THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

JANUARY 2003 – FEBRUARY 2003 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

ROAD NAMING HONOURS MOORGREEN MAN





Left: JAMES JUKES GREAT NIECE MRS GILLIAN HOLLOWAY & CLLR. MARTIN KYRLE UNVEIL THE NAME PLATE. Right: CLLR. KYRLE WITH DESCENDANTS OF THE JUKES FAMILY

Members of West End Local History Society joined with those of the British Titanic Society, local residents, Borough and Parish councillors and employees, representatives of the Developers and descendants of James Jukes family on Saturday 1st February at 11.30am to name a local road in honour of Moorgreens very own Titanic hero. Cllr. Kyrle joined Mrs Gillian Holloway, great niece of James Jukes, to unveil the new roads name plaque. Even the weather, which had been dull and wet lately, broke out with blue skies and sunshine for the event.

Henry James (Jim) Jukes signed on as a greaser aboard the ill-fated White Star liner "Titanic" for her maiden voyage to New York. On the night of 14th/15th April 1912 that prestigious liner struck an iceberg in the north Atlantic and sank with great loss of life including a very high percentage of the engineering and boiler room crew, amongst whom was James Jukes. His body was not recovered and until WELHS erected a memorial in the West End Heritage Museum in Orchards Way little was known of this brave man, now thanks to the Councils excellent road naming scheme he will be remembered and become known to many more people.

To learn more about this story and many other local people and events why not pay a visit to our Museum at the Old Fire Station!



HENRY JAMES (JIM) JUKES 1873 – 1912

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West End Local History Society is sponsored by

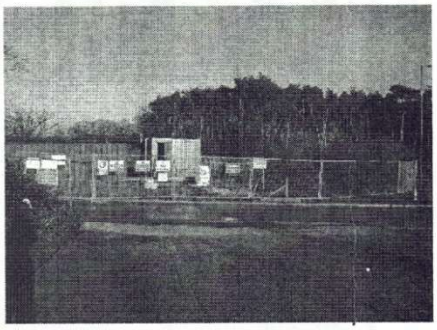
WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ALL CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE



Top left & right shows a new hotel being built on vacant ground at entrance to the cricket ground and below "The Olde Bakery" on left having shop front removed and right as a smart new look private residence. There is also outline planning permission for houses to be built on the SGB site at the junction of Chalk Hill and High Street.

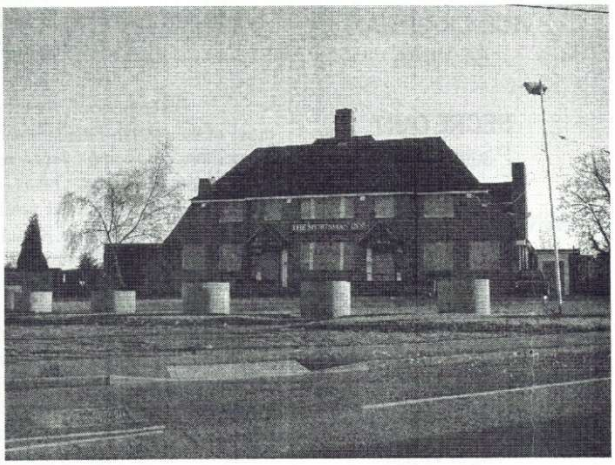












"THE SPORTSMAN" AS IT WAS ON THE LEFT AND NOW AWAITING DEMOLITION ON THE RIGHT

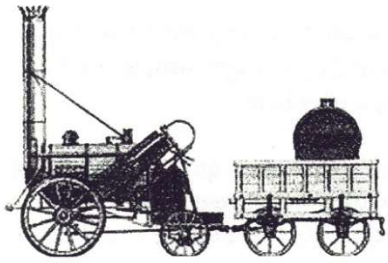




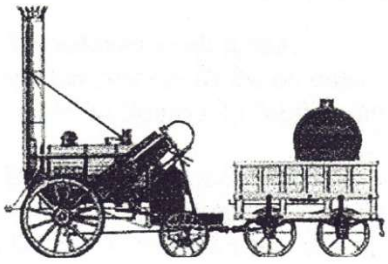
THE "LAMP & MANTLE" AS IT WAS ON THE LEFT AND NOW AWAITING DEMOLITION ON THE RIGHT

THE VICTORIANS GET THE STEAM UP

Derek Amey







She stands facing her Prime Minister, a diminutive figure (she is under 5 feet tall), dressed in mourning black. Princess Alexandrina Victoria is her name, she is eighteen years old, and the blue eyes which solemnly regard him are those of a girl who is now Queen of Great Britain. The date? It's the 20th June 1837 – the Victorian Age is about to begin.

