NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# WESTENDER

MAY - JUNE 2011 ( PUBLISHED SINCE 1999 ) VOLUME 7 NUMBER 11

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## ECHOES FROM THE PAST



**"BURNMOOR", QUOB FARM HOUSE, WEST END c.1930's**

Our picture shows the home for many years of Cllr. Fred Woolley. Twice Mayor of Southampton, Fred was also a breeder of pedigree dairy cattle which he raised at Quob Farm. During his occupancy the name was changed to "Burnmoor" and thanks to his grandson we have the original sign in the museum archive. The picture shows the house as it was from the sunken garden complete with a very beautiful conservatory which unfortunately was destroyed during the war. The main house still exists today but is divided into apartments, whilst the surrounding land is now a housing estate.

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# HENRY AND HARRY THORN - West End Father & Son

**By Mrs Molly Wheatley (nee Thorn)**

Now and again while researching family history, one comes across a couple of generations who seem to have been born under an unlucky star. My great grandfather, Henry William Thorn and his children were perhaps typical examples of what could happen to families in the late nineteenth century.

The Thorn family had lived in the South Stoneham area since the end of the eighteenth century, having large families, and content to earn their living mostly as farm labourers or gardeners.

Henry William was born in 1851 at West End, the eldest son of labourer Henry Thorn senior and his wife Maria (nee Small). He joined the army in his late teens, and through an army pal, William Dickety, met his future wife Elizabeth, William's sister. She was six years older than Henry. They married at St. Mark's church, Woolston on 3rd January 1872 – Elizabeth had been working as a servant at Woolston and she already had a daughter, Mary Ann, who was adopted by Henry.

Henry was still in the army at the time of his marriage, but by the time his first child Gertrude was born in 1873 he was working as a jobbing gardener at Woolston. However, when his son Harry was born in June 1875 he worked for the London & South Western Railway as a porter. By then the family had moved from Woolston to Overton, in north Hampshire where Elizabeth had been born.

Tragically, Henry died on 12th August 1875 aged 23. He died in an accident at Nine Elms station at Battersea when timber fell on his head, killing him instantly. He had been working as a goods porter. An inquest was held on the 13th August. There was a report in the South London Press newspaper dated 14th August 1875 which ran as follows:

*"On Thursday a porter named Thorn, whilst standing alongside a wagon into which some trunks of timber were being loaded, met with a some what curious death – a single piece of heavy timber having slipped from the crane by which it was being lowered into the truck, toppled over the end and struck the deceased on the side of the head, felling him to the ground, and causing immediate death. The deceased was a quiet, well behaved young man, and we are sorry to hear leaves a wife and young family to deplore his loss, the wife having only recently been confined".*

His was the second death at Nine Elms station in one week, a reminder of how dangerous railway work could be before stricter safety regulations came into force.

Henry's widow Elizabeth returned to her own family at Overton after Henry's death, but died four years later in 1879 aged 34, leaving Harry and Gertrude and their half-sister Mary Ann orphaned. The children were split up, Harry remaining with his grandmother Dickety at Overton and Gertrude living with her paternal grandparents Henry and Maria Thorn at West End. Poor Mary Ann was sent to a laundry school at Albury near Guildford, under the care of Mrs Mary Norman, the principal. She eventually returned to Overton and married.

Gertrude and Harry were re-united some years later at Overton, working at the paper mill at Whitchurch and living with their grandmother Dickety.

Henry's untimely death was not the end of the family misfortunes. In early 1894 his son Harry married rather hurriedly at the early age of eighteen (the baby had already been born!), but the little girl, Elizabeth Emily, died just over a year later. Another little girl, Agnes, was born to the couple, but by the end of the 1890's Harry and his wife were no longer living together. He married twice more, possibly bigamously, each time because a baby was expected, and losing another child in infancy.

Gertrude, Harry's sister, died at 21 in hospital at Winchester of tuberculosis in April 1895 just nine days before the death of her baby niece Elizabeth Emily. Working in the paper mills probably worsened her condition.

