THE WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WESTENDER

MAY 2003 – JUNE 2003 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 11

GOODBYE TO THE SPORTSMAN!



Our picture, taken by West End resident Jim Chapman, shows the final remains of "The Sportsman" pub during demolition in May, when you read this newsletter the site will have been totally flattened ready for the building of new retirement homes by McCarthy Stone. A pub has stood on this site since the beginning of the 20th century and probably a lot earlier, if you have any old pictures showing this please let us borrow them to copy for the archives – we have some but any information/pictures would help to boost our records before it is too late.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

EDITOR
Nigel.G.Wood

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION ADDRESS
40 Hatch Mead
West End
Southampton, Hants
SO30 3NE
Telephone: 023 8047 1886
E-mail: woodng@aol.com

Website: *www.telbin.demon.co.uk/westendlhs/* **E-mail address:** *westendlhs@aol.com*

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THE SUFFRAGETTES WERE KICKED, BEATEN AND LOCKED UP, THEY FOUGHT BACK WITH A RIOT OF COLOUR

Review by Stan Waight

Jean Cook the speaker at our April meeting, describes herself as a "third generation feminist", but there was nothing in her talk to offend the male members of the audience. Jean holds an M.A. in Women's History and is an adult lecturer at Southampton University.

She began by showing us a poster that she keeps on a wall at home, and which bears the above quotation. The 'riot of colour' was in the sash of purple, white and green worn over a white dress – the uniform of the Suffragettes – representing Majesty, Purity and Regeneration.

The talk ranged over the 40-year history of the Suffragette movement, which culminated in legislation to introduce suffrage for women aged 30 and over in 1918 (the age was not dropped to 21, in line with that of men, until 1928). The campaign started in 1868, and was not, as is commonly thought, merely a campaign by middle class women – working class women were just as fervent, but did not have the spare time enjoyed by their better-off sisters. Nor was it brought about by the effort of women during the 1914-18 war, when the campaigners declared a moratorium until hostilities had ceased, although that did much to change the attitude of the public. Many men did support the cause, and several attempts to introduce legislation had been made in the late 1800's; all were thwarted, however, and the Women's Social and Political Union with its slogan 'Deeds not Words' was formed in 1903. It was not until 1908 that a catalogue of militancy began.

We heard of the distinction between the 'Suffragists' and the 'Suffragettes'. The former being the non-violent campaigners and the latter the extremists (often men-haters) of the movement. There were also women, including Queen Victoria and some of the upper-classes, who were fervently against the idea of universal suffrage because they had no need of it; their position and influence was already enough.

Jean told us of some of the prominent pro-suffrage women – Mary Woolstonecraft, Josephine Butler and, of course, the Pankhursts. Her special heroine was the Southampton campaigner Emily Davis, who couldn't bear militancy. Among the best-known events in the campaign was the death of another Emily, Emily Davison, who had thrown herself in front of the King's horse at the Derby in 1913; this caused little more than a ripple in public opinion, the put-down horse receiving rather more sympathy than the suffragette. Among the prominent men were John Stuart Mill, philosopher an economist, who wrote on behalf of womens' suffrage in the 1860's.

The militants of the movement were often arrested and sent to prison. While there, some of them went on hunger strike, and, even worse, on thirst strike; Jean read graphic accounts of the horror and indignity of forced feeding.

As a male, I was not sure of what to expect when I went to the meeting. In the event, It was a first-class talk by a very eloquent speaker.

!!!! YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU !!!!

We desperately need more volunteers to man the museum on Saturdays between 10am and 4pm – if every able-bodied member did a two hour shift once a month it would make our Secretary Pauline's job so much easier. It is your museum, your Society, your village.... Put something back into the community and phone Pauline and volunteer for museum duty NOW on 023 8046 2490 or see her at the next meeting – you won't be bored there's plenty to see and do!

GRAVE SPOTTING.....again!!!

