THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

OCTOBER 2003 – NOVEMBER 2003 VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

HOLIDAY INN COMES TO WEST END



THE NEW HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL AT WEST END *Photograph by J.D.H.Chapman*

Ideally positioned near the Hampshire Rosebowl County Cricket Ground - West End now boasts a brand new hotel. Located near the M27 on the Botley Road the 131 room hotel run by ***Express by Holiday Inns*** is quite an impressive complex with parking provided for 112 cars, set in landscaped grounds on what for many years was a waste section of land adjacent to Moorgreen Hospital. Among its many attractions the hotel boasts a cocktail lounge, restaurant, conference/meeting rooms, air-conditioning and luxuriously appointed rooms. This is West Ends first and only hotel and given the local attractions and places of interest within easy reach and excellent access via the M27 I am sure it will be a great success. Ed.

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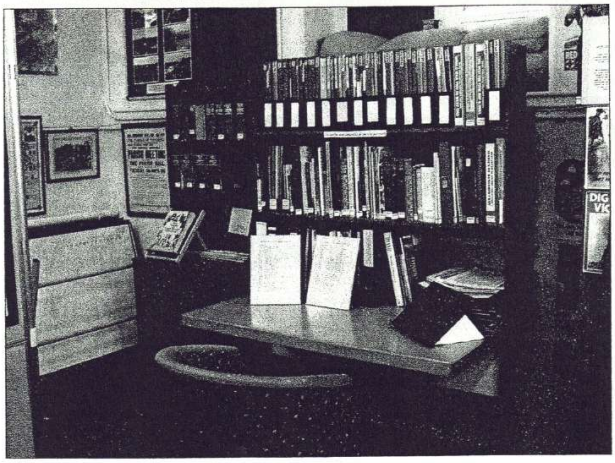
West End Local History Society is sponsored by

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

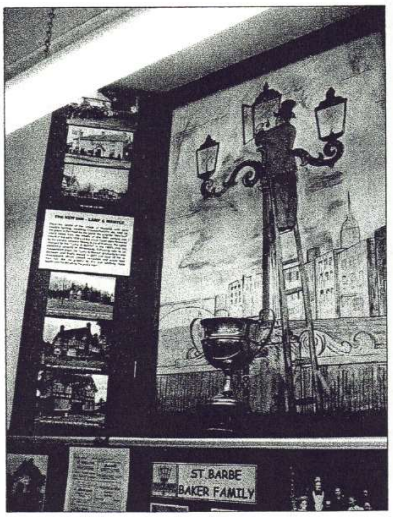
RECENT MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS



NEW LAYOUT AND SEAT FOR RESEARCH TABLE



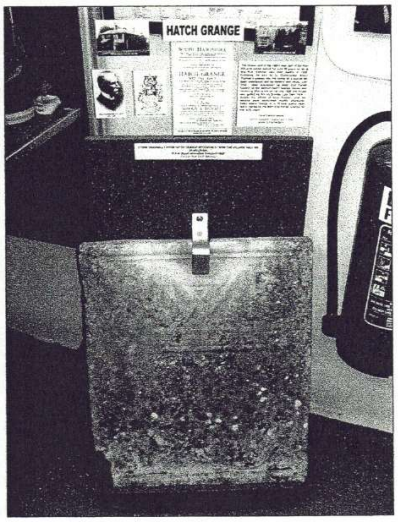
NEW POSITION FOR THE WEST END FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY



THE LAMP & MANTLE PUB SIGN



THE SPORTSMAN PUB SIGN



FOUNDATION STONE FROM HATCH GRANGE HOUSE



These pictures show some of the ongoing improvements that have been carried out in the Museum over the past few weeks by a small dedicated band of WELHS members – further improvements over the next few months will provide extra storage and further displays of local events, places and people. The Curator would like to thank those members who have provided help, in particular; John Avery, Bill White, Delphine Kinley, Rose Voller and Pauline Berry. Ed.