In spite of all that happened, the family remained close. Mary Ann named one of her daughters after her half-sister Gertrude, and Harry named his second daughter after one of Mary Ann's daughters who had died as a baby.

By 1901 there were just a few Thorn families left in West End, most of the others had moved to

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Southampton or London. Harry had moved to Reading by 1914, where he spent the rest of his life. Whether he ever visited his West End family is doubtful – his father's death when Harry was just six weeks old cut him off from the village and a way of life that he might have found agreeable in his later years.

Acknowledgements:

***Hampshire County Council Archives***
***London Borough of Wandsworth Archive Dept.***

# SIR ARTHUR PERCY FITZGERALD AYLMER

## 12th Baronet Aylmer of Castle Donadea

**By Roy Andrews**



**LEFT**
**Lt. Gen. Sir Fenton J. Aylmer, KCB.,VC**
**13th Baronet of Donadea**



**RIGHT**
**Castle Donadea**
**County Kildare**
**Ireland**

The recent television series 'Downton Abbey' had, as part of its story line, an impoverished Lord who had married an American heiress so that her money could finance the running of his house and estate. This was not an uncommon story in Victorian and Edwardian times as the following extracts from the American 'San Francisco Examiner' newspaper of 1895 shows.

*"So frequent has the exchange of American dollars for European titles become that the public hardly realize what it means.*

*The American public has almost ceased even to make fun of this remarkable barter of American girls. The average citizen is only mildly interested -------- Her father's hard-earned dollars taken across the ocean to be expended in paying gambling debts or refurbishing worn out estates.--------- Investigation of the facts shows a state of affairs that is perfectly astounding.*

*A complete list of all marriages of American women to titled men, for the past thirty-five years, shows that at least TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS have gone from this country in that period.*

*What is more alarming is the fact that eight per cent. of this huge sum represents the marriages of the past six years. Seven Californian girls have taken from this state alone nearly twenty millions of dollars in exchange for seven titles, most of which are both shabby and shop worn."*

The article continues in this vein and then includes a long list: the American woman, who they married, the husband's title and how much money was taken abroad. The Americans have always been more open when revealing personal wealth than the British are.

Included in the list is Miss Ann Reid, daughter of T. Douglas Reid of New York and divorcee of George Stelle of Chicago, Illinois. She took half a million dollars with her to Britain to marry Sir Arthur Aylmer.

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Sir Arthur was born in 1858 at Brighton and married Annie Sanger on 27th November 1878. She died without issue in 1884. He succeeded to his title, established in County Kildare, Ireland from 1622, on the 7th May 1885 the same year as he married Ann Reid who became Lady Aylmer. However the marriage did not succeed and they divorced in 1886.

Sir Arthur never married again and by the early 1900's was living in West End at Donadea Lodge opposite Old West End Cemetery. He died without issue on the 5th December 1928 and his title passed to a younger brother Sir Fenton John Aylmer V.C. (1862-1935), of the Royal Engineers. His VC was won during the Hunza-Naga Campaign in India in 1891.

In West End old cemetery is buried Isobella Eleanor Aylmer nee Darling mother of Sir Arthur. She was born on the 30th March, 1832 and married Captain Fenton John Aylmer on the 9th June 1857, she died on the 27th December, 1908.

**NOTE**

*Captain (later Lieutenant General) Fenton John Aylmer, Corps of Royal Engineers. Born at Hastings, Sussex on 5th April 1862, died at Wimbledon, Surrey on 3rd September 1935. Cremated at Golders Green, London. Served in the First World War 1914-18; Colonel-Commandant, Corps of Royal Engineers 1922-1935.*

*Account of VC award deed: On 2nd December 1891 during the assault on Nilt fort, India (Hunza Campaign), Captain Aylmer, with the storming party, forced open the inner gate with gun-cotton which he had placed and ignited, and although severely wounded, fired 19 shots with his revolver, killing several of the enemy, and remained fighting until, fainting from loss of blood, he was carried out of action.*

*(Information ex. "The Register of the Victoria Cross" This England Books. ISBN 0 906324 07 6*

# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**A Review by Stan Waight**

Around forty members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Wednesday 6th April 2011 and three apologies for absence were received.