Pauline Berry

Whilst doing a stint of grave-spotting in St. James' churchyard recently, I found one particular grave which I had read about and long wanted to find. It was the resting place of the grandparents of Richard St.Barbe Baker, O.B.E. It was not difficult to spot, to the right of the main pathway from Church Hill and the A27, a long low stone with wrought-iron neatly enclosing its perimeter.

Although some of the verse is hard to decipher now, the words *"Rev. J.T.W. Baker, MA., died 1874 aged 62"* and *"his wife Harriet Martha Maria Baker, died 1882 aged 57"* were visible enough. This encouraged me to check the facts about these gentlefolk in my own books written by their famous grandson Richard St.Barbe Baker, founder of "Men of the Trees", now the "International Tree Foundation".

Richard's grandfather, John Thomas Wright Baker was a parson, like his great-grandfather (Rector of Botley), "passing rich on £140 a year". This gentleman, we are told, had charge of the Parishes of Botley, Durley, Sholing and West End where he lived in his own house with a large garden, surrounded by trees. It may well have been "Laurel House", where the Police Station used to stand, opposite the Old Burial Ground, according to the 1881 Census.

The Reverend John T.W.Baker was an "eloquent speaker" with a reputation for dramatising his readings of the Scriptures and bringing them to life for his enrapt congregation! He had attended Clare College, Cambridge, in his youth, was a staunch vegetarian and an athlete who had once walked 40 miles before breakfast for a wager. A keen walker in later life, he walked from one parish to another, unless it was raining when he was driven in a 'brougham', a one-horse carriage. When he did walk, however, he was well-known for filling his pockets with acorns and pushing them into holes by the wayside made by the ferrule of his walking stick. I wonder how many of those Victorian seedlings grew and still survive today as sturdy oaks?

It was his radical evangelical ideas on religion which fell foul of his Bishop who sent him such a stern, reproving letter that the parson became so upset that he had a sudden stroke or heart attack and died in 1874. His only son, John Richard St.Barbe Baker (father of Richard) was only fouteen years of age when his father died and took on the care of his mother, Harriet, until her eventual death in 1882. He moved into the newly built "The Firs" in Beacon Road soon after with his new wife Charlotte. There he brought up his

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WEST END ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO....



Well? Do you recognise the cottage? It is one of the very few thatched cottages still standing in our village. Somewhat changed and slightly modified today it stands at the bottom of Chalk Hill and still retains its thatch! There is another partly thatched cottage which was called "Araucaria" next to the "Lamp and Mantle" pub but the hedge and fence tend to hide it. ***Ed.***

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family and founded *Bakers West End Nurseries* , instilling the love and care of trees in his son Richard who was born in 1889.

Sheila Petty met Richard, "St. Barbe", many years ago, in the church graveyard itself and helped him to tidy up and clean his grand-parents' grave. He also wrote to Mrs G.Haines in 1972 asking if she knew of anyone who would *"be glad of doing up my grand-parents' grave"*, but whether she was successful or not, I don't know.

The Baker Family Bible, some of Richards' books and correspondence can be seen in our Society's museum.

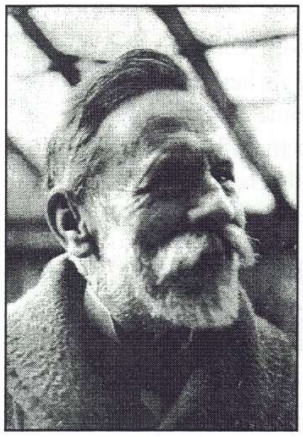


"The Firs", Barbe Bakers home in Beacon Road, West End 1994



THE St.BARBE BAKER FAMILY AT "THE FIRS" BEACON ROAD, WEST END

John and Charlotte St.Barbe Baker seated with their family, Richard St.Barbe Baker is standing centre back at the side of one of the servants.