CONTACT WANTED

We have recently received an e-mail contact from **Gerry Grant** who lived on the edge of West End on the boundary with Thornhill and Hedge End and attended West End Primary School between 1940-1946. He attended Thornhill Boys Club and was a member of Westend C of E choir. He is now living in Sydney, Australia and would be please to hear from anyone who remembers him – he can be contacted by e-mail at:

rhapsody@arrowsmithassoc.com.au

"THE MOUNT" AT BISHOPSTOKE

Report by Pauline Berry

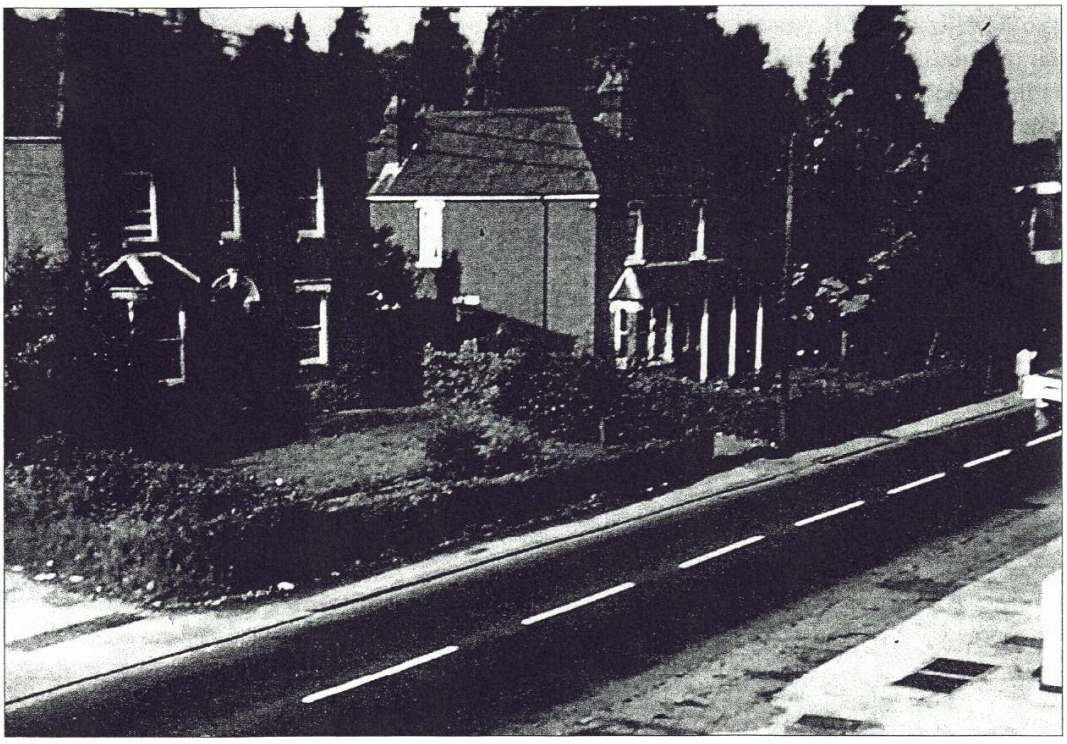
Our speaker on 4th June was Joan Simmonds from Bishopstoke who spoke, in her own distinct and inimitable style about the history of the old house, The Mount. Her painstaking research was reflected in the impressive amount of detail of the houses past at Bishopstoke.

Its story was told, beginning with its construction in 1844 on farmland near the River Itchen. It was built by Walter Twynan and in 1859 was occupied by a Mr Gilman and became the typical Victorian genleman's home with large "pleasure grounds" surrounding it. Upon the death of its owner it was put up for sale in 1870 and here Joan provided us with fascinating detail from the Sales Catalogue.

The 28 acre estate was sold for £7,000 to a Captain Hargreaves who lived there for the next twenty years until 1891. In the 1880 Kelly's Directory it was described as *"in the Italian style, surmounted by a tower"*, comprising of many rooms including an imposing collection of Italian works of art. Despite a battle over fishing rights, Captain Hargreaves showed his generous nature by opening his grounds to the local residents for various fetes and celebrations.

Following his death, the house with now 66 acres, was sold to a Mr Cotton who continued to make the grounds available for local events. After his death in 1921, The Mount was sold to Hampshire County Council as a Sanatorium for TB patients. Although still used for various health treatments and convalescence, the future of the building is under question today. As we know only too well in West End, it is a sad day when old buildings are demolished in the name of progress for housing needs.

WEST END 34 YEARS AGO....



A photograph taken in 1969 showing Mr Parkers house that stood on the corner of Upper New Road and High Street – both houses in the picture were demolished to make way for the block of retired peoples flats that now stand there. You can just see part of the Garage forecourt at bottom right of the picture.

