NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WESTENDER

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THE WAY IT WAS



C. 1950's POSTCARD VIEW OF "THE WHITE SWAN" PUB AT MANSBRIDGE

It's difficult to believe this is the same pub today, much enlarged and with the wooden bridge gone and the main road bypassing it. In this view from the 1950's we see the new "sunroom" addition in place at the end of the building. The "White Swan" or "Swan" as it has been called in the past is one of the oldest public houses in our area still existing.

A very happy christmas & new year to all our readers

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by

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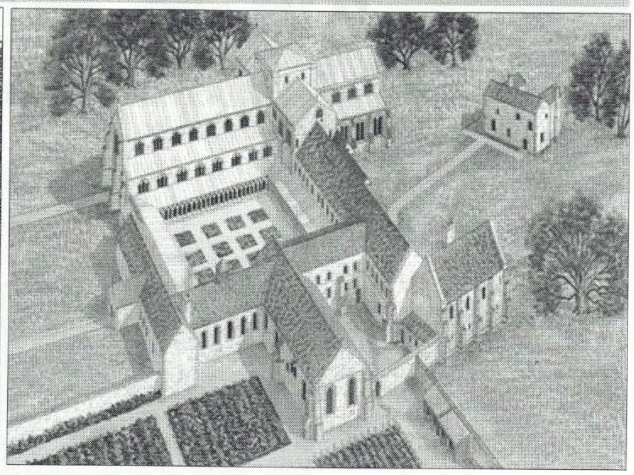
MONKS, MARQUIS AND MYSTERY

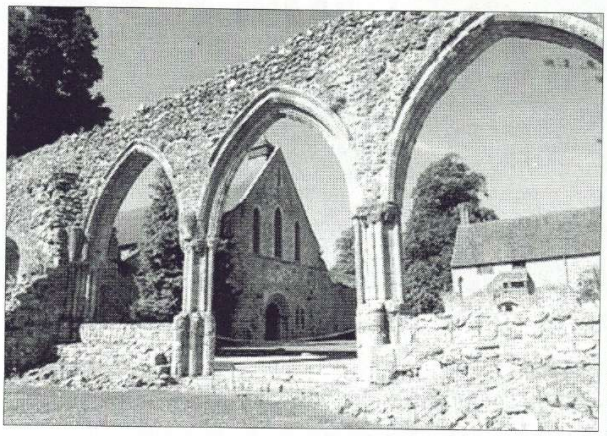
A review by Stan Waight



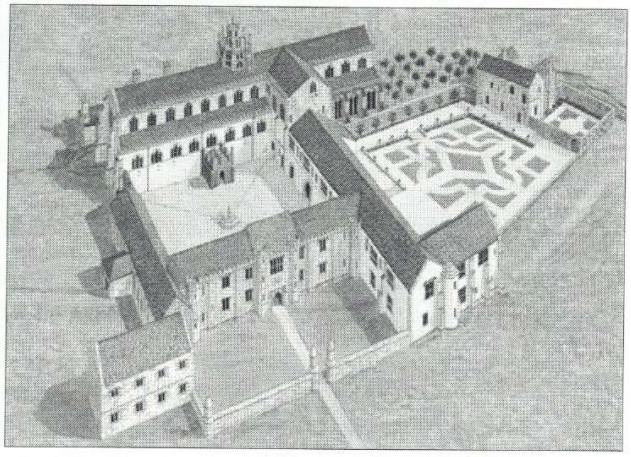
NETLEY ABBEY IN THE 1890's



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF NETLEY ABBEY - late 13th Century



BEAULIEU ABBEY



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF NETLEY ABBEY - 16th Century

Our November meeting began with an apology by Chairman Neville for the more-than-disappointing speaker in October (her 'talk' was so poor that you will have noticed that there was no meeting report for that evening!). There followed a talk by one of our favourite speakers, Geoff Watts. In his inimitable way, Geoff told the story of Netley Abbey.

He began with a history of the Cistercian rule, which began in the late 11th century. Father Robert of Molesme, unhappy with the way monasteries had departed from the rule of St. Benedict, set out with ten other monks and founded a new abbey at Citeaux, near Dijon, in France - the latin name of the village, Cistercium, gave the order its name. The new order was made up of choir monks, who wore white habits and were principally concerned with devotions, and lay brothers, who wore brown habits and were mainly involved in day-to-day work. Its rule was very strict and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. By the end of the 12th century it had spread throughout Europe and included the abbey at Beaulieu. In 1239, with the patronage of Henry III and the Bishop of Winchester, a group of monks from Beaulieu set up a new abbey at Netley.

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With stone coming from Quarr on the Isle of Wight and from Caen in France, the abbey took over 50 years to build. Most of Geoff's talk was devoted to its architectural detail and it was accompanied by many really first-class slides. All Cistercian abbeys follow the same pattern and, although Netley is in ruins, it is possible to fill gaps by reference to others. A light was maintained at the top of the abbey buildings to guide mariners on the Southampton Water, but entertaining the many maritime visitors kept the monks poor.

So much for the Monks, the next M in the title was for the Marquis of Winchester, William Paulet. He had been very helpful to Henry VIII in the drawing-up of plans for the Dissolution and was granted Netley for his pains. He turned the complex into a mansion, with the nave as a banqueting hall and Queen Elizabeth visited in 1560. Much of the stone was sold off in the 1700s and very little remains of the once-splendid buildings.

Finally we came to the Mystery.

Is it really true that a nun was walled up in the abbey because of an indiscretion with one of the monks?

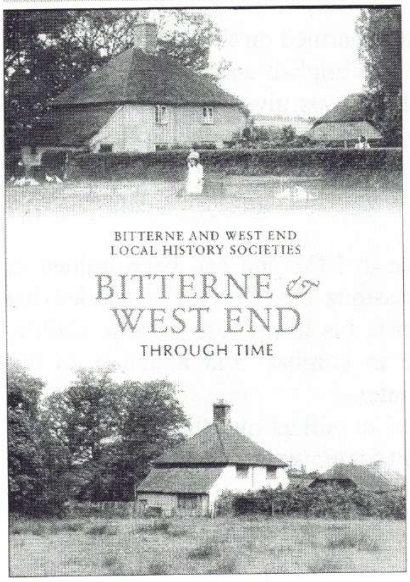
Is it really true that the abbey's few treasures were hidden with only Brother Peter knowing where?

And that Brother Peter was tortured by some scoundrels to get him to reveal the secret, and that he died without giving it up?

MORE ARTICLES WANTED FOR WESTENDER

You've no doubt heard it all before, but the fact is we desperately need more articles for Westender. Without your input we will have no newsletter, and besides, it's a good way to spread knowledge and information. So, how about a New Year's resolution - write down your memories of West End, local incidents, details of family history which is locally based etc.. Without these articles we will have to close down and after twelve years that would be a shame. Please send your articles large or small to the editorial address shown on the front of the newsletter. Thank you. Ed.

NEW REDUCED PRICE IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



Our joint book with BLHS entitled "Bitterne & West End Through Time", published by Amberley Publishing is now available from the Museum shop at a much reduced price of £7.50. Originally on sale for £12.99, our two societies were fortunate to be given the opportunity of purchasing the remaining publishers stocks at a special price thus allowing us to pass this on to prospective buyers.

Profusely illustrated with sepia and colour photographs, the book illustrates life in the two former villages through time with "then and now" comparison pictures.

The book makes an ideal Christmas present and one which is affordable.

Payment by cash or cheque - cheques to be made payable to "West End Local History Society".

THE PADWELL ROAD INCIDENT

By Pauline Berry



British Bristol Beaufighter



German Heinkel III bomber

Another story, concerning an incident whilst on Police duty during the Second World War, was told to me by former West End resident Joe Molloy:

On April 16th 1941, a lone Heinkel III (bomber) passed over Hampshire on its way back to France, following a bombing raid on Liverpool. It was spotted in the night sky by Squadron Leader John 'Cat's - Eyes' Cunningham in his RAF Beaufighter. He chased the Heinkel and eventually was successful in shooting it down over Southampton.

All four of the German crew baled out by parachute before it crashed in a ball of fire on an empty house in Padwell Road, Bevois Town. Fortunately there were no British casualties since the occupants had left for the West Country. It is reputed to be the only enemy plane to have crashed within the Southampton boundary.

The bomber pilot von Seidlitz and his observer Hummer died immediately, falling into a Northam scrapyard. They were both buried with full military honours two days later, at South Stoneham Cemetery. Their remains were later removed to a military cemetery in Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.

Two of the German airmen survived; Corporal Sauer, wireless operator and gunner, landed in a front garden and broke a leg. He was rescued from a tree where his parachute was caught up and taken to the Royal South Hants Hospital to recover.

The other survivor, Horst Rosenberg, flight engineer and gunner, landed unharmed on the roof of a guard's van in a Mount Pleasant marshalling yard. This tall German spoke a little English and told the surprised railwaymen on duty in a nearby shunters hut that he was 21 years old. He was given a cup of tea and a cigarette whilst waiting for the Police to arrive. The airman was then taken to Portswood Police Station where PC Joe Molloy was on night duty.

Some of the Police officers on duty spoke a little German, and on asking various questions, Rosenberg's reply indicated that the British didn't stand a chance of winning the war!

Following Police regulations, PC Joe Molloy, who had joined the force in 1938 and had been trained in Civil Defence duties, frisk searched him for weapons, personal possessions etc.. Having discarded his German's flying suit which was still covering his grey Luftwaffe uniform, his Iron Cross became visible, hanging around his neck. Joe removed this decoration (for courage in combat) and added it to the prisoner's bag of personal possessions, which would be returned to him later.

A police cell held the airman overnight, before the Military Police called to collect him the next morning. Following questioning, Horst Rosenberg and the second survivor, Herbert Sauer were sent to a Prisoner of

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The Heinkel crew: (left to right) Hummer, Sauer, von Seidlitz and Rosenberg



Horst Rosenberg



RAF personnel carry the coffins containing von Seidlitz and Hummer at South Stoneham cemetery on Friday 18th April 1941

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War camp in England, before being sent to Canada. According to Rosenberg's wife, he was well treated and was eventually repatriated to Germany at the end of the War. He went on to study medicine in Leipzig, where he met his wife and became a specialist in surgery.
Horst Rosenberg died in 1983 aged 63 years, and Herbert Sauer died in 1996.

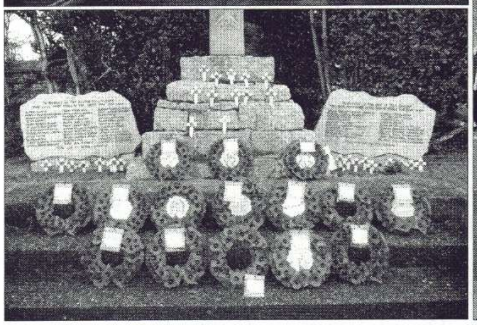
Note: Many thanks are due to Maurice Young for additional information. PB

REMEMBRANCE 2011 IN WEST END













Sunday 13th November 2011 was Remembrance Sunday in West End, and well over 200 people turned up at 2.30pm at St. Brigid's Catholic Church for the short service led by Mr Brian Smith, there followed readings by Colin Murphy and Steven Broomfield, with Closing Prayers by Ginine Molineaux and Merissa Kane. The Last Post was sounded by Scott Langridge and then the wreaths were taken across the road to the cenotaph at the top of Shotters Hill. The day was sunny and relatively warm and afterwards many sampled the hospitality provided by the Hilldene Community Centre in the shape of tea and cakes. It was rewarding to see such a large turnout to honour our men who made the ultimate sacrifice. Ed.

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR THE AGM

It may seem a little early to be asking for nominations for the committee, as the AGM isn't until April 4th., but we do need some "fresh blood" to join the team, and now is the time to be considering what you can do to help. Many of us have been on the committee since the beginning and new members bring new idea's and fresh approaches, so if you would like to help, perhaps as Secretary, Editor, Museum Curator etc.. please let us know. Ed.

FILM SHOOT IN THE MUSEUM











On Saturday 19th November 2011, the museum was visited by an American film crew. They are making a documentary about the Titanic and were being taken around the local sites of interest by local historian Eric Payne-Danson and David Haisman (son of Edith Haisman - Titanic survivor, and local author) who is a resident of West End. Justin Zimmerman from award winning Bricker-Down Productions in Oregon, USA came with his cameraman and spent some time filming in the museum as our pictures show. Our picture on the left shows David Haisman facing the camera in conversation with Eric Payne-Danson.

Bricker-Down Productions website can be found at:

WWW.BRICKERDOWN.COM

MEMORIES OF A WEST END GIRL - Part 1

by Judy Jones

I was born in September 1939 – truly a war baby. I was the fourth and youngest in a family of four daughters and born in a cottage called The Box in High Street, West End, almost opposite the entrance to Midlands Estate. I was never quite sure whether the cottage was named after the box factory which was directly behind or because the front garden was a knot garden using box hedges. Dad was a bricklayer, poorly paid in those days, and mum cleaned for people to help make ends meet. We had a large garden at the side containing apple and pear trees. We had no drainage, no bathroom – just a toilet shed at the back of the house. There was one cold water tap in the scullery. We bathed in a large tin bath in front of the fire, water having been heated on the gas stove and bucketed in from the gas stove in the scullery. We washed in the living room using an enamel bowl on the scrubbed pine table except for dad who washed and shaved in the scullery in cold water. I loved to watch dad shave. First he gave me a cuddle, scrubbing his rough chin against my face, then he would strop his cutthroat razor, lather his beard area then with great skill would draw the razor down his cheek and under his nose and chin. The end result was so smooth. And how, I always wondered, did he not manage to cut himself! We didn't have electricity, just gaslights and a gas cooker, but usually candles in candlesticks were used in the bedrooms. There was no such thing as central heating. The house was heated in one room – the living room – by a coal fire. On high days, holidays and weekends if we had the coal, we also had a fire in the 'front room'. There was a brick built outhouse containing a copper (a fire was lit under a tub set in a brick construction and cold water was bucketed to it, soap added with the washing. Usually the whites were done first – these were usually boiled. Other clothes were washed in the same water as it cooled down). Monday was washing day and as it was an all day job our tea on that day was always cold left-overs. Mum had extremely strong arms which were necessary in order to wring the water from the washing before it was put through the mangle or wringer. If I was at home I was allowed to turn the handle. Ironing was done on a Tuesday and in our case it was done with heavy flat irons which were heated on the gas stove or a trivet attached to the fire grate (as were the curling tongs used by my two elder sisters).

West End was in a vulnerable situation during the war. It was surrounded by Southampton Docks where troops sailed in and out, Eastleigh Airport where planes including the Spitfire was being made at Supermarine, Wilderness Camp where troops awaited embarkation on troop ships and Winslow Camp too, which was commonly called The Gun Site. Strangely I don't recall any children being evacuated out of the village but some were evacuated to the village.

After the war, Winslow camp, and others, were turned over to temporary housing. My eldest sister Lillian and her young family were fortunate enough to have been allocated an officers 'hut' there with an inside toilet and bathroom. Most of the other 'huts' had communal toilet and washing areas. This accommodation was interim to council housing at Midlands and other estates being built.

My earliest war memories are of my Mickey Mouse gas mask which went everywhere with me. I also remember the army lorries on manoeuvre through the village and if the soldiers were Americans, children always called out to them *'Got any gum chum?'* and they tossed gum and chocolate to them. I vaguely remember the air raids and the chilling sound of the siren warning us to get to our shelters. We didn't have an underground one but an Anderson shelter which was like a huge steel table with wire mesh sides. It was like being in a cage. It was scary and frightening to be in it in the dark during a raid yet often during the day we played house in it. My dad wasn't in this war as he was too old but he was an air raid warden and it was his job to ensure people obeyed the blackout and had gone to their shelters during the raids and to help rescue people. During one particularly severe raid rumour went round that The Ritz cinema in Bitterne had been hit. My eldest sister Lillian had gone there that night. My mum was frantic and started walking to Bitterne to find her. Fortunately all was well, but mum told us how as she was walking down West End Road a German plane seemed to be following the course of the road so low down that she could see the pilot. Bombs were dropped in the Harefield area that night.

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Something which I remember very clearly is the sight of the injured soldiers being taken for walks up-through the village. They were reverently called *'the boys in blue'*. The nurses who attended them were so smart in their crisp uniforms and dark cloaks lined with red worn over the top. They were being nursed after battle injuries at Lord Swaythling's house in Cutbush Lane (Townhill Park House, now Gregg School – Ed). It was a home of recovery. Some were in wheelchairs, some on crutches, some with bandaged heads and limbs, and my mother always stressed that we should always say hello to them and show reverence to them for their courage.

Of course during the war there were shortages of commodities. There were no toys in the shops as factories and materials were turned over to making war things. Fortunately my dad was brilliant at woodworking and so we had all sorts of toys which could be made of wood. My eldest sister was working at the airport making planes and her job involved using something called dope –a rubbery compound –which stretched and strengthened the fabric used. At the end of each shift as the leftovers started to solidify she pressed them into a ball shape. When I had a birthday I was given this prized bouncy ball. It's surface texture was rather like orange peel and it wasn't a perfect sphere but it sure could bounce and wasn't I envied. My first doll I remember, was bought after the war when factories and shops were getting back to normal. Mum took June and me to Portsmouth where we queued for what seemed hours outside Woolworth's, but it was worth it as we both had a doll that day. One Christmas when a few toys were appearing in shops I had a dolls tea set. It was made of a new material called Bakelite, a sort of mottled dark green plastic. I remember laying it out on a little wooden table dad had made especially for it before the fire on Christmas Day. Mum asked me to fetch something from the scullery and when I returned, there, sitting in the biggest plate, was a little Christmas cake. It was truly like magic to me.

Many other things were scarce. There was no imported fruit of course but we were lucky having fruit trees and mum was brilliant at pies and pastries. The first time my mother managed to get me a banana I absolutely hated it and I didn't eat bananas again until I was 57 years old!

To be continued in the next edition of Westender….

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF MOORGREEN HOSPITAL

Some while back we were notified that The League of Friends of Moorgreen Hospital was to close and that they invited requests from local groups for grants from the funds that they held.
WELHS duly submitted a request for a grant and on 23rd November we received a letter from Rick Whineray, Chairman, League of Friends of Moorgreen Hospital notifying us that we had been successful in our application and had been awarded £2,500. The money is to fund further purchases of new display cabinets for the museum. These will enable us to dispose of some of the older, damaged second-hand ones that we have been using.
Thanks to earlier grants from West End Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council (HEWEB) we already have two new illuminated display cabinets and we will now be able to add to these. We would like to express our grateful thanks to The League of Friends for this generous award and assure them it will be put to good use.

A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION?

Here is a suggested New Years Resolution for all our members, please volunteer for museum duty, say once a month, its only for two hours and you will be meeting some interesting people and learning about your village. Contact Peter Wallace either at a meeting or phone him on 01489 786521. Thank you.

NEW ROAD NAMING OFFICIALLY UNVEILED







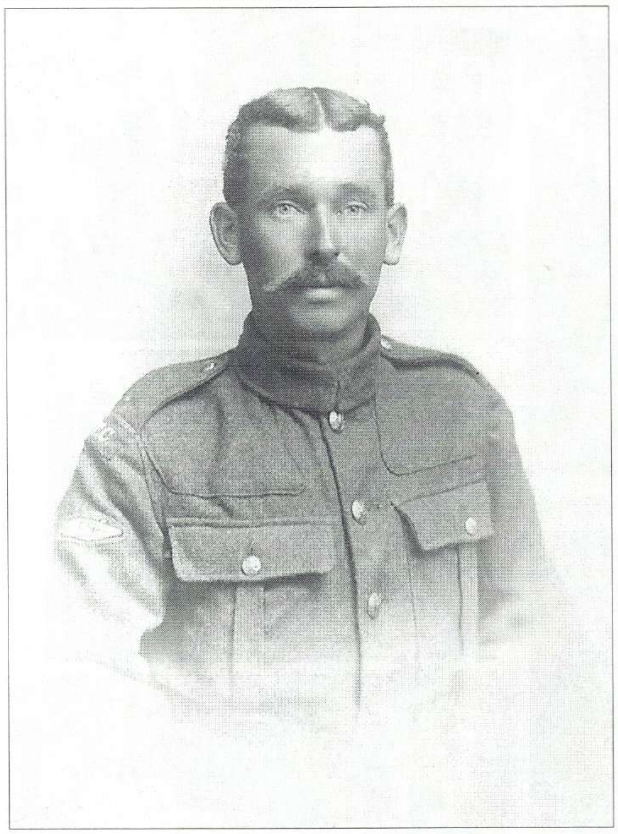




Friday 25th November 2011 was a beautiful sunny day here in West End, as a gathering of people at the bottom of Chalk Hill met to unveil the name plate of West End's newest road. Named in honour of Captain Sir Arthur Henry Rostron, captain of RMS Carpathia which rescued 705 survivors from the Titanic, the unveiling at 11.00am was filmed by a BBC South cameraman and duly carried out by Eastleigh Mayor Councillor Wayne Irish assisted by Mr Daniel Gallagher of Matthew Homes, developers of the site.

Also attending were West End Parish Councillors Ian Farminer and Janice Asman, Eastleigh Borough Councillors David Goodall, Bruce Tennant (Parish, Borough and Hampshire County Councillor) and Tony Noyce, who is also West End Parish Council's Chairman. Representing the British Titanic Society were Brian and Janet Ticehurst, and yours truly and Lin Dowdell representing West End Local History Society. Eric Reed, Principal Development Engineer for Eastleigh Borough Council arranged the event and recounted to everyone the story behind the road naming. As it turned out Mr Kevin Hogg, the site manager for Matthew Homes, who appears in the bottom right hand side picture, had an ancestor on board Titanic. It was very appropriate that the Rostron Close development is situated on land that once was the property of Alderman Fred Woolley. He lived in the house named Woodleigh on the site and was the Secretary of the Titanic Relief Fund set up in Southampton to support the families and dependents of those lost. Mr Daniel Gallagher of Matthew Homes in consultation with Eric Reed of EBC has very kindly agreed to fund a blue plaque commemorating Fred Woolley's residence on the site. A good day for West End!

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR ARCHIVE





Above: PETER BUNNEY
Right: LEONARD BARFOOT

It was in 2000 that WELHS published the book *'Men Who Marched Away - the West End village Great War Roll of Honour 1914-1919'*. Compiled by Nigel Wood and Steven Broomfield it was printed 'in house' and was a limited numbered edition. At the time we thought it would have very limited appeal. How wrong can you be! It sold out almost immediately, a large number being taken by the local Libraries and being a limited edition it has not been reprinted. That is hopefully all going to change in 2012. Since 2000 we have accumulated many more pictures and much more information regarding 'our local lads'. So in 2012 we hope to publish a revised version of the book, including all the new material. Just recently we have added the above two images to our collection of men who we had previously had no photographs of.

PETER BUNNEY:

We are indebted to Mr Richard Sikora for the picture of Peter Bunney and other photographs. No. 309169 Private Peter Bunney, Tank Corps, previously No.142210 Devonshire Regiment (Labour Battalion) died in the great influenza epidemic at the end of the Great War in 1918 and is buried in the Old Burial Ground, West End.

LEONARD G. BARFOOT:

We are also indebted to Mr Keith Barfoot of Bitterne for images of Leonard Barfoot. No. 11314 Signaller Leonard G. Barfoot, MM (later promoted to Sergeant) was awarded the Military Medal on September 15th.,1916 for devotion to duty under heavy shell fire - he was only 18 years old at the time! According to a local newspaper cutting of the time he was the first of the 'village lads' to be honoured.

If anyone out there has any photographs of West End men who appear on our Roll of Honour, please contact me on 02380 471886 or e-mail: woodng@aol.com Ed.

NEW PLAQUE PLANNED FOR WEST END MUSEUM

The Diaper Heritage Association have expressed a desire to commemorate one of their number, a John Lovell Diaper, who drowned in the sinking of RMS Titanic. As previously reported information has recently come to light regarding this crew member of Titanic who was born along with his sister in the South Stoneham Union Workhouse in Moorgreen. We have therefore offered space in the museum for a commemorative plaque to be erected in 2012 near the existing plaques for Captain Rostron and James Jukes, a fitting location. Cheryl Butler of the Diaper Heritage Association has been in touch and visited the museum to discuss location and things are progressing accordingly. At present there is a hunt going on by association members to try and locate a photograph of John Lovell Diaper, so far a photograph of his sister, also born in Moorgreen Workhouse has surfaced, so we are hopeful. It would be nice if a photograph of him could be placed with his plaque. If anyone reading this newsletter has a photograph or knows of the whereabouts of one, please contact the Editor (Nigel Wood) - contact details are on the cover.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS HOUSE?



This is where we need the help of you our readers. We have recently had the above image donated to our archive by Bitterne Local History Society who think it may have been taken in West End. The only clue is the sign on the left which reads "Ministry of Food—District Food Office". It has been suggested it could be "The Wilderness" as this served as a District Food Office at one stage. If anyone can positively identify the building please contact the editor either by phone or e-mail. Contact details are on the front cover. Ed.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

At 11.15am on Sunday 15th April 2012 there will be a wreath laying on Captain Rostron's grave at The Old Burial Ground, West End. The vicar of St. James' Church, West End, the Revd. Brian Pickett will officiate and all are welcome to attend. This is a particular landmark as it will be 100 years since the sinking of the Titanic when Captain Rostron, who was master of RMS Carpathia, was responsible for saving the lives of 705 survivors of Titanic. He died in 1940 after a short illness having lived in West End since 1927.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, as I always seem to say, its that time of year again. It seems to come around very quickly. Its been a busy year for the society and its not over yet. As I write you will see from the articles in this issue we have been very fortunate to have been granted an award of £2500 from the Moorgreen Hospital League of Friends, also a film crew from America working on a Titanic film visited our museum the other day for a film shoot and just today (25th) the road plaque named in honour of Captain Rostron was unveiled. Next year, 2012, marks the centenary of the sinking of Titanic, there are going to be many events locally associated with this. However, as Christmas 2011 draws near may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE....

January 4
HASLAR HOSPITAL
Eric Birbeck

February 1
LIFE IN NELSON'S NAVY
Anne Baxandall MBE

March 7
HISTORIC WRECKS OF THE SOLENT ... besides the Mary Rose
John Bingeman

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Please note that annual subscriptions are now £12.00 per person and fall due in January 2012. Please see Delphine and pay at the meeting.

ON THIS DAY.....

On this day (7th December) in.....

1732 The original Covent Garden Opera House in London, designed by Edward Shepherd, was opened.

1783 William Pitt the Younger became the youngest of Britain's Prime Ministers—aged 24.

1787 Delaware, the Diamond or First State, achieved statehood.

1817 Captain Bligh, captain of the "Bounty", died in London.

1894 Ferdinand de Lesseps, French diplomat, engineer and promoter of the Suez Canal, died aged 89.

1916 David Lloyd George became head of the wartime coalition Government.

1941 Some 360 Japanese planes attacked the US Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

1972 Apollo 17 was launched, with Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and Dr Harrison Schmitt - Cernan and Schmitt making the 6th moon landing.