JOHN St.BARBE BAKER



CHARLOTTE St.BARBE BAKER

SOME ARBOREAL RAMBLINGS

Peter Andrews

Calling in at the West End Museum, as is my want, I like to check up that the staff is alert and not having a quiet nap, also there may be a chance of a cup of tea. Bad timing on my part as it was a change of shifts, so I was leaving tea-less when I was asked, did I know what the tree is on the lawn? (at the Museum)

This is rather a handsome specimen with unusual shaped leaves and colour, lets hope it doesn't face the same fate as its partner which died because of careless strimming. At least I knew for certain it was a wooden one!! So I borrowed a small clump of leaves, I promise to bring them back, to check up in my book on the subject.

Here I'll quote extensively, it turned out to be a MEDLAR, the only thing I knew about it was the fruit had to be eaten half rotten! For centuries the fruit was considered a delicacy and consumed by the Greeks and Romans and dedicated to the god Saturn. Herbalists believed it cured a variety of ailments, it cannot be eaten raw until it's been "bletted", that is, allowed to become over-ripe to the point where the fruit softens and starts to rot.

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Shakespeare knew of this, using the trees name in *"As You Like It"*. Rosalind tells the clown, Touchstone; *"You'll be rotten ere you be half ripe, and that's the right virtue of the medlar"*. The tree originally came from the Caucasus and was also known as the "medle" or "merle".

Talking of trees, there's a fine specimen of the "monkey-puzzle tree" in Chapel Road, according to the present occupier the house, not the tree, is coming up for its centenary, the tree being planted when the house "Merry Gardens" was built. Incidently, "merry" is also the old name for a cherry, the black one. Was there a cherry orchard on the site? (*Ed. Yes we understand there was originally*)

Incidently this tree, to give it its correct name "Chilean Pine", is a male. There's another one in Charmwen Crescent which is female. Some years ago I obtained some seeds from it, but had no success. As the seeds take two or three years to ripen, perhaps that's the reason. The tree was introduced to Britain in 1795 by an Archibald Menzies a botanist on the "Discovery", he saved some seeds served as a dessert and planted them on board. No originals of these first trees survive as they seldom live longer than a hundred years.

To digress from West End, another interesting tree is the Ginkgo or Maiden Hair tree. Does anyone know of one locally, if so I'd be interested to see it! There is one in Palmerston Park, close to the road, quite a young specimen, easily identified by its fan shaped leaves. Fossilised remains of this tree have been found in coal seams millions of years old. I used to go fossil hunting many years ago and while on holiday in Scarborough I was going along the shore road below the castle when I noticed what appeared to be blobs of oil on the sandstone rocks. Closer investigation revealed clear shapes of Ginkgo leaves, nearby a pillar about 3 feet high turned out to be the trunk of the tree. Being a lot harder than its surrounds and also because of its various colours, it hadn't weathered away. I had some good specimens from here. In Japan the fruits are roasted and used as a hang-over cure!

Another time, on the Isle of Wight below the cliffs of Freshwater Bay I spotted similar tar like marks, I couldn't indentify them, possibly beech leaves, nearby was the trunk of a tree stretching out horizontally on the ground, this was virtually like charcoal, but harder, so I presume this was where the leaves came from.

I've a couple of interesting trees in my own garden, one a Korean Pine with blue cones, the other an acer, known as the snake bark tree for its ornamental bark.

REMINDER!!! - West End Carnival is on Saturday June 21st. The Society is having a stand on Hatch Grange and we will have a Bric-a-Brac stall as well as a Treasure Hunt competition to raise money for the Society – please give any donated bric-a-brac to a Committee member.



West End Sunday School Outing 1928 – *Photo courtesy of Miss G.Browning.*

What we would like to know is where was this Sunday School Outing to? Do you recognise anyone in the picture?

MYSTERY OF AN OLD COAT OF ARMS IN THE OLD MAGISTRATES COURT, PETERSFIELD

(Story by kind permission of Ms. J.Thompson-Lewis, Petersfield Museum)

Story supplied by Wilf Burnham

It is not known how this Coat of Arms survived from the time of Charles II – or even what its origins are. It was believed to be a Royal Coat of Arms, but that has turned out not to be so.

