NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WESTENDER

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HOW IT WAS (4)
THE NEW INN



Our cover picture shows a view of "The New Inn" at West End published by Rood Bros just after the Great War. This was the original building dating back at least to the 1840's. It was replaced in the 1930's by a mock Tudor building which was later renamed "The Lamp & Mantle", and demolished in 2004 to make way for the apartment block known today as Rosemount Court.

The original owners were Strong & Co, brewers based locally at Romsey, who were later absorbed by Whitbreads, they in turn sold the pub to an independent chain who sold the site for redevelopment. The original pub was the centre of the village of West End complete with village green and pond in front, later these disappeared with road widening and re-alignment. The later "Lamp & Mantle" has an exact twin in Eastleigh,"The Leigh" this was also a Strongs pub.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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THE HISTORY OF WEST END DOCTORS SURGERY

EXTRACT FROM AN ARTICLE IN WEST END SURGERY 2009 NEWSLETTER REPRODUCED WITH KIND PERMISSION OF MRS BARBARA ANN HARVELL (PRACTICE MANAGER)

The Surgery began at Hope Lodge, High Street, West End, (now Westwood Court), in a shed at the home of Dr Power with the nameplate on the shed door. He was succeeded by Dr Jeffery who was joined by Dr H. Bamber in 1932. During this time, the surgery moved into the front room which was divided to provide a dispensary, and the greenhouse became a waiting room until just before the war. Dr H. Bamber had three rooms built onto the side of the house and Mrs Bamber regained her front room.

Dr Bamber's son, Dr Claud Bamber, whom many patients will remember, joined the partnership in 1961. Dr Bamber and his son extended the waiting room to the full length of the house. In 1964 Dr H. Bamber retired and Dr R. Mackay and subsequently Dr C. Brawn joined the practice. Dr C. Bamber had an extra floor built onto the top of the house which housed the entire surgery.

Dr Rees-Jones qualified at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School in 1973. She had already been married for 1 year when her surgeon husband was appointed to Basingstoke Hospital and they moved to Hampshire. She was employed at Basingstoke Hospital for her house jobs and, following this, she worked as a general surgeon in Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital for 3 years. During that time, both their daughters were born and she decided life would be easier in general practice – was she right or was she wrong? Her husband was appointed as an orthopaedic surgeon at Queen Alexandra Hospital in 1982, which was when their son, Thomas, was born.

Since 1978 Dr Rees-Jones had been working with Dr Bamber who had done a 2 year stint working in Saudi



Builders in front of Hope Lodge during its construction around 1915 *(WELHS Archives)*

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Westwood Court today (site of Hope Lodge)



West End Surgery today

Arabia. She had appointed Dr Wilmot as the third partner and started to negotiate with the Health Authority to purchase the land upon which West End Surgery is built. Dr Rees-Jones decided on a Monday afternoon to borrow £250,000 (to the surprise of her husband) and set about building the present surgery. She was in charge of surveying, building works etc.

Since then, Dr Das has replaced Dr Wilmot, Dr Le Besque has taken over from Dr C. Bamber and Dr Rodrigues has also joined the partnership. The Practice has now grown to about 7,500 patients.

Over the past 30 years Dr Rees-Jones has seen many changes at the surgery, e.g. the use of computers for recording on the clinical system, the printing of prescriptions and a large extension to the surgery.

WEST END CARNIVAL 2009



It will soon be Carnival time again! This year there won't be a Parade due to lack of volunteers and recent legislation issues that have been introduced. However, a Medieval Extravaganza will take place on Hatch Grange between 2.00pm and 8.00pm. "The Spectacular Knights of the Crusades" will put on two complete performances during the afternoon in the main arena, with audience participation invited. There will be a host of stands and stalls offering all sorts of goodies. Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be available as well as a Hog Roast organised by the Scouts. Among the sideshows will be the village stocks, old fashioned coconut shies and many other attractions. Why not join in the fun and come dressed in Medieval costume, there will be a fancy dress competition. In the evening up until 8 o'clock there will be a Tribute Band playing many of the old favourites as well as refreshments and the Hog Roast. There will also be judging for the Best Shop Window in West End and the Best Garden in West End - entry forms available from the Parish Office. There will be a Baby and Toddler competition held at The Youthouse, in Moorgreen Road at 1pm on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 as well as a Carnival Bingo Night at Hilldene Community Centre starting at 7.30pm on Friday 12th June 2009 - cash prizes and refreshments will be available. The Annual Carnival Quiz Night (Pub Quiz) will be held at "The Master Builder" on Thursday 25th June 2009 starting at 7.30pm, teams of four with entry fee of £5 per team.

WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?

By Roy Andrews

The snow scenes in the March-April edition of the Westender made me ask (bah, humbug!) why all those children and adults enjoying themselves were not at school or work? A thin layer of snow and the nation ground to a halt! But what can you expect when the likes of my son-in-law, a public sector worker, struggled through the white stuff and arrived at work only a little late, to be told by his boss he was 'daft' for coming to work?

We old 'uns were made of sterner stuff! I recall the winter of 1966-67 when I was a newish recruit to Southampton City Police. I was on a week of early shifts (6am—2pm) when it started to snow one evening. By the time I went to bed, it was laying and about a foot deep, so I guessed by early morning there would be no way I could drive my car from home in Thornhill (once part of West End) into the Civic Centre in Southampton. So I set the alarm clock for 3am and upon checking out of the window when it went off, knew that I would have to walk the four miles through the snow to be able to report for duty at 5.45am. We always paraded 15 minutes early - it was unpaid but we were deemed to be late if we arrived only a minute after that time!

So up I got and in full uniform was out of the house by 3.45am trudging through the snow. After about a mile of my journey, I met up with a colleague, also heading for the Civic Centre, and on we trudged, helping out the odd motorist who had risked the conditions as we got nearer to the town centre.

I arrived at the police station in time to parade and then spent eight hours walking the beat. By 2pm when I finished and went to catch a bus home, there was a clear blue sky, the sun was bright and most of the snow had melted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WELHS member Roy Andrews writes....

"Seeing the photograph in your March-April edition of Westender showing Dunford's Garage in the High Street set me thinking as to whether any of your readers can help me with a question I have regarding the use to which the garage was put during World War 2.

For my grandsons I am writing my memoirs, such as they are, 70,000 words and only up to 1972 so far! My mother Doris Andrews, nee Pope, who died in 1975 used to tell me when I was a boy how during the war she worked in the Blockcrete factory (next to Dunford's) making fuel tanks for Spitfires. I have never found any confirmation of this in any official journal about the satellite factories set up around Southampton for the construction of these aeroplanes.

I have no doubt that she did work on some aircraft components but wonder if I misunderstood her and if it was Dunford's Garage a more likely place for engineering work to be carried out where she worked."

If anyone has any information on this subject please contact the Editor, either write to the address on the front cover or e-mail at **westendlhs@aol.com** **Ed.**

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Interesting what information you can derive from statistics - for example on our website we have the facility to see where in the world our viewers are based. As you would expect 71% are from the UK, 9.46% from Australia, 7.52% from the USA, 7.3% from Canada. Europe accounts for 1.38% and France for 0.33%. The surprise is in countries such as Republic of Moldova (0.04%), Puerto Rico (0.06%), Philippines (0.08%) and Tunisia (0.02%) etc. Granted these are small percentages of the total but one wonders why someone in such faraway places would be interested in West End? More power to the Internet in spreading our horizons!



Our member Roy Andrews sent in this photograph (above) and writes…..
This photograph of houses, still standing in Moor Hill Road was taken just after they had been completed in the 1930's. They had been built by my grandfather Arthur Andrews who lived at 'Spring Field', Chapel Road, West End. He ran a building firm with a partner John Coles and together they built between the two world wars houses in Allington Lane, Hedge End and Midanbury, Southampton.

THE APRIL MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight

The AGM had arrived, and if anyone had worried in case they were going to be asked to take on an office there was no need, because the Committee was re-elected *en bloc*. The full minutes will be presented at next year's AGM, but a word of praise to all the Committee members wouldn't go amiss - they have done a great job once again. One other point is worth a special mention, namely the alignment of the subscription year with the financial year - congratulations go to Peter Wallace for proposing it; it will help him immensely, of course, but it will also make life a little easier for the Examiner, and you can guess who that is!

The business over, all who attended were invited to partake of a buffet, with wine, to mark Chairman Neville's 75th birthday. It was a fine spread, and we congratulate him warmly on every count.

The evening's entertainment should have been a full-size slide show by Nigel from the photographic archive, but a technical hitch developed. Try as he could, the computer just wouldn't talk to the projector. Undaunted, our Museum Curator spoke to the mini screen of his laptop and, although we couldn't see them very well, showed just how extensive and interesting our collection of photographs has become.

And that's that for another year. Let's hope the next is as good as the last.

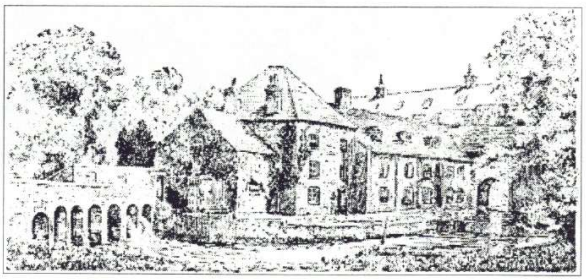
DON'T FORGET - SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS WILL BE ON SALE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

THE REVISION OF THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRE

By Stan Waight

You may not have heard about the VCH, the Red Books as they are known by many local historians. So, what are they all about?

As the name implies, the Victoria County Histories are an ageing series of books about the counties of England. They were compiled during the latter part of Queen Victoria's reign and the volumes were intended to cover every parish in the country. Its compilation was a massive task and the four volumes for Hampshire were finally published between 1908 and 1912, the history for South Stoneham being on pages 481 to 489 of the third volume. The content of the series was never intended to be comprehensive, and, since it was mainly compiled in London with little reference to local resources, it certainly was not. For instance, the entry covering West End was merely as follows, including the engraving of 'West End Mill' shown below:



Parts of the tithings of Shamblehurst and Allington in South Stoneham were made into the civil parish of West End in 1894. Allington Farm, the old manor-house, is in the extreme north, while in the east is Townhill House, formerly the manor-house and now the residence of Miss Cooper. The village of West End is entirely residential owing to its splendid situation on a high ridge, whence fine views of the Itchen valley may be obtained, and it contains many good houses. The main road from Romsey to Botley divides the parish into the northern and southern portions.

The parish church of St. James, an edifice of red brick and Weldon stone, erected in 1838, is situated in the south of the village at the top of Church Hill.

The elementary schools are situated on the north side of the Botley road, and were built in 1838 for 192 children. A few yards farther on are the library and reading room, and nearly opposite is the cemetery, on the south side. In the extreme east of the village is the South Stoneham Union, in Shamblehurst tithing, a large red-brick building erected in 1848, enlarged in 1887, and again, by the addition of an isolation hospital, in 1894. The principal houses in the neighbourhood are Harefield, the residence of Mrs. Edwin Jones; Hatch Grange, the property of Mr. R. Warnford Fletcher; Thornhill Park, belonging to Colonel Willan, J.P.; and Townhill Park, owned by Mr. Henry Bessemer. The total area of West End is nearly 3,000 acres, and it has a population of 1,778, including the officers and inmates of the workhouse.

Although you and I all know that the West End Local History Society archive can do very much better than that, it would be unfair to suggest that every parish was treated in what seems to be such an inadequate way. After all, West End was a newly-established civil parish when the Hampshire volumes were published.

In fact, the entry for South Stoneham, which includes the extract quoted above, stretches to the ten pages mentioned and includes references as far back as the Domesday Book. It can be viewed online at http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42035.

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Nevertheless, it was recognized that the VCH needed revision, and a committee was set up a couple of years ago to determine what should be done about the Hampshire volumes. It was decided to make a start on a number of parishes in the Basingstoke area, and volunteers were called for to take part. The idea caught on, and a band of inexperienced but enthusiastic volunteers is now actively engaged - the less experienced ones learning local history the hard way by transcribing the censuses and old wills and the more experienced ones really taking the history of the parishes apart.

It so happened that, many years ago, I had carried out a lot of research into one of Corpus Christi College Oxford's manors. The manor was effectively the parish of Mapledurwell, and I felt that I should offer my material as a contribution to the effort; as a result, I was well and truly 'sucked in'. Having said that, being part of the project is a fascinating occupation, even if it is taking up much (perhaps too much) of my time.

The aspects of a parish's history being looked at, apart from a comprehensive introduction, include any manors it contains, its economic history, its social history, its local government, its religious history and its buildings. I probably won't see a new Red Book for Hampshire published in my lifetime, but we are hoping to put the history of Mapledurwell on a county website in the Autumn. It will be some time before they get round to West End!

HISTORY IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE

by Gillie Blake
(Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery)

Whoever would believe just how much history could evolve from a little patch of uncared for grass in Southampton Cemetery?

Recently the Southampton Burial Services contacted me (Gillie Blake) regarding the grave of one JOHN ROSS. The Fraserburgh Heritage Society (Scotland) was making enquiries about him. This led to a fascinating story.

"John Ross" was born Charles Rawden Maclean at Fraserburgh on 17th. August 1815. It is not known how he became known as John Ross. Some say he became John Ross in order to sign on the trading brig "Mary", when he was underage. Others think that the name was given when the tale was related earlier. It is more likely that his father Lieutenant Francis Maclean, RN (retired) arranged for him to have a formal naval education as a ship's boy. The name John Ross though, is how he is remembered to this day in South Africa.

John Ross was a mere 10 years old when he joined the trading brig "Mary". She was sailing from England, but the ship foundered on a notorious bar at Port Natal on 30th. September 1825. The survivors built a small settlement and they made friends with the local Zulu's. However, it was the young John Ross, with his red hair who came to the notice of the King, Shaka. Red is the favourite colour of the Zulu's.

King Shaka befriended the boy and treated him well and a warm relationship grew based on affection and kindness. Over the next three years John became conversant with the language and spent a lot of time at

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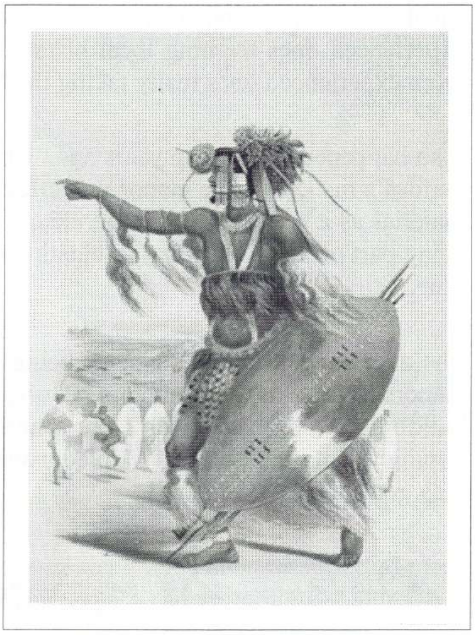
King Shaka's residence in KwaBulawayo, the capital of the Zulu Kingdom. John was the only white person to witness the working of King Shaka and his court.



LEFT:
The only known sketch showing King Shaka

RIGHT:
A colour painting showing a typical Zulu warrior



When other pioneers visited the Zulu King, John acted as translator and negotiator to both sides.

In 1827 when John was just 12 years old he undertook a heroic journey. He walked from Port Natal (Durban) to the Portuguese settlement of Delagoa Bay and back, a distance of about 600 miles. Escorted by armed Zulu's, he journeyed through hippo and crocodile infested waters and over inhospitable territory. He was sent for quinine, medicines and other essentials for a handful of pioneers in the Bay of Natal. The walk took six months. On his return, John who was known as Jackabo to the Zulu's, was given the title of LIQHEWE, which describes a Zulu hero.

In 1828, King Shaka was murdered by his half brothers. Civil war broke out and the Zulu nation collapsed. European slave-trade seized the opportunity to prosper, but John Ross devoted the rest of his life to the cause of black liberty and equality. He left Natal in 1828. By the time he was 25 he was a Sea Captain employed by the sugar industry out of St. Lucia in the West Indies. In 1846 whilst in the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, John Ross caused an incident regarding the unequal treatment of two of his free black sailors. The law of North Carolina required that the men be jailed until the ship was ready to sail. Maclean was enraged. He stood with the black men behind two six pounder loaded cannons and told them "You must defend your liberty, I will stand or fall with you in the result". The Wilmington authorities eventually agreed not to pursue the British seamen of colour, but instead retaliated by banning their black men from shifting cargo for Maclean. The London press portrayed Maclean as a liberty man and he was praised for his courage and conviction. The Wilmington incident was one of several that contributed to the American Civil War.

By the 1840's Maclean was a married man, (his wife came from Nova Scotia) with a daughter. In 1852 he obtained his Master's Certificate of Competence. During the Crimean War in 1856 and accompanied by his

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wife, he sailed to the battle-front of Balaclava in the barque "Gilbert Munro. Mrs Maclean was one of the very few British women there, together with Florence Nightingale.

Maclean was a writer of some note and he published the first definitive description of St. Lucia, his recollections of Natal and an account of the Crimea.

In the 1860's he founded the St. Lucia Steamship Conveyance Co. Ltd., and ran sugar to London in two small ships. He built the islands first coal sheds—making St. Lucia the regions chief fuelling depot. When Maclean was in his fifties he retired from life at sea and invested in three small steamships. It was a disastrous venture. One ship the "Penelope" was wrecked off the west coast of St. Lucia, he was held responsible and never recovered financially. In order to pay off his debts he worked as a Colonial Official in Castries. He was also a Magistrate for the island and chairman of the Poor House Committee. By 1879 he held many posts and though he earned £1200 a year he was still in debt.

In 1880 he became ill and never recovered. He was 65 when he left St. Lucia on board RMS "Larne" - in search of health in England. Sadly he died as the ship was sailing up the Solent on Friday 13th. August 1880. Charles Rawden Maclean/John Ross is buried in an unmarked plot in Southampton Old Cemetery.

In Africa, John Ross is remembered by the:
John Ross Statue—John Ross House, Victoria Embankment, Durban.
John Ross Memorial Plaque—Old Fort, Durban.
John Ross College—Richards Bay, South Africa's premier bulk port.
John Ross Highway—Eshowe. Oldest town in Zululand.
John Ross Bridge—Thukela River, Historic border river of Zululand.
John Ross Pool—Durban Esplanade.
John Ross Dry Dock—Durban Harbour.

Shakaland Tourist Resort—built on the set of the film "King Shaka"

Literature and television work include:
"Bravery in South Africa—Stories from our Heroic Past"
"The Natal Papers of John Ross" - edited by Stephen Gray
SABC-TV "John Ross—An African Adventure"

The Fraserburgh Heritage Society has been given money from their local Rotarians, which they are spending on having an authentic Zulu costume especially made for their museum. They also have many other artefacts and are holding an exhibition about John Ross.

They suggested the idea of raising funds to give this remarkable man a headstone, FoSOC committee thought we could take on this project and for our members to help, by donating at least £1 to go towards the "John Ross Fund".

We have had donations from Fraserburgh Heritage Society members, Fraserburgh Rotarians, as well as our members. Ian Knight an Anglo Zulu War authority has pledged his support to the project.

Doesn't this story make you wonder how many other unsung heroes we have in our cemetery. With thanks to Malcolm McKillop of Fraserburgh Heritage Society for information about John Ross/Maclean.

DON'T FORGET WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAN THE MUSEUM ON SATURDAYS

On this day (3rd June) in.....

1804 Richard Cobden, British statesman and economist, born at Heyshott, near Midhurst in Sussex, the son of a farmer.

1808 Jefferson Davis, American statesman and President of the Confederate States in the American Civil War, born at Fairview in Kentucky.

1865 King George V, the second son of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, born at Marlborough House in London.

1875 Georges Bizet, French composer, notably the opera 'Carmen', died at Bougival near Paris.

1898 Samuel Plimsoll, English social reformer, known as 'The Sailors' Friend', who devised the Plimsoll line for the safe loading of ships, died at Folkestone in Kent.

1899 Johann Strauss the Younger, Austrian composer of light music, notably the 'Blue Danube', died in Vienna.

1915 Paulette Goddard, American film actress, born at Great Neck in the State of New York as Marion Levy.

1925 Tony Curtis, American film actor, born in New York City as Bernard Schwartz, the son of Hungarian-Jewish immigrant parents.

1937 The Duke of Windsor, the abdicated King Edward VIII married Mrs Wallis Warfield Simpson at Monts in France.

1956 Third class rail travel was abolished on British Rail, to conform with continental practice.

1965 Gemini 4 was launched, with James McDivitt and Edward White - during the flight Ed White became the first American to walk in space.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE NEXT MEETINGS

July 1
THE LOSS OF THE SS "STELLA" - an insight to late Victorian society
Jake Simpkin

August 5
SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM 7.30pm
Including Refreshments
All Welcome

September 2
RIVER MEON FROM SOURCE TO SEA
Carol Watson

October 7
UNTO SOUTHAMPTON DO WE SHIFT OUR SCENE.....
Geoff Watts

November 4
WICKHAM PAST & PRESENT
Madeleine Selby