NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WESTENDER

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Website:
www.westendlhs.hampshire.org.uk

E-mail address:
westendlhs@aol.com

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

ECHOES FROM THE PAST



WEST END COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, WEST END

Our picture this issue was kindly donated to our archive by Mrs Margaret Palmer, whose family once occupied this house and shows "West End Cottage" around 1910. The cottage long since gone once stood next to the site of Dunford's Garage at the boundary of Hatch Grange estate, opposite Midlands Estate.

Today the site of the cottage and also that of Dunford's Garage has been absorbed into the Hatch Mead housing estate, built by George Wimpey the builders back in the 1990's partly on the site of their Regional Office.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by

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THE DECEMBER MEETING

A Review by Stan Waight

It has become a tradition for the December meeting to be a social evening and a good number of members turned out in sub-zero conditions for our pre-Christmas do. What a splendid idea it was to ask them to opt for an item from a list of food circulated in November - as a result the buffet tables groaned with a wide variety of delicacies.

It was a pity that the digital projector refused to perform for us and that we were denied the further tradition of Nigel's dip into our extensive photographic archive. However, we were posed not one, not two, not three but four absorbing quizzes that teased more than a few elderly brains.

Suffice to say that we all had a good time, even if it was snowing by the end of the evening and we woke next morning to the thickest layer of snow I've seen during my 39 years in West End.

Our thanks must go to the Committee for arranging such a pleasant get-together.

I look forward to writing more meeting reports in 2011 and wish a Happy New Year to all my readers!!!

"WESTEND AN UNMEANING NAME"

By Roy Andrews

A report of a Westend Parish Council meeting on the 29th September 1896 itemised the following:-

A suggestion was made that the name of the village should be changed. It was pointed out that "Westend" is an unmeaning and rather ugly name, and one that leads to frequent mistakes and delays by rail and post and a committee was appointed to enquire into the matter.

A further report of a council meeting on the 3rd November, 1896 reports:-

The Sub-committee appointed to consider the desirability of changing the name of "Westend" was unable to make any recommendations and the matter stands over further consideration.

CEMETERY HUMOUR

By Peter Wallace

Inscribed on Anna Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls ,Vermont, U.S.A. :
"Here lies the body of our Anna,
Done to death by a banana.
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low,
But the skin of the thing that made her go".

In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England :
"On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune".

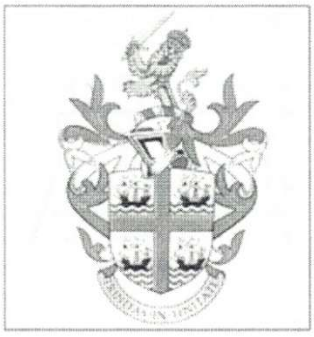
A lawyer's epitaph in England :
"Sir John Strange.
Here lies an honest lawyer,
and that is Strange".

THE LIGHT VESSEL SERVICE

By Stan Waight



The old Royal Sovereign lightvessel off Eastbourne



The Arms of Trinity House



Sam Rowe in his Trinity uniform

John Avery's short article on the Calshot Lightvessel prompted me to think about my own connections with Trinity House, or 'The Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond' to give it its full and ancient title. The Corporation is run by men known as the 'Master' and the 'Brethren', and has provided navigation aids to mariners for centuries, in the form of lighthouses, lightvessels and buoys.

To put this article in context, the Trinity depot for much of the South Coast was at East Cowes, where I was born, and was a major employer in the town. In fact three male members of my family were 'Trinity' men, and all three ended their service as skipper of a lightvessel - my grandad Sam Rowe on the 'Royal Sovereign' off Eastbourne, my stepfather Harry Hitchens on the 'Owers' off Selsey and my uncle George Rowe on the 'Calshot' itself. My cousin Daphne Beeston was the Assistant District Clerk and I, myself, worked there as a humble clerk in the final years of the war.

Much has been written about lighthouses and lighthousekeepers, but the Lightvessel Service has not had much of a mention. In this article I hope to go a little way towards putting that straight.

Floating lights were first used over 200 years ago and were permanently moored in positions that were too deep or otherwise unsuitable to build a lighthouse, but where a strong light was required to guide seafarers. By the beginning of the 20th century it was usual for the complement to consist of a Master, a Mate, three Lamplighters, two Fog Signal Drivers and five Able Seamen, of whom seven men would be aboard at any one time. The Master and Mate would spend a month aboard alternately, while the remainder of the crew spent a month aboard followed by two weeks ashore. During their shore time they were expected to work at the depot, maintaining the buoys in the buoy store.

