THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

JULY 2002 – AUGUST 2002 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

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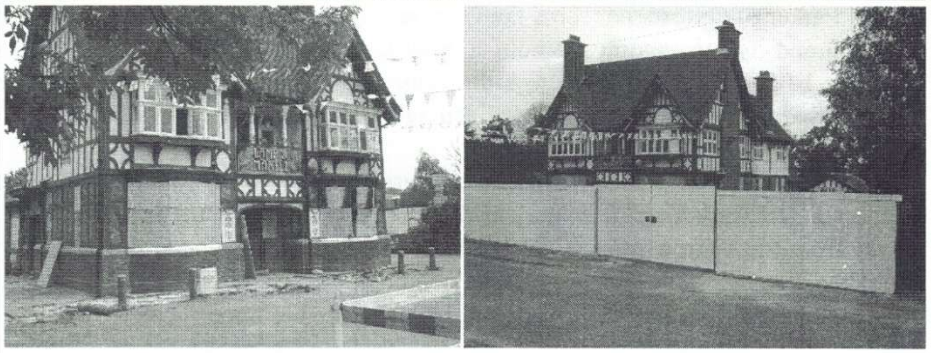
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ARSON ATTACK IN WEST END



THE "LAMP & MANTLE" PUB AFTER THE FIRE (left) AND AS IT IS NOW (right) FENCED IN

It's a sad reflection on our society and in particular on our village when we have to report a wanton arson attack. But this is exactly what happened on the night of Monday 15th July 2002 at around 11.30pm. The *Lamp and Mantle* public house whose closure was reported in the last edition of *Westender*, went up in flames, only the prompt reaction of the Fire Brigade saved the building from total destruction! After closure the pub had been boarded up awaiting the outcome of a last minute preservation order placed by Eastleigh Borough Council. The site is due for re-development into flats, but this had to wait until the Government either sanctioned the order for preservation or not. West End has been the target for ever increasing vandalism in recent months, with the centre of much of the mindless vandalism and graffiti being at the *One Stop* convenience store and adjoining fast food *Sizzler,* resulting in the total trashing of an abandoned car and an invalids wheelchair in the carpark in full view of the village recently. What we need are "Bobbies" back on the beat, based locally in local village police stations – not swanning around in patrol cars and missing what really is happening on the ground, but pounding the beat locally, with a good local knowledge of the village and its residents and based in the village, that is the only way to stamp out this mindless trend. Perhaps in the meantime while we are waiting for the Hampshire Police Authority to act the Parish Council could employ "Parish Constables" with the power of arrest to carry out additional patrols in the village and report incidents! We certainly pay enough Council Tax, so how about some service and a little policing!!!!

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West End Local History Society is sponsored by

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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THE WEST END HEINKEL BOMBER CRASH

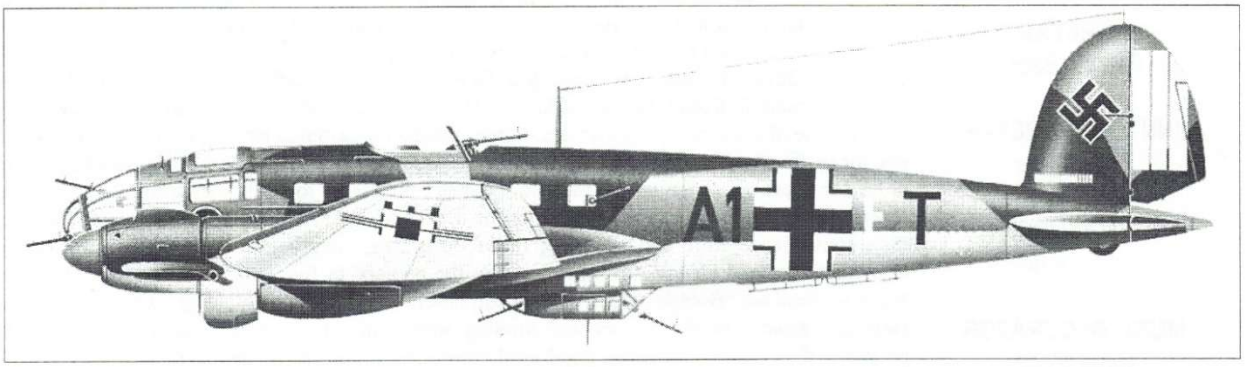
Pauline Berry

A very interesting and unusual acquisition has recently come the way of the West End Museum. Mr Roger Sherlock has kindly donated many items from his collection of the Heinkel III crash artefacts, excavated from a field at Allington Manor Farm some years ago. Amongst the more easily identifiable items are; pieces from the instrument panel, a harness buckle, part of a machine-gun sight, door catch, parts of the perspex windscreen and several exploded 7.92mm cartridge cases.

The background to the story of the Heinkel III crash, provided by Roger Sherlock of West End and Nigel Parker of Oxford, concerns the German Luftwaffe bomber force of 62 aircraft aiming to bomb Southampton and its surroundings, amongst other targets, on January 19th 1941. Their mission was successful, starting 14 fires in Southampton, killing one person and injuring several others. Much industrial damage was caused at the Railway Works at Eastleigh and a First Aid party of five was reported as killed.

The German plane which came to grief in West End was reputedly hit by a shell from the Quob Lane No.310 Anti-Aircraft Battery at 8.45pm. It broke up in the air, one wing and a tail falling two miles away from the main wreckage. The Heinkel crashed and exploded in the field, all five of the German crew perished. The wireless operator, whose notebook provided our War Ministry with much useful information had managed to bale out early but his parachute failed to open.

Our Society's President, Bob Moody, was involved as a Special Constable in 1941 and recalls seeing the bodies in the temporary morgue behind the old Parish Hall on the corner of Chapel Road.



The surnames of the German air-crew were; Lindhorst (pilot), Radke, Krause, Karzel and Enslin, their remains were eventually buried in a German War Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire.

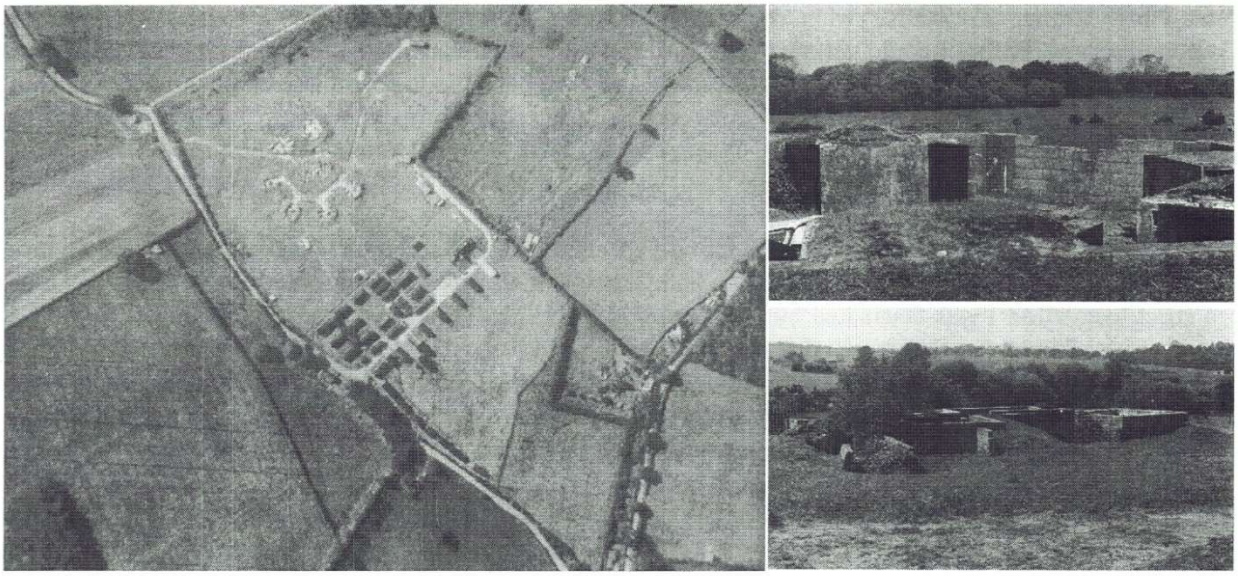
Information gleaned from the Ministry of Defence years later revealed that the Heinkel was carrying a "Most Secret" navigation system devised by the Germans. The notebook found in the dead Wireless Operator's pocket confirmed that the "BENITO" radio beam system was being used by the navigator to pinpoint with deadly accuracy, its British bombing targets. Unfortunately, the MOD pulped this fascinating piece of evidence along with other cumbersome wartime records in the mid-1970's! Luckily, however, we now have a copy of the original report of their findings.

Nigel Parker has in his possession one of the shell cases which reputedly brought down this enemy plane. As part of our war-time collection in the Museum we also have many 1970's black and white photographs of the remains of the Quob Lane Anti-Aircraft site (before it was covered with Motorway spoil), courtesy of Mr Tom Hiett. Later this year we hope to have a very interesting display in the Museum related to this and other war-time stories for all to see. After all, World War 2 is part of West End's history,

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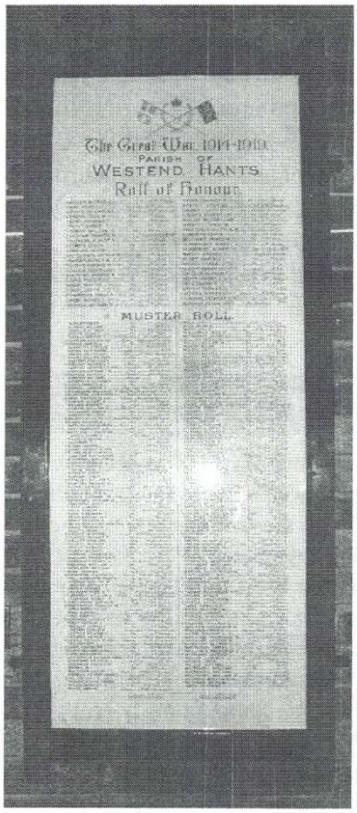
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unavoidably so, since we were sandwiched between Southampton Port and industries and Eastleigh's Airport and Railway Works. Do you have any memories of West End at War which you could re-tell or write down for us?

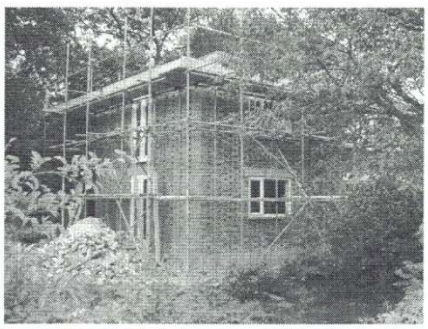


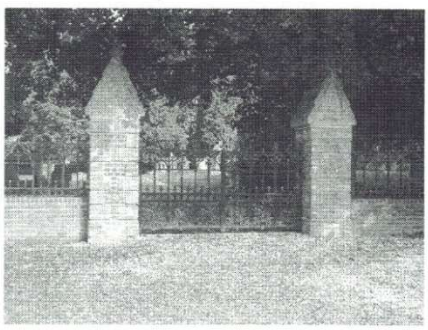
Aerial view of the Anti-Aircraft Battery at Quob Lane taken in the late 1940's, showing gun and predictor pits, Quob Lane running diagonally left to right and Winslowe barracks below right of the gun pits. The pictures on the right show some of the gun pits around the late 1970's before being buried.

WEST END RESTORED



It is nice to report some good news; the Parish Council must take the credit for the restoration of the villages **Roll of Honour and Muster Roll** (*see left*) which resides in the Parish Centre, the work has been carried out to clean up water stains and fading of the colours and looks really good, well done!! As reported in the last edition of *Westender* we have kept an eye on the refurbishing of the *Old Burial Ground* gates and railings. This work has been carried out to perfection and the result can be seen below. Both the previous two jobs have been carried out by the Parish Council and all credit to them, the next is by a private householder. You will have noticed the old cottage that once was the local village laundry has been having building work carried out. Due to dampness and other constructional problems it was necessary to demolish the old laundry extension, but this has been rebuilt with an additional storey and retaining all the old features including the unusual chequerboard brickwork (*see picture below*). Full marks for a job well done, we hope other local buildings when extended or altered will be as sympathetically treated. Ed.





MORE COUNTRY MATTERS ..... with Peter Andrews

Recently I was strolling along the High Street by In-Excess (a local store) lost in thought on the mysteries of life, such as, 'do tall people live longer than short, why is there a shortage of cheese scones on the Parish Bazaar cake stalls?' when my reverie was cut short by one of our lady members who had crept up unobserved. Before I could get away into In-Excess, a handy place to avoid people, it beats the maze at Hampton Court and is a good excuse for husbands who've been too long in the local – "no dear, I haven't been in the pub, I got lost in In-Excess", she used a nifty bit of footwork worthy of David Beckham and grasping my wrist with both hands said, "when are you going to write another article for the *Westender*?". Pleading writers cramp and nobody reads it anyway she insisted, so I acquiesced. Have you had a Chinese burn lately, that popular persuader of the playground enemy?

Casting my mind back to my childhood I recalled being at a church concert when the choirmaster came on stage and sang, "Devonshire cream and Cider", which was a curious choice on his part, as he was a strict teetotaller! I was fascinated by his shepherds smock, crook and battered hat. So much so that I always wanted to have one, smock, that is. Some years ago I learnt how they were made and of the various designs, each based on one piece of material. The word smock is derived from *smoc*, an Old English word for a shirt or chemise, this later developed into the full length type with honeycomb ornamentation on the front to allow for expansion and also embroidery was used, from fairly simple designs to the extremely elaborate from the 1750's.

Various countries had different designs and also stylised patterns to denote the trades of the wearers, i.e. wheels and whips for carters, flowers for gardeners, trees for woodmen. Unbleached linen and twisted linen thread was the material used for hard wearing and according to size of wearer about 12 feet by 3 feet of fabric. All parts were cut out either square or oblong, gussets were folded into a triangle, this allowed for maximum use of material with none wasted, some were patterned both sides, but then didn't have a collar, pockets were cut across the side seams instead of at the front, with or without flaps or was just a slit so the wearer could reach a trouser pocket. Generally speaking no buttons were used, though some would have one at the neck opening or one or two at the end of the sleeves. I have seen one with a row of eight for a short distance down the front, two on the ends of the collar and two each on the ends of the cuffs. Buttons were usually made of brass or bone. A more elaborate type was the *Dorset Cartwheel*, but were expensive and were much sought after. These were made of a ring of bone or other material that wouldn't rust and wool, cotton or silk in a very long length that didn't need joining. This was wound around the ring in various patterns and sizes. In its heyday it was a big cottage industry and depots were set up in the county where the buttons were collected every Friday and then delivered to various places including abroad to Europe and even the America's, the best quality ones being for export. So, if anyone has an old smock laying unused I'd be delighted to take it off their hands, and, if in a generous mood, might even buy it!

Both my readers will be pleased to know that a lady just rang to say that hearing of my plight, the lack of cheese scones, she has some in the oven and will bring some around in an hour. There must be guardian angels!.

A NOTE FROM THE MUSEUM CURATOR

It seems ages ago that the last edition of Westender "hit the streets", but the Summer recess has been with us and as you know we miss the month of August for meetings, so it will now be three months since the last edition – much has happened, some good, some not so good, but for those reading the article on the German Heinkel bomber that was brought down by ack-ack fire from Quob Lane will realise we are putting together a **West End at War** display, we are particularly looking for anything, artifacts or photo's etc.. to do with the West End Home Guard, this is an area we are sadly lacking in, also anything else relating to West End's part in the war effort. So its time once again to delve into those hidden recesses of your homes and see what you can come up with. And regarding our website, you will pleased to know that someone liked our site so much that they have nominated it for an award in the HantsWeb Award for Web Excellence competition for 2002 – wish us luck as the competition is really stiff. More and more people are discovering our website and enjoying it – if you haven't tried it yet – log on now to:

WWW.TELBIN.DEMON.CO.UK/WESTENDLHS/

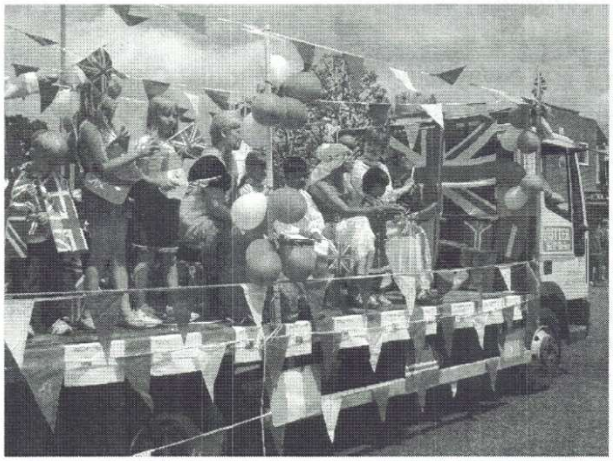
SUBS ARE DUE!

From 1st July actually, and valid until 30th June 2003! Now a flat rate of £5.00 per person. Our Membership Secretary, Delphine Kinley, will happily take your Subs at the September 4th meeting.

"WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"

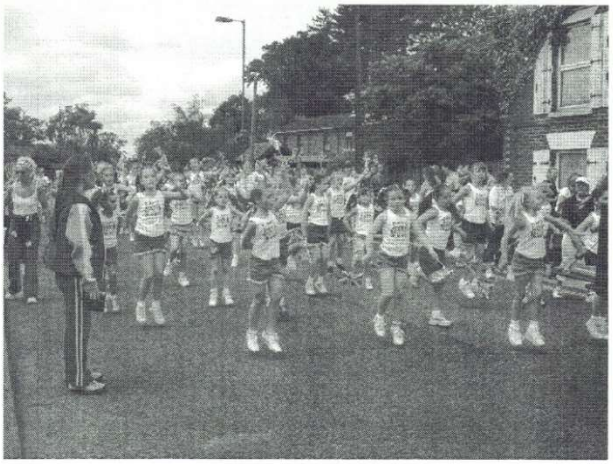
We had a phone call recently from a journalist (he had come across our Website) who is interested in the story behind the disappearance in the 1940's of Glenn Miller. Another famous VIP connection with West End?!! Well....sort of. Apparently a David Wright, who is the author of several books on the subject, used to live at a bungalow which bore the name *"The Shrubs"* in Allington Lane, but no longer. If anyone perhaps knew him, or of him, or perhaps even knows where he might have moved to, have a word with our Treasurer, Derek Amey, please.

WEST END CARNIVAL 22nd June 2002









As you can see from these pictures the weather was kind to the Carnival this year again, a good day was had by all with lots happening after the procession on Hatch Grange. We hope to see you all at the Carnival again in 2003! Ed.

On this day (September 4th) in.....

1870 Emperor Napoleon III, nephew of Bonaparte, deposed.

1886 Geronimo, Apache chief and leader of the last great American Red Indian rebellion, finally surrendered in Arizona to General Nelson Miles.

1907 Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer, best known for his "Peer Gynt Suite", died at Bergen.

1909 The first Boy Scout rally took place, at Crystal Palace in London.

1939 The British liner "Athenia" was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland.

1929 The German airship "Graf Zeppelin" completed its 20-day round-the-world trip, from Friedrichshafen, on the shore of Lake Constance, via Tokyo, Los Angeles and Lakehurst.

1948 Wilhelmina abdicated as Queen of the Netherlands in favour of her daughter Juliana.

1964 The Forth road bridge, 6156 ft long, and with a centre span of 3300 ft, was opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

September 4
SOUTH COAST SMUGGLING
Derek Amey

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

November 6
A HISTORY OF RED FUNNEL
Hazel Nicholson

December 4
CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ, SLIDE SHOW AND RAFFLE

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