NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# WESTENDER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009 | CHRISTMAS ISSUE | VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2

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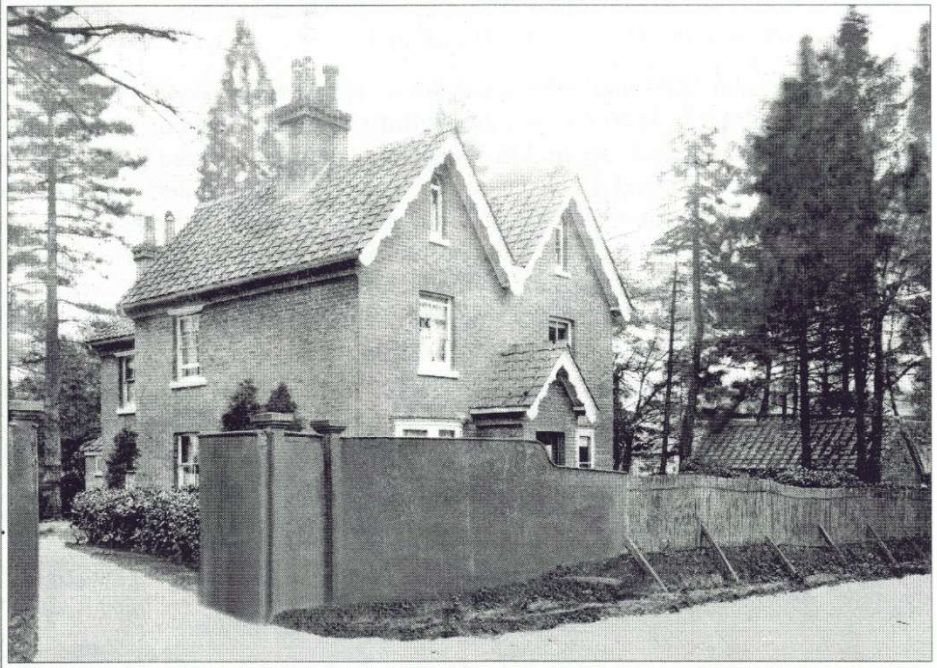
## HOW IT WAS (7)
## THE HAREFIELD ESTATE



**TRADESMANS' ENTRANCE TO HAREFIELD HOUSE**
*(Photo ex. Bob Moody archives courtesy of St. James' Church)*

Our picture this edition shows the Tradesman's entrance to Harefield House. This building fronted onto the West End Road and served to house the Coachman and the Gardeners who were employed by the estate. Unfortunately no longer existing, the picture is from the Bob Moody Archive that was lodged with St. James Church. Harefield House, one time the residence of Edwin Jones

*Continued on page 2*

**West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by**

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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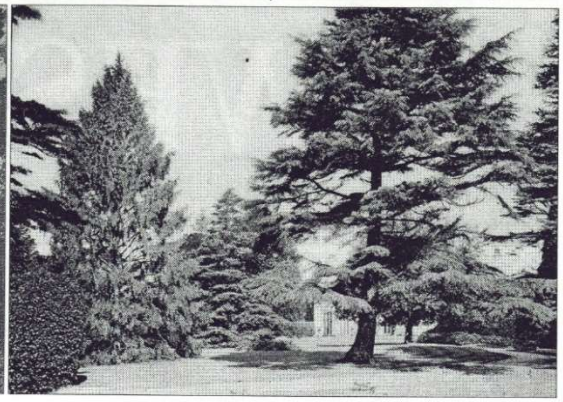
*Continued from front page*



HAREFIELD HOUSE IN 1915 BEFORE THE FIRE



PART OF THE GROUNDS AT HAREFIELD

and his wife from 1889 until Edwin's death in 1896, burned down on Sunday 6th May 1917. The house was originally built in 1846 for Sir Edward Butler, the one-time chairman of the Southampton & Salisbury Railway Company. It was set in 238 acres complete with terraced gardens, an arboretum and ornamental ponds. Between 1861 and 1885 the occupier was William Gillett who was responsible for building an indoor riding school. Amongst other uses the estate provided the venue for an early forerunner of the West End Carnival. As can be seen from the poster that appeared in St. James' Church magazine for July 1920, the Village Fair was held in aid of funds for the Westend Club Extension Fund and included such attractions as the South Hants Temperance Band, a Grand Dance held in Harefield Riding School, Baby Show, Decorated Bicycles and a Beauty Show for men!!!



9th SOUTHAMPTON (West End) SCOUTS IN CAMP, HAREFIELD 1913



TENNIS SECTION—EDWIN JONES SPORTS CLUB, HAREFIELD

The grounds of the house were also the site of the 9th. Southampton (West End) Scout Camp in 1913. In later years the tennis courts that were established were used by Edwin Jones store staff Sports Club. Edwin Jones department store is now known as Debenhams in Southampton and still in business. In the early 1950's the estate was converted to housing and is no longer part of West End Parish, but now part of Bitterne and therefore a suburb of Southampton.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPH'S OF THE HAREFIELD ESTATE IN THE EARLY DAYS OR ANY PICTURES OF THE OLD HOUSE WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND HOPEFULLY ADD THE PICTURES TO OUR ARCHIVE**



**Harefield Park, Westend.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21st, 1920.

**Commencing at 2 p.m.**

A

**VILLAGE FAIR**

WILL BE HELD IN AID OF THE

**WESTEND CLUB EXTENSION FUND.**

**SOUTH HANTS TEMPERANCE BAND**

Under the Conductorship of Mr. W. Wheeler will give **Selections of Dance and other Music** throughout the day.

A good Programme has been arranged consisting of . .

**Sports. Competitions. Roundabouts. Swings. Cocoanuts. Shows and Entertainments** together with a

**GRAND DANCE.** Price 2/- per head. To be held in **RIDING SCHOOL** from 8 p.m. till 12. Dress completely optional.

**Refreshments and Teas at Popular Prices.**

Prices of Admission to Ground (Including Tax).

ADULTS, 1s. 3d., after 5 p.m. 8d. CHILDREN, 8d.

*The following Competitions are open. Entries are invited.*

**BABY SHOW.** Age 6 to 18 months. Prizes: 1st Boy. 1st Girl.
**DECORATED BICYCLES.** Prizes according to entry.
**BEAUTY SHOW (MEN).** Prizes according to entry.

**OUTDOOR AMUSEMENTS TERMINATE AT 10 P.M.**

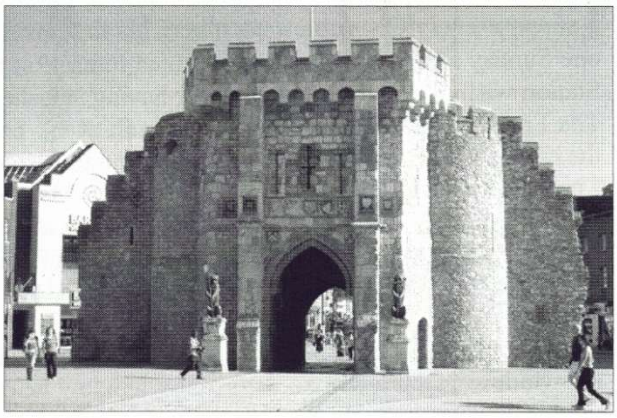
Hon. Secretary: MR. J. HARRISON, Cloyfin, Westend. President: REV. R. DAWSON, The Vicarage, Westend.

# UNTO SOUTHAMPTON DO WE SHIFT OUR SCENE....

## A Review by Stan Waight



AERIAL VIEW OF THE ITCHEN WITH WOOLSTON LEFT OF CENTRE



THE BARGATE - THE MAIN GATEWAY IN SOUTHAMPTON'S WALLS

Despite the awful weather and perhaps because of the rather enigmatic title of the talk, there was a good turn out for the October meeting at the Parish Centre. It was probably also a tribute to the speaker, Geoff Watts, who is well known to us and always delivers first-class lectures accompanied by equally first-class slides.

The title soon revealed itself as a direct quotation from Shakespeare's 'Henry V', the city of Southampton being Geoff's theme. In fact, the talk was really an assembly of several stories, all of which were to do with the city and one of which was related to Henry V's departure for Agincourt. The stories were so different and so fluently told that it would be impossible to summarise each in the space available - even if I had been able to write it all down!

The first chronicle was dated 994 AD, when Olaf of Norway and his army were encamped at Woolston to put the squeeze on Hamtun in order to extort some more Danegeld. In the event Olaf, recently converted to Christianity, remitted the demand after an audience with Ethelred the Unready. The connection with Olaf's Trondheim was then explored, as was fellow-Scandinavian Canute's rebuke to his courtiers when they suggested he should command the waters to retreat (Geoff told us that Bosham also claim that the incident took place on their shore). And that's just one story - see what I mean?

A splendid slide of the Back of the Walls, with the lane that gave defensive access still in place, led to the account of the Lancastrian sailors who were taken prisoner at Southampton, tried, committed for treason, gruesomely executed and their dismembered bodies displayed on the city walls in1470.

Then there were accounts of the city's three prisons - the Bargate, God's House Tower and another in what is now known as Castle Way - and references to coaching inns and coaching, Jane Austen's brief stay in the city, the portrait of Elizabeth I that once graced the Bargate, the perilous repair of St Michael's spire (accompanied by a reference to Dr. Johnson via his friend Bennet Langton, who was buried in the church). Who knew that the statue on the south face of the Bargate is of George III dressed as Hadrian? And who knew that Spanish-speaking Canon Robert Mount befriended the exiled Argentinian dictator Gen. Rosas?

A number of gunstones - cannonballs carved from stone - embedded in the city walls may have been left behind by Henry's army en route for Agincourt. A photo of these led to another slide of the modern museum at Harfleur, whose curators were under the impression that the invaders had come from Portsmouth - until Geoff visited them!

All thanks to Geoff for another very entertaining evening.

# THE PROGRAMME FOR 2010

**January 6**
**MY LIFE IN THE 17th CENTURY**
*Yvonne & Keith Hoskins*

**February 3**
**LIGHTHOUSES**
*Keith Morton*

**March 3**
**FAMOUS HAMPSHIRE CONNECTIONS**
*Jill Daniels*

**April 1**
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &**
**LIVING ON A BOAT ON THE RIVER HAMBLE**
*Katie Bewes*

**May 5**
**MID HANTS RAILWAY "The Watercress Line"**
*Dave Yaldren*

**June 2**
**SOUTHAMPTON 1609-1838: from economic decline to prosperous Spa town**
*Jake Simpkin*

**July 7**
**CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST IN HAMPSHIRE & SUSSEX**
*Dr. Frances Hurd*

**August 4**
**SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM**
**(including refreshments)**
*ALL WELCOME*

**September 1**
**FROM WEORBLING'S TON TO WARBLINGTON**
*Madeleine Selby*

**October 6**
**ICEBERG RIGHT AHEAD!**
*Geoff Watts*

**November 3**
**SHIPS & PILOTAGE IN SOUTHAMPTON**
*Capt. Noel Becket, MNI*

**December 1**
**CHRISTMAS BUFFET, QUIZ, SLIDE SHOW & RAFFLE**
*Members only*

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

A big thank you to all our readers for their continued support and to all the people who have contributed articles and pictures for the newsletter throughout the year, without you we would not have a newsletter at all. And on that note I would like to say that we need more articles for next year, even if they are very short, just bullet points regarding your memories of West End. Its important to get your memories of the way things were down in writing for future generations to enjoy, otherwise this wealth of information is lost for all time. So, New Years resolution - make at least one contribution to Westender! Its that time of year again, doesn't it come round fast! The Chairman and committee of West End Local History Society wish all our readers and members both here and abroad a very Happy Christmas and wish you a peaceful and enjoyable New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 6th January to start off a new season of meetings and speakers, with something for everyone. Ed.



# A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

# MEMORIES OF MOORHILL

**By Pauline Berry**

One never knows who is going to walk through the doors into our museum, when on duty there, and recently John R. Felstead was that person. A former resident of West End, he now lives in Normandy, so I was keen to record some of his memories of old West End before he returned home to France.

A detached house named 'Hillcrest' which still stands on Moorhill Road (A27) was John's childhood home during the 1930's. Owned by Walter Vare of Moorgreen at that time, it faced the original Moorhill House, long since demolished and replaced by a reservoir. Telegraph Woods was also conveniently opposite his home and where he often played, usually 'cowboys and indians', with his school friends Ray Rook (from the Lodge on Church Hill) and a lad whose surname was Mills.

They were all pupils of West End School in the High Street and John recalls that a Major G.E.S. Cubitt, CBE, and JP presented many of its scholars, including himself, with a Coronation mug, commemorating the accession of George VI to the throne on 12th May 1937. The Major was the esteemed occupant of Firgrove House in Moorhill Road (now part of Grosvenor Gardens) during this period.

Memories of the Second World War were foremost in John's mind including those of the anti-aircraft (Ack-Ack) site on Donkey Common in Bursledon Road, Sholing (the other local one was in Quob Lane). He recounted the shocking day when a German bomber machine-gunned the land to the rear of his home and wounded a worker from Candy's Farm who happened to be working in that field.

I wonder if this was the same incident, in broad daylight, when German bullets were fired indiscriminately over the top of Chalk Hill? The late Mrs Margaret Howman, daughter of the famous Captain Sir Arthur Henry Rostron, told me that she had a clear view of the enemy plane swooping low over her parent's home and jumped to avoid the bullets which were raking through the windows of 'Homecroft' (and also those of 'The Crest' next door).

John also recalled that many bombs fell in the fields of Harefield Estate, behind his home. He quietly collected them in an old trolley with pram wheels and hid them from his parents, in the outside toilet. His youthful efforts to dismantle one bomb was fortunately uneventful but his father, who was in the Merchant Navy soon discovered this dangerous stash and called the local policeman. Needless to say, John received a thorough scolding!

Eventually the build-up to D-Day 1944 approached and American troops and transport gathered for the "off" all along the A27. Some camped in Bacon Hill Copse nearby on Moorhill Road. They were well equipped and their cookhouse was conveniently close, virtually opposite Southern Road, and generous hand-outs were given to the local children. Like John they learned to hang around when tempting cooking smells arose and were rewarded by a real meat sandwich for example. On another occasion John was given a 7 pound tin of butter to take home! Needless to say, there was so much butter that this rare treasure was shared between all his neighbours on Moorhill Road, including the Greenland and Symonds families.

An hour of conversation soon passed and John had to depart from the museum. We can only hope that he will return or mail us further of his memories, when he needs something to occupy him during the cold French winters.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE IN JANUARY 2010**
**THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW £10.00 per person AND RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER**

# WICKHAM PAST & PRESENT

**A review by Stan Waight**

Over 50 members and visitors turned out for our November meeting, no doubt attracted by the fact that Madeleine Selby was to speak. Madeleine has often delighted us in the past with her knowledgeable presentations accompanied by more than a little humour, but it has to be said that her talk on Wickham was not of her best.

Wickham, whose name is the combination of Saxon elements, lies in the Meon Valley, home to the Meonwara tribe of Jutish immigrants. According to Pevsner, it was the finest village in Hampshire and it is forever noted for its son, William of Wykeham, Chancellor of England, Bishop of Winchester and Founder of Winchester College. In the medieval period it had a manor house, a church, a mill and a number of houses, but these were to the east of the present settlement which was later laid out around a large square to accommodate a market and fair. There was no further change until around 1800, when the village expanded greatly.

The village has a great many old buildings. Some are timber-framed, often with the brick façades that it was fashionable to add during the 18th century; others are elegant brick-built houses of the Georgian and Regency periods, many of local brick and the famously recognisable 'Fareham' chimney pots.

The real theme of the talk was a tour of the village showing slides of a succession of buildings with a potted history of each. There are too many to comment on individually, but the following were included:

Havelock House and Wentworth House, built in 1751; their layout as a semi-detached pair was unusual for the period. They both bear insurance plaques and have Fareham chimney pots.

Eastbrook House with its elegant frontage and a porch with a bay window over. It is reputed that this house has a ghostly presence.

Ivy Cottage, originally the village school, is rustic in its flintwork but rather ornate in its mid-Victorian character.

Queens Lodge, said to be where Elizabeth I rested on her way to Portsmouth.

The brewery and malting complex.

The bridge over the Meon which superceded the ford in 1792.

The Chesapeake mill, said to have been built in 1820 using timbers from the US frigate of that name captured off Boston.

The Barracks - timber-framed buildings in the Wealden style dating from the 1400s and the oldest structures in Wickham. A plaque on the wall warned off vagrants.

All in all, the buildings Madeleine selected were of varying ages and styles, the timber-framing contrasting well with the Georgian brick.

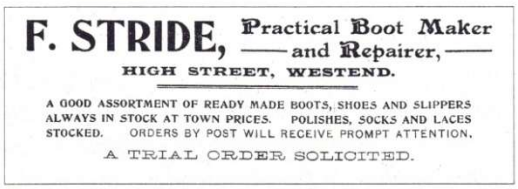
# MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS WANTED

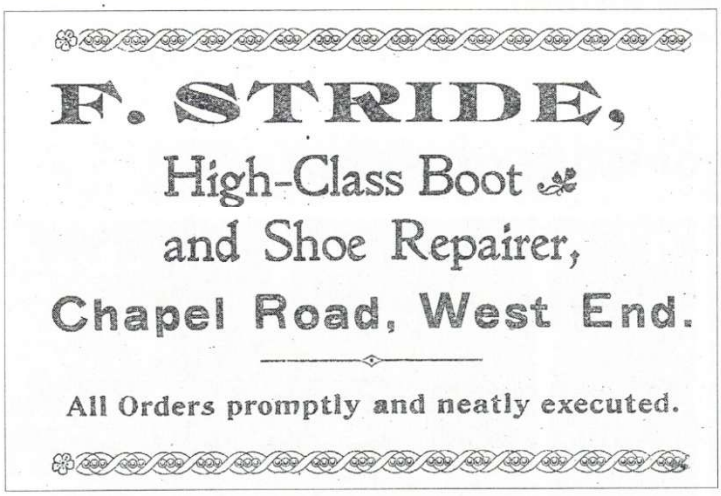
We need more "new blood" to help with the manning the museum. Those of us that regularly do museum duty would like to see more people come forward to assist. Each period of duty is only 2 hours on a Saturday, either 10.00-12.00, 12.00-2.00 or 2.00-4.00, your choice. It's a good opportunity to explore the archive or increase your local knowledge - so see Peter Wallace for details and put your name forward TODAY.

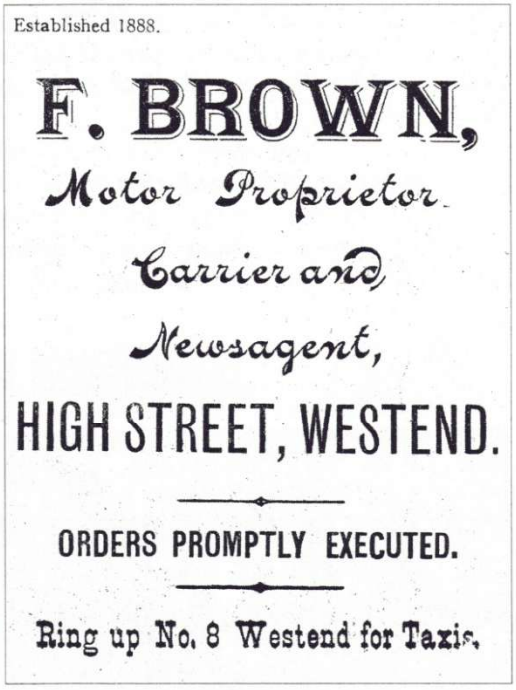
# ADVERTS FROM THE PAST

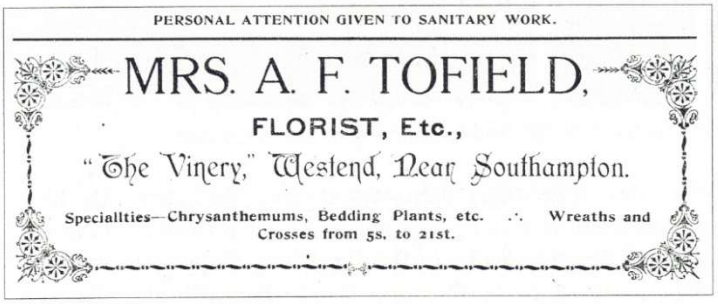
Here's a selection of advertisements that appeared in St. James' Church Parish Magazine between the years 1911 and 1923. B.C. Cardy - January 1923, F. Stride (small) February 1923 (large) February 1919, F. Brown - March 1923, R.F. Fray March 1923, Mrs Tofield - February 1918, Geo. Lee - Feb 1922, J.J. Boyt - January 1911. These represent just a few of the many period adverts that give a flavour of what life was like in Westend in years gone by. Our thanks to St. James' Church for allowing us to scan and copy these from the church archive. This is part of an ongoing exercise to digitise the complete archive of parish magazines held by the church, to make access easier for researchers and to protect the fragile magazines from excessive use. Ed.



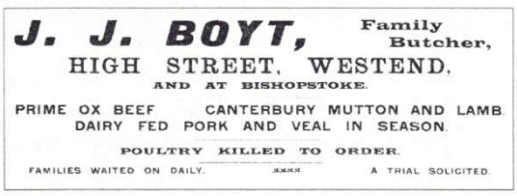









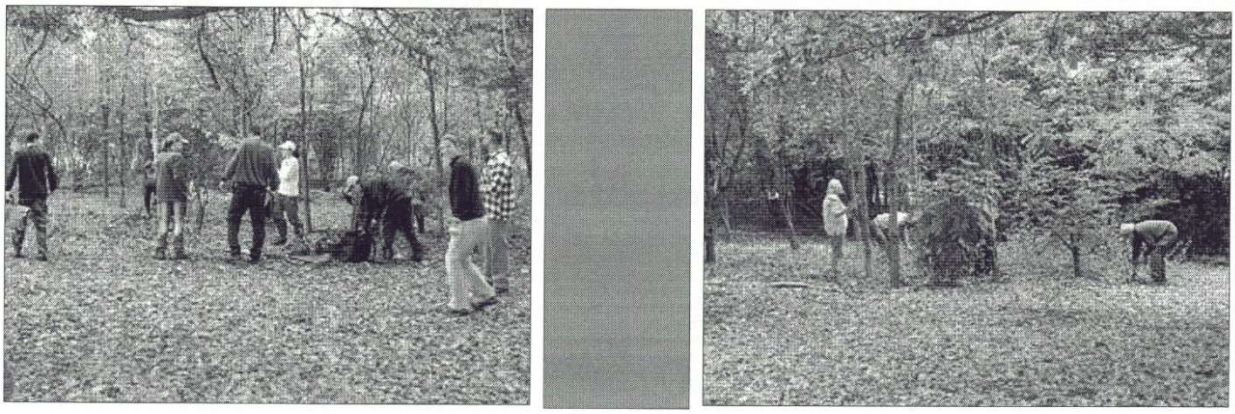
## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following e-mail was received by your editor from WELHS member Roy Andrews relating to an article written by me for the Parish Newsletter, I think you will agree the contents are worth recording for posterity and our thanks to Roy for writing :

*To the Editor,*

*Sir,*
*With reference to your article in the West End Parish Council Newsletter in September in which you wrote on the back ground to the erecting of the war memorial at the top of Shotters Hill adjacent to the cemetery. You mentioned the sad loss of four sons in the First World War from the Curtis family from West End as listed on the memorial.*
*This family lived at 61, Moorgreen Road almost next to the old Moorgreen Pub. One of the sons, William, had married Annie Rogers who already had a daughter Daisy and had a further daughter Ethel with William. After William's death at Ypres, Annie and her two daughters lived at 61, Moorgreen Road with her father-in-law.*
*In the 1920's Daisy started courting a soldier, Wallace Cooke, whom she had met at Netley Military Hospital but her step-grandfather refused to allow Wallace into his house saying that having lost four sons in the war any one from the army was not welcome in his house.*
*He never relented for the duration of their courtship, later Daisy and Wallace married and had a daughter Brenda who is my aunt by marriage.*

## ANOTHER WORK DAY ON HATCH



VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN CENTENARY COPSE (Photo courtesy of Laura Cooke)

Following the success of the Hatch Grange Work day in February there was another productive day held on Wednesday 28th October when the morning was spent removing tree shoots. After refreshments in the Parish Centre at lunch time, the afternoon was spent planting bulbs in the Centenary Copse and we look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour in the Spring of 2010. The next Work Day will take place on Saturday, 27th February 2010, so make a note in your diaries.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THE CARNIVAL

Volunteers are wanted to help with the Carnival in 2010, either on the committee to help organise the event or as helpers on the actual day. It's a worthwhile activity and helps put something back into the community for all to enjoy. Call in at the Parish Office for more details and to put your name forward.

## On this day (2nd December) in.....

**1547** Hernando Cortez, Spanish conqueror of Mexico in 1521, died near Seville.

**1697** The re-built St. Paul's Cathedral was formally opened.

**1804** Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor in Paris, by Pope Pius VII.

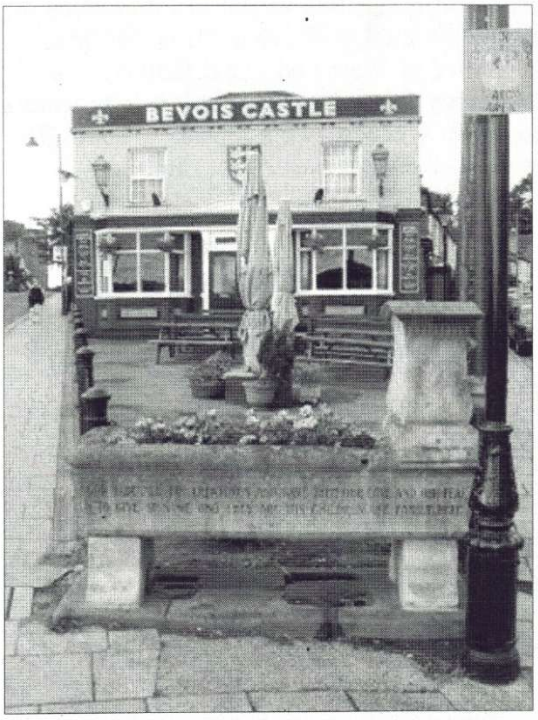
**1859** John Brown, American anti-slavery campaigner, was hanged for treason, at Charlestown in West Virginia.

**1899** Sir John Barbirolli, English conductor and musical director, born in London of Italian parents.

**1901** King Camp Gillette patented the first safety razor.

**1942** The world's first nuclear chain reaction took place at Stagg Field at the University of Chicago, under physicists Enrico Fermi and Arthur Compton.

# DID WEST END EVER HAVE A PUBLIC HORSE TROUGH?




An interesting question was recently posed at one of our WELHS Committee meetings, that is, did West End ever have a Public Water Trough for Horses and other draft animals. Obvious place's in the village would have been at Gaters Hill to refresh the animals before and after the climb and at places such as the bottom of New Road at the junction with the High Street or at the bottom of Shotters Hill.

We have no evidence so far in the archive to show any did exist. It was common practice however, to provide this facility for the welfare of draft animals as can be seen by the picture shown on the left. This Horse Trough still exists at the junction outside the Bevois Castle Pub in Bevois Valley, Southampton, although now it acts as a flower trough.

Many of these troughs still exist including one in Bitterne. Many were provided by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain & Cattle Trough Association. If you have any information regarding the village of West End please let us know. You can e-mail information to:

***westendlhs@aol.com***