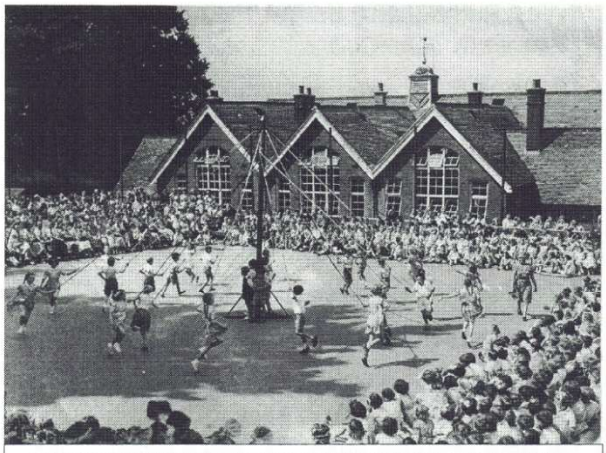


THE HOUSES ON SHOTTERS HILL, WEST END, SHOWING THE OFFENDING HOLLY BUSHES. THE HOUSE ON THE LEFT BELONGED ORIGINALLY TO DANIEL HAINES AND STILL EXISTS AS AN ESTATE AGENTS TODAY.

"AFFAIRS OF STATE" Derek Amey

A story of two reigns actually. As you may have noticed, there is currently a greater interest in things Victorian than ever before, prompted of course by the Centenary of Queen Victoria's death. So we were pleased to be invited to join in with a recent Open Day at Bursledon Brickworks that took 'Victoriana' as its theme. We set up our stall with appropriate displays and a selection from our book-stall alongside that of Bitterne Local History Society and a wide variety of others, not just those with a 'history' connection but many featuring craft items as well. A very enjoyable day (especially if you happen to like 'live steam', which really became the rocket fuel of the Victorian Era, and of which there were plenty of examples hissing away outside in the yard at Bursledon!).

Next year will see the celebrations for another royal anniversary, the Golden Jubilee of a Queen whose famous predecessor had given her name, like Victoria, to a whole era. Of course, our very own Queen Elizabeth has ruled over an age very different to that of the first Elizabeth. We thought that we would like to put over our own view of that second Elizabethan Age in the shape of an Exhibition in the Parish Centre. Details are still being finalised, what we can tell you at this stage is that it is provisionally scheduled for 3rd June 2002.



MAYPOLE DANCING AT HILLDENE SCHOOL IN THE 1950's

If anyone has interesting pictures of West End taken around the early 1950's, similar to the one shown on the left, please contact any Committee member, so that we may borrow and copy the pictures ready for the exhibition next year.

WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

Subscriptions were due on 1st July – have a look at the list on the Treasurer's desk at the next meeting so that you don't pay twice! (unlike one committee member did) Or ring me on **023 8057 5244** . Or download a membership form from our new website! - the web address is:

www.telbin.demon.co.uk/westendlhs

'BOOKS EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!' Derek Amey

Well, why shouldn't we get in on the act as well, especially as it is all in a good cause! Our range of local history books make excellent presents – for friends, for family, for ex-pat Westenders in other parts of the UK and other parts of the World! See the list of our publications in this issue of the Newsletter. ***(And don't forget that all sales generate a profit which helps to swell our funds – do yourself and the Society a good turn!)***

A special mention of **"Sister Kate Oram (1879-1918) A Personal portrait"** by Pauline Berry. For just £4.99 you can buy a copy at our monthly meetings or from the Museum any Saturday. Our very own local heroine, she returned to her home in Chapel Road to die at the tragically early age of 39, having nursed the likes of Florence Nightingale and Lady Constance Lytton, a prominent suffragette.

You might also like to know of a fascinating little booklet, one of a series of ***Local Papers*** published by our friends at ***Bitterne Local History Society*** and noted at Bursledon Open Day. It's titled **"County Borough of Southampton, Air Raid Precautions, WARDEN AND FIRE GUARD SERVICES REVIEW"**, and is in fact a facsimile reprint of a report compiled in 1944 on the setting up of ARP and street and business fire fighting organisations. We may all laugh at the antics of Warden Hodges in "Dad's Army", but as many of you will know, the reality was anything but a laugh. Well worth a read at only £2.50, another one for the Christmas List? (Obtainable at BLHS shop in Bitterne).

On this day (October 7th) in.....

1571 The naval Battle of Lepanto took place in the Gulf of Corinth, resulting in the destruction of the Turkish Fleet.

1769 Captain Cook reached New Zealand.

1806 A patent for the first carbon paper was secured by its inventor Ralph Wedgwood of London – 'for producing duplicates of writings'.

1919 KLM, the national airline of the Netherlands and the oldest existing, was established – opening its first scheduled service on the following 17th May.

1956 Clarence Birdseye, American inventor of a process for deep-freezing foodstuffs, died.

NEW NETLEY EXHIBITION

Well not so much a "new" exhibition, but an additional slightly different exhibition being held at Eastleigh Museum for the month of November. The highly successful and acclaimed ***"From Empire to Armageddon"*** exhibition of postcard images that is still on show at Netley Country Park has been revamped for showing at Eastleigh, so if you missed it the first time around, you still have a chance. The images come from the Lingwood Netley Hospital Archive, many of which have hitherto never been seen, and show life and people at what was the British Empire's first purpose built Military hospital. Many of you will probably remember the Hospital before it was demolished, standing on the shores of Southampton Water at Netley, a monument to Victorian Imperialism. At Eastleigh as at Netley Country Park there will be an accompanying leaflet which explains the history of the pictures. It is hoped that after the exhibition closes at Eastleigh at the end of November, that there will be a chance to see it again at West End Local History Museum.

NEXT MEETINGS

7th NOVEMBER 2001
LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL TRAMWAYS
Ashley Watt
6th DECEMBER 2001
XMAS BUFFET & RAFFLE + ENTERTAINMENT
(Members only)

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