A FIRST FOR WEST END

Pauline Berry

Whilst sorting through some ancient newspaper cuttings this headline caught my eye; *"West End Elections, first woman Parish Councillor"*. Looking at the date, March 14th 1931, it made me realise that it was only 3 years after women had been "awarded" full suffrage. (In 1918 only women over 30 could vote). This annual parish meeting had attracted a lot of interest, since it was time for the three-yearly election of Parish Councillors (unlike 4 years today) and there were twenty nominations for only 12 vacances instead of eight.

Mr T.Hatley took the chair just for the election which was by a show of hands, nothing secret about it and judging by the number of votes there was decent "turn-out" in the old Parish Hall, once on the corner of Chapel Road and the High Street. All the names are familiar to many of us in the Society and as usual the venerable Harry Haines was returned for the umpteenth time with the most votes (105) and was later re-elected as Chairman. His son A.H.Haines (father of Gordon) received a worthy 92 votes, J.Knowlton (the Baker) J.P. 91 votes, Reuben Fray (of Rosemount Stores) 89, J.Bignell (Blenheim Villas) 87, J.Welch (the Baker) 84, Rev. R.H.Babington 74 votes, E. Stephens 72, Lt.Commander A.T.Thurlow,RN (new owner of Hatch Grange) 70, H.Cowley 64, E.Wynter-Cross 58, and surprise, surprise, Miss M.Acton 60 votes. She received a rousing cheer for being the first woman elected onto West End Parish Council!

This was indeed a novel achievement in West End and one wonders what pressure it put upon her. Did she manage to make an impact on the Council or not? Do you know? Miss Acton was one of the well-known "grandes dames" of West End (to quote local historian Peter Carne) who lived at "The Jungle", half-way up West End Road, on the left hand side. It was then known as Cemetery Road and Peter remembers carol-singing there in return for oranges. I wonder if the name "The Jungle" was a quiet dig at the name of the much grander house and estate on the Bitterne side of Church Hill? (The Wilderness)

This Parish Council election left eight very disappointed men unelected, all with less than 40 votes, including a Mr Nippiard (38 votes) who later complained to the Parish Council that the days chosen for paying the rates at the Parish Hall were not always convenient for him. Other subjects for discussion that day were: the (first) fire station to be added to the Parish Hall and the inclusion of two fire extinguishers to bolster the equipment there; Mr Light complained about the grass verge which existed on only one side of West End Road down to the bottom; Captain P.C.Pearson,RN (of Oaklands), County Councillor reported on the

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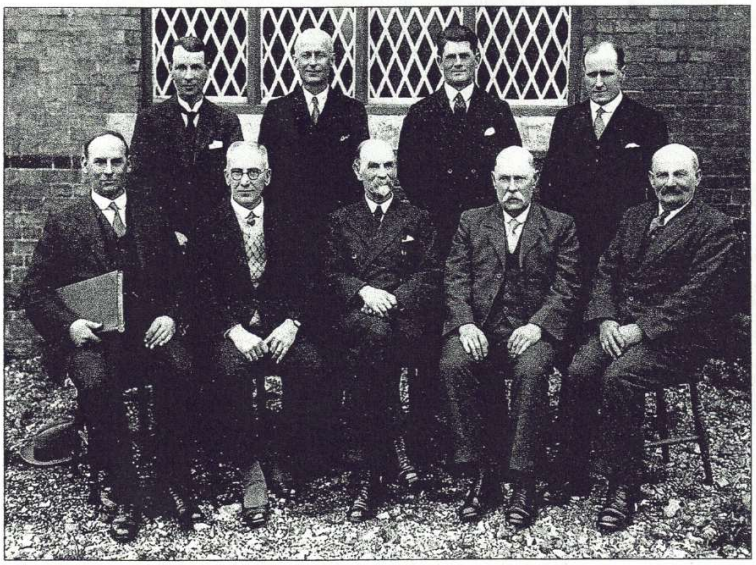