So many things will change during the course of her long reign. Take travel – within just a few years it will become quite the thing for a new invention of the age, the train, to provide a novel means of getting from A to B at speeds never thought possible before. Speeds thought downright dangerous by some, the human frame will never survive this experience!

It won't be an easy business, this building of railways. A construction project on a scale never seen before, it will spawn a network of rails covering the country in the space of a few years. Contractors will struggle with the difficulties of bridging valleys and marsh and cutting embankments and tunnels through hills. Some will be bankrupted by the task, along with speculators losing heavily in the avalanche of share promotions in what will come to be known as "The Railways Mania".

Let's join a train of the period (Queen Victoria was to become an enthusiastic traveller) at London's Nine Elms Station in 1840, the third year of her reign. You might be forgiven for behaving much as many air travellers do in our own day and age. Carriages get into motion one by one as the couplings go taut, the less experienced passenger gripping the armrest tightly in some alarm. (Waterloo Station, by the way, hasn't been built yet and its namesake battle is only 25 years behind us.)

Over the Downs past Micheldever to the ancient city of Winchester, through Shawford and alongside the Itchen watermeadows steam, that rocket fuel of the Victorian Age, propels us, until we come to Bishopstoke and the junction where what looks to be another line goes off to our left. They are working on laying the new line to Gosport. One day Victoria's funeral train will come up that same line, carrying her body from Osborne House by way of Gosport to Windsor for that most final journey of all. In the intervening years the London & South Western Railway will create the complete "New Town" of Eastleigh on a grid pattern alongside its Works, a town which will provide everything from housing to an Institute for recreation and instruction. In that factory alongside the town they will put together the carriages and locomotives that will take commuters (a new breed) to London and holidaymakers to the likes of Bournemouth and Weymouth.

If it's West End you are making for, you'll have to alight here, or perhaps carry on to Southampton Terminus and hire a conveyance from there. The line goes no further, no Southampton Central and no trains yet to those other Victorian favourites, the seaside holiday and seaside piers of such as Bournemouth and Weymouth.

Life in West End, and indeed throughout the country, will never be quite the same again. In our own day it's a trifle ironic to realise that the coming of the railways gave rise to two novel concepts – that of establishing a standard time that applied all over the United Kingdom ("Railway Time") and indeed the very idea of being "on time". As Victorians, we have no problem with the time at Weymouth varying with the sun from that say at London, but a railway linking the two means that their clocks need to tell the same story. In the same way there will be a new preoccupation with a train arriving at Weymouth at that published Railway Time. Life from now on will be lived increasingly by the clock as well as the calendar. From nearby Botley trainloads of strawberries will be shipped to the capital each year, and all manner of perishables to feed its fast growing population. Our village will cease to be our horizon as these trains take us far and wide on business and pleasure, and even to the battlefields of two World Wars.

THE CHRISTMAS BASH GOES OFF WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT

Stan Waight

About thirty members of the Society attended the annual Christmas Buffet at the West End Parish Centre on 4th December, and there were almost as many varieties in the food they brought with them. With the addition of a couple of boxes of wine and soft drinks, the supper was truly excellent.

Our doughty Editor Nigel had all the answers, as usual, and laid on a first-class quiz of 48 general knowledge questions. Competition was keen and went to the wire, a tie-breaker being required to separate the two leading teams. In the end the *Three Musketeers*, led by Treasurer Derek, just pipped the *Old Thespians* under Publicity Officer Ray. Justice was done and the result saved the funds a little money – if Ray's team had won, four Mars bar prizes would have been needed instead of three!

With full tummies and hurting brains, we then sat back to relax while Neville and Vera took us on a Flight into Egypt with a slide show based on a holiday in the land of the Sphinx. The pictures and commentary kept us rivetted, and I'm sure there are a few members who have decided where their next holiday will be.

The proceedings were rounded off by a Grand Draw. With so many generously donated prizes it seemed that everyone (except yours truly!) was going home with one. The Committee and their helpers are to be congratulated on a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

...AND THINGS THAT GO "BUMP" IN THE NIGHT!

Peter Andrews



Calling in at the Museum on Saturday 2nd November, a young couple with a six month old baby came in to enquire about a house they had moved into in Chapel Road, number 16. Apparently they were somewhat disturbed by mysterious noises and footsteps, lights coming on and doors being opened. When the wife was doing a job, like cooking, ironing etc.. she was aware out of the corner of her eye a presence, but turning her head she saw that nothing was there! They know the Chapel was located close to where their house now stands and asked if there was also a graveyard there, I said "no". Perhaps it's the "manifestation" of a former chapel goer. Later I asked an old Westender if he recalled any members of the congregation, one he knew was the organist who lived nearby, a big jovial character, he was an Andrews, but no relation.

Strangely enough some months ago a young woman came into the museum with the same problem, again she had a young child. She lives in Orchards Way. A young woman, who does a bit of cleaning for me, helps at a house in Ivy Lane where similar occurances happen, which she's heard. A young workman doing a job by himself upstairs, came down rather rapidly and refused to return to finish the work and another had to do so. I hadn't thought of it before, but three or four years ago I woke up about 3.00am with what seemed like a sharp explosion in my head, I put it down to one of my few remaining brain cells giving up. A few nights later the same thing happened again, my wife said she'd heard it, so I

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4..

had a look around the other rooms, with no result. This happened three or four times, then one night we were woken up by a terrific crash against the bedroom wall which made the window rattle and wall vibrate. I leapt out of bed and rushed outside, but saw nothing. Next morning I checked inside and out and saw no damage. I put it down to Concord flying over, though my neighbour heard nothing.

Early this last year we both awoke by the front doorbell ringing continuously, again I checked thinking someone had jammed the bell push button, but it was OK, so I turned of the main switch for the bell. The next morning switching on again I tried the bellpush and all was well. I had a word with the electrician, but he couldn't explain it.

All these effects seem to occur about 3.00am or 4.00am. Up to now things are back to normal (or what passes for normality here!!!)

From Ghosties and Ghoulies and long leggity beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord , Deliver Us!

THE HAMBLE VALLEY FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

Joanne Cooper



Hamble Valley Tourism is calling on budding cooks to help them uncover recipes unique to the local area. Cherries, strawberries, plums, chestnuts, oysters, lobster and crabs have all played an important part in the history surrounding Hamble, Eastleigh, Chandlersford, Hedge End, West End, Bursledon and Botley, and Eastleigh's tourism unit would like to bring some of the traditional recipes alive in a Hamble Valley Recipe Book that is being launched at the Hamble Valley Food and Drink Festival (18th June – 6th July).

The Hamble Valley Recipe Book will contain delicious dishes from kitchens around the Borough of Eastleigh, with new and traditional recipes the book will bring alive some of the past traditions involving food.

Hamble Valley Tourism Unit are particularly keen to uncover local traditional recipes, and unearth other similar historical food "bites", and history of some of the hostelries in the area, all of which will be in the Hamble Valley Recipe Book and on their website ***www.hamblevalley.com*** for all to enjoy. The search plays part of their plans to celebrate local food through the Hamble Valley Food and Drink Festival, 28th June to 6th July. Events planned include a produce market, craft market, French Market, tastings, a Titanic dinner, Jane Austin Literary picnic and much more. If you have an original recipe that you would like to contribute or some facts and any historical information relating to food, either about a particular area of the Hamble Valley or hostelry, please send this, together with your name, address and telephone number, to Jo Cooper at Hamble Valley Tourism, Eastleigh Borough Council, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN or email ***joanne.cooper@eastleigh.gov.uk***

If you would like to register now for your free copy of the Hamble Valley Food and Drink Festival Programme call ***0906 68 22 001*** or email ***hamblevalley@eastleigh.gov.uk***

SOME REMINISCENCES OF OLD HATCH GRANGE

Pauline Berry

Following my plea in a recent newsletter, we are fortunate to have acquired two more Kelly's Street Directories for Southampton (and West End) for the years 1924 and 1964. These were kindly donated by Eric and Enid Fray who were here on a visit from the USA. They visited our Museum and loaned us photo's to copy as well. More recently they have also sent a 1947 copy of one of Richard St. Barbe Baker's books *"I Planted Trees"* to be added to the Museum Reference Library. Another generous donation for which we are very grateful!

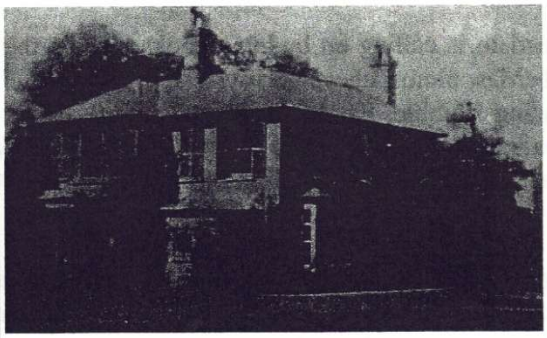
Eric is the son of Benjamin Fray and grandson of Albert Fray who ran Hatch Farm a century ago. He and his sister Olive grew up in the house *"Merry Gardens"* (named after the cherry trees) which still stands opposite the gates of the Parish Centre car-park. All this reminded me to look out a letter I received from Eric in 2000 including some reminiscenes of old Hatch Grange or "The Park" as it was in the 1930's.

"In our time it was partially covered with stands of furze and home to linnets, red-backed shrike, yellow hammers and numerous other birds. The white admiral butterfly, dark green fritillary and many other butterflies were present and I took a great interest in the natural life of the area. Alas, they are gone now. However, the large oaks are still there, for which we must be thankful".

Members of the Sillence family who lived in Firtree Cottage, remember how idyllic it was to be allowed to play on Hatch Grange "Park" in the 1920's when gorse and wild flowers ruled supreme and red squirrels and adders were a common sight. The late Mrs Daisy Gibbons told the local historian Charlie Sillence of the glorious sight of rhododendrons and camellias flowering "like fairyland" near Hatch Grange house. *"The walls were covered with beautiful wisteria and roses"*, she recalled with nostalgia.



MERRY GARDENS



HATCH GRANGE HOUSE

The only known photograph existing showing Hatch Grange House before the fire – there are a few others showing it as a ruin – if you have any others please let us borrow them to copy for the archives.



FIR TREE COTTAGE

The big house became derelict in 1936 and was unexpectedly demolished by a fire in 1938. How things have changed but at least 30 acres of the original 300 remain and are well cared for by the Parish Council as a Public Open Space. Some of the former wildlife, birds, grey squirrels and rabbits survive to enjoy the peace there after we have all gone home!

Note: We still have a few copies of Pauline's book "Hatch Grange...a stroll back in time" left for sale if you would like to enjoy a more detailed description of life on the old Hatch Grange Estate. See book list on the last page of the newsletter. Ed.

THE SEARCH FOR THE MARY ROSE

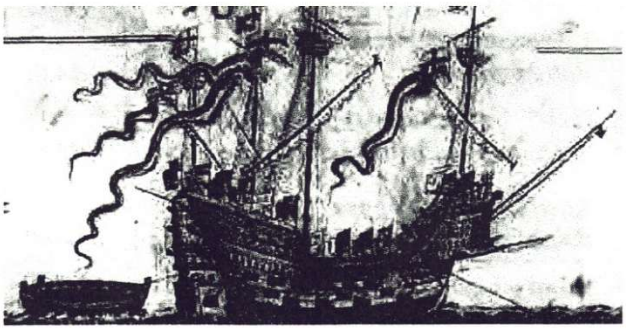
Stan Waight

Maurice Young was the speaker at our January meeting. He treated us to an account of the organisation of the work that led to the raising of Henry VIII's favourite ship, the *Mary Rose*. Now retired, Maurice was a Naval shipwright and trained diver, and it was a first-hand account since he was in on the project from the very beginning. He first gave us a brief but authentic history of the ship, a carrack (not a galleon!) that was named after Henry's sister Mary Tudor, and how she sank while manouevring in the Battle of the Solent in 1545 (and would have done so even if her cannon ports had been closed!). Maurice went on to tell of earlier salvage projects - the unsuccessful attempt to raise the ship immediately after she had sunk, and the Deane brothers' dives on the wreck in the 1830s. Nothing more happened until 'Mad' Alex McKee came on the scene in 1964.

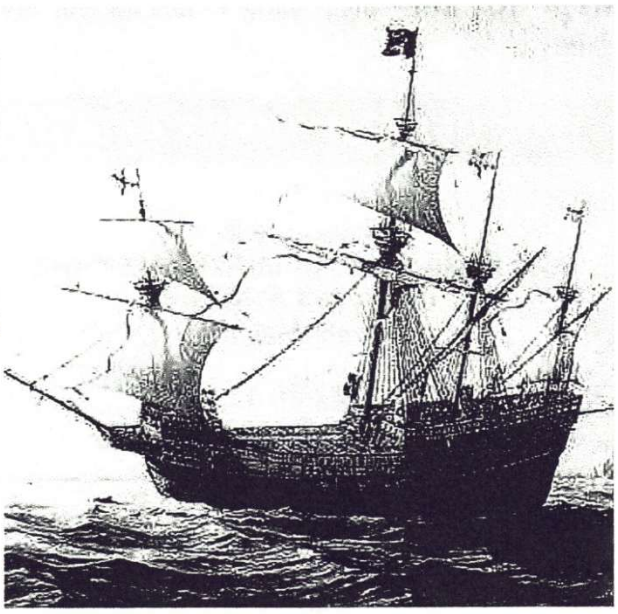
With the aid of old pictures, maps and documents, McKee had convinced himself that he knew the site of the wreck, but his problem was to convince others - hence the nickname. Despite the cynicism, he was able to recruit a small group of divers. These included Maurice Young, whose experience as a shipwright was an added bonus; a bricklayer who could find his way unerringly under water; an electrician and a plumber whose combined skills were indispensable in the maintenance of the compressor; and a dental surgeon [I got the impression that this man was skilled enough to replace fillings under water, but maybe that was just an impression!]. They found the *Mary Rose* just where McKee had said it was, but the team had to struggle until the artefacts they brought up proved its identity. Offers of equipment then poured in and everyone wanted to get in on the act.

We were given graphic descriptions of the work under water, including the use of shovels until the coming of the 'airlift' equipment that enabled excavation to be carried out more efficiently! Maurice modestly played down the very considerable dangers, however, even though it was the bursting of an eardrum that forced him to retire from the project. He was not involved in the raising of the wreck in 1982, and it was disappointing that we did not hear more about that. The talk was concluded by the showing of some slides illustrating the work and the artefacts it produced, but for me the talk was by far the better part of a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Maurice now gives time to guiding visitors around the Mary Rose Trust's Museum, and is the only guide to have been involved in the excavation.



The Mary Rose as depicted on the Anthony Roll
© Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge



The twentieth anniversary of the raising of the Mary Rose will be celebrated this year. On 11th October 1982 the ship was raised from the sea bed off Portsmouth where it had lain since 1545. A visit to the Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth is well worth while and recommended. Ed.

CAN ANYONE HELP!

I am hoping to put together a paper regarding the history of the West End and Moorgreen Post Offices, any one who can lend me copies of old postmarks of either of these post offices and/or any photographs I would be most obliged, I can copy the images and return the originals within a few days to the owners. Likewise anyone who has any paperwork pertaining to these post offices I would like to borrow. You can contact me on **023 8047 1886** or e-mail me at **woodng@aol.com** Many thanks

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

1788 Sir Robert Peel, British Tory statesman, Prime Minister and founder of the Metropolitan Police Force, born at Bury in Lancashire, the son of a cotton millionaire.

1840 Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim, American inventor of the first fully automatic machine-gun, named after him, born at Sangersville in Maine.

1840 John Boyd Dunlop, Scottish veterinary surgeon and patentee of the pneumatic bicycle tyre, born at Dreghorn in Ayrshire.

1900 Adlai Stevenson, American Democrat statesman, born at Los Angeles in California, the grandson of a vice-President.

1920 Frank Muir, British comedy writer and broadcaster, born.

1920 Royal Air Force College at Cranwell opened and had its first intake of apprentices.

1924 The BBC "pips" were heard for the first time.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

February 5
ARE FAMILY HISTORIANS REALLY THE POOR RELATIONS?
Stan Waight

March 5
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Plus
T.S. MERCURY, HAMBLE
David Muffet

April 2
PURPLE, WHITE & GREEN
The Suffragette Movement
Jean Cook

May 7
TITCHFIELD – Town or Village?
Madeline Selby

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

"The Mackay-Bennett...the Funeral Ship at the Titanic Disaster". ** *By John G.Avery* **£2.50**
***** This is a new enlarged edition***

"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