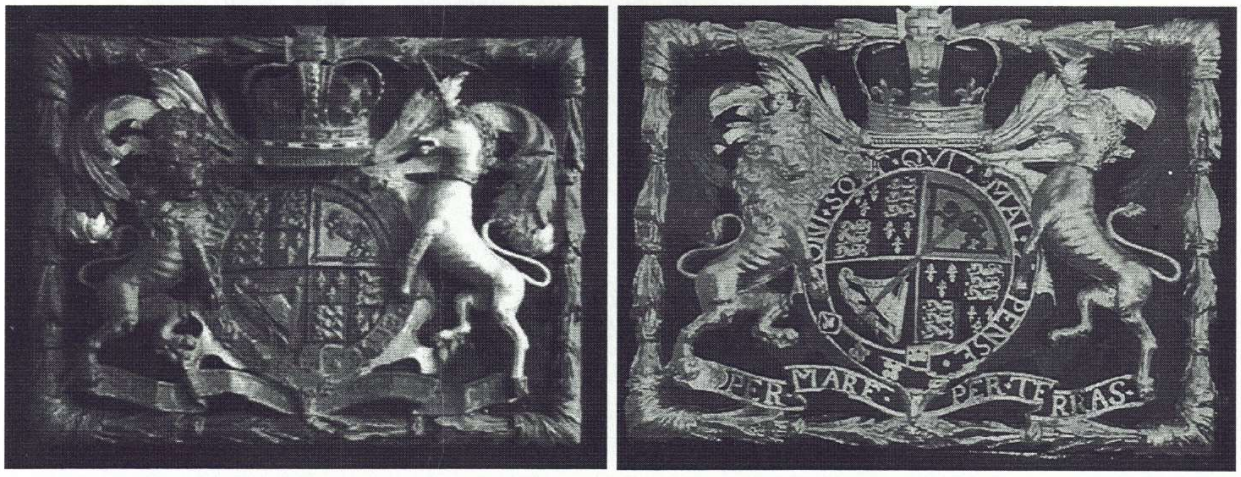
It has arrived here in what could well have been long and complicated travels, in serious need of restoration and repair. Added to which, the colours of the arms appeared incorrect and were painted with inferior paints.

But the museum, run by volunteers, had insufficient funds to pay for such an expensive process. However, a white knight arrived in the form of the Hampshire Museums Service, which kindly agreed to carry out the work. They also thought it would be an interesting and unusual project for their experts.

In the words of Mark Holloway, who carried out the work, *"it has been rather a protracted job but it has not proved a straight forward job from the start, every turn seems to throw up more questions than answers!"*.

After the layers of paint had been removed to reveal the original beneath, it was found that the motto at the foot of the arms was not the Royal *"Dieu et Mon Droit"*, but *"Per Mare Per Terras"* (by sea and by land), which had been covered during the re-paint. At first the motto was taken to be the motto of the Royal Marines (first created in Charles II's time). But the Royal Marines Museum pointed out that the Corp first started using *"Per Mare et Terrain"* (by sea and land) in 1775. There had later been variations on this, but never *"Per Mare Per Terras"*.

"Per Mare Per Terras", is the motto of the MacDonald family (ref. Burke's), but no connection to them seems likely. The College of Arms in London believe that the coat of arms was meant to represent those of Charles II, but had origins elsewhere. However, the diagonal bar running across the arms could represent a Royal connection, as such a bar or baton was used as a mark of difference for the illegitimate children of Charles II.



THE PETERSFIELD COAT OF ARMS BEFORE (left) AND AFTER (right) RESTORATION

Another clue to the possible origins is the Ducal crown – not a Royal one – that adorns the lion's head. The eldest son of Charles II's mistress, Barbara Villiers, was Charles, Duke of Cleveland and Southampton. He was born in 1662, created a Knight of the Garter in 1673 and Duke of Southampton in 1675, becoming Duke of Cleveland at his mother's death in 1709. She had been created Duchess of Cleveland in 1670.

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The supporter on the Arms of the Duke of Southampton is a greyhound, with a gobony[1] collar. It has been pointed out that the feet of the unicorn are clearly not hoofed, but seem to bear some similarity to those of a dog. When Mark Holloway was removing paint from around the head of the unicorn, he found a definite "step" in the wood, which could indicate that the head had been replaced.

The College of Arms say that the Duke of Southampton may be the most likely candidate for the origin of the arms, but his two younger brothers (the Dukes of Grafton and Northumberland) were both Knights of the Garter and bore similar arms to those of their elder brother. All three were sons of Charles II by Barbara Villiers.

The motto remains a mystery. The College of Arms found no trace of it neing used by the Duke of Cleveland and Southampton. But they point out, that mottoes at that time, had a somewhat volatile nature, frequently being adopted and then rejected.

The investigations continue.....!

[1] Gobony = Compone, compony – *Heraldic.* Composed of a row of squares of two alternate tinctures. (Info. From O.E.D.)

A fascinating story – if you can shed any light on this mystery please contact the Editor at the Editorial address shown on the front cover or alternatively The Petersfield Museum directly. Ed.

TITCHFIELD – TOWN OF VILLAGE?

Review by Stan Waight

For our May meeting, we were once again treated to a talk by the ever-popular Madeline Selby. She is always lively and amusing, and her subject this time was the "village" (as it is now) of Titchfield.

She began with a brief history of the parish, the second largest in the county. As the terminus of a drove road, its former industries included tanning and parchment dressing, but it was also important for weaving and brickmaking. It had been a royal estate in Saxon times, when it had a minster church, and its market was established before Domesday. Two factors that influenced the "town" (as it was then), were the River Meon and the Abbey. Until 1611, the river had been tidal up to Titchfield, and it was a small port; in that year the Meon was dammed and a canal constructed, The 13th century Abbey, with its great library, dominated the town, and attracted visits by royalty – Henry V stayed here on his way to Agincourt in 1415, and Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou in the Chapel 30 years later. Thomas Wriothesley, a leading councillor to Henry VIII and subsequently 1st Earl of Southampton, was granted the Abbey at the Dissolution and converted it to a grand private residence. The Wriothesleys also entertained royalty, and the 3rd Earl was patron of William Shakespeare (it has been suggested that some of Shakespeare's characters and settings were inspired by Titchfield).

The scene having been set, we were taken on a visual tour of the village through the medium of Madeline's many first-class slides. Titchfield is a place of many styles and periods, from its Saxon church to its Regency houses, and she stressed several times that many buildings are not what they seem to be – the appearance of innumerable timber-framed houses of the 15th – 18th centuries had been altered by the addition of brick or stucco facades. We were led through its major and minor streets and the features of many individual houses were graphically described. Another point Madeline stressed was the number of pubs that, to her dismay, had been converted into private houses!

As usual, it was a polished performance; it will have me, for one, setting out on the Titchfield Town Trail.

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

1703 Samuel Pepys was buried at St. Olave's in London's Hart Street.

1738 King George III, the grandson of George II, was born in lodgings at St. James's Square in London.

1805 The first "Trooping of the Colour" took place, at Horse Guards Parade in London.

1910 Christopher Cockerell, British engineer and inventor of the amphibious Hovercraft, born at Cambridge.

1913 The "Suffragette" Derby took place, during which Emily Davidson was trampled to death when she threw herself in front of the King's horse "Anmer" at Tattenham Corner.

1940 The evacuation of allied forces from Dunkirk and St.Valery was completed – having started on 27th May.

1941 Kaiser Wilhelm II, German Emperor, died in exile in the Netherlands.

1944 Allied forces entered and liberated Rome.

1958 The first Duke of Edinburgh Awards were presented, at Buckingham Palace.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE ....

June 4
THE MOUNT, BISHOPSTOKE
Joan Simmonds

July 2
CONDUCTED WALK AROUND BISHOPSTOKE – Start 7.00pm
Joan Simmonds

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 3
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE & MILITARY NURSING IN HAMPSHIRE
Patrick Kirkby

October 1
THE ELEPHANT BOATYARD, BURSLEDON
Tim Holt

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**

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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**

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£2.50 per print

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By John G.Avery **£6.00**

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