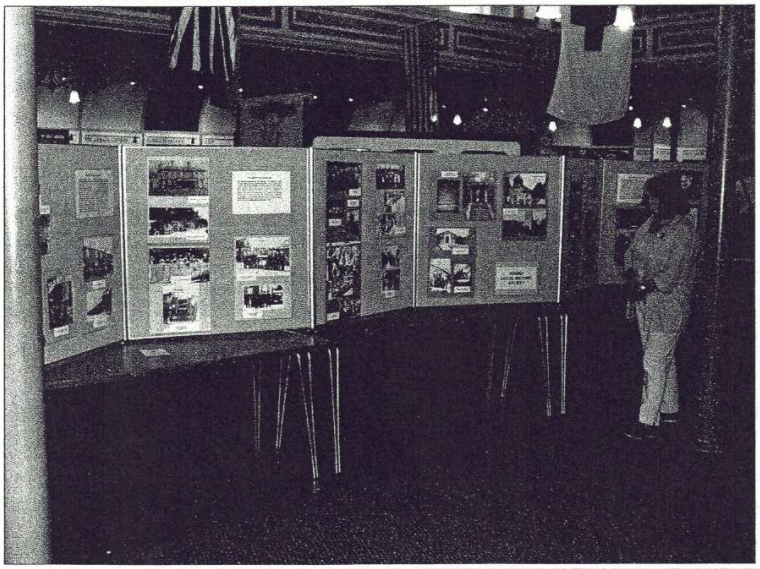


Above left: Prominent members of the West End Parish Council c.1932 – *Back row: Albert Haines, Jim Bignell, Colin Mattison, Reuben Fray. Front row: J.V.W.Harris (Parish Clerk), E.Wynter-Cross, Harry Haines, Jim Welch, J.Knowlton.* Above right: the old Parish Hall at West End, formerly the original National School until that moved to Hilldene when it became the Parish Hall.

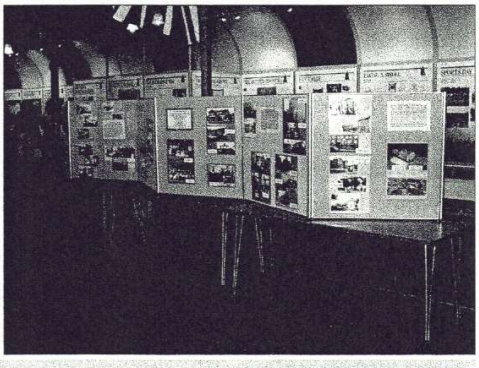
Continued from page 4...

site of the new Senior School to be built on Botley Road, just past the Hedge End crossroads (could this be the Secondary School in Wildern Lane?); Mr T. Hatley, R.D.C., reported on the sad abolition of the Guardians and the severance of their connection with the Poorhouse and also the Rural District Council's involvement with the erection of 400 houses *"was almost like an estate office's"*. Reference was also made by the Parish Clerk Mr H.W.V.Harris, to the possible adoption of a "scavenging" scheme (early rubbish collection?) by the District Council. So little has fundamentally changed at these meetings except names and titles, has it? But we would like to know more of Miss M.Acton please!

HOUND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY EXHIBIT AT NETLEY



Following the successful West End Local History Society display at the Royal Chapel at Netley Country Park, our neighbouring group Hound Local History Society put on an excellent display – showing various aspects of life locally down the ages.



JESSIE JAMIESON ANDREWS – a right honorary Westender

Peter Andrews

At the WELHS meeting on the 4th of June, Neville announced the loss of my wife. Later, I realised that as she was not a member of the society very few knew her, as owing latterly to poor health she could not get about. However, during her previous involvement in village life she was well known and liked in West End.

We came to the village in March 1955, moving into our new bungalow. This was something of a cultural shock to Jessie and possibly to some of the original inhabitants, the latter in the shops being asked for half a stone of potatoes and butchers asked for cuts of meat they'd never heard of! Unlike modern estates where roads are put in first, ours wasn't until a lot later, even Chapel Road was mainly gravel with a ditch to one side, and of course, no lights – we used torches coming home at night! Two children next door would ask us if they could go through our back garden and take a short-cut up through the field to school, as no bungalows had been built there until later on. Once our road had been finished off, a lamp post was put in further up from us. This didn't suit Jessie and she asked for one to be put in outside our property, she said it was too gloomy and there were a number of old age pensioners here – actually there was only one, but she got her lamp post!