The Minutes of the 2010 AGM were duly read and approved and were followed by reports by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer said that rising costs may make it necessary to increase the subscription next year, but suggested that it should be capped at £12. 3000 photographs in the archive had been scanned and saved to hard disk. Acceptance of these reports was proposed and unanimously approved by those present. Pauline Berry then gave a short report on research and said that world-wide correspondence had been received

No new nominations were forthcoming and the Committee and the Examiner were re-elected *en bloc*.

Nigel Wood presented a Museum Update and report on the Newsletter. Visitors were a little down on the previous year, but it had been otherwise good. There had been no organised school parties, but children often came to research for school projects. Some discussion followed on attracting more visitors, and it was suggested that the school should be reminded of the existence of the museum and that parties would be welcome. Both the website and the Newsletter had had a good year and displays had been put on at other societies' events. The meeting at the museum had become a popular annual event and next year would be important as it was the centenary of the sinking of the 'Titanic'.

The next AGM would take place on Wednesday 4th April 2012.

The AGM was followed by Nigel's presentation of photos from the archive. This has become a tradition

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and adds considerable interest to the meeting. The photos were varied both in date and content and were of excellent quality.

Annual General Meetings are never very warmly welcomed, but this one was carried out in a very orderly fashion and greatly enhanced by the slide show.

# "JACK THE RIPPER" the West End connection

**By Roy Andrews**



**THOMAS STOWELL**



**WILLIAM SCOTT - BARON STOWELL**

Thomas Edmund Alexander Stowell, C.B.E, M.D., F.R.C.S. died at his home in Archers Road, Southampton on the 8th November, 1970. He was survived by his wife Lillian Elizabeth Wagner whom he had married in 1913 and a son Dr. T. Edon Stowell of The Mount, West End Road, West End. His only daughter had died in an accident in 1958. A couple of days after his death a letter, written by him just before his death to *The Times* newspaper, was published.

Thomas Stowell had been born on 1st January, 1890 and was educated at St. Paul's School and St. Thomas's Hospital, London. He held early appointments at St. Thomas' Hospital, Grimsby and District Hospital, and the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool. In 1912 he took the F.R.C.S. and became assistant ophthalmic surgeon at St. Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow, and Battersea General Hospital, and surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. He was also honorary surgeon and radiologist at the Mid Cheshire Orthopaedic Clinic, Northwich. He took a great interest in industrial medicine and was a founder of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers. He was also chairman of the British Committee of International Congresses on Industrial Health and Safety, and a member of various other medical societies and institutions both at home and abroad.

He was a splendid raconteur and made an admirable companion. One could listen indefinitely to the stories of his ancestors, who included a number of distinguished people. One of his lawyer ancestors was William Scott, created Baron Stowell of Stowell Park in 1821. Perhaps this accounted for Thomas's skill in the witness box - he had a keen interest in criminology - when he advised that in a difficult case one should speak slowly and hesitate merely to give one time to think should a knotty point arise.

In early 1970, Dr. Stowell published, in the *Criminologist,* an article similar to one that he had published in French in 1962 and which had been largely ignored concerning the identity of the Victorian London killer given the sobriquet ' Jack the Ripper'. The owner and editor of the *Criminologist*, Nigel

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Moorland, who had known both Edgar Lustgarten and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, each of whom was convinced the murderer was of Royal blood, only became convinced of his identity after meeting Dr. Stowell who had explained how, while on the staff of St. Thomas's Hospital, he had known a number of people intimately concerned with the Ripper case .

In the article, Stowell wrote that for fifty years he had kept to himself certain evidence as to the identity of the notorious killer 'Jack the Ripper' which seemed to point to a man of noble family, for fear of involving as witnesses some close friends who were still alive. He referred to the murderer as 'S' and wrote that he could never dream of doing harm to the family of 'S', a family that he loved and admired. 'S' was heir to power and wealth. His family, for fifty years, had earned the love and admiration of large numbers of people by its devotion to public service. His "Grandmother", who outlived him, was very much the stern Victorian Matriarch, widely and deeply respected. His father, to whose title he was heir, was a gay cosmopolitan and did much to improve the status of England internationally. The article went on that 'S' had gone on a world tour when he was sixteen during which he contracted syphilis for which he was treated by Sir William Gull on his return to England.

Publication of the article immediately pointed the finger as to whom 'S' was at Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and eldest son and heir of King Edward VII and whose grandmother was Queen Victoria who did indeed outlive him. Although rumours had persisted since the 1930's that Prince Albert was Jack the Ripper, Stowell's article has ever since resulted in many books, TV programmes and films showing the Prince was the Ripper.

Why Prince Albert? He was born in 1864 and did go on the 'Grand Tour' between 1879 and 1882. It was rumoured that he came home after adverse publicity involving a homosexual establishment and did then suffer with health and mental problems for the rest of his life which could have been caused by the effects of syphilis. And Sir William Gull was Physician to the Royal family and did treat Prince Albert who died in 1892.

Twenty-four hours after publication, Dr. Stowell appeared on the BBC programme 'Twenty-four Hours' where he was interviewed by Kenneth Alsop. Years later Alsop would state that he had never been so convinced in the whole of his life of the integrity of anyone as he was of Dr. Thomas Stowell.

Where would he have obtained the information he had compiled? Dr. Stowell obviously moved in high circles and had many eminent contacts. He was a close friend of Caroline Acland who was the daughter of Sir William Gull. She said when Sir William had realised who Jack the Ripper was, he had asked Sir Charles Warren, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, to keep the name secret. Prince Albert was to all intents and purposes locked away from 1888 because of his deteriorating mental state after which no more murders occurred.

And that letter to *The Times?* In it Dr. Stowell stated that The Ripper was a scion of a noble family but he had never suggested that he was Prince Albert.

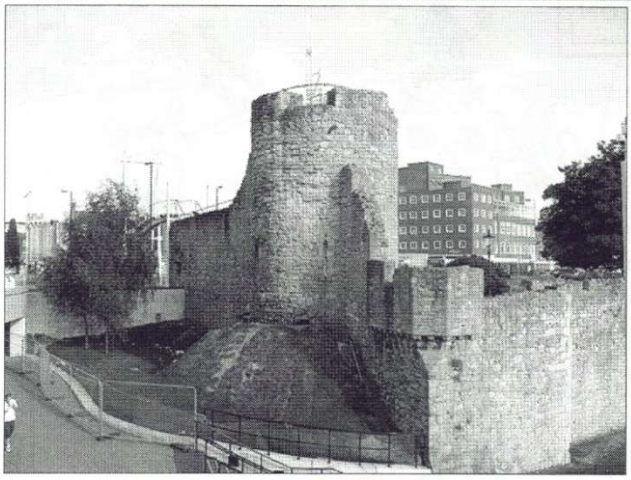
So what became of the evidence compiled by Thomas Stowell over fifty years? Eighteen hours after his death his son Dr. Stowell, known to many older West End residents for many years as a local GP, destroyed his father's file marked 'Jack the Ripper'. He did say he read it first and that there was nothing of any interest in it.

The Royal Household has always maintained that Prince Albert was never in London when any of the murders occurred.

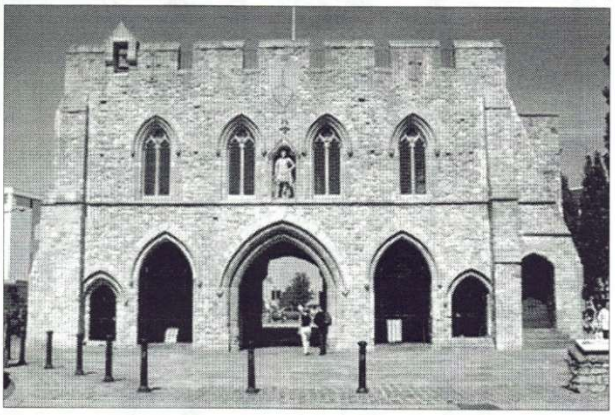
**DON'T FORGET TO VOLUNTEER FOR MUSEUM DUTY**

# THE MAY MEETING

## A review by Stan Waight







**Above: ARUNDEL TOWER & WALLS**

**Above right: GOD'S HOUSE TOWER & GATE**

**Right: REAR OF THE BARGATE**

There was a good turn-out for Dr. Andy Russel's talk on Medieval Southampton. As might be expected from the city's principal archaeologist, it was a very professional presentation, well-illustrated and packed with detail - he kept us engrossed for over an hour.

Andy's starting point was John Speed's map of Southampton, drawn around 1611, showing the grid system of roads that was the result of town planning, possibly during the Saxon period. The map-maker, who was probably not Speed himself, had omitted several features that are known to have existed at the time.

The walls on the town's waterside were not constructed until after the French raid of 1338. Up to that time the town had relied on the water as a line of defence. Andy concentrated on the original layout, and first took us on a virtual tour of the walls, describing the principal features as he went. There is some doubt as to the origin of the name of the tower at the north-eastern end - Arundel was the name of the legendary Sir Bevois's horse and also that of the Governor appointed by the King in 1377. The imposing Bargate originally housed the gates that were kept shut during the hours of curfew. The Polymond Tower, now gone, was named after John Polymond, another of the King's representatives and a contemporary of Arundel (after the French raid the King didn't trust the Southampton citizens to look after the town's defences and appointed Arundel and Polymond to ensure that they did!). Turning southwards, part of the eastern wall is missing - it appears that a local builder leased this stretch from the town elders and, in Andy's words, 'recycled' the stone. The next feature was the Round Tower, which started life as a dovecot that was possibly part of the Friary. The last fortification, Gods House Gate and Tower, was, once again, at a seaward end of the old walls.

Andy then told us a bit about the medieval institutions - the Guild of Merchants, God's House Hospital and the Franciscan Friary. The Guild occupied the upper floor of the Bargate and virtually ran the town.

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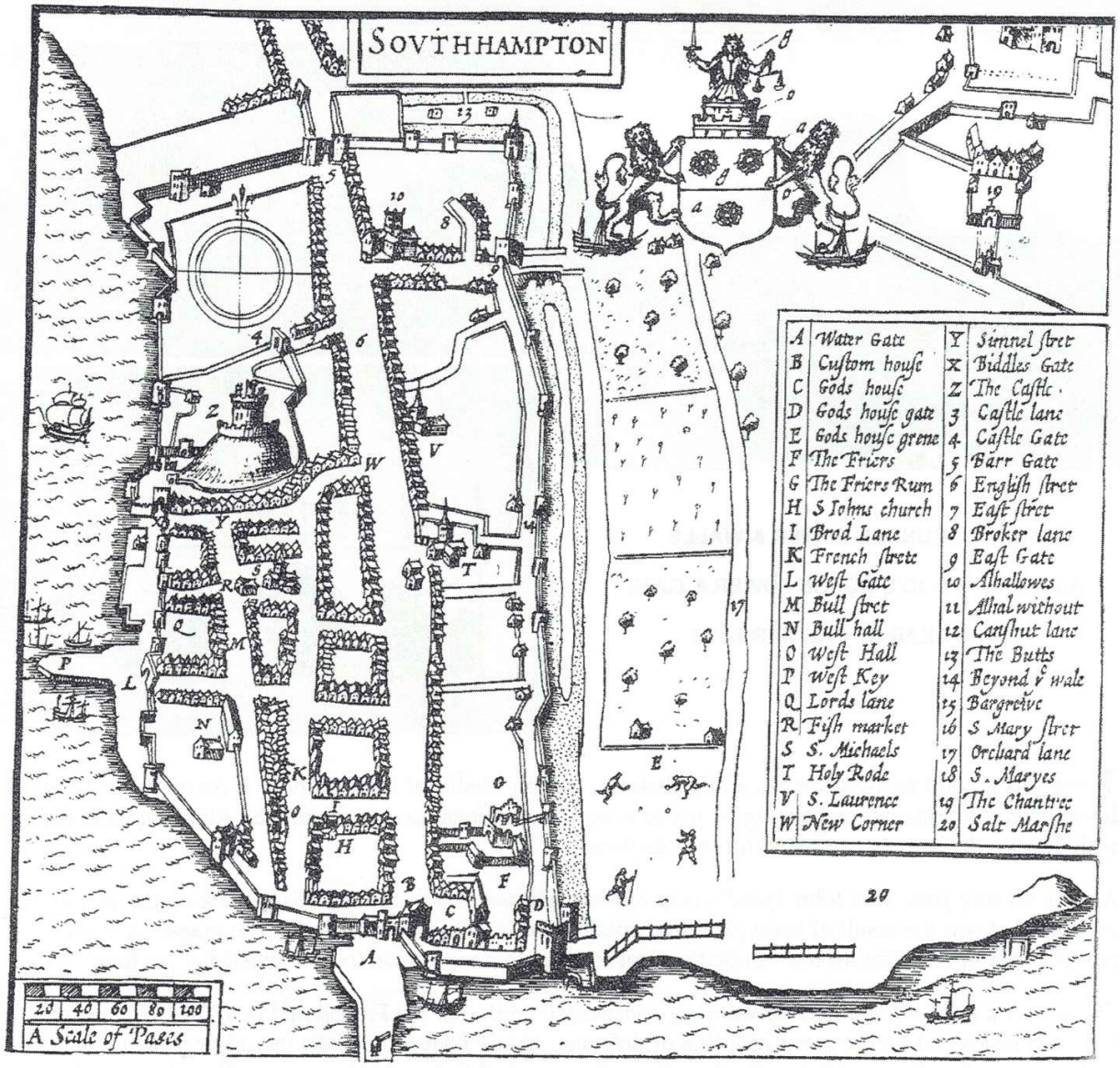


**JOHN SPEED'S 1611 MAP OF SOUTHAMPTON**

God's House was an ancient hospital or almshouse. The most interesting part of the Friary was its graveyard, excavated by Andy's team some years ago. It was regarded as rather superior to the graveyard of the mother church of St. Mary, and affluent people paid to be buried there - until, that is, the priest of St. Mary's appealed to the Pope and had the practice banned. Eventually a compromise was reached, burials in the Friary resumed and the two institutions shared the spoils.

Southampton's economy during the medieval period was founded upon its status as a port, imports of claret and exports of wool being the basis of its prosperity. Underground vaults all over the old town and the above-ground Wool House remain testimony to this.

Andy completed his talk with a variety of photos of the pottery excavated in the medieval town. In fact, his photos were all first-class and it was a most enjoyable evening.

# THE NAZI'S SECRET WEAPON

**By Pauline Berry**

On the night of August 1st 1940 an air-raid was in progress over Southampton. PC Joe Molloy had just gone on duty at Portswood Police Station, and he was heading down Portswood Road, past the Broadway Cinema towards his beat in Bevois Valley. The sirens had already sounded by the time Joe decided to cross the main road, near Lodge Road.

This time the German's latest weapon was unleashed from the skies and rained down upon the unsuspecting Sotonians below. One of these top-secret, high tech missiles suddenly whizzed past the head of our former West End resident and landed in the road near his feet. PC Molloy stooped to examine this superweapon, marvelling at his near brush with death. To his everlasting surprise he discovered a heavy bundle of papers, newspaper size, still tied fast with string. *'They couldn't even be bothered to untie the bundle'*, he said. By not doing so, the German aviators failed in their mission to blanket the town with Hitler's latest propaganda. Removing a copy, which he still possesses, he revealed a four-page document, trabslated into English, entitled 'A Last Appeal to Reason' by Adolph Hitler. It was taken from his fiery speech before the Reichstag on 19th July 1940.

Hitler appealed to European Nations for peace and for them to resist 'The desire to go to war and their plans to attack Germany via Belgium and Holland'. He claimed that it was the Franco-British nations who were war-mongers and that Mr Chamberlain needed a long war because of his Governments investment in armament shares. *'For, after all'*, he stated, *'what do these "citizens of the world" care about the Poles, Czechs or such like peoples?' 'Unlike the Anglo-French was clique'*, he continued, *'it is not necessary to multiply every aeroplane that is built by 5 or by 12, and then broadcast it to the world. Even for a hen it is not clever to announce, in a loud voice, every egg she is about to lay'.*

The Fuhrer then boasted of Germany's strength, its preparations and readiness for war, referring to its extensive arms, munitions, raw materials and high morale! He declared that British politicians, with their false hopes, would one day bring their people unending suffering and misery. *'Of course, <u>not</u> upon Mr Churchill, for he, no doubt will already be in Canada, where the money and the children of those principally interested in War, have already been sent'*. He dismissed out of hand those *'allied peoples consisting of a number of kings without a throne, statesmen without a nation and generals without an army'*

The document rambled on, thus, for four long pages and thankfully Hitler's arrogant accusations and lies proved utterly false, and are now consigned to the annals of history.

Joe, still incredulous, returned the pile of propaganda leaflets (minus one) to Portswood Police Station. Copies are known to exist in our museum, Bitterne Local History Society and the Southampton City Archives. The whereabouts of the remainder is not known. What a relief that the missile missed PC Joe Molloy, who has lived to tell many more fascinating stories during his long life.

# RESTORATION OF NORTH STONEHAM WAR SHRINE NOW COMPLETE

**Our pictures show the final stage of gilding the lettering on the shrine in early May 2011**





# NOTES FROM A CONSTABLE'S POCKET BOOK - 12

**By Roy Andrews**

The first thing taught upon joining the police is the definition of a police constable which is *a citizen locally appointed but having authority under the crown for the protection of life and the prevention and detection of crime*. Note that the "prevention of crime" came first and was considered more important than the "detection of crime". This fact was reiterated often when I attended the Home Office Crime Prevention Centre in Staffordshire on a month long residential course to train as a specialist Crime Prevention Officer in 1978. I was the first, but not the last, constable from Hampshire to attend the course; previously it had been the domain of sergeants and inspectors.
During the month, we were shown many ways of making life difficult for all types of criminals. We were taught the good and the bad in locks, bars, bolts, burglar alarms, CCTV(very new then), safes and glass. We learned how companies could combat staff fraud and shoplifters. We had talks from MI5 operatives on combating terrorism and a little old lady gave us a lecture on public speaking.
We also received training on the use of a Home Office Radio Alarm, a piece of equipment only available to police forces, which worked off a battery or the mains and when activated sent a silent coded message direct to the Police Control Room. Once wired into the transmitter, any of the following sensors would activate it: PIR movement sensors, pressure mats, door contacts, panic buttons(for personal attack situations) or trip wires.

I eventually became the Crime Prevention Officer for a large tract of southern Hampshire which stretched from the Hamble River eastwards to Portchester and from the sea at Stokes Bay/Lee on Solent northwards to Hambledon/West Meon/Upham and I was based at Fareham Police Station.

One afternoon I was asked by a senior officer to visit a Countess who lived in the Meon Valley. She had recently sold a painting to the National Gallery for £12,000,000 which had received some media coverage. This may have made her vulnerable from the criminal fraternity so could I check her home out.
On arrival I was greeted by the Countess, an elderly lady, at the front door of her rather grand old house where she lived alone apart from a housekeeper who came in every day. As the Countess gave me a tour of her home, which was indeed full of what appeared to me very valuable antiques, pictures and porcelain, I learnt that her husband, who had been the 6th Marques of Camdon and Viscount Clive(of India), had died during World War 2 while serving in the RAF.
Having found that the security of the house was adequately protected by a commercial intruder alarm system, over a cup of tea I mentioned the chair I had seen in one of the rooms, similar to a dining chair with a red leather seat and back which had emblazoned on it the royal crest in gold embossing. This, I was told, was the chair the Countess had sat upon in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II; after the ceremony the guests were given the chairs they had used. The Countess then stated she still had the ermine robe she had worn for the occasion and would I like to see it. Of course I said yes and so together we climbed to a garret at the top of the house and from a cupboard, the Countess extracted a large white cardboard box inside of which, wrapped in tissue, was the perfectly preserved purple robe. Also in the box was a small crown which she had worn, but also she explained, it had been useful for hiding sandwiches in. As the crown was not needed to be worn until the ceremony started, the sandwiches could be nibbled on during the two hours the guests had to be in their seats before the ceremony started.

A few months later I was called out from home one winter's evening and asked to install a radio alarm at the home of the Countess because a large tree which had stood in front of the house had collapsed onto it, demolishing part of the facade, cutting off the electricity and disabling the alarm system.
On arrival I was greeted by the Countess' daughter, Lady Something or Other, who explained that her mother had gone to spend the night with friends. And so I set to with installing the alarm which would run off its battery. Being a large house, some of the sensors I installed needed quite a run of wire to the

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transmitter. As it was pitch black, everything had to be done by torchlight and the middle aged daughter was only too happy to crawl around on hands and knees with me while holding the torch.

After a couple of hours, when the alarm installation was almost completed, the daughter asked a favour of me. Her husband, Sir Something or Other, was travelling down from London and would arrive shortly. As neither of them had eaten, would I mind staying on while they popped down to the village pub for a meal. I was on overtime (unpaid) so I said I would be happy to.

When they left, I sat alone in the large lounge, the only light coming from the log fire in the grate, surrounded by millions of pounds worth of this country's history, and, putting aside any thoughts of ghosts, sat there for an hour

wallowing in the splendour of it all until the replete couple returned and I could go home with their profuse thanks ringing in my ears. The next day in my office on the answer machine was another message of thanks from the Lady.

What nice people, as were all of the 'Gentry' I met over the years, unlike some Bankers and Stockbrokers I could mention, but perhaps that is why we in this country never felt the need to hang from lampposts or behead our 'Gentry'.

''Evening All''

## SECOND HISTORY FAIR AT TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE










The Second History Fair organised by Bitterne Local History Society was held on Saturday 16th April 2011. As before the venue was Townhill Park House (now Gregg School), it showcased what is best in local history with many groups represented as well as local crafts, and a whole host of interesting speakers. The weather was good and many visitors took the opportunity to visit the excellent gardens and bluebell woods. A good day enjoyed by all visitors, although numbers were down on the previous fair.

## OBITUARY

**It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of WELHS member Dorothy Sign, who resided at Lincoln Court, West End. She passed away in hospital on the morning of 4th May 2011. Dorothy had been in hospital for some time following a fall. She was a fount of local knowledge and contributor to Westender and a keen supporter of the society, although due to health reasons she had not been along to many meetings recently. Our condolences and sympathy go out to all her family and friends.**

## THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE....

July 6
**CALSHOT—THE FLYING YEARS**
*Colin van Geffen*

August 3
**SOCIAL EVENING AT THE MUSEUM**
*ALL WELCOME—includes raffle and free refreshments*

September 7
**THE CASTLES OF HAMPSHIRE**
*Don Bryan*

October 5
**WHO GOES WHERE—the night before D-Day**
*Stella Rutter*

## ON THIS DAY.....

**On this day (1st June) in.....**

**1801** Brigham Young, American influential Mormon religious leader, born at Whittingham in Vermont.

**1874** Pullman carriages were introduced in Britain, by the Midland Railway, from London to Bradford.

**1878** John Masefield, English poet and Poet Laureate, born at Ledbury in Herefordshire.

**1907** Sir Frank Whittle, English inventor and pioneer of jet propulsion, born at Coventry,

**1926** Marilyn Monroe, American film actress and sex symbol, born at Los Angeles in California as Norma Jean Baker.

**1935** Driving tests in Britain were introduced by Leslie Hore Belisha, and 'L' plates were made compulsory.

**1946** The first television licences were issued in Britain, at a fee of £2.

**1957** The first Premium Bond prize winners were drawn by the computer 'ERNIE' - with a first prize of £1000.