For obvious reasons, it was essential that lightvessels maintained their position. But they were small craft without their own propulsive power and were at the mercy of wind and tide if they broke loose; the light had to be extinguished immediately if this were to happen. 120 feet was an average overall length, and conditions were cramped and uncomfortable (some sleeping quarters were only separated from the smelly chain locker by a partition). When the men weren't on watch or working on maintenance they spent their

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LIST OF OFFICERS, CREW, AND OTHERS ON BOARD THE SHIP OR VESSEL NAMED THE Seven Stones Light Vessel ON THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY, 31st MARCH, 1901. 190

NAME and SURNAME.	In what relation to vessel.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	SEX.	AGE last Birthday.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.		WHERE BORN.
John Griffiths	Mate	Married	M	45	Mate	~~[illegible]~~ worker	Barton Brisk Pembrokshire
Thomas Hicks	Crew	Widower	M	49	Lamplighter	Ditto	St Marys Scilly Isle
Benjamin John Redding	Do	Married	M	43	Lamplighter	Do	Plymouth Devonshire
Thomas James Nicholls	Do	Married	M	33	Signal Driver	Do	Middlesex London
Samuel John Rowe	do	Married	M	26	A B Seaman	Do	Marazion Cornwall
Francis Nicholls	do	Married	M	59	A B Seaman	Do	Penzance Cornwall
Thomas James Colton	do	Married	M	31	A B Seaman	Do	Penzance Cornwall

Witness my hand. (Signature) John Griffiths Mate

The crew of the Sevenstones lightvessel off Lands End in 1901

time playing cards - cribbage was a favourite - making mats out of rope or pieces of cloth, or fishing. Solar power began to be introduced on some lightvessels in 1995 and those that remain have since been automated. The others were replaced by light floats such as the one that can be seen from the ferry at Calshot Spit. In this way, the tradition of a manned service to mariners around the coasts of Britain came to an end.

Imagine being cooped up with the same six men for four weeks at a time!

The day on which the crew was changed was known as Relief Day, when the District tender (known by all as the 'Steamship') visited the lightvessel bringing the relieving crew and stores for the next two weeks. The morning was normally spent catching fish to take ashore and their families couldn't have had anything much fresher. Once ashore at East Cowes, the relieved men would make straight for the 'White Hart' before returning to their loved ones!

Wind and tide played a great part in the life aboard. All was well when the sea was calm, but stormy weather could be quite uncomfortable and even dangerous. Grandad used to tell of lashing himself in his bunk to prevent being rolled out by the lurches of the vessel in heavy seas. On one occasion, during a sudden great roll, uncle George was flung against a red hot stove and was forced to push himself away by thrusting his hand against the glowing surface (what price health and safety in those days?). Before the days of radio the men had to be resourceful in times of emergency.

Promotion was by seniority and men made their way to Master through the other ratings. Lamplighters were responsible for the light and Fog Signal Drivers had special responsibilities when the light was shrouded by fog. During the early days Fog Signal Drivers were Fog Gunners, who fired maroons at intervals to warn shipping of their position; latterly the maroons were replaced by fog horns popularly known as 'Moaning Minnies'.

Because of the promotion system, men were moved frequently. Grandad started on the Sevenstones lightvessel off Lands End but was temporarily seconded to the Lighthouse Service in 1902, when he and the family moved to Flamborough Head lighthouse in Yorkshire where he served as Fog Gunner and where my mother was born. The next move was to Harwich and the East Anglian coast lightships and finally to East Cowes, where he retired. It wasn't the ideal career for any man, but it was secure and provided a pension at the end.

COLONEL KENNETH MACLEOD M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.

By Roy Andrews

Colonel Kenneth Macleod a past resident of Westend was an eminent military surgeon and hygienist. He was born in the Outer Hebrides on July 23rd,1840, the son of a Free Church minister. He received his medical training at the University of Edinburgh, where he qualified in 1864.

Much of the rest of his life was spent in India where after four years in the Indian Medical Service in 1872 he was appointed secretary to the Inspector-General of Hospitals, a post he held until 1879. He married Jane Christie, who was born in Victoria, Australia, in 1878.

On 1st December 1879, he was made professor of anatomy in the Calcutta Medical College, a post he held until his retirement in 1892.

During his time in India Macleod did much towards the advancement of medicine on that continent. In 1869 he investigated Indian cattle plague and set about establishing facilities for veterinary research in India, which culminated in the foundation of the Bengal Veterinary College. In 1877 he identified what he thought was a new disease similar to beriberi and having studied it in Calcutta, by 1881 he was able to give it the name Epidemic Dropsy, so full and accurate were his powers of clinical observations that very little has been added to them since.

He founded the Calcutta Medical Society, was its first secretary and later its president, and was editor of the Indian Medical Gazette from 1871 to 1892.

Upon his retirement in 1892 he returned to England and settled in Westend living in a house called 'Duncaple' in Cemetary Road (now West End Road) and today the site of Woodland Mews, with his wife and three servants. He became an Honorary Physician to Queen Victoria and professor of clinical military medicine at the Army Medical School at Netley, a post he held until 1905. He died on 17th December,1922.

LAURENCE PEEL

By Peter Wallace & Roy Andrews

An extract from St. James Parish Magazine for 1910 reads as follows:-

Burials.

Feb.21—Laurence Peel (died Feb. 17th) of Shrewton Lodge, aged 74 years.

By the death of Mr.Peel, after a lingering and painful illness, the Parish of Westend loses a regular and generous contributor to good works within its borders, and his many friends, a widely read and very intelligent student of men and matters, who had seen much of life in various conditions, and known more or less intimately many makers of social and political modern history.

A descendant of the great statesman, and for a long time in the War Office, Mr. Laurence Peel had lived within that circle which, in the latter part of the Victorian era, contained men conversant with, and engaged in, the literary, political and social affairs of the time ; and though for a long time he had been unable through ill health to continue his duties at the War Office, his interest in the country pursuits, and especially in his garden, was very keen, and he was to the end a great reader of books.

The great statesman referred to was Robert Peel 1788 – 1850 Prime Minister of Great Britain and founder of the first Police Force. He was born in Lancashire where his family made their fortune in textile manufacturing.

Laurence (some records give the spelling as Lawrence) Peel the son of the Rev. Frederick Peel was born in Willingham, Lincolnshire in about 1836 and by 1851 was a scholar at Corbourge House School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

He married Emily Frances Cazanove at Willingham on the 11th November, 1865 she was the daughter of Phillip Cazenove of the stockbroking family.

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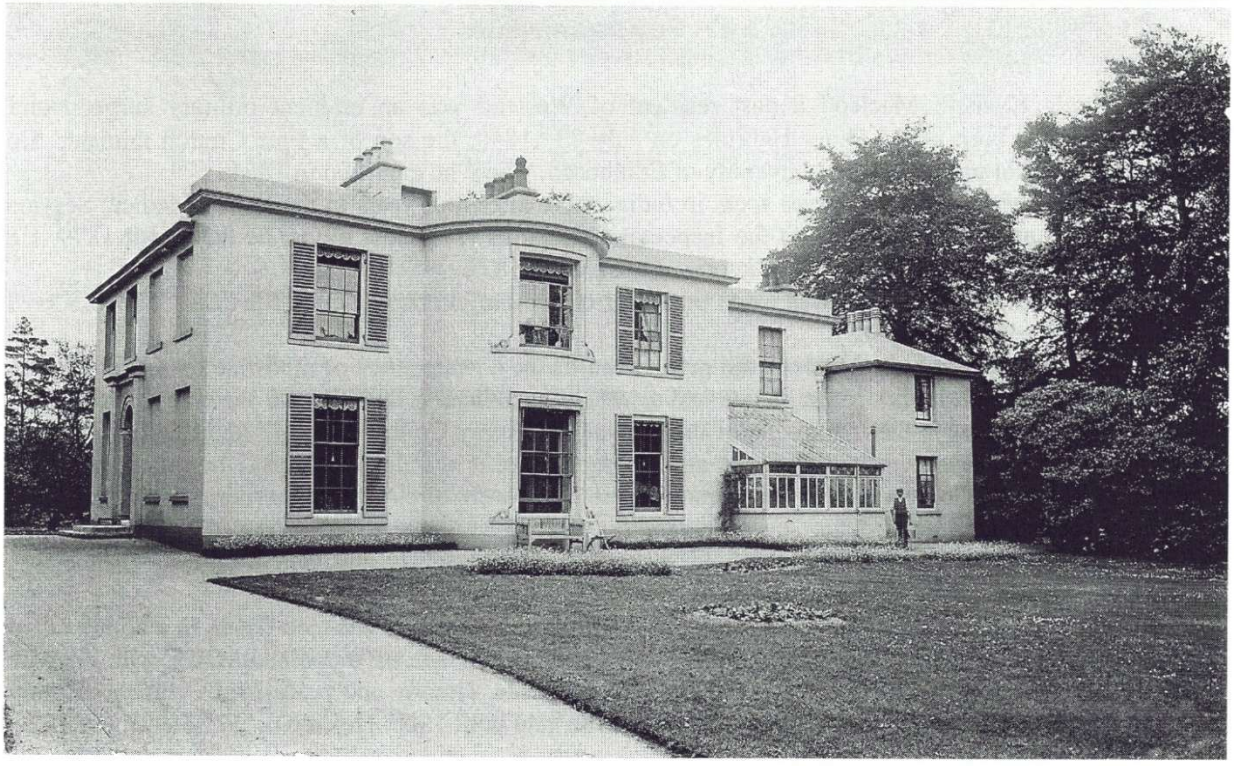


SHREWTON LODGE, MOORHILL ROAD, WEST END c.1900 - ONCE HOME TO LAURENCE PEEL

By 1871 the couple had a son Lawrence and two daughters Margaret and Edith and were living in Pinner, Middlesex looked after by five servants.
In 1881 they were living at Wadworth Hall, Cross Hill, Wadworth, Yorkshire, looked after by a Cook, Kitchen Maid, Housemaid, Butler and Groom. Their daughters Edith, born 1870, and a third daughter Suzannah born in 1872 were meantime living with their mothers sister Susan Cazanove in Battersea, London.
1891 found Laurence living with daughters Edith and Suzannah at Rope Hill House, Boldre in the New Forest while his wife Emily was living with their daughter Margaret at Sale Lodge, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne.
Ten years later in 1901 Laurence is living at Avonside House, Godshill, Fordingbridge while his wife is living with a by now widowed daughter Margaret at 3, Fortfield Place, Sidmouth, Devon.
Interestingly until this time throughout the family's years of moving around the country although they changed the servants they employed at each location they always retained the services of the same cook one Rachel Page who had been born in Suffolk. She however seems to disappear now as the family settles in Westend, here Laurence died in 1910 followed by his wife in 1912. Both are buried together in Westend's Old Cemetery.
Research to establish the link between Laurence and Robert Peel has to date been impossible to establish, even the Peel Society acknowledge that there are an awful lot of branches to the family and Laurence or Lawrence was a traditional family Christian name. We think that possibly Laurence's father was a cousin to Robert making Laurence a second cousin.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We would like more members of the Society to volunteer for duty at the Museum on Saturdays - only a two hour shift each month would make all the difference and make Peter's work easier...please consider this and let Peter have your name and dates when you are available for duty, its not difficult or onerous, but is worthwhile. Ed

NOTES FROM A CONSTABLE'S POCKET BOOK - 10

By Roy Andrews

I often found, when dealing with an incident, that what started as a small mole hill could quickly escalate into a mountain. One such case was when I had not long started working a night duty in a Panda Car patrolling Southampton City centre.

I was directed via a radio message from the Control Room to investigate a report of a smashed window at an undertaker's in Northam Road near its junction with the 'Six Dials'. It was not part of my beat but my colleague Ken, who patrolled this patch, was already dealing with another incident. Sure enough on arrival I found that the front plate glass window had been smashed, obviously not an attempted burglary as all that was displayed inside was an urn, empty I assumed! So just a case of criminal damage.

After I had been waiting a few minutes for the Keyholder who had been requested to attend to be responsible for making the premises secure Ken, now free, arrived in his Panda Car. We stood on the pavement outside the undertaker's chatting only for a few moments when a taxi pulled up alongside us and the driver called out that Boris, whom we knew ran the Fish and Chip shop further back along Northam Road was having trouble with a customer. It being Ken's beat he said he would go and investigate and because it was only a short distance to the Chip shop he left his Panda Car where it was and walked off.

No sooner had Ken gone than the door of the greasy spoon cafe, on the opposite side of the road to where I was standing, crashed open and two of the staff ejected a man onto the pavement. I could see that the man had consumed more alcohol than was good for him and when he turned back to the cafe and started to kick the plate glass door I knew it was time for me to intervene. I crossed the road, a one way street that was still busy with traffic, and tried to calm the drunk down and persuade him to go on home quietly as the alternative would be that I would give him a bed for the night in a cell. I was still explaining the facts of life to the drunk when a car stopped alongside me and the driver, pointing back up the road, told me my 'mate' was in trouble.

Glancing up Northam Road I could see two bodies rolling around in the road amongst the moving traffic which was carefully driving around the combatants. Leaving the drunk to mull over my advice I took off at a run against the flow of the traffic to where I could see that Ken was having a difficult time.

Arriving at the scene I hauled the assailant off Ken and dragged him struggling into the gutter where I, in a non verbal way, explained to him that he really should not have hit my friend Ken. Very soon the police 'Hurry Up' van arrived - someone had dialled 999 – and it took me and the assailant to the Civic Centre Police Station where later he was charged with assault on police.

When he got his breath back, Ken told how he had opened the door of the chip shop and as he walked in was asking Boris behind the counter if he had a problem. Without warning one of the customers punched Ken with such force the blow knocked him back out of the door across the pavement and into the road. The assailant followed Ken out and was raining blows on him in the road. Ken tried to call out to get my attention but was too winded. He said the best sound he ever heard was when eventually he heard me 'thundering' up the road.

After he got his breath back Ken realized he had lost his police radio which in those days was a one piece unit that clipped onto our uniform lapel. A witness confirmed it had dropped as Ken fell back through the shop door and it was picked up by another customer who ran off with it. After two days of enquiries, the radio was recovered and the thief charged with its theft.

For a while thereafter if Ken and I, when off duty, visited a hostelry to partake of a small libation, he would never let me pay for my round. Forty years on Ken, a long time resident of West End, and I are still friends but these days I pay for my round.

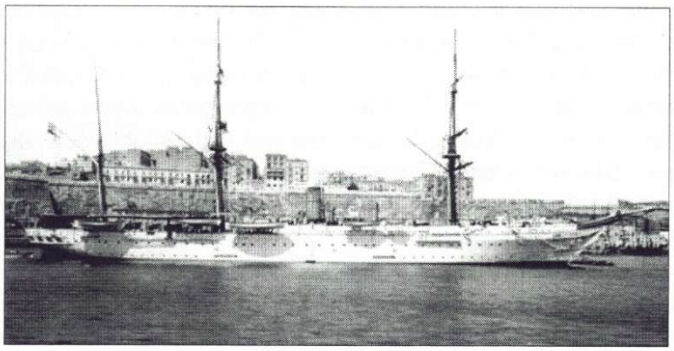
KEEP THE ARTICLES COMING!

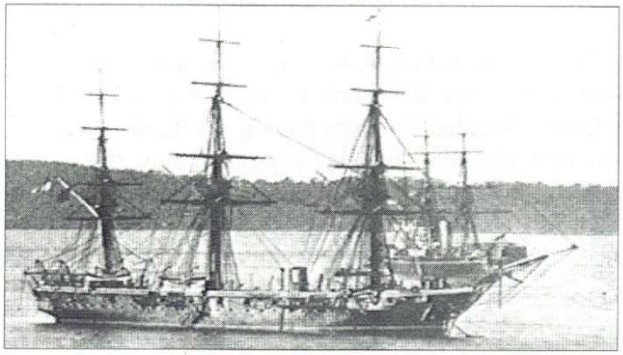
You will have noticed a greater variety of articles and contributors recently in Westender, it's a trend we would like to encourage amongst our members and readers. Please send your article or memories to the Editor at: 40 Hatch Mead, West End, Southampton, Hants, SO30 3NE or e-mail to: westendlhs@aol.com

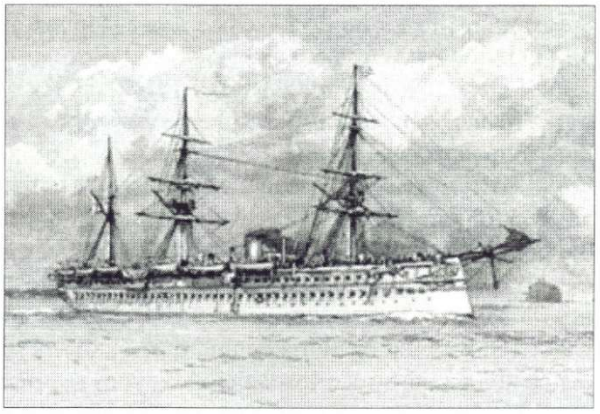
THE WALLACE FAMILY HISTORY Pt.2

By Peter Wallace

Herbert Henry WALLACE was born in Liverpool during 1843 to Charles Wallace and mother unknown, nothing else is known at this time, research is continuing. Henry signed up for the term of 12 years as a Gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery. He was recruited at the Forton Barracks in Gosport Hampshire on the 14th January 1861 at the age of twenty years and one month for a bounty of £4.00 and a full kit. On the Enlistment papers it was recorded he was five foot seven and a quarter inches tall, of fair completion with hazel eyes and dark brown hair. He also had a Ship tattooed on his left forearm.







Top: HMS Himalaya, Above left: HMS Wolverine Above right: HMS Jumna

During his twelve years service he served on six different ships 'HMS Emerald' *[Sept 1862 - Nov 1863]* 'HMS Princes Royal' *[Feb 1864 - Aug 1867]* 'HMS Donegal' *[Nov 1869 - Aug 1870]* 'HMS Himalaya' *[Aug 1870 - Sept 1870]* 'HMS Wolverine' *[Oct 1870 - Feb 1873]* 'HMS Jumna' *[Feb 1873 - Apr 1873]*

During the in between periods he was on a shore based establishment, it was during one of these periods he married Emily Jane MUNDELL b. 13th May 1843 to John WOODS and Elizabeth MUNDELL of West Cowes on the 30th November 1863.

After his twelve years and eighty three days of service he was discharged and paid off with the sum of five shillings on the 17th April 1873 the address given for his intended residence was Mill Hill Road West Cowes Isle of Wight. During the 1871 census Emily was described as a mangle woman and living at no 9 Highland Street Eastney Portsea in the parish of St Mary's with her daughter Catherine Mary aged 6 and

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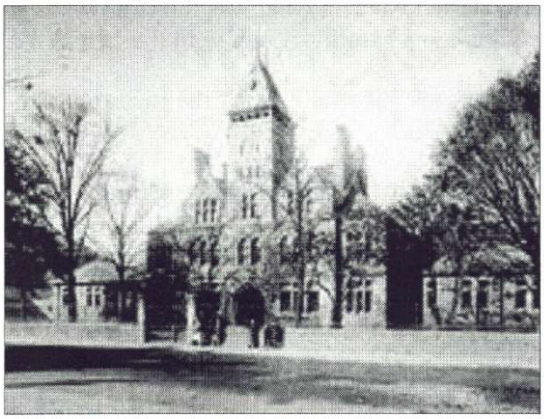
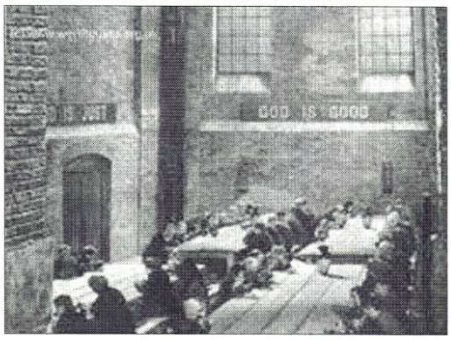
Above left: The Union Workhouse Carisbrooke.
Right: A children's playground now occupies the site of Brunswick Place

son James Herbert aged 2. On the 15th June 1871 my Great Grandfather David Henry WALLACE was born in 9 Highland Street. Henry and Emily had another two children Walter William WALLACE born on the 9th May 1874 Brunswick Place Cowes Isle of Wight, he was baptised on 31st May 1874 in Cowes Chapel, Walter was severely disabled, at some time he was transferred into the Workhouse at Carisbrooke where he died in his nineteenth year on the 26th April 1893 his burial place is unknown.

Their last born child was Charles Edward WALLACE 23rd February 1877 and baptised on 22nd March 1877 in the Northwood Primitive Methodist Church West Cowes unfortunately he was never to reach his first birthday as he died on the 15th January 1878 of Whooping Cough and Bronchitis he was buried in Northwood Cemetery Plot 11 Grave 1036. Such a short life but very common in days gone by.

During the 1881 census Henry's occupation was given as a chimneysweep. By the time the 1891 Census was taken Henry had disappeared but I have found Emily and Walter living in Brunswick Place West Cowes.





Left: CARDIFF UNION WORKHOUSE c.1840's
Above: Meal time in a typical Workhouse

For many years I have searched for information on Henry and Emily WALLACE I was beginning give up hope of ever finding out what happened to them. Then in late 2010 I was searching the recently released 1911 Census and found Emily WALLACE living in the Workhouse in Cowbridge Road Cardiff South Wales (later to become St. David's Hospital). Wondering why she ended up in the Cardiff Workhouse I decided to check the 1901 Census again, this time for the Cardiff area, it was one of those "eureka" moments you get occasionally whilst doing family history research there she was living at 20 Daniel Street Roath Cardiff with her daughter and son in law Catherine and Stephen ALLEN.

Emily WALLACE died on the 19th December 1912 aged 68 years in the Cardiff Union Infirmary of Mitral disease. (Heart valve failure)

The search for Henry continues…….

THE JANUARY MEETING

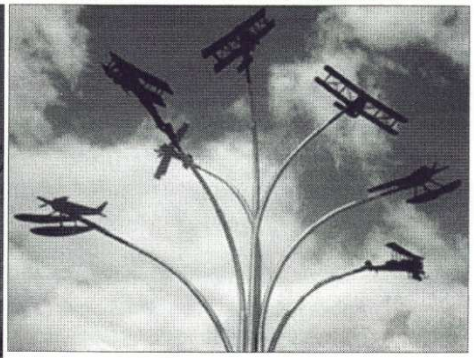
A review by Stan Waight



The Water Conduit House in Commercial Road, Southampton



Broadcaster John Arlott



The "Aeroplane Burst" sculpture at Hamble

'Where is that and What is that?' seemed a strange title for a talk, but Jill Daniels has proved herself to be an excellent speaker in the past and she did so once again.

Her presentation, beautifully delivered and accompanied by some excellent slides, had a large element of audience-participation. She had selected a number of photos of unusual people, things and places in Hampshire and invited her listeners to say who, what or where they were before giving brief explanations as to why she had included them.

For instance, she began with a photo of John Arlott, the Basingstoke-born BBC commentator who spent much of his life in Alresford. Who among us knew that he had started work in what was then known as a mental hospital and served 12 years as a policeman before spending the rest of his career with the BBC?

There followed a view of the 'Garden' on the site of Hyde Abbey in Winchester with the memorials to King Alfred, his wife and his son, who were almost certainly buried there.

The memorial to Geoffrey de Havilland's first flight in a plane of his own design in 1910 was next. It is in Crux Eaton church where his dad was the former rector.

Jill spoke for over an hour and it would be too much to describe in detail all the subjects he had chosen. They included

The medieval Water Conduit House in Commercial Road, Southampton, built by monks to supply water to the town

The anti-grave-robber shelters in the graveyard of Warblington church - shades of Burke and Hare

Hursley and its lord of the manor Richard Cromwell who was Lord Protector for just one year and whose Puritan grave in the Anglican church at Hursley is not marked

The so-called Portuguese Fireplace in the New Forest, which was used by Portuguese immigrants employed to make pit-props during World War I

The village hall at Wood Green near Fordingbridge, whose interior walls are covered with murals depicting village life in the 1930s

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Sweet Fanny Adams's grave in Alton and the background to the saying to which her name was given

The 'Aeroplane Burst' sculpture at Hamble, the cradle of aeronautical development

The privateer and mayor of Southampton, Richard Taunton, a latter-day Robin Hood whose ill-gotten gains were devoted to charity

The plague monument near the West Gate in Winchester whose plinth was the table on which the uninfected left food for the infected in 1565/6

The old butcher's shop and slaughterhouse in Selborne in front of which Gilbert White planted lime trees to shield himself from the sight of so much blood

The Society of Friends' burial ground in The Avenue, Southampton, which was one of the first dedicated to Quakers in 1666.

There were also two separate and grisly references to hangings and gibbettings, one at Inkpen Beacon in the north of the county and another at Botley in the south.

All-in-all it was a very interesting evening, and I for one would welcome another like it.

NORTH STONEHAM WAR SHRINE NEARING COMPLETION

Update by John Avery



Photograph courtesy of Genevieve Bailey

7th January 2011 - The War Shrine at North Stoneham is now just about finished after its HLF grant restoration. There is going to be a service of dedication in due course. The date is yet to be confirmed as various parties such as the bishop, local MP etc have all to find a time slot but it will be during May 2011.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

By Pauline Berry



REPLICA OF R.J. MITCHELL'S PROTOTYPE SPITFIRE K5054

With a War looming on the horizon and no future in the factory work the Depression had forced upon him, Joe Molloy, former resident of West End, joined the Southampton Police Force. It was 1938, and he with other recruits, were sent to Birmingham for their initial Police Training. This included all aspects of Civil Defence duties which covered the possible eventualities of War. Joe learned much about "mustard gas", because his training sergeant was convinced it would be used again, as in the First World War.

This was a nervous and uncertain time for the authorities, and some of the local Police officers were obliged to carry small-arms, Colt 45's in this case, when carrying out protection duties in what were considered vulnerable points around Southampton. These were the Docks, Telephone Exchanges, railway arches (bridges) and of course the Flight Shed at Eastleigh (Southampton) Airport.
When on protection duty at the airport, Joe often saw Spitfires being taken out of the Assembly hangar and up into the sky around the local area. These mighty little airplanes, frequently modified to be ready for the outbreak of War, were taken up for test flights by well-known test pilots: Jeffrey Quill, George Pickering, Alex Henshaw and Mutt Summers, who became Chief Test Pilot. Joe recalls seeing them all at various times and not least, his old school-friend from West End, Harry Lassom, who was one of the inspectors of these famous little aircraft.

In order to be qualified for carrying guns, all such police officers were required to undergo small arms training. These important skills were acquired in an old hall in French Street, Southampton. The targets for practice were simply large pieces of paper pinned to the far wall! When considered fully qualified, the Colt 45's were carried by the police officers on protection duty, fully loaded in their jacket pockets!

Obviously the handling of firearms was sometimes dangerous in inexperienced hands. PC Joe Molloy encountered a close shave at one of these training sessions. When the time came to finish and the change of duties at the end of the shift, one police officer opened and closed his Colt 45 too sharply and a gun-shot

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Left

A VIEW OF EASTLEIGH AIRPORT AND HANGARS

During World War 2 the airport became "HMS Raven" and was operated by the Fleet Air Arm.
Originally built on the site of North Stoneham Farm, the site is now

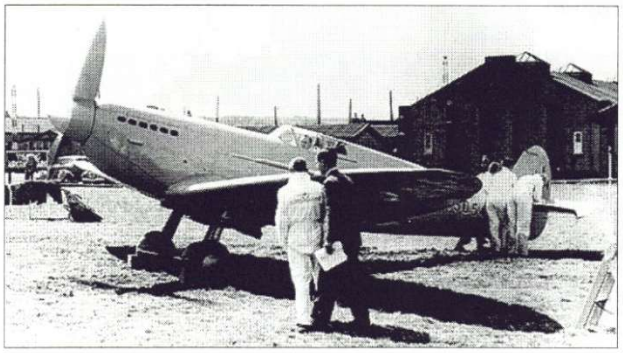
SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT

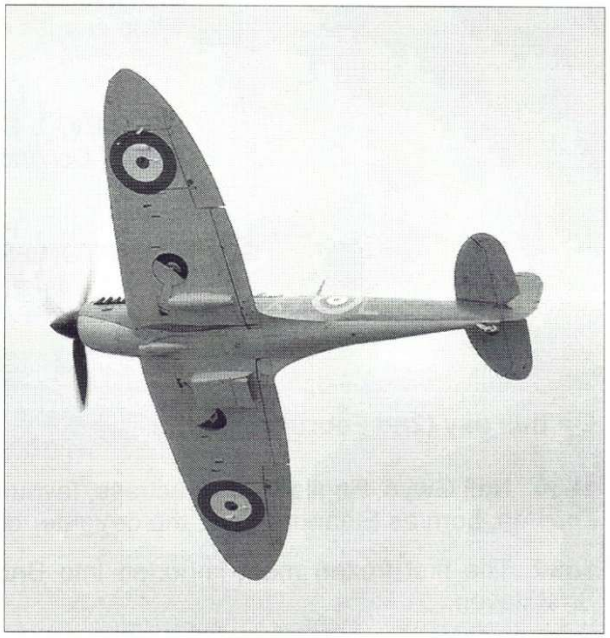
Below

K5054 PRIOR TO TEST FLIGHT AT EASTLEIGH AIRPORT

Right

SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mark II IN FLIGHT





quickly followed. The discharged bullet whistled past Joe's head and embedded itself in the windowsill behind him. A passing Police Inspector witnessed the incriminating ring of smoke, tutted to himself and passed on his way.

Soon after the outbreak of war in September 1939, a telephone kiosk, on the corner of Cumberland Place and London Road, unexpectedly took the brunt of an explosive device one night. At the time it was believed to have been the result of an extremist political group, taking full advantage of the general anxiety at that time. No one was injured, Joe recalls.

The "real" War was yet to begin!

(Further exploits of P.C. Joe Molloy during the Southampton Blitz etc.. in the next issue of Westender)

OBITUARY

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death from cancer of WELHS member Sheila Elliott, she was a stalwart member of the West End Little Theatre Club until its demise and she and her husband Bob were well known local figures in West End, being regular members of St. James' Church. Sheila will be missed by her many friends here in West End and our condolences go out to her husband Bob on his sad loss. Sheila's funeral was held on Friday 7th January 2011 at 1.45pm at the Wessex Vale Crematorium.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE....

March 2
LIFE AND TIMES OF SS SHIELDHALL
Graham MacKenzie

April 6
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
And images from our archive

May 4
MEDIEVAL SOUTHAMPTON
Dr. Andy Russell

June 1
SOUTHAMPTON FROM BLITZ TO D-DAY
Jake Simpkin

ON THIS DAY.....

On this day (2nd February) in.....

1650 Nell Gwyn, English comic actress, favourite and mistress of Charles II, by whom she had 2 children, born as Eleanor Gwyn, the daughter of a fishwife.

1880 The first frozen meat imported into Britain, arrived in London from Sydney, aboard SS Strathleven.

1882 James Joyce, Irish novelist, born at Dublin.

1914 Cub Scouts were founded in England, at Robertsbridge in Sussex.

1926 Giscard D'Estaing, French statesman and former President, born.

1943 The Germans capitulate at Stalingrad on the Eastern Front.

1959 Buddy Holly, American singer, guitarist and major influence in early rock-and-roll, died aged 22.

1970 Bertrand Russell, British philosopher, mathematician and Nobel Prize winner in 1950, died aged 97.

1976 The Queen opened the 310 acre National Exhibition Centre (NEC) at Bickenhill, Birmingham.