Once settled in and acclimatised to a different way of life, she joined the local Labour Party, becoming Treasurer and organised whist drives, jumble sales and the annual Christmas party for the children, which are talked about even now. These were held in the old Parish Hall – the usual standard fare of cakes, jelly, sandwiches and soft drinks, followed by games and a cinema show. Those who supplied cutlery from

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home tied a piece of coloured wool around the handle for identification purposes. Jessie teamed up with Mrs Dove who lived in Crabwood Drive and had moved there from Bitterne, she had been on the Southampton Council and was a great organiser in her own right and set up the Chiropody clinic in Moorgreen Hospital; Jessie did all the appointments and arranged transport, knowing who could ride in a small car or not and who couldn't attend in the mornings. If a patient dropped out for some reason or other, then they would be replaced, I delivered the appointments. This cost the NHS virtually nothing, only for the chiropodist and a nominal amount to volunteer drivers for petrol. The system ran smoothly for some years until another chiropodist was put in place who tried to "improve" the service provided, probably under the orders of the NHS. More "red tape" was the order of the day! Drivers had to put in a detailed form for mileage, volunteer helpers weren't needed, though Jessie was asked to stay on. She did so, but when the chiropodist saw her taking the appointments book away to make up at home, she was told to put it back as it wasn't allowed out of the room. This was the last straw and she wrote a letter of resignation, dated 9th July 1986. She gave her reasons, the main one being the advent of the self-referral system and the volunteers work having become unnecessary and stated she had organised the transport until the end of July.

Jessie thought it good manners to let the administrator of the Chiropody Service know of her intentions. A previous letter of the 14th April 1986 from the Administrator thanks her for her letter giving a breakdown of postage and telephone calls made on behalf of the department at Moorgreen Hospital for the previous three months. The admin. goes on to say that Mr Farnsworth told her that she is invaluable to him, he was the previous Chiropodist, and was thanked for all she did to make the service run efficiently. He had a sideline with a smallholding and used to bring in eggs, honey and other products to sell, eventually he was told to stop this as it wasn't a shop! Exit one Chiropodist and the arrival of another, things seemed to go downhill from then on. I still get locals coming up to me now complaining about the present system and what a shambles it is.

Jessie was also a member of the Women's Social Club, though eventually ill health put paid to these activities. She was always proud of her Scottish ancestry, being of the clan Campbell. I used to point out that they sided with the English against the other clans, much to her annoyance! Though now incapable of taking part in village life, she was always interested in what went on. In 1962 she applied and was elected to be a Parish Councillor, even signing the Statutory Declaration of Secrecy, but then there were three too many than were needed so it didn't come about. Who knows, she may have become Mayor of Eastleigh !!



Left: the late Jessie Andrews

(would I have become mayoress?) I still have her papers here appertaining to these events. To augment finances Jessie started part-time office work, she had several jobs, at a Solicitors, Radio Rentals in Shirley, Toogoods Seeds (I never received any "freebies"!) in Millbrook and finally the Students Union at Southampton University, this started on 20th February 1967 and was initially for 3 days a week. As the University expanded she was asked to do a 4th day, eventually this expanded further to a 5 day week and she was accepted as a full-time member of the staff after an interview on 19th June 1969, which was backdated to the 1st June. This suited Jessie fine as she was in charge of Union funds and kept a tight rein on how they were allocated. However, by 1971 her health deteriorated as students were coming in her office during her dinner hour, so she didn't get a break. On Friday 19th March Jessie was taken ill with bronchitis and on Monday 29th gave in her notice in writing to the permanent Secretary. After a period of recuperation and not being one to be idle, she started to take a more active part in village life. This is now all a part of West End history, albeit of one newcomer of 48 years residence!

NIGHTINGALE, NURSES AND NETLEY

Stan Waight

The subject for the September meeting was 'Florence Nightingale and Military Nursing in Hampshire', and the able speaker was Patrick Kirkby, historian and museum curator.

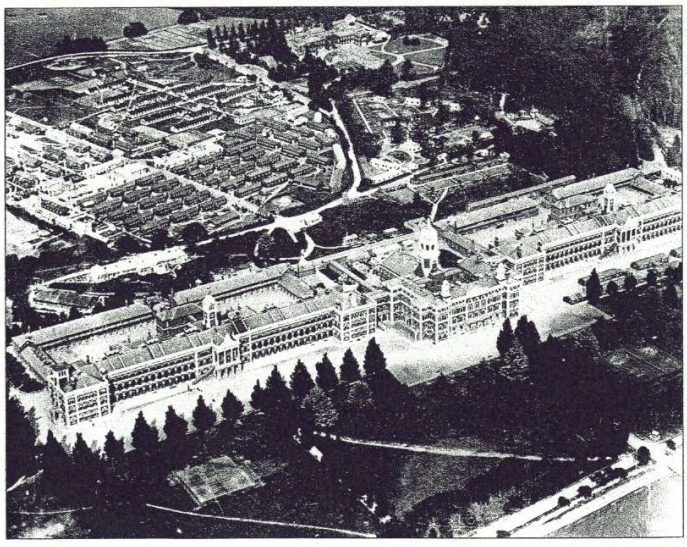
In a presentation supported by many first-class slides, including late 19th-century photographs, the principal subjects were Florence Nightingale herself and our local Netley Hospital.

We saw rare photographs of Florence, who, after a 'Call from God' in 1837, trained in Germany and first used her skills in the military theatre at Scutari in Turkey during the Crimean War (1854-6). She was involved in the design of Netley Hospital and founded the first nursing Hospital and founded the first school of nursing at St. Thomas's in London in 1860. We even heard a probably-unique recording of her voice.

Netley Hospital was begun in 1856 and took 7 years to build. The corridor than ran the full length of the western side was a quarter of a mile long and there were 138 wards. Its first real use was for war-wounded soldiers from the Boer campaign in 1899, and it saw great numbers of men brought home from France in World War 1. It was used as a transit hospital by U.S. forces, army and navy, during World War 2, when casualties were 'patched up' before being sent for longer-term treatment at hospitals inland. It was finally demolished, except for the Chapel, in 1966. Patrick also touched upon 'D' Block - the psychiatric hospital - and the hutted Red Cross hospital.

The development of military nursing was also covered during the course of the talk. There were few female nurses in the early days, ward duties being carried out by male medical orderlies. The army nursing service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service, was not set up until 1902, and a parallel service for the navy followed on. These nurses were civilians until 1949, when they were given formal military ranks. The nurses dress was very formal, and included a red (army) or blue (navy) 'tippet' or shoulder cape - our Secretary Pauline was invited to model a red one that Patrick had brought with him. It was a very interesting and informative evening and was enjoyed by all.





Left: Florence Nightingale. Above: Aerial view of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley in Hampshire on the banks of Southampton Water – the first purpose-built Military hospital in the UK.

SECOND ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY FAIR AT THE POINT, EASTLEIGH

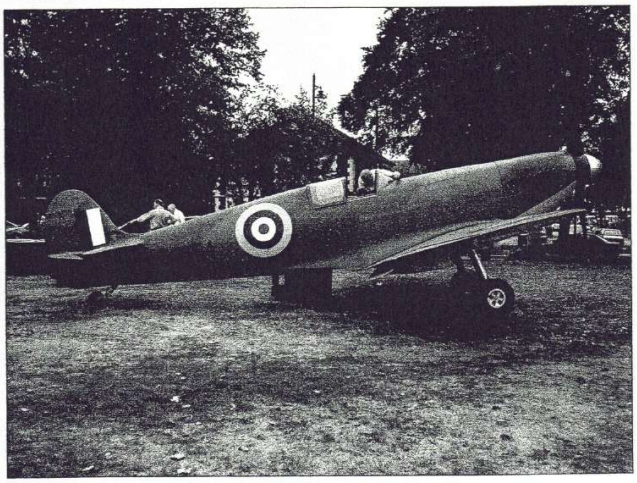
Sunday 21st September 2003 - A photo report by Nigel Wood















Stands varied from Local History societies to vintage cameras, model aircraft to the Real Dad's Army re-enactors, Film Shows, Antiques valuations but the star exhibit had to be the full size flying replica of the prototype Spitfire K5054 set on the grass area outside. You could sit in the cockpit for £2 and have your picture taken. Wonderful musical entertainment was provided by Madding Crowd. An excellent day was enjoyed by all and it is to be hoped the Show will be repeated next year.

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS WHICH IS:
www.hants.org.uk/westendlhs/
OUR OLD SITE AT DEMON WILL HAVE A RE-DIRECT FACILITY FOR A SHORT TIME AFTER WHICH YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ACCESS US USING THE NEW ADDRESS.

BURSLEDON, THE *ELEPHANT* AND NELSON

Stan Waight

The speaker at our October meeting was Tim Holt, a former Royal Navy officer who served from 1955 to 1995 and is now a member of the staff at Southampton University.

Tim is a lively speaker; he knows his subject well and the lecture was packed with statistics, but it was rather short. His subjects also have a great potential for illustration, and would have been all the more interesting for the inclusion of some slides.

The principal subject of his talk was H.M.S. *Elephant*, Nelson's 74-gun flagship at Copenhagen in 1801, built at Bursledon at a cost of more than £34,000 and launched there in 1786. The major events of George III's reign involved sea power and, although the R.N. dockyard at Portsmouth was beyond compare, it could not provide all the ships required by the Navy. So we heard how naval hulls were built by civilian entrepreneurs in Hampshire creeks such as Bursledon, and towed to Portsmouth for fitting-out. Hampshire-grown timber was used in the construction of *Elephant,* which was the largest ship to be built at Bursledon, and Tim gave us a brief run-down on the boatyard and its owners; because the channel is so narrow, hulls had to be launched side-on - a rather dangerous process.

We were told of the historical background to Copenhagen, and of Nelson's tactics that turned a near-disaster into a brilliant victory. The battle was fought in shallow waters, and Nelson had been obliged to transfer his flag from the *St. George* to the smaller *Elephant* - but for this it would never have had such local relevance for us. Here Tim diverted to talk a little about his own Naval experience and about Nelson himself (more missed picture opportunities?).

Little is known about the *Elephant* after Copenhagen beyond her breaking-up in 1830. I would have liked to hear a lot more.

OUR NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2004

2004 PROGRAMME

January 7
THE HISTORY OF POSTCARDS
John Silman
February 4
DROVERS AND DROVE ROADS
George Watts
March 3
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
plus
HAMWIC – THE SOUTHAMPTON ORIGINS
Genevieve Bailey
April 7
CHARLES DICKENS IN PORTSMOUTH
Madeleine Selby
May 5
MY GOD IT'S A WOMAN!
(Early Aviators)
Jean Cook
June 2
I'LL SEE YOU IN NEW YORK!
(The story of Edith Haisman, survivor of the Titanic Disaster)
David Haisman
July 7
THE HISTORY OF SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT
Eric Reed
NO MEETING IN AUGUST
September 1
GARDEN FINDS & TREASURE TROVE
(The Portable Antiquities Scheme)
Jodi McCrohan
October 6
THE WORK OF HANTS & IOW TRUST FOR MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY
Julie Satchell
November 3
WEST END & THE GREAT WAR
Steve Broomfield
December 1
CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ, SLIDE SHOW & RAFFLE

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

1605 The Gunpowder Plot of Guy Fawkes to blow up King James I and Parliament was foiled when 36 barrels of gunpowder were found in Parliaments cellar.

1854 The Battle of Inkerman in the Crimean War took place, with a French and British victory over the Russians.

1909 The first Woolworth's store in Britain was opened, in Liverpool's Lord Street.

1912 Roy Rogers, American singing cowboy film actor, born at Cincinnati in Ohio as Leonard Slye.

1913 Vivien Leigh, British film actress and Oscar winner, born at Darjeeling in India, as Vivien Hartley.

1914 Cyprus was annexed to Britain on the outbreak of war with Turkey.

1927 The first automatic traffic lights in Britain began functioning, at Prince Square crossroads in Wolverhampton.

1935 Lester Piggott, English champion jockey, born at Wantage in Berkshire.

1960 Mack Sennet, American film producer and creator of the "Keystone Kops", died at Richmond in Canada.

1963 Tatum O'Neal, American film actress, born at Los Angeles in California, the daughter of Ryan O'Neal.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

November 5
EXPLOSIONS FROM THE NEW FOREST!
Tony Yoward

December 3
CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ, SLIDE SHOW AND RAFFLE

THE NEW PROGRAMME CARDS FOR 2004 WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CHRISTMAS MEETING ON DECEMBER 3rd. MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY! OR SEE PAGE 9.

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 # 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* **£6.50**
(new special low price)

"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**

A varied selection of postcards is also available – check for details and prices

AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP