NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WESTENDER

MARCH — APRIL 2009 VOLUME 6 NUMBER 10

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HOW IT WAS (4)
DUNFORD'S GARAGE IN THE HIGH STREET



The picture above comes from our archives and is one of several relating to Dunford's Garage. This particular picture dates from the 1920's, a far cry from today when it would be impossible to pose the vehicles strung out across the High Street, due to the amount of through traffic!

The building itself was originally the West End Stores and Post Office in the late 1890's and early 20th century, latterly run by Mr Boyt, later this building was used by J. Dunford for his Garage, Haulage and Removals business. After remaining empty for a time the building was demolished along with Wimpey's Regional Office next door to make way for the small housing development called Hatch Mead. The trees in the background formed part of the Hatch Grange estate, now a public park owned and run by West End Parish Council.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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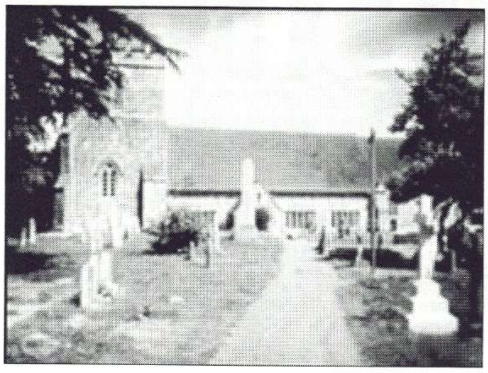
THE FEBRUARY MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight



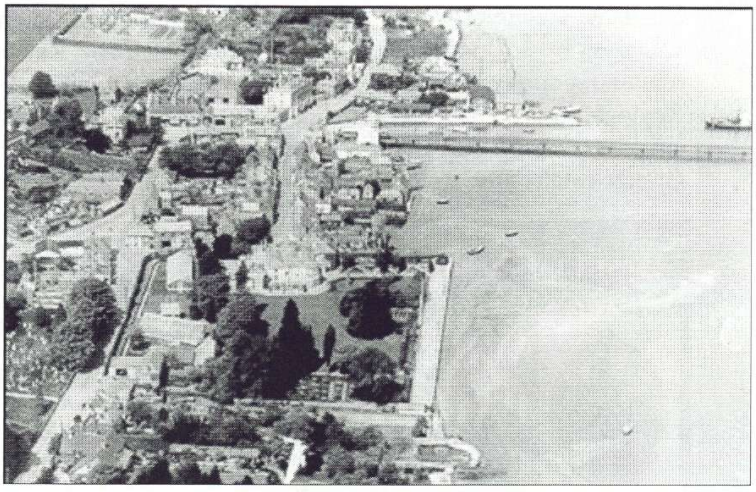


Above: DIBDEN CHURCH. Right: HIGH STREET, HYTHE c.1915

Nearly forty members braved the icy conditions to attend the meeting and to hear the talk 'From the Heath Hotel to Dibden Church'. But I fear that many were rather disappointed. Gordon Chamber's talk ranged over a relatively short distance in his home village of Dibden Purlieu, which is an area that is practically unknown to most of us. It is doubtful whether a similar talk about West End would go down very well in Dibden.

It was evident to me that, on his own ground, Gordon is a first class local historian. His slides were mainly taken from old photos that did tell a story - that of a hamlet that became a village that became a virtual suburb of Southampton. But we would all have benefitted had we known where we were. Introducing the talk with a couple of 'then and now' maps and the route that the speaker had followed might have put us in the picture from the start. The slides would be of interest to Dibdenians (I made that up), but, since many of the houses have been demolished to make way for modern housing estates, they didn't mean a lot to us. Gordon knows his subject very well and his enthusiasm did come across, if a little too faintly for some of the audience. Not surprisingly, there were few questions at the end, but two members of the audience were able to provide information that Gordon himself did not know about!

It would be possible to pad out this report with details of some of the slides, but they would mean as little now as they did during the talk. Incidentally, the Heath Hotel gets a very poor rating as a pub on the internet - it never was a hotel it seems - so don't go rushing off to Dibden!



OLD HYTHE c.1932

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY AT HATCH GRANGE

Nigel Wood





The Friends of Hatch Grange in conjunction with West End Parish Council held a 'Work Day' to thin out the new trees and undergrowth in Centenary Copse. This was open to all and widely advertised and held on Saturday 21st February 2009. The weather was superb as was the turnout—as you can see from the photographs on this page taken by Laura Cook, our Parish Clerk. It was very encouraging to see so many young people involved in the work, whole families came along as well as the parish staff and members of the Friends of Hatch Grange. It was hard work and we all thoroughly enjoyed the free soup and hot dogs afterwards, which was served in the Parish Centre.





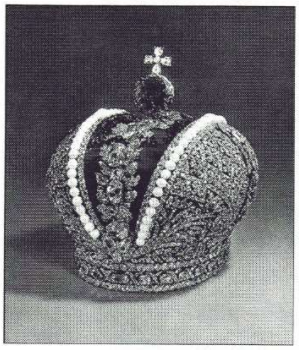




THE HISTORY OF THE CROWN JEWELS

A Review by Stan Waight






pictures above from left to right
St. Edwards Crown, Scottish Crown Jewels, Imperial Russian Tsars crown & the Martin Tower at the Tower of London which was used to house the Crown Jewels

With a title like that, it was something of a surprise when Norman Jackson kicked off his talk to the March meeting with a slide of a pharaoh. The surprise turned to interest as Norman developed his presentation with further slides of Incas, the Sutton Hoo helmet and even a Red Indian in his plumed headdress.

Over 60 members and visitors had turned out to listen, and I'm sure that no-one was disappointed, for this was an introduction to a first-class, wide-ranging talk on the trappings of kings, emperors and chiefs. Our speaker, having worked in the Tower of London for many years, had himself earned the honour of one of the Queen's Orders.

We Brits are a little unlucky in that our Crown Jewels were sold off and melted down during the Commonwealth. Jewels were actually rented for state occasions after the Restoration, and what we have now didn't start appearing until the reign of George III in the 1760s. Then a new crown, sceptre and orb were gradually joined by a dazzling array of jewels and plate as City Guilds got together to produce and present them. Eventually there was a whole series of crowns to suit every occasion - did you know that their velvet linings were known as Caps of Maintenance? The great jewels such as the Koh-i-noor and the Star of Africa got special mentions, as did the Orders of the Garter, the Bath and the British Empire.

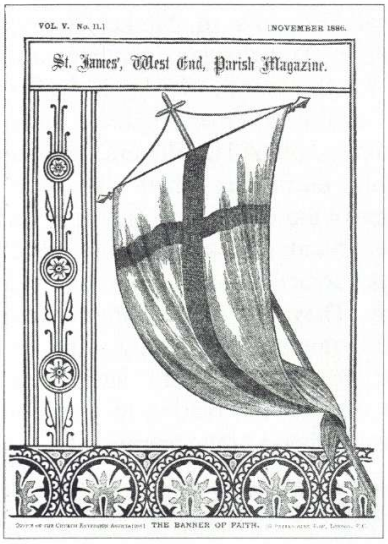
The Martin Tower in the Tower of London was originally used to hold and protect our treasures, which the public paid to see. The jewels were safely evacuated without loss during the great Fire of London and were recovered after the single attempted theft.

Norman's slides were excellent and, in addition to decorated swords of state, decorated thrones, fonts and wine-coolers, included pictures of the Scottish crown jewels and those of the Czars of Russia. While talking about salts and tankards, he diverted from his main subject to talk about the salt industry - which was interesting in itself. Incidentally, how many of us knew that salts and tankards had lids to protect their contents from the debris - and worse - that was likely to fall from the pigeon-inhabited rafters of the royal residences? He also dwelled for a while on the symbolism embodied in many of the objects - the link between our own Royalty and the Church.

There were many amusing asides and the whole talk was a pleasure to listen to.

NOTE: We would like to express our thanks to Stan for his excellent and lucid reviews of our talks - I am sure all our readers enjoy reading the reviews. Many thanks Stan!

REQUEST FOR OLD COPIES OF THE St. JAMES' CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE

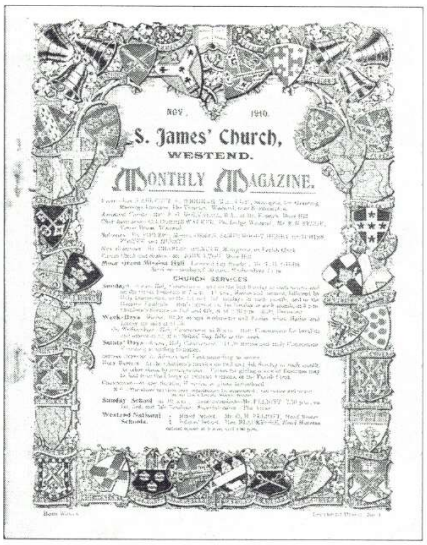

VOL. V. No. 11.] NOVEMBER 1886.

St. James', West End, Parish Magazine.

THE BANNER OF FAITH.


Price 4d. OCTOBER, 1958

S. JAMES', WEST END PARISH MAGAZINE.


NOV. 1910.

S. James' Church, WESTEND.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

CHURCH SERVICES

above left to right
St. James' Church Parish Magazine covers from December 1886, October 1958 & November 1910

We have embarked on a programme in conjunction with St. James' Church, West End to digitise as many of the St. James' Church Parish Magazines as possible from 1884 until 1960. It is not the entire magazine but only the Parish Notes pages content we are interested in as they contain much valuable local history information regarding events, people and attitudes of the time as well as Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths, a veritable time capsule of knowledge. We have been very fortunate to have access to the copies held by the church, as well as by WELHS archives, and we would like to thank member Barry Topp for his kind donation of Parish Magazine extracts (1888-1905) which have now been added to those already scanned.
By making the magazine extracts available on cdrom for research purposes, not only does it bring many widely dispersed collections together but saves the need to keep handling what are now in many cases very fragile documents. There are however some very glaring gaps, mostly up to 1918 - the copies we are looking for are listed below and if anyone has any of these we would be obliged to have access to them for scanning or as a donation to our archives - please contact the Editor on 02380 471886

DATED MAGAZINES REQUIRED

1884	Whole year except Mar
1887	Whole year
1889	Whole year
1890	Whole year
1891	Whole year except Jan, Feb, Mar, July
1892	Whole year except Jan, Feb, July
1897	Jan, Sept
1903	Jan, May, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec
1904	Jan, Mar, Apr, May, Dec
1905	Feb, Apr, June, July, Aug, Nov
1906	Whole year
1907	Whole year except Sept
1908	Whole year except October
1909	Whole year except Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec
1914	Whole year
1917	Whole year
1918	Whole year except Feb, Mar, Oct

WELHS DISPLAY AT EASTLEIGH



Once again we have had a display in the window of A.H. Rogers & Sons, Funeral Directors in Market Street, Eastleigh. The display has been on view for the month of March thanks once again to the kindness and generosity of A.H. Rogers. On a monthly basis throughout the year they make the window display area on the left hand side available to local groups, societies and clubs free of charge. They are to be commended for providing this facility, and it would be nice if more businesses could find the motivation to emulate this for the good of the community.

STOP PRESS...HISTORY FAIR AT TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE



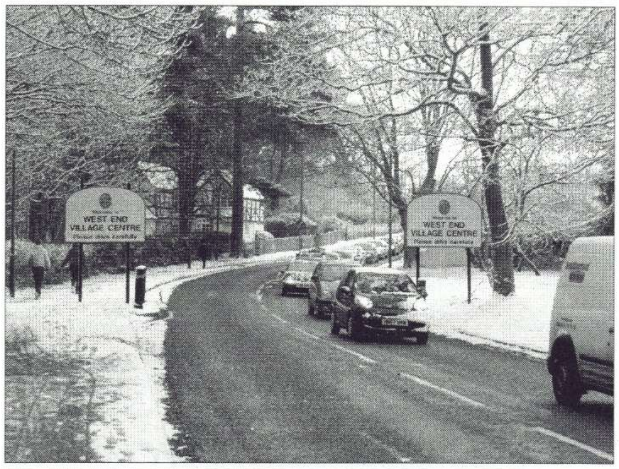
Pictures of the Fair courtesy of Nigel Wood and Will Temple

The History Fair organised by Bitterne Local History Society at Townhill Park House (now Gregg School) was held on Saturday 28th March 2009. Luckily the weather held up reasonably well with mainly just a few light showers. Many groups and societies were represented at the Fair as well as trips on a vintage 1950's red Southampton Corporation Guy Arab bus (ah! I remember them well). The proceedings were officially opened by the Mayor of Southampton and opened to the public at 10.00am. Refreshments and lunch were available and regular guided tours of the superb Gertude Jekyll gardens were also arranged. A total of nine talks on various subjects were held throughout the day in the lecture room, including the writers own modest efforts on the subject of Netley Hospital. All in all much credit must go to the organisers headed by Mary Abrahams for such a successful event. Some 500+ visitors attended and the launch of our new joint book "Bitterne & West End Through Time" was very successful. Ed.

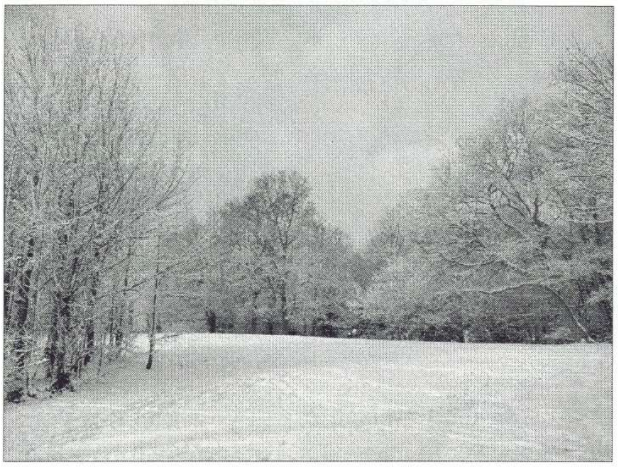
SNOW SCENES AT HATCH GRANGE

A PHOTO REPORT BY NIGEL WOOD

Early February bought with it a cold snap and on the morning of 2nd February we all woke up to find a very white world. I made my way to Hatch Grange to take some photographs of the park in the snow, but arriving around 9am found I had been beaten to it by dozens of children eager to try their skills at tobogganing down the slopes. It was freezing cold but people were really enjoying themselves. I made my way down to the pond in the lower pasture and found it nearly completely frozen over and looking just like a Christmas card scene. Below are a few of the photographs I took.













LAUNCH OF FRIENDS OF RSH CHAPEL



The launch of "The Friends of the Royal South Hants Chapel" took place on Tuesday 27th January 2009 in the Bunker Room, Fanshawe Wing at the Royal South Hants Hospital between 11.00am and 12.30pm. The Mayor of Southampton, Cllr Brian Parnell welcomed all who attended followed with talks by Kevin Liles, Director of Business & Corporate Affairs, Kath Goodchild, Whitchurch Community Hospital Fundraiser and Dawn Buck, Head of Patient & Public Engagement at the Hospital. Our own John Avery gave an interesting talk on the history of the Hospital, followed by a buffet lunch and the opportunity to visit the Chapel. We wish the Friends every success for the future.

Pictures courtesy of Will Temple & Nigel Wood





WEST END CARNIVAL NEWS

In spite of the lack of volunteers coming forward to help with the Carnival, it will go ahead this year. There won't be a procession as we simply don't have the manpower to marshal it, but there will be a Fete on Hatch Grange as usual. The theme this year is "Mediaeval", and events arranged so far include the "Spectacular Knights of the Crusades" (http://www.knightsofthecrusades.co.uk) complete with castle backdrop, a 50's and 60's tribute band playing in the evening, a Hog Roast and village stocks, everyone from stall holders to the visiting public are encouraged to dress in mediaeval costume. There will be the usual Carnival Pub Quiz, Bingo Evening and evening Carnival Walks led by Eric Read, a Hamble Valley Tourist guide. The judging for the Carnival Princesses will be held at the St. James' School Annual Fete on Saturday 16th May 2009. The Fete will open at 12.00 midday and close at 3.00pm with the Judging at 2.00pm and the Crowning of the Court at 2.45pm. Applications for Carnival Princesses (Junior 5 to 9 years) and Senior (10 to 14 years) on the day at the Fete. Anyone wishing to have a stall at the Carnival should contact either the Parish Office, any of the Carnival Committee members or myself direct (Nigel Wood address and telephone number is one the front cover) for a Booking Form. Plots are approximately 15ft. x 15ft. and cost £15 (Charity) or £35.00 (Trade). All bookings are required to be returned by the second week in April 2009.

Ed.

A VISIT TO 'GLEN LEA' / 'MYLOR'

By Pauline Berry





At first my arrival at 'Glen Lea' is confusing. The sign is there saying 'Glen Lea' but the old house, still standing, once known as Glen lea is now signposted 'Mylor'. This is soon explained by the present owner, Mr Geoffrey Deverell, that the vendor of the old house took the name with him to his newly built house next door. This happened in the 1960's and Mr Deverell had to come up with a new name for his purchase, 'Mylor'.

Glen Lea, sorry, Mylor has been standing near the bottom of Church Hill, behind its shrubberies for at least 150 years and fortunately has escaped the fate of many fine old residences - demolition. This imposing middle-class house has survived along with its rendered walls, high gables and tall chimneys, surrounded by conifers, laurels etc.. With a gunnera in the centre of its sloping lawn. The garden, once about 4 acres, has been reduced to half its original size by the construction of the new house adjacent to it, built on the site of the former stables (now 'Glen Lea'!).

Only the noise of the traffic on the hill is a reminder that we are no longer in the Victorian era, despite many of the original architectural features which are still visible, including an open porch (see above) with stained glass panels and tiled floor.

Outside next to this the metal floor vents (used to provide heating ducts) around the perimeter of another tiled floor (see below) and an ancient grape-vine, now non-productive, betraying the existence of the former glass-house. The owner explained that a 6 foot deep rainwater tank is still there, hidden below ground, ready to nourish the exotic plants, now long gone.

Through the solid oak front door which Mr Deverell believes to be Victorian, is a long entrance hall with ornate plaster coving and the original staircase with its fancy cast-iron uprights and mahogany handrail. There is still evidence of metal grilles which were once used as security over the house's vulnerable points. Three lofty living rooms, with internal shutters to the windows (many of which still have the original panes of glass). Everywhere the original plaster coving, ceiling roses and door architraves can be seen.



LEFT
The tiled floor to the former glass-house with cast-iron floor vent surround.

RIGHT
One of the pet headstones dedicated to 'Nanki-Pooh' 1952



Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

The remains of bell-wires are still beneath the floor-boards. A few steps lead down to the kitchen, altered today, but was probably once used by the servants, who may have had a separate staircase upstairs. Now blocked off, the top step is still visible. Downwards, another staircase leads to a chilly basement now used as a workshop and larder.

It is hard to imagine that this area was converted and used as an apartment many years ago. An out of use coal cellar stands nearby with its redundant coal-hole.

Whilst being shown round it became obvious from all the original features that the house had been built for a very discerning and possibly prosperous Mr Elton Drury Esquire, circa 1850. From two of the four bedrooms on the first floor is a fine view to the north, overlooking the former village of West End in addition to the sweeping grounds of old 'Glen Lea', now much reduced from the original four acres.

The next old house up the hill was called 'The Glen' and was demolished for development about 1968. Although a larger house than Glen Lea, Mr Deverell observed that it had fewer traditional features than his own. An accidental fire by the demolition workers speeded up their work! All that remains of 'The Glen' today are two animal gravestones rescued from the rear garden by Mr Deverell during the demolition.

Dedicated to two faithful pets, one to 'Nanki-Pooh' (1952) and the other to 'Buck' in 1900, he has kindly donated them to our museum where a suitable site will be found.

Thanks too for a copy of an 1868 map of the area and drawings of the floor plans dated 1963, which have been placed in the museum's archives. Much credit must be given to Mr Deverell and his late wife Pauline, for maintaining this property in keeping with its character and age, thus thankfully preserving it for many years to come.

NOTE

The two memorial stones dedicated to family pets recovered from the grounds of 'The Glen', Church Hill, following its demolition circa 1968 - 'Buck' aged 17 years, the pet of Mr and Mrs W. Acton and family 1900. 'Nanki-Pooh - my faithful friend for 16 years. June 1952', the pet of Mrs East.

LOOKING BACK.....

The following article appeared in 'West End News' in 1991....

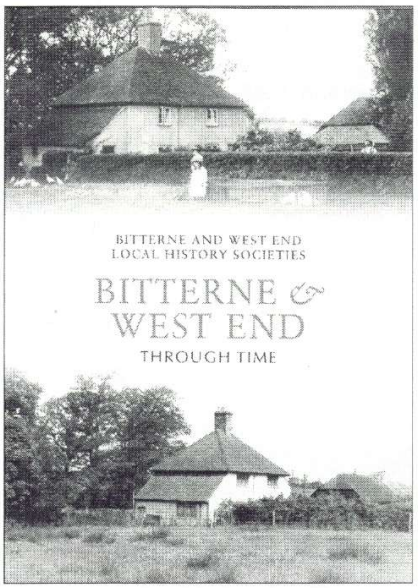
OPENING OF FIRTREE GARDENS, WEST END

On Friday the 5th April 1991 a gathering of some fifty people assembled in the High Street, West End to witness a double event, the opening of the Parish Council's latest achievement, an attractive garden laid out with flowering shrubs and trees to enable residents and visitors to tarry a while escaping from the hustle and bustle of every day life. The Parish Council financed the preparation and planting and the Electrical Electronic Telecommunication & Plumbing Union (EETPU), whose offices are located on the adjoining plot, kindly provided two hardwood bench garden seats. By courtesy of Mr Michael Bucknall and with the approval of the Parish Council, each seat was dedicated to two men who gave so much of their lives to and for the village and people of West End, the late Mr Charlie Sillence and the late Mr Edwin (Teddy) Topp.

The ceremony was performed by Councillor Dudley Kirk for the Parish Council. In his address he expressed how honoured he was to be able to officiate at the dedication of the seats to two of his late friends, giving a list of just some of the contributions made by each of them. Charlie Sillence was born in the cottage that once stood on the land forming the garden and named 'Fir Tree Cottage', in later life Charlie was the author of a booklet recording events and personalities for the period late 1800, an article well worth reading. Ted Topp was a man of action caring for the West End Cricket Club and acting groundsman, through his devotion and effort the crease was the best in the area. Ted could always be seen during Carnival time erecting bunting, the arena, organising the procession, almost everything. Both men are sadly missed in the village.

Councillor Kirk said how pleased he was that both Mrs Sillence and Mrs Topp together with so many members of both families, children, grandchildren, were able to attend. After the ceremony all those attending were invited into the offices of the E.E.T.P.U. as guests of Mr M. Bucknall, Area Secretary of the Union, to participate in a buffet reception that was much appreciated by all, especially as there was a very chilling wind blowing throughout the period of the outside dedication.

NEW BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE



Our new joint book with Bitterne Local History Society, published by Amberley Publishing is now available from the Museum bookstand, priced just £12.99. For our readers who are unable to visit our museum here in West End we can send it to you via printed matter post. The prices are: **UK** - £12.99 plus £2.50 post & packing

EUROPE - £12.99 plus £2.80 post & packing

WORLD (incl. N.America) - £12.99 plus £4.60 post & packing

Payment is accepted either by sterling cheque made out to West End Local History Society,to address on the front cover or by PayPal to …

pete.john.wallace@btinternet.com

The book is lavishly illustrated with 180 never before published photographs of Bitterne and West End, with the older pictures being in sepia and the more recent ones in full colour. Explanatory text accompanies the pictures giving the reader an insight to the past of these two neighbouring but quite different former villages. The book sold well at the History Fair organised by BLHS on Saturday 29th March, so here's your chance to grab a copy, don't delay!

PUBLICITY, PUBLICITY, PUBLICITY!

Your society's public profile has never been higher, with the recent History Fair at Townhill Park House, where we occupied a prominent stall next to BLHS, our new book in conjunction with Bitterne Local History Society entitled "Bitterne and West End Through Time" (if you haven't already purchased a copy, why not?), we have had a month long exhibit in A.H. Rogers shop window in Market Street, Eastleigh, as well as appearing in print first in what has become a regular history spot in the West End Parish Newsletter published by the Parish Council and more recently in the community newspaper "The Partnership" - for two issues running we have been very generously given complete page spreads. This helps people to both relate to local history and gives our society the prominence it needs. If anyone has any ideas or can help in furthering the society's cause please contact us and let us know. Ed.

OUR THANKS

I would like to express my thanks to all our members and friends who have very generously donated or loaned artefacts, photographs and documents to the society for our archives, both for display in the museum and for reference purposes. In particular, amongst many others I would like to thank, Mary Hallifax and her husband, Brian Harding on the IOW, St. James' Church (Mrs Fiona Weston) and John Woolley (grandson of Fred Woolley). Our extensive archive is thanks to people like this - so why not check through your cupboards and drawers, lofts and chests and see if you have got any old photographs, documents or artefacts relating to West End and Moorgreen and either donate or lend them to us. We unfortunately don't have the space to collect items relating to area's outside West End and Moorgreen, so would have to decline these.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

In future it is our intention to bring along a selection of publications from our Museum Bookshop stock for sale at meetings. So remember to bring along some money to meetings and snap up a book or occasional paper - could be useful for birthday or Christmas presents!

On this day (1st April) in.....

1815 Otto von Bismarck, German statesman and first Chancellor, born at Schonhausen in Brandenburg.

1875 'The Times' became the first newspaper to publish a daily weather chart.

1888 Lon Chaney, American silent-screen actor, born at Colorado Springs in Colorado, USA.

1918 The Royal Air Force was formed, by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

1948 Britain's electricity industry was nationalised.

1960 America launched the first meteorological satellite, Tiros I.

1967 Sir Edmund Compton took office as Britain's first Ombudsman.

1973 Value Added Tax came into operation in Britain.

I NEED MORE ARTICLES

This is a little plea from the Editor - I desperately need more articles for Westender. Thank you to all those who have sent in articles in the past, in particular our regular contributors without whom we would not have a newsletter, but I need a lot more of you to come forward and help. Anecdotes, local memories, photographs, you know the sort of thing because you enjoy reading them in this publication. So, if you would like Westender to continue (we are in our 10th year of production), please send in your contributions - don't forget, this is your newsletter, so please help. You can send your article by post to: The Editor, Westender, 40 Hatch Mead, West End, Southampton, Hants, SO30 3NE or by e-mail to: westendlhs@aol.com or hand it to me at the monthly meetings. Whatever you do please do it NOW!
WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Thank you Ed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE NEXT MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 6
SHAKERS OF THE NEW FOREST
Philip Hoare

June 3
THE STORY OF THE SCHNEIDER AIR RACES
Colin van